

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
Charles		Schaefer

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

Representative, 33rd District, Position 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

27 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

27 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Libertarian

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Charles For State Rep

Address: 258 S 156th #22

City/State/Zip: Burien, WA 98148

Campaign Phone: (206) 241-0665

Campaign E-mail: CharlesSchaefer89@gmail.com

Campaign Website: Votecharles.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?

-
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 because I believe in individual liberty. I believe that individuals have self-ownership and the fundamental right to control their life, liberty and property so long as their actions do not infringe on the equal rights of others. The primary function of government is to protect those rights and that is my commitment if elected to serve as State Representative.

I think the best government is one that is local, transparent and responsive to it's constituents. I want to cut down on the state bureaucracy and empower local jurisdictions to be able to innovate and respond to the concerns of their citizens. This includes reducing the amount of taxes collected at the state level in favor of allowing communities to determine their own taxing levels through the ballot or their elected bodies.

I am concerned about environmental pollution because of the negative impacts it has on the health and property of our communities. In the 33rd district, the biggest source of pollution is Sea-Tac airport. While I recognize the positive contributions of the Port to our economy, that does not excuse the fact that they have policies in place that attract airlines which are ranked as some of the least environmentally conscious in the industry. As a result, communities under the flight path suffer from higher rates of several forms of cancer and other diseases than the county-wide average.

Finally, I want to cut down on administrative regulations by state agencies. While I recognize the benefits of delegating authority over narrowly-defined policy areas to experts in those fields, I believe the current process for legislative review of those regulations is limited and inefficient. The elected representatives in the legislature should retain direct control over this process. One of my first actions would be to propose a simple fix that would allow for direct amendment of such regulations by either the state legislature or the people acting through the initiative process.

Thank you for considering me. I would be honored to have your support.

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

I am a negotiator. I enjoy being able to articulate my ideas and find areas of compromise even during difficult situations. I gave public testimony to the Burien city council during their highly contentious review of their council rules, and suggested a compromise amendment to some language they were considering that was offered by one of the council members and passed with a unanimous vote.

I maintain a positive focus. I have already had several people ask me if running as a Libertarian would be a problem, considering that I am going up against a Democrat and a Republican who are both well known in the community. My response is always the same: I look at it as an opportunity. I believe mine is the first Libertarian campaign in my district and as such I have the unique opportunity to present a perspective that many voters will have never heard before and I believe they will like what they hear.

I respect everyone. Especially those with whom I disagree. That is why I am running a campaign based around the idea that people should be free to make their own choices even if I do not personally agree with them. The best way to build an inclusive society is not to legislate, it is to respect others so they in turn will respect you.

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 was elected to my church board, where I served for three years. It is the only time I have been elected to anything and, while not being a political position, shows that a group of people who know me as well as anyone believed that I had the wisdom and character that qualified me to be a leader.

I volunteer every week at Transform Burien, which is a local ministry that provides a food bank, clothing bank, job preparation and other services for the homeless and low-income in my community. My position is that private charity is more effective at helping those who are seeking help than government programs, and my experience as a volunteer, in addition to directly contributing to solve these issues, has given me the knowledge to discuss them as an integral piece of my campaign.

I am a regular participant in community discussions, through testimony at council meetings, participation in local events and even interaction in local social media groups. I am generally respected even by those with whom I disagree because I always contain my focus to the issues and I believe I have been able to articulate the libertarian philosophy to provide solutions to the issues that my community faces.

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.

Member, Burien Teen Leadership Council (2004-2007)
Vice President, 2006-2007 school year

Member, Burien Free Methodist Church (2010-present)
Board member and secretary, 2013-2015

Volunteer, Transform Burien (2014-present)

Volunteer, Burien Clean Sweep, Strawberry Festival, and other community events (various years)

I have attended Burien city council meetings for several years and started regularly attending (every meeting) early 2015

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

The primary duty of a state representative is to vote on bills that come before the legislature. These bills impact every aspect of life in every corner of our state. Unlike most politicians, I have the humility to admit that I do not know how others should best live their lives and as such I will not restrict their right to choose a path for themselves.

I also will be a voice for my constituents in Olympia. To the extent that I govern, I should do it in accordance with the wishes of my constituents. That may mean supporting specific measures even if I disagree with them, provided it is consistent with my commitment to protect individual rights.

