

KING COUNTY DEMOCRATS

2012 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE – CONGRESS, SENATE, LEGISLATURE

Candidate Name	Gerry Pollet
Position sought	State Representative 46 th District Position 1
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46, 1, 7
Do you publicly declare to be a Democrat?	YES!!! I am well known as a Democrat, and have served for many years as vice chair of the 46th District Democrats. Working with my wife, Janet Miller, former chair of the 46 th District Democrats, we have hosted the trainings at our house and yard for hundreds of N. Seattle volunteers for doorbelling for Barack Obama, John Kerry and Al Gore.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Gerry Pollet for State Representative
Web page	pending
Campaign Email address	Gerry-pollet@msn.com and Gerry@gerrypollet.com
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Campaign Consultant(s)	John Wyble

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.

In my first Session in the House of Representatives, I have collaborated with colleagues to provide leadership to make our tax system more fair and to add revenues to fund our moral and constitutional commitments to health, education, opportunity and our environment. I have put my experience with our schools to work to help efforts to reject proposals that would overturn or void the existing teacher evaluation and health care agreements negotiated by Seattle and other districts with their teachers and staff. Expanding access to educational opportunity has been a priority of mine, including successfully advocating to restore funding for college work study.

It was an honor to be able to vote for the historic passage of Marriage Equality. To protect people from predatory towing charges that have cost people their cars or a month's rent, I introduced the legislation to cap towing rates (2372 passed the House but died the day of cutoff in the Senate).

My commitment in running for the appointment to the vacant seat was to be accessible and responsive to the residents of the 46th District. I have met that commitment by

holding in-district drop in office hours on every weekend when the House was not voting (I am told that I was the only House member who did this), holding telephone and in-person town halls and meeting with hundreds of 46th District residents.

I have dedicated my career to be a public interest organizer and attorney, and my free time to working for our neighborhoods, our environment, and our children's schools... and electing progressive candidates. I am well known regionally and nationally as the Director of the region's leading organization (Heart of America Northwest) working for cleanup of Hanford, which is the most contaminated area in North America. I chaired and ran the statewide ballot campaign to stop the Bush Administration's and nuclear industry's plans to use Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump.

I have worked hard to build the 46th District Democrats over the past 20 years (currently vice-chair for our programs). Many of you know me as a **neighborhood and schools activist**.

*As City Council Member Nick Licata said of me in his endorsement for this seat:
"Gerry thinks globally and acts locally."*

I have written and successfully organized statewide campaigns and done the lobbying to pass important legislation that protects our environment and consumers – including our Growth Management Act, state toxic waste cleanup law, and laws protecting rate payers, whistleblowers and the health of our children and workers from exposure to toxics.

I pledge to be a Representative who works year round with our Democratic District organization and PCOs in our mission to elect Democrats who stand for Democratic values and are responsive to the grassroots of the Party and our neighborhoods in the 46th. That is my pledge to you.

As a **neighborhood and schools organizer**, I have done the organizing and legal work to improve our neighborhoods, preserve streams, save trees, provide transit, and overcome overcrowding in our North Seattle public schools.

I am also on the **faculty of the UW School of Public Health** and run programs to inspire and train law students to do public interest and environmental work.

The University of Washington School of Public Health named me as its 2010 Community Service honoree, and I have been honored as the national grassroots activist of the year and with Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility's top annual honor (previously given to Governors Lowry and Gregoire). My work has been the basis of numerous news reports including front page stories in the Washington Post, NY Times...NPR, CNN, ABC, and every major regional newspaper.

I serve on the Executive and Legal Committees of the Washington Coalition for Open Government – our state's leading voice for legislation, advocacy and legal representation to preserve the public's rights to participate in government (e.g., we recently successfully defeated the right wing's effort to prevent disclosure of the petitions that sought to overturn our state's domestic partnership law, which will help in defeating any effort to repeal Marriage Equality).

