

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
Patty	Burke	Butler

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

Washington State Senate, 32nd Legislative District

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

55 Years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Life

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Patty Butler for Senate**

Address: **20126 Ballinger Way NE PMB# 236**

City/State/Zip: **Shoreline, WA 98155**

Campaign Phone: **206.356.4933**

Campaign Fax: **206.382.1338**

Campaign E-mail: **info@PattyButler.com**

Campaign Website: **PattyButler.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)
Washington State Representative	Elective	1997-1999	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> NOTE: In the original questionnaire submitted by the Butler campaign, a factual error stated that she held this position from 2007-2009. This error has been corrected by the League. </div>

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Washington State Representative	2008

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 running for the open Senate seat because I would like to see new representation in Olympia. I have lived in the district for 55 years. I went to schools here, bought a home here, and sent my children to Shoreline Schools. My father was a King County Police Officer and my mother taught special education in the Shoreline School District for many years. My roots are deep, volunteering in the community and the political process are ingrained into my character. I'm an ex legislator and recently I became a grandmother.

The people are sour about the recent political climate and there seems to be an inability of legislators to work together. The people are angry and tired of the status quo. I want to restore faith with the voters, balance the budget better, and build a more civil, cooperative demeanor among legislators.

I have a reputation for being able to work together with people. When I was in the legislature, I was able to get things done despite being in the minority. I worked across the aisle and listened to people with different points of view.

The atmosphere in Olympia is toxic these days and the people who suffer are the constituents. I work for Fran's Chocolates, one of the area's premier confectionaries. I see every day the effect additional taxes have on the consumer and small business owners.

Since leaving the legislature, I have been living the recession, trying to raise three kids, finding a good job, and going back to school to be retrained for today's economy. Yet when I see what's going on in Olympia, it seems we are squandering time, resources and the public's patience. It is time for a change. Bills that go nowhere are being dropped and the one who pays are the taxpayers.

I want to preserve our natural resources, create sustainable life options, ensure every child receives an excellent basic education, and protect our most vulnerable populations; women, children, senior citizens and the disabled.

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

When I was in the House of Representatives, I was known as someone who would listen. I didn't turn anyone away or shut the door on people I didn't agree with.

Being fiscally moderate and pragmatic about the role of state government, I was able to work my fellow legislators- Republican and Democrat alike, on many issues. Those issues concerned education, natural resources, and taxation. Because of my ability to work cooperatively with the best interests of the state in mind, I had a bill passed as a freshman legislator.

When asked what one word that would describe me, the answer people have said was advocate and fighter. I am passionate about the issues concerning the working family and I am not afraid to stand up say so.

I am patient and willing to work for what I believe. With the current political climate, legislators need to listen, show respect and negotiate with each other. I do that every day at work with staff and on the boards I serve.

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.

1. During my two years in the Legislature I was instrumental in the passage of the bill to require white water rafting guides being trained in CPR and other life saving techniques. The basis of this bill was because a boy was on a rafting trip with his church group and the raft capsized killing him and an adult male. The guide had been hired over the phone with no credentials. I was also one of the few freshmen in the minority to prime sponsor a bill, involving consumer protection and have it signed into law.
2. I have had the honor to serve as Board President and now Vice-President with Banchemo Friends Services, a non-profit agency. We provide housing and assistance for Develop Disabled Adults. And, paved the way for a capitol campaign to purchase an apartment building for our clients and business office. We just moved into that site in April of 2010. This was necessary because the complex we previously occupied had tried to evict our clients, which is a very vulnerable population.
3. I am about to receive my Associates in Technical Arts in Business Management. I never dreamed I would be back in school in my late 50's, but here I am. This has not been easy while working a full time job. I intend to continue my education and earn a BA in Business.

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.

Legislative Committees:

Finance

Higher Education

Natural Resources

Shoreline PTA Council – Vice President

Tutored children at a local grade school who had difficulty with reading skills.

League of Women Voter's – Unit Chair

Northwest Women's Law Center – Legislative Committee

Shorewood High School – PTA Legislative Chair

Krukenburg Botanical Garden - guest information

Neighbor Hood House – Nominating Chair

Small business owner in Shoreline – Personal Style

Auction Chair - St. Luke Parish

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

Basically, Legislators set the policies for the state. They are there to represent the constituents of their district in the policy (law) making decisions. A legislator usually sits on 3 or 4 committees where they listen to testimony on issues that are important to an individual or group- taking votes that affect every citizen of this State.

The two most important priorities of the State are education and healthcare. Because they represent Nearly three quarters of the State's budget, it's of the utmost important that those two priorities are carefully managed and policy decisions are the result of sound research and thoughtful deliberation.

The duties of the office also include:

A responsibility to fairly balance the budget.

Uphold the State's paramount duty to amply provide for the basic education of its children.

Protect the environment.

Protect consumers from unfair and deceptive trade practices.

Effectively respond to emergencies and bolster disaster prevention programs.

Improve the State's transportation infrastructure.