

## 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
Nicole		Macri

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

**State House of Representatives, 43<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District, Position 1**

3. Are you the incumbent?  Yes  No

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

**11 years in the 43<sup>rd</sup> District. 17 years in Seattle.**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**17 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democratic

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#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Nicole Macri

Address: P.O. Box 9100

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98109

Campaign Phone: 206-486-0085

Campaign E-mail: nicole@votenicole.org

Campaign Website: www.votenicole.org

#### 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)
Mayor's Emergency Task Force on Unsheltered Homelessness	Appointive	Oct 2014 – Dec 2014	Member
Seattle Housing Levy Oversight Committee	Appointive	Jan 2011 - present	Member
King County Committee to End Homelessness, Governing Board	Appointive	Jan 2013 – June 2015	Member

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

## 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.)

**My commitment to working for justice, safety, and equity developed in me at a very young age, and my family history laid the foundation for my interest in running for this office. My grandmother's experience as a single mother and survivor of domestic violence instilled a strong sense of strength, independence and commitment to community through generations of our family. Taught by her own mother, my mom modeled for me a tenacity to fight injustices that harmed our family and community. These lessons have been the foundation for my work with people who have faced unrelenting challenges, and motivate me to work broadly to make changes in policy.**

**My life's work has focused on bringing innovative and pragmatic solutions to complex problems related to housing, safety, and equity. I have more than 20 years' experience championing progressive causes. As a housing and homelessness advocate working every day on the ground, I see how often well-intentioned, but misinformed policy affects our clients. I want to go to Olympia, in part, because I believe we need more experts writing legislation and not just implementing it.**

**My partner Deb & I have lived on Capitol Hill for the past 11 years and we see every day how our region's prosperity is leaving too many behind. Our city is changing rapidly, with new residents moving here for the high quality of life many enjoy. At the same time, more and more people are being pushed to the margins; our public schools are underfunded and unsuccessful at eliminating the achievement gap; many sit in traffic for hours; climate change and air pollution threaten our health and our livelihoods; and continued efforts to end the crisis of gun violence are thwarted. In addition, the fight for justice for communities of color and LGBTQ people continues.**

**For too long, our state has not done enough to prevent problems before they occur. I do not believe that it has to be that way. I am committed to fight to uphold the progressive values of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District and to take bold actions that create a new path forward. I have a long and proven track record of working every day to solve complex problems around housing, homelessness, mental health, and addiction. In Olympia, I will not back down from doing what is right for all our residents. My priorities include:**

- **Reform WA's regressive tax structure, which disproportionately impacts low-income families, women and people of color. We will only build back the infrastructure of our state when everyone contributes**

their fair share to doing so.

- **End homelessness and expand access to affordable housing by increasing and sustaining the Housing Trust Fund; using state owned properties to create new housing; lifting the state ban on local cities' ability to stabilize rent increases; and strengthening protections from discrimination for renters.**
- **Improve transportation options, because community affordability, livability and our environment depend on it.**
- **Attain true gender equity by protecting reproductive rights; enhancing healthcare access for women; promoting equal pay for equal work through pay transparency; enacting paid family leave; ensuring accommodations for pregnant workers; raising the minimum wage; and implementing paid sick & safe time across the state.**
- **Close the opportunity gap for students by investing in early learning, K-12 and higher education.**
- **Restore our state's mental health system by expanding the number of mental health beds per capita (currently ranked 47th of 50 states), and enhancing compensation for workers in this sector.**
- **Reduce carbon emissions and make sure our state makes the investments necessary to transition from a fossil fuel economy to a renewable energy economy.**

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

**I am regarded as a leader who is a natural strategist and diplomat. I am a good listener, creative, and a practical problem solver. I am skilled at developing innovative solutions to complex policy and political challenges, and for effectively making the case for change. These traits helped me succeed in leveraging local, state and federal policies and investments to solve problems that people once thought were intractable – such as the homelessness of people living with persistent and untreated mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Time and again, I have have successfully exercised these acumens towards gaining broad support from people with divergent perspectives.**

**I have led effective advocacy coalitions and worked directly with elected officials, neighborhood and business stakeholders, union members, and people most harmed by inadequate public policies, to move positive policy change. These experiences have given me not only the perspective on what is needed in Olympia, but also they have given me the skill that our state needs now more than ever.**

