

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
Sameer	Digamber	Ranade

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

Washington State House of Representatives, 43rd Legislative District, position 1

3. Are you the incumbent?  Yes  No

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

I have lived in the 43rd Legislative District for approximately five years total since 2007. I have lived in Seattle for approximately eight years since 2004

5. How long have you resided in King County?

For approximately eight years.

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

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**CAMPAIGN CONTACTS**

Campaign Name: Friends of Sameer Ranade

Address: 801 East Harrison Street. Apt. 205

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98102

Campaign Phone: 707-726-2330

Campaign E-mail: [electsameerranade@gmail.com](mailto:electsameerranade@gmail.com)

Campaign Website: [www.electsameer.com](http://www.electsameer.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)

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 am running for this office because it offers an excellent platform to elevate and make progress on the issues I care about. I believe an enormous amount of work is needed to create social systems that are fair and just and based on compassion. We must do more to support those who are struggling to lead happy, healthy, and productive lives now and be more accountable to future generations in how we treat our planet.

The United States bears an enormous responsibility to solve the problem of human induced climate change. Nothing less than the future of human civilization is at stake with this problem. As it become worst, those who have been the least responsible for its cause will suffer the most from it: The poor and communities of color. Climate change must be a priority in our public policy because we have a rapidly shrinking window of time to address it. If we do not act swiftly to reduce emissions, we will leave an enormous debt to future generations that we will not be able to pay. I know Washington State can become a global leader in a low carbon economy. Contrary to what opponents of climate action may so, reducing carbon will improve our quality of life today. Smart carbon reduction policy can produce immediate, lasting, and significant health and economic benefits. I will propose legislation that accomplishes this in Olympia. We can take this problem on in Washington by creating economic incentives like a carbon pollution charge and technology investment standards. We can invest the revenue collected from a pollution charge into programs like equitable and affordable housing, clean transportation, and public schools. My emphasis on climate change doesn't mean I'm not keen on addressing other pressing social problem. In fact I believe we must aim for policy that address all of our social problems at once because of how closely linked they are. This includes closing the opportunity gap in our schools from pre-K to higher education and protecting and strengthening the rights of workers to organize and to earn just compensation and fair benefits. I want to build on the progress we've made in legalizing Gay Marriage to ensure that transgender people enjoy those rights and that sexual orientation or gender don't cause economic or social discrimination. I want seeing a doctor when you're sick to be a right and not a privilege. I want to make public transportation cleaner and more efficient and accessible. I want clean and safe housing to be affordable in the city of Seattle for someone who works as a restaurant waiter or janitor just as much as it is for anyone else. Seattle must be a city where all are welcome and able to survive and thrive. I believe I can create policy to make our city such a model.

I believe this position offers an excellent chance for me to build a broad and diverse progressive coalition to advance the policy solutions we need. I have shown the ability to accomplish this through a number of past

positions I have held, including my current role as a climate and clean energy campaign associate for an environmental non-profit in which I have helped to merge the climate movement with social justice.

I am running for office because I want to build a stronger foundation of our Democracy through expanding voting rights and encourage more people to participate in the policy process. I want to utilize my experience in constituent services to help restore our faith in government by engaging constituents effectively and meeting their needs. An elected position is an opportunity to be a leader and move us towards a world where the family we were born in or how we choose to identify isn't a barrier to our dreams and being happy. As hard as it may be to achieve, I believe we must strive for this ideal vision and I seek a higher platform to help us get there.

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

I am able to remember people and past conversations well. I'm an excellent listener and an articulate speaker. I know how to multi-task and maintain a high level of performance for an extended period. I am engaging and enjoy meeting new people. I am an innovative thinker. I am capable of building productive relationships with people from across the ideological spectrum and earnestly want to hear diverse viewpoints. I tend to think that challenges can be overcome and optimism can make the unthinkable happen. I have a knack for providing excellent customer service.

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.

