



King County
Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	4	Date:	4 Sept. 2013
Proposed No.:	2013-0396	Prepared by:	Nick Wagner

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2013-0396 (Att. 1) would make an appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of state representative for the 41st Legislative District.

BACKGROUND

The 41st Legislative District includes all or parts of the communities of Bellevue, Factoria, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Newcastle, and Renton, among others. The boundaries of the district are shown in the attached map (Att. 2).

One of the state representatives for the 41st Legislative District, Representative Marcie Maxwell, resigned effective 15 July 2013 to become Senior Education Policy Advisor in the Legislative Affairs and Policy Office of Governor Jay Inslee (Att. 3). This has created a vacancy in one of the two positions of state representative for the 41st District.

As King County's legislative authority, the Council is responsible for making an appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of state representative for the 41st Legislative District. Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 4).

The appointee must be from "the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party." Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 4).

The Council must make the appointment "within sixty days after the vacancy occurs." Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 4). Since this vacancy occurred on 15 July 2013, the Council must act no later than Friday, 13 September 2013.

The person appointed by the Council will serve until certification of the election of a successor in November of 2014. RCW 29A.24.171 (Att. 5)

THE NOMINEES

As provided in the state constitution, the King County Democratic Central Committee ("KCDCC") has nominated the following candidates to fill the current vacancy:

1. Ms. Tara Senn
2. Mr. David Ellis
3. Mr. George Pieper II

The nominees are listed in order of preference. As described in a 22 August 2013 letter from Karl de Jong, chair of King County Democrats (Att. 6):

The candidates are presented in ranked order as they were voted for and nominated by the 41st Legislative District Democratic Party organization and subsequently unanimously ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee. You should consider the ranking as the preferred order in which the Democratic Party would expect the Council to consider these candidates.

Biographical information on the nominees, consisting of the questionnaire that each nominee completed as part of the nomination process, is included in these materials as Attachments 7 through 9.

Two recent news articles about the nomination process are also attached (Atts. 10 and 11).

AMENDMENT

In its current form, the proposed motion has a blank for the name of the person to be appointed. The blank will need to be filled in by amendment of the motion.

INVITEES

1. Ms. Tara Senn
2. Mr. David Ellis
3. Mr. George Pieper II

ATTACHMENTS

Page

1. Proposed Motion 2013-0396	3
2. Map of 41st Legislative District.....	5
3. Rep. Maxwell's letter of resignation.....	7
4. Washington State Constitution, art. II, § 15.....	9
5. RCW 29A.24.171	11
6. Letter from King County Democrats	13
7. Tara Senn biographical information	15
8. David Ellis biographical information	23
9. George Pieper II biographical information	29
10. Issaquah Press article.....	37
11. Mercer Island Reporter article	39



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

August 28, 2013

Motion

Proposed No. 2013-0396.1

Sponsors Gossett

1 A MOTION making an appointment to fill the vacancy in
2 the 41st legislative district of the Washington state House
3 of Representatives.

4 WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of state representative for the 41st
5 legislative district due to the resignation of Representative Marcie Maxwell, effective
6 July 15, 2013, following her appointment by Governor Jay Inslee to serve as Senior
7 Education Policy Advisor in the governor's Legislative Affairs and Policy Office; and

8 WHEREAS, the 41st legislative district Democratic precinct committee officers
9 have met to consider candidates for the position; and

10 WHEREAS, the King County Democratic Central Committee has submitted the
11 names of three nominees to fill the vacancy;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

13 _____ is hereby appointed to the position of state
14 representative for the 41st legislative district.
15

Motion

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Larry Gossett, Chair

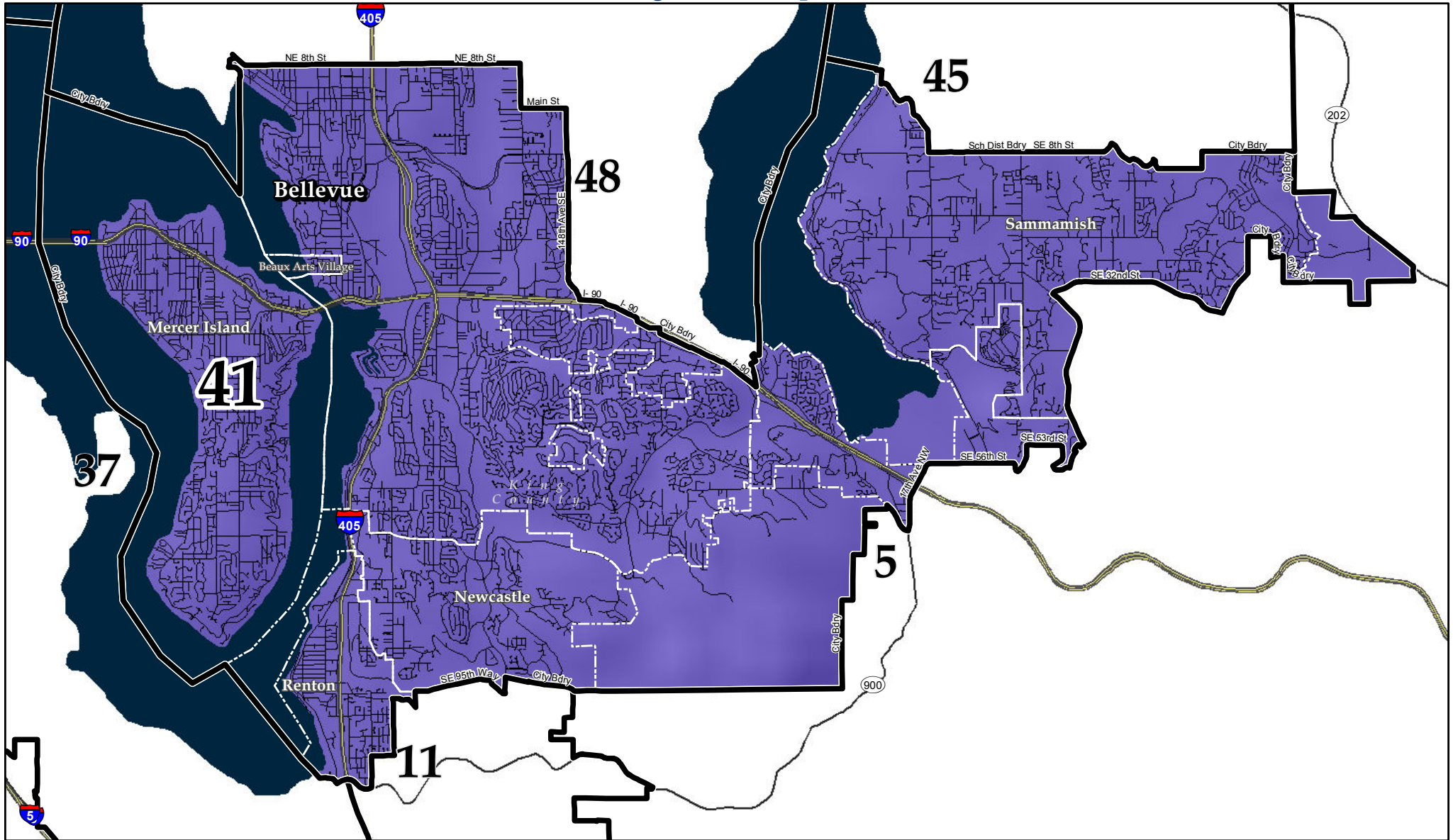
ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None



Legislative District 41



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Datum: North American 1983 Units: Foot US



[Blank Page]

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



July 10, 2013

Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor
State of Washington
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

I'm proud to accept an appointment as Senior Education Policy Advisor in the Governor's Legislative Affairs and Policy Office. In doing so, I am officially resigning my elected position as 41st District State Representative, Position 1. Pursuant to RCW 42.12.020, please accept this as my formal resignation from the Washington State House of Representatives. My resignation will be effective July 15, 2013.

