

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
Teri	H	Hickel

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

State Representative, Position 2, 30th District

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

26 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

26 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Republican

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Friends for Teri Hickel**

Address: **PO Box 1034**

City/State/Zip: **Milton WA 98354**

Campaign Phone: **253-261-4643**

Campaign E-mail: **teri.h@comcast.net**

Campaign Website: **terihickel.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	Elected	Nov 3, 2015 - present	

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 ran last year in a special election and won. Sadly, Representative Roger Freeman passed away right before the election in 2014 and a person was appointed to fill his seat. I challenged that person because I felt like my longtime knowledge, commitment, and passion would help me be a strong representative and advocate for my district and region.

I am excited and prepared to run again and continue serving as a state representative for the 30th District. I believe my longtime community service, over 25 years, and 16 years of professional experience provides a well-rounded perspective as a legislator. I have always been a hard worker and not afraid of challenges, which makes me suitable for this job.

My husband is a small business owner and together we worked hard providing for our girls. I'm proud that they are successful young adults in professions that inspire them. They attended Federal Way public schools and received excellent educations that set them up for successful college experiences and careers. I understand the challenges every family faces in providing their child the best opportunity to learn and develop. I am aware of the changing demographics in our city and how important a strong education system is for the overall welfare of children and health of our community.

The subject matter of fully funding education from the state level is important to me. Our school district continues to feel the impact of losing school levies in the late 1970's and early 1980's. The inadequate funding especially with teacher compensation must be addressed at the state level. It's my top priority along with creating and maintaining family wage jobs, reducing traffic congestion, and public safety.

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

I haven't changed much from last year. I believe that personal integrity, strong commitment, passion and hard work are critical characteristics.

Integrity.

It is impossible to be successful or impact change without personal integrity. People won't believe in you nor follow if you are dishonest. Being perfect isn't possible nor is it relevant, it's living a life of integrity that's key.

Commitment.

I have always been a super committed person and never backed down from challenges. I don't remember ever quitting something that wasn't finished. I started supporting the public school system when my oldest daughter was in kindergarten, and I helped the business community understand the importance of a strong education system when I worked at the Chamber of Commerce. I worked for 15 years as the Executive Director of Advancing Leadership growing it from serving 21 people to over 90 per year. When the great recession of 2008-2011 happened many leadership programs folded but I was able to stabilize it and actually grow. I would not have considered leaving during a vulnerable time. The program was at it's top when I decided to step aside and allow someone else the privilege of being its director.

Passion

I have always gained energy from people. I like to watch, listen, learn, observe and bring people or organizations together to leverage greater things. I have been involved with the Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation as the first and longest serving board member. We have developed over 10 community gardens to help kids and families understand the benefits of organic food and gardening. I understand the importance of sustaining the longtime potential of this organization and a need to partner with someone who has a history of success. I contacted Tilth and our board is in conversations with them to become the umbrella organization. I'm so excited to become a community of beautiful gardens with a vision of helping kids gain work ethic, internships, applicable business experience by creating a farm to table option for restaurants, and ideally culinary arts program and manage their own restaurant one day. I had this vision 8 years ago and can't let it go until it happens!

Hard Work.

The greatest feeling of success is when you work hard to accomplish something. I mentor a lot of high school students, especially girls, and I tell them to get off the sidelines, lace up your track shoes and run hard. It's the best way to learn and accomplish, and don't be afraid to fall because getting back up provides some of the best lessons. I have always been a hard worker (something that my dear grandmother taught me.)

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.

The Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation

As I mentioned previously, eight years ago I was approached by master gardener Mike Stanley who had a vision to design beautiful, high yield gardens in our city and help serve vulnerable people. Our Chamber of Commerce CEO introduced Mike to me while I was the Executive Director of Advancing Leadership. I had over 800 graduates and well-rounded connections in the community. Once I understood Mike's goals and it aligned with mine that is to teach and serve students to help them become successful adults, together we developed a steering committee and ultimately a board of directors. I worked on creating the 501c3 status. Over the past eight years we have designed and built over ten community gardens. Two are working gardens that serve the senior center, meals on wheels, the community supper for homeless, and more. The rest of the gardens are located at schools and are part of their curriculum. One school in particular uses the garden as a central place for summer school activity. When kids do well they get selected for the privilege of "weeding" the garden that day.

Not all gardens are succeeding and it's clear that we need professional support from a longstanding organization like Tilth, who is excited to branch out into the South King County area. We have a large community meeting on May 19.

I select my organizations carefully and stay involved for a very long time.

Advancing Leadership

I wasn't the founding member of Advancing Leadership, created at the Chamber of Commerce and serving as the city's leadership program, but I was the first professional Executive Director. When I started 16 years ago, the program had completed its second year and was on shaky ground. It needed a dedicated director that would be held accountable for program content, direction, and viability.

The purpose of the program is to introduce participants to the important concepts of leadership and connect them with organizations and decision-makers in our community such as government, education, human services, economics and innovation, quality of life. Our ultimate goal is to inspire people to find their passion and plug in.

There is a team project component to the program and one of my significant contributions that led to 15 years of impact was changing it from individual/small group team projects to one large class project. There are a lot of leadership lessons involved with working collaboratively with 30 people, but once the engine gets running, the impact and teamwork is amazing. It changes lives.

