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
Eric		**Oemig**

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

   Senator, 45th Leg District

3. Are you the incumbent? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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

   19 yrs in or near

5. How long have you resided in King County?

   19 yrs

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Eric Oemig

Address: **PO BOX 2852**

City/State/Zip: **Kirkland, WA 98083**

Campaign Phone: **(206) 595-3013**

Campaign Fax:

Campaign E-mail: **Senator@Oemig.com**

Campaign Website: **www.VoteEric.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)
Senator	**E**	**2007-11**	**VChair Ed committee** **VChair Gov Ops/Elections commit** **Quality Education Council**
Kirkland Library board	**A**	**Approx 2005-7**	
Precinct Committee Officer	**A**		

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.)

Because who is in office matters.

I ran in 2006 with the goal of improving the quality of public schools and increasing accountability of government. I am running now because in the last 4 years I have made a difference.

From beginning to end, there are key policies that would not exist had I not been in the Senate. The "simple majority" amendment to the state constitution, the collection and reporting of education data, the website www.fiscal.wa.gov, the massive education reform bill 2261, health freedom rights, a smarter vaccination association, school financing and levy rates, more secure voting, local control election financing, and others.

The things I work on are absolutely foundational requirements for democracy. Fair elections, informed electorate, fiscal prudence.

Not only have I been effective, but I have moved the policy debates significantly in the direction of more transparency, more accountability, more personal responsibility and access to opportunity.

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

Integrity – without this, game over. No one (especially voters) knows where you stand or where you are taking them. To me, this means, telling the truth and not hiding behind votes to create an illusion. It also means living up to commitments.

Intelligence – consistency and good intentions can be dangerous if ill informed. Good policy, smart money management, and performance require insight.

Good communicator – effective consensus building requires precise and persuasive communication. Navigating through the details and nuance of policy to line up support, build consensus, and/or to iron out wrinkles.

Courage – I think this derives from the first 3. When people see solutions (instead of problems) they are compelled so powerfully to act, they forget to be afraid. And when people who serve remember that their service is to their constituencies, they will act with integrity and not fear the consequences at the next election.

Teamwork – aka Leadership and followership. In a legislative body, one person can influence, but, by definition, it takes 25 and 50 votes to execute. I borrow great ideas from all parties, work across the aisle and across the rotunda, and share credit liberally.

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.

1. My kids – I am transparent and wear my heart on my sleeve… and my kids further demonstrate my character and priorities.

"*Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body." – Elizabeth Stone*

Having kids is not itself a qualification for holding office. And not having kids certainly is not a disqualification. But my kids have had a profound impact on me and my outlook, empathy, and service. It seems failing to mention them would be an oversight.

2. **Education Reform (HB2261 2009) – This bill has significant and far reaching reforms for WA state public schools. This bill has many contributors and wonderful actors, but I believe it is fair to say this bill would have died without my work in the Senate. The House easily passed language with bi-partisan support that was DOA in the Senate. It was my language in the Senate that <u>narrowly</u> passed and became law after lengthy and painstaking work with colleagues and stakeholders.**

   There are some key elements in the bill that I wrote and refined and lobbied hard. My priorities around accountability and performance measures are deeply reflected in this bill. This shows my commitment to the policy and commitment to execute.

   Also, there are key parts of the bill that are careful compromises that I helped shape in lengthy debates and forums with many, many active groups. Being able to bring these groups together on a regular basis and listen and adapt is a reflection of leadership.

Finally, passage of this bill required communication and trust with my colleagues who had less grasp on the policy. There were strong threats from the teacher's union against anyone who might vote for this bill. So demonstrating why the policy was a well-balanced compromise to move us forward despite opposition took patience and clarity.

3. **There are several bad, bad bills that I was able to fix or to kill. One fix that comes to mind is the creation of the WA Vaccine Association. In its amended form, it creates a financial arrangement to maximize access to vaccines, minimize cost for providers, and minimize cost to the state. It further creates an interesting billing model that can hopefully be scaled to other healthcare services and reduce healthcare overhead. It does all of this without creating additional incentives to put kids at additional risks from vaccination.**

   One bill I killed would have allowed voting by unsecured internet-based email. I've killed it year after year… last year the supporters found a "heart-string appeal" that defied logic, but gave that bill legs. I managed to tie it up again and spun up a group to work in the interim to find a workable compromise.

   Both of these examples demonstrate keeping my eye on the big picture and working with others to do good policy, not fast, easy or convenient bills.

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.

Parenting – 2005-present

Coaching Softball (adult league) – 2001-2007
One author I like said everything he needed to run his company and manage people he learned coaching little league baseball.

Producer and Host of cable access TV "Moral Politics" – 2004 – 2006
Live, call-in political show with local focus

Microsoft Performance Engineer – 1991-99, 2002-3
Virtual team leader (across multiple groups) to break silos in a multinational corporation

inSPIRE founder – 2004-2007
Political activist group

State Senate – 2007-present

Kirkland Library Board – member

State-wide "listening tour" – 2009
Traveling with Senator McAuliffe to meet teachers, principals, superintendents, board members and students to learn about the state of public schools throughout Washington.

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

Uphold the constitution.
Protect the commonwealth.
Produce a balanced and sustainable budget.
Solve policy problems for the citizens of Washington State.
Represent and communicate with the people of my district.
Advocate and/or help constituents to the extent my office permits.

Working within the framework of the constitution (including changing it) is the most important duty. And the constitution is clear; the "paramount duty" of the State is to "make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

A Senator must carefully weigh many constraints to write a balanced budget that reflects the education priority while honoring the constitutional requirements regarding taxation and other obligations. A Senator must also consider the future needs while responding to current conditions. (we did a "rainy day" constitutional amendment to help this)

Many people might describe the priorities of government around public safety: fight crime, terrorism, pandemics, and fires. I agree. And I would clarify that fighting crime means regulating corporations to ensure their honest commerce and prevent cheating and polluting.