It has been an honor to serve the people of the 41st Legislative District since 2009 as well as a privilege to work with my colleagues in the House of Representatives. I look forward to our continued work together for the people, communities, and future of this great state.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcie Maxwell".

Marcie Maxwell
State Representative
41st Legislative District
425-466-8000

[Blank Page]

Washington State Constitution, Article II, Section 15

VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE. Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority of the county in which the vacancy occurs: Provided, That ***the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party,*** and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment ***within sixty days after the vacancy occurs,*** the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and ***the person so appointed shall hold office until his or her successor is elected at the next general election, and has qualified:*** Provided, That in case of a vacancy occurring after the general election in a year that the office appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected: Provided, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county legislative authorities of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated. [AMENDMENT 96, 2003 House Joint Resolution No. 4206, p 2819. Approved November 4, 2003.] [Emphasis added.]

[Blank Page]

RCW 29A.24.171

Vacancies in office.

(1) If, prior to the first day of the regular filing period, a vacancy occurs in an office that is not scheduled to appear on the general election ballot, leaving an unexpired term for which a successor must be elected at the next general election, filings for that office shall be accepted during the regular filing period. The filing officer shall provide notice of the vacancy and filing period to newspapers, radio, and television in the county, and online. The position shall appear on the primary and general election ballots unless no primary is required or unless a candidate for superior court judge is entitled to a certificate of election pursuant to Article 4 [IV], section 29 of the state Constitution.

(2) ***If, on the first day of the regular filing period or later, a vacancy occurs in an office that is not scheduled to appear on the general election ballot, leaving an unexpired term, the election of the successor shall occur at the next succeeding general election that the office is allowed by law to have an election.*** [Emphasis added.]

[2011 c 349 § 10; 2006 c 344 § 7; 2004 c 271 § 165.]

Notes:

Effective date -- 2011 c 349 §§ 10-12, 27, 28, and 30: "Sections 10 through 12, 27, 28, and 30 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [May 16, 2011]." [2011 c 349 § 34.]

Effective date -- 2006 c 344 §§ 1-16 and 18-40: See note following RCW 29A.04.311.

[Blank Page]

King County Democrats

231 Burnett Avenue North (Carpenters Hall) * Renton, WA 98057
www.kcdems.org



August 22, 2013

TO: Council Chair, Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember District 2
Rod Dembowski, King County Councilmember District 1
Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember District 3
Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember District 4
Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember District 5
Jane Hague, King County Councilmember District 6
Pete von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember District 7
Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember District 8
Reagan Dunn, King County Councilmember District 9

COUNCIL MEMBER
LARRY GOSSETT

AUG 22 2013

RECEIVED
DISTRICT TWO

FROM: Karl de Jong, Chair, King County Democrats

RE: Nominees for the vacancy of the Washington State House of Representatives, Position 1 in the 41st Legislative District

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the charter and bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party, the Washington State Constitution, and the Revised Code of Washington, the King County Democratic Central Committee hereby presents to the King County Council the following individuals as nominees to fill the vacancy for Position 1 of the State House of Representatives, representing the 41st Legislative District:

1. The Honorable, Ms. Tana Senn
2. The Honorable, Mr. David Ellis
3. The Honorable, Mr. George Pieper II

The candidates are presented in ranked order as they were voted for and nominated by the 41st Legislative District Democratic Party organization and subsequently unanimously ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee. You should consider the ranking as the preferred order in which the Democratic Party would expect the Council to consider these candidates.

The following votes were taken on the evening of August 21st by 85 Democratic precinct committee officers (PCOs) in the 41st Legislative District Democratic Party in a series of three votes. In all three ballots Ms. Senn received the most votes.

First Ballot

Tana Senn, 32
David Ellis, 25
George Pieper II, 21
Don Gerend, 6
Gregory Hoover, 1

Second Ballot:

Tana Senn, 37
David Ellis, 24
George Pieper II, 23

Third Ballot:

Tana Senn, 49
David Ellis, 33

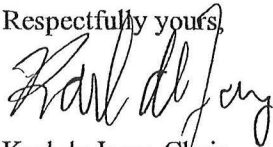
The King County Democratic Central Committee subsequently voted unanimously to forward the top three names in ranked order to the King County Council.

Both Mr. Ellis and Mr. Pieper expressed in front of the plenary that they would honor the votes of the PCOs in the 41st Legislative District Democratic Party and support Ms. Senn for the appointment to fill the vacancy of State Representative, Position 1. However, I do not speak for the candidates and they must communicate directly with you regarding their intent.

I, accordingly, am sending you the three names as selected by the duly elected and appointed PCOs of the 41st Legislative District Democratic Party and ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee as required by the Washington State Constitution, state statute and the state Democratic Party charter and bylaws.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important appointment.

Respectfully yours,



Karl de Jong, Chair
King County Democrats

KING COUNTY DEMOCRATS

ENDORSEMENTS QUESTIONNAIRE – LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE

Candidate Name	Tana Senn
Position sought	State Representative in the 41 st Legislative District
Residence/Legislative District	8426 SE 47 th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040 41 st District
Are you a Democrat?	Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Committee to Elect Tana Senn
Web page	ElectTanaSenn.org (For my Mercer Island City Council race)
Email address	ElectTanaSenn@gmail.com
Manager	Rebecca Warriner, for City Council race
Mailing address	PO Box 910, Mercer Island, WA 98040-0910 (For my Council race)
Phone number	206-369-1253
Consultant(s)	None

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment, previous campaign experience, and other relevant experience.

Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience.

I have a strong communications and public policy skill set, deep community involvement and ideal educational background that will serve me well in Olympia and on the campaign trail.

Work Experience

- **City of Mercer Island**, Councilmember, *Serve as Council liaison to the Utility and Disability Boards. Sit on the Parks and Recreation and Sustainability Subcommittees. Represent the City on the Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee. Appointed to the City's first Sustainability Task Force. Running unopposed for re-election in November.*
- **Elect Debbie Bertlin**, Co-Campaign Manager, *Managed campaign activities and eight-person volunteer committee for Debbie Bertlin who defeated a three-term incumbent for Mercer Island City Council by 19 percentage points. Led marketing, media and strategic activities in particular.*
- **Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle**, Marketing and Communications Director, *Managed all marketing, external communications and fundraising events for Seattle nonprofit that raises over \$6 million annually for distribution to local and international nonprofits. Served on the six-member management team. Supervised four staff members. Acted as an ex-officio board member to the JTNews, Washington State's Jewish newspaper.*
- **Pyramid Communications**, Senior Project Manager, *Worked as a senior member of a 50-person public affairs and strategic communications firm specializing in nonprofit, foundation and government clients.*

- **Hadassah**, National Director—American Affairs/Domestic Policy, *Served as the chief government relations officer on domestic policy issues for 300,000-member, \$94 million national nonprofit. Responsibilities included: policy advising, federal government lobbying, grassroots organizing and training, coalition building and representation, and event planning. Prepared strategic communications including formal policy addresses, Congressional testimony, advocacy advertisements and press releases.*

Community Involvement

- **Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation**, President-Elect & Member, Board of Directors, 2011-2012, Giving from the Heart Breakfast Committee, 2012
- **Island Park Elementary School**, PTA Legislative Representative & Executive Committee Member, 2011-2012; Art docent 2010-2013, Volunteer, 2007-present
- **Mercer Island Patch**, Contributor, 2011-present
- **National Women’s Political Caucus**, Campaign Heroine, 2011
- **Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle**, Member, Board of Directors, 2003-2008; Spitzer Young Leader Award Recipient, 2006; Chair, Government Affairs Committee, 2001-2003
- **National Breast Cancer Coalition**, Member, Board of Directors, 1999-2000
- **New York Coro Alumni Association**, President, 1998-2000
- **Various Political Campaigns**, Volunteer, 1988-present

Education

- **Masters in Public Policy and Administration** from Columbia University
- **Undergraduate degree in Education** from Washington University in St. Louis
- **Coro** national public affairs fellowship

Have you ever been a member of any other political party and/or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, to whom and when?