Over 800 people graduated from this program while I had the privilege of being the director. Many of our leaders are alum's such as police chief and fire chief, multiple school board and city council members, student ASB and club officers, and more.

I was inspired to run for State Representative, to ultimately walk my talk by stepping up and serving my community. In my personal greatest leadership move, which was to let go of a program that I loved so much while it was at its peak, I told the high school students that I would find a way to serve in an intentional way. It was scary but I decided to take the challenge of running for statewide office because I believed after learning so much about the important components of community, that I was well suited to work hard and serve this district.

I was pleased to earn the "key to the city" for longtime community impact.

Citizens for Federal Way Schools

I was invited to join this program when my oldest daughter started Kindergarten, to serve as the parent volunteer for her elementary school. I remembered when Federal Way lost its school levies in the late 1970's and early 1980's and wanted to make sure my daughters and kids in the district didn't suffer from those same setbacks.

I quickly became an officer of the group originally serving as treasurer and various other leadership roles including multiple times as president and secretary over the course of 20 years. My greatest moment was taking the lead on a school bond to build a new high school. I toured a very crowded Federal Way High School and was appalled at watching some girls eat lunch in a custodian closet. There simply wasn't enough room or capacity to handle the student enrollment. We had a small but mighty team to run the fourth campaign to build a new high school (three campaigns had failed earlier.) We created awareness person by person, planted yard signs, went door to door, sent out postcards when we had enough money, and ultimately won. I was nominated for citizen of the year after that effort. I continue to remain involved with this organization as best I can because it's critical for kids, families, and community to support a strong school system.

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 have deep knowledge of my community with long-term involvement. My husband and I returned to Federal Way where he grew up to build a home and family. He went into partnership with a high school friend and built a successful law practice over time. We spent many years carefully managing our lives and focusing on our two girls.

We had an open door policy for their friends and our house became the hub for many of them. We discovered that stocking our cupboard with snacks was a magnet for kids. We created a safe place for them and always had space at the dinner table. My daughter spent 1.5 years in WA DC after college and lived with my brother and his family. She didn't realize until then that not every family had 4-10 extra kids for dinner and on weekends.

I enjoyed working with about 60 students per year in the two high school leadership programs. I became proficient at connecting them with professional people to help them learn about industry and find their potential. I will attend the wedding of two leadership students who met in our program. That's not the intention of the program but unexpected consequences can be very sweet.

I have received multiple awards through the years but the one that meant the most was earning the "key to the city" last spring. It was the culminating outcome of 15 years of hard work and dedication to my community.

State Representative, 1 year (2015-present)

- Prime Sponsor HB 2788 signed by Governor and into law June 2016
- Legislative Award for Prime Sponsored bill, WA Food Industry Association

Consulting Director, Advancing Leadership, 6 months (2015)

Executive Director, Advancing Leadership, 15 years (2000-2015)

Interim CEO Chamber of Commerce, 1.5 years (2011-2012)

- Joint responsibility directing the Chamber and Advancing Leadership.

Citizens of Federal Way Schools, 20 years, (1995-2015)

- President multiple times, treasurer, multiple lead on levy and bond issues

Federal Way Community Gardens, 8 years (2008-2016)

- Applied for the non-profit status, served as first president for three years, current member

Todd Beamer High School Leadership Team, 6 years (2004-2010)

PTA, Sherwood Forest Elementary, Rainier View Elementary, Illahee Middle School

- Citizens for FW Schools rep, Family Fun Nights, Art Docent, Room Mother

Norpoint Cooperative Preschool, 6 years (1992-1998)

- Two time President

Awards

Woman of Distinction, Sorpotimist Federal Way (2016)

Key to the City of Federal Way, for significant community impact (2015)

Golden Shovel Award, for outstanding board work, Federal Way Community Gardens (2013)

Certificate of Merit, recognizing outstanding community leadership and service to education and the young people of Washington, WASA (2011)

6 school district community volunteer of the year award recipient

- Sherwood Forest, Rainier View, Illahee, Todd Beamer High School, Federal Way Public Schools Volunteer of the Year, and recently Truman High School.

Valley Cities Counseling Community Achievement Award for Collaboration (2005)

Seahawk Community Quarterback Award (2002)

Nomination Citizen of the Year (1999)

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

I served this year as the state representative for the 30th District. The primary role is to set policy direction and make wise decisions on behalf of the district and state.

The fundamental duty of the legislature is to fully fund education. This is a critical concern because our state leaders have let this slip over the past 30 years allowing (and almost encouraging) school districts to supplement teacher compensation out of local levy dollars that were intended to enrich the classroom experience. This is very challenging because to remain competitive and keep excellent teachers, this kind of practice must happen. For districts like mine where the business industry is small and the shared costs for school levies equally small, the burden is steep for property owners.

My four main areas of concern: fully funding basic education, creating and sustaining jobs, transportation and reducing congestion, and public safety.

My work over the past sixteen professional years and lifetime is that of a collaborator. I will work across party lines to find the best solutions. I will put in the time to gain knowledge, find experts in fields, and make the best decisions possible for the state.

This is not a steppingstone for me, it's where I want to spend time and make a positive impact. I'm excited to serve