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Democratic Organizations	PCOs of the 46 th voted to appoint me to the vacant seat in the House in November, when David Frockt was appointed to the Senate. The 46 th District Democrats endorsed me in 2008 for a vacant House seat as well.
Labor	numerous endorsements in 2008 for the House, e.g., American Federation of Teachers, Aerospace Machinists [IAM&AW District Lodge 751]; Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587 (mentioned to show my prior support, not imply endorsement for 2012, for which these unions have not yet made endorsement decisions)
Municipal League	
Other Endorsements (LGBT, Women, Chambers, Ethnic, Environmental, etc.)	I have been endorsed to be retained in 2012 as State Representative by Rep. Phyllis Kenney (46th), Former Sen. Ken Jacobsen (46), Rep. Chris Rekdal, Rep. Cindy Ryu, Sen. Maralyn Chase, Rep. Bob Hasegawa, Sen. Margarita Prentice, Rep. Luis Moscoso, Rep. Sharon Tomiko-Santos, Lake Forest Park Mayor Mary Jane Goss.... In 2008, NARAL PAC and numerous other organizations endorsed me - mentioned to show my prior support, not imply they have yet taken a position on the 2012 election.

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I will be seeking endorsements from numerous groups, unions, the 46th District Democrats, KCDCC, NARAL,...

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	Y		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	Y		
3	Do you support government funding of family planning services, including abortion and contraception?	Y		
4	Do you support super majorities (i.e. 2/3 majorities) for revenue increases at the legislative level?		N	
5	Do you support area standards of wages and benefits?	Y		
6	Do you support a woman’s right to choose?	Y		
7	Do you support Federal and State regulation of greenhouse gases?	Y		
8	Do you support a constitutional amendment to overturn <i>Citizens United</i> ?	Y		
9	Do you support marriage equality?	Y		
10	Do you support re-enactment of the Glass-Steagall Act?	Y		
11	Do you support Charter Schools and/or School Vouchers?		N	
12	Do you support equal pay for women?	Y		

* If you answered “Qualified” please explain your answer:

Please answer the following questions *		Yes	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		N
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		N
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		N

* If you answered “Yes” please explain your answer:

Have you ever been a member of any other political party?

NO

Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, whom and when?

NO

Are you a member of your local Democratic District Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer or held a Party position? When/Where?

I have been our vice chair, Secretary, and Platform chair for the 46th District Democrats for over 12 years. I have been a PCO in the 46th District and in the old 32nd District (when it covered part of N. Seattle, prior to moving to our current home in 1990). For many years, PCO literature distribution was coordinated from our front porch. Janet (Miller, my wife) and I ran the trainings in our front yard on how to doorbell for literally hundreds of people a weekend for the Gore, Kerry, and Barack Obama campaigns. I have folded and labeled tens of thousands of monthly 46th District Demograms, and have worked on the campaigns of numerous Democrats.

I have worked with Democratic District and County organizations (and been their key note speaker) all across Washington state, and know firsthand the obstacles that Democrats face in organizing and campaigning in Spokane, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, Bellingham...

I was chair of the District’s Platform and Resolutions Committee responsible for drafting our Platform based on the extensive input from Precinct Caucuses for several election cycles and I am deeply committed to our Platform. As vice-chair of the 46th Democrats responsible for our programs for the past eight years, I have strived to use our programs to hold elected officials accountable to our Platform and relevant Resolutions adopted by the membership, and to educate candidates and officials on our Platform and relevant resolutions.

My commitment to our PCOs and members is to be an active participant in the 46th District Democrats and use my role as Representative to assist our District in organizing and campaigning to increase turnout for all Democratic candidates.

Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization?

I have contributed significantly to the 46th District Democrats and every level of the Democratic Party, and to scores of Democratic candidates.

What are the top three messages of your campaign?

1. Now is the time to begin long-term change to our tax system to make it more fair, stable and able to produce the revenues we need to meet our moral and constitutional commitments to health, education, opportunity and the environment.

Fairness means that a poor family in Washington State no longer pays more in taxes than a poor family in almost every other state. Fairness means that banks and investors no longer avoid paying taxes in Washington that they pay in almost every other state. I have already shown leadership in promoting the closing of tax loopholes and for a tax on unearned investment income (capital gains tax) to pay for health and education.

2. We have been robbing our children’s’ futures with the decisions to cut public education, cut early learning and make access to education harder during the recession. We need, and deserve, a state legislator who is active with our public schools, and can advocate from direct current experience in caucus and committees about conditions in the classroom – both in public schools and at our state colleges and UW (I teach at the UW in the School of Public Health and in undergraduate classes). We need to improve teachers’ performance and training by working with teachers, not try to impose punitive systems on teachers utilizing test scores. We need to lift all students, not allow public resources to be sapped by cherry picking of students. I know from my direct experience as a teacher and parent that we have reduced access to training and higher education with tuition hikes and reduced access to aid.

