

## 31st Legislative District Democrats Candidate Questionnaire

1. Your name: Pat Jenkins

2. Candidate for: Pierce County Council, District 2      Party Affiliation: Democrat

3. Campaign information:

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**4. If elected, what positive changes will you champion that will benefit the 31st LD?** INCOME INEQUALITY. I support a living wage for all, and \$15 an hour is not out of the question. It's hard to imagine universal agreement among divergent interests, but consensus with an eye on raising all boats is possible with the help of strong, fair leadership from policymakers. CLIMATE CHANGE. Global warming is a reality and should be front and center in discussions of the environment. It's an issue that's every bit local as it is international. PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST. There is no place for putting partisanship ahead of people in issues involving basic government services and human needs. We must address them with pragmatic, results-oriented approaches that leave politics out. We need real action, not studies that become dust-covered documents that serve as mute witnesses to problems that continue.

**5. What are the three most critical issues you expect to encounter in the office you are seeking?** Here are my positions on the following issues:

- Transportation. Let's face it—our traffic is awful and will never return to the old days. Road improvements are necessary projects. They're also expensive. So we must be part of a regional effort to maximize and promote public transit as a cost-effective way to alleviate traffic congestion. For that reason, I'm glad that a Sound Transit ballot measure is going to the ballot, and I will be supportive of whatever final package of proposals that benefit Pierce County directly and regional interests as a whole. Transportation issues don't end at the borders of jurisdiction or another. We're all in it together.

- Social justice. In my role with a non-profit social services agency, affordable housing for seniors is a major issue. Partnerships involving government, the private sector and non-profit organizations must focus on ways to provide affordable housing for the aging and for our population as a whole. We also must champion efforts to improve conditions and services related to the mentally ill and the homeless.
- Economy. We must promote sensible commercial and residential growth with an emphasis on the creation of sustainable jobs and livable communities.

**6. Please give us an example of when you had to make a critical decision that, due to its impact on others, was difficult. Tell us why you made your decision and what, if any, actions you took to mitigate any negative results.** As a Puyallup School Board member, I asked for and received more time for the Puyallup School District to explain to the public a controversial action that was being planned to alleviate overcrowding in elementary schools. The district wanted to have sixth-graders from the most overcrowded schools spend that year of their education in a junior high school building, where there was more space for them. While I supported the concept of that plan, I didn't feel we had provided enough opportunity for affected families and the community as a whole to understand how the plan would work, and also to have their questions and concerns addressed. At my urging, the rest of the board asked the district to schedule open houses at impacted schools for an exchange of information. They were well-attended by parents and, as a result of that dialogue and excellent execution by school staffs, the sixth-grader relocations began smoothly and with minimal uncertainty among families.

**7. What methods will you employ to communicate with your constituency on a regular basis?** Every medium available, including electronic communications, social media and print. Community gatherings, whether specially scheduled by myself in conjunction with organizations or regularly scheduled by civic groups, would also be an excellent way to encourage dialogue and understanding between county government and the public.

**8. What other information would you like us to consider? I believe strongly in service to community.** I've done that in my roles as a community-level journalist, an advocate for seniors in my work with a social services agency, a school board member, and a volunteer in schools, youth activities and civic and community organizations. Virtually my entire life, I have also been a keen follower of government and politics, particularly at the local level. Both personally and professionally (the latter as a journalist working within specific communities), I have always believed government can and should be a catalyst for solutions that have a positive impact on lives. My dual passions for service and government, coupled with being a native resident of Pierce County for roughly 50 years, my institutional knowledge of the county and my desire to maintain and improve the well-being of its people, make me uniquely qualified to be a County Council member.

I declare under penalty of perjury the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed at

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Signature

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Please return to:

Mark Boswell, Chair

31st District Democrats

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Sumner, WA. 98390

Or email to: [webmaster@31stdistrictdemocrats.org](mailto:webmaster@31stdistrictdemocrats.org)