

## 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
Maralyn		Chase

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

**Senate 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes      x No

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

**20 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**50 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Maralyn Chase for Senate

Address:      P.O. Box 77267

City/State/Zip:      Shoreline, WA 98177

Campaign Phone:      425-775-8449

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Campaign Website:      http://www.MaralynChase.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)
State Representative	Elective	2002-2010	Chair, Trade Oversight Committee Vice Chair, Environmental Health

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

Office Title	Year of Run
None	

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## 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?** I have a responsibility to the voters of my district but also to future generations.

There is a time of deep reflection in most of our lives when we realize we have personal responsibility for the stewardship of our community. I sometimes refer to this as the Golden Rule between generations. We have an obligation to the future and to make sure we pass on to them a world in which resources are available to meet their needs, for clean air, abundant water, and an environment in which they can care for their future generations.

Not everyone chooses the political world in exercising their stewardship responsibilities. But it is the arena where I believe I can best serve. I am running for the Washington State Senate because of my life-long belief in rule by the citizens. I believe that in a democracy power flows from the votes of citizens not from the dollars of the corporations. Our young country, less than 300 years old, is one of the greatest experiments in the history of civilization: Rule by the people.

Rule by the people presupposes certain conditions:

The people must be informed of the issues – hence the idea of freedom of the press. We believe that if the people are given sufficient detailed information about an issue, they can “reason together” to reach a decision that may be better than one imposed by an absolute ruler. It also presupposes the opportunity for citizens to choose among different options and to change their minds.

Freedom of the press presupposes that there will be sufficient **transparency of government** to enable **access to the information** the people need for their democratic deliberations. It is in the deliberations of the people that we have accountability for the conduct of our government. I have grave concerns about the transparency of government in our state.

Citizens are oftentimes told **what** the government is doing, but not about **how** we are doing it or **why**. And the citizens are angry at the lack of transparency and I support their demands

to know the details of government decision making. The **what** that government is doing is often outsourcing government functions and creating non-transparent and unaccountable profit centers with tax dollars.

Our state constitution calls for education of all the children, for protection of the vulnerable, for fair taxation to pay for it. These public goods are provided to people because they are citizens, not because they are customers, commodities or consumers. The market does not operate to provide services to citizens but rather, to make a profit for the investor, owner or entrepreneur. The Constitution requires services for citizens, not tax expenditures for profit-centers.

Our state is undergoing a severe revenue crisis (not a budget crisis) and people want answers. The answers are there but need greater transparency. I believe that democracy is in jeopardy and that more power is flowing from the wealthy than from the districts. We are selling off portions of our government to those with sufficient resources to pay for it. The result is that people with money have more power than people with votes. This must be changed.

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

I have a deep faith in the ability of the people to know when something needs to be changed and to communicate their concerns about an issue. They may not have all the details of why the concern has arisen, but they know when something needs to be addressed. It is my job to understand the details and attempt to bring balance.

The most important activity of a legislator is to bring justice and fairness to an issue which can sometimes be determined by asking the question: Who benefits and who pays?

However, legislators also have different views on what makes a good society. Great libraries and universities or all boats rising? Many legislators believe that if a citizen works hard enough they will be able to pay for their own food, clothing and shelter. Those who are in need may need help if they are vulnerable but others simply didn't work hard enough. Some legislators believe that state employees are paid too much and are budget busters while others believe that our tax dollars should be used to create jobs that pay a living wage. Others believe that government should help business with tax incentives (essentially letting them off the hook for paying taxes) while others think incentives are a waste of tax dollars and a violation of taxpayer trust.

I believe that citizens pay taxes to provide the things that the Constitution mandates, to provide the services that any citizen might need. I try to balance the justice and fairness of an issue tempered with an understanding of the view of successful society that a proposal carries. I believe there is no greater responsibility than to honestly attempt to bring justice to these deliberations. It is not easy and it is not popular.

I have a love of deep research into issues that are important. That skill coupled with a stubborn determination to understand could probably describe me as an optimist. I am not easily swayed or influenced, but I do believe that more information will help us make a better world. That is, after all, one of the promises of democracy.