3. A healthy environment creates a healthy economy. Our environment and the health of our children has been under attack by those who want to use the recession as an excuse to roll back environmental and health standards. We need proven leadership and expertise for the environment in the House. I have proposed legislation to require consideration of the impacts to transit service from large developments, and to provide cities with new tools to have developers contribute to meeting transit standards; and, also to have the downstream impacts to fish, habitat erosion and communities considered in development decisions.

As an environmental leader for many years, and now as a Representative, I have drafted legislation, and developed the lobbying and statewide organizing campaigns and coalitions to successfully pass legislation to protect the environment, protect children’s’ and workers’ health, protect whistleblowers, protect consumers.... My environmental record includes helping to draft our state’s hazardous waste cleanup law and tax, and develop proposals to use the hazardous waste and oil fees to pay for new programs to reduce contaminated stormwater runoff.

I am the only candidate who has stood up to powerful special interests and won.

- With respect to how you plan on getting your message to voters:**
- **How many doors have you and/or your volunteers knocked to date? Do you have a goal, and, if so, what is it?**
 - **How much money have you raised to date, and from approximately how many donors?**
 - **What is your fundraising goal, and how do you plan to reach that goal?**

Our fundraising goal is to raise \$100,000+, if I have anything other than a token challenger. I have raised \$1,200 from approximately 10 individuals in the one weekend during which I was allowed to fundraise between the PCO vote to recommend me and the King County Council’s appointment of me

(because we were in Special Session, I could not raise other funds). I am a very good fundraiser, and hope to use my abilities to help other Democrats if I do not have a significant challenger(s) going forward.

I have knocked on over 400 doors in two months despite being in Legislative Session and holding weekly drop in in-district office hours every Saturday when we were not in Olympia. I expect my campaign will knock on 20,000+ doors, with 5,000 more than once. I will personally knock on 18,000 doors, and have core volunteers knock on an additional 10,000. Additionally, PCOs will knock on, and distribute literature to, an additional 15,000 doors.

***If you are running against another Democrat –
Why should the County or LD organizations support you over your opponent? (hint: make this about you, not your opponent)***

In my first Session in the House, I have proven to be effective and a leader for Democratic values. Legislation I introduced to protect the public from predatory towing rates nearly made it through the entire Legislature despite being only a 60 day Session and my having been appointed just 30 days prior to the opening of the 2012 Session (the bill passed the House and Senate Transportation and Rules Committees – dying on the day of the Republican and Road Kill takeover). On budget and revenue issues, I have demonstrated my abilities to develop coalitions to fund health, education, early learning, and the environment; and, to promote long-term improvements to add revenue while making our tax system more fair.

I am the only candidate in this race who has written and successfully organized statewide campaigns and done the lobbying to pass important legislation that protects our environment and consumers – including our Growth Management Act, state toxic waste cleanup law, and laws protecting rate payers, whistleblowers and the health of our children and workers from exposure to toxics.

My experience working in our public schools and both as a teacher and college parent have provided important perspectives for efforts to preserve access to educational opportunity, fund education, improve access to advising; and, to ensure that proposals for charter schools or to impose a punitive teacher evaluation system which disregards bargained agreements did not move forward – while being able to work towards an effective teacher evaluation system based on collaboration and assisting teachers in improving.

Likewise, my experience and leadership on environmental issues have proven invaluable to assist environmental efforts to challenge claims by chemical manufacturers opposed to the Toxic Kids Free Act, and prevent roll backs to our State Environmental Policy Act and other environmental standards.

I pledge to continue to be a Representative who works year round with our Democratic District organization and PCOs in our mission to elect Democrats who stand for Democratic values and are responsive to the grassroots of the Party and our neighborhoods in the 46th, King County and Washington State.

What are the top three *most* pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? How would you address these issues if elected?

1. Our children's' futures are being robbed by our state's and nation's choices during this great recession. Parents are unable to provide the basics of security and education for their children and our state is failing our disabled, our children, our parents, and our environment.

We can restore their future. We must restore their future.

Our regressive and inadequate tax system which prevents us from meeting our obligations and from providing opportunity for all, is the most pressing issue facing the 46th and the entire state.

