

31st Legislative District Democrats Candidate Questionnaire

1. Your name: John Paul Comerford
2. Candidate for: Democratic Party Affiliation:
3. Campaign information:
 - Manager: Jason Bennett
 - Phone: 206-486-0085 Fax: 206-260-9000
 - Address:
 - Website: www.johnpaul2016.com (not operational yet)
 - E-mail: jpc@jpclife.com
4. If elected, what positive changes will you champion that will benefit the 31st LD?
 - A. Fully fund educations with a capital gains tax on gains over \$100,000, with IRA and retirement plans exempted.
 - B. Lower sales and real estate taxes.
 - C. Rid our investment portfolio of fossil fuel and large carbon footprint investments.
 - D. Work to lower borrowing costs through private placements, particularly with overseas banks.
5. What are the three most critical issues you expect to encounter in the office you are seeking?
 - A. Tax Reform: To contribute to the solution for fully funding public education in our State and to help transition Washington from our reliance on the regressive sales tax and to develop other revenue sources that will receive bi-partisan support.
 - B. Financial Education: To bring my expertise and passion in financial education to the people of Washington and to make Washington the model for successful personal financial decision-making, particularly as it involves retirement savings.
 - C. Activism and Leadership: To bring the unique authority of this Office to bear on the critical financial, social and environmental issues faced by our State. The State Treasurer serves on over 20 boards and commissions that directly impact these issues. I want to rid our portfolio of investments in fossil fuels and company's that carry a large carbon footprint. I am also open to forming a State Bank that will meet the underserved markets in Washington State.
6. Please give us an example of when you had to a 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.

The best example was when I was as a senior manager at Calvert Group. As a member of the senior management committee, I instigated and was party to a major decision that would remove

certain operations that were being conducted in-house to an outsourced third party administrator (TPA). Moving to the TPA would allow us to integrate certain functions that were then being conducted by several different operations entities in-house. These changes would both reduce our costs and provide for a more 'customer friendly' experience, but would result in some staffing cuts and personnel shifts. Calvert was started ten years earlier as a small 'family' type mutual fund Company with most functions conducted in-house. The operations staff, particular the senior staff, felt that outsourcing these functions would fundamentally change the values of the Company.

Being charged to bring about this change, I began with several team meetings with the operations staff to better understand their operational concerns as well as bringing them into the decision making process. Working as a team, we addressed each area of concern and developed a strategic plan for implementing the decision, including the selection of a TPA that could meet all of our integrated needs. Each team member felt that his or her input had been accepted and felt that they had made a major contribution to the company going forward. During this process, several more efficiencies were identified that would allow the company to expand its product offerings, while maintaining the positions of those operations employees that would otherwise have been terminated. No jobs were lost and several new positions were added.

The second step of this change was to involve major customers, and focus groups of smaller customers in assuring that the upcoming changes would be received favorably and how to best present these changes to all of our stakeholders. Major educational efforts were made with the largest clients, and their advisors, and extensive training was given to call center staff that had the responsibility of achieving small client satisfaction. All of this was integrated into a major marketing and communications effort, resulting in a very positive impact to the company and our ability to grow our business.

7. What methods will you employ to communicate with your constituency on a regular basis?

- a. A highly interactive website.
- b. A regular column in community newspapers and on the Internet
- c. A commitment to visit every county at least twice a year with local office hours.
- d. Better utilization of County and LD Democratic, labor and civic organizations.

8. What other information would you like us to consider?

I have been a long-term active supporter of the State and Local Democratic Party, both organizationally and as a contributor. The PDC reports that I have made of 75 individual Party and Candidate contributions, amounting to over \$11,750 since 2008. The PDC reports that my Democratic opponent has made 11 contributions to the Party and our candidates for \$1,186, with \$700 of that number going to the current Republican Chair of the 43rd LD GOP Committee. He has not made a contribution to the State of Local Party in 6 years. I am a PCO, sit on the LD and County E-Boards and have been an elected delegate to every State Democratic Convention since 2000. I was also an early Obama supporter and contributor.

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

Signed at

John Paul Comerford

Please return to:

Mark Boswell, Chair
31st District Democrats
P.O. Box 161
Sumner, WA. 98390

Or email to: webmaster@31stdistrictdemocrats.org