

2017 Candidate Questionnaire

**SECTION I**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Preeti		Shridhar

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): Port Commissioner position #4

3. Are you the incumbent?  Yes x No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 25-years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 25-years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

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**CAMPAIGN CONTACTS**

Campaign Name: Preeti for Port

Address: P.O. Box 20792

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98102

Campaign Phone: 206-452-6008

Campaign E-mail: preetiforport@gmail.com

Campaign Website: Preetiforport.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)
Puget Sound Access Board member	Appointed	2008-present	Vice President
Non-elected public service for 25-years		1993-present	Various positions; currently Deputy Public Affairs Administrator

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.)

Port has a tremendous impact on our region contributing billions of dollars to our economy, controlling our airport, creating jobs and impacting our environment. I have been a public servant in King County for 25-years—with the City of Seattle working on recycling and conservation programs and helping to launch Seattle's Climate Protection initiative. I have worked for Renton serving the Mayor and South King County for over a decade managing nationally acclaimed inclusion program, legislative affairs, communications and public affairs.

I would like to be at the table representing our entire region as the Port makes critical decisions that we all have a stake in. Some of the key issues include:

- The airport is key to the success of our region and with recent executive orders impacting our immigrants and community, I would like to represent all in our community in the national debate for immigrants. Being an immigrant myself, and having launched one of the most successful inclusion programs in our region, I believe it is my duty to protect all King County residents and those who want to live here.
- As we see the headlines about the lack of Port's accountability, when there was an open seat I knew that I had to run to ensure transparency and accountability. I have no vested interest and can represent the best interest of the community with integrity and a passion.
- As the Port manages double-digit growth it needs to make sure that the environmental footprint does not grow at the same rate. The Port has the unique opportunity of being the only one in the country to fuel all planes in the airport with bio-fuels, and I would like to make this a priority and will bring my experience with Seattle's Climate Protection initiative and other environmental programs.
- The Port contributes \$20 billion to our economy – it must continue to lead in the aviation, maritime and tourism industry. But I would also like to see opportunities being provided for all and creating an inclusive economy.
- As we look for family wage jobs, I will work hard to protect our working class while developing career paths for our young and new job seekers. I have worked closely with our legislature and our community colleges to bring apprenticeship programs that makes it possible to get jobs in manufacturing industries starting at \$70,000.
- I bring relationships so the Port can create strong partnerships with community leaders, public organizations, cities and other groups.

I have no vested interest but will serve the interests of all.

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

**I am an “Inclusive leader”**—I believe that we can achieve the highest level of success by engaging and including the contributions of all in our community. For the Port this includes key stakeholders, businesses and residents of King County and Port staff. Inclusion means valuing the contributions of and engaging and energizing people, and inspiring them. Inclusion for the Port is also about recognizing who is in our community, hearing from and serving them. This is one of core personal characteristics and as a result I have achieved significant success. I have gained the trust and respect of King County leaders representing various cities, ethnic and diverse community groups such as the Latino community, African-American community, various members of an inclusive task force, my colleagues – administrators/department-heads and my staff. Together we have accomplished a lot more than I could have if I was not truly inclusive. The Port needs a leader who can demonstrate an authentic appreciation for the diverse identities, backgrounds, talents and contributions of all.

**I hold myself to high standards of integrity and honesty** --This is one of my core values and as a Port Commissioner this is very critical. Especially today it is important to raise the bar even higher and to make honest ethical behavior a key value. I have no vested interest in running for this office and my only motivation is to be able to take my experience and qualifications to serve the community. As Port Commissioners we are accountable to the community and also ambassadors of our region. I will live by and communicate my core value of honesty and always be available to our community and respond back to all questions and concerns. I will work hard to use technology to make information open and available.

**I am hard-working, committed and think out of the-box.** I am ready to get down in the trenches working alongside everyone else to get things done. I also have a quick learning curve and am always bringing new ideas. The Port is in a position to make a lot of great and important things happen and by proving my commitment, working hard, and really pushing the administration to take action I will usher in the changes needed to keep the Port and its community commitment strong.