We can pay for these essentials.

I am committed with my fellow Freshman House Democrats to a public engagement campaign this year to build public support to make our tax system more fair, stable and to increase revenues. This will include efforts for ballot measures to eliminate tax exemptions and loopholes; and long-term efforts for a capital gains tax and income tax.

I have been working on legislation to eliminate tax breaks and credits for businesses who do not certify that they produce a job for the dollars in avoided taxes. I will continue working on strategies to assist in the overturn of Tim Eyman's Initiative 1053, so we do not need supermajorities in the Legislature to pass a tax or repeal a tax exemption. We must organize now for changing our state's tax structure to include an income tax. Ironically, in this economic climate, if we lead, it will actually be easier, starting with a corporate income tax (many businesses will rejoice at an income tax instead of the B&O tax on their gross revenues when they have little or no profit).

2. Public Education and Access to Higher Education are of vital importance to the residents of the 46th District, and every resident of Washington.

Having hands on experience in our public schools as a volunteer and parent brings an important perspective to Olympia – from funding to the debate over teacher evaluation. I have spent many hours with teachers, Seattle Education Association (SEA) and the Seattle School District, for example, discussing Seattle's model teacher evaluation program, which was developed collectively. This has enabled me to be an effective advocate against proposals to void our collectively bargained, model process and explain why a punitive model will not work.

Our state has made a college education, and even retraining in our community colleges, unaffordable for many. I am an advocate for low tuition and ensuring that slots are increased for residents, not decreased in order to charge more tuition. I teach college and graduate students (including as a Lecturer in the UW School of Public Health), and my own daughter is in college at Western Washington University. I see and hear every day how the Legislature's assumptions about availability of financial aid to offset the outrageous increases in tuition are false and destroying the dream of a college education for many.

My most rewarding efforts in the Legislature were convincing colleagues to restore proposed cuts in college work study and to adopt legislation (adopted) to examine how to ensure that Need Grants go to students based on need. I am continuing to work with colleagues and stakeholders (including students) on proposals to increase access and to provide long-term funding for both basic education and higher education.

In North Seattle, parents know that we face a crisis of overcrowded classrooms and schools, with young children crammed into portables without bathrooms, classes on elementary school lunchroom stages or in halls... To alleviate this, Rep. Kenney, Senator Frockt and I led the effort to secure funding to renovate and open new school buildings. I will continue to work with the community to reduce the overcrowding in Seattle's schools.

3. Transit, transportation and our environment are tremendous interlinked issues for the 46th District.

Our District now includes Kenmore and Lake Forest Park as well as North Seattle. The Mayor of Kenmore identified downstream flooding, erosion and habitat loss from upstream developments as one of the top two issues confronting Kenmore at his first meeting with the new legislative delegation. This is also an urgent problem for LFP.

Improving transit and reducing the runoff and air pollution from cars, are also vital to the District.

To address this, I developed legislation to require cities, in the SEPA review process, to: a) consider the downstream impacts from development; and, b) evaluate the impacts on transit service standards from large developments, and to provide cities with new tools to require mitigation and impact fees to provide transit. The Mayor of Kenmore came to Olympia to testify for this proposal because of the flooding, erosion and fish impacts to Kenmore from upstream developments.

I already am **a champion for the environment and fighting global warming**, and will be a leader in the Legislature, as Heather Trimm, Policy Director of People for Puget Sound (for ID purposes only) said in her endorsement of me for the appointment to this seat:

"Gerry will be a champion for Puget Sound and protecting the environment in Olympia"

To cleanup Puget Sound, fund stormwater cleanup (including low impact development) and fight global warming, I proposed increasing the hazardous waste and oil import fee. This fee was part of our state's hazardous waste cleanup law, which I assisted in drafting and leading the organizing effort to pass.

***If you are running against another Democrat –
If your opponent makes it out of the primary, and you do not, is there any reason you would not be supportive of their candidacy?***

If an opponent of mine would not support collectively bargained agreements, particularly this year with teachers and school staffs; or, if they would vote or work for legislation that would void or preempt portions of such agreements, I would have serious questions about supporting such a candidate even if they said they “prefer” the Democratic Party.

Explain your positions on affordable housing, low income housing, density, and ending homelessness in your community.

