

King County Democrats 2010 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Rene T. Murry
Position sought	House of Representatives 46 th District
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 th King County Council: District 4 Congressional District 7
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Rene Murry for Representative
Web page	
Campaign Email address	renetmurry@gmail.com
Manager	Rene Murry
Campaign mailing address	322 N. 97 th St. Seattle, WA 98103
Campaign phone number	206-783-6010
Campaign FAX	

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience. Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

I'm a social worker, a mom to two daughters who share our values (no small effort), and a wife to a great UW medical researcher. I started my career in Children's Welfare as a Children's Protective Services worker in rural North Carolina. My history in Seattle began more than 20 years ago when I worked in therapeutic foster care at the YMCA Family Services and Mental Health Program. I have worked with the Children's Alliance, the Foster Parent Association, the Washington State Association of Family Based Treatment and most recently the Children's Welfare Advocacy Coalition.

My political resume starts with McGovern and continues from the Carter campaign to Clinton, Gore, Kerry, and then I jumped full time into the Obama campaign. I led three of the caucuses for the 46th District and led the large caucus at Ingraham High School for the Democrats to nominate in 2008.

Among my local credentials: I campaigned for Phyllis Kenney, Jim McIntire, Ken Jacobsen, Jay Inslee, Chris Gregoire, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Gerry Pollett and Scott White. I have doorbelled for Darcy Burner in her district and have taken on other precincts around me when

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they haven't had a PCO for general elections.

One of the efforts of which I am most proud is being a co-organizer of GAIN – the Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors – a grassroots group of volunteers like me who developed a 70 square block network for crime prevention and neighborhood connections. We are making a difference through our very timely Yahoo website, quarterly meetings on issues of area concerns and by connecting with city officials and law enforcement around community needs. Crime in our network is down and connections between neighbors are up.

As a member of the Steering Committee of the State's National Woman's Political Caucus, I was aghast to learn that we have lost a quarter of the women we had 20 years ago when we led the country with 40% women in the legislature. Today we are at 30% and dropping. As I was recruiting women to run in 2012, I decided it was time for me to roll up my sleeves and do just that when this seat came open.

I've chaired many late night meetings as Viewlands Elementary as their PTA President
I chair the Social Justice Steering Committee at University Unitarian Church, where we have recently piloted a Seeds of Justice program to fund progressive social causes.

I've gathered Pennies for Peace to bring better understanding between American and Pakistani cultures at Whitman Middle School

I'm just finishing a services-only auction as the Auction Co-Chair at University Unitarian Church.

Politically, I've been your PCO in the 46th district, precinct 2130 and 2129. In addition, I walked door to door for Obama,

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	
Union Endorsement	
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	Personal Endorsements: Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors Volunteer leadership: Cindy Potter, Dan Pavlovic, Will Murray and Brandon Busch; Joe Cunningham with Children's Campaign Fund; Beth Pflug former Dept of Neighborhoods Staff, 46 th Community: Isa Werny,, Don Bissonette, Wally Moon, Syliva Haven, Margaret Sanstad life-long Children's Advocate, Pediatrician: Dr. Rhonda Levittt, MaryAnn Fordyce and Marilyn Dunn.

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Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	x		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	x		
3	Do you support affirmative action?	x		
4	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	x		
5	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	x		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		x	
7	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	x		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	x		
9	Do you support major changes in the way we live to help stop global warming?	x		
10	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	x		

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" or "Qualified" please explain your answer.

Are you a member of another political party? If so, which ones? Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, whom?

No

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Are you a member of your local Democratic District Party? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?

- a. Yes.
- b. I have contributed to the 46th Districts Democrats, the King Co Democrats, the Washington State Democrats, the National Dem Party, the Senate Congressional Candidate Campaign
- c. I have been a PCO for Precincts 2129: 1991 to 2000 2130: 2000 to Present – and have taken my role of delivering packets to our precinct voters seriously – and actually gotten us votes for Democrats in the process of talking to our undecided voters.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

I hope to be a voice for those people who aren't heard: children in the welfare system, the foster care system, in public schools, those without health care benefits, with mental health needs and who are homeless; the disadvantaged and disabled; those who are impoverished or homeless.

I want to bring Compassion, Community and Commitment to the office. I feel strongly that we need more progressive women in Olympia and I hope to be a strong advocate for children's issues, for public education from kindergarten to higher education and for a reasonable way to raise revenues to support the programs we need for a just and moral society.

