

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
Jeanne		Kohl-Welles

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

State Senator, 36th Legislative District

3. Are you the incumbent? x Yes No

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

25 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

25 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Address: PO Box 9100

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98109

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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
State Senator, 36 th L.D.	Elective	Oct, 1994-present	Chair, Senate Consumer Affairs (current), Education
State Representative, 36 th L.D.	Elective	Jan. 1993 – Oct, 1994	Majority Whip
State Representative, 36 th L.D. Washington State Arts Commission	Appointive	Jan. 1992 – Dec. 2007 – present	
Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education	Appointive	2006 – present	Vice Chair, Research

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 would like to be re-elected as the 36th District Senator in order to continue my efforts in advocating for important public policies and funding, and increasing citizen participation in public policy decisions, politics, and government, including those who have been underrepresented or under-involved. And I would like to continue participating in national and global efforts in addressing social problems and issues that affect our state and region.

I have consistently led efforts to reach common sense, practical solutions to very challenging issues by working collaboratively with others holding diverse perspectives and with legislators from both sides of the aisle. Being a legislator with a sociological and academic/research background has provided me with distinct opportunities to engage and be effective in such endeavors.

I'm not alone in being asked continually why I want to continue being a legislator, especially given the high level of cynicism toward government, public officials and politics in general, and the relatively low pay and enormous time demands. It's almost constant now that I hear "I don't envy you" or "I wouldn't want to be doing what you're doing (but I'm glad you're there)."

However, I believe strongly, even passionately, that my serving as a legislator is my calling. Although it may appear to be a cliché, I genuinely believe that it is a privilege, a blessing, and an honor. It's also an enormous responsibility that I do not take lightly or for granted. Being in a position to effect social change, to make a difference in people's lives, to inspire young people to become public servants, and to facilitate and take part in finding solutions to complex problems all bring immense gratification to me. But as the challenges frequently are extensive and involve significant family sacrifices, I have learned to accept and deal with many frustrations and disappointments. Yet, at times, such frustrations and disappointments have been powerful sources of motivation and energy to work harder to find solutions. Social change takes time and I've learned to accept that legislation concerning tough issues may take years to be enacted.

I have found that one of the most personally beneficial aspects of serving as a legislator has been having the opportunities to develop new skills and to learn new ways of achieving objectives. While not every experience has been comfortable, each has been helpful in my

learning something new each and every day.

I also would like to continue my involvement in public policy and leadership at the state, national and international levels. As I've enhanced my own leadership skills and knowledge of public policy and process, I have also been able to contribute to national and international efforts, to the state, the Puget Sound, and City of Seattle. I doing so, I've brought more than I would have otherwise to my own constituents and constituency groups.

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

The most important personal characteristics or traits of mine that are significant for being a state senator are: 1) I am accessible, responsive and accountable to my constituents and to constituency/stakeholder groups in representing them effectively in the Senate and in addressing what they believe to be important public policy priorities and funding needs; 2) I maintain integrity and ethical conduct in all that I do – in upholding the U.S. and State Constitutions and laws, in placing the public good above personal enhancement and accomplishment, and in working effectively and honestly with my colleagues of both parties in the Senate and the House; and 3) I “walk the talk” in encouraging public participation in the legislative process by making it as transparent as possible and by promoting a greater public trust in government. I work to accomplish these endeavors through assisting constituents and the public in general to achieve an understanding of the legislative process and the inherent challenges in addressing long-term needs in addition to short-term fixes, and of the need to avoid “unintended” consequences.

I am able to serve effectively by being dependable, trustworthy, accessible, responsive and fair – with my constituents, stakeholders, legislative colleagues, staff and lobbyists. In addition, I continually have heard from legislators and staff, the Governor, and others that I am one of the hardest working member of the Legislature. Regardless of the task, duty, or assignment, I consciously strive to be professional and to work collaboratively in achieving the most effective resolutions and outcomes within existing constraints. As Chair of the Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee (LCCP), arguably the most difficult policy committee in the Senate, I believe I am regarded by our Republican and Democratic members, as well as staff and stakeholders, as being a fair, respectful and effective leader, promoting participation among all members and in achieving agreements as much as possible to particularly thorny legislation. It doesn't get any more challenging than trying to forge agreements between organized labor and corporations/business owners, very conservative Republicans and very liberal Democrats, as is needed in issues before LCCP!

