

## 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
Geoff		Simpson

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

**State Representative, Pos. 1, 47th LD**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**24years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**24 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Committee to Re-elect Geoff Simpson

Address:      1833 Auburn Way North, Suite E

City/State/Zip:      Auburn, WA, 98002

Campaign Phone:      253-737-4252

Campaign Fax:      253-929-6101 (call main line first)

Campaign E-mail:      info@votesimpson.com

Campaign Website:      www.votesimpson.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	Nov 2000 - Present	Local Government Committee Chair, Transportation Committee Vice Chair (past), Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Vice Chair (past), Select Committee on Community Security Vice Chair (past), Assistant Whip for House Democratic Caucus (past)
Covington City Council member	Elective	1997-2002	Mayor Pro Tem 1997-1999
Member – Joint Select Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs	Appointed	2001-2003	

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

<b>Office Title</b>	<b>Year of Run</b>

## 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 re-election because I believe I am the type of strong, effective leader my district and the state needs in order to make progress toward addressing the complex problems we face. I am often one of the few –and sometimes the only legislator - willing to take risks to stand up for what is needed. Too many politicians take the easy road and vote for what they know is popular or is polling well rather than doing what they believe to be the right thing. I believe leadership is doing what is right and communicating to those I represent why it was the right thing to do. Simply following polls demonstrates good followership, not good leadership. As a 20-year professional firefighter, emergency medical technician and a veteran state legislator, I help solve people’s problems and emergencies every day here at home and in Olympia. As a firefighter, it takes courage to run into a burning building when others are running out. As a legislator, it takes courage to hold true to your convictions in the face of pressure from special interests, the polls and your own political party. I have strong values forged by life circumstances. I was raised by a single mother who worked hard to provide for her family and still managed to teach her children what was really important in life. I served our country in the United States Navy and I served my city as its first ever mayor pro tem and have served as a volunteer in numerous organizations in my community. I’ve been representing the 47<sup>th</sup> district for 10 years and it’s been a great learning experience. This past biennium, I passed sixteen of my prime-sponsored bills into law which is a testament to my work ethic, knowledge of the process and ability to work with others. I am passionate about the causes in which I believe and have built solid relationships based on trust, credibility and respect. I’ve made mistakes and I’ve learned by them and am still willing to take risks. My constituents rely on me to work across party lines when possible for the betterment of our community and our state, to be responsive to them and to do my best to represent their interests. That has been my goal for these past ten years and I feel like I have succeeded. For my work last session, I have been praised by a variety of stakeholders including the Washington State Labor Council, the President of the Association of Washington Business, the Washington Conservation Voters and others.**

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

**I am known as someone who speaks candidly about my beliefs, who stands by my values and convictions even in the face of tremendous pressure to do otherwise. I do not give up when advocating for others. I am thoughtful and compassionate. I work hard and take the time to understand issues, research solutions and form coalitions to enact change. I have the spirit of service and the ability to work across party lines to get things accomplished. I am responsive to my constituents and am known to be a champion for jobs and the economy, working people, smart growth, consumer protection, transportation solutions, education and clean air and water. Although being a legislator is a very demanding job with great responsibility, I take immense pride in having played a role in shaping policies that improve lives and our state.**

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.

**As a city of Kent Firefighter in 1998, I responded to the scene of a traffic accident where a young mother was killed by a hit and run driver who fled the scene of the accident. Because the driver fled the scene, it was not possible to test him for drugs or alcohol and he therefore received a lesser sentence than if he had tested positive for intoxicating substances. In memory of that young mother, I sponsored and secured passage of a bill during the 2001 session which closed a loophole in the existing law allowing a driver who flees the scene of an accident to receive a reduced penalty.**

**I was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal by the Kent Fire Department in 2003 for rescuing a critically injured child from the scene where her parents were murdered. My crew and I risked our personal safety to enter the murder scene to rescue a young girl who likely would have died had we waited for law enforcement to arrive and secure the scene.**

**I was instrumental in the passage in Olympia of both the “nickel” package and the 9 ½ cent transportation investment that have helped Washington’s economy stay stronger than many other states during this great recession. As the Vice-Chairman of the Transportation Committee I helped bring Speaker Frank Chopp and then Rep. Ed Murray together to take action on both of these measures. I believe that neither one of these transportation investments would have been enacted had I not been involved.**

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.

- **State Rep. 47th LD 2000-present**
- **Covington City Council 1997-2002 / Mayor Pro Tem 1997-2000**
- **Kent Youth and Family Services Board of Directors 2000-2008**
- **Crestwood Elementary PTA member and volunteer 1995-2006**
- **Covington Rotary Club Charter Member 2004**
- **Communities in Schools of Kent Advisory Board member 2004-2008**
- **Covington Lions Club member 1997-1998, S. King Co. Comm. Network Board Member 2000-2002**
- **Hemophilia Foundation of Washington volunteer 1986-2008**
- **Kent Fire Department "Toys for Joy" Christmas Gift Program volunteer 1990-present**
- **"Give Burns the Boot" Campaign volunteer 1990-2002**
- **Joint Recommendations Committee for Community Development Block Grants member, 1999-2001**
- **International Association of Firefighters member, 1988-present**
- **Washington State Council of Firefighters member, 1990-present**
- **47th District Democrats member 1992-present**
- **Kent Senior Center volunteer 1994-present Kent School District Career Day volunteer – 2004-2008**
- **Kent firefighter and EMT 1990-present**
- **USN veteran 1981-1985**
- **Boeing firefighter 1986-1990**
- **Small business owner, 1990-1994**

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

**The most important duty for any elected official is listening to, understanding and responding to the needs of their constituents while exercising common sense, staying true to your values and protecting individual liberties from the “tyranny of the majority”. We have a representative democracy so it’s important to have a feel for what *really* matters to your constituents, but to also exercise leadership by following your own common sense or values knowing you’ll have to educate those you represent that you did the right thing for the right reasons. It’s easy for politician to cave in to various pressures to do what’s popular and forget about who are really representing in Olympia. It’s much harder to do the sometimes unpopular thing knowing you will have to work to explain why.**

**Recognize problems and seek solutions. Shepherd good legislation through the legislature and block bad ideas. Work harmoniously with others who might have different views. Compromise. Follow through. Keep your word. Use common sense. Be a work horse, not a show horse. Enjoy the experience -- it might not last. Be patient. Put in extra hours to help solve a problem. Treat others with kindness. Follow the Golden Rule. Do your best to represent your district -- but think about the big picture too. Be cognizant of important cut-off dates. Ask good questions. Be reliable and trustworthy.**