

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
William	E	Popp, Sr.

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): State House, Legislative District 41, Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent?                     Yes   x  No

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

**50 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**50 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

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**CAMPAIGN CONTACTS**

Campaign Name:                    Elect Bill Popp

Address:                                14400 bel-red rd, ste 206

City/State/Zip:                    Bellevue, wa 98007

Campaign Phone:                    425-401-1030

Campaign E-mail:                    electbillpopp@seanet.com

Campaign Website:                    pending

**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)
none			

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.)

**Primarily to bring professional transportation planning and engineering expertise to the legislature. The incumbent, as Chair of the House Transportation Committee, has promoted policies and programs that increase congestion and are economically shortsighted. For instance she aggressively promoted implementation of the express toll lane project on I-405 to the extent even of refusing to allow a hearing to review the concept after the disastrous 4 month operational period. Not only did the operation take away a new lane that was intended to be a general purpose lane per its gas tax funding, the concept requires congestion to work so it creates congestion that would otherwise not be there. And then there is the astoundingly inefficient toll collection costs and the litany of public relations problems with the errors in collections and exorbitant toll and traffic fines. Crossing the double white line for instance carries a \$400 fine.**

**My transportation planning expertise includes transit and its role and capabilities in serving the mobility needs of persons in the Puget Sound Region. There is an incredible amount of misallocation of resources to a rail centric plan that will accommodate only a very small portion of the regional person trips when an express bus alternatives plan that incorporates speed assured HOV lanes and occasional separate rights of way could provide far more ridership at a higher level of service and for a fraction of the cost. There has never been an honest bus alternatives evaluation of Sound Move or its subsequent phases since 1966.**

**Knowledge of these sorts of things is notoriously absent in Olympia and thus Sound Transit can make a request for a substantial increase in tax authority that seriously impinges on our ability to deal with the McCleary litigation and with other state problems through expenditures of finite public revenue capacity without any substantive challenge on the legislators' part. When asking for \$15B in new tax authority from the legislature, the King County Executive presented a slide showing Link light rail can carry 12,000 passengers per hour while a freeway lane only carries 2000 persons per hour. No one asked how many persons busses in an HOV lane can carry – answer, easily 2 to 3 times that many.**

**But worse yet, Sound Transit is now saying that \$15B request was really “shorthand for \$15B over 15 years” and since the tax would not sunset, \$50B is the more appropriate number to be using. A credible estimate of the ultimate cost per HH of the full Sound Transit program by the end of their 45 year TIFIA loan is approximately \$83,400 as developed by James W. Maclsaac, P.E. This open ended authorization request**

was vigorously promoted by the current chair of the House Transportation Committee.

I also bring the perspective of a small business owner with a consulting engineering practice and a wife who has six sandwich shops in the I-405 corridor. In the latter case I am acutely aware of the social inequity of express toll lanes. From a broader perspective I understand the trials and tribulations of running a small business and can reflect that position in issues that come before the body, which is particularly lacking in the House Democratic Caucus.

And I also have an understanding of growth management and its impacts on housing affordability, job access for lower income populations, and increased VMT. More dispersal of employment coupled with low congestion roadways substantially improves housing affordability and job opportunities for these populations, and others as well.

And then there are Greenhouse gas emissions and resulting climate change which is a critical issue to be continuously assessed. It is important for legislators to maintain a data driven sense of perspective on this complex matter. The current VMT reduction act for instance is impractical and leads to such decisions as the express lane tolling for I-405 as well as the policy to apply that to the entire freeway system. Tolls are carbon stupid whereas gas taxes encourage people to use fuel more efficiently.

Another casualty of current efforts to implement the VMT reduction act is congestion relief which by nature requires general purpose lane freeway capacity additions such as those defined in the federally adopted I-405 Master Plan. This is particularly applicable to what some describe as the suburban crescent – non I-5 corridor areas in north, east and south King County.

Incentives for low emission vehicles including higher gas tax and greater use of private sector dynamic ride share and refocused bus transit including support for employer operations such as Microsoft Connector Service can have far more positive impact on GHG emissions than any attempt to physically restrict motorist travel.

I would hope to be an independent thought resource for my cohorts in the legislature when somewhat complex issues like the above arise. We need to avoid these ideologically driven blunders that damage the public's respect for government, not to mention our economy.

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

**Willingness to listen and understand the perspectives of others.**

**Ability to get along with others.**

**Analytical perspective where needed.**

**Am a problem solver by nature and training.**

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.

**Significant role in the following:**

**Creation of Metro, Pierce, Community (Snohomish County) and Kitsap Transit Systems circa 1972. As Assistant Director of the Transportation Planning Division of the Puget Sound Council of Governments I was directly involved in development of the plans and policies leading to the public votes creating these very successful transit agencies. I was personally focused on the Metro Transit Plan with its park and ride express bus based operation.**

**Promotion of the shoulder running HOV lane concept on SR520 from I-405 to the then existing toll plaza in 1972 as part of a joint WSDOT/PSCOG team effort to find ways to help Metro "hit the ground running". Implementation of this concept allowed the State Highway Department (not yet WSDOT) to be comfortable with extension of the concept to the 1974 Plan Update HOV lane system.**

**Development of the HOV lane system plan for the Puget Sound Region. In 1973 in the midst of the "energy crisis" the federal forecasts indicated that peak oil would occur sometime around year 2000. Thus in 1974 we removed 179 miles of freeway lanes from the plan and substituted HOV lanes for bus reliability and car pool encouragement.**

**Assistance to four residential communities in Bellevue in their efforts to minimize the impacts of E. Link on their neighborhoods and the Mercer Slough Nature Park. While not successful the effort empowered the communities and gave them engineering representation that would not otherwise have been available.**

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.

**President of Sherwood Forest Community Club, Bellevue, 1975**

**Elected Parish Council Member St. Louise Church (1974) and Sacred Heart Church (1978)**

**Co-Chair Transportation Committee of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce (1994)**

**President and officer of Overlake Toastmasters, Bellevue (1979 - 1984)**

**Youth Soccer coach, Bellevue (1976 -1984)**

**Pro bono traffic and transportation engineering advice and assistance to neighborhood associations in Bellevue including communities of NorthTowne, Bridle Trails, Surrey Downs, Enatai, BelCrest, Bellefield Residential Park, and the East Bellevue Community Council (1977 – Current).**

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

**Duties – initiate and cooperate in formulation of legislation .**

**Most important duties -- to listen to fellow legislators, staff, and the public in a collaborative way and then act accordingly.**