

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
Brooke		Valentine

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

Washington State House of Representatives 47th District Seat 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 13 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 17 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democratic

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Brooke Valentine

Address: 27177 185th Ave SE STE 111-189

City/State/Zip: Covington WA, 98042

Campaign Phone: 206-271-5137

Campaign E-mail: wavalentine@msn.com

Campaign Website: Votebrookevalentine.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)
N/A			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

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.)

For me it started with feeling like the current elected officials don't represent many of my views, and the views of most people I know who live in the district. As a longtime advocate for children and families in my community, I have tried multiple time to recruit others to run for office, and while I succeeded in getting community leaders to run for the local school board, it has been difficult to get anyone to run for state level office. I realized during the last election cycle that in this area I have to lead by example and take the challenge that I had previously been asking others to do.

I knew that running for office at this level would be a challenge, a step outside my comfort zone, but also an opportunity. An opportunity to deepen my service to my community. An opportunity to show my children that women are political leaders and teach them the importance of serving the community at every level.

Making the official decision to run was actually easy, because for me it isn't just about this election, or this term in office, it's about building capacity in future leaders, learning about all the challenges and barriers around running for office, learning how to create change in Olympia for families in my community, and gaining the skills I need so that I can better support the next generation of leaders.

Of course there is also my frustration about the lack of progress on issues that impact me and my community. I have been a strong advocate for improving our public schools for over a decade, I figured it was time to try another tactic, instead of lobbying my elected officials to make the right vote and put our kids and working class families first, I should put myself in the position to be the one who is making the right votes for my community.

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

I believe I bring multiple characteristics that enhance my ability to serve the people of the 47th. Most important of those, resilience, integrity, willingness to listen, and the ideal of stewardship.

I am a compassionate person, who finds myself connecting easily with people, I believe in people, investing in their success, my resilience helps me to relate to people from all walks of life, to have empathy and understanding and remain inspired to stay the course through setbacks and tough choices, to endure criticisms and reflect on my success and failures without becoming overwhelmed.

Integrity, along with an honest straightforward approach, will help me to work above drama and distractions, build strong lasting relationships with my colleagues and constituents in order to focus on outcomes, it also helps me to learn quickly from my errors and missteps, and listen to critical feedback that is meant to help me become a better leader.

Belief in stewardship, that my leadership is temporary, and at all times I am working towards long term vitality, thoughtful well rounded public policy, lasting government, and building pathways for future leaders. We need a citizenry that has the capacity to engage and participate in its civic duty, when people from all income levels and cultural backgrounds vote on a regular basis, run for office and take on community leadership we are all better served.

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.

In December of 2013 a school board member from the district I live in and a member of the Citizens for Kent Schools levy campaign, reached out to me to help him lobby the other school board members and change the dollar amount of the levy that that the district was going to put on the ballot in February of 2014. He felt that with the current plan the district was leaving much needed dollars on the table. I considered his request, did some research and agreed to reach out to other school board members and ask them to consider retracting the current levy proposal and vote to move forward at a higher amount. Our time was limited, but working with other community members we pleaded our case and succeeded. Unknown to me at this time, the current chairs of the levy campaign were not in the agreement with the increased levy amount, and the day after the school board vote on the increase, just 2 ½ months before the election the two chairs resigned. I was asked to take on the role and chair the levy campaign. It was a tough decision, I had only ran one other campaign on my own prior to this, and the committee was divided, had limited resources and was on a short timeline. I reached out to my mentors, and my employer to discuss the decision and help me develop and action plan, then I accepted the challenge. My first step was to analyze the committee structure and resources, then unite and inspire the committee for the 2 months of hard work we had ahead of us. I had to work quickly to build a consensus among the remaining committee members, we wouldn't be able to inspire the voter turnout needed if we didn't believe in what we were working on. With the limited financial resources I worked to prioritize our spending, ensuring that each dollar we spent would give us a solid return our investment. We quickly and thoughtfully developed messaging that showed voters the value a successful levy would bring to our diverse community. I worked closely with community groups that represented the diverse populations that make up our district to connect with all communities that would be impacted by the levy, voters and nonvoters. I collaborated with multiple labor organizations to support and develop the ground game we would need to get out the vote. It was a huge effort and I learned so many things along the way. How important diverse community input is at every step, that when your resources are limited it is even more important that you are thoughtful and use data to drive effective decision making, and that building trust and open communication in your team is everything. Without the support of a dedicated team, it's difficult to succeed.

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.

PTA Roles

Sawyer Woods Elementary PTA - Book fair Chair 2007-2010, Legislative Chair 2006-2010, Clothing Bank Chair 2009-2010

Grass Lake Elementary PTA - Clothing Bank Chair 2009-2013, Book Fair Chair 2009-2012, Legislative Chair 2009-2012, President 2012-2013, Outstanding Advocate Award 2013

Cedar Heights Middle School PTA – Advocacy Chair 2015-2016, Awards Committee 2015-2016

Kent Lake High School PTSA – Advocacy Chair 2015-2016

Kent Area Council PTA- Legislative Chair 2012-2013, 2015-2016, Clothing Bank Chair 2011-2015, Outstanding Advocate Award 2012

Region 9 - Legislative Chair and Service Delivery Team 2009-2011

State PTA- Washington State PTA Legislative Director 2015, CCSS Committee 2009-2011, Standards of Excellence Judge 2009, Standards of Excellence Chair 2010-2011.

Issue Submitter Legislative Platform multiple years, multiple issues,

Washington State PTA Legislative and Advocacy trainer/presenter 2014-2015,

Planned and organized 2015 Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly,

Planned and organized PTA candidate forums 2015, 2012

PBIS Roles

NorthWest PBIS Network Conference Planning Committee Chair 2012-2015

NorthWest PBIS Network Finance Committee 2012-2014

Washington State PBIS/MTSS Advisory Committee Member 2012-2014

Kent Community Roles

Girl Scout Troop Treasurer 2008-2011

Citizens for Kent Schools, Chair 12/2013-2016

Communities in Schools Mentor 2012-2013

Kent School District Family Engagement Committee 2012-2014

Kent School District Citizens Bond Review Committee 2009-2012

Kent School District Discipline Policy Review Committee 2012

Campaign Manager Re-Elect Debbie Straus Kent School Board Director 2011, 2015

Excel Public Charter School Board Member 2013-2016

Excel Public Charter School Academic Excellence Committee 2015-2016

Professional Organizations

United Transportation Union, Member 1999-2002, Safety Captain 2000

South King County Association of Realtors 2003-2009

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

To help conduct the business of the state by, listening to concerns of constituents, introduce bills and amendments, serve on committees and pass a balanced state budget. Be proactive in reducing challenges through good policy making, and provide resources to ensure state and district success. I believe that each duty is vital, but if I was going to pick one it would be the duty to listen and learn about the concerns of constituents, I need to see, hear and understand issues that impact the quality of life for those in my district in order to develop and support policies that would improve outcomes.