

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
Vince	F.	DeMiero

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

Representative, 1st Legislative District, Position 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

33+ years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

n/a

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **People for Vince DeMiero**

Address: P.O. Box 584

City/State/Zip: Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Campaign Phone: 206.601.6031

Campaign Fax: 425.977.0137

Campaign E-mail: info@VinceDeMiero.com

Campaign Website: www.VinceDeMiero.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 Journalism Education Association	Elective	5/08 to 5/10 and 5/10 to present (two terms)	President

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

Office Title	Year of Run
n/a	n/a

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?

-
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.)

There are about 160 reasons why I'm running, and I see them in my classroom everyday, as I have seen thousands of their predecessors for the past 22 years teaching at Mountlake Terrace High School, Washington State University and at numerous workshops and camps throughout the state. And you'll frequently find me at the ball field, on the court or backstage coaching and supporting our young athletes and performers. I have worked with these young people and their families, and I understand and share their struggles. I also celebrate their successes and console them in times of difficulty. I have been a part of the tremendous vision people of this district have had working together to build community centers, libraries, parks and schools, while also passing levies and bond measures to ensure the quality of life that we cherish.

So, I'm exceedingly proud to be running to represent the 1st Legislative District – the place I've called home for more than 33 years.

I'm running because we have a great opportunity in this election to ensure that the 1st District continues to be represented by a strong Democrat and a person of vision and integrity.

I'm running because more than ever we need elected officials who not only represent their constituents, but do so with conviction and leadership.

I'm running because our public education system is in crisis and we cannot lose another generation of citizens because of inaction and a lack of courage to uphold what our constitution says is our state's *paramount* duty – to provide *ample* funding for our schools. Olympia needs an authentic voice of an educator at the table. I find it appalling that those who have been entrusted with making decisions about our schools have little or no direct link with public education.

I'm running because of the economy. I'm committed to finding ways to protect the jobs we have and will do all I can to create new employment opportunities in our communities

I'm running because of infrastructure and transportation. In order to maintain our economic viability as well as our collective sanity we must find better and more efficient ways to get around, to ensure that our public commons is safe, that our roads and fundamental systems are well-maintained, that our first-responders have the tools and resources they need, and that the promise of a greener future is thoughtfully addressed.

I'm running because I will be a voice for the voiceless. I'll make sure that those among us who are the most vulnerable are not forgotten or marginalized – especially in tough economic times.

For 22 years, I have taught right here in the 1st District at Mountlake Terrace High School. In my roles as a classroom educator, teacher leader, education reform advocate and journalism adviser, I have enjoyed unique opportunities to serve in leadership positions on the state and national

level in significant strategic, organizational and legal capacities. In the next chapter of our district's history, we need public servants who are problem solvers, consensus builders and sound listeners. We also need people of character and integrity, as well as a strong sense of the unique culture and needs of our community.

I will be that representative.

I'm running because together we will build on the great traditions of the 1st District and ensure that our best days lie ahead.

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

Leadership, Integrity and Local Commitment: I was recently elected to my second term as President of the Washington Journalism Education Association. I'm also the Washington state director to the Journalism Education Association and a board member on the Scholastic Press Rights Commission. I served as the local organizing chair for the 1998 Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association national convention – at the time the largest journalism convention ever held – and assisted with the production of the 2005 convention. I served as the chair and host for the 1997, 2002 and 2010 Washington State Journalism Conferences. In these roles I help shape policies and fight for proper due process and constitutional rights while representing thousands of journalism students and educators across the country and throughout the state on a variety of issues – characteristics that are critical to serving as an effective legislator.

I frequently present at national, regional and state journalism conferences (more than 100 times), and adjudicate and moderate national and regional journalism critiques and contests. I am respected nationally as an expert in student press rights and have testified before the Legislature and as an expert witness in court. These experiences require that I do a great deal of studying and preparation on a wide range of legal, ethical and pedagogical topics – skills vital to serving as a legislator.

As a veteran educator, I frequently present on several areas of education reform and formerly served as the teacher leader of The Discovery School and chair of the Schools for the 21st Century Committee at Mountlake Terrace High School. Additionally, I served for more than 20 years as the executive director of the Soundsation and Frank DeMiero jazz camps. Working with diverse populations in order to build consensus on a variety of issues has long been a strength of mine and will serve me well in Olympia.

My local roots run deep having lived in what is now the 1st Legislative District for 33 of the past 37 years – and during those other four years I voted locally even though I was attending Washington State University. My civic involvement is extensive, particularly in the areas of arts and youth sports and activities. For example, I have volunteered as a basketball and baseball coach, and have managed a variety of related activities since 1980. I understand the 1st Legislative District because I grew up here, went to school here, work here and have raised a family here. I have a uniquely vested interest in seeing that the 1st Legislative District and its families are served well for the foreseeable future.

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.