My deep faith in the ability of the citizen – in the role of citizen – to act in the public sphere when it becomes necessary is probably the most important personal characteristic I have. It does not mean that I think every person will be active in the public sphere even part time. But when our basic values are threatened, I believe in the people doing the right thing as the decent people we are. We have the ability to reason together, to know when we do not have transparency, and to act to prevent the loss of democracy. We cannot have accountability without transparency. We have the ability to reach consensus through deliberation and compromise. It doesn't always work that way but we can keep trying.

2. 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.

The work I have done with Shoreline Community College in establishing the emerging technology and renewable clean energy program is one of my proudest achievements. First there was nothing but a delightful, disassembled, zero energy house laying in an old warehouse at Magnuson Park. Students at WSU had built it for a competition on the Mall in Washington, DC. After the competition it was shipped back to Washington state and was almost destroyed as the fire department was preparing to burn the building to get some practice. I was able to convince WSU and the Shoreline Community College to join forces to fight global climate change by building a new program offering at the college based upon emerging technologies. The zero energy house was moved to the college campus, the necessary documents were signed establishing WSU's presence on the campus, and almost eight hundred students have now gone through the program. It was the opportunity to bring many different partners together to make something entirely new happen that is so wonderful. The program is still evolving as technology in the society moves. Without the participation and support of my legislative colleagues we would not have been able to do any of this. The College is developing fabulous partnerships with all the major auto dealers to train and retrain workers for the new cars. The latest venture is to provide solar powered electric car recharging stations. None of us expected the partnership to develop between the automotive industry and the emerging technologies and clean energy sector. It is an example of bringing many different partners together who are stronger because we work together. We are also working with the manufacturing program to bring their little "Sterling Engine" into the clean energy sector. I am very proud of what they are doing. I am proud that we are creating a new economic cluster, that we created a "market demand" through careful tax planning to launch a clean energy cluster in our state.

I am equally proud of the "economic gardening" program we are crafting in my district: It is a partnership between the Shoreline Community College, the City of Shoreline and the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce. The college is providing "economic accelerator" training, in the City's facilities, to members of the Chamber. This partnership is taking baby steps but thanks to the leadership of all these groups, we are bringing people together to make a stronger community than any could have by themselves. Some of my legislative colleagues accused me of proposing a farming project for economic development. We are overcoming that assumption. We are poised to become full partners with both the state and federal government in building our export economy. This is progress.

Finally, I am proud of the fact that Fircrest is still open. This is an example of an institution that is more cost effective in providing homes and care to disabled people than any other option. There are small businesses in our state who are providing services for a profit who have mobilized the vulnerable and their advocates to try to convince everyone that the free market is the most cost effective way to provide constitutionally mandated care for citizens who, by virtue of being citizens, are eligible for such care. Slowly we are convincing legislators that the Residential Habilitation Centers are the most cost effective way to deliver services. We are not there yet but are working on it. It is a noble cause.

3. 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.

## **Service to the People of the 32nd LD and WA State**

State Representative Maralyn Chase is honored to represent the views and values of the citizens of the 32nd Legislative District in moving our state forward with sustainable public policy. Rep. Chase believes in education including multiple pathways to a successful future. She crafts economic development initiatives that lead to jobs and prosperity for all our communities founded upon principles that ensure that our children and grandchildren will have the resources necessary to meet their needs. Rep. Chase has served in the Legislature since January 2002.

### **Small Business Owner and Champion of Labor**

Prior to serving in the Legislature, Maralyn and her daughter, Carin, operated a general and specialty contracting firm. Before entering the contracting field, Maralyn ran a job training and development program for disabled and disadvantaged citizens for five years.

In the State Legislature, Maralyn presently serves on the Capital Budget Committee, the Community, Economic Development and Trade Committee; the Ecology and Parks Committee; she is Vice Chair of the Environmental Health Committee and has served and Chaired of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy for several years.

At the National Conference of State Legislatures Maralyn continues to serve on the Labor and Economic Development Committee and the Environment Committee. She was recently appointed to the Committee on Communications, Financial Services, and Interstate Commerce. Maralyn is well known for her work at the National Council of Environmental Legislators, US Green Building Council, Public Citizens and the Forum on Trade and Democracy, and the Pew Center (Climate Change).

