

Questions for LD42 State Senate Candidates:

As the outcome of the last Senate race in 2018 was decided by only 46 votes it is fair to say the 42nd District is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. Whomever serves in the Senate seat will be expected by the voters to have a good understanding of the issues raised across the political spectrum.

1) What will you do to be effective in Olympia?

Listen, Learn, Collaborate, and ask Questions.

A large part of my success as a police officer was asking clear questions and if the answer brought up more questions I would ask more questions.

I find most issues tend to be multi-dimensional and multi-faceted. Rarely is one answer, the one thing that is going to solve the entire problem. I try to look at an issue from multiple angles. I commit to finding people who may be experts in their field to ask more questions.

2) Why are you the best candidate to represent the 42nd Legislative District and what distinguishes you from the other nominees?

I am a life long resident of Whatcom County. I grew up on a dairy farm in Lynden. I was also a police officer in Bellingham for almost 25 years. I believe my ability to establish good working relationships, my ability to listen and collaborate with people from all walks of life distinguishes me as the best candidate.

3) If appointed, what will be your top priorities and why?

Public Safety

Crime is surging and overdose deaths are rising. Several bills passed last year were poorly written, impacting the effectiveness of LE ability to do our jobs. There are several bills that have been pre-filed that are trying to correct those problems. I look forward to the opportunity to work with people in Olympia to get it right this time, so our police officers can effectively work to make the streets safer for all our communities.

4) How would you help maintain viable agriculture in the 42nd District?

There are multiple issues facing the agricultural issues; flooding, water adjudication to name a couple. Though aware on a surface level of these issues I look forward to the opportunity to build relationships with all stakeholders so as to best support the agriculture industry.

5) The State House currently only allows vaccinated members to be in the House Chamber. If the Senate decides to impose the same vaccination requirements in order to be present in the Senate Chamber, are you be willing and able to comply with this requirement?

I am fully willing to comply with the current rules of the Senate.

6) Share with us your thoughts on the Growth Management Act, and what, if any changes you would advocate for immediately?

14) Every year the state legislature is considering more and more climate change related legislation. One such Bill currently making its way through the House is Engrossed 2nd Substitute - E2SHB 1099.

This question seems to coincide with Question 14 which revolves around adding climate change language to the Growth Management Act which is why I moved these 2 questions together.

One initial concern is that 1099 may take some control from the small municipal governments and put it at the state level. The bill is being brought back up from last years legislation. I am still reviewing what may and may not be different.

I look forward to being able to ask further questions and collaborate with smaller municipalities and other stakeholders so as to be able to do what is best for the people of Whatcom County.

7) Housing affordability is a key issue for all communities. Share with us your housing affordability priorities.

9) WA has an affordable housing crises, what specific legislation would you propose to address this problem?

Affordability is a multifaceted issue. Some of the affordability issues stem from some of the many recent legislative changes as referenced in questions 14. As a person who has been directly affected by “unintended consequences” of legislative changes written by people not familiar with my specific career field, I do not want to make the same mistakes and propose legislation that could have an unintended consequence and make problems worse and not better. I look forward to collaborating with many stakeholders regarding this issue.

Additionally these two questions seem to also impact the following questions as well. As stated in question 14 there has been more and more legislation regarding climate change. These changes can have an impact on housing affordability.

8) Our communities are also experiencing increasing levels of homelessness. What will you do as a legislator to meet the needs of Washingtonians who have no housing?

Homelessness is a multi-faceted issue. It is not just a housing issue but it is often intertwined with drug and mental health issues. As a legislator I will collaborate with all stakeholders to find a way to face this issue through short and long term goals.

10) One way the California and Oregon legislatures have addressed the affordable housing shortage is by legalizing multi-family housing in all zoning areas, including single-family zoning, would you support this? Why or why not?

I look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders in the 42nd district, in particular the Mayors or city council members of the smaller municipalities, regarding this issue. I would like to empower them to make those decisions at their level. They are more familiar with the needs of their communities, capabilities of the services to meet the needs of their community. My concern with making a statewide rule is multi-family homes being built where the transportation or services are not going to support the housing units and the cost falling onto communities that may not be able to make the upgrades as quickly as necessary.

