

## 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Peter		Dunbar

- Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): State Representative District 41
- Are you the incumbent? Yes No
- How long have you resided in this district/city? 20 years
- How long have you resided in King County? 20 years

Campaign Name: Peter Dunbar for State Representative

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Campaign Website: [www.VoteDunbar.com](http://www.VoteDunbar.com)

**POLITICAL BACKGROUND**

- 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)
NA			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
NA	

## 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?

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 because I value volunteer service to my community.. Representing my fellow physicians and our patients has always been a very important part of my life and I feel I have received more than I have contributed. I now want to take my volunteer leadership experience and contribute it to my fellow citizens in my Legislative District. I anticipate that my health care background will be very useful in and of itself but the paramount responsibility of government is the education of our children and my education background and my small business experience will be equally important in Olympia.

I'm committed to improving our struggling schools, increasing competition and choice, raising our standards and expectations, and relying on hard data to determine what works and what doesn't in our classrooms. I think we can do more to ensure all of our students, K-12 and higher education, have the tools and opportunity to compete globally.

We need to have a great business environment to attract businesses to provide jobs and pay taxes for the services we need. We need Washington to be the best place to operate a business to ensure we have the resources we need. I will do all I can to support small and local businesses do what they do best - provide goods and services and jobs. Our small businesses are key to getting us out of this recession. I'll help bring down the government barriers to small businesses. I'll be a strong advocate for all of us to work together to promote the economic vitality of Washington.

We all have to live within our means. I believe it is time to move away from the 'spend now figure out how to pay for it later' mentality that seems commonplace in Olympia. We cannot balance the state budget on working families through a patchwork of temporary tax hikes and expensive and inefficient tax policy.

It's time we privatize programs and services that make sense, plan on a six year budget cycle, re-implement the Priorities of Government program and institute zero based budgeting to get a stable control of our fiscal problems.

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

After over 30 years as a physician, both in private practice and at Harborview as an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, and as Adjunct Professor in Health Services at the UW School of Public Health I can bring scientific rigor to any debate and I will bring an expert-level perspective on health policy. Given that there are no physicians in the legislature at this time and the enormous fiscal impact from the recently passed federal legislation I feel that my decades of medicine at the bedside level combined with my leadership in organized medicine is a wonderful background experience to be able to contribute to the debate.

As a UW Professor I am a professional teacher and founder of an eLearning company I have a demonstrable lifelong commitment to education for all.

Others report that they find me a good listener and able to find the best in most situations. People who know me well have faith in my ability to work to find good sensible pragmatic solutions to issues brought before me. This would explain why individual physicians are supporting me across the entire political spectrum—which is remarkable given the division created by the recent health care reforms.

I learned some very important lessons while advocating for health care. My first lesson - that you do not win every battle. Next, that to accomplish change, you must stay involved and not give up. I also learned that government is slow and frustrating, and that one has to challenge the status quo to truly see change. Fifteen years of advocacy for Medicare SGR reform has taught me this. And most importantly, I learned that the best policy for all is achieved when you work together, and put partisan politics aside.

I have a demonstrated commitment to patient safety and available, affordable care and measurement of quality of medical care. I believe we need rational, pragmatic solutions without ideological ties – and that's what I bring – a practical, realistic and sensible approach. As a doctor and teacher in this community for over 20 years, I can give you a simple diagnosis for our problems in Olympia – **we simply can't afford more of the same.**

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.

In my volunteer service I am very proud our achievements while in the leadership of the Washington Medical Association. During my tenure I helped negotiate HR 2292, bringing together passionate advocates on both sides of the aisle (trial lawyers, doctors, hospital association, bar association). We worked during the 2006 legislative session for five two hour negotiating sessions with Governor Gregoire as mediator to take the deeply flawed group of bills and craft them into a cohesive piece of legislation that provided significant tort reform, multiple patient safety measures and maintained the civil rights of patients and caregivers. I, John Budlong from the WSTLA, and Governor Gregoire testified together at the Senate Health Care Committee to present the bill we had written together. It passed out of the Senate almost unanimously with no amendments. Also while in leadership of the WSMA I was contributory through testimony and lobbying for the successful initiation of the Puget Sound Health Alliance data project.

