

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
Tina	L.	Orwall

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

**State Representative, 33<sup>rd</sup> LD, position 1**

3. Are you the incumbent?                     Yes    No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 16 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 33 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democrat

**CAMPAIGN CONTACTS**

Campaign Name:                    Friends of Tina Orwall

Address:                                17837 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, PMB 299

City/State/Zip:                    Normandy Park, WA 98148

Campaign Phone:                    206-409-3038

Campaign E-mail:                    Tina.orwall@gmail.com

Campaign Website:                    www.electtinaorwall.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, 33 <sup>rd</sup> LD	Elected	2009-current	Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore, House leadership team

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.)

It is an incredible honor to represent my community in Olympia and to work on issues that impact our community. I first ran for office because I was worried that many students were being left behind and that we were not fully funding our schools. This remains my top priority not only because it is our paramount duty but because we need to invest in the future of our children and ensure that every student has a path to be successful.

Passing legislation in Olympia requires working closely and effectively with a large team of people including legislators on both sides of the aisle, community leaders, staff and constituents. I have worked hard to build trusting relationships with my colleagues and community members to pass legislation in the areas of education, foreclosure, suicide prevention, combating the sex trade, rape kit reform to support victims of sexual abuse, adoption, and supports for our servicemen and women. I also work on important social justice and equity issues to ensure that all voices are heard and that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in our community.

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

Some of the most important characteristics for a state representative that I work to embrace are to be fair, honest, dependable, and to be a good listener. It is critical to make sure that all voices are heard and that you are respectful and responsive to the people you serve.

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 the work I have done in Olympia. I am especially proud of the work I have done in these three areas with bills passing this session:

a. **Suicide prevention** Sadly, our state is higher than the national average on suicide deaths with one of the highest rates of teen suicide. We lose 2 young adults between the ages of 14-24 every week in our state. Other high risk groups include veterans, Native Americans and older adults. I have partnered with Jenn Stuber from UW Forefront and many stakeholders including leading experts in suicide prevention and survivors to pass legislation on suicide prevention. This is incredibly important because we know that early intervention makes a difference and that suicide is the most preventable form of death. We are the first state in the country to require mental health and medical professionals to receive training in suicide assessment, management and treatment. We also require key educational staff to receive suicide prevention training and schools to create crisis plans to proactively intervention in youth who appear at risk and provide supports if a student is lost to suicide. This year we created a new partnership to address suicide prevention and lethal means and expanded our partnerships to include NRA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Foundation, Alliance for Gun Responsibility, and Pharmacies to create a Safer Homes Task force. This group will create suicide prevention materials and trainings for staff working in pharmacies, gun stores and ranges. We will also create two pilot programs in counties with the highest rate of suicide and provide enhanced training on lethal means paired with safe storage devices and medication disposal kits. We hope these efforts will raise awareness on the signs/symptoms of suicide, how to respond and most of all, will save precious lives.

**b. Supporting Youth at Risk.** Providing opportunities for all students to be successful is a top priority for me. When students are not engaged in school and do not feel hopeful about their future, they can become at risk in our community. My district has one of the highest rates of child trafficking in the country, we struggle with high rates of poverty (schools are 60-80% free and reduced lunch), and youth involvement in gang activities. In an effort to address these issues and to respond to our state having the highest rates of detaining students for truancy related issues, I worked on legislation to keep kids in school and amend our BECCA laws. This effort took close coordination with other key legislators including the original sponsor of the BECCA laws, the chair and ranking member of the Education Committees, staff from the Judiciary Committee, schools, courts and community partners. The legislation had four key components: providing early education and soft interventions around attendance in our elementary schools since we know one of the top predictors of high graduation is attendance in elementary school; building on best practices by expanding community truancy boards in the community and giving them the tools on trauma informed approaches of discipline and resources to identify the underlying issues a student is not attending school; expanding residential resources for youth including HOPE beds for homeless youth and crisis residential center beds as an alternate to detention; and expanding reporting and tracking data to provide feedback on how schools and courts are doing to keep kids in school.

**c. Social Justice and Public Safety.** Over the last several years I have worked on legislation to address the issue of wrongful convictions in our state. I am proud that we have passed legislation to compensate those who are wrongly convicted and to protect DNA related to investigations to allow entities such as the UW Innocence Project to review cases and determine if a person was convicted of a crime they did not commit. While working on this the issue of DNA retention, I was touring evidence rooms and began asking about white boxes on shelves which I discovered were sexual assault kits, many I were told had not been tested. As I began working on this issue, local media began sharing reports on numbers of untested kits and I discovered that this was an issue occurring across the country. Sadly, one in four women, are sexually assaulted in their lifetime with most assaults occurring between the age of 14-20 and for men, it is one in six men have been sexually assaulted. Not testing kits not only denies justice for the victims, but it keeps dangerous offenders in community. In Ohio, Texas and Michigan where they have tested many of their kits, 25-30% are serial rapists with some committing other crimes including burglary and homicide. I am proud that my bills to test all kits, protect kits from being destroyed and establish the country's first tracking system that will allow survivors to check the status of their kits in the system, has been done in strong partnership from colleagues across the aisle, law enforcement and survivors.

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.

Proud mother of two wonderful children: Jenna, 20 years old and a sophomore at UW; Alec 18 years old and graduating from Mt. Rainier High School/Running Start.

PTSA President Marvista Elementary-former  
Art Docent (6 years)-former  
Highline School bond/levies outreach-former

Des Moines Rotary  
Kent Chamber of Commerce  
United Way-Out of the Rain Committee  
Judson Park Retirement Home board

### **Legislative Appointments**

#### **Co-Chair Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Best Practice Task Force, 2015-current**

Joint Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, June 2011-current  
Washington Consumer Foreclosure Remedies Fund Committee, April 2012  
Statewide Coordinating Committee on Sex Trafficking, July 2013-current  
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee, July 2013-current

### **Governmental Experience**

I worked for the City of Seattle, Office of Housing as the Washington State Taking Health Care Home Coordinator. Partnership that created over 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing units for high need populations (housing first model). I also worked overseeing homeless and residential programs for persons with mental illness at King County and Pierce County RSN.

I was formerly active in the following governmental partnerships: Washington State Policy Committee on Co-Occurring Disorders, King County Veteran's Group Consortium Steering Committee member, and Co-Chair of the Supportive Housing Alliance for Veterans (SHAVET).

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

The most important duty is to be available and actively learning about the issues that impact my constituents in my district. I think we have a duty to work collaboratively with colleagues across the aisle, to find common ground on issues that impact all families in our state so we can seek solutions and move important legislation through the process to become law.