

## 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
John	Edmund	Stafford

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

**Washington State Legislature, 37<sup>th</sup> District, Position 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes      No (X)

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

**10 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**30 years (1962-1980, 1992-1994, 2000-2010)**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:                    Campaign to elect John Stafford to State Legislature

Address:                                1723 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, Unit 404

City/State/Zip:                    Seattle, WA 98144

Campaign Phone:                (206) 722 - 6338

Campaign Fax:                    N/A

Campaign E-mail:                jestaff@msn.com

Campaign Website:              Pending

#### 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)
None			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Washington State Legislature, 37 <sup>th</sup> District	2004
Washington State Legislature, 37 <sup>th</sup> District	2002

## 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.)

**The legislative process is inherently a high-stakes process. Decisions are made which determine how the most important societal functions are funded and managed, from education to health care to personal safety.**

**In my view, the nation's legislative process is increasingly influenced by powerful groups of individuals, organizations and corporations, and thereby increasingly removed from the broader public that it is intended to serve.**

**I believe I have the requisite skills and background (addressed below) to meaningfully address the challenges of the job, and the independence to advocate for issues based on facts and analyses rather than outside influence and/or party platform.**

**I have a desire to apply my abilities towards meaningful, positive and important objectives, and I believe the legislative process represents such an endeavor.**

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

**First, I consider myself to be very intelligent, and able to understand, develop and analyze various legislative proposals in terms of their costs, benefits, trade-offs relative to other alternatives, etc.**

**Second, I believe I have an uncommonly varied background (partner for a corporate strategy management consulting firm, blue collar worker, and educator) that enables me to see and understand multiple issues from multiple different perspectives.**

**Third, I believe I have a reasonably strong knowledge of the myriad of issues dealt with through the legislative process. I have developed this knowledge base via a consistent reading regimen and attendance at a variety of community lectures and forums.**

**Fourth, I believe my interpersonal skills are strong. I consider myself to be a good communicator. And I believe I am effective at handling a critical dilemma inherent to legislating: maintaining your advocacy for principles you believe in, while working with and compromising with colleagues with different points of view.**

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.

**Upon graduation from Dartmouth College, I joined Strategic Planning Associates, a \$50 million/year (revenues) corporate strategy management consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. The hired accomplished undergraduates to work as Research Analysts, supporting the work of its career-track professionals who were uniformly recruited from the nation's top business schools. The work entailed gathering and analyzing (via a multitude of analytical techniques) client, competitor and industry data to use as the basis for the development and presentation of recommendations for improving corporate performance. We presented our findings via slide presentations delivered to the senior management of the nation's largest corporations.**

**I loved the work, and devoted nearly all my energies towards succeeding at the firm. I was promoted five times (to third year Research Analyst, Associate, Senior Associate, Project Manager and then Vice President and Partner) in 7 years, a virtually unprecedented achievement in the history of the firm.**

**I believe my achievements indicate a mix of skills essential to being a strong legislator – intelligence, analytical and quantitative ability, interpersonal skills, communication skills, and integrity.**

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 worked for the last ten years as a full-time substitute teacher for Seattle Public Schools. I have worked in roughly one hundred twenty different schools, in every grade and every subject, dealing with students and parents from every conceivable demographic segment. This experience has been mind-boggling, to say the least, and even more so when contrasted with my prior experience in the consulting profession, which was dominated by individuals from one demographic segment.**

**I believe this experience is valuable for a prospective legislator, because it has allowed me to work with and interact with the full spectrum of individuals I seek to represent, and who are impacted by the legislative process.**

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

**There are several critical duties of a state legislator. First, one needs to develop familiarity with the full range of issues addressed via the legislative process, and to develop sound positions on each of these issues. Second, one needs to develop a prioritized list of positions that are essential for his district. Third, one needs to effectively communicate and advocate for those high priority positions – both within his district and also in the legislature. Fourth, one needs to work with others in a spirit of negotiation and compromise to enact meaningful legislation. Although each of these duties is critical, I view the fourth as being the most important because this is where the rhetoric is actually channeled into the final product – the funding decisions, laws, regulations and policies that impact our communities.**