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.

Three examples of accomplishments of which I am most pleased pertain to my work relating to 1) ensuring safety and well-being of minors from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and sexual misconduct of minors by school employees and officials; 2) reducing and combating trafficking of humans; and 3) providing legal protections for qualifying medical marijuana patients. All three areas have been controversial and posed challenges to effecting change in statute.

1. Sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and sexual misconduct of minors

This area more than any others has provided an intersection of my academic, research, government, expert-witness and legislative work. I began working in 1973 on the implementation of the then-new federal law, Title IX, prohibiting sex discrimination in schools and colleges receiving federal funds, while working on my Ph.D. at UCLA and teaching part-time in Sociology at California State University Long Beach. The law had been signed into law in 1972 but its implementation date was in 1975. During this time I started a consulting company with a professor, Sex Role Consultants, assisting school districts in preparing for the law's implementation, and began including the topic in my teaching. Later, I worked as Southern California Manager/Educational Equity Specialist for Project Equity, the Sex Desegregation Assistance Center for Region IX of the U.S. Dept of Education (1978-84) that assisted school districts in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Guam and the Mariana Islands in complying with Title IX. During this time, sexual harassment became a formal aspect of sex discrimination based on a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling, which was then included in my work at Project Equity and in my teaching. I also began including sexual abuse of students in my classes and when I moved to Seattle in 1985 and began teaching about all of these topics in courses I taught as a Lecturer in the Women Studies and Sociology Departments at the University of Washington.

I continued to develop my expertise upon receiving a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education, "State School-Based Child Sexual Abuse Laws and Prevention Programs (1988-89), and serving on the board of Committee for Children. In 1995 I began serving as an expert witness in lawsuits brought to Superior and Federal courts on sexual harassment, bullying and sex discrimination, child sexual abuse, and Title IX. In most cases I represented the plaintiffs, mainly young people who had been sexually abused by coaches, teachers and other school employees, but I also represented school districts. I also spoke frequently at conferences around the country.

I began introducing legislation in 1994 as I recognized the need for increasing protections for students, teachers and staff in school districts. My Senate Bill (SB) 2153 was signed into law that year, requiring school districts to establish a policy and procedures prohibiting sexual harassment in the schools. We were the third state to do that. I introduced other legislation in the late 1990s and early 2000s addressing tighter hiring standards and penalties for school employees who engage in sexual misconduct. It was difficult convincing my colleagues of the need, until the Seattle Times' "Coaches Who Prey" investigative series was published in December, 2003. Overnight, the public and my legislative colleagues understood and my legislation was enacted in the 2004 session: SB 5533 on hiring of school employees, and SB 6220, child abuse reporting. I also worked with Republican Senator Don Benton on related legislation of his. Additional bills of mine were passed in subsequent years, e.g., SB 5308 child abuse reporting and SB 5309, Sexual misconduct with a minor (2005) and SB 5118 Sexual harassment policies in state agencies (2007). And my SB 2153 from 1994 was used as a model for landmark legislation on preventing bullying in the schools, as well as my subsequent SB 5288 Cyberbullying in the schools (2007).

2) Reducing and combating trafficking in humans

I have been a leader in this area since 2002 when former State Rep. Velma Veloria and I introduced legislation that was enacted, making Washington the first state to do so in the country. Velma had organized a conference on trafficking at the U.W. in November, 2001 at which I spoke, and she and I had been Foreign Policy Fellows in the first class of the Foreign Policy Institute convened by the Center for Women Policy Studies in Dec. 2001. I had become aware of the issue in 2000 when I was a delegation member visiting Japan with the

Japan Society and the Center for Policy Alternatives. And tragically there had been two murders of mail-order brides in the Seattle area, Susana Blackwell from the Philippines and Anastasia King from Kyrkastan.

