

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
Joe	F	Fain

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

State Senate 47th District

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

< 2 years (27 years in South King County)

5. How long have you resided in King County?

29 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Joe Fain

Address: P.O. Box 7809

City/State/Zip: Covington, WA 98042

Campaign Phone: (253) 293-5633

Campaign Fax: 1888-361-3725

Campaign E-mail: contact@votefain.com

Campaign Website: votefain.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)
Legislative Staff – King County Council District 7	Appointed	2004 – Present	Chief of Staff
Boundary Review Board, Kent & Auburn School Districts	Appointed	2006	Co-chair

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.)

Public service is a way of life in my family. My parents have a combined 84 years in public education as teachers and administrators. As a result of their efforts in public education, as well as my time coaching and working with kids in local schools, I am very passionate about public education. While the legislature has made progress in recent years towards improving early and basic education, I am running to focus and expand on those efforts.

Anger associated with the current direction of state and national politics has motivated many first-time candidates to run for office this year. While I share their discontent for many of the decisions that were made in Olympia last session and before, I am optimistic that we can correct course in time. I believe the reasoned and positive approach that I bring to problem solving, combined with my knowledge of the issues and the policy process, is the best way I can give back to my community.

I enjoy working with diverse people and complex policies, and will be personally fulfilled by the work in the Washington State Senate while helping to serve the community I care deeply about.

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

My best characteristic is my willingness and preference to hear both sides of an issue before I take a stance, regardless of my personal beliefs or predispositions. My goal is to bring a collaborative and measured approach to Olympia. State and national politics have become increasingly divisive in recent years. The majority party, whether Republican or Democrat, often dismisses the minority party; and the minority party is often only interested in obstructionism until they are again in the majority. An honest and open approach to problem solving must take a back seat to “the competition.”

My years of involvement in the South King County community and in the 47th district specifically have provided me with a clear understanding of the diverse needs of my community. The knowledge I have gained with close to a decade of service to King County government coupled with my education background has given me extensive knowledge about the issues, individuals, and organizations that impact or are impacted by state issues.

I will also bring an unmatched energy to the Washington State Senate. My motivation and ability to focus are necessary characteristics for any elected official who aims to use his or her office to be truly effective and not merely as a vehicle for self promotion.

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.

In 2008, I drafted and sponsored a county-wide charter initiative to make King County offices nonpartisan. The need for this grew out of my experience as a legislative staffer at the Council. The Municipal League had been a long-time supporter of this change and was an early endorser to the effort. As the volunteer chair of Citizens for Independent Government, I organized and managed the collection efforts to obtain over 80,000 signatures as well as having the opportunity to publicly debate influential elected officials at several community forums and on King Five’s UpFront. Behind the scenes, I helped design our public outreach program and campaign strategy. The initiative won both the primary and general elections by large margins.

While the proposal was well-received by the general public, I knew that building a large and diverse base of support for the proposal was crucial for the measure’s success and credibility, especially with fierce opposition by both political parties. In a short amount of time, we brought together a diverse coalition of over 40 local and municipal elected officials from throughout King County (see www.bettercounty.org).

While the King County Council and election rhetoric continues to be disappointingly partisan, the initiative paved the way for the most competitive and widely scrutinized Executive campaign in county history the following year. Without the nonpartisan appointment process created by the initiative, party officials would have selected Ron Sims’ replacement, and he or she, like Executive Sims, would have been elected the subsequent fall with little or no credible competition. The nonpartisan Executive race attracted several credible candidates who for the first time had to travel to all corners of the county to earn the support of voters instead of relying on a closed partisan process to select our county’s most powerful elected official. In time, I believe the Council will begin acting in a more nonpartisan fashion as new leaders, many coming from nonpartisan city councils, replace the current incumbents.

Before entering government service at King County, I worked as a youth and high school swim coach in the Highline and Renton school districts. Coaching has always been a passion of mine, and I have worked with hundreds of athletes during my near-decade as a swim instructor. During the 2002 season, I was the youngest recipient of the Washington Coach of the Year award. While the success of my team throughout that season was a result of their collective skill and determination, I hope my fellow coaches' recognition of my efforts was a result of my effectiveness as a coach, but also the collegial way I worked with those coaches, even though I may have been in direct competition with them. Mutually respectful relationships are as helpful in sports as they are in politics.

