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Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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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'm a resident of Spokane Valley, a businessman, a property owner, a husband, a father to three stepchildren, and grandfather to six grandchildren. I grew up with my younger sister in an average middle-class household in a suburb of Portland, Oregon. I participated in all the normal activities of childhood: had a paper route, played high school sports, earned an Eagle Scout, worked summer jobs, and even played in some high-school garage bands. My parents worked hard to provide for us and kept us engaged in our church community. I went to college, leaving early to take a job in the financial industry, and later worked in the legal field. My wife, Kristi, and I have been married for 18 years and began the process of relocating to Spokane Valley in 2019 because we love this area of Washington and to be closer to family.

Being a student of history, I've always had a respect and admiration for the United States, its unique founding story, and for those who established it or helped build it. I recognize that the only way to honor and preserve their legacy is for me to be informed and engaged, both as

a citizen of my community and of my state. To fulfill this obligation to those from whom I have inherited so much, I have actively sought out opportunities to serve and participate in the process of guiding the development and implementation of the policies of Spokane Valley. This has led me to assist in political campaigns, connect and serve with the local Republican Party, and, recently, to my appointment to the Spokane Valley Planning Commission. Additionally, I remain active in my local church community.

My relationship with Senator Padden developed through my community engagement and our mutual acquaintances. It was while he was considering stepping down that I was approached and asked to consider the possibility of serving the public on a broader scale. I believe it was my background in business and my devotion to traditional, conservative values that prompted this conversation. I agreed to serve out of concern for the future of our State and in hopes of preserving those unalienable rights so well documented in the Constitutions of Washington and the United States.

Washington is at a crossroads, with many issues plaguing our state and radical ideologies overshadowing common sense. Through firsthand experiences from my past successes and failures, I've developed an understanding of the need for personal accountability, the opportunity for change and redemption, and the importance of preserving the liberty and freedom of choice for each citizen. That is why I'm committed to advocating for the safety and financial welfare of our citizens and for a promising future for our children. I pledge to stand up for the residents of District 4, to be their voice, and to work tirelessly to help turn the tide of legislation that disregards the values and priorities of the hard working, tax paying individuals of eastern Washington.

List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.

I have accumulated a broad spectrum of experience from the various opportunities to lead and/or serve I have had in my life. From my early days as a Financial Planner/Investment Counselor, my time as a Trial Assistant/Paralegal, to my current role as Controller/CFO at KT Contracting Co., Inc., I've developed expertise in establishing and overseeing the financial and administrative policies crucial to successful business operations. My role as a landlord has given me many chances to help others in tight financial situations, as well as offer help and advice in other ways.

My background includes:

- Controller/CFO Roles: Overseeing financial activities, including AP, AR, Payroll, HR, and Fleet Maintenance, while ensuring compliance and managing cash flow for two sister companies in the transportation sector of public contracting.
- Entrepreneurship: I have formed, acquired and/or managed multiple successful ventures covering a variety of industries, including Millennial Capital Investors, Millennial Property Management, Millennial Risk Management (dba Oregon City Allstate), AMC Holdings (AMC Fleet Services), Atrium Transport, and

Bella Vita Salon & Day Spa. Each venture provided its own valuable insights into business administration and operations, financial management, personnel oversight, risk mitigation, regulatory compliance, and government relations.

- Real Estate Investments: I began pursuing my interest in real estate in my 30's, when I purchased my first multi-family property, which was also my home. From there, I sought out other opportunities, and I now own or manage multiple residential and commercial properties.

Having been both a tenant and a landlord, I've developed a broad understanding of the rental/leasing process and the importance of the relationship between a landlord and tenant. Further, this journey equipped me with expertise in property management, landlord/tenant law, and real estate transactions, and provided me with the opportunity to be involved in short-term funding for real estate purchases, eventually leading to both my purchasing a diesel/heavy engine repair and maintenance shop, and my current interest in renovating homes for resale.

Throughout my career, I've maintained meticulous financial records, navigated complex tax and regulatory situations, and tackled diverse challenges inherent in entrepreneurship. I've also learned how to get along with people with competing interests and who are sometimes unpleasant to work with.

