

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
Lisa		Wellman

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): State Senate, 41st LD

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 16 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 16 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democrat

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Lisa Wellman

Address: 3040 78th Ave NE, PO Box 1725

City/State/Zip: Mercer Island, WA 98040

Campaign Phone: 206-236-0354

Campaign E-mail: info@wellmanforwasenate.org

Campaign Website: Wellmanforwasenate.org

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 Public Works Board	Appointive	2014-present	
Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board	Appointive	2006-2013	Vice Chair (voted by board members)
Lake Forest (Illinois) Library Board	Appointed	1981-1987	President (last year)

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?
-

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.)

Simply put, I'm running for State Senate because I'm frustrated with the lack of results from Olympia on some of the biggest issues facing our state: education, transportation, healthcare, and jobs. Rather than getting things done, often it seems as though our legislature is more focused on scoring political points and partisan bickering. After starting my career as a schoolteacher and transitioning to the business world, where I spent decades focusing on results and being held accountable to the bottom line, I'm ready to get to work and get things done for my district and for Washington State.

Additionally, I've dedicated my life to building community: I've volunteered, I was an educator, and I've served on boards with the mission of supporting and building strong communities. I believe wholeheartedly in the idea that we must take care of our neighbors and that we all do better when we all do better. You only one life and I can't imagine a better way to spend mine than in service to others. That's ultimately what helped me make my decision to run and, I'm sure, what will motivate me to work hard every single day of this campaign and every single day of my time in the legislature.

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

The most important personal characteristic that relates to service in the State Senate is both the depth and breadth of my experience. As I mention above, I began my career as a schoolteacher, so I understand firsthand both the joy and the challenges that those educating our children face every day. From there, I transitioned into the business world and have worked with and for companies large and small. I served as Vice President at Apple Computers and now work as a Business Consultant. I currently serve on the Washington State Public Works Board, which manages and advises on economic growth and community development in our state's infrastructure investments. I've worked in the public sector and private sector and have an understanding of the challenges, plights, and opportunities from both perspectives. I believe there is use in everything and that experience is cumulative, that I forever carry with me the experience of teaching kindergartners and second graders how to read and do math just as I carry my ability to negotiate and deliver a project on-time and under budget from my time at Apple.

Additionally, another characteristic that I believe is relevant to serving as a legislator is my ability to get to the point and get results. Too often, our elected officials get caught up in dancing around the point or in the theatrics of politics. I believe in delivering results and in strong accountability. I want to be able to measure the effectiveness of any given program or tactic so that we can make sure that program or tactic or legislation is accomplishing its intended purpose.

Also, it's imperative that our legislators and other elected officials are able to create a vision of what we're trying to accomplish and then inspire and empower others to help do the work to get there. I have a vision for my community and I'm ready to get to work to make it happen.

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.

One of the things that I'm proudest of in my life is my marriage. My husband and I were together for almost 50 years before he passed away. Marriage takes an incredible amount of work and a strong commitment. To make it over 50 years, through so many life changes and ups and downs, I think, shows that I don't take my commitments lightly and that I don't do things halfway. Marriage taught me teamwork, humility, compromise, strength, and that even the best things in life take a lot of effort and a lot of work. I am proud of the time that I got to spend with my husband and the life that we built together for our family.

Another experience that I'm immensely proud of is being a mentor. I currently formally mentor through the Foster Business School at the University of Washington but I have long found mentoring a rewarding use of my time. I am very lucky and have worked very hard to build the success that I've achieved in my life and to have the opportunity to share what that's like and who I am with younger men and women looking to develop their own paths is incredible. Each experience gives me greater insight into my own decisions – so it's a mutually beneficial experience. I'm especially proud to mentor some brilliant, hard-working, and courageous young women. Empowerment is a gift – being able to gift that is immensely gratifying.

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've had the great fortune of being involved in a sundry list of community activities. I'll highlight just a few for our purposes today:

Lake Forest, Illinois Library Board 1981-87: During my time on the Library Board, I acquired an acute understanding of fiduciary responsibility and the importance of infrastructure. We were responsible for the budgeting process and that meant setting a realistic budget and setting our priorities for how that money was spent. We had to balance the needs and demands of the community with our number one priority, which was keeping the building safe for the public. The health and safety of the community had to come first. Additionally, if the building is disrepair or isn't functioning well, that can pose a safety threat. Maintaining sound infrastructure is fundamental to a healthy community.

I began my career as an educator, teaching nursery school, kindergarten, and second grade (1970's). My training and experiences taught me to translate challenging concepts in a way that is easily understandable and relatable I believe this is an important function of a legislator and communicator. I'm going to be need to be able to talk about complex pieces of legislation, get to the heart of the issue, and make it clear why it matters in a short timeframe. Being a teacher solidly prepares me for that task. Also, I firmly believe that if you can handle a kindergarten classroom, you have tools to handle a boardroom or the legislature, as the attention span for all those audiences is relatively the same.

Finally, serving on the board of Washington CASH (2006-12), now known as Ventures, was a great lesson in listening, evaluating and testing hypotheses. When I arrived the organization was focused on microfinance. Our success rate was modest. Our objective was to help someone start a business. Over a period of time we realized that in our sophisticated market, we needed to provide business training, group support, mentoring and incubators. We became a microenterprise organization that recognized success could be realized with the start of a business, the patching of part-time work to other employment or the enabling individuals to succeed in jobs they already had. We needed flexible thinking based on evaluating realinformation.

Ventures focuses on the Puget Sound and has loaned funds to primarily women, people of color. I also saw the difference in the work being done and the decisions being made when we included those that the organization was serving at the table. It became clear really quickly that we were better able to offer effective and comprehensive programs when the communities they were meant to serve could speak up, be heard, and fully participate. I was proud to call these communities my colleagues and learned so much from my time working alongside of them. I will take those lessons with me to the legislation. I will proactively seek to work with all stakeholders. Diversity of gender, ethnicity, age, background, and geography are critical when we are thinking about policies of all kinds. Those at the table must be reflective of the communities that will be impacted.

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

Once elected, I would serve as one of 49 state senators who are charged with representing their district, drafting and advancing legislation, writing and approving the state budget, and working with legislators in both chambers and from both parties to deliver results for the people of Washington State. Those are all important duties but I believe that the state budget and building coalitions and relationships are at the top on my list.

The budget is hotly debated every other year and, for the past several sessions, has led to a special session because no agreement can be reached. We must write a budget that reflects our reality. By this I mean no pulling in revenue sources where they do not already exist, no funny math, no making completely unfounded assumptions on how programs are going to be funded without the math or data to back it up.

Additionally, we must fully fund education. We are not meeting our constitutional duty to fund education and that is unacceptable. The legislature has continued to kick the can down the road for years, it's beyond time to do something about it.

The other duty that I see as paramount is working with other legislators to build relationships and coalitions in order to get things done. The political climate both across the country and in our state has become increasingly polarized and partisan. However, there is often common ground to be found and shared interests to work toward. We are not going to end the abortion debate with good relationships but perhaps we can pass legislation that expands access to birth control. We aren't going to solve the issue of gun violence in one session but perhaps we can take steps to reduce violence in our schools. I look forward to building relationships with my colleagues to ensure that our constituents see results and that as a state we are moving toward a better shared future.