No.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the right of public sector workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	X		
2	Do you support women’s absolute right to reproductive freedom?	X		
3	Do you support the DREAM Act?	X		
4	Do you support a constitutional amendment requiring super majorities (i.e. 2/3 majorities) for revenue increases at the legislative level?		X	
5	Do you support area standards of wages and benefits?	X		
6	Do you support government regulation of greenhouse gases and other pollutants that contribute to global warming?	X		
7	Do you support federal repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?	X		
8	Do you support Charter Schools? and/or		X	
	School Vouchers?		X	
9	Do you support equal rights and equal pay for women?	X		
10	Do you support Affirmative Action?	X		
	Do you support repeal of I-200?	X		

11	Do you support the KCDCC platform?	X		
----	------------------------------------	---	--	--

* If you answered “Qualified”, please provide more detail to your position:

Please answer the following questions *		Yes	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court-ordered judgments?		X
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		X
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		X

* If you answered “Yes”, please explain your answer:

Please identify the top three issues facing your jurisdiction

1. We need a state transportation funding package that includes local options and fully funding the 520 bridge without relying on I-90 tolls.
2. We must fully fund public education.
3. We can increase the safety of our community with background checks for gun purchases and greater prevention of repeat DUI offenses.

What are the top three messages of your campaign?

1. I have the necessary skills, experience and drive to serve in the legislature *and* to run successfully in 2014.
2. I will carry to and fight for our shared progressive values in Olympia.
3. In Olympia, we need more moms with young kids in public schools, with a proven track record like mine on the Mercer Island City Council.

With respect to the primary messages of your campaign, please describe how you will get this message to voters, and the progress you have made to date. Please include total fundraising to date, anticipated fundraising, and cash on hand.

The “campaign” for the appointment to the 41st Legislative District is a different animal than a traditional campaign. I am calling and communicating with all the 41st PCOs, meeting with Mayors and Councilmembers from Renton, Sammamish, Issaquah, Newcastle and Bellevue, and talking with allies from labor, the environment and women’s groups.

I am honored to have the endorsement of numerous PCOs, Marcie Maxwell, Governor Jay Inslee, Speaker of the House Frank Chopp, King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett, Renton Mayor Dennis Law, Mercer Island Mayor Bruce Bassett, Issaquah City Councilmember Josh Schaer, and many more.

I have read this questionnaire and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Tana Senn	Date August 5, 2013
Signature		

2013 Addendum

What revenue sources, if any, would you support to stabilize budgeting in your jurisdiction?

Our state needs additional revenue to meet the paramount duty of fully funding public education and maintaining critical services for our communities.

- I support an increase in the gas tax to help fund completion of the 520 bridge, public transit services and roads. In addition, I support local options for counties and cities to raise revenue for their own transportation-related needs.
- There are a variety of tax breaks that could be eliminated, eg for oil companies.
- Exploring a carbon tax to help lower green house gas emissions is also an option in which I am interested.
- I support taxes on gum, soda, candy, etc.

What actions will you take to improve access to social safety net programs – be they homeless shelters, affordable and workforce housing, and/or health care, among others – in your jurisdiction?

Supporting those in greatest needs in our community is a value I hold in high regard. I have served on the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services (MIYFS) Foundation board and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle board which support women, families, children and refugees in need locally and abroad.

While on the Mercer Island City Council, I voted to

- Expand utility assistance to help more people who are struggling to make their payments
- Approve a new development with 13 units of affordable housing in our Town Center
- Support funding for ARCH, and
- Fund MIYFS, which provides counseling, emergency assistance, food, childcare scholarships and other services for residents.

On a statewide basis, I will support:

- Promotion and full implementation of the Affordable Care Act to ensure all people have health insurance.
- Adequate funding of the State Food Assistance Program
- Services for refugees and immigrants
- Mental health parity
- Critical safety net for disabled adults

What do you believe needs to be done, if anything, to improve education and access to education in your jurisdiction?

First and foremost, the state legislature must meet its constitutional responsibility to fully fund K-12 public education. Part of these funds must cover full-day kindergarten and pay for basic education. We also must continue to focus on shrinking the opportunity gap, improving graduation rates, and incentivize teachers to earn their national certification.

Early learning is critical. To help all children enter school ready to learn, I support expanding the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.

Technical colleges and community colleges need our support and respect as they serve many in our community who work and study, are learning a trade and are preparing for a four-year degree.

Please identify, and explain how you plan to address, transit and transportation infrastructure needs in your jurisdiction.

Transportation funding is sorely needed in King County. I-520 bridge replacement funding is not secured. The I-405 to 167 interchange is a bottleneck, and many roads and bridges around King County and the state are in disrepair.

Our state legislature is long overdue in passing a transportation funding package that has local options for jurisdictions to work on key projects needed in their area and that supports roads and transit. I opposed tolling on I-90 and instead look to a regional transportation funding solution that addresses the various large projects being undertaken in our King County area.

To keep construction jobs, trade and businesses in our area we must have an improved transportation system that moves goods and people through less congested areas and faster.

What can your jurisdiction do to affect the environmental threats facing your jurisdiction, and what will you do to lead on such an effort?

During my tenure on the Mercer Island City Council, I have worked:

- To strengthen our Shoreline Master Program
- To meet a Citywide green power challenge and, as a result, install a new solar array at the Mercer Island Community Center
- On the first Sustainability Task Force and as a Sustainability Committee member
- To successfully earn the Washington Conservation Voters endorsement for my City Council race
- As the Council liaison to the Utility Board, helping connect sustainability education and practices with effective delivery of water, stormwater and sewer services
- To propose and hopefully in November 2013 pass a plastic bag ban.

As a member of the state legislature, I will:

- Promote clean and renewable energy
- Support the Growth Management Act to protect farmland and prevent urban sprawl
- Support capital projects to collect and clean stormwater
- Explore a carbon tax to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Work to help reduce traffic congestion that creates pollution.

[Blank Page]

KING COUNTY DEMOCRATS

ENDORSEMENTS QUESTIONNAIRE – LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE

Candidate Name	David Ellis
Position sought	41 st District Representative to the WA State Legislature
Residence/Legislative District	Mercer Island, 41 st Legislative District
Are you a Democrat?	Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	
Web page	
Email address	Davidellis.42@gmail.com
Manager	
Mailing address	4236 85 th Ave SE Mercer Island WA 98040
Phone number	206-450-5792
Consultant(s)	

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment, previous campaign experience, and other relevant experience.

Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience.