Three years ago, I became aware that while Seattle's was the world's leading destination for experts in Global Health—especially as relates to infectious disease there was inadequate attention being paid the opportunity to provide surgical care in the developing world. To address growing frustration that the surgical and anesthetic needs of people in developing countries were continuing to go unmet, I convened and hosted the first Global Burden of Surgical Disease conference. The invitees from all over the world started a significant research program that has resulted in numerous scientific papers intended to provide a foundation of knowledge that will enable the improvement in surgical care in developing countries. I am proud to say that this conference continues to take place every year and is considered the premier venue for scientific research into surgical care in the developing world.

In a different vein I am also proud of having co-founded and grown Seattle-based Talaria Inc. We founded the company in 1994 to improve the pain care was delivered to patients. Over the years we have received funding to do original research and development of eLearning programs for health care professionals. Our investigators specialize in research improving medical care of patients and families including; the management of pain, challenges at the end of life, creating tools to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care, cancer communication, reduction and management of smoking and other addictive behaviors, creating behavioral medicine educational and evaluative tools. In addition we have a productive research relationship with the University of Washington. I am proud to have helped to create an enjoyable productive workplace for 20 people who receive health benefits and decent wages in a clean safe environment. In 2008 I hired a full time CEO and he is continuing the growth of the company and I remain as Chairman of the Board.

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.

1984-present. Active participation starting as a member then delegate (1990) moving up to Board Member (1994) then Executive Committee member (1998) culminating in Presidency of Washington State Medical Association in the 2006 and my retirement from leadership as Past President in 2007. This gave me numerous opportunities to serve on and chair committees of the organization, draft policy, testify for and against bills in Olympia. I have made over 130 congressional visits on the Medicare related issues to congressmen and senators in DC over the last fifteen years. This has led me to know most of our congressional delegation quite well.

1984—present Active participation in Washington State Society of Anesthesiology as board member 1990, then president 1995-6 then becoming a director of the American Society of Anesthesiologists—this uses the same skill set as WSMA leadership

1995-2004 Board member then Chair of the Foundation for Health Care Quality where I led teams that founded the Washington Patient Safety Coalition and the Surgical Clinical Outcomes Assessment Project (SCOAP).

2000- 2008 Board member then Steering committee of the Community Health Information Technology Alliance

2005- present Founding member of the Washington State Hospital Association Patient Safety Committee

2007-2010 Board of One Health Port (OHP), an organization of health care organizations that created a secure portal for health care organizations to share sensitive patient care information. OHP works with the public and private healthcare organizations to develop administrative simplification of Health Care delivery. Most recently the company was awarded the lead contractor status by the Insurance Commissioner in the Work SMART initiative that has the potential to lead to real improvements in health administrative complexity.

1998—2006 Founding Faculty for the University of Washington Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics, the Center for Public Health Informatics.

2008—Present Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Health Services in the UW School of Public Health and external advisory board member

2006—Present. External advisory board member UW School of Public Health

2009—Present. Seattle Rotary #4

I have always been very proud to be entrusted with personally taking care of patients at Harborview and the Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center. In addition I have had the privilege of training hundreds of physicians, nurses, medical students and firemen over the past 20 years. This work is so important to me that I continue to work a day a week in Harborview Medical Center.

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

My primary duty of a state representative is to represent the district and the people that live, work and seek a public education in the 41st. The legislature is charged with enacting and rejecting legislation, to appropriate taxes required for state operations, and to decide on how the collected funds should be spent. Within these constraints I look forward to pragmatic, reasoned and lively debate that crosses party lines and focuses first on results and real progress for my district. My job is to see that our state's budget is balanced with an eye on long term fiscally responsibility and investment, to work to bring new jobs and industry to our area and to advocate for measurable change and improvement in our public schools. I expect that my long time expertise in health care policy will be of use to the people of the district and to the entire state.