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.

**Seattle’s Climate Protection Initiative/Visit of former Vice President Al Gore:** My work to help launch Seattle’s Climate Protection Initiative is one of the accomplishments in my life that I am very proud of. In 2006, when the federal government refused to follow the Kyoto Protocol, and at the same time when we were experiencing severe impacts of climate change, Seattle (through the Office of Sustainability and Environment) launched the Climate Protection Initiative. This included a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a community-wide event with former Vice President Al Gore and producer Laurie David launching the presentation “An Inconvenient Truth” and the premier of an HBO movie “Too Hot Not to Handle.” I worked on every aspect of this initiative that involved coordination with various environmental groups, working with the community and public, key leaders, and even Hollywood celebrities! The responsibilities were huge and so was the accomplishment. But the biggest sense of accomplishment was when the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s adopted Seattle’s lead and cities across the country agreed to meet the Kyoto Protocol. I believe this experience puts me in a position to make SeaTac the first airport in the country with all planes using bio-fuels and implementing a host of other environmental programs.

**Renton’s Inclusion Program:** My efforts launching Renton’s Inclusion program is another accomplishment I am very proud of. It started in 2008, following a devastating wind-storm when there were fatalities in some of our ethnic communities due to lack of information and communications. I took it upon myself to create connections with members of various ethnic, cultural, racially diverse, faith-based and other diverse communities as a way to include and engage them and share key information. Over the years, inclusion is part of Renton’s mission statement and in the city’s business plan and one that is part of the DNA of the city, and acclaimed throughout our region and country. Once again, I will be able to use this experience, which shows my initiative, creative-thinking, commitment to make the Port of Seattle an inclusive port and a leader in the country.

**Working with the South-Asian community:** During the past few years I have been very active with the South-Asian community in the Puget Sound area to advocate for women’s rights, particularly to give a voice to those who have been victims of sexual abuse. I have participated in various ways – from presenting to the community, to working on a documentary to capture stories and work with organizations that help empower women. Though this does not have a direct connection to the goals of the Port, I do believe this experience has given me the skills to represent the community and fight for critical rights of women. It has also given me the experience to stand-up for issues, and connect with the community. I believe this experience is invaluable and will serve me very well as a Port Commissioner.

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.

As Deputy Public Affairs Administrator for the City of Renton, my responsibilities include the inclusion program and working with different diverse community groups in the city, South King County and the region. I am also responsible for communications and working with the media. I am also responsible for our legislative and regional policy agenda and work closely with our state legislators, regional governments and suburban cities. I am also working on the strategic plan for equitable hiring and contracting. These experiences relate directly to the functions and responsibilities of the Port.

I serve on Renton’s Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and have also been involved in economic development and the Renton Community Marketing Campaign – a partnership with the Renton Chamber, Renton School District, Valley Medical and Renton Technical College. I have specifically been involved in workforce training programs with Renton Technical College to create a qualified workforce for the manufacturing industry. These experiences give me experience to work for the economic development and creating jobs with the Port.

As a resident of Woodinville, I was active with the Northshore School District, when my son was in school. I was the co-chair of the Levy Bond Committee and advocated for education. I have been a volunteer at many community events. With my neighbors, I have been active in the Map your neighborhoods program for emergency preparedness. With these experiences I can represent all of King County residents.

As mentioned above, I am also an active in the South-Asian community and particularly in community advocacy and theater. These connections help me understand the needs of immigrants in our community – one of the priorities for the Port.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?
  - Making sure our regional economy remains strong and the Port continues to lead in the aviation, maritime and tourism industry.
  - Protection the rights of all King County’s residents and those who want to be residents and representing our region in the national immigration debate.
  - Protecting our environment and making sure that as the Port manages double-digit growth it’s environmental footprint does not grow at the same rate.
  - Keeping our region’s working class strong and developing career pathways for young people and new job seekers; building an inclusive economy.
  - Ensuring accountability and transparency and making sure Port decisions benefit all.

These are key priorities to meet the needs of our region, and plan for the future of our community.