Finally, I completed my joint-degree evening graduate program in law and business administration while working for the King County Council. Those four years were very difficult and time was the scarcest resource. I constantly juggled the demands of a challenging profession and a rigorous course load. However, those four years also taught me a valuable lesson in how to remain effective while balancing demands from countless directions, a skill that will prove very helpful in the legislature.

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.

- ***Susan G. Komen 3-day Walk for the Cure – Maple Valley Girls & Guys Team Annual Gala Auctioneer***
(2010)
- ***Kent Rotary – Member***
(2010)
- ***Kent Chamber of Commerce – Member***
(2010)
- ***Covington Chamber of Commerce – Member***
(2010)
- ***Auburn Symphony Orchestra – Annual Gala Emcee & Auctioneer***
(2010)
- ***Auburn Youth Resources – Board Member***
(2008 – present)
- ***Citizens for Independent Government – Chair & Initiative Sponsor***
(2007 – 2008)
- ***Friends of King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg - Steering Committee Member***
(2007)
- ***American Cancer Society Relay for Life – Emcee & Fmr. Board Member***
(2006 – Present)
- ***Highline Community College Foundation – Board Member***
(2006 – present)
- ***Auburn & Kent School Districts – Joint Boundary Review Committee Co-chair***
(2006)
- ***South King County Multiservice Center – Board Member***
(2005 – 2008)
- ***King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer (representing much of the 47th district) – Legislative Aide & Chief of Staff***
(2004 – present)
- ***King County District Court – Aide to Presiding Judge***
(2003)
- ***King County Councilmember Julia Patterson (representing much of the 47th district) – Staff Intern***
(2002)
- ***Renton & Highline Public Schools – High school swim coach***
(2000 – 2002)
- ***American Red Cross / King County – First Aid, CPR, and Lifeguard Instructor***
(1999 – 2003)
- ***Olympic View & Husky swim clubs – Youth swim coach***
(1995 – 2000)

While serving in all three branches of King County Government *and* working for both Democrats and Republicans, I have a unique perspective on how government works. My service to King County has prepared me well for understanding the issues, the challenges, and the required knowledge about the public sector in a hands-on way that is unusual for most first-time candidates.

Additionally, service to my community has always been my personal priority. The years I have spent working with various organizations in South King County, particularly community nonprofits affecting youth and education, have allowed me to become better connected with a very diverse group of citizen-leaders. I have also benefited by gaining the specific policy knowledge to understand how the acts of state government directly impact service providers.

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

The job of a legislator goes far beyond setting policy and voting on bills. Legislators are the public's first line of defense against government abuse and bureaucratic complexity. Legislators must be an "ombudsman-at-large" for the people.

At King County, I have always instructed my staff to put their primary focus on helping individual constituents navigate government. When a resident comes to us for help, it is not only an opportunity to assist a single constituent, but it is also a learning opportunity to discover how we can improve the failures in the system that led the constituent to us in the first place.

A State Senator's primary responsibility is accessibility. The only way to understand the problems facing residents in our community is to be available to them, to reach out and try to connect with them whenever possible. That is why I have spent, and will continue to spend, hundreds of hours going door-to-door in my campaign. My efforts are not merely to introduce myself to voters, but to ask for and listen to their concerns and priorities. The voters are eager to share the ideas they want their next state senator to take to Olympia.

I favor practical answers that can be implemented efficiently and effectively. I want to work toward solutions to specific local problems. This will mean working closely with scores of elected officials from both houses and both parties. Partisanship and special interest politics will not help when deciding how to improve freight mobility on the West Valley Highway, or how to raise test scores in the Kent School District.

I am not running for office to be another "no" vote for a minority, or a "yes" vote for a majority. I am running to lead on issues important to me and my constituents, and to effectively and responsibly use the power of my office to improve the lives of the people I serve.