

Mayor	2009

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.)

I am a pro-family and pro-neighborhood leader that is dedicated to public service. If elected, I will focus on the areas that directly impact the daily life of people in the 31st district – Education, Transportation, Flooding, the Budget, and Jobs. My experience as a teacher, councilmember, and leadership on the PCRC and two Regional River Task Forces, prepares me with the knowledge and working relationships needed to better represent the people of our district.

Unfortunately, the permanent sanctions against Pam Roach prevent her from contact with senate staff, and more critically, from meeting with other Republicans. This severely impairs her ability to represent the people and the interests of our district. There is a high degree of distrust for our current senator from many areas of Olympia. The policy issues that can not be advanced in Olympia through her office are now at a critical stage after being compounded over the years.

The time has come for better representation and new leadership for the 31st district. We need a senator who will listen and be listened to when important decisions are being made. We need a senator who builds bridges, not burns them. I have a record of working with others in Olympia, Congress, the County, and between cities to get the work of the people done.

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

I keep my word, I'm honest, and never turn on friends. I trust others I don't know until proven I can't believe them anymore. I give people the benefit of the doubt and try to see things from their perspective for three main reasons. First, people are interesting and I am challenged to see where they have been and what their motivations are. Second, I love to learn new things from people and how other ideas might solve current problems, or even how the perception of problems can help both sides of an issue to discover the real barriers to compromise. This sometimes leads to changed hearts and mind. Third, people need help and generally want to help others. I think there are solutions and paths to be found that will help others and do the common good. I am equally a realist and an optimist, who follows through with commitments to the end for the sake of the people I serve, family and constituents alike.

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.

When I recruited to be chairman of the Pierce County River Task Force by a number of residents and civic leaders from around the county. This led to the first ever summit meetings on flooding between residents and elected officials from the cities and the county. In a series of three town hall meetings that followed open discussions between policy makers (not staff) for the public to hear and comment on. This led to the final report and recommendations to elected officials at every level of government here in Washington. Recently, our recommendations for the formation of the Pierce County Flood Control District passed County Council and several others are being considered by them and the Washington Legislative Task Force for Rivers which was formed by legislators from the 2nd, 25th and 31st districts. I serve as the policy advisor to this TF.

After three years of service on the Pierce County Regional Council, I was honored to be elected by the other 25 city council delegates from around Pierce county to be Vice Chair. It simply reinforced the power of collaboration as opposed to "positioning". People respect someone who effectively gets their point across but is also able to hear all points of view before making a decision. The leadership team (myself and the chairman) led the PCRC to the adoption of the County charter amendments brought before the PCRC which, despite the contentious subject matter, was passed after much (polite) deliberation.

Being elected deputy mayor just two years into my first term. There were so many issues on the table for council to consider at that time, and many of them were brought forward from my first campaign. It was a time where many reforms of how we did business at meetings, electing our own deputy mayor, sidewalk funding mechanisms, truck routes, a whole host of quality of life issues. It dominated the first two years of my first term and by 2006, the senior members of council nominated and elected me deputy mayor.

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.

Elected Experience:

Councilmember 2004-present;

Deputy Mayor 2006

Vice-Chair and delegate to the Pierce County Regional Council 2006-2010

Other Professional Experience:

Certified Teacher- Wa He Lut Indian School 2007-present;

Professor of Government, Sociology, Philosophy- US Navy/NCPACE, 2006-present;

Congressional Staff (Rick White WA-01)1996-1998;

Research Analyst- State House 1995-1996

Legislative Aide- State Senate 1994

Vice Chair Sumner Planning Commission 1998-2003

Art Commission- Saint Andrew Church 1998-99

Education:

MA Public Policy/ Philosophy UWT; 2003

BA International Studies/ Russian UW; 1990

Teaching Certificate- Saint Martin's University; 2004

Certificate of Municipal Leadership- Association of Washington Cities; 2009

Community Service:

Chair- Pierce County River Task Force; 2008-2009

Co-Chair Puyallup River Task Force; 2006-2008

Policy Advisor- Washington State Legislative Task Force for Rivers- 2009 to present

Family

Wife Lisa, three daughters and two sons; ages 19, 14, 12, 3 and 1

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

Advocating for your constituents no matter who they voted for, understanding the core issues of your district, and communicating and explaining the issues of the day to them so they can tell you what they think before you vote. Representing the issues of your district effectively to other legislators and staff members. Advancing your own initiatives when and where you see an opportunity to make a positive difference. Understand where you are in the balance of power between the executive and judicial branches and do not let yourself or your promises overreach the effective bounds of your position. Understand the rules and play them, intelligently but fairly, so that your reputation makes people take you seriously and still want to work with you. This builds a collaboration of mutual interests, coalitions, that can effect change for the common good. Using this reputation for the committee assignments that best reflects your district, not your own interests. Associate with organizations that deepen your understanding of people and movements that make you a more effective advocate for others outside your district or area of interest. Represent your district and your state with dignity to those from other states and countries who will form an opinion of Washington based on what they experience with you. Strive to be a statesman (stateswoman), not a politician. Statesmen do it for the people and the country they serve, politicians do it for themselves. This is in order.