

## 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
Phyllis		Gutierrez Kenney

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

**State House of Representatives 46<sup>th</sup> District Position 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?      xx  Yes       No

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

**34 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**34 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Dem.

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Committee to Re-elect Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney

Address: P.O. Box 15314

City/State/Zip: Seattle, Wa 98115

Campaign Phone: 206-526-5236

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#### 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	Appointed in 1997 Elected 1998	To present	Chair-Community Economic Development and Trade (currently) Higher Education Committee Chair 8 years (former) Member of the Ways and Means Committee (14 years) Member of the Appropriations Committee on State Government (current) Member of the Jt. Committee on Economic Development and International Relations chaired by the Lt. Governor (current) Member of the Washington Institute of Public Policy-

			WA. Economic Development Commission WA Aerospace Council (appt. by the Governor) others

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Secretary of State	1996

## 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 re-election because I would like to continue to work on issues that concern my district and the state of Washington. The work that we do in Olympia not only affects my district but all of the state of Washington.**

**I feel that I have been an effective legislator in the areas of education, health care, affordable housing, the environment, economic development, transportation, safety and human and civil rights.**

**My voting record and sponsorship and co-sponsorship of bills and funding recommendations shows my support of those areas.**

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.  
I am an active believer in developing communities through private and public partnerships and individual empowerment.

As a former small business owner I know the challenges that face small businesses and have worked with stakeholders to develop programs to help small businesses succeed.

I have been able to work with both sides of the aisle to reach compromise on important policy decisions in the best interest to the state and our citizens.

As a community activist and legislator I have been able to bring together very diverse communities to work on issues of critical importance to our communities and state. I listen and respect different points of view and work towards a solution. I am trusted by these diverse groups to act fairly and produce results. I have always worked with honesty, integrity and respect. I have the commitment necessary to make hard decisions to help move our state forward, even in hard budget times.

My door is always open and I am very conscious responding to my constituents.

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.

The development of the Migrant Day Care Centers with emphasis on early learning. This state is very dependent on agriculture and the need for farm workers is as great now as it was in 1964. Migrant children needed a safe place to stay while their parents were in the fields. We were told it couldn't be done, but with the help of local, state and national support as well as private individuals and foundations the centers were formed. They have provided early childhood education for children ages one month through eight years of age. During my tenure as Deputy Director and then Director we were recognized nationally as one of the top exemplary program in the nation two times. One by the National Education of Young Children and by the National Day Care Association. We also were instrumental in establishing curriculum, standards for instruction and health care policy for day care centers in the state. We started an education program for day care staff in cooperation with community colleges and Central Washington University) at that time it was called a college). This program provided encouragement and motivation for individuals to continue their education and many of them have become certified teachers in their local school districts. These centers are still operating and have touched the lives of many children and parents. This is a brief summary of the program, there is much more to the story.

Two other programs that I am very proud of are the Opportunity Grants and the I-Best Program in the Community and Technical Colleges.

The Opportunity Grants provide a wrap around program for individual in the lower income of our society who do not always have access to financial aid. This program provides not only the basic need of tuition but working with the community and business it provides other resources which allows the student to finish school. These students are required to enroll in high demanded areas. The success completion rate has been in 80% level.

As sponsor of the Opportunity Grants bill it was not easy to convince my colleagues that this could be a successful program. I gathered a group of stakeholder together with had business, labor, education, community based organizations, churches and health care providers to work on the bill and the budget request. They became the best supporters and allies. We didn't get the bill passed the first time but we got funding to do a pilot program. The results were great and the second time we got the bill passed. This was truly a grassroots effort. The program has been so successful the funding has been protected. The program put people to work and helps employers have the skilled workforce that they need.

The I-Best Program started out with the need for health care workers in hospital, and nursing homes. In partnership with South Seattle Community College brainstormed on a program where we could create a career ladder for individuals wanting to work in the health care field but lacked the education needed starting with the basic skills and the language. We got a group of stakeholders which included South Seattle Community College, SeaMar Health System, Swedish Hospital and the University of Washington and the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. We said students can learn the basic skills, English and learn a Work Skill at the same time. It took a lot of convincing and searching for the funds but we did it and the program was later named the I-Best program and duplicated at all of the Community and Technical Colleges. The President of the United States mentioned the I-Best Program of Washington State in his first educational speech. He said it was a model program. It was a true team effort and one that we would not let fail.

Briefly, as a cancer survivor I strongly believe in early detection. Two years ago I sponsored a bill that directed the insurance companies to pay for Colon-Rectal testing. Most insurance companies did not cover the testing and you might guess they fought the bill very hard. With the help of the lobbyist for the cancer groups and associations along with community based groups and many cancer survivors we were able to pass the bill and now the law is in effect. People over fifty and those who have a family history of colon-rectal cancer are covered. We were also successful in getting \$900,000 in funding to cover individuals who were low income and uninsured to be tested. This is preventive health care that will save much more in the future and the main goal is to save lives'. We are a crisis oriented society. We need to get into a preventive mode, it will save health care costs in the long run..

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.

**See Resume**

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

To focus on issues that confronts our state and finds solutions. Be responsive to my constituents and their concerns. At the same time be cognition of the needs of the whole state.

Sponsoring bills and preparation of a balanced budget. This not always an easy thing to do and must not be done in isolation or in a self serving matter.