

2016 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: Marcus Courtney

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Marcus		Courtney

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): State Representative, 43rd Legislative District

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

2.5 years district and 16 years Seattle.

5. How long have you resided in King County?

16 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democratic Party

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Marcus Courtney

Address: P.O. Box 20776

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98112

Campaign Phone: 509-714-1782

Campaign E-mail: info@marcuscourtney.com

Campaign Website: http://marcuscourtney.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)
Member, Washington State Joint Task Force on State Contracts	appointive	2005-2006	

Member, Gov. Gregoire's Global Competitive Council	appointive	2005	
Member, Sound Transit Citizen Advisory Panel	appointive	2003-2004	

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?
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 believe the legislator in this seat needs to be a champion for bold, progressive leadership with real experience. I am running to bring the values of the 43rd district to solve real problems. I want to make housing more affordable, protect the rights of all of our citizens, improve the quality of our public schools, raise wages so families can lead a decent life, and bring meaningful action to combat climate change.

Over the past few years here, we have witnessed tremendous growth in people and in wealth generated by our industries in aerospace, natural resources and technology. The 43rd district is at the heart of a booming Seattle, and is ushering in a new era as a global city. But yet, we can feel our prosperity is out of balance and is leaving too many people behind.

I believe every worker should be treated fairly in the workplace. I founded the Washington Alliance of Technology Workers (WashTech/CWA), the first labor organization of its kind in the U.S., while working as a contract test engineer at Microsoft Corporation. This gave tech workers a voice in the trade union movement for the first time, which continues to this day.

For five years, I managed a global and regional boards of directors representing 300 national unions on international labor issues totaling more than 2.5 million workers in 120 different countries.

Returning to Seattle as the National Representative for the AFL-CIO in the northwest, I was surprised to see how dysfunctional Olympia has become. Rather than a collaborative legislature where the two parties work effectively, Olympia is the mini-me of the U.S. Congress. Populated with climate change deniers, people who oppose equal rights for all and politicians whose answer to every problem is to cut taxes for the rich and big corporations. This doesn't work in DC and will not work in Olympia. There is real work to be done.

These challenges strike at our sense of fairness for the future, and say it is time for a new path so no one is left behind.

We need a new path of inclusion. A new tradition of true economic opportunity. I'm ready to bring a lifetime of experience fighting for middle class families, and giving strength to the poor and disenfranchised. As my career shows when I see a problem I get to work finding real solutions, and I will bring that experience to Olympia as your legislator.

We have seen Seattle and Washington State pass landmark policies on the minimum wage, paid sick leave, pressure Shell Oil to stop Arctic Drilling, pass marriage equality and be first in the nation to require background checks before owning a gun. This campaign wants to extend and build on that progressive legacy.

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

I would list the following as important traits:

Communicator: I am a highly effective and proven communicator. I have done hundreds of interviews with the local, national and international media. I have also given key note speeches at high-level international conferences, testified before House and Senate committees in Olympia, WA. I also have been invited to testify before the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee as a national expert on the impacts of globalization for technology workers. The ability to be an effective communicator is an asset for a legislator to advocate on behalf of their constituents.

Collaborator: A legislator will not only need to collaborate with those in their own party, but will also need to work others across the aisle in order to get things done and achieve results. For my whole 18 year career, I have been building coalitions and collaborating with others to achieve my results.

When I started the first tech workers union in the U.S. as a contract test engineer, I needed to work with my co-workers to build and grow a union from scratch. I successfully help pass legislation in Olympia with Democratic and Republican support on two bills. One bill created a state-wide task force that looked at state contracts getting outsourced overseas that undercut local employment. And a second, created a state-wide broadband committee. When I worked overseas doing international labor relations, I collaborated across cultures, languages, and different laws to advocate for international human rights in more than 42 different countries.

Leader: As a contract temporary engineer at Microsoft with out employer paid benefits such as health care, paid sick leave and retirement, I started the first union for tech workers, WashTech/CWA. I recognized that thousands of other workers faced a similar situation to me, so I took action and began organizing my co-workers to stand up for improved benefits and workplace rights. My actions as a labor activist also helped change the national debate on tech worker issues. I took my experiences from forming WashTech/CWA and worked overseas as a Director for an international trade union federation where I worked on promoting human rights in 42 different countries around the world and building international union coalitions across continents, cultures, legal structures and languages. I feel that I have demonstrated leadership at the local, national and international level.

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 would say that the proudest accomplishments of my life would be forming the first union of tech workers in the U.S. and then moving overseas to Switzerland to take an international labor relations assignment with a global trade union federation for five years.

I worked for years in Seattle's high-tech industry as a permatemp and two of those years, at Microsoft. I did not have employee benefits such health care, paid leave or retirement. I felt that at a company, and an industry that is so profitable that idea that thousands of its workforce did not have access to basic benefits was unfair, so I took inspired action and began organizing

my co-workers and speaking out for improved workplace rights and benefits. In leading WashTech/CWA, I helped change the national debate. The skills and capabilities in forming WashTech/CWA of identifying problems, taking action, and willing to speak out for fairness and human rights are all positive attributes for an elected official.

After ten years at leading WashTech/CWA I decided to take an assignment in Switzerland working in international labor relations. In that role I managed five employees, lobbied the European Union, negotiated and implemented global agreements with major international corporations such as France Telecom, Telenor and Telefonica to improve workers access to international labor rights standards. I also worked in 42 different countries around the world. The skills and capabilities demonstrated that would apply to a state legislator is willingness to understand different cultures, negotiation, and putting together coalitions all of which are invaluable skills in the legislature. Also as Washington State is increasingly a global player understanding the world.

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.

- Founder WashTech/CWA (1998-2008)
- Fair Work Center Board (2015)
- Washington Fair Trade Coalition Board founding member (2007-2008)
- King County Conservation Voter Board, co-chair two years (2001-2008)

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

As a state legislator, I would see my duty to pass laws advancing the interests of working people, fighting climate change and acting as a good steward of public resources. To achieve these goals, it means meeting with constituent groups, doing constituent service, studying up on issues of important public policy, and attending committee hearings. In addition, a legislator needs to be willing to take input from all sides on legislation that would come before the legislature. Acting as an effective legislator means a willingness to compromise. As the late Senator Kennedy said, "do not let perfection get in the way of the good."