EDUCATION

Kenyon College: Double Major: BAs in Political Science and Theatre Arts

Mercer Island High School: Commencement Class Speaker

WORK EXPERIENCE

2013 Owner and operator of David Ellis Voiceovers www.davidellisvoice.com

- Provides corporate and commercial voiceover services

2012 Regional Field Director, Eastern WA – Washington United for Marriage (R74)

- Hired, coached and managed a team of 7 political field organizers.
- Served on the board of Equality Spokane with coalition partners, conducting outreach to business, university, community & religious leaders.
- Represented Washington United for Marriage (WUM) at community events & fundraisers
- Ran voter contact operations, training staff & volunteers for canvassing and phone banking
- Increased region volunteer base from 200 to 1000. Increased number of regional weekly phone banks from 2 to 27 and the number of completed two-hour volunteer shifts from 10 to over 200.
- Statewide, WUM hoped to gain a 1% growth from R71, concerning domestic partnerships. Eastern WA contained the top three growth counties statewide: Garfield: 5.89%, Whitman County: 5.6% and Spokane County: 4.49% Growth. Statewide, WUM achieved 0.53% Growth.

2007-2011 Field Manager – The Fund for the Public Interest: contracts with various non-profit partners such as the Sierra Club, Environment WA, WASHPIRG, and the Human Rights Campaign.

- Recruited, coached and managed teams of 6 political activists. Trained over 50 staff members.
- Over the course of three years spoke to thousands about politics, activism and government accountability. Responsibilities included: successfully recruiting hundreds of volunteers, tracking member contributions, coordinating field logistics, and maximizing member development in private one-on-one meetings.
- Served as the highest grossing fundraiser during the winter season of 2010-11, leading the Seattle team by example to break the all-time record for average fundraising in Fund history.

CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

- 2012 – WUM R74 – Defend the freedom to marry for committed same-sex couples in Washington
- 2012 – 41st District Democrats – elected delegate to the Washington State Democratic Convention
- 2011 – WASHPIRG – End agricultural subsidies for corn, corn syrup, wheat & soy products
- 2011 – WASHPIRG – Increase the food safety standards for meats served in public schools
- 2011 – Human Rights Campaign – End employment discrimination based on sexual orientation
- 2010 – Sierra Club – Extend the moratorium on new oil drilling in wake of the Deepwater Horizon spill
- 2010 – Environment WA – Expand the Boundaries of Mt. Rainier National Park into the Carbon River
- 2009 – WASHPIRG – Support the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Agency
- 2007 – Environment WA – Increase WA state standards for greenhouse gas emissions
- 2006 – Vote Yes! Mercer Island School Levy Campaign
- 2006 – 41st District Democrats – elected delegate to the Washington State Democratic Convention

AWARDS

- 2013 Team received the Blue Star Award, Spokane County’s highest honor for progressive campaigning
- 2006 WA State Champion -WA Interscholastic Activities Association: Interpretive Reading
- 2005 + 2004 Two-time WA State Champion – American Legion Oratorical Contest
- 2005 Selected as one of two WA State Senators to the American Legion Boys Nation

Have you ever been a member of any other political party and/or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, to whom and when?

I have never been a member of another party nor contributed to a candidate from another party.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the right of public sector workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	Yes		
2	Do you support women’s absolute right to reproductive freedom?	Yes		
3	Do you support the DREAM Act?	Yes		
4	Do you support a constitutional amendment requiring super majorities (i.e. 2/3 majorities) for revenue increases at the legislative level?		No	
5	Do you support area standards of wages and benefits?	Yes		
6	Do you support government regulation of greenhouse gases and other pollutants that contribute to global warming?	Yes		
7	Do you support federal repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?	Yes		
8	Do you support Charter Schools? and/or		No	
	School Vouchers?		No	
9	Do you support equal rights and equal pay for women?	Yes		
10	Do you support Affirmative Action?	Yes		
	Do you support repeal of I-200?	Yes		
11	Do you support the KCDCC platform?	Yes		

* If you answered “Qualified”, please provide more detail to your position:

Please answer the following questions *		Yes	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court-ordered judgments?		No
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		No
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		No

* If you answered “Yes”, please explain your answer:

Please identify the top three issues facing your jurisdiction

Full funding of Education

- Full Day Kindergarten: Our commitment to free K-12 education must include full day Kindergarten.
- Smaller classroom sizes: WA State ranks 47th in the nation on class size. In order to fulfill the promise of I-728, we need to build more classroom spaces, hire more teachers, and better retain existing teachers.
- Teacher retention: Too many new teachers quit their jobs within the first 5 years. While teacher wages may never be as competitive as private sector jobs, we must take concrete steps to incentivize retention. As a minimum, I support legislation that ensures teacher salaries keep pace with the rate of inflation.
- Affordable Higher Education: I oppose raising tuition at our universities. We should instead be tackling new ways to encourage students to enter the university system, and reduce student debt. Oregon’s proposed legislation for affordable higher education is a potential model for Washington. Our state should closely monitor their progress and apply any lessons learned. In the short term, I would introduce an Affordable Textbook Act as an inexpensive solution to help reduce student debt.

Protecting the Environment

Through land conservation:

- I am committed to the protection of WA’s green and open spaces.
- I am committed to the continued recovery of salmon, orcas, gray wolves and other native species.

Through promoting action to reduce our carbon footprint:

- I am committed to the promotion of clean, renewable energy in order to address the growing threats of climate change.
- I support the expansion of link light rail to create a more vibrant and interconnected region.
- I support maintaining full Metro service.
- I am opposed to I-90 tolling.
- I have great respect for Representative Judy Clibborn’s extensive work on transportation. I would look forward to working with her and others to reduce congestion and carbon pollution in our district.

Gun Safety

- I support reasonable, common-sense measures to promote gun safety, such as the implementation of background checks on felons and registered sex offenders.
- Too few in Olympia are willing to touch gun safety with a ten-foot pole. I will actively promote gun safety legislation at every opportunity. The public supports gun safety. It’s time the legislature does the same.

What are the top three messages of your campaign?

1. **Electability.** We live in a purple district, and the representative we appoint must prove their ability to retain the seat for Democrats come 2014.

I have extensive campaign experience. I’ve managed campaigns with 7 staff members and more than 1000 volunteers. I do what it takes to win, even when that means putting in 90 hour work weeks for months at a time, as I did for Referendum 74. Working to win reelection is a full time job, and I am prepared to devote the time and energy required for victory.

Should I receive the honor to represent the 41st, I commit to personally knocking on 10,000 doors, and will direct my campaign staff and volunteers to knock on at least another 10,000. I’ve already knocked on more than 10,000 doors and made as many phone calls while working with non-profits. I have the stamina and drive to do so again.

A bid in the 41st requires funds, and I have proven fundraising experience.

I’ve won three WA state titles for oratory and public speaking excellence. I’m proud of my ability to energize, and I look forward to inspiring many with my candidacy as a passionate progressive. I will bring my message to constituents at their doorsteps, at forums and events, and through a coordinated print, radio and online marketing campaign.

2. **Party Loyalty.** I am a liberal Democrat, and have proven my progressive credentials while working in the non-profit sector, and by twice being elected by the 41st as a delegate to the Democratic State Convention.

3. **Leadership.** We need a legislator who will be a strong and powerful voice representing our district. The people of the 41st deserve no less. They deserve a representative who will dedicate themselves wholly to the position and work tirelessly to improve the quality of life in our communities.

With respect to the primary messages of your campaign, please describe how you will get this message to voters, and the progress you have made to date. Please include total fundraising to date, anticipated fundraising, and cash on hand.

Due to the nature of this special election, I have prioritized direct contact with PCOs.

With regards to a reelection bid in 2014, I have already outlined a plan discussing my electability and a campaign strategy focused on direct voter contact.

For a reelection bid, I anticipate raising a minimum of \$100,000. Depending on the strength of the Republican contender, I am prepared to raise up to \$200,000.

I have read this questionnaire and approve the content and all provided information.

Printed Name	David Ellis	Date
Signature	David Ellis	8/4/2013

2013 Addendum

What revenue sources, if any, would you support to stabilize budgeting in your jurisdiction?