Representative Kenney’s legislation to extend fees to provide for housing and plans to reduce homelessness was a very important step this year. I have pledged to work with her, even after she is no longer in the House to extend this effort. On the day we voted on this legislation on the floor of the House, Republican after Republican argued that a \$10 fee increase would destroy the housing market. I pointed out that banks and mortgage companies had agreed that very morning to repay billions of dollars they overcharged home buyers for years. Yet, not one word came from the Republicans about how the banks ripped off homebuyers for billions.

Here in Seattle, we have seen large tax breaks and height variances going to developers who claim to set aside housing units which are affordable – but, which they actually rent at market rates. We need legislation to require that such development commitments are enforced. We need to adopt and extend property recording and commercial lease fees that support low income housing and shelter services (and not accept claims that the capital budget for housing cannot be restored).

Washington State needs to be a leader in moving the federal government to reestablish its role in providing construction and long term costs for affordable housing units – which is a great jobs program during this recession.

Affordable low income housing is needed across Washington State, not just in Seattle and King County. Coalition building in Olympia requires organizing and mobilizing constituents and local government service providers statewide, including showing the efficacy of providing housing for reducing other social service costs.

How do you believe the government could help improve the health care delivery system in our country and state?

I supported and worked for passage of our State’s implementation of the Affordable Care Act this year, and will continue to work for implementation of this essential step forward with an Evergreen Health Care Exchange in the next two years. But, this is not enough...

State government needs to guarantee that every child and every adult in Washington has access to quality health care. I will introduce legislation to recognize that access to quality health care is a fundamental right in Washington State under our state constitution.

This will be hard for opponents of real health care reform to object to. As criteria for health care, this will require us to make fundamental changes which are now blocked by insurers, large businesses or other special interests. If access to health care is a right, then those special interests will lose much of their ability to block reform. If every Washington resident has a fundamental right to access quality health care, the debate over health care reform is fundamentally changed. We can transform the health care debate with this constitutional referendum.

We should use the opportunities from federal law to start moving to a single payer system in Washington.

One third of our health care dollars go to pay for insurance administration! That's estimated to cost over \$5 billion in Washington State, which could pay for every uninsured person to be covered in a well-organized system. The State will need to provide either a pooled coverage or single payer system for catastrophic care to prevent catastrophic care from bankrupting families or making the costs of insurance under proposals such as the Healthy Wisconsin type plans unaffordable.

Will you be a champion for civil rights for all people, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability?

Yes. It was an honor to vote for marriage equality this session!!! I will work to defend our law on the ballot. I will continue to be a leader for recognizing same sex marriage and parental rights as a fundamental right nationwide and a matter of equal protection. No one should be told to wait for equality!

What specific changes in the tax system do you believe are needed?

I am committed to ensuring that a poor family in Washington no longer pays more in taxes than a poor family pays in almost every other state (except 2), while business and the top 1% pay less to support health, education, infrastructure than in other states.

I believe we need a state income tax and should reduce the role of regressive, and less reliable, taxes. Ironically, the recession's impact on businesses provides an opportunity to move to a corporate income tax to replace the B&O tax, which taxes gross revenue even when businesses don't make a profit. I have the organizing and messaging skills to move us forward for changing our tax structure.

To make our system more fair, stable and adequate, I co-sponsored the legislation for a tax on unearned income (capital gains) and the HOPE income tax; and, am working with colleagues to eliminate the out of state sales tax with the revenue dedicated to full day kindergarten. I have also been working with other legislators to develop a proposal to require automatic loss

of tax exemptions enacted to create jobs if the recipient business cannot certify that they meet clear criteria for creating family wage jobs with benefits. This is important to turn around a system where legislators say they support reviewing tax exemptions, but they never really go away. I will also sponsor legislation requiring that state service contracts meet similar criteria with certification that the contactors pay wages equal to prevailing wages and benefits paid to state employees – to avoid a Wal-Mart strategy of “outsourcing” and off-shoring” of state services.

What do you believe can be done to cure our State’s budget problems, and fully fund the multiple progressive programs (e.g.: Basic Health, Home Health Care Worker Advanced Training, Apple Health for Kids, Early Childhood Education), along with other programs (e.g., basic education, higher education, public safety)? Please include *how* you would be effective in enacting your proposed solution.

We need long-term strategies to increase revenue and to make our tax system more fair and stable. We pay 20+% less in state and local taxes today in Washington than we did in 1990.