What are the single most pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? What actions would you take if elected?

When speaking to members of the 46th, I find that what is weighing on them the most is the current budget cuts and a concern that we need to find revenue to protect programs that have been very important to us. The 46th has stood up for great issues from environmental standards to more basic mass transit, and services for the homeless to name a few. We now are in the heart-wrenching world of watching what we have built, be dismantled.

If in office, I would try to bring people to the table to find ways to bring revenue back into the conversation, not simply have our safety net shred by a thousand cuts. I would speak to the need for the targeted removal of exemptions that are no longer needed and hope to bring a group of like minded people together to move the idea of a state income tax in conjunction with a reduction in our sales tax.

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If you are a candidate in a contested primary race, what record of performance, ability, experience, personal qualities, and positions on issues distinguish you from your opponent(s)? If you do not receive the nomination, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election? Please explain.

I have a history of advocating for the children in the welfare system. I have worked in protective services, foster care and mental health. I am the strongest children's advocate in this field of candidates. My daughters have attended Seattle Public Schools, my eldest now a junior at the University of Washington and my husband is a Physician/Scientist and faculty at the UW. I may be the only woman running in Seattle that has children currently in the public schools. I also am active in the National Women's Political Caucus striving to bring more women into elected office. Another skill that I can share is true grass roots community development, which has been demonstrated by my work with Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors. I have been volunteer leadership of GAIN north for 6 years.

There is no reason that I would not support another candidate should they received the nomination

Do you believe the current structure of taxes and/or fees that generate funds in your area are fair? If not, how would you change it?

I do not believe the tax structure of Washington State is fair or equitable. I supported the income tax on higher earners and actually believe that we need a state income tax to have a more stable revenue stream. I would like to see the legislature put forth a package that would advocate for a graduated income tax along with a reduction in the sales tax. But if we as Democrats in King County cannot pass an income tax, we need to make sure that we have adequate income for funding K-12 education and restoring the funding to our higher education system.

Ending exemptions is a short term priority, but realistically, I support the Governor's measure to increase revenues.

After the crisis is addressed, I do believe we need people from across the political spectrum to sit down and discuss a Lean Management model for government. I'm impressed with what Dow Constantine has done to cut the county budget. He gets it and we could take a page from his actions in Olympia. He has decided to do fewer things, but do them better.

King County has a ten year plan to end homelessness. What ideas do you have to increase low income and affordable housing/?

King County's Ten Year plan was well thought out and an effective tool to creating more opportunities to provide transitional and permanent housing. We still have a long way to go in addressing the needs of our homeless and the populations that are at risk of becoming homeless. My work in foster care and my time chairing a committee on Homelessness at University Unitarian Church has given me real life/ hands on experience with our homeless population.

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I feel we need to continue the work, supporting models that offer transitional placements for foster children, veterans and monitored housing for those that have addiction issues or mental health concerns. Brettler Place, Plymouth Housing Group, and Aloha house are all examples of programs that work in helping people out of homelessness.

Again, we struggle with adequate funding. I hope that we continue to share the message that we must do more to tackle this issue in our society. I have direct experience working in the field and hope that bringing that voice into policy making can help people understand that the cost to society and government of not addressing it is high.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I support a single payer model for health care. I believe that every person should have guaranteed access to affordable health care. A preventive model is the most successful.

What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

I was one of the 1st foster home licensors in Region 4 to advocate for same sex couples to have ability to become foster parents and have a history of working for equal rights in this arena. I have been a lifelong believer that the GLBT community and its ability to have equal rights. I support marriage for same sex couples in addition to equal benefits, civil unions and parental rights.

What creative solutions can you offer to address the problems of the economically disadvantaged?

I feel that stable housing is a top priority in assisting the economically disadvantaged. A strong public educational system continues to be the best way to support families and help them rise out of poverty. I also support micro lending models that could help individuals with work or a small business. We can continue to build on programs in the state that offer all people adequate training, job skills and a competitive education.

One of the reasons I want to step up and run for this position is that I see the safety net that we have constructed – that which supports our vulnerable populations – is being dismantled. We are morally responsible to rebuild it.

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

Printed Name	Rene T. Murry	Date
Signature		November 16, 2011