

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
Paul	S.	Graves

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): State Representative, District 5, Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent?                     Yes X No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? I was born and raised in Maple Valley, squarely in the heart of the 5th, and now live in Fall City, where I have lived for the past three years.

5. How long have you resided in King County? I was born and raised in King County, and since returning from law school and a clerkship with a justice on the Washington Supreme Court, have lived in King County for the past eight years.

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: GOP

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**CAMPAIGN CONTACTS**

Campaign Name:                    People for Paul Graves

Address:                                PO Box 417

City/State/Zip:                    Fall City, WA 98024

Campaign Phone:                    425-318-0686

Campaign E-mail:                    info@paulgraveswa.com

Campaign Website:                    www.paulgraveswa.com

**POLITICAL BACKGROUND**

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

<b>Public Office</b>	<b>Elective or Appointive?</b>	<b>Dates Held</b>	<b>Leadership Role (if any)</b>
<b>Excel Public Charter School</b>	<b>Appointive</b>	<b>2011-present</b>	<b>Board member, secretary, governance committee chair</b>
<b>Washington State Bar Association, Amicus Curiae Committee</b>	<b>Appointive</b>	<b>2011-15</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>King County Bar Association, Appellate Section</b>	<b>Appointive</b>	<b>2010-present</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Associated Students of Western Washington University</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>President</b>

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

<b>Office Title</b>	<b>Year of Run</b>

## 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. I began my career as a lawyer by serving as a law clerk to Justice James Johnson on the State Supreme Court. As a lawyer at Perkins Coie—the state’s largest law firm, where both Rob McKenna and Cyrus Habib began their careers—I have devoted a substantial amount of my practice to pro bono work, representing the interests of foster youth in legal proceedings. For my work, I was named pro bono lawyer of the year by King County CASA, the County’s leading foster youth advocacy organization. For the past four years I have served on the board of one of the state’s first charter schools, a high-performing computer science based school on the East Hill of Kent, serving a predominantly poor, predominantly minority student population. For three years before that, I served on the board of Step Ahead, an innovative college access and preparation non-profit operating out of Garfield High School. I am actively involved in the State and County bar associations, chairing the state bar’s committee devoted to advocacy before the State Supreme Court and serving on the board of the appellate section of the County bar association. Since 2012, I have been a member of Seattle 4 Rotary, the nation’s second-largest Rotary club. I am an active member of Eastridge Church in Issaquah. I am a precinct committee officer in the 5th district. And while an undergraduate at Western Washington University, I served as the student body president.**

**Public service, in my estimation, means seeing a need and stepping in to address it. Olympia needs sound leadership, especially on crucial issues like education, transportation, taxes, and government accountability. I am running to serve the people of the 5th district, and the State of Washington.**

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

**I have a servant's heart, consistently volunteering my time and efforts to organizations that advocate for disadvantaged youth, educate the most vulnerable, and strengthen community ties. I have a keen intellect, graduating with high honors (top 15%) from the Duke University Law School while simultaneously earning my masters in philosophy, serving as a law clerk on the State Supreme Court, and working for the state's leading law firm for the past seven years. And I have a deep understanding of the key issues facing the 5th district and the state, having served in a variety of roles in the education, legal, and civic arenas.**

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 to have been named a "Rising Star" by Washington Law & Politics Magazine each of the past four years. That designation is limited to 2.5% of attorneys in the state under the age of 40. It is a testament to my legal accomplishments and community involvement, serving as a marker of the success I have had in my legal career. I am incredibly proud of my service on the board of Excel Public Charter School. Since opening in August of last year, following an intense two-year pre-opening process, our students have achieved 1.5-years' worth of academic progress. That kind of success is a credit to the outstanding teachers, staff, and board of Excel, and I have been honored to be a part of it. I am also proud to have served as the student body president of Western Washington University from 2003-04. In that role, I ran a \$1.5M/year organization that employed 150 people, operated 30 program offices, and represented the interests of the 12,500 Western students at the State Legislature.**

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.

**In my role as a pro bono attorney, I have had the good fortune to represent foster youth in high-stakes trials and in several appeals, including two cases I argued before the Washington Supreme Court. That has given me the opportunity not only to sharpen my advocacy skills—a key attribute of any successful legislator—but also to understand in a visceral way the challenges facing the most vulnerable in our County. The combination of advocacy and empathy will, I trust, serve me well in Olympia. While serving first as the student body president and then on the board of Excel Public Charter School, I have been able to advocate directly before the Legislature on crucial education issues. And as a precinct committee officer, I have worked with grassroots volunteers to shape the direction of the local party and mobilize citizens for effective action.**

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

**When I received the endorsements of Rob McKenna, Slade Gorton, Dan Evans, Dino Rossi, and every currently-elected Republican legislator in King County, I asked each one what makes for an effective legislator. Their answers were largely consistent: listen well, work hard, sweat details, be persuadable, know the issues, and remain humble. Whether during committee work, while casting votes, advocating for constituents, or overseeing state agencies—which are the most important duties of a legislator—I intend to strive for those qualities.**