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

I believe it is the primary duty of an elected public servant to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Washington State Constitution, for it is in those documents that the powers of government are outlined, and protections for the rights of the people are established. Therefore, every piece of legislation that is put forward must be evaluated in light of those documents, ensuring that the resulting statutory or regulatory mandates will not violate the rights of the citizens. If proposed legislation can pass this first basic test, it must be further scrutinized to determine if it is necessary or desirable for the betterment of the lives of the people of Washington, particularly the residents of the 4th Legislative District. In short, it is my duty to serve the people in my district by representing their interests and priorities and advocating for and preserving their rights.

I expect to be successful because I will maintain a close relationship with the people in my district, encouraging their engagement, which is the basis of any successful government. This begins with open and clear communication so I can understand the wants and needs of our community. Town halls, newsletters and social media will ensure I'm easily accessible, so our community knows what is taking place in Olympia. During session, I plan on partnering with local citizens groups and organizations to keep citizens abreast of bills I believe cut against their rights so they can testify and comment on these bills. My broad array of experience will also help me successfully represent the 4th. I have been blessed to be involved in many different types of businesses that have helped me develop crucial skills in overseeing financial and administrative policies, as well as managing personnel and navigating large budgets. My business experience has also led me to deal heavily with the overregulation of our private sector and to understand the ins and outs of what needs to change to promote the free market.

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

Success as a Senator for the 4th Legislative District essentially comes down to how well I would promote and protect the values and priorities of my constituents and shield them from legislation that further infringes on their economic or personal freedoms, or burdens them with additional costs, either directly or indirectly. To accomplish this, I would initially be building relationships with the representatives of the 4th Leg, as well as my Republican colleagues by getting to know their areas of interest and expertise, their priorities, as well as their styles of communication, while at the same time benefiting from their experience and knowledge regarding the functioning of the Legislature as a whole. Requesting and working for positions on key committees for which my experience is best suited, such as Transportation and Law & Justice, would be important for potential bargaining or the introduction of legislation.

While working well with other members of the Legislature and building consensus would be important, ultimately, success would come down to protecting the citizens of the 4th from bad legislation or policies, while simultaneously passing at least some legislation in furtherance of our primary goal of restoring local control of our policies and processes to our local institutions such as schools, city councils, building, planning and transportation departments, and businesses. Working to reduce crime and homelessness, as well as taxes and other regulations that increase the cost of living should be the hallmark of every legislator's success.

Finally, in my conversations with the public, I have found that economic freedom, safe streets and schools, affordable essentials, reasonable public amenities, and general quality of life are what are important to the mothers, fathers and business owners of the 4th Leg. By increasing these, citizens could and should feel

their elected officials are successful. If the people feel that they are winning again, that they are making progress in life, and that things overall are getting better, then I will have been successful.

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

I belong to and am active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or the LDS church. Generally, each member is given a "calling" to keep them engaged and to foster the building of relationships that strengthen the bonds of love and brotherhood among the members. I have held many different "callings" throughout my years of membership, several of which could be considered positions of leadership that involved organizing and motivating other members I was asked to work with. These roles have helped me develop various skills pertaining to communication, planning and implementation, organizing, and, occasionally, conflict resolution.

In addition to church callings and leadership roles, I am currently a member of the Spokane Valley Planning Commission. While I have yet to hold any leadership roles within this body, I continue to work to build relationships with my fellow Commission members, and to work with City of Spokane Valley staff to fulfill my duties.

In the past, I have held positions on several HOA Boards, and been elected as President to two different communities. Similar to the Legislature, the duties involved on these Boards brought me experience and understanding of budgets that were supported by the imposition of financial obligations upon the community members, insurance and risk management, planning for long-term obligations, and rule making and enforcement.

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?

In the United States, we recognize that our rights as individuals were endowed upon us by our Creator and, therefore, cannot be usurped or unjustly infringed without offense to He who gave them. This true principle is articulated in the Declaration of Independence, where it is stated that governments are instituted among men to secure the rights of its citizens and that governments can only derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Of course, our state and federal Constitutions were written to establish their respective governing bodies, and to place limitations on the powers that were granted to them. These limitations represent basic boundaries in which the government must operate, and the violation of which would find the government infringing on the rights of its citizens. However, our supreme governing documents were also written with enough flexibility to allow for the continued operation of government in all areas and necessary situations, including those not necessarily contemplated at the time of their ratification, with the establishment of multiple branches to act as a check and a balance to one another. Unfortunately, this flexibility has been used to expand the powers of government far beyond what I believe was originally contemplated and envisioned by the drafters of those documents. Consequently, our various governments have long ago exceeded their just powers and began to exercise unrighteous dominion over their citizens.

