

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
Tamra		Smilanich

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

37th district Senate position

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

1989-present

5. How long have you resided in King County?

my entire life

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Elect Tamra

Address: P.O. Box 78621

City/State/Zip: Seattle, Washington

Campaign Phone: 206-883-0696

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: vote@electtamra.com

Campaign Website: www.electtamra.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)

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

Office Title	Year of Run

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.)

Having implemented programs, built coalitions and advocated for community, it is time to move forward to representing the people on a state level and exercising my talents and capabilities in a larger capacity. The people in this district look forward to me being their public servant; they recognize my leadership and have seen me support the community through events, programs, meeting participation and legislative action. For over 10 years, my weekly participation in and outside the community has expanded my networks to better help people who are in need. Strengthening our local economy, increasing safety, improving our public schools and protecting the rights of the people is a goal I and others in leadership positions share and will continue to work on through legislation proposed and future proposed bills.

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

Hard work and dedication is a quality that you can see through my service to clients over the years in the various positions I have held. One must often sacrifice personal time and keep emotions at bay when working in the fields such as youth development, corrections, sports officiating or housing. I recognize that choices offered to the client will empower that individual to do the best at making sound decisions.

Listening to others and communicating effectively is an important attribute which lends to my many accomplishments. Researching and questioning information and ideas is healthy and provides checks and balances for making sure decisions are made with much thought. Having a diverse range of relationships with different people and agencies has helped me while advocating for my clients. I regularly have to quickly adapt to situations as clients needs change in order to continue working on the end goal. The office of the Senate demands the attention of many different people and groups whom often have imminent needs but more importantly want to be heard and have action taken which will help them or their cause. Such qualities as mentioned above are important to having a representative whom is working for the people.

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 the late 90's, I completed my college education with an emphasis in criminal justice and deviance. Internships at the Department of Corrections and the Department of Youth Services further solidified my concern about an effective criminal justice system. Managing a caseload of offenders, I understood that influences within home life shape an individual as do experiences out in the community. People, no matter how young or old, need strong social support systems. In some of the cases I had, people committed offenses often because of vulnerability either by lack of will power or opting to make a choice without understanding the consequences. Strong communities can help individuals feel connected and worthy with less likelihood of them hurting themselves or violating others. My belief in this has been demonstrated through years of involvement in volunteering to run an after school dance program at a local middle school, facilitating a weekly social skills building group at New Holly and engaging area youth in positive, life-changing activities.

As a sports official, one of the hardest games to referee is basketball. Officiating in the local public and private schools, it has been an honor to be able to work in an atmosphere which is to promote sportsmanship, competitiveness and for myself to be engaged, attentive and fair. Wearing the stripes since I was about 15 years old, you know that there is going to be one winner in the game which you only hope that the coaches have best equipped the players with knowledge of the rules, taught skills and emphasized teamwork. As a legislator, to please everyone would mean the worst case scenario and an unlawful society. The utmost importance to the integrity of the senate position is upholding the constitution. Sports officiating is tough as the interest of the crowds, the coaches and the players are usually polarized in opposing directions. A parallel example is in understanding protocol and the rules in the Senate, debate between the majority and minority party over bills is done with best efforts put forward while working within the framework of the constitution.

Working at a non-profit as a lead group facilitator was rewarding during my 5 years of service. One of my main priorities was facilitating a social skills building group for youth living in and around a

subsidized housing area. My program was successfully implemented while overcoming challenges of creating a curriculum that engaged participants, adhering to city funding guidelines and agency goals, and operating within a limited budget while short of staff. Government operates best with this ideology, allocating resources efficiently and meaningfully to achieve the best results that one has the ability to do so.

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.

My activism has led me to learn how better maneuver through government in order to help the community and individuals. My network with agencies and community members has grown over the years through my employment with a local non-profit, an affiliation with the Parks Department and my private sector work in housing. While at a large youth and family services agency for 5 years, I was in a position to advocate for participants and help them connect with needed services and programs which were offered either by the agency or other non-profits or government entities. Prior to working at this well-known non-profit, I completed an internship at Department of Youth Services as a juvenile probation counselor. In college, I participated in another criminal justice internship at the Department of Corrections as assistant to a probation officer. In the private sector, I have been working for the past 11 years with people having housing needs in times of highly stressful transition.

As an activist, learning the appropriate actions to take that are effective for change are just as important as investigating issues, rallying support and negotiating in order to have an outcome that is in the best interest of those one is advocating for.

Please see my website for a list of recent activities this past year 12 months plus.

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

The Senator is to represent the people of their district, to protect their rights and freedoms and to advocate for them in Olympia within the constitutional powers granted. Recognizing that the majority of bills debated and voted on will affect the entire state, the senate position is one that must also be familiar with concerns that are outside of the district as well.

The position involves networking with other members of the Senate and House, working with the public, meeting with lobbyist and other agencies within our government in order to reach goals that best serve the people. Communicating with constituents is critical as this provides transparency and empowers the people to have greater participation in the law making process.