



## Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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**I am a candidate running for...** Supreme Court, Pos. 2

**Website Address** <https://larsonforwa.org>

**Please list any/all social media account URLs.**

<https://www.facebook.com/larsonforjustice/>

## Getting to Know You

This next section will give you the opportunity to provide details about who you are as a person, candidate, and member of the community.

### Tell us about yourself.

**I have been a trial judge for 16 years and I have been the presiding judge for Federal Way Municipal Court for 14 years. I was a trial lawyer, trying cases in state and federal courts, for 23 years before becoming a trial judge in 2008. I have two sons, one is a police officer and one is a physician, and I have four grandchildren, ranging in age from 15 years old to 3 months old.**

**I am dedicated to respecting and following our state constitution and the rights it provides to the people. I will also respect the proper role of the courts, to uphold and interpret the law, not create new law.**

**I have worked closely with legislators and others across the state and nation to develop real strategies and coordination for our state's criminal justice system and the communities they serve. I want to bring needed leadership to the state's highest court so that we can work together across this state to tackle the troublesome issues facing our communities and state.**

**I promote the balance that we need in our courts that uses both compassion and accountability as effective tools with those accused of crime. I have long devoted myself to the improvement of the justice system and judicial independence, earning me the President's Award from the District and Municipal Court Judges Association in 2018 as well as other awards and recognition.**

**List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.**

See previous response. I can provide my resume upon request.

**Describe your duty to the office you are running for and how you will achieve success.**

My duty to the office includes the simple requirement to follow my oath to uphold the Constitution of the State of Washington and the Constitution of the United States. I truly believe in Article 1, Section 1 of our State Constitution, which provides that, "All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights." I also have a duty to make the court system work better for the people we serve and to restore confidence in the judiciary.

**What does success look like for this position and what key performance indicators should voters use to evaluate you?**

Whether they trust me and have confidence in my decisions.

**What community activities are you engaged in? Have you held leadership roles in any of these organizations?**

Too many to fully list, but I was voted Best Community Leader in 2022 by the readers of the Federal Way Mirror beating out the mayor and other local officials for the honor. I have held several leadership positions in addition to leading the court for 14 years; President of the Federal Way School Board before joining the court, president of Kiwanis twice, several judicial committees, Civil Air Patrol squadron commander and director of emergency services for the Washington Wing, first ever chair of the Federal Way Board of Ethics (1991-94), and leadership instructor for Advancing Leadership.

## **Your Political Beliefs**

This section contains a series of questions about your alignment concerning broad governmental philosophies as well as some specific issues.

**Where do our rights as citizens of the United States come from? Under what conditions can government infringe or suspend them?**

God. Our rights are inalienable. There is a moral answer and a legal answer. It should be the same answer, but the courts have whittled away at our rights over the years.

**Do you consider yourself a constitutional originalist or do you prescribe to it as a living document? Please explain.**

The words are the words, which includes a process for changing those words, and until that process takes place it needs to be read as written.

**What is the purpose of government? If elected, how will you perform your duties based on that "purpose?"**

To protect and maintain individual rights and to provide essential services that allow us to have a free and well functioning society. I will follow my oath.

**When does life begin and at what point does the government have a duty to protect it?**

As a judicial candidate I cannot give opinions that would disqualify me from hearing cases in the future on that topic, but I can say that it is not the job of a judge or the judiciary to make that determination.

**Do you have any criminal convictions, ever filed for bankruptcy, have any active or unresolved tax liens, any conflicts of interest that may jeopardize your candidacy?**

No

**Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative, adhering to the values and answers you've provided in this questionnaire.**

I will always be accessible, but my job is to adhere to the law and constitution and not to represent people or their positions, per se.

**Please provide any feedback, comments, or questions that you have for the SCRCC.**

Thank you and it is a good set of questions.

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