

## 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		Pettigrew

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

**State Representative, Position 2, 37<sup>th</sup> Legislative District**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**20 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**25 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      **Friends to Elect Eric Pettigrew**

Address:      **P.O. Box 28660**

City/State/Zip:      **Seattle, WA 98118-8660**

Campaign Phone:      **206-569-8310**

Campaign Fax:      **206-569-8310**

Campaign E-mail:      **Info@pettigrew2010.com**

Campaign Website:      **www.Pettigrew2010.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)
State Representative	Elective	2003-Present	Chair, Heath & Human Services Appropriations 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'm running for reelection as a Representative because I believe this is the most effective way for me to help my community in the 37<sup>th</sup> District, including poor families, grandmothers raising grandchildren, and small businesses. My experience in the legislature and as the Chair of the Health & Human Services Appropriations Committee puts me in a uniquely beneficial position to advocate for and protect my constituents.**

**I believe that my personal history and life experience has given me the ability to understand the needs and challenges of my constituents, including those who have been often ignored, overlooked, or marginalized. I have gained the trust of many in my community because they see that I take my responsibility to represent their interests very seriously, and I have tried to do that to the best of my ability.**

**Similarly, I have been able to broaden my effectiveness and influence during my tenure as a Representative. I have demonstrated my ability to bring people together to solve problems, which has helped me build great relationships within the legislature and gain the trust of my colleagues and many organizations in the community. Especially in this incredibly tough economic period, this trust has been critical to my ability to pass legislation and secure funding that benefits my district and the citizens of our state.**

**I'm running again because I understand the challenges, concerns, and hopes of the diverse community that I serve, I believe my history and experience give me the best opportunity to help my community progress and succeed, and I believe the passion and pride that I have in my community ensures that no one else will work harder than me to make that happen.**

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

**I truly enjoy working with, learning from, and helping people. Although I am guided by a very clear set of principles, I am open to working with people from varying backgrounds and political ideologies and interests in order to achieve the best results for the citizens I serve. I believe my personal history and background enable me to be very empathetic to all of the constituents I serve, including those that have been traditionally marginalized, excluded, or ignored. I am also very respectful of the legislature, its process and tradition, and have a good grasp of the legislative and political process and I know how to get things accomplished.**

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.

**The two skills or capabilities that I have proudly demonstrated that I think are important to the success of the position of State Legislator are:**

- **Problem solving**
- **Working for the greater good,**

### **Problem Solving**

**My Definition: The ability to see greatest obstacles and challenge your creativity to find a realistic and workable solution.**

**My Example: While doorbelling my first term I spoke to a disproportionate number of grandparents raising their grandchildren. Many were raising children up to 75 years their junior. Aside from the normal physical demands, they consistently shared their frustrations and challenges in making ends meet financially, understanding and working with the education, mental health and medical systems and respite support. Once elected I learned that many of those I doorbelled had no access to a formal system of support to help them with those challenges. I also learned that they were a growing support system not only for their grandchildren but also the state. By stepping in and providing care for those children they were saving the state millions and increasing the long term likelihood of their child's success.**

**What I did:**

1. **Established an emergency fund that grandparents can access to make those ends meet when the light bill is too high, their grandchild needs winter clothing and any other unforeseen economic crisis that pops up. I've been able to**

- increase the fund from 0 to \$1.5 million in the 8 years I have been in office.
2. Led the passage of legislation that creates permission and access documents that make it easier for grandparents to assert guardian responsibilities when working with the medical and education systems.
  3. Created “Kinship Navigator” positions to work with grandparents and help them navigate through the court, education, mental health and medical systems. There are 6 that exist with a goal of 13 - one for each of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).

### **Working for the Greater Good**

**My definition:** Working diligently for the greater good even if there is not a direct impact on your priorities.

**My example:** Early in my years as legislator, I found myself involved in the debate between agricultural issues versus environmental issues. Most debates were contentious and people seemed to only be clearly on one side or the other. In my district, the politically safe thing to do would be to tightly align with environmental issues and always oppose agricultural movement. However, I knew early on that I would never be comfortable with that. I decided to seek opinion on both sides and make what I thought were the best decisions for the greater good.

