

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
Joe		Fitzgibbon

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

State representative, 34th district, 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 Joe Fitzgibbon

Address: PO Box 66235

City/State/Zip: Burien/WA/98166

Campaign Phone: 206-949-5127

Campaign E-mail: jcfitzgibbon@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.joefitzgibbon.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)
State representative	Elective	2010-present	Chair, House Environment Committee Deputy Majority Whip (former)
Burien Planning Commission	Appointive	2008-10	Chair (2009-10)

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 passionate about public service and particularly about state government and its capacity to improve the quality of life for residents of Washington state. The issue that first generated my interest in public life was my sense of urgency around the need for stronger environmental protections and policies that take into account the interests of future generations. I am gratified that for the last few years I have had a particular opportunity to advance environmental protections in my role as chair of the House Environment Committee. I want to continue that work and to make significantly more progress on the core environmental challenges facing us: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting our clean air and water, and managing our land wisely. I am also passionate about expanding access to the political process and have for several years sponsored a bill to extend the deadline for voter registration, and I want to return to the Legislature to push these priorities into law.

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

I am goal-oriented and consider every action I take in the context of how they will advance progress on the issues I work on. I am amiable and good at finding common ground even with those whose views sharply diverge from mine. I am empathetic and good at considering the perspective and lived experience of other, including those with a different perspective than mine. I excel at finding pivot points in complicated systems and thereby the best way to apply myself to make a positive impact in a group situation.

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 am proud of my work in the 2011 interim and 2012 session on a package of reforms to the State Environmental Policy Act, a fraught task that several previous legislators had tried to accomplish and failed because they did not successfully get all the major stakeholders to agree on the problem statement. Over the course of many meetings, we came to a package of changes that the environmental community, the business/development community, local governments, and state agencies could all agree on and support. Now, with the benefit of several years perspective, it is clear that those changes were impactful and also clear what additional changes should now be considered.

I am proud of my work before my election as the chair of the Burien Planning Commission to assemble a set of updates to Burien's Shoreline Master Plan. Any changes to the SMP were highly controversial with shoreline property owners, but after many hours of public testimony, we made key changes to the proposal brought forward by staff and ended up with a plan that the Planning Commission adopted unanimously.

Finally, I am proud of my work on the 2015 Carbon Pollution Accountability Act. I consider climate change to be the paramount challenge facing our state and our world, and while we were not successful in passing the legislation all the way through the political process, a far greater number of stakeholders both participated in the process and supported the outcome than the previous time similar legislation was considered in 2009. I believe we advanced the public conversation around the issue in a way that will be helpful the next time the Legislature considers climate policy

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.

I ran a campaign in 2009 to raise car tabs to invest in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in my city of Burien. The vote was not successful, but I learned a great deal about the importance of community buy-in to any tax measure to make sure that voters understand the value that they are getting from the tax, and the importance of including the community in developing the plan in the first place.

In the aforementioned Shoreline Master Plan update (2008-10), I learned about the value of listening to community concerns and not disregarding those that policymakers feel are unfounded. Even if we consider voters' worst fears to be based on speculation, we will not be successful making policies that impact our constituents if they do not feel listened to and involved in the policy development process.

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

There are several core duties of a state representative. One is to provide constituent service by helping those who have an issue with state government to navigate processes that impact them, and when they are not being treated fairly by a state or local agency, to be their advocates.

Another core duty is policy development. Legislators develop specialties in certain policy areas, particularly in regards to the committees on which we serve. My primary focus has been on environmental policy, particularly since I assumed my current role as chair of the House Environment Committee. As a part of this, we need to not only develop our own policy agendas, we need to track and understand the agendas of other members as they intersect with our focus areas, and we need to track and understand the policies being pursued administratively by state agencies.

We are called on to vote on many issues that fall outside of our issue areas of focus. As such, we need to learn which legislators are trustworthy on their issues of expertise. It takes time to get to know our colleagues and it takes judgment to determine who is most reliable on any given issue area.

Of these responsibilities, policy development in my focus area is the one that I consider the most important, because of the great responsibility that falls upon the Legislature to pass laws that impact our constituents and because of the small number of legislators who focus on any given set of issues.