Velma's HB 2381 created the first taskforce against trafficking and my SB 6412 created the International Marriage Organizations Act (also known as the Mail-Order Bride Act) providing protections for individuals coming to the US to marry a Washington citizen. Since 2002, Washington has continued to be the lead state in the country year after year by enacting legislation or funding through the operating budget. (I am submitting a Power Point summarizing the legislation.) Bills of mine have created written protocols for delivery of services to trafficking victims, renewed the Task Force charged with creating a comprehensive response to trafficking, and added victims of trafficking to the list of victims eligible to take part in the state's address confidentiality program. Most recently, my two trafficking bills were signed into law in the 2010 legislative session: SB 6330, authorizing WSDOT to work with non-profits to post trafficking informational posters at rest stops on state highways, and SB 6332, building on my SB 5850 (enacted in 2009) in establishing civil penalties for international labor recruiters and domestic employers of foreign workers who do not disclose federal and state labor laws to nonimmigrant workers.

What has been particularly gratifying is that the work on human trafficking has been bipartisan in our Legislature. I've always had Republican sponsors on my bills and on annual Senate floor resolutions on trafficking I've offered, I have invited their participation in conferences, press conferences, video productions, interviews, etc. I've worked closely with Republican Attorney General Rob McKenna in his work on trafficking, including participating in his Summit on Human Trafficking, and with his staff on my legislation. This past session I also worked closely with former U.S. Congresswoman and State Senator Linda Smith who currently is Founder and President of Shared Hope International, on my legislation and on that of current Republican State Senator Val Stevens in getting passed her SB 6476 which strengthens penalties on commercial sexual abuse of a minor. Sen. Stevens had been very helpful in passing my SB 5178 in 2007, which created the new crime of commercial sexual abuse of a minor.

I've also been a speaker on trafficking in workshops and conferences around the country as well as in other countries, including Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Brazil, Chile and the Ukraine (without taxpayer funds). And I routinely meet with visiting foreign delegations on trafficking through the U.S. Department of State and International Visitors Program with the World Affairs Council in Seattle.

On another note, my SB 6412 from 2002 was used as a model for federal legislation introduced in 2003 by U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, the Federal International Marriage Brokers Regulations Act, which was signed into law in 2006. As a result of my involvement in that effort, I became a consulting expert in a federal lawsuit brought against an international marriage broker business heard in U.S. District Court in Baltimore in 2004.

3) Providing legal protections for qualifying medical marijuana patients

Legislation having to do with marijuana is always difficult. It's always controversial and extremely challenging to pass in the Legislature. I began my efforts on this policy area in 1996, working closely with Republican Senator Bob McCaslin from Spokane Valley. His wife had recently died of cancer and he understood how marijuana can be helpful for individuals suffering the ravages of chemotherapy and radiation. A sister-in-law of mine had died of cancer in 1988 at the age of 34, leaving behind a 15-month-old son. I found out years later that her husband and my very conservative Republican in-laws in Connecticut had helped get her marijuana as it helped relieve her symptoms at the end. Sen. McCaslin and I were able to get funding included in the supplemental operating budget for a review of the literature on medical marijuana at WSU. Then in 1997, I introduced SB 6271 containing restrictions as well as protections for patients using marijuana that has been recommended by their physicians. During the 1998 session when the bill was going through deliberation, I visited my best friend on Bainbridge Island during the weekends. She was dying of cancer and was using very small amounts of marijuana that had been recommended by her brave

oncologist at Swedish Hospital to assuage the effects of radiation and chemotherapy. By taking a couple of puffs from a marijuana cigarette, she was able to sip and keep down some water and chicken broth. That convinced me! Suzanne died the end of February and my bill did not pass, even though it was supported by Republican Senator Alex Deccio, who chaired the Sen. Health Care Committee. The following November, the voters approved Initiative 692, much of which was taken from my legislation.

The flaw in I-692 was that it allowed for qualifying patients (with medical conditions included in statute and others approved later by the Dept of Health) who have a valid recommendation from their physicians to possess marijuana not to exceed a 60-day supply. But there were no specifications on what constitutes a 60-day supply, mainly because under federal law, physicians are unable to prescribe marijuana, let alone indicate how much to take,

Thus began a quest of mine to have the 60-day supply defined in statute in order to provide patient protection but also needed clarification for law enforcement officials. I worked with many groups, e.g., patient advocates, law enforcement, medical community, on several bills I introduced between 1999 and 2008 to get this accomplished. Finally, in 2008, my SB 6032 passed amidst a great deal of controversy, including opposition from many in the medical marijuana community as they did not believe it went far enough and would endanger patients. Others in the community disagreed and supported the bill as did law enforcement organizations and the DOH. The bill required DOH to adopt rules on what constitutes a 60-day supply and to make recommendations on access to adequate, safe, consistent and secure sources of medical marijuana; as well as other items. The DOH conducted hearings and issued its requirements and recommendations in 2008. I worked during this time period with King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg, King County Sheriff Sue Rahr, Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske, and a variety of stakeholders on a viable way to implement the new law at the local level.

