

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
Cindy		Ryu

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

State Representative 32nd LD Pos. 1

3. Are you the incumbent? X Yes No

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

33 years (Shoreline, Lynwood, Edmonds)

5. How long have you resided in King County?

28 years (Seattle, Shoreline)

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democratic Party

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends For Cindy Ryu

Address: **PO Box 33548**

City/State/Zip: **Seattle, WA 98133-0548**

Campaign Phone: **206-605-1588**

Campaign E-mail: **FriendsForCindyRyu@yahoo.com**

Campaign Website: **www.CindyRyu.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 32 nd LD Pos 1	Elective	2011-Present	Chair, Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs. Co-chair, Members of Color Caucus. Deputy Whip. Assistant Whip
Shoreline City Councilmember	Elective	2006-2009	Mayor (elected by fellow councilmembers)

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Shoreline City Councilmember	2003
Shoreline City Councilmember	2009

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.)

When I arrived in Olympia six years ago in the Legislature, we were in the middle of the great recession. Because of our regressive tax structure our states revenue had plummeted, leading to several rounds of budget cuts and shredding of our human services safety net.

In spite of repeated attacks on the most needy among us, on women and on working families, I worked with some of my colleagues to overturn Tim Eymans anti-democratic initiative that required a 2/3 majority in each Chamber of the Legislature for any tax votes even tax exemptions and any hopes of tax reform.

We beat back repeated attempts to expand payday lending and we implemented Obamacare to insure more Washingtonians. We improved the way business is conducted, whether in cosmetology, in financial services, or vehicle sales. We finally kept our public college tuition in check, and we are making progress in building classrooms and infrastructure.

There is still a lot of work to do and I want to return to the Legislature to: fully fund public education, increase mental health support, address global warming, implement changes to use of force in community policing, and continue the work just begun as the new chairperson of the Community Development, Housing, and Tribal Affairs committee.

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

I am persistent and stick to my principles in spite of overwhelming adversity. Many politicians are accused of “drinking the Kool-Aid” and I had seen some of my colleagues lose touch with the constituents at the city council level, while enjoying the title and the office. Many of us worked hard and served in several local and regional committees, so the office and the people we serve with can easily take precedence over the people we serve. I will never forget why I chose to run for office in spite of not winning every campaign, whom I am serving, and what it takes to become an effective 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 a couple of consumer protection policy issues that had majority and bi-partisan support in both Legislative Chambers on which I took the lead: Defeat payday lending expansion efforts in each long session and when the “non-profit” debt counseling services wanted an increase in their rates, I proposed and gained the support for these operators to turn in detailed industry data to the Department of Financial Institution for the next two years. This will be the first time any such information is available for us to have a truly informed policy discussion.

I have led, along with Sen. Bob Hasegawa, the Members of Color Caucus the past two years. We became a cohesive group in spite of our vastly differing positions and districts that we represent. We accomplished many of our policy goals including finally passing the Closing The Opportunity Gap policy bill.

In the midst of our angst on use of force by law enforcement, earlier this year I introduced HB 2908, An act relating to establishing the joint legislative task force on community policing standards for a safer Washington. In this short and intense session, I worked with members of both parties in the House and the Senate to have it pass nearly unanimously and signed by the Governor.

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.

I serve on the Shoreline Schools Career and Technical Education General Advisory board. Even though I took the college and graduate school route when I was much younger, I understand and support the need for career and technical education. I supported adding a CTE class to our high school education requirements.

Serving on the UW Consulting and Business Development Center advisory board is one way I am giving back to the school, to stay in touch with academia, and the business members who support our future business leaders.

I had the privilege of serving on the Lynnwood Economic Development committee to make sure that as Light Rail arrives in 2023 and the challenges of funding a small city operations continues, the City's leadership had community support in making Lynnwood a better and welcoming place to live, work, and play.

I served on the Richmond Beach Community Association, Shoreline Chamber as member, Board Member and as President, Dollars for Scholars as President, and at the United Presbyterian Church of Seattle as Sunday School Teacher and supported their Summer Feeding program. These were wonderful foundations on which I built my constituency services and outreach.

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

As a member of the Legislature, I have the duty and privilege to consider policy changes on behalf of the people of the State of Washington. I believe this is the most important duty as these policies dictate the rules of engagement for the state, its people, businesses, local governments, and institutions. The policies also dictate how and how much we are taxed to provide the finances for the operation of the state and local governments.

The second duty is funding. The appropriations, or lack there-of, is how we implement the policies of our state. We are currently in contempt of the Washington State Supreme Court on funding of our Common Schools – the one and only obligation under our state's constitution. We also are under-funding our mental health services and Native Tribes through the court system brought the obligation of the state and local governments to make salmon passage possible in our transportation-related culverts.

The third duty is how I communicate with my constituents. I and my office respond to all emails, letters and phone calls from the 32nd Legislative District constituents. We send out newsletters and eNews regularly as long as they are permitted under campaign laws and rules. Since I campaign every two years, I make sure my campaign literature functions as highlights of my policy priorities and always has contact information as well as reminding the voters when the election date is.

The fourth duty is how I work with my colleagues. I believe in the "No Surprise" principle. I also believe in working collaboratively, among my Caucus members and across the aisle.