

2016 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Darcy		Burner

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

Washington State Legislature, District 5, House position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

18 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

18 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democratic

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Darcy Burner
PO Box 1300

Address: Carnation WA 98014

City/State/Zip: (425) 749-8070

Campaign Phone: info@darcyburner.com

Campaign E-mail: www.DarcyBurner.com

Campaign Website: _____

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)
Precinct Committee Officer, Ames Lake	Elective	2012-Present	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
U.S. House of Representatives	2006
U.S. House of Representatives	2008
U.S. House of Representatives	2012

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.)

Washingtonians lead the nation in resourcefulness, innovation, and compassion. They deserve a state legislature that can keep up.

In 2013, my then-10-year-old son Henry and I decided to start a small business together. We now employ nine people in a little storefront on the main street in downtown Carnation doing American manufacturing, making buttons, badge reels, lanyards, refrigerator magnets, and printing t-shirts. Every day, in ways large and small, we get to experience the impacts of the decisions made in Olympia.

When Henry goes to school each morning, we experience the impacts of the failure of the Washington State Legislature to adequately fund education. Because the Snoqualmie Valley School District doesn't have sufficient resources to have an in-district program for children with complex learning disabilities, Henry is one of a handful of children who is instead bussed to an alternative placement. While we are deeply grateful to have access to a suitable placement for Henry – funded by a combination of district, state, and federal funds for children with complex learning disabilities – the placement means he's separated from his classmates and has limited social access to his peers.

In the course of my day at work, I get to see the impacts of decisions made in the Washington State Legislature about our economy. I can see what every small business owner knows: when workers have more money, businesses have more customers. Decisions about things like the minimum wage, housing development policies, and availability and affordability of health insurance impact whether someone can afford one of our nice American-made lanyards or whether they settle for a cheap Chinese import.

Investments in roads affect how easy or hard it is for employees to get to work. Regulations affecting clean energy impact how much it costs me to heat my business in the winter. Tax policies mean that filing state sales taxes is a tedious, multi-day process each year.

I'm running to be part of a state legislature that takes a clear-eyed look at how to improve the lives of Washingtonians and has the courage and tenacity to do so.

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

I am tenacious, good at solving complex problems, and willing to work with unlikely partners to find and achieve shared goals.

Few worthwhile things in life come quickly or easily. I'm not easily deterred by obstacles or setbacks; I will unfailingly find ways to make progress on problems. I grew up in a poor household; my parents raised 5 children on just over \$35k per year while paying back uninsured medical bills from my sister's birth for the entire duration of my childhood. They taught me the value of picking yourself up, dusting yourself off, and going at the problem again. Whether in my career in tech, my time in politics, or my experience as a small business owner, that tenacity has been critical to my success.

Most interesting problems are complex and difficult to solve; if they were easy to solve, they'd already be solved. I can often find a way to craft a solution which meets whatever the essential constraints are even when others haven't been able to. In 2008, for instance, I was able to put together a bipartisan coalition around the *Responsible Plan to End the War in Iraq* which included retired military officers, national security experts, candidates for office from the Presidency to local races, and grassroots activists on both sides of the political aisle. In 2010, I was part of the Afghanistan Study Group, whose proposals for Afghanistan were endorsed not only by progressive members of Congress like Rep. Jerry Nadler and Rep. Raul Grijalva but also by conservatives including Newt Gingrich and Rep. Walter Jones.

It is often possible, even in the face of apparent insurmountable differences, to find areas of agreement and shared goals as a basis to craft good solutions.

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 2008, faced with a seemingly endless war in Iraq and a set of false choices which amounted to "stay the course" or "cut and run," I decided to lay out a rational, responsible plan for ending the war in Iraq. Working with retired military officers including Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton and former U.S. Navy warship captain Larry Seaquist, I drafted an alternative plan and set about organizing agreement around it. It was ultimately endorsed by tens of thousands of people all over the country, more than 50 candidates for the U.S. House and U.S. Senate (more than half of whom were subsequently elected), and a wide range of national security experts. Then-candidate Obama quoted from it when discussing his plans for Iraq, and ultimately Congress and the Obama Administration followed the course it laid out.

I didn't win my election in 2008, though we were close enough we didn't know the outcome for a week. My campaign, however, did make a difference both nationally and internationally, and I'm proud of the work I did and what we accomplished.

That 2008 work inspired a similar effort in 2009 and 2010 with the Afghanistan Study Group, of which I was a founding member. We built a bipartisan group of national security experts and laid out a path for Afghanistan which was embraced by everyone from Joe Biden to Newt Gingrich.

Many people talk a good game about building bipartisan solutions, but when the rubber meets the road they don't actually get anything done. I understand that principled people from across the political spectrum can find areas of common agreement and build real solutions to our problems.

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.

Chair of the women's group at Microsoft (2000-2004)
President of the Ames Lake Community Club (2005-2006)
Author and organizer of the *Responsible Plan to End the War in Iraq* (2008)
Founding member of the Afghanistan Study Group (2009-2011)
Executive Director of Progressive Congress, a non-partisan policy think tank (2009-2011)
Board member, NARAL Pro-Choice America (2009-2010)
Board member, ActBlue (2009-2011)
Board member, Council for a Livable World's PeacePAC (2009-2011)
Board chair and board member, Netroots Foundation (2009-present)
Board member, Center for International Policy (2011-present)
Precinct committee officer for Ames Lake (2012-present)
Small business owner, Buttonsmith Inc. (2013-present)
Secretary of the 5th Legislative District Democrats (2015-present)

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

Washington State Legislators create the laws which govern the State of Washington. Understanding the needs and desires of constituents and finding ways to craft legislation which improves the lives of Washingtonians broadly, is the key duty of a state legislator.