In addition, I introduced SB 5798 in 2009 that just passed during the 2010 legislative session. SBB 5798 extends to all licensed health care professionals beyond MDs and osteopaths who have prescriptive authority to recommend medical marijuana to qualifying patients. These include advanced registered nurse practitioners, osteopathic physician assistants, and naturopaths. Its main purpose is to provide better access to patients in rural areas, particularly in Eastern Washington, and in some urban areas in which patients typically see these professionals rather than MDs.

There is more that needs to be done. I met with a large number of people and groups during the 2009 Interim and am beginning to do more of that now to prepare for major legislation I will introduce in the 2011 legislative session if I'm re-elected. It will provide for a safe, secure, adequate and consistent legal source for obtaining medical marijuana for qualifying patients. I'm looking at establishing licensed growers through the Dept of Agriculture and licensed nonprofit dispensaries through the Dept of Health. This is extremely important for many suffering from debilitating and terminal medical conditions as currently there's no legal way for patients to obtain medical marijuana unless they grow it themselves or have a caregiver do it for them.

I have spoken on many panels, at meetings and at conferences on this topic. Last week I was on a panel at a forum sponsored by City Club, Town Hall and the Seattle Channel. I'm speaking at a King County Bar Assn CLE on July 12 (see Power Point I'm submitting). I brought travel writer Rick Steves to Olympia last October to speak on marijuana policy reform at which we had Republican as well as Democratic members and staff present. I've also written several op-eds on the topic.

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 been very fortunate to had been very involved in the 36th Legislative District and 36th District Democrats for many years prior to becoming a legislator in 1992 and subsequently throughout my time in office. From having been a volunteer in my children's schools, community organizations and associations, and political organizations, I was able to bring to the legislature right from the start a deep understanding of the overall values, needs and priorities reflected in my district.

Below are some of my past and current affiliations and activities:

- **Queen Anne Community Council Board Member (1989-92), Social Issues/Crime Prevention Committee Chair, and Malicious Harassment and Hate Crimes Task Force convener**
- **Bus Barn Shelter Oversight Committee Chair (1990-91) and its successor Aloha Inn Transitional Living Residential Program Community Oversight Committee member (1991-92) – appointed by Mayor Norm Rice**
- **Queen Anne Helpline Board Member (1992-present)**
- **YouthCare Board Member (1987-2002)**
- **Bayview Manor Continuum of Care Residence Board Member (1993-2008)**
- **Ballard Rail Group Co-Convener and Passenger Rail Coalition Co-Convener (1996-98)**
- **Woodland Park Zoo Commission II Member (1996-97)**
- **Greenwood Senior Center Advisory Board Member (1996-2004)**
- **Seattle Center Renovation II Task Force Member (2000-2004)**
- **Real Change Advisory Board Member, Belltown-based newspaper for and about the homeless (2000-2004)**
- **Seattle Monorail Project Board (2000-2004)**
- **Metropolitan Democratic Club Board (2006-present)**
- **Reinvesting in Youth Advisory Committee (2002-2007)**
- **Transportation Choices Coalition Board Member (2004-present)**
U.W. Harry Bridges Labor Center Visiting Faculty Member (2006-present)

In addition, I have developed skills in passing legislation and obtaining funding for groups and projects in my district, some examples of which include:

