

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
Joan		McBride

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

3. Are you the incumbent? xx Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 57 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 57 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democratic

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Joan McBride

Address: **PO Box 2707**

City/State/Zip: **Redmond, WA 98073**

Campaign Phone: **425.698.7556**

Campaign E-mail: Jmcb38519@aol.com -- personal email (campaign email not activated yet)

Campaign Website: **Joanmcbride.com (not full activated yet)**

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, 48 th District	Elective	2015 to current	Assistant Majority Whip
Kirkland City Council	Elective	1998 to 2014	Mayor and Deputy Mayor
Houghton Community Council	Elective	1994 to 1998	Chair and Vice Chair

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.)

I ran for the State House out of my desire to help pass a statewide transportation plan specifically and to, more generally, use my extensive local government experience to help tone down some of the rancor that seemed to be growing in state government.

I am happy that the State Transportation Plan passed, it had been 10 years since a statewide program and our bridges, roads and mobility were beginning to suffer.

I am running for reelection because I have more work to do. My emphasis again this year will be on affordable housing, public records reform and reforming tolling policies on 405. I will also work with my colleagues to ensure that are solutions to the McCleary decisions are equitable. Last session, I worked and cosponsored many critical pieces of legislation, that had broad based support, including a bill that provided Homeless, unaccompanied students access to routine medical care. I am also running because I am able to work across the aisle – I am very proud that the majority of my bills were heavily bi-partisan.

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

I am thoughtful and careful in my deliberations. I like to work with others on bills and bring in all stakeholders. I also am courageous. But perhaps the most important personal characteristic or belief is that I am an optimist – I believe in the role of ‘good’ government to bring about a better world. Even though there is a rise in emotionally charged political rhetoric, I am not disheartened.

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.
 1. My first year as a representative, I was given the opportunity to prime a very important bill to our cities and counties. It was called the REET Flexibility Bill and it was a bill that had been worked on for nearly 10 years. The difficulty had been that there were opponents and proponents. So we worked for many months...bringing in all the stakeholders and finally after many iterations, reviews and many rewritings of the bill it passed and was signed into law. It was a major success for me personally and very good for our cities and towns. That could have been the end the story. But last session, it turned out that one stakeholder had found a flaw in the new law. The flaw could have had serious ramifications for those who advocate for affordable housing. Many people said the new law had taken so long to pass that I shouldn't open it up again. That opening it up might blow up the fragile working relationship that had worked so well. But I believed that we could amend the law, we could make it better. The flaw had exposed unintended consequences and we could work through the problem. It took many meetings, and at first some difficult conversations...but we did it. We ran a new bill and it passed the house and senate and the Governor signed it into law. I won a 2016 Housing Hero award for the bill but the real accomplishment was not being afraid and trusting that we, advocates and proponents, could come together again and fix a good bill.
 2. Another professional accomplishment was as mayor of the City of Kirkland when we annexed a large portion of unincorporated King County. We were a city of 48 thousand annexing a population of 35 thousand, almost doubling the size of our town. There was controversy, there were huge financial implications, and a need to rapidly expand services. All that took planning and public involvement. But everything went off without a hitch. We took the time to bring neighborhoods along, we negotiated with county and the state, and embraced our commitment to GMA. I look back on the nearly 3 years of outreach and intense meetings as a time of listening and working with our neighborhoods – of sharing accurate information and working through tough issues.
 3. The personal accomplishment I am most proud of is my family, especially my children. My children are successful because of their efforts, not mine. But I like to think I set up a loving environment that helped to nurture and grow in them a strong sense of responsibility. Our family experienced a great tragedy over a decade ago and I watched my children struggle through the heartbreaking changes with fortitude. They are grown now and are amazing individuals, we ‘made it’ as a family through the worst of times. It is a family accomplishment and to my mind a miracle.
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.

As mentioned previously, my role as an elected official in my hometown has certainly built my skills and commitment to serving as a public servant. 1996-2014

I was very involved in the PTA when my children were in school. I served as co-president at the elementary school level and won a Golden Acorn and then went on to serve on the executive boards / committees in middle and high schools.

Working in the PTA developed my ability to embrace diversity. How we define family, cultural differences, how to work in cooperation with individuals from vastly different backgrounds and with vastly different goals. 1994 - -2004

Finally, I have been involved in my church. Many years ago, I worked on interfaith work which was a wonderful experience, learning of and visiting other faith traditions. I have been attending my current church for 12 years.

My resume/biography lists other board positions and community involvements.

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

- Adopt a biennial budget
- Write and promote legislation that benefits the state and the district
- Promote and review best policies regarding state departments
- Prepare for and attend assigned legislative committee meetings
- Maintain offices in the district and in Olympia
- Work collegially with fellow legislative members
- Be accessible
- Adhere to the highest ethical standards
- Be transparent and accountable
- Provide case work for constituents when needed
- Be visible and participate in district celebrations and public events
- Represent all the citizens of the district, be their advocate and bring back needed resources to our district.

Obviously the most important of the duties is looking out for the good people and businesses of the 48th District, but I also believe that all the many job requirements so just that. For instance, it is critical to the taxpayers that our government is run efficiently that is why we sometimes take a very good look at state programs and agencies. Passing a budget is critically important because where we choose to spend our resources is a reflection of our values. We work on a macro/micro basis – a budget for the entire state to a case work that is for one individual who has come up to a road block perhaps with a state agency. It is hard to put a priority on the work, it is all important in big and small ways.