As an organizer on President Obama's 2008 election, I led the campaign effort at Penn State University (PSU) that resulted in the most students registered to vote on any college campus in the nation that year. I began this effort in July of that year by building a strong infrastructure – recruiting student interns, developing relationships with PSU Administrators and faculty, student clubs, the PSU football team, local organizations, and mapping out a winning strategy. Through my strong interpersonal skills I was able to build valuable and lasting relationships. This made me effective at the recruitment and retention of volunteers. And with strategic planning, meticulous organizing, capably building student leaders, and being adaptable to changing circumstances I was able to achieve my assigned voter registration targets. I was thrilled to have played a role in such a historic election.

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.

- 1) 2003 - Public Information Officer, Washington State House Democratic Caucus. Role - Support Caucus members in media communication. Skill – communicate state legislative policy to the media in press releases, newsletters, and editorials
- 2) 2004 - Staff Assistant, U.S. Senator Patty Murray. Role – Serve as initial point of contact for inquiries and visitors to Senator Murray’s office. Skills – Constituent communications by phone and letter. Policy research.
- 3) 2006 - Field Organizer, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell’s 2006 reelection. Role – Organize the voter turnout in the 37th Legislative District. Skills – Coalition building. Constituent engagement. Event Planning
- 4) 2007 - Central Washington Organizer, Vote to Approve 4204. Role – Organize the voter turnout in Central Washington, mainly the 4th Congressional District. Skills – Public school district teacher, administrator, and employee engagement and mobilization. Articulating the benefits of public schools. Earning media on policy issues.
- 5) 2008 - Legislative Assistant, Washington State Senator Derek Kilmer. Role – Support Senator Kilmer in his constituent correspondence operations. Skills – Policy research and constituent correspondence
- 6) 2008 - Organizer, Barack Obama for U.S. President. Role – Register every student at Penn State to vote and turn them out to vote. Skills – Constituent engagement. Knowledge of voter registration process. Policy communications.
- 7) 2009 – Intern, Alliance to Save Energy. Role – Support media team at the Alliance in their duties. Skills: Awareness of publicly funded energy conservation education programs.
- 8) 2009-2012, M.P.A. student, University of Washington. Role – Learn and become proficient in making and implementing policy. Skills: - Knowledge of Policy Process. Policy Analysis. Policy writing
- 9) 2010, Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, Introduction to American Government. Role – Educate students about the formation of our government and the structure and status of our democracy. Skills: Deeper awareness of U.S. Constitution and U.S. History. Ability to articulate history of America.
- 10) 2010, Public Policy Intern, American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Role – support AWEA policy staff in advocacy. Skills: Energy Policy Research and Analysis. Policy Process Awareness. Awareness of the role of hydropower in the Pacific Northwest as a source of renewable energy.
- 11) 2010, Intern, White House Council on Environmental Quality. Role – Support Policy Outreach Director in her work. Skills: Stakeholder Engagement. Awareness of executive branch agency coordination. Environmental Policy Research and Analysis.
- 12) 2014-Present, Climate and Clean Energy Campaign Associate, Washington Environmental Council. Role: Support the Climate and Clean Energy Program Director in executing campaigns. Skills: Coalition Building. Awareness of State Legislative politics and policy and budget process. Policy Research and Analysis.

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

The main duty of the office I seek is to craft legislation that is most beneficial to improving the lives of current residents of the 43rd Legislative District and those who will be future residents. This is the most important duty because I must represent their interests and stake in the policy process.

This duty must be accomplished through regular communication with constituents representing the span of interests and needs. It will be my job to inform them of my policy goals and vision, to receive their feedback, and to incorporate their goals into my agenda. It will also be accomplished through engaging and consulting with experts on issues, such as gender justice advocates, climate scientists, revenue analysts, housing rights advocates, social service program providers, public school teachers, etc. Finally, it will be accomplished through relationship building with stakeholders in and outside of the district who will be critical to forming the coalitions of support needed to pass the policy and budget priorities for my district.