

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
Eileen	L	Cody

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

House of Representatives 34th District Position 1

3. Are you the incumbent? x Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 38 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 38 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democratic

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Campaign to Elect Eileen Cody

Address: **6714 38th Ave SW**

City/State/Zip: **Seattle, WA 98126**

Campaign Phone: **206-935-9176**

Campaign E-mail: **eileencody@comcast.net**

Campaign Website: **none**

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)
Representative 34 th District House Position 1	Elected	2002- present	Chair House Health Care committee
Representative 11 th District House Position 1	Appointed then Elected	1994-2002	Chair House Health Care committee since 1999

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.)

I am again running for office to continue working towards the goal of ensuring access to health care for all Washingtonians. Over the last several years we have made great progress in the number of Washingtonians that are covered by health insurance but we still have work to do to improve the system. We are on the road to changing the health care delivery system so that individuals are treated holistically. By 2020 we will integrate our chemical dependency, behavioral health and medical care delivery systems to provide better and more cost effective care.

Next year we must meet our obligation to fully fund education. I fully support that decision but we must also face the reality that we must do so without decimating our safety net or abandoning our other responsibilities. In the last 20 years I have developed relationships on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the rotunda that I know will be useful as the legislature faces this looming challenge.

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

I believe that the characteristics that I have that have contributed most to my success as a legislator are my ability to be decisive, be persistent, be patient, and listen.

Legislators must make many difficult decisions during the course of a session. Being able to identify the options in front of you, the information you need to make a decision and then making the decision is a valuable skill necessary to every legislator.

Persistence is also very valuable. When working on an issue resistance to progress can come from many directions. It you are known for being persistent and never quitting your opposition learns that they must negotiate with you because they know you won't just simply go away!

Following on that is patience. I am a firm believer in incrementalism. You may not be moving fast but you are moving forward and that is progress.

Most important is the ability to be a good listener. If you can listen to all sides of an issue, then identify shared values and goals that each side has, you will be much more successful in moving both sides toward a compromise. As President Obama has said, Democracy requires compromise even when you are 100% right.

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.

I have a new answer to this question this year as I am very proud of the recent passage of house bill 1713 also known as Ricky's law. In our work to incorporate our chemical dependency system into our mental health system we began to realize how differently we treat the individuals in each system. Technically prior to the bill's passage in Washington state we could commit someone for involuntary treatment for drug addiction if they were in danger of hurting themselves or others but only if there was a bed available, The catch is that we have no secure detox beds in the state. That will now change under the new bill. The legislature has incorporated the chemical dependency statute into the mental health statute and we have funded the creation of our first 2 secure detox facilities. The bill will gradually continue to build facilities for both adults and juveniles over the next 10 years and then the requirement to commit will be in effect. In the long run I believe that this will not only help save many lives it will save the tax payers money as we get drug affected individuals the help they need rather than having them end up in emergency rooms or in jails.

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.

District 1199NW/SEIU – Treasurer	1984-1994
Member	1983-present
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses-Member	1980-2006
President	1982-1983
West Seattle Helpline Executive Board	1995-2003
Multiple Sclerosis Association Executive Board	1999-2003
Group Health Cooperative Ethics Committee-Member	1986-1989
Chair	1988-1989
International Organization of MS Nurses-Member	1998-present
Duwamish Coalition Steering Committee- Member	1994-1996
Southwest Youth and Family Services- Executive Board	2010-present

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

The duties of a Washington state legislator are varied depending on which part of the role you are describing. As a member of the legislature I am responsible for representing the views and the issues of concern to the 34th district, but the duties also include weighing what is in the best interest of the entire state. As a member of the democratic caucus I have a duty to help in setting the agenda for the caucus. As Chair of the House Health and Wellness Committee I am in charge of reviewing all bills referred to the committee, deciding which bills receive a hearing, and which bills will come up for a vote in the committee. As chair I am responsible for working with the Senate, the Governor and state agencies to determine the direction of the state's health policy and to work on the portion of the budget that relates to health care. The duties of the chair include assisting members on issues that fall under the committee's purview, helping new members learn about health care issues, encouraging dialogue between all the members of the committee and the varied interest groups so that we understand all sides of an issue and take action, when appropriate, that will benefit all our constituents.