

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
Jason	M.	Ritchie

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): **State Representative, 5th LD, Position 1**

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

For about 10 years.

5. How long have you resided in King County?

For about 12 years.

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Ritchie for Washington**

Address: **P.O. Box 2165**

City/State/Zip: **Issaquah, WA 98027**

Campaign Phone: **425-324-6888**

Campaign E-mail: **jason@ritchieforwa.com**

Campaign Website: **ritchieforwa.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)
Washington State Independent Living Council	Appointed by Gov. Inslee	2015 to present	Legislative and Policy Committee Chair

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

Office Title	Year of Run
8 th Congressional District, Democratic nominee	2014

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'm running for State Representative to put progress over partisanship and grow middle class, living wage jobs in my community and my state. I'm hoping to bring my experience starting and running a small business to the legislature so that we can actually make progress on some of the difficult issues that confront our state. My focus will be on finding a solution to the K-12 funding issue, creating transportation alternatives and revising our tax structure so that we are more competitive in bringing in new businesses and new job opportunities into our state.

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

I love a challenge and I don't know the meaning of quit. I wake up every morning knowing that I have an opportunity to earn a living for my family, better my community, and to prove to myself that I can accomplish my goals. I go out of my way to make sure that those around me and that work with me know that I have their backs in whatever issues we confront together. Loyalty and perseverance are critical to me. I intend to bring these qualities with me as I represent my community in Olympia.

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 being a father. My sons and my wife are the most important things in my life and I try every day to earn the trust and love that they have for me. I am proud of being able to start, build and successfully run my business, Handi Habitats. Working with people with physical challenges, helping them to have safety and independence at home is something I am honored to be able to do. Over the past three years, I have worked very hard to grow my campaign and to bring up the issues in my community that I think are most important. My volunteer base, my donor base and the people that work with me believe in me as much as I believe in them. The organization we have built has grown to become resilient, confident, and ready for the challenge of this election year.

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.

Over the past 10 years, I have become a small business owner serving my community and my state. My company, Handi Habitats, helps people with physical challenges to live safely and comfortably at their homes and helps businesses become ADA compliant. I help members of my community become independent and businesses to be universally accessible. I work with skilled trades including carpenters and plumbers, medical personnel including nurses and doctors, insurance carriers and attorneys every day. My role is to understand their diverse perspectives and to find solutions to everyone's needs. I have worked with the VA, local municipalities, and everyone in between. My experience running my business has provided me with a unique set of skills that have shown me clearly that working together to achieve a common goal is not only possible but is required in order to move forward. I intend to bring this skill set to Olympia.

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

Beyond serving in the legislature during session and committee assignments, the responsibility of a State Representative is to listen and convey the ideas, concerns and hopes of the constituents and community organizations to the State. Building relationships, creating alliances – these are the attributes that I've built over the past decade in my business and that I intend to bring to Olympia. It's about progress over partisanship.