I would leave all options on the table. I am a strong believer in balanced budgets, and I refuse to introduce any new legislation which is not fully funded.

We need to cover costs for necessary improvements in transportation and education. Yet, if we wish to uphold Governor Inslee’s campaign promise of no new taxes, our options become limited; that’s why I pledge to closely revisit certain exemptions to our sales tax.

Finally, in the absence of a statewide transportation solution, the legislature should grant county governments the ability to independently raise revenues to continue funding important projects, such as Metro transit.

What actions will you take to improve access to social safety net programs – be they homeless shelters, affordable and workforce housing, and/or health care, among others – in your jurisdiction?

The biggest threats to our social safety net programs are budgetary constraints. We can’t afford to allow human services to shrink. Human services give hope and opportunity to the impoverished and disabled, and enable others to rebuild their lives and stay healthy. Continued funding for human services isn’t only the moral thing to do, it’s also smart economic policy. It’s cheaper to provide basic human services than to pay for incarceration and visits to the emergency room.

What do you believe needs to be done, if anything, to improve education and access to education in your jurisdiction?

Education is the great equalizer. I firmly believe that properly funding schools is the paramount duty of the Washington State Legislature. I come from a family of educators; my mother, father, and both my brothers are all teachers. I would never support legislation which would compromise the ability of our teachers to lead in the classroom, or for our children to learn.

I strongly support full education funding. This includes free K-12 education. Unfortunately, full day kindergarten education is not free in Washington. This is unacceptable. Studies show that students who attend full-day kindergarten outperform students who attend half-day kindergarten by the third grade, putting these students into a better position to achieve later in life. If we truly believe in creating a level-playing field for our society, then we must ensure equal opportunity for all. Let ability and drive determine a student’s success, not the economic status of a child’s parents.

I am committed to upholding I-728 to reduce classroom size. I am committed to looking at all available funding solutions in order to fulfill this state mandate.

I am opposed to increased tuition costs at the University of Washington and other state universities. If we wish to remain competitive in the global and national marketplaces then we must enable more

students to enter into the university system. Raising tuition is counterproductive to that goal. We should instead be tackling new ways to incentivize students to enter the university system and reduce student debt.

Oregon’s proposed legislation for affordable higher education is a potential model for Washington. Our state should closely monitor their progress and apply any lessons learned. In the short term, I will introduce an Affordable Textbook Act as an inexpensive solution to help reduce student debt.

Please identify, and explain how you plan to address, transit and transportation infrastructure needs in your jurisdiction.

The recent collapse of the Skagit River Bridge is Washington’s wake up call. We must ensure proper transportation funding in order to increase safety, and to decrease congested commutes.

I have great respect for Representative Judy Clibborn’s extensive work on transportation. I look forward to working with her and others to reduce congestion and carbon pollution in our district.

I support the long-term vision of expanding link light rail to create a more interconnected region.

I am opposed to I-90 tolling as proposed. There are smarter ways to pay for road improvements, and we should look at other solutions that will address our regional transportation needs.

I will work to protect Metro service. With our population continuing to expand, now is not the time to slash mass transit options.

What can your jurisdiction do to affect the environmental threats facing your jurisdiction, and what will you do to lead on such an effort?

As a boy scout, I fell in love with the outdoors. An early exposure to nature later inspired me to join the non-profit sector, working on behalf of both the Sierra Club and Environment Washington.

I’ve worked to expand Mt. Rainier National Park into new lands in the Carbon River Valley and to enact stronger renewable energy standards in Washington. If elected, I look forward to continuing my environmental work from inside Olympia to promote clean air, clean water and more renewable energy. People move to the northwest not only for economic opportunity, but to enjoy our beautiful environment. We must preserve our green and open spaces, not only for ourselves, but for generations to come.

I support the polluter pays principle; that’s why I support the implementation of a carbon tax. The revenue generated can be used to fund public transportation projects, or be given back to the people.

I support the ban of toxic flame retardants used in consumer products, and support enacting stricter standards for removing dangerous chemicals used in children’s toys.

Finally, I am committed to the continued recovery of salmon, orcas, gray wolves and other native species. Washington deserves vibrant ecosystems, and that means protecting wild populations at all levels of the food chain.

KING COUNTY DEMOCRATS

ENDORSEMENTS QUESTIONNAIRE – LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE

Candidate Name	George Pieper
Position sought	Appointment for 41 st District House of Representatives, Position 1
Residence/Legislative District	41 st District
Are you a Democrat?	Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	People for Pieper
Web page	peopleforpieper.com
Email address	george@georgepieper.com
Manager	None currently
Mailing address	7683 SE 27 th Street, #185 Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone number	206-790-0277
Consultant(s)	None currently

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment, previous campaign experience, and other relevant experience.

Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience.

George Pieper is a community leader, civil rights advocate, and business pioneer. For more than 20 years George has dedicated his time to advocate change for environmental, social justice, economic, and LGBT equality issues. For the last 13 years he has been an entrepreneur, and is currently the CEO of OutSmart Office Solutions, Inc.; a company formed to be an early adopter and promoter of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE) Certification, opening doors of opportunity for other LGBT minority business owners.

George is well known as the former Vice President of the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) where he served on the Board for 8 years. For the last 5 years he has served as the 6th District Commissioner on the King County Civil Rights Commission and as the Chair for 2 years. In 2012 George was honored at the GSBA Business & Humanitarian Awards Dinner as the recipient of the President's Award for Community Leadership. OutSmart Office Solutions was also honored as the NGLCC 2012 National LGBT Supplier of the Year.

George has been active in the Democratic Party for more than 22 years, first in the 36th LD and then in the 41st LD. He has engaged in and led many party activities including presiding over the statewide Washington Stonewall Democrats and LGBT Caucus. George has been a member of the 41st District Democrats for 11 years, served as an acting PCO, and then as an elected PCO in his precinct since 2008.

George's Resume is attached for more details.

Have you ever been a member of any other political party and/or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, to whom and when?

No.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the right of public sector workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	X		
2	Do you support women’s absolute right to reproductive freedom?	X		
3	Do you support the DREAM Act?	X		
4	Do you support a constitutional amendment requiring super majorities (i.e. 2/3 majorities) for revenue increases at the legislative level?		X	
5	Do you support area standards of wages and benefits?	X		
6	Do you support government regulation of greenhouse gases and other pollutants that contribute to global warming?	X		
7	Do you support federal repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?	X		
8	Do you support Charter Schools? and/or		X	
	School Vouchers?		X	
9	Do you support equal rights and equal pay for women?	X		
10	Do you support Affirmative Action?	X		
	Do you support repeal of I-200?	X		
11	Do you support the KCDCC platform?	X		

* If you answered “Qualified”, please provide more detail to your position:

Please answer the following questions *		Yes	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court-ordered judgments?		X
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		X
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		X

* If you answered “Yes”, please explain your answer:

Please identify the top three issues facing your jurisdiction

1. *Transportation:*

Our transportation infrastructure must keep up with our regional growth. Everyone suffers when goods, service providers, people, and emergency services are stuck and delayed in traffic. We must continue to support public and private efforts to reduce traffic congestion through mass transit options, alternating work shifts, ride sharing, trains, light rail and HOV lane use and expansion. We need to keep up with bridge and roadway maintenance so that higher costs, unsafe conditions, catastrophic failure, and deaths are avoided. We have to find equitable funding options across our region. I-90 tolling as proposed by WSDOT is not an option!

