

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
Kristine	M	Reeves

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

State Representative, 30th LD, Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

Eight years (Oct 2008 to present)

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Eleven years (2008-2016 & 1989-1992)

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **Democrat**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends to Elect Kristine Reeves

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Federal Way, WA 98093

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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)
PCO - FED 30-3039	Elective	12/1/2014	LD Volunteers, Credentials Chair 2016 LD Caucus

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Not Applicable	

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.)

Ultimately, the life experience of someone who has been reliant on the state system for a variety of reasons – education, foster care, food stamps, healthcare, and more – and now having two small children who are prospering from the investments the state systems made in me, leaves me worried about the capacity of the state to do the same for other families and future generations – sadly leaving the most vulnerable to fend for themselves.

Watching the *McCleary* decision unfold, trying to figure out how to address climate change, and transportation, or preserving our social safety net – it all leaves me worried that we don't have enough people in Olympia with a lived experience of what these investments mean for our future, for my children's future and the future of all working families who rely on those elected officials, to make decisions that will ultimately create economic opportunity for all families in Washington State.

That's why I have decided now is the time to run – to bring my lived experience as a working mother, an economic developer and a strong advocate for underserved communities to ensure that the 30th LD is represented by someone who not only sympathizes with my constituents but can empathize with them, because I have been there.

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

Humility, faith, and tenacity are the core personal tenets that drive my life and work. These are the personal characteristics that will drive my work in Olympia as well.

I firmly believe that a strong representative and leader must first practice humility. The ability to recognize that a title does not denote experience or expertise and be willing to ask for help, meet others where they are in their learning and understanding, and ultimately understand that elected office is about service to our district and those who have put their faith in us as their representative.

As we ask constituents to put faith in their elected representatives, faith is a core tenant of my personal life and my professional perspective. I wear a bracelet with the verse "Hebrews 11:1" which reminds me to live daily with faith. The verse says "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen". It reminds me to fight for the things that matter and believe that all things are possible.

This leads me to my last characteristic which is tenacity. Change is hard. Leadership is hard. But if you work with humility and have faith that the work you are doing is in the best interest of those who have elected you to represent them, then being determined about the work, committed to the cause and tenacious in the effort is important to creating change and being a leader.

Part of being a leader and creating change has to be about being willing to focus on problem solving and compromise. I am an individual with a strong record of focusing on solving problems to help people and have worked with humility and faith to create compromise to solve problems on behalf of working families and look forward to bringing that same tenacity to my work as a state legislator.

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 most proud of becoming a parent. It sounds cliché but for me, the daughter of a single mother who was a drug addict and an alcoholic, becoming a parent was something that scared me. The fear and uncertainty of what my parenting style would be and what lessons I would have to rely upon as I became a parent left me worried about my ability to contribute. What I recognize as I grow into this role is my ability to prioritize what is really important, to stay focused on things even when they don't work out the way you hoped initially, and persevere when your patience is tested to the extreme. So in answering this question, I genuinely describe my children as my greatest accomplishment. Because becoming a responsible parent to my two children and fighting daily to make sure they have every opportunity to succeed is my proudest accomplishment.

However, I am equally proud of the last eight years of my work both at the federal and state level in support of veterans and their families. From my efforts to implement the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 across Washington State which has helped lead us to being considered a national leader in supporting our transitioning service members and their families to my work with small to medium sized businesses who have grown overly reliant on US Department of Defense spending diversify their market shares into other growing industries in our state to ensure that our industrial base remains strong which helps our state's economy remain strong. In that role, I successfully wrote a \$5.3M federal grant that has allowed the state to support this work and develop our economy in this space. I believe my capacity to analyze complex problems and issues and identify clear and measurable actions to solutions that matter has been part of my success and I look forward to bringing that same capacity to my work as a state legislator.

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.

In the public service realm, I was Chair of the Spokane Democrats from 2006-2007 and currently serve as a PCO for my precinct. These roles have taught me the value of supporting an all volunteer force and valuing the contributions of everyone in our communities while also helping me develop an understanding – that unlike any other work you may do in your life – democracy is the one place everyone should feel they can have a say and an opinion. Ultimately, it taught me that real leadership isn't about titles, it's about making sure that the least among us is heard and valued in such a way that every voice has input.

In terms of employment, I have had the honor of working for a public four year university (WSU), a private four year university (Gonzaga) and a community college (Spokane). In each of these roles, I developed strong international relations skills, empathy, and a willingness to put myself in others shoes. I also learned the importance of government process and the real impact it can have on others lives during my work as an immigration advisor.

In my transition to District Staff for US Senator Patty Murray from 2008-2013 I came to really understand the value of listening and the value of being heard and understanding that the two were not the same thing. This is a skill that I bring to my work daily now and one that would come with me in my service to the 30th LD. I also learned that not all problems are solved with money and that the value of creative problem solving can be a key skill in public service. Now, as an agency staffer for Governor Jay Inslee from 2013 to the present, I am building out skills in management, delegation, understanding the importance of public-private partnerships and strengthening my skill-set around collaboration and problem solving.

In the community, I have been involved with Spokane Regional Labor Council (2006-2008), Truman National Security Project (2016), National Professional Women's Association (2013-2014), Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (2007-present), Spokane Regional Task Force on Human Relations (2005-2007), Association of Defense Communities (2013-present), Washington State Military Transition Council (2013-present), American Cancer Society (1999-present), and the March of Dimes (2007-present). All of these organizations have taught me the importance of service above self and passion around things that are important to me. Participation in these organizations in my community are direct representations of my values.

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

I believe the most important duty of serving as an elected official is to listen to those you represent, understand the problems that face them and find opportunities to solve those problems with the resources available to you as an elected official.

I have a demonstrated history of listening to all voices, working with humility and tenacity to find real solutions to problems facing the organization, community or state I am part of and building coalitions, partnerships and collaborations that support common solutions.