**My experience working directly on some of the most challenging public social problems of our time – including homelessness, healthcare access, and affordable housing – lays the groundwork for me to become an effective state representative on behalf of residents of the 43rd District. Our community and society are changing rapidly, making the stakes too high to elect someone who will be simply a consistent progressive vote. In these dynamic times, we need someone who can dig into complex policy issues that impact a broad constituency and come up with innovative solutions that move our city and state forward. I will lead on the issues of greatest importance in our time – economic equity, racial & social justice, affordability, education and the environment. I have demonstrated my ability to do that.**

**My endorsements (full list attached) illustrate my ability to work across systems, and I have strong support from six current and two past Seattle City Council members and the City Attorney, many members of the health and human services community, business and labor.**

**I am outspoken about issues that matter for those people for whom I am working – whether they are people who are homeless and experiencing mental illness or substance abuse, employees of my agency, or residents of Seattle. I have been recognized as an emerging leader and a strong champion of community welfare and social justice. In 2014, I received an Emerging Leader Award from the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle/King County for my outstanding work in the field of affordable housing.**

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 helped pioneer the Housing First approach, offering people a place to live and surrounding them with the support they need to keep that home, and make it national policy in addressing homelessness. I worked with researchers from University of Washington to demonstrate that providing permanent supportive housing to high needs people can save millions of dollars, while improving the quality of life for all of us. Following this, I have been at the forefront of building a national movement to implement Housing First strategies to end homelessness in communities across North America. I led the planning for two national Housing First Partners conferences which attracted over 700 attendees each to share on-the-ground strategies from practitioners, policy makers and academics in the field. This effort has resulted in innovative strategies being taken to scale in many states. With the right legislators in place, we could see similar results in Washington too.

I am grateful to have worked alongside Bill Hobson in this effort for 13 years. He was my boss and my best mentor, and the Municipal League of King County's 2015 Citizen of the Year. He taught me many of my current skills and qualities in moving positive community change forward.

As President of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Board of Directors, I have worked to expand affordable housing across our state and promote policies that protect renters. I have informed numerous legislative bills. I have also championed Seattle's Housing Levy. I was appointed by City Council to serve successive terms as a member of the Housing Levy Oversight Committee to monitor the progress of the \$145 million voter-approved levy in achieving its goals, and currently serve on the steering committee for the 2016 Yes for Homes campaign to renew and expand this levy.

I was a vocal proponent of increases to the minimum wage in Seattle, partnering with City Councilmembers Nick Licata, Mike O'Brien and Sally Clark to ensure Seattle's history-making minimum wage ordinance included non-profit employees equally, and avoided drastic cuts in the vital human services delivered by these workers.

At the kickoff event for my campaign, City Councilmember Mike O'Brien told the crowd of nearly 200 attendees, "I sought out Nicole's expertise during my first run for office and have since learned about her leadership creating the award-winning Housing First model that is now a best-practice nationally in ending homelessness. She was also instrumental in helping secure support among the social services community for a \$15 minimum wage in Seattle. That is exactly the kind of movement builder we need in Olympia."

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 am currently the Deputy Director of DESC (Downtown Emergency Service Center) in Seattle, where I have worked since 2002 to end the homelessness of our community's most vulnerable people through an integrated array of services and supportive housing. I am responsible for providing housing and services to 2,500 chronically homeless adults each day, overseeing a budget of \$40 million and 550 employees. Prior to this role, I have fulfilled several functions at DESC including Director of Fund Development, Director of Administrative Services (overseeing external/community relations, labor relations, administrative, fundraising, and policy functions), Director of Housing Programs (overseeing 24-hour shelter, housing and day service program operations in 15 different service sites across Seattle).

From 2008 to 2014, I acted as DESC's chief labor liaison and negotiator for the initial and successive contracts between DESC and SEIU 1199NW, as well as several contract re-openers. Prior to unionization, I led efforts to negotiate a partnership agreement with SEIU 1199NW that ensured management fully respected employees interests and organizing. This agreement also affirmed the intent of both parties to jointly advocate for public policy changes that supported workers and the organizational mission. Through our mutually respectful relationship, we have been more successful in addressing policy issues that impact workers and are better able to serve our clients.