Unfortunately, a lack of education and increased secularization of the citizenry has resulted in a general belief that our rights are granted by government via legislation or regulatory mandate and, therefore, are no longer to be guarded or protected. Instead, a belief in a different kind of rights, or entitlements, has emerged, such as a "right" to housing, food, subsistence income, etc, thereby replacing the fundamental, inalienable rights recognized in our founding document.

In the constitutional paradigm, governments can only infringe or suspend the rights of a citizen or citizens if it is done within the enumerated powers granted to it by the document (constitution) that first established that government. Therefore, a government may only infringe upon or suspend the rights of citizens in limited circumstances, among which would be in furtherance of a clear public interest, the need for the peaceful order, or in response to criminal activity that infringes upon another's liberty. In the latter instance, it wouldn't be an infringement of rights but a protection of them, since it is the Government's duty to protect its citizens. I will stand for our God-given rights and strive to keep the government within its proper confines.

Do you consider yourself a constitutional originalist or do you prescribe to it as a living

document? Please explain.

I believe the Constitution of the United States is an inspired document, created by wise and righteous men who were raised up by our Creator for that very purpose. Based upon that belief, I must label myself an originalist. I believe our Constitution needs to be read and understood in the light of its original meaning and intent, with deference given to the overarching objective of protecting citizens from a too powerful government. Our Founding Fathers created the Constitution as the foundation of our country, thereby giving the world the greatest country it has seen. We need to be respectful of the effort, sacrifice, and inspired wisdom necessary to create our Constitutional Republic. We can do that only by seeking to understand the original intent of our Constitution and evaluate all laws in light of that intent. To do otherwise opens the door to abuse and expansion of powers that are difficult, if not impossible to reverse. It is true, however, that the Constitution did not contemplate all possible situations and did not envision many of the new and practically unimaginable issues we are finding it necessary to deal with some 236 years after it was fully ratified. In expectation of that inevitable dilemma, the Constitution provides for an amendment process. However, it was intentionally and wisely made to be difficult and daunting. Only when a serious and obvious need for such a change arises should we avail ourselves of that avenue. However, even in such a situation, it is imperative that we look back to the wisdom of our founders and adhere to their vision and objectives; giving the citizen maximum liberty to pursue happiness as he defines it, so long as it does not infringe on the same right of others.

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

The purposes of government as envisioned by the framers are articulated in the Preamble to the Constitution, wherein they stated their intent was to "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty..." To accomplish these goals, they established a central government with limited, enumerated powers, while leaving all remaining authority to the individual States and the people. All governments should operate with the same objectives, with their powers being proportionate to their proximity to the people; the more local the government, the more control it should have to determine policy.

I believe the general purpose of government is three-fold. First, government should protect the citizens, both from others who would seek to harm them, take from them, or otherwise infringe on their right to life, liberty and property, as well as from foreign threats, such as invasion, or attacks on the interests of the people laying outside their physical borders. A standing army at the national level, as well as law enforcement agencies at all levels, exist to accomplish these purposes, always functioning on the premise that it is the rights of the people that are being protected and served, not the other way around. Providing criminal and civil courts to facilitate justice is also part of this function of government.

Second, government is there to facilitate and/or perform the necessary and beneficial tasks that provide for the common welfare of the people, and but would not be best achieved by private industry. This would include desirable endeavors such as building roads, utilities, and other forms of infrastructure that should be available for all to use or benefit from, and that could be potentially monopolized should it be left to the private sector.

Third, there is a necessity for government to exist to facilitate trade and relationships among its citizens and member municipalities. Establishing standard rules for commerce and industry allows the orderly, efficient, and amenable exchange of goods, services, and other general relations. For a sovereign entity to be successful, cooperation among its citizens is imperative. Government helps set the framework for those interactions, so that the people can enter into agreements, take action, invest money and labor, and pursue worthwhile goals, all with a reasonable expectation of the process and outcome. For those instances where disputes arise, the government provides the means of resolving those disputes.

Given these fundamental principles, I would undertake my responsibilities in the Washington Senate with the idea that government is to set the framework for the private sector to operate, with minimal interference. It is not to promote one industry or business over another, to redistribute wealth, or pick winners or losers. All forms of wealth belong to the private sector, and government should take sparingly and use those resources both efficiently and with the greatest benefit to all. It is a serious, God-given responsibility that we have taken too lightly for too long.

