



Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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I am a candidate running for...	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
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Please list any/all social media account URLs.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556667174443>

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 am a husband, father of four, a retired US Navy Chief Warrant Officer and I currently serve on the Peninsula School Board, including being board chair in 2021 and I am the current vice chair.

I had the honor of serving in the U.S. Navy for 28 years, enlisting right out of high school, reaching the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. I entered as an enlisted electronics technician and later I had the demanding and exciting job of Navy Diver - doing underwater ships husbandry, experimental and saturation diving, and various classified projects. My wife of 25 years, Tonia – a Washington native – and I needed to pick where we would live after I retired from the Navy. While stationed in Italy, we used the internet to research school districts and chose to move to the Peninsula School District to ensure our four children received an excellent education.

During my military career, I was always immersed in my local community while serving in locations and bases all over the world. I've seen what education systems look like in Korea, Guam, Puerto Rico, Italy, and other parts of the world, as a parent.

I have had a lifelong passion for serving others, and it is important to

me to support local organizations and causes. My father was a police officer, and my mother was a District Judge's legal assistant, so I was raised to give back and to make things better than I found them. Today, I sit on the Board of the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation; serving on the Education Cabinet and as Chair of the Students of Distinction Committee; and is a member of the Friday morning Rotary Club. I previously served as President of the City Club of Tacoma; Vice President of the Hilltop Business Association; and served on the board of the local FISH Food Bank.

I was first elected to the Peninsula School District Board in 2013 and was twice reelected since. During that time, I have served as President and Vice President, and Legislative Representative.

I care deeply about my community, and I am passionate about making it the best possible place to live and raise a family. I am committed to working with statewide stakeholders to make our Washington Public Schools the best in the country. To provide all students with a pathway to achieve academic excellence and make sure they have the tools—academically, emotionally, socially—to achieve their unique goals."

List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.

2013 Elected to the Peninsula School District Board of Directors
2015 Elected as Pierce County Charter Review Commissioner
2017 Elected to the Peninsula School District Board of Directors
2021 Elected to the Peninsula School District Board of Directors
2013 - Present: Serve as School Board's Legislative Rep to Olympia
2015 - 2023 Served on the WSSDA Legislative Committee

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

First, I will restore local control to all the school board members across the state.
I will meet with school superintendents and school boards across the state to ask how I can help. Chris Reykdal says it's his way or the highway, threatening to withdraw school funding.
I will restore parent voice and make sure policy allows them to be part of the policy processes in their school i.e. curriculum development committees, literacy task forces, etc.
I will meet regularly with state legislatures to encourage them to change the state's focus back toward educating students on how to read, write, do math, etc. rather than focusing on divisive social justice agendas.
I will bring in trusted experts and advisors to complete a top to bottom review of all OSPI processes and departments and restructure them, as needed, to be more efficient and to totally focus on helping students achieve 100% success.
As a navy officer, I always took the time to observe, listen, ask questions before making changes. Changes must be made at OPSI, however I will make certain they are made correctly with a focus on the kids and supporting school boards and parents.

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

Teachers, students, and parents are stressed out and tired of the current leadership of Chris Reykdal. Success will take many forms however academic success has to be priority one. Across the state, on average, less than 50% of students can read and write at grade level. That is unacceptable. We need to get back to the basics and remove the divisive social agendas.
School boards having local control to make decisions based on what is best for the children in their

communities - that's what they were elected to do.

Parents once again feeling empowered - that their voices matter!!

All curriculums posted on school websites - 100% transparency so parents and families can see what is being taught in their schools.

The top performance indicators will be reflected on the OSPI site - much improved reading, writing, math, and science scores, increased attendance rates, etc.

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

I previously served as President, and board member, of the City Club of Tacoma

I served as Vice President of the Hilltop Business Association in Tacoma

I served on the board of directors of the World Trade Center Tacoma

I served on the board of the local FISH Food Bank

I currently serve on the board of the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation

I am a member of Rotary

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?

Our nation was formed under God and our rights as citizens come from the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Under no conditions, do I believe the government has the power to infringe or suspend those rights.

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

This great country was founded on the principals that we are all created equal under God and the Constitution is the cornerstone - the bedrock - on which the foundation of this country was built. I do not believe the U.S. Constitution is a living document.

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

Ronald Reagan believed that a smaller government was essential to maintain rights of the people - less was more under his leadership. The purpose of the government is simple - protect the rights of its citizens. As OSPI, I will return local control to the school board, restore parent voice, and allow them to do what is best for their students and children. I will not allow OSPI to remain the heavy-handed bully it is now under Chris Reykdal. I will eliminate unnecessary departments and positions, especially if they were established to infringe upon local school boards and parents.

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

I believe life begins at conception. The government should protect it at all costs. Normally, I would say the role of OSPI should not be one that is deeply involved in this issue. However, the liberals in this state are doing their best to place medical centers in public schools - and I absolutely oppose that. One of my "conservative" opponents is pro-choice so I would be very concerned he would support those clinics since they are funded by pro-choice groups such as Planned Parenthood.

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.

During my campaign, I have been campaigning old school. Driving all over the state in my car to meet people where they are. In the past six weeks, I have visited San Juan County, Lewis, Pierce, Clallam,

Yakima, Benton, Kitsap, Walla Walla, and Spokane. I will also be traveling to several other counties before the end of March.

As Superintendent of Public Instruction, I will make it my mission to visit as many of the 295 school districts as possible annually. I will have quarterly Zoom meetings with Superintendents and School Boards to keep my ears open as to how I can help them be successful. As I said, I will embrace the local control. It is not my job to tell the school boards how to do their jobs, it is my to ask them how I can help them be successful.

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

There are three conservatives running for this position. Both of my conservative opponents are good men who care about making a difference. One, from the tri-cities, is known for not liking to campaign. In the nine months since he announced his OSPI campaign, he has raised less than \$5,000. The second, from King County, recently at the Roanoke conference had campaign materials on his table that stated he was Socially Progressive and Pro-Choice. He announced six weeks ago and has not yet raised \$5,000. I also announced six weeks ago, and I have traveled all over the state and have raised over \$23,000. I am absolutely committed to this campaign and to winning this election. I will be attending all four days of the state convention and hope to meet and talk with all of you during my time there. God Bless.

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