As reflected on my resume, the following activities have been instrumental in acquiring relevant skills for the role of State Representative:

WA Low Income Housing Alliance (Board President 2014-present, Vice President 2013, Development Committee Chair 2009-2013): I played a key role in the organization's first ever strategic and capacity-building plan, which resulted in a merger with the State Coalition on Homelessness, the addition of a sister 501(c)4 politic organization, expanding the staff (from 2 to 11 members) and active members & advocates (from 800 to over 4,000).

Seattle Housing Levy Oversight Committee (Member 2011-present): As an appointed member of this citizen board, I encouraged the inclusion of more substantive and contextual information in reports to the Mayor and City Council, in the face of a growing affordability crisis in our city and played a key role in deliberations about use of Housing Levy funds in the landmark redevelopment of Seattle Housing Authority's Yesler Terrace community.

Yes for Homes – Housing Levy Campaign (Lead Volunteer 2009, Steering Committee Member 2016): Following my robust volunteer engagement which helped pass the 2009 Levy, I have been an active member of the current campaign to renew this property tax levy to expand access to affordable housing across Seattle.

Committee to End Homelessness King County (Governing Board Member 2013-2015): Now called 'All Home', I represented the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness on this board, alongside elected, business and other community leaders. My participation was instrumental in more robust attention on strategies to end the homelessness of unaccompanied adults.

Seattle Human Services Coalition (Co-Chair, City Budget Task Force 2010; Steering Committee Member 2004-2010): In 2010, I co-led the annual advocacy campaign to protect and expand city investments in human services with Neighborhood House Executive Director Mark Okazaki. We were successful in galvanizing a broad coalition achieving increased investments despite greatest budget shortfall in decades.

**Seattle University Institutional Review Board (Member 2005-2009):** As an at-large member to the board responsible for ensuring human subjects' protections in university research, I brought a unique community-level perspective that provided practical context for several researchers and other academic leaders.

**Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness (Co-Chair 2004-2005, Steering Committee Member 2003-2008, One Night Count Media Coordinator 2003-2014):** As co-chair, I led the effort for this 30 year old advocacy organization in hiring its first-ever Executive Director.

**Mayor's Emergency Task Force on Unsheltered Homelessness (Member 2014):** I was invited by Mayor Ed Murray to serve on task force of divergent viewpoints and experiences to identify some immediate, short-term action steps to address unsheltered homelessness in Seattle. Task Force recommendations resulted in new legislation authorizing city-sanctioned encampments, and expansion of shelter in city-owned properties.

**Fortune View Condominium Homeowners Association (Board President 2011-2013):** In this volunteer leadership role, I ensured prudent financial management of HOA resources and attention to multiple property needs on behalf of neighbor/HOA members in my condominium community.

**Seattle University Executive Leadership Program (Participant, 2004-2005):** As the sole non-profit participant in a cohort of 30 regional business leaders, I engage with senior executives from Boeing, Costco, Weyerhaeuser and other companies on leadership challenges across sector.

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

**Most importantly, members of the Washington House of Representatives fulfill the duties of passing the biennial state budget, including supplement and capital budgets, and legislation that reduce challenges and serve the needs and interests of the people of Washington.**

**To accomplish this, legislators meet annually in Olympia to introduce and deliberate on bills and the budget, and serve and/or chair committees organized to help accomplish these tasks. While often described as a "part-time legislature", an effective state representative is a hard working problem solver, and continuously visible, engaged and accessible to her/his constituents. There are many opportunities and obligations in which a state lawmaker can and should engage when the legislature is not in session.**

**To be an effective representative, a state legislator must know her/his district well, and be readily familiar with the concerns and interests of constituents, services that are needed and how to help residents thrive. She/he must represent the interests of the district in legislative deliberations, and seek input from a diversity of constituents, careful not to rely solely on the most powerful or vocal. A legislator should be reasonably accessible and available for questions, and able to respond to constituents' questions in a timely manner, including through in-district meetings and town halls. She/he should attend public functions and local events to connect with constituents and other stakeholders.**