

## 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		McDermott

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

**King County Council, District 8**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**42 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**42 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Friends for Joe McDermott

Address:      PO Box 16254

City/State/Zip:      Seattle, WA 98116

Campaign Phone:      206 937 4184

Campaign Fax:      206 932 0161 (email preferred)

Campaign E-mail:      Joe@JoeMcDermott.org

Campaign Website:      www.JoeMcDermott.org

#### 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 Senator	Elective	10/07 – present	Majority Assistant Floor Leader
State Representative	Elective	01/00 – 10/07	Vice Chair, Education Committee; Majority Education Policy Leader

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

Office Title	Year of Run
None	

## 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.)

**During my ten years in the Legislature I've delivered for environmental protection, transit and transportation priorities, human services, and public safety. King County delivers these vital public services from the frontlines every day.**

**I am running for the King County Council to take my work for these issues to the frontlines. Representing District 8 on the Council will allow me to fight for efficient, smart government. Despite the County's tight budget, continued funding for innovative programs like drug, family, and mental health courts actually save money and put lives back together. I want to bring this kind of proven, effective leadership to King County.**

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

**Judgment and dedication are traits important for one in the public trust to possess. My personal employment of these characteristics serves me well in legislative work, both previously in the Legislature and prospectively on the King County Council.**

**Judgment is essential in elective office. Having a framework with which to make consistent decisions on both inter-related and independent issues provides strength of purpose and well-founded conviction. I have observed legislators who seem to want a bill passed more than they want to adopt better policy. A strong sense of judgment has been invaluable in my work and will be even more of a core resource in a smaller body where more independent work and thought are necessary.**

**Further, dedication is surely required for anyone engaged in the incremental work of legislating. Achieving success in this environment can be slow and incremental, taking multiple years to enact policy goals. I am able to keep my eye on the long term and accept incremental steps, which alone would be insufficient, as laying groundwork for the ultimate achievement.**

**Judgment and dedication prove essential qualities for me to draw on in public office. Relishing working with people never hurts, either.**

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.

**I was pleased to sponsor and play a role in passage of the Safe Schools Bill, which had been introduced for at least two years prior to my election. While protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) youth was a key intent of the sponsor, the legislation had not advanced in a tied House of Representatives. As a member of the Education Committee, I negotiated with other committee members on various points and in 2002, with the tie broken, the legislation moved. Still a key sticking point, even in committee, was insuring a specific reference to bullying of LGBT youth. After conceding several other points, I insisted on this reference and negotiated the bill out of committee with this important provision. Drawing this line required judgment about what was both important policy and achievable politically.**

**Dedication is the only way I improved the accountability of the State Board of Education (SBE). Though the idea had been considered in the past, in 2005 I introduced legislation reconstituting the membership of the SBE. With much work, including a last minute floor amendment to address colleagues' concerns, this legislation passed – though I knew significant work remained. I spent the time between the 2005 and 2006 sessions working with key education stakeholders to realign the duties of the SBE as well. In the 2006 session I introduced well-worked legislation that the Governor signed later that year. Over a two year effort, dedication won out and the composition and duties of the State Board of Education were strengthened to reflect the era of education reform.**

**In 2009 the Washington Student Lobby (WSL) came to me requesting sponsorship of legislation to add transgendered persons to Washington's existing hate crimes statute. While I didn't expect success the first year, outstanding work by the WSL – in response to hate crimes on campuses – drove the passage of the bill. I was able to use personal relationships built over years to garner required support to survive a committee vote on the committee's deadline. The relationships I had cultivated across the political lines through respect and personal investment allowed me to make a personal plea for the legislation that was essential to its survival of a deadline and ultimate passage.**

**Judgment, dedication, and strong interpersonal skills will serve me will moving from a 49 member Senate to a 9 member Council, where every one of these traits become even more valuable.**

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.

**This partial list (see resume for more complete list) of my various community activities all inform my public work and are experiences where I have developed skills that will serve me well on the King County Council.**

<b>Board Member, Southwest Youth &amp; Family Services</b>	<b>12/03 - present</b>
<b>Member, West Seattle Chamber of Commerce</b>	<b>1/92-1/93; 1/03 - present</b>
<b>President (and Board Member), West Seattle Helpline</b>	<b>6/04 – 7/07 (7/98 – 02/09)</b>
<b>Member, Elections Administration &amp; Certification Board</b>	<b>5/03 – 10/07</b>
<b>Member, National Conference of State Legislatures 2005 Host Committee</b>	<b>12/03 - 8/05</b>
<b>Flemming Fellow, Center for Policy Alternatives</b>	<b>1/04 - 12/04</b>
<b>Member, Partnership for High Point’s Future</b>	<b>3/02 – 1/05</b>

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

**The King County Council is the legislative body for King County. As such, they adopt ordinances, adopt the budget, and confirm selected Executive appointments. The Council also sits as the King County Ferry District and King County Flood Control District. Successful Councilmembers are actively engaged in their communities and advocate for their constituents’ needs. However, the most important duty is exercising independent judgment in the best interest of the County’s residents now and into the future.**