

## 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
Larry		Springer

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

**State Representative 45<sup>th</sup> District Position #2**

3. Are you the incumbent?            X  Yes         No

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

**28 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**63 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:                    Friends of Larry Springer

Address:                                700 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue West

City/State/Zip:                      Kirkland WA 98033

Campaign Phone:                  425 822-2907

Campaign Fax:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail:                  larry@larryspringer.org

Campaign Website:                www.larryspringer.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 Representative, 45 <sup>th</sup> LD, 2	Elected	January 2005-current	Vice Chair Housing Committee, Majority Floor Leader, Majority Caucus Liaison
Mayor of Kirkland	Elected	1/1/2000-12/31/2003	
Kirkland City Council	Elected	1993-2005	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Kirkland City Council	1991


## 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.)

**After serving three terms in the House of Representatives I have found the role of state representative to be challenging, occasionally frustrating, always stimulating but foremost a very important and sobering experience. The work we do for the people of the state of Washington is critical to the future of our state. I have learned, painfully at times, that the progress can be slow and we often make only incremental progress. I have learned that first hand with some of the legislation I have sponsored. I am motivated to return to Olympia to continue work on several issues still not completed.**

**We continue to face the worst budget deficit in state history, and while we were able to pass a balanced budget the last two years, we will face an even tougher challenge in 2011. I am eager to return to the legislature and tackle this daunting challenge at the same time we absolutely must make progress at fully funding our K-12 education system.**

**The legislature needs representatives with the commitment and experience to lead the state back to prosperity.**

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

**I seldom ever worry who or what gets credit for a job well done. I recognize compromise is the life blood of a democracy and always strive to fully understand both sides of a debate. I consistently look for the root cause of the issue and seek to deal first with the cause of a problem, rather than focusing just on the symptoms. I listen first, research second, and decide third. I am seldom concerned with whom or what someone represents; only the point of view and position they take, that should be the primary basis for our political discussion. I always look for verifiable data or evidence to support a point of view. However, I am also willing to make a decision even if I do not have all the background data I might like, as is often the case in the public policy arena.**

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.

**Worked with counties, the Association of Washington Cities, Realtors, Low Income Housing Alliance, and the Building Industry Association of Washington to pass a bill to enable inclusionary zoning techniques as a way to address the high cost of housing. This diverse group rarely agrees on anything but by continuing to only focus on the goal (housing affordability) I was able to get the bill passed and signed into law. I received a number of accolades from colleagues who did not think such a coalition could be held together.**

**Organized and chaired the Kirkland Community Summit in 1993 in response to a very divisive city council campaign the year before. It was an all day summit sponsored by Puget Power and the Wash State Dept of Community Economic Development. Over 150 people participated, discussed and reached agreement on action plans in the areas of governance, economic development, arts, youth issues, and transportation. The event is still talked about today and is heralded as the first major step at creating a city-wide vision.**

**I am proud to have created the first ever Washington "intra-state sister city program" between Kirkland and Walla Walla. It is an attempt to cooperate in marketing and tourism as well as promote cultural and economic exchange programs. We held several meetings in our respective cities, and the relationship was formalized soon after my election to the Legislature. Due to the commitment of the city councils in both cities the cross-state relationship has blossomed, and the City of Walla Walla approved a proclamation signifying a particular day in May as "Larry Springer" day. This unique partnership is infectious, and provides a good model for other cooperative efforts across the Cascade Curtain.**

**As President of the Leadership Institute I played a key role in the merger of Leadership Institute and Advance Bellevue into what is now the preeminent leadership training organization on the eastside. We created *Leadership Eastside* from the two separate organizations thereby saving overhead and ending the needless competition between them for students and funding. The program is now in its 5th year and stronger than ever. The transformation took over 5 years of unwavering commitment and countless hours of volunteer time to create a program literally from scratch.**

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.

**Hopelink Board of Directors (2010-current)**  
**Board Member of Kirkland Downtown Association (2005-2009)**  
**Kirkland City Council (1994-2005)**  
**Mayor, City of Kirkland (2000-2003)**  
**President, Suburban Cities Associations (2002-2003)**  
**Recipient of the National Distinguished Leader Award (2002)**  
**President, Leadership Institute (2001)**  
**Member, 520 Bridge/Corridor Study (1998-1999)**  
**Chaired Chamber of Commerce Community Services Committee (1995)**  
**Chaired the Kirkland Community Summit (1993)**  
**Board of Directors, Kirkland Performance Center (1992-1994)**  
**Board of Directors of the Kirkland Art Center (1990-1992)**

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

**The legislature adopts a state wide budget every two years which is the true policy statement of priorities the legislature believes are in the best interests of the citizens of Washington. The adoption of the budget is in many ways the seminal event of the legislature's session.**

**In order to accomplish this task there are many other "duties" which must be performed if the budget is to be a true reflection of the interests of Washingtonians. Chief among them is an ability to listen to constituents and really hear what they say and many times what they do not say.**

**After that, every legislator has the responsibility to make a judgement about what must be done to address the issues raised by his/her constituents. A central skill is the ability to work with diverse interest groups, all of whom have a stake in the proposed solution to the issue identified by the legislator's constituents.**

**So, the most important duties are establishing relationships, recognizing who needs to be part of the conversation as a solution is crafted, adhering to the agreed upon outcome and an ability to represent your point of view with your colleagues and the general public.**

**Lastly, every legislator must recognize his/her duty to represent the home district while knowing that the health of the entire state is paramount to the future of Washington. This requires legislators to get out of their comfort zones and learn about issues all across the state. It is not always easy but frankly, critical to be effective in representing the people of Washington.**