

## 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Donna		Tucker

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

**King/Snohomish County District Court, Northeast Division, Position 7**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes      xxx No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

**14 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**42 years**

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan?       Partisan      xxx Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Elect Donna Tucker District Court Judge

Address:      6947 Coal Creek Pkwy SE #268

City/State/Zip:      Newcastle, WA 98059-32159

Campaign Phone:      (425) 502-6769

Campaign Fax:      \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail:      [committee@donnatuckerforjudge.com](mailto:committee@donnatuckerforjudge.com)

Campaign Website:      Donnatuckerforjudge.com

#### POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
Interim Judge, Des Moines Municipal Court	Appointed	Mar. 2007- Sept. 2007	Presiding Judge

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

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## SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
- **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
- **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
- **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?

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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

**District Court judges are the “face of justice” for many King County citizens. On average each district court judge is responsible for resolving more than 10,000 cases a year. Many of these cases involve several citizens, many who have never before been inside a courtroom. Through these contacts, the district court judge plays a vital role in shaping public opinion about our system of justice. Our justice system works best when citizens respect the courts, knowing that their judges are fair, courteous and just. We need hard working competent judges who are able to instill confidence in all parties that each case is resolved fairly, impartially and consistent with the rule of law. I believe I have earned this reputation working as a judge pro tem.**

**I have lived in this community for 42 years and for the past 25 years my work has been in the King County District Court and many of the municipal court located in south and east King County. I care about the people and matters heard in district court and I want to continue serving my community as district court judge.**

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

**I am even-tempered and fair minded. I treat all people respectfully, am a good listener and, able to communicate clearly. My 20 years work as a public defender has accustomed me to handle heavy caseloads with calm and clear understanding of the need to pay attention to each different case. I learned to deal with people from diverse backgrounds and I am able to control difficult and hostile situations with my presence and demeanor. I have the strength of character to make the right decision even when it is difficult or unpopular with the public or participants.**

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

**I am most proud of having co-established the Law Offices of Tucker & Stein P.S. Inc., in 1987 three years after graduating law school. Our law firm earned a reputation for providing quality public defense services to several municipalities in east King County and we retained most of our contracts with those cities for 10 – 20 years. I have had the opportunity to mentor young attorneys, in trial advocacy and client representation, many who continued to consult with me after they left our office.**

**I am also proud of the work I did on the case of Redmond v. Moore, 151 Wn.2d 664 (2004) for which I was honored with the President's Award from Washington Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. This case was the culmination of more than 10 years of work to uphold the constitutional principal of due process of law, when the State Department of Licensing was suspending a driver's license.**

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

**I have 25 years of experience working in the King County District Court and various Municipal Courts in King County. For the past 4 years my work has been limited to working as a pro tem judge in the King County District Court and the Municipal Courts of Kirkland, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Renton, Kent, Des Moines and Tukwila. I have averaged approximately 20+ hours a week while working as a judge pro tem. In this capacity I preside on all aspects of criminal misdemeanor cases, preliminary appearances on felony investigations and expedited hearings, small claims trials, civil matters, name changes, tow hearings, petitions for protective orders and traffic infractions.**

**During the 17 years prior to this, I was an owner in the Law Offices of Tucker & Stein P.S. Inc. (currently Stein, Lotzkar & Starr P.S. Inc.) located in Bellevue. My supervisory work there required me to hire, train and guide attorneys who provided public defense services in the district and municipal courts in King County; resolve client complaints and human resource issues; manage the finances of the 7 attorney office; and serve on court monitoring committees at the Bellevue and Redmond Courthouses. I have 20 years of trial experience in representing defendants on criminal matters. I have represented hundreds of clients on appeals to the King County Superior Court and three matters before the Washington State Supreme Court. I also have 20 years of experience representing clients in civil litigation matters.**

**Additionally, I have volunteered as a softball coach for many years, Little League softball (1976 – 1980) Adult softball (1988 – 1994); and youth fast pitch softball for Seattle Fast Pitch Club (2009 to the present). A good coach is able to set the standard for the players in sportsmanship and team play and then to help each player to uphold these standards. A good coach is able to understand and teach the rules of the sport to the players. Similarly a good judge must understand it is his/her responsibility to set the standard of appropriate courtroom demeanor that will enable cases to be resolved in a just manner. The judge must also know, be able to fairly apply and explain the rule of law in each case.**

**As a volunteer at Senior Services of Seattle/King County, from September 2004 to September 2006, I assisted volunteer Victim Advocates in their work helping senior citizens who had become victims of crime. As an advocate for crime victims, I was able to observe the criminal justice system more directly from the vantage point of victims. I have found this experience helpful in dealing with parties appearing in court.**

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

**It is the duty of District Court Judge to preside over all matters assigned to the court, from name changes to serious domestic violence crimes. The most important duty of a judge is to provide a fair and impartial forum for individuals to adjudicate their matters according to the rule of law. This judicial function is the most important because it enables us all to live and work in safe and ordered communities. Without effective courts, societal disrespect for the rule of law grows and tends to create disorder and chaos. District Court Judges also have duties of management of court staff and probation; management of court resources; and management of court contracts with the municipalities receiving court services.**