To have the health care and services a moral society must provide; and, the education and opportunity, which is every child’s right, we must increase revenue.

As discussed above, I have sponsored legislation to sunset tax loopholes, enact a capital gains tax, and implement a constitutional income tax.

This legislative session, I worked with a coalition of fellow freshmen legislators who were united in insisting that the House support increased funding for TANF programs, including childcare for working mothers, and health care programs. I have also been active in promoting legislation to end the out of state sales tax exemption and to devote the funds to pay for full day kindergarten. My skills in messaging and coalition building were important to our effort – including providing a counterweight to the Road Kill and Senate Republicans.

During this recession, our State has made decisions robbing our children of their futures.

Serving on the Higher Education and Education Appropriation Committees, a major priority of mine was not only to fund public schools, early learning and higher education, but also to ensure we did not decrease access to community and four year colleges even further. Governor Gregoire’s budget proposed to eliminate college work study and reduce Need Grants. I played a significant role in restoring work study funds and Need Grants, as well as working with a bipartisan group of fellow legislators to draft legislation which will ensure that Need Grants are distributed based on need. I will be working with that bipartisan group to develop and build public support for new proposals for increasing funding for higher education and providing increased access – which has to include decreasing the portion of the cost which students now bear.

I have worked for many years on efforts to fund public education and to expand our state’s definition of basic education. This strategy resulted in the landmark decision of the State Supreme Court in the *McCleary* decision, which found that we have not been meeting our

constitutional mandate to provide “ample” funding for basic education. We need to remove the restriction on the ability of the Legislature to raise taxes without a 2/3 vote or public vote in order to meet this constitutional duty. I have been active in supporting efforts to assist in having the Supreme Court void I-1053.

Similar to the education strategy, a constitutional amendment to make access to quality health care a fundamental right for every Washington resident will move us to fund health care. I have committed to work with colleagues to work on the drafting, and to sponsor this amendment.

What elements of education reform do you support, not support, and how would you work to improve education in Washington State?

I have worked for years to expand our state’s definition of public education, from early learning and full day kindergarten to an expanded curriculum for high school. We now have to fund these efforts (see above).

Teacher evaluations are an important step forward – only if we do so in a **collaborative approach with our teachers designed to improve teaching, rather than the punitive approach** sought to be imposed by some legislative proposals this Session. I worked to explain to colleagues that we already have a model teacher evaluation system agreed to between the Seattle School District and SEA, as well as other negotiated pilot projects around the state. We need to learn from these pilots to see what works, not ignore them and impose an unproven system that uses testing data in inappropriate ways.


As one of only two legislators from all of Seattle’s districts who have children in, or volunteer in, Seattle’s public schools, offering the perspective and information on the realities of our schools is very important, e.g., to counter claims that seniority determines hiring decisions in Seattle. We now need to fund the significant time commitment it will take to properly implement a system where we mentor and work to improve teaching as part of an evaluation system. This will be a test for those who urged adoption of a punitive system to fire teachers, rather than a system designed to improve teaching.

I am opposed to charter schools. Our constitution says that our paramount duty is to provide ample funding for public schools for ALL children. Diverting funds to some schools will only make the achievement gap more severe for all other children. I oppose proposals to remove accountability and oversight for schools in Seattle from the elected Seattle School Board to charter schools. We already have adopted a collectively bargained system of “Creative Approach Schools” in Seattle, which provide opportunities to do many of the things claimed for charter schools, without the private operators, cherry picking, and loss of accountability. However, many legislators advocating for charter schools were not even aware of this program.

Our nation made a mistake in adopting No Child Left Behind (which I call “No School Left Unpunished”) based on punishing schools for not increasing test scores. The tests were never designed for such use. Further, testing should be only done to improve students’ performance, not to withhold funds. Sadly, this is the same approach urged by some

“education reformers” for teacher evaluations. This would only decrease teachers’ volunteering to take the most challenging students in their classes. It is inappropriate to have teacher evaluations depend on testing when they are required to accept more students with special needs, have no control over the outside factors which largely determine a child’s readiness to learn, and we decrease support staff.

I am an advocate for investing in early learning programs to have children ready to learn to read in kindergarten, and worked to enact curriculum and training for early learning.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Representative Gerry Pollet	Date
Signature		3-7-12