11) Transportation is a key issue for all WA communities. Share with us your transportation priorities.

Thorton Rd Overpass

Status of South Pass Rd and potential reopening. This is one of only 3 routes to the East side of the county.

Nooksack River Bridge: Repair to the culvert as a result offload damage.

Partner with Whatcom Transit Authority regarding ridership, funding, and expansion to fit the growing needs of Whatcom County.

The WCOG 2022 Transportation Improvement Program.

12) WA State has significant transportation infrastructure needs, historically these investments have been funded by gas taxes.

Do you believe we need to find more funding for transportation?

The transportation budget does appear to be underfunded.

Would you support raising the gas tax to fund additional investments in transportation?

No WA state is already in the top 3 for gas tax costs. With inflation already negatively affecting gas prices an additional tax would negatively impact lower income communities in the 42nd district.

If you do not support raising the gas tax to pay for increased investments in transportation, where else would you get the revenue to pay for it?

I am reviewing HB 1603 and HB 1604 as possible replacement ideas for the gas tax that could fund the transportation budget.

13) In the last 2 years the residents of the 42nd have suffered more from the impacts of climate change than most other districts in the State. Two devastating floods, (the latest being the worst on record), drought, declining snowpack, and now severe freezing weather.

- Do you believe climate change is occurring?
- Yes
- Do you believe the recent severe weather events experienced by the residents of the 42nd district is due to climate change?

I do not believe there is only one reason for severe weather events.

- Do you believe the cause of climate change is due to an increase of CO2 being released into the atmosphere from human consumption of fossil fuels?

I do not believe there is just one cause of climate change.

- What policies will you advocate for in the legislature that will reduce and/or mitigate the impacts of the recent severe weather events experienced by the residents of the 42nd district

I would like to explore different flood mitigation ideas with stakeholders in the community. Effective waterway management plans, cleaning around bridges and culverts, flood water overflow/storage ideas.

15) If the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, will you support or oppose state laws and funding to allow all women in Washington to still have the freedom to retain control over their reproductive choices?

As a pro life advocate I would advocate for the life of all humans. When Roe v Wade was decided upon the circumstances and culture and “shame” of being a single mother are not the same today as back then. This could be an opportunity to explore options that validate human life as a priority for women facing an unexpected or unwanted pregnancy. More accessible and easier access to adoption practices and policies for example.

16) Gun violence and the proliferation of firearms used in crimes presents an ongoing danger to law-abiding residents of WA state and the Law Enforcement Officers tasked with protecting us. House Bill 1705 has been drafted to regulate a new threat called “Ghost Guns”

- If this Bill reaches the Senate and you were asked to vote on it as currently written, would you vote in favor or in opposition?

I have further questions upon reading the bill that I would like to discuss before casting a vote. As written this bill references other RCW and I have not had adequate time to fully compare the proposed changes to the already established RCWs. I will advocate for public safety but also confirm this does not restrict the Constitutional protected 2nd amendment rights.

17) WA State has a very robust, inclusive, and accessible approach to voting, what if any aspect of the WA election system do you think needs to be changed and why?

Belief in our election process as being fair, impartial, and transparent is key to maintaining our democratic system. The mail is ballot system has seemed to work but if concerns are raised then they need to be investigated to maintain transparency. As with any system there are

strengths and weaknesses (I see this all the time in the banking systems in how people manipulate the system to commit crimes)

18) If appointed to the position, do you intend to run for election to the 42nd Senate seat in 2022?

My first priority is serving the 42nd District to the best of my ability. If chosen, the decision to run will be taken seriously and in conference with my constituencies to determine the best path forward.

19) [*Applicant Elenbaas only*] - If appointed, is it your intention to retain your position on the Whatcom County Council in addition to the Senate position, or will you resign from your position on the County Council effective immediately upon assuming the Senate position?

- If you intend to retain your seat on the County Council, how will you manage competing obligations that require your presence at the same time in both Whatcom County and Olympia?

20) What else would you like the residents of 42nd district to know about you before the County Council votes on the appointment?

See resume.