- * **Transportation budget funding for Galer Pedestrian Bridge across Aurora (1995-2005)**
- * **Capital budget funding for Kiwanis Ravine, Magnolia (1994), Webster School Playground at Nordic Heritage Museum (1997), Soundview Park Playfield (2002), Nordic Heritage Museum (several separate years), Daybreak Star (several separate years), McCaw Hall (2004-06), Counterbalance Park (2007), Ballard Corners Park (2007), Hazel Heights P-Patch (2008), Pacific Science Center (several separate years)**
- * **Conversion of excess Seattle Schools buildings to community centers' ownerships, e.g., Phinney Neighborhood Center, Crown Hill Community Center (2009)**
- * **Prime sponsored enabling legislation for Woodland Park Zoo to become a metropolitan park district, selling Washington beer in farmers' markets, and currently working on legislation to allow wine and beer sampling (with strict restrictions) in farmers' markets.**

Also, I've been a key "go to" person in mediating issues and conflicts between community groups and the City of Seattle and/or the State, e.g., Burke Gilman bicycle trail through Fremont and Ballard, eviction notices and leases with the Puget Sound Liveaboard Association and the Department of Natural Resources, aerial spraying for Asian Gypsy Moths

with No-Spray Zone and the state Department of Agriculture, street grid and Alaska Way Viaduct and bored tunnel between neighborhood groups, City and WSDOT, suicide prevention barrier on Aurora Bridge.

I annually introduce Senate floor resolutions on behalf of organizations and events in my district, e.g., the Blessing of the Fleet and the Syntende Mae (Norwegian Constitution Day) and frequently speak at community events.

And for many years (1994-2008), my district was co-located with the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Queen Anne-Magnolia Neighborhood Service Center with the Uptown Alliance, Queen Anne Historical Society and other neighborhood organizations.

I initiated the 36th District Day in Olympia, which has been held during every legislative session since 1995, as I recall. I have held town meetings once or twice a year just about every year I've in the Legislature, almost always with the two district representatives or, when they chose not to participate, on my own or with former Senator Pat Thibaudeau of the 43rd Leg. District.

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

As a state senator, I uphold the U.S. and state Constitutions and statutes, and provide an important check and balance to the executive branch of state government. I represent my constituents, address public policy issues and funding needs by introducing and sponsoring legislation and amendments and provisos for responsible budgets (operating, capital and transportation) enacted into law. I serve on Senate standing committees -- Ways & Means, Judiciary and Rules (and Chair the Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee). I also serve on special committees, such as currently JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee), WSIPP (Washington State Institute for Public Policy) Board, K-20 Education Network Board, JLSC (Joint Legislative Systems Committee) which I have chaired off and on for years, Senate Democratic Caucus Committee on Committees, Legislative Children's Oversight Committee, Washington State Arts Commission, and WICHE (Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education).

I supervise my staff, and work with non-partisan legislative committee staff and caucus staff, and the governor's and other agency staff. During the session, I work with committee and caucus staff in setting the agenda for the committee I chair and shepherd priority bills through the legislative process. On any given week during the session I have ten-plus hours of meetings weekly with stakeholder groups, e.g., Chair of the House Commerce & Labor Committee, small business lobbyists, AFL-CIO union lobbyists, Governor's staff, the Republican senator who serves as Ranking Member for the LCCP Committee, the Democratic members of LCCP, SEIU lobbyists, etc. During the Interim, I attend legislative task forces, e.g., the Joint Legislative Taskforce on the Underground Economy for the past three years and which I co-chaired. There have been many others.

I provide assistance to constituents who seek help with state agencies and communicate regularly with them and constituency groups and stakeholders throughout the session and the Interim period between sessions, encouraging citizen participation in the legislative process. I respond to e-mail day and night and on weekends (it is never-ending). I spend a great deal of my time during the Interim speaking at events, attending community meetings, and meeting with constituents, agency representatives, lobbyists and others in my district office.

I work with our U.S. Congressional delegation on state-federal issues and funding requests, and with local officials (City, County, Port, etc.) on state-local issues and funding needs.

The duties I find most important involve the enactment of important policy and responsible budgets into law, mainly because of their significance for our state and because they are so challenging with the major time and budgetary constraints and partisan politics involved.

Also of major importance is communicating effectively to my constituents regarding the complexities of governance and actions we take, especially as the media coverage of the Legislature has diminished and as the amount of e-mail sent to us has become impossible to handle promptly. Even so, I take my responsibility very seriously to be accessible and responsive. The Legislature's sessions are relatively short for our increasingly complex issues and needs with which we deal as well as the increasing population of our districts.