2. *Education:*

I come from a family of educators (great grandmother, grandmother, aunt, and sister). In fact my great grandmother was an education pioneer in California operating a well-known and respected private girl’s

school, which is now the campus of Azusa Pacific University. Our businesses, families, and children need our public schools to stay strong, prepare students for tomorrow's jobs, and provide an enriching environment to learn and grow. We need to keep the promise of fully funding education at all levels. We cannot let funding get chipped away by charter schools. The idea of taking public funds to operate a private school is wrong. All of our students deserve high standards for achievement, not just the ones whose parents can afford it. We should reduce classroom size so that every student gets to experience the attention they need to excel. We need our system to support the best teachers with merit pay and weed out the ones who fall short so that they may get additional training or reassignment. Throughout my term I will seek the advice of qualified education advisors, teachers, parents, and students to support best practice policies in education.

3. Growth Management and Economic Development:

Every business owner knows that you have to spend money to make money. Apparently our legislature does not know this lesson. We have a wealth of terrain, natural wonders, outdoor experiences, and heritage sites, yet we have dismantled our state tourism bureau, losing billions of unearned tourist dollars that could be boosting our economy. We cannot afford to risk the future prosperity of our state to happenstance. We have to encourage a diversity of livable and higher wage industries to grow and establish in Washington State as a base of operation. This takes a delicate balance of attention, foresight, incentive and assurance. We have become a state known for aerospace, high-tech, and bio-tech industries. We are known for apples, coffee roasting, outdoor gear, the bounty of our natural resources, and our burgeoning wine regions that are producing wine rivaling those of California. We need to retain this success by encouraging green technology and alternative energy solutions as future economic development. I embrace the important and collaborative work of the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Prosperity Partnership and their Vision 2040 regional growth strategy plan and economic development efforts.

What are the top three messages of your campaign?

1. Integrity and Leadership

People would say that they know me to be cheerful, easy-going, calm under pressure, loyal, patient, and tenacious. I have a life tempered; glass half full, optimistic personality. I think that I have lived an extraordinary life so far and I am happier for the ups and down of the journey. I feel that I have lived my life with integrity continuously weaving the threads of my values and my actions together for consistency. I seek balance, I am fair, and I work well with others. I'm a good listener and I adhere to the details, while always having my eye on the larger picture. I speak thoughtfully and I take action with the full intention of a leader.

I am a full-fledged liberal thinker and I have earned my capital D for democrat. I will draw the line in the sand and I will tow our party's line when and where I need to. I am very intuitive by nature, but I generally do not take things at face value. I like to have well researched information, which supports my positions. I do not assume to have all the answers. I like to hear the viewpoints of folks in the direct line of a policy issue, such as teachers, parents, and students. I am a persistent negotiator and I will not compromise my progressive values or integrity. You can be assured that I will put up a good fight on our behalf. I will do everything in my power to build bridges as I always have. I will reach out to opposing views to discover

where we can meet in the middle to minimize legislative gridlock. I like balance, and I know that there are many avenues to find common ground to write great and lasting legislation. I have the fortitude for becoming a great legislator for our district. I have already fought the good fight for civil rights and there is still work to be done. I want to go to Olympia to lead with a progressive voice to influence, and champion legislation that will positively impact our quality of life for our district, region, and state.

2. Protecting and Enriching our Quality of Life

I have always believed that with success comes a greater responsibility to support those with less. We must work to create opportunities to elevate all of us on the playing field. Having had many opportunities to travel all over our country and throughout the world, I can say with total honesty that we are very lucky to live, work, and play in one of the most beautiful places in the world!

While this picture is optimistic we do have serious issues that require continuous support and attention in Olympia. I believe that our shared regional issues encompass the most pressing concerns for our district. Whether we are discussing transportation, education, taxation, health and human services, the economy and jobs, fair wages, civil liberties, energy and environmental concerns, we can coalesce these issues into a simple framework. It all comes down to our quality of life. I believe that maintaining and improving the quality of our lives for all constituents is the important role that each legislator plays when affecting policy that has real human impacts. I don't believe everyone in Olympia has this same intention, but I do believe that this is a place to guide arguments to discover our common ground to create the best legislation.

3. Progressive Business Values

During my tenure on the board of the Greater Seattle Business Association and the King County Civil Rights Commission and through my association with the Main Street Alliance and numerous campaigns, particularly Senator Patty Murray's, I have taken leadership in representing a progressive values based small business voice. Eighty percent of businesses that drive the engine of our economy are small businesses. I have supported a state insured business investment bank, so that our small businesses are protected from financial industry greed and a recall of cash flow lines of credit to shore up the commercial bank's past home lending failures. I have fought for mental health parity, domestic partner benefits, family leave, an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and our State's Civil Rights Bill, because happier and healthier people make better employees. This creates less sick days off, higher productivity, and the satisfaction of shared success. As the Chair of the King County Civil Rights Commission I took a proactive role in supporting Executive Dow Constantine on his procurement reform initiative, working with his staff and hosting community discussions with key stakeholders in the minority business community to reduce barriers around contracting opportunities. We all deserve the opportunity to thrive. What is often the right thing to do for people is also more profitable for business. We need to look at the business of government with a holistic view and not just the bottom line.

With respect to the primary messages of your campaign, please describe how you will get this message to voters, and the progress you have made to date. Please include total fundraising to date, anticipated fundraising, and cash on hand.


I have the means, fortitude, knowledge and connections to the right people to run an effective campaign to win in 2014. I have been building a long list of base supporters and connections to organizations for the 23 years I have lived in Washington, particularly in our district over the 17 years that I have owned my house in Bellevue. I am a well-known visible civil rights leader in the LGBT community, which is a very strong and activated constituency of my base. From my time on the King County Civil Rights Commission, I have

worked closely with underrepresented groups, people of color, and civil rights groups on the Eastside in our district. As a business owner who has been working directly with other business owners in our area over the last 13 years, I have built a substantial client list that I can call to gain support for my political effort. When it comes to an open election in our democratic leaning swing district, to win we must not only capture the votes of our base but we need to grab the majority of folks in the middle as well. In this case, it helps that I have connections and support from folks whom have met me in the middle on crossover issues like business, economic development, the environment, and social justice issues.

Our district has a population of 137,289 people, about 91,000 of them are registered voters. We had a very high voter turnout in our district last year during the presidential election with 83% of voters participating or about 75,500 voters. To win our district by 51% of the votes in an open race, I will need to get 38,500 votes if voter turnout is as high as before. I plan to run a social media campaign, like our district has never seen before. I have experts in the area who are ready to volunteer for my campaign, and I will run my campaign like a well-run, efficient business. I will not just have a campaign manager, but area managers as my sales force responsible for votes, endorsements, and fundraising deliverables for their area. My campaign will be very visible with an entourage of supporters at events throughout our district, under the name is People for Pieper. I own the domains for peopleforpieper.com and georgepieper.com and my website will be up and ready to take campaign donations by August 21st, the day we vote for the slate of candidates to go to King County Council for appointment. I will work my campaign every day that I am allowed for the November 2014 election, starting the day I am appointed as our Representative by the vote our PCO's and the King County Council.

I graduated from Camp Wellstone Candidate Training last year. I have already completed my candidate surveys for King County Democrats, the Progressive Majority, and the Victory Fund for endorsement, campaign support, and national funding. I am going to additional candidate training through the Victory Fund in Washington DC, which is scheduled in September. I have already begun asking for endorsements from numerous elected officials, community leaders, and potential donors.

Since this race is currently an appointment process and not an election, we have not raised money. However, we will be ready to accept donations and hit the ground running the day of the appointment, so that we can get a jumpstart for the 2014 election. We anticipate fundraising about \$250,000 to \$300,000 for this race.

I have read this questionnaire and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	George Pieper	Date 8/7/2013
Signature		

2013 Addendum

What revenue sources, if any, would you support to stabilize budgeting in your jurisdiction?