Without question, I am most proud of the fact that my wife and I have been married for nearly 26 years and that we have raised four wonderful, intelligent, engaging and talented children. My oldest daughter, Miranda, graduated from Seattle University last year and has volunteered countless hours working with young students while also working as a barista at Starbucks. My oldest son, Gabriel, graduated from WSU in political science and just completed his first year teaching in the lower Rio Grande Valley at Alamo Middle School through Teach for America. My youngest daughter, Maria, will be attending Seattle University next fall having just graduated from Mountlake Terrace High School where she served as editor in chief of our nationally recognized student newspaper for the past two years and is actively involved in numerous charitable activities. My youngest son, Dominic, will be a freshman at Mountlake Terrace High School next fall and is an active athlete and musician, as well as an avid fisherman.

I have just completed my 22nd year as an educator teaching English, journalism, photography and film at Mountlake Terrace High School. Under my leadership, the journalism program has grown from a limited after school activity to what is arguably one of the finest comprehensive programs in the country, affording students opportunities in print, broadcast and online journalism.

Additionally, I have been at the forefront of numerous education reform efforts in this state, including the early formation of the state-wide standards, Schools for the 21st Century, and the Mountlake Terrace High School Small Schools program, funded by grants from the Gates Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. In those roles my colleagues voted to have me serve on steering teams and councils because of my vision, integrity, approaches to problem-solving and ability to build consensus. Since 1988 I have been privileged to work with and amazing group of fellow educators and have taught literally thousands of students – most of whom are still citizens of the 1st Legislative District.

In a very real sense, I have helped shape the lives of my fellow citizens and many of their friends, siblings, children, parents and neighbors.

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.

Educator and Teacher Leader

- English, journalism, photography and film instructor at Mountlake Terrace High School (1988-present)
- Served as the Teacher Leader of The Discovery School at Mountlake Terrace High School; managed and coordinated a staff of 18 teachers, an administrator and school coach for a school-within-a-school of 320+ students (2003-2008)
- Founded and developed several innovative, nationally recognized print and broadcast programs; created programs linking students to experts and professionals (1988-present)
- Regularly serve as an adviser and mentor to fellow advisers and student teachers (1988-present)

Student Media Adviser

- Faculty member of the WJEA Summer Journalism Workshop specializing in editorial leadership (1996-present)
- Advise and manage a highly capable and diverse staff of student journalists at Mountlake Terrace High School; the student newspaper – HAWKEYE – along with its magazine, website and members of the student staff have won hundreds of international, national, regional and state awards (1988-present)

Professional Leadership

- President of the Washington Journalism Education Association (2008-present)
- Board member, Scholastic Press Rights Commission (1996-present)
- Local organizing chair for the 1998 Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association national convention; assistant for the 2005 convention
- Chair and host for the 1997, 2002 and 2010 Washington State Journalism Conferences
- Frequent education reform presenter (1991-present)
- Former executive director of the Soundsation and Frank DeMiero Jazz Camps (1982-2000)

Local Youth Activities Volunteer

- Founder/Director of the Terrace Hawks Basketball Club, a four-team select AAU program serving 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders in the Mountlake Terrace area; participate in the WesCo Youth Basketball League and dozens of regional tournaments (2006-present)
- Communications Director/Web Manager of the Seattle Stars Baseball Club, one of the region's finest select developmental baseball programs for young men 12 to 18 (2008-present)
- Volunteer coach, assistant and/or manager in numerous area leagues, including CYO, Sno-King, MTYAA, SJHA and Boys & Girls Clubs (1980-present)

Broadcast Producer and Journalist

- Producer, host of "ThinkFirst" – a series of podcasts available on iTunes about the First Amendment (2006-present)
- Anchored, reported, edited, produced and hosted numerous newscasts and programs on public radio for six years (1984-1991)
- Produced, directed, and engineered all broadcasts of WSU football games for a 25-station network for 10 seasons (1985-1994)
- Produced live broadcasts of the 1990 Goodwill Games, including hockey, men's basketball, and women's basketball
- Produced, hosted, wrote, and edited "The Dennis Erickson Show" syndicated on 17 Northwest radio stations for two seasons (1987-1988)
- Produced and directed several live broadcasts as a free-lance producer/engineer for numerous radio programs and recording projects in the Seattle area, including remotes and studio work (1988-present)

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

Representing the 1st Legislative District and the entire state of Washington will be a great honor. The primary duties of our citizen legislature are to uphold the state's constitution and to engage in public decision making for the benefit of all of Washington's residents. To do this, effective legislators work to build consensus whenever possible, but also aren't opposed to taking bold, principled stands on challenging issues.

Importantly, legislators must maintain an open, transparent and positive line of communication with their constituents. For all of my adult life – whether as a husband, father, journalist, educator, manager, coach, etc. – building consensus based on open lines of communication has been a passion and strength of mine.

Specifically, the legislature faces several daunting challenges – from revisiting the state's revenue system to addressing growing transportation and infrastructure needs to living up to the constitutional obligation of providing an exemplary education for our state's youth. We'll need legislators with fresh perspectives, with experience in building consensus, with integrity and with the ability to listen and lead.

I will be such a legislator.