**What I did:**

1. Took several trips to eastern Washington to meet with legislators, local farmers, irrigators, cattlemen, dairy farmers and local government officials to learn the short and long term issues with which they were concerned.
2. Sponsored and advocated for several agricultural related bills including livestock nutrient management, agricultural product promotion and sales and water distribution.

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.

**Director of External Affairs**

*Safeco Insurance*

1998-2009

Proposed, developed and managed, from concept to site development, a Seattle and Atlanta based satellite insurance office for the purpose of recruiting women, and people of color to become Safeco agents, customers and employees. Managed administrative, employee recruitment and community relations staff. Influenced legislative decisions by utilizing my relationships with legislators in the targeted states of New York, Georgia, Missouri and Texas. Coordinated the development of the Safeco Political Action Committee's marketing, management and membership master work plan. Acted as an advisor to the company on community, government and agency relationship issues nationwide.

**State Legislator**

*The State of Washington  
present*

2003-

Elected to represent residents of the State's 37<sup>th</sup> Legislative district (Seattle, Renton and Tukwila). Chair of the Appropriations sub-committee on Health and Human Services. Serves as Vice Chair of the Community Trade and Economic Development Committee, member of the House Appropriations Committee. Legislative achievements include the successful sponsorship and passing of legislation to incentivize Boeing and the Aerospace industry to remain in Washington State.

**Project Director**

*University of Washington*

Managed the implementation of a \$3 million, five year research project to discover effective ways to reduce teen pregnancy, violence, substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases. Co-authored academic articles regarding research methods in the African American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American communities. Developed and implemented media focus group and ethnographic strategies.

**Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety**

*City of Seattle, Mayor's Office*

Served as liaison between the Police, Fire and Judicial departments of the City of Seattle. Managed the judicial selection process and citywide response to emergencies. Managed the Mayor's community gang intervention strategy and the development of the City's Emergency Management Plan. Successfully researched and purchased of the comprehensive emergency communications system.

*Masters in Social Work: Emphasis in community development, business and policy development.  
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 1987*

*Business Administration Certification: Emphasis on market demands and business planning  
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 1987*

*Bachelor of Science: Emphasis in policy development, counseling psychology and sociology.  
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, 1983*

*Leadership Tomorrow Graduate*: Emphasis on business networking, project development and interpersonal skill development.

Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Seattle, Washington, 1993

Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club, Board Member

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

**Duties of a State Representative:**

- **Conceive the need for new legislation through study of the problems of the district and the state. Initiates research through the staff and committees and requests preparation of bills and amendments.**
- **Develop support for proposals and lend support or oppose programs of other legislators following a thorough personal review.**
- **Study the daily calendar, journals and status to keep informed on bills scheduled for hearings and floor action**
- **Attend sessions, take part in debates, and vote on business before the legislature**
- **Attend committee meetings and hearings throughout the state to become informed on the details of proposals, the arguments for and against them, and to vote on them**
- **Exercise legislative oversight over the administrative branch of government and the annual state budget through committee hearings, personal contacts, review of reports, and investigation of complaints**
- **Reply to correspondence and telephone calls from constituents and supervise the work of staff**
- **Keep constituents informed on the progress of legislation and his or her position on specific bills and, in turn, keep informed on the opinions of constituents, organizations and interest groups, and the political parties**
- **Acts as liaison between the district, state and federal agencies, providing personal assistance to constituents in handling their problems**
- **Assume an active role in the district by serving on local committees, attending/speaking at civic organizations that are interested in legislation.**
- **Play an active role in the political party by attending and participating in party caucuses, meetings of a specialized nature and in general conventions**
- **Take part in ceremonial local and state functions**

**All of the responsibilities help me to effectively communicate with and advocate for my constituents, but I strive to:**

- **Objectively review and analyze policy**
- **Identify problems within the community and translate those into legislation or budget requests**
- **Build trusting and productive relationships within and across parties, judicial and legislative branches**
- **Be open to new ideas and be willing to accept when I'm wrong**
- **Clearly and convincingly articulate our values and vision**
- **Value, listen to, and understand differing opinions regardless of party affiliations, age, socio-economic, gender or sexual identity, race, etc.**