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

I believe that life begins at conception and that we as a nation, state, community or individual have a duty to protect that life.

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?

I have never declared bankruptcy, have no unresolved tax liens, nor do I feel I have any conflicts that would jeopardize my candidacy. I have a supportive family and am blessed with a business that allows me to control my work schedule. I am at a point in my life where other duties and responsibilities no longer require full-time attention.

I do, however, have one criminal conviction from 35 years ago, which I have openly talked about on my website and to any individual who has asked with sincere interest and without malicious intent. In 1989, I was charged by the United States Government with the attempted possession of a controlled substance. That substance was cocaine. As a result, I was sentenced to 181 months of incarceration. Once situated, I undertook to utilize my time by becoming immersed in one of the few intellectual activities that were available to me: the study of the law and the legal system.

I began to assist others in understanding their individual cases from a legal standpoint, and to help evaluate what options, if any, they might have. Through this process, I discovered that I, myself, might benefit from my new knowledge when I realized that the conduct with which I was charged and had plead guilty to was actually a misdemeanor, and yet I had been sentenced for a very similar, but more serious felony. This discovery formed the basis of a petition to the sentencing court to be resentenced, which, after additional court proceedings, resulted in a substantially reduced sentence and my release in April 1995 after less than six years of confinement.

Looking back, I am grateful that I was held accountable for my mistake. Not only did it force upon me the introspection necessary to mature and put my life on a positive, law-abiding path, but it gave me rare and precious insight and experience. It shaped my world view, and while the "suffering" involved was deserved, it was also sanctifying. Just as importantly, I gave me a profound respect and appreciation for our justice system by showing that it can be stern, but forgiving and redemptive, as it always strives for justice if overseen and administered by moral individuals of strong integrity.

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.

My intention is to honestly and accurately represent the people of the 4th Legislative District in Olympia. This can only be done by knowing and understanding their values and priorities. This necessarily requires that I proactively interact with them via email, newsletters, town halls, open houses, social media, by phone and, when practical, in person. I intend to have an open-door policy with all my constituents who reach out with a desire to interact in a respectful manner and with honorable intentions. I will always make myself readily available for them as their public servant. I will continue to stay involved in my community and church, and I will continue to seek out ways in which I can better serve the great people of District 4.

I will strive to ensure that my votes always reflect the best interests and well-being of the citizens of the 4th. That is my duty as their elected representative. In addition, it will always be firm in my mind that my wife and myself, our daughter and her husband, as well as four of our grandchildren, are also citizens of District 4.

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

Through my involvement with The Spokane County Republican Central Committee over the past four years, I have seen the Board operate under multiple sets of leadership. Though observing somewhat at a distance, I feel I can say that I have seen the character of that leadership change each time, and I can also say that the current Board most closely resembles what I believe to be the essence of the system envisioned by our forefathers. That being that the Board, the District Leaders, and the PCOs all represent the grassroots of our community; normal, humble, God fearing individuals that give of their time, talents and treasure, who sincerely care about the principles and values articulated 248 years ago at our founding, and who no doubt go to their knees for inspiration and guidance in undertaking their duties in a desire to preserve the legacy we have inherited from the same type of folks who went before. They are people I would be honored and proud to represent.

I'd also like to address an important principle found among those we are trying to preserve; that being redemption. I believe in the power of redemption because I have seen this power firsthand in my own life and I am deeply grateful for it. But redemption can extend beyond an individual, and I believe that no person, no family, no community, no state is hopelessly lost. When I hear people say Washington is too far gone to be saved, I tell them "You've forgotten about the power of redemption."

I am running for the Washington State Senate because I believe Washington is worth saving. I believe it will be difficult, but redemption is never easy. It comes at the highest cost. Protecting our families, our women and our children from the radicals in Olympia will not be easy, but it must be done. Protecting our future, our businesses, or jobs, or homes, our financial well-being from the tax addicts in Olympia will not be easy, but it must be done. Protecting our rivers, our dams, our properties, our communities and our cities from those who say you will own nothing and be happy will not be easy, but it must be done. I know with the help of God and with the hard work that redemption requires, we can redeem this once great state. I have walked the difficult path of redemption, I have paid the price it demands, and I can say that it is worth the cost.

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