

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
Skip		Priest

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

Mayor--City of Federal Way

3. Are you the incumbent? **The City is electing its Mayor for the first time.**

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

22 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

25 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Skip Priest for Mayor**

Address: **P.O. Box 23237**

City/State/Zip: **Federal Way, Washington 98093**

Campaign Phone: **206-510-7810**

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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--30th District	Elective	1/1/2003--present	See attached list of current legislative responsibilities on resume. Not shown--Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee 2004-2005.
Federal Way City Council	Elective	1/1/1992--12/31/1997	Mayor--1996-1997

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

Office Title	Year of Run

State Senate--30th District	1994
State Representative--30th District	1998

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.)

It should come as no surprise to members of the Municipal League that I have a passion for the City of Federal Way. For over 20 years, I've worked with many others to improve the quality of life for those who live in our community. The citizens of our city have now decided that Federal Way's mayor should be elected rather than chosen by members of the Council. It comes at a time when our city, like many suburban communities around the state and the country, is at a crossroads. Demand for essential services is increasing while revenues are decreasing. Strong leadership will be necessary to ensure that the city continues to achieve its vision of being a quality place to work, live and play. Given my extensive management experience, city involvement, and legislative background, I believe I can effectively provide that leadership.

A legitimate question can and is being asked of me, "Given your success in the legislature, why are you now seeking the position of Federal Way mayor." A friend of mine when asked a similar question responded that in life "you learn, you lead, you leave." I've been extremely fortunate over the last eight years to learn first-hand about many of the challenges facing our state and local communities and take a leading role in developing effective strategies to help address them. From my first year in 2003 when I served on the Boeing Task Force; to my successful efforts to author comprehensive auto theft and sex predator legislation; to my recent work with Rep. Pat Sullivan in the area of education funding and reform; I've had a wonderful chance to both learn and lead.

Now with the sizable challenges facing Federal Way, it's time to take these lessons back to the community and provide effective hands-on problem solving to the problems facing the city. To quote my campaign walking piece, "My heart has always been in local government and improving our community. As Mayor, you can expect the same dedication to our city as I have always given as your State Representative."

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

I believe that I share three basic traits with other effective leaders. These are courage of conviction, integrity of purpose, and tenacity. Just as importantly, I also am very aware of the importance of the word--we. Many years ago, I was extremely fortunate to have a mentor who taught me the management skills necessary for success at the highest levels of American business. His message was simple. When you succeed in your goals always share that success with those who work with you through the use of the term we. Only when you fail do you use the word I--because a true leader recognizes that it is his or her responsibility if goals are not achieved. It is an approach that I have found translates equally well in either the business or public arena.

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.

Throughout my career I've had the opportunity to "learn and lead" in a number of areas that provide me with the experience necessary to effectively manage the city operations of Federal Way. As suggested above, these include relevant successes in the areas of business and organization management, city involvement, and legislative initiatives.

Business and Organization Management. The new mayor of Federal Way will have day-to-day responsibility for a \$40 million operating budget and a staff of 330 employees. This will require significant management experience. As a young executive at American Express Company in New York City, I was blessed to work for the Vice Chairman of American Express, a former Chief Financial Officer at General Electric. During that tenure I was trained in the "GE" way of management--a management approach year in and year out recognized as one of the best in the nation. I was later successful in using these skills while starting Glacier Park Company (Burlington Northern's commercial real estate division) as well as my own businesses--Y Pay Mor Cleaners in Federal Way and Sportswear Services in Fife. The experiences ranged from overseeing a real estate development portfolio of over \$500 million at Glacier Park to working with over 300 of my own employees at Sportswear Services.

City Involvement. Much like when it incorporated in February of 1990, the city of Federal Way today is at a crossroads. Significant decisions need to be made, including the potential redevelopment of the downtown. When I was first elected to the City Council in 1992, I was very fortunate to have two friends and mentors. The first was Representative Maryann Mitchell--the "mother" of Federal Way. She helped us all understand the importance of both city and civic vitality and the necessity of having a passion for improving our community. The other was City Manager Ken Nyberg. Ken was of the old school. Rather than studying issues to death, Ken made recommendations that the Council acted on. As a result, those of

us on the Council made the decisions that today provide the foundation for our city. They included developing the city's first true comprehensive plan, rewriting the sign code, preparing the plans for Celebration Park and downtown city investment, initiating an award winning surface water management program, starting the city's police department to name a few. It is not surprising that the city's recently released "Top 20 Accomplishments of Cityhood" are dominated by the successes we initiated and achieved in Federal Way's first eight years.

Legislative Initiatives. My goals for over twenty years as a community leader and public servant have been to (1) improve our public education system, (2) provide for a quality living environment including both public safety and healthy parks and open space and (3) enhance both our state and community business climate. Fortunately, over the last eight years, I've had the opportunity to provide leadership in all three of these areas. This includes sponsoring and authoring major legislation impacting public safety, the environment, early learning and k-12 education, and business competitiveness. As I look to move back to a non-partisan role, I'm confident that my ability to work across party lines will translate well at the local government level.

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.

State Representative--30th District (2003-present)
Federal Way Mayor/City Council (1992-1997)
Friends of the Hylebos Board/Advisory Board (2001-present), Member: (1992-present)
Multi-Service Center Board (2003-present)
Pacific Harbors Council, B.S.A. Board (1994-present)
Federal Way School District Construction Oversight Committee (2001-present)
Chamber of Commerce Advancing Leadership Board/Advisory Board (2001-present)
St. Francis Hospital Franciscan Fellowship President/Board (1996-present)
Federal Way Kiwanis Board (2000-2003), Member: (1991-present)

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

The primary duty of the new Federal Way mayor will be managing a \$40 million, 330 employee organization. This will require a knowledgeable approach to priority-based budgeting and the ability to effectively allocate scarce staff and other resources to achieve the city's vision as articulated by the Council and other civic leaders. Just as importantly, the city government form is changing from a city manager-council form to an elected mayor-council form. The city's first elected mayor will have to work with staff and Council to clarify roles and responsibilities with regard to policy and operations of all three legs of the stool as a new working relationship is developed.

The elected mayor will also take a lead role in the area of regional leadership in coordination with the current council. The city's ability to participate in regional policy bodies like Sound Transit, or the Puget Sound Regional Council, will depend on the mayor's ability to articulate the city's goals and needs, while maximizing the value of existing relationships and leadership roles created by current council members under the previous form of government. This is particularly true in areas such as transportation, public safety and economic development where it is critical that the city have an effective unified voice in discussions with the state, county and other cities.