The recent recession that shook our global economy took a toll on our state, region, and district. Due to our regressive sales based tax structure our legislature, county, and district cities were forced to make draconian cuts to services folks rely on. This is unacceptable! While our region and district has begun to recover from the economic downturn at a faster rate than elsewhere in the country, we can no longer stand idle. We must take a leadership role to leverage the wealth in our region and to insist we all pay a fair share in tax to pay for services and infrastructure. We need to continue to rebuild our state’s rainy day fund so that our operating cash flow does not fall short. We need to make sure our police, fire, health and human services, and education are adequately funded. We need to take leadership to make our tax structure more equitable and sustainable. We need to be more efficient in our tax collection processing and reduce barriers that hinder prompt payments so that we can do more with our revenue resources. If we are not willing to take the leap to a stable income tax structure, then based on our current sales based tax structure we need to find ways to increase tax revenue by increasing sales through economic development.

What actions will you take to improve access to social safety net programs – be they homeless shelters, affordable and workforce housing, and/or health care, among others – in your jurisdiction?

I will work with colleagues, government agencies, businesses, non-profits, and individuals to address and repair the ever-growing cracks in our social safety net. Sustainable funding, lean management, and progressive growth management strategies will need to be employed. Our humanity is at risk every time we fail to protect and support our most vulnerable. I will be a passionate voice for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

What do you believe needs to be done, if anything, to improve education and access to education in your jurisdiction?

We need to keep the promise of fully funding education at all levels. We cannot let funding get chipped away by charter schools. All of our students deserve high standards for achievement, not just the ones whose parents can afford it. We need to reduce classroom size so that every student gets to experience and the attention they need to excel. We need our system to support the best teachers with merit pay and weed out the ones who fall short by giving them additional training or reassignment. I will seek the advice of qualified education advisors, teachers, parents, and students to support best practice policies in education.

For higher education we need to work within the public and private sectors to address access issues due to increasing costs of tuition. Cost should not be a barrier for education and opportunity for higher achievement. We need to work more closely with businesses to encourage a proactive role to do their part in supporting the education goals of our current and future workforce.

Please identify, and explain how you plan to address, transit and transportation infrastructure needs in your jurisdiction.

We have to find equitable funding options across our region for our transportation infrastructure. We need to keep up with bridge and roadway maintenance so that higher costs, unsafe conditions, catastrophic failure, and deaths are avoided. We have many innovative projects in the works, but we need to finish what we start, hold contractors accountable, and reduce costly delays. We need our light rail projects to continue to grow to connect more people to where they need to go through public transportation and to reduce our dependence on cars as our first mode of travel. This is critical to our regional economic prosperity.

What can your jurisdiction do to affect the environmental threats facing your jurisdiction, and what will you do to lead on such an effort?

Washington is truly blessed with rich bounty of natural resources. We need to protect and preserve our important land and natural resources while focusing on density areas and affordable housing options to curb sprawl as we accommodate the population growth to our state. We need to support and adopt creative solutions to reduce pollution impact on our environment. We need to continue to clean and restore impacted areas. I will look for the advice from collaborative organizations like the Sightline Institute and encourage efforts to create sustainable policy for the environment. We need to be leaders in developing homegrown, green energy technologies to address our growing energy needs and to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.

[Blank Page]

Democrats select candidates for 41st District

August 27, 2013

By Christina Corrales-Toy

Mercer Island City Councilwoman Tana Senn emerged as the frontrunner among three possible replacements to fill the 41st District state representative seat vacated by Marcie Maxwell.

Maxwell, a Democrat, resigned her seat July 9 to take a job with the governor's office. To fill the seat, members of her party nominated three candidates to replace her and presented those nominations to the King County Council.

The 41st district stretches from the northern parts of Renton to the southern parts of Sammamish, encompassing Mercer Island and Newcastle, and parts of Issaquah and Bellevue.

After three rounds of voting Aug. 21, the 41st District Democrats nominated Senn, David Ellis, a former field director with Washington United for Marriage, and businessman and civil rights advocate George Pieper.

The three candidates will now sit for interviews with the County Council in early September, before the council appoints one of them to fill the vacancy.

Senn received the majority of the votes, and even received the support of fellow candidates Ellis and Pieper as the nominee to fill the vacancy, 41st District Democrats Chairwoman Karol Brown said.

If Senn wins the appointment, all three of the lawmakers from the 41st District — the others are Sen. Steve Litzow (R) and Rep. Judy Clibborn (D) — will be from Mercer Island.

Appointed to the Mercer Island City Council in 2012, Senn spent most of her career on nonprofit marketing and government relations.

If selected for the 41st District seat, Senn has plans to run for the position in 2014, according to responses from her candidate questionnaire.

She identified the need to fully fund public education, the creation of a transportation package that fully funds the 520 bridge without relying on Interstate 90 tolls and increasing public safety as the top three issues facing the district.

Ellis, a 2006 graduate of Mercer Island High School, owns a voiceover company.

In 2012, he worked as a field director for Washington United for Marriage, a group that supported the gay marriage referendum. He has also worked on campaigns with the Sierra Club, Environment Washington and the Washington Public Interest Research Group.

Ellis identified fully funding education, protecting the environment and gun safety as the district's most important issues.

Pieper lives in Bellevue, but his company, OutSmart Office Solutions, is based in Mercer Island.

He has served on the King County Civil Rights Commission and presided over the statewide Washington Stonewall Democrats and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus.

Transportation, education and growth management and economic development are the most important issues facing the jurisdiction, according to Pieper.

Copyright © 2013 by Issaquah Press Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, rewritten or redistributed without permission. Email editor@isspress.com.

Democrats nominate 3 Mercer Islanders for Maxwell's seat

by MARY L. GRADY, Mercer Island Reporter Editor

posted Aug 20, 2013 at 11:38 AM— updated Aug 21, 2013 at 8:27 AM

The resignation of state Rep. Marcie Maxwell, a Democrat, of the 41st District has set in motion a process that remains obscure to most casual observers of state government. The political party of the outgoing legislator gets to nominate candidates for the interim replacement. The appointee must be a resident in the same district. Three candidates will be 'nominated' for Maxwell's seat, by a vote of the precinct committee officers (PCO) of the 41st District Democrats at an Aug. 21 meeting.

The King County Council will then meet and subsequently choose one of the three as the appointee or, in the event of Council deadlock, the governor will do so.

After 10 individuals expressed interest in Maxwell's seat, five candidates completed questionnaires for the one-year term. The seat will then be up for election in the fall of 2014.

There are 200 precincts in the 41st District; more than half do not have PCOs. Candidates can lobby for fellow Democrats to become PCOs, in order to promote their candidacy.

David Ellis

David Ellis is a 2006 graduate of Mercer Island High School. He holds a degree from Kenyon College with a double major in political science and theater arts.

According to his responses on the 41st District's candidate questionnaire, Ellis has been active as an organizer and fundraiser in statewide campaigns such as Washington United for Marriage, regarding Initiative 74, and in the Sierra Club, WASHPIRG, and environmental causes. He was a delegate to the Washington State Democratic Convention in both 2006 and 2012.

Despite his relative youth, Ellis believes he represents a new, unique voice for the Legislature. He calls his approach "passionate progress."

"I am an idealistic person," he said. "I know how to organize and build coalitions."

Like Maxwell, he said, he will be a strong voice on education and many other issues of importance.

On his questionnaire, Ellis lists off issues that matter to him and the 41st Democrats. The first matter is education to be fully funded from pre-kindergarten on; affordable higher education, the environment and sustainability. He wants to help ensure that there will be meaningful gun control, and passage of the transportation funding legislation. He is opposed to tolling I-90, but said we need to find a way to pay for maintenance of the state's highways.

