

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
Doris	Fujioka	McConnell

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

32nd District State Representative position 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

23 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

26 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **Democrat**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Doris Fujioka McConnell for State Representative

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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)
Shoreline City Council	Elective	2007 to present	
King County Regional Water Quality Domestic Violence Initiative (SCA) Seashore Transportation Forum, for SCA	Appointed Appointed Appointed	2010 to present 2010 to present 2008 to present	Chair
APAMO (Asian Pacific Americans Municipal Officials) Board National League of Cities (NLC) Human Development Steering Committee	Elected Appointed	2010 to present 2008 to present	Steering Committee

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

Office Title	Year of Run

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.)

I am running for office because this is a continuation of my passion to serve my community. There is a great need in our district for collaborative leadership. I have been inspired by my supporters to again push outside of my comfort zone and seek the state representative office. It is an open seat and an opportune time for up and coming leaders like myself to run for office, in the hopes of representing this district. In 2007, I was asked a week before the filing deadline to run against a city council incumbent. At the time, there was only 1 other candidate. I won that election with no political backing and very few endorsements. The city council is running far better since the turnover.

I have all the skills that you are measuring in this section: INVOLVEMENT in every area of my life and EFFECTIVENESS in all the offices I have volunteered or held. I have been told that I am a true leader, without a personal agenda, and of the utmost CHARACTER and finally I do my homework. I have the KNOWLEDGE because I ask lots of questions of many people to understand the issue from all sides and am very adaptable to a direction that may not have even been in the cards at the beginning of the process.

My resume, which you have, is a summary of where I have dedicated my time and willingness to serve. It starts out with every, I mean, every organization that my children were involved in. As leadership opportunities were presented to me, I began to see in myself a unique ability to inspire everyone around me to participate. I like to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. As most of you know, leadership is part talent and mostly learned behavior. In every aspect of leadership, I have been respectful, collaborative and working towards solutions to problems. I enjoy mentoring those who display the same qualities. More of this needs to be done by our established leaders.

And finally I am running because I see the need for continued work in improving the quality of our public education, a huge part of the state's budget. We also need to get people, young and old, back to work and with that, our economy will improve. The infrastructure and system of transportation needs to be vastly improved. Those are the things I value that will drive my leadership. I will be excited to enter into a new phase of my life as I empty-nest as a single, widowed mother of two.

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

I have a very personable style, which I have used to encourage collaboration in everything I do. More things are accomplished when everyone at the table is heard and feels like some of their needs are being met. With the budget being the most important thing that the state has to deal with, it is important that elected officials listen to their constituents to determine what the priorities should be for revenue and expenses. We are in the worst recession of our times and it takes strong leadership to make cuts that are prudent and to get people back to work and the economy stable.

Although the prior Mayor did not afford many of the council to be on committees, with this new Mayor, I have been appointed to a few more committees of which I believe that I am improving on my knowledge of city and regional issues. This will help my role as a state representative.

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.

One of my earliest accomplishments and the beginning of my leadership was to chair the Ways and Means of my local elementary school PTA. My co-chair and I completely reinvented the fundraiser and was able to help the PTA by increasing it's budget from below \$15,000 to almost \$20,000. We redesigned the Walk-a-Thon, making it more inclusive and improving on incentives for all to participate and contribute. They still do the same thing, 12 years later.

The other accomplishment, at the same school was that parents came to me and expressed concerns that the playground had been in existence and aging for 15 years. I became part of a committee and was the most instrument member of that committee (see resume), eventually getting and installing \$30,000 worth of new playground equipment. Many schools after that called me for advice and assistance.

The third accomplishment was co-sponsoring a Resolution last year, in support of the Shoreline School District's Levies and Bonds that was on the ballot last year. There was a particularly volatile issue around a historical museum that was on the site of one of the high schools. The bond was to fund two new high schools and the supporters of the historical museum became a strong voice against the bond. Another councilmember (who was a supporter of the museum) and I collaborated and put on the agenda for the city council to review and vote on this resolution in support of the District's Bond Measures. It was a hot topic and I was able to work with another councilmember to write and eventually pass our resolution. This was an example of collaboration, where our position together showed the community that two councilmembers, with vastly different supporters could work towards a common cause.

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 feel that my leadership skills have definitely been challenged and honed working for all the PTSAs in my children's schools. Having worked with boards of up to 45 volunteers, mostly women, you develop leadership skills or perish! I have been a President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer of all the PTAs and through those jobs; I have been fortunate to attend many training sessions, seminars and conferences. The level of training I have received from Washington State PTA is remarkable and elected officials could learn a thing or two from the many classes I took. The classes on Leadership, Budgets, Parliamentary procedures, official minutes of the meeting, how to start committees, how to keep them vibrant and how to increase participation are but a few of the many classes I attended over the 20 years of involvement. My involvement is detailed in my resume and spans 20 years of activity. I am still very involved in my community association and finished my high school volunteering by co-chairing the Senior Graduation Night Celebration, which is an all night, drug and alcohol-free event. I was one of the chaperones from 9 PM-6 AM the following morning.

I am involved in committees at the regional and national level and have a reputation for being a team player.

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

As a state representative, I will actively be involved in planning and creating policies for the state. I consulted with state representatives around the area and know that 3-4 months of the year, in the first quarter of the year, the House and Senate are in session. This will require a somewhat long stay in Olympia, although temporary. I understand most of the legislatures live in Olympia during the workweek and commute back to their hometowns on the weekend. As my last of two children is going to Azusa Pacific this fall, this will fit perfectly into my life. I own investment properties; some of those duties can be hired out if I feel there is too much pressure to maintain a hands-on approach in my landlord duties. Although the state representative job has been described as part-time, our state representative is very visible in our city. That would be my style. It is important for the citizens to see their elected officials at events throughout the community. I am excited about that role as I enjoy meeting people. In addition to those duties, in any elected capacity, in order to be more involved in the process, there will be committee appointments that I will seek, particularly in the areas of education, transportation or economic development.