### **Education and Work History**

While in graduate school at the University of Washington, Maralyn taught in the Political Science Department and in the Program for Social Theory. She also worked with the Seattle Urban League to bring open housing for all areas of Puget Sound as well as workforce training and employment programs for under-served members of our community.

Maralyn earned a B.A. and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Washington. She was honored by the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington as the Distinguished Alumni of 2008.

## **Personal History**

Maralyn participates fully in the active civic life of the 32nd district. She is a board member of the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and the Shoreline Solar Project. She works with and supports the Friends of St Edward Park, the Friends of Fircrest and the 32nd District Democrats. She has served on numerous boards including Washington State Peace Action and the Seattle Indian Center. She is an associate member of OPEIU 8.

Maralyn is a native Washingtonian who grew up on the foothills of the Cascade Mountains west of Yakima. Her family of four generations live together in their family home in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District. Her mother, Norma Mayfield, daughter Carin Chase, grandson Chase Simerka happily tend their pesticide-free organic garden and four organic-fed urban chickens.

Maralyn Chase's association with the Democratic Party began in 1960. Through years of political involvement she chaired many platform committees that supported the Democrats' progressive agenda and worked for an open, inclusive and transparent process that fosters accountability and democratic decision-making. She served as consultant, manager, and volunteer on numerous campaigns including several school levies.

## ***Other Public Service***

### **Pacific NorthWest Economic Region**

Maralyn is proud to represent Washington at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Delegate Council (PNWER), an honor she shares with Gov. Chris Gregoire, Sens. Paull Shin (D-Edmonds) and Cheryl Pflug (R-Maple Valley) and Rep. Glenn Anderson (R-Fall City).

PNWER, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Western Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory), was created in 1991 to promote economic development and shared interests in the Great Northwest. The PNWER region includes more than 20 million people and more than \$700 billion in gross regional product. If PNWER were a nation, it would rank 11th among the world's leading industrial economies.

The Delegate Council where Maralyn serves includes the governors or premiers and four legislators from each jurisdiction. It is responsible for coordinating regional agendas. To learn more about how PNWER serves people and businesses in the region please visit the official [PNWER web site](#)

### **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County**

Maralyn's appointment to the Board of the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County earlier this year gives her a strong voice in key economic development, labor and training issues affecting King County and the 32nd District.

The Workforce Development Council (WDC) is a private, nonprofit organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County. The goal is to promote a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.

The WDC board is comprised of economic development leaders from the private sector, labor groups, youth and adult education, and state and local government agencies.

In addition to other duties, the WDC leads the WorkSource system in King County, which links its

own employment and training efforts with those of the private sector, community organizations, colleges, labor groups and government. To learn more, please visit the [Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County web site](#)

### **Labor Center Advisory Committee at Evergreen**

The Labor Education and Research Center newly located at South Seattle Community College's Georgetown Campus, is Washington's only statewide higher-education outreach program that provides direct educational and research services to labor unions and worker-centered organizations.

The Labor Center's mission is to collaborate with unions and worker-centered organizations to nurture programs that will help them develop leadership skills and success. The Center is committed to a vision "a labor movement grounded in human rights, open to all working people, and dedicated to developing strong and democratic worker organizations effective at the local, national, and international levels."

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

Members of the Washington State Legislature take an oath to uphold the Constitutions of the State of Washington and the United States of America. Within those guidelines, members are to represent the values and preferences of their constituents, tempered with judgment, justice and fairness in deliberations before the body.

It is interesting that while the people reserved to themselves (Article II, Section 1) certain powers to propose bills, laws and to enact or reject the same at the polls, the Constitution also is clear that, if in the *judgment* of the legislature, an initiative of the people needs to be overturned, the legislature is authorized to do exactly that after two years.

Legislators have a duty to exercise the highest standards of integrity and stewardship in conducting the people's business, to listen carefully and study diligently on matters to be voted into law, or not.

The duties office of legislator could also be described by the activities of the office: going to committee hearings, working on legislation and the like. These activities I refer to as the "infrastructure activities" that make the office and the institution work.

The obligations of the office of Senator, which I believe have the force of moral obligation, is to make sure my constituents have as transparent a view of legislation to the extent they wish, the **what** being proposed by the legislature, and to make sure they are provide with the information as to **how** the legislature is proposing to implement a particular course of action.