Ellis is the grandson of Jim Ellis, now 92, the activist and visionary who led campaigns to clean up Lake Washington in the 1950s; finance mass transit, parks, pools and other public facilities through 'Forward Thrust' bonds in the 1960s; to preserve farmlands in the 1970s; to build and later expand the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in the 1980s, and to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway in the 1990s.

It is big shoes to fill, his grandson admitted. But his family's involvement in the community was a formative part of his upbringing.

"It is what I know," he said.

Ellis, who has a polished speaking voice, started his own company earlier this year, David Ellis Voiceovers, to provide voiceover services to commercial entities. But since the news of Maxwell's resignation, he has been using his voice to promote his candidacy for her seat.

Tana Senn

Mercer Island City Councilmember Tana Senn was one of the first people who Marcie Maxwell told that she was resigning her seat in the Legislature to take a position in Gov. Jay Inslee's government. Later, Inslee himself called Senn to urge her to put her name in for her replacement. The first thing she thought, she said, was that she could not tell her parents the news.

"I was sad," she remembered. "They are both gone now."

Next, she thought of her children; one in elementary school and the other just starting middle school.

"I thought, I cannot do this because of them," she said. Then, "I thought, wait — I have to do this because of my kids."

Senn, concerned about education funding, and safety issues for children, sees her young family as an asset to state government. She noted that there are just a handful of legislators with young children in Olympia.

Hearing about Maxwell's plans was a big surprise, she said. "Honestly, I love local government, but there are things you cannot do at the city level like passing a transportation budget or improving gun control.

"It would be exciting to work on larger issues," she said. She sees her possible appointment to the Legislature, "not as 'a leaving,' but as a different way to serve Islanders."

Senn, who has not been active in the 41st District Democrats, said she attended her first meeting last month after she heard about the appointment and was elected that evening, as a PCO. Attending the meeting with her were six other Islanders who were also voted in as PCOs.

Senn joined the Mercer Island City Council in January 2012 when she was appointed to fill the remaining term of former Island mayor, Jim Pearman. She is running unopposed for her City Council seat, up for reelection in November.

Announcing her candidacy to retain her City Council seat last March, she told Islanders, "I am working hard to fight tolling on I-90 at the local, state and federal levels. At the same time, I'm focused on the day-to-day issues that make our Island a wonderful place to live — parks and open spaces, safe roads and sidewalks, a vibrant Town Center and quality education."

Senn said that she expects to remain on the City Council even if she is appointed to the year-long position.

Senn has a background in communications and government relations. Senn earned a Master in Public Policy and Administration from Columbia University.

Senn's volunteer involvement includes campaigning for the fire station and rescue truck levy campaign, Youth and Family Services, and the PTA at Island Park Elementary. She was on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle for six years.

George Pieper

Business owner and civil rights activist, George Pieper has been an active member of the 41st Democrats for 11 years. He acknowledges up front what the intent is of the replacement process for Maxwell's seat in Olympia.

"For the 41st, the goal is to keep the seat Democratic — now and later," he said.

Pieper himself has been active in the Democratic Party for more than 22 years, first in the 36th Legislative District and later the 41st. His application states that he has been involved

in and led many party activities, including presiding over the statewide Washington Stonewall Democrats and the LGBT Caucus. He has been a member of the 41st District Democrats for 11 years, served as an acting Precinct Committee Officer (PCO), and then as an elected PCO in his precinct since 2008.

Born in California, Pieper, 42, came to Seattle as a young man. He put himself through college in Seattle. He is now a 17-year resident of Bellevue.

“This is my chosen home,” he said.

He has an Island address for his business, OutSmart Office Solutions.

Pieper describes himself as a community leader, civil rights advocate, and business pioneer. He is the former vice president of the Greater Seattle Business Association, where he served on the board for eight years. For the last five years, he has served as the 6th District Commissioner on the King County Civil Rights Commission, and as the chair for two years. In 2012, Pieper was honored at the GSBA Business & Humanitarian Awards Dinner as the recipient of the President’s Award for Community Leadership.

He has put his name in the statehouse hat once before, for the appointment to fill Fred Jarrett’s Senate seat when the Islander decided to join the King County Council staff in January 2010, after being elected a few months earlier. Randy Gordon was appointed instead. He was later defeated by Islander Steve Litzow in the November general election for the seat.

Pieper said he is well connected and knows how to raise money. He is a prolific fundraiser for a range of organizations from KCTS9 to groups within the (LGBT) community.

“I have been fundraising forever,” he said.

For more than 20 years he worked as an advocate for the environment, social justice, economic and LGBT equality issues.

Along with tackling the issues of education and transportation, Pieper says if he were appointed, he hopes to be able to launch a campaign finance effort.

Other candidates

The two other candidates for the open King County Council position are from Sammamish. They include Don Gerund, a former Boeing scientist and a 14-year member of the City Council there. Also, Seattle attorney, Greg Hoover who practices immigration law, civil matters, arbitration and mediation, has put his name forward.

Don Gerend is well-known in Sammamish as one of the original Sammamish City Council members — he still serves on the council. Gerend said he came to the state of Washington in 1962 from the flat lands of Wisconsin and never looked back.

"I've seen the state from the top of Mt. Rainier to scuba diving in the San Juans," he said. "When Sammamish incorporated I decided it was time to give back. This is an opportunity to take it to the next level."

Gerend has a Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Washington. "As a former rocket scientist at Boeing, college teacher (physics, astronomy, environmental science and business calculus), commercial real estate syndicator and investment manager, and private phone company owner and operator, in addition to the years in city government, I feel well qualified to address the wide range of societal, scientific and number-crunching challenges facing the State Legislature," Gerend states in his candidate questionnaire.

He supports the right of public sector workers to bargain and strike with the exception of police and fire where binding interest arbitration should continue to be the final resolution to the bargaining process, he said.

Gerend does not support the two-thirds majority for tax increases at the legislative level. He is also unsupportive of school vouchers. With regard to charter schools, he would support them with proper state guidance, but he advocates options for learning such as Running Start, AP classes and STEM high schools. Gerend's priority for the 41st District is transportation, balancing the state budget without raiding city and county revenue sources and making higher education and work force training affordable and accessible.

Gerend is proud of the fact that in his 14 years on the Sammamish City Council, the city of 48,000 residents has an AAA bond rating, over \$60 million cash in the bank, no bonded indebtedness, great infrastructure and has three times been judged by CNN/Money Magazine as among the 15 best cities to live in under a population of 50,000. This year Forbes listed Sammamish as the "Friendliest City in the US" under a population of 150,000.

Greg Hoover is an attorney with his practice, Hoover Law Group, in Seattle and Portland. He has lived in Sammamish since 1999. He said he believes he can help people by serving as the legislator for the 41st District.

Hoover received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 1996. Subsequently he received his Qualified Lawyer's Transfer Test from Oxford Brooks University in London in 2008.

He is licensed to practice law in both Washington and Oregon. His expertise includes immigration law, civil litigation and personal injury, criminal defense, arbitration and

mediation, and pro hac vice. Hoover does not support the two-thirds majority for tax increases at the legislative level. He also does not support area standards of wages and benefits. Hoover is not in favor of charter schools or school vouchers.

He said the top three issues facing the 41st District are education for all children, improving the economy by encouraging job growth, and tolling I-90. He wants to improve traffic congestion and expedite light rail to the Eastside.

"In, 2010 when I ran for state representative, I doorbelled over 10,000 homes. I would do this again. In 2010 I, along with my team, raised approximately \$40,000 and ran a properly budgeted race. I would be willing to do this again," Hoover said.

Results from the vote will be posted on Wednesday.