

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
Ramiro	M	Valderrama

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

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes x No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? – 12 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? – 12 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: GOP

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Vote Valderrama

Address: 704 228th Ave NE, PMB #735

City/State/Zip: Sammamish, WA 98074

Campaign Phone: 425-898-9777

Campaign E-mail: Ramiro@votevalderrama.com

Campaign Website: http://www.votevalderrama.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)
City Council Sammamish	Elected	Jan 1, 2011 -	Deputy Mayor, Chair Public Safety , Legislative, Utilities and Finance
SCA Regional Committee Law Justice and Public Safety	Appointed	Jan 2016 -	Vice Chair
Board - East Side Fire and Rescue	Appointed	Jan 2011 -	Board Member and on Personnel Committee and Technical Task Force

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 want to run for this office so that I can bring renewal and reform to Olympia. I plan to build on my past professional, community and public service work where I have proven to be effective by listening to the citizens, encouraging their participation in government and working with colleagues and people of different interests to jointly solve complex issues.

Citizens in the 45th Legislative District and in the State of Washington need to come together and overcome the polarization of government and society in order to find solutions to important issues related to education, transportation, balanced growth and the environment. Today many citizens feel that all levels of government are disconnected and don't represent their interests. I have a proven track record of representing and advocating for citizens at each level of government and, through my work I have often been called "the proven advocate" in the city of Sammamish.

Prior to my service on the City Council, I created the grass roots group of Citizens for Sammamish (CFS) as a forum for citizens to voice and their concerns and knowledge of the community and address critical issues. As a council member I have built upon this approach to ensure the voice of the citizens are heard and taken into account. As a State Representative I want to continue this approach and not only encourage the participation of diverse groups throughout the 45th but, also to empower our citizens at a higher level.

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

I am an independent thinker who actively listens to and values the opinions of others. I have often been called the "proven advocate" of the people. I like to elicit diverse opinions and perspectives and to question the standard approaches and "business as usual". I maintain a highly visible presence through the community, being accessible and to our citizens, local businesses and public entities not just to better represent them but, because I genuinely enjoy interacting with people. While I like to seek and work toward win – win solutions, I am not afraid of taking a stand that might be different from the majority, bringing in new ideas and supporting the opinions of the public. In addition to my role on the City Council, I am very active in the community. I volunteer with the schools' sports programs and serve as an advisor to the Lake Washington School District High School STEM startup. I am also active with community service

organizations like the Rotary where I am the International Service Chair. I also serve on the boards and advisory panels for non-profit organizations, and on regional public safety boards like the Eastside Fire & Rescue, and am Vice Chair of the Sound Cities Association Regional Committee on Law, Justice and Public Safety.

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 very proud to have played an instrumental role in Sammamish's adoption of its Environmental Critical Areas Ordinance. Sammamish was the first city to review its Ordinance and consider more flexibility. In this contentious subject, I was cited by the local press as the "Anthony Kennedy" of the City Council for bringing consensus to the Council. By bringing opposing sides together, facilitating open discussion, we were able to surface the concerns of opposing sides and reach acceptable win-win compromises. As cited by one of my fellow Council Members summarized my role, *"He is our city's conscience on fiscal accountability and wise spending. Ramiro has worked hard to ensure Sammamish balances responsible growth with protection of the environment, and at a pivotal point in time he was THE deciding vote in favor of protecting our quality of life. It is a pleasure to serve with Ramiro, a positive force on our council."*
 - Prior to being elected to the Council I helped found the grass roots organization Citizens for Sammamish, which brought together citizens to meet monthly in a Town Hall forum and share their interests and concerns. Citizens for Sammamish created interest groups that allowed research on topics of interest, such as connectivity, Senior Services, Town Center Development, environmental issues, government transparency and accountability. The group also provided a valuable technical resource to augment the city. To this day, monthly meetings have regular attendance by water, park and planning commissioners, council members and other active local groups. A local newspaper called the CFS meetings – *"where real policy issues are first discussed."*
 - In 2015, our city faced an enormous challenge when King County launched its efforts to expand the East Lake Sammamish Trail. The plans were developed by King County without regard to the damage being caused to the lake environment, deforestation and respect for private property. For eighteen months, I alone on the Council, advocated for the citizens against the City and the County until the problem was finally recognized and respect for the environment and citizens was embraced. In the subsequent sections on the trail, the city did side with the citizens (both property owners and environmentalists) in law suits against the County and is now working to ensure that their positions are always heard.
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 have been active at many levels of local, county, state, federal and international government. I have been:

- An active officer (Vice President) in my local homeowners association, (2004- 2010)
- Founded local citizens groups like the Eastlake Parkway coalition; (2005-2007)
- Founder and leader of the grass roots citizen group (Citizens for Sammamish) and Town Hall forum; (2007 – 2011)
- Worked with the local high schools in sports (2006-2012) and advising the LWSD on the Stem Start Up initiative (2015-present)
- Chair of the International Services Committee of the Rotary; (2012-present)

- Worked as a board member and advisor to non profits, (2000 – present)
- Worked as a Vice President/General Manager for Fortune 100 companies and consulting firms leading global initiatives for technology, including KPMG, Oracle, Microsoft and SAP (1982-present);
- Serve as Council Member on various city committees including legislative, utilities, finance, human services; (2011-present)
- Serve as Deputy Mayor, on Board of Eastside Fire and Rescue (2011- present), Vice Chair of the SCA Regional Committee on Law, Justice and Public Safety (2016-present)
- Served as Mission Chief, Chief of Party to multi lateral organizations (US AID, World Bank, IMF, etc.) working with ministries and heads of state around the world. (1984-present)
- Designed and led courses for the World Bank Institute for senior Public Administration Officers (State and Federal level) across Latin America for Government modernization, automation and use of mobile government. (1990-1993)
- Designed and implemented for the US Congress a Monitoring and Management System to for all US assistance to Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union (at all levels of Government) to include Treasury, Agriculture, State Department, Health and Human Services, US AID, grantees etc. (1992-1995)

I have worked with citizens to engage the Cities, County and our State officials, promoting dialogue and leveraging the considerable knowledge and expertise within our community to develop effective solutions to the many complex challenges we are facing.

I have extensive experience in Local, State and Federal government in addition to experience in more than 70 countries with Fortune 100 corporations.

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

The duties of a Washington State Representative are: to listen to concerns of constituents and together with other state representatives, work to find practical solutions and garner resources that will support the legislative district and complement the other districts in the state.

I believe the most important duties are to be accessible and to listen and value the input of our citizens. Likewise, there is a need to engage the state government and citizens to work together and better understand one another and their challenges and opportunities. I recognize that while I represent my 45th legislative district, I also represent the State of Washington and that ultimately we are ONE Washington. The ultimate success of our district is also dependent on a strong State of Washington. Together with the other representatives, we need to work to reduce challenges to the district and state citizens and business through legislative action, and find resources to support our success.