

**QUESTIONNAIRE: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, D10**  
(Marilyn Strickland)

1) Please describe the qualifications, including education, and life experiences that make you the best candidate for the office of U.S. Representative for CD10.

**I was born in Seoul, South Korea. My father, a black man from Georgia who joined the military to send money back to his family, was stationed in South Korea and met my mother. We moved to the United States when I was a year and a half old. If I am elected to Congress, I will be the first African-American to represent Washington state on the federal level, and the first Korean-American woman elected to Congress in its 230 year history.**

**Growing up in the South Sound in the seventies was not always easy, especially for the child of a black man and a Korean immigrant woman. Early on, I learned how to overcome adversity and how to stand up to bullies. My parents taught me the importance of fighting for what's right, the value of public service, and how to stand up for the underdog.**

**I am a proud graduate of public schools - I graduated from Mt. Tahoma High School in Tacoma and have a BA in Sociology from the University of Washington. I also went on to earn an MBA from Clark-Atlanta University, an Historically Black College and University.**

**Professionally, I have a long record of service and accomplishment. I am an effective leader and will run on my record of results, deep roots in the community, broad base of support, and vision of how I will serve the people. My father served in the Army for 20+ years, so I've also experienced the challenges facing military families and veterans.**

**Far too many people are not getting their basic needs met. I want to change that. I'm prepared to hit the ground running and do for Washington's 10th District what I was able to accomplish for Tacoma and our region - improve education, make investments in infrastructure and transit, lower healthcare costs, develop job training programs, support women and minority owned businesses, promote economic opportunity for all, expand access to affordable housing, address climate change, fight racial injustice, and protect programs so people can retire with dignity.**

**I endorsed and campaigned for I-1000, the Washington State Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Act, which sought to restore Affirmative Action in Washington State. I endorsed and supported I-940, the initiative that addressed de-escalation training for police officers and set a new standard for the use of force. Working with the Obama Administration, I launched My Brother's Keeper while Mayor of Tacoma. I also supported "ban the box" legislation to help applicants interested in employment with the City of Tacoma.**

**During my tenure, Tacoma attracted over \$1 billion in investment into housing, office, and retail space, and invested over \$500 million in infrastructure for roads, bridges, transportation, and the Port--growing the economy and creating hundreds of family-wage jobs with benefits.**

**I led successful efforts to raise the minimum wage and pass paid sick leave, paving the way for statewide action. I implemented the city-wide Climate Action Plan and launched an award-winning summer jobs program for high school students that led to the Tacoma Tideflats Certification Program, creating a pipeline for students to fill high-demand jobs in the maritime and construction trades.**

**During my tenure, high school graduation rates in Tacoma, a majority-minority school district, increased from 55% to 89%. I also helped develop a framework of actionable and attainable steps to meet its carbon reduction goals--increasing solar energy use by 26%, registering thousands of new electric vehicles, increasing the tree canopy, and reducing water use by 10% in city buildings. As chair of Pierce Transit and Vice Chair of Sound Transit, I worked tirelessly to expand mass transit.**

**Because of my public service, community service experience, and profile, my base is a diverse cross-section of voters. I was raised in a working-class neighborhood in South Tacoma, have spent most of my life in Pierce County, and was mayor of its largest city for eight years. I understand the diverse needs and concerns of voters, and have shown that I can connect with people of all ages and from all walks of life. I am Korean-American, and my candidacy has already resonated with the sizable Asian and Pacific Islander population in the district. I am also African-American, and have strong, established relationships and a track record of service with the Black community in the district. My father was in the military - he fought in WWII and in Korea - so I have the lived experience of the**

**challenges facing military families and veterans. From my time as Mayor, I have built strong relationships with local government leaders, the building trades and the regional business community. Finally, my story resonates with the immigrant population - my mother is a first generation immigrant. I was born in Korea and I will share the story of this journey and experience. For all of these populations, I have a track record of accomplishment and improving lives - including job creation, gun safety, LGBTQ rights, supporting small business, improving housing, and investing in education. My base knows I am an effective leader who gets things done.**

**2. Please describe what you believe are the most significant issues in this race and why.**

**I am focused on addressing issues which affect people's everyday lives, the first of which is health care. Health care is a right, not a privilege. Even those with insurance are paying sky-high deductibles and copays. The status quo is untenable and affects not only people's health but their economic security. I strongly support a public health care option, which will increase coverage and will lead to better insurance plans from private insurers through increased competition. I am also open to exploring a lowering of the eligibility age for Medicare. I also will fight to strengthen protections for people with preexisting conditions and end surprise billings. I will take on the pharmaceutical industry and fight for things like patent reform so that generic drugs can come to market more quickly to lower the cost of prescription drugs.**

**Another key issue is housing. From one end of this district to another, housing affordability is the issue I hear about the most. Everyone deserves to live in a safe, stable, affordable home, and we have a housing supply shortage. Local and state governments are doing what they can, but the reality of the affordable housing crisis is that the only entity with the resources to address the problem is the federal government. That is why I will advocate for a massive federal investment in affordable housing. This will include increasing funding to state housing finance commissions, to help build more affordable housing; more resources directed to local Housing Authorities, which can be used for housing construction and housing vouchers; and a plan to increase flexibility of housing vouchers to give voucher holders more options for places to live. We need a response to the affordable housing crisis that matches the scale of the problem, and I will champion this effort in Congress.**

**A third issue is economic security. From massive income inequality to workers losing the ability to retire with dignity, economic security is a key focus of my campaign. Wage growth has lagged significantly behind GDP in recent years, leaving workers falling behind. I strongly support collective bargaining and the ability of workers to organize - collective bargaining has led to higher wages and better benefits for all workers, and I will support a federal law banning right-to-work if elected. I am proud of my labor record as Mayor of Tacoma - I started the Tacoma Works program to bring more people into high-demand construction fields that pay living-wage jobs; I fought for keeping Tacoma Power's Click Network a public entity, which preserved dozens of union jobs; as Chair of the Tacoma Employee Retirement System Board, I consistently pushed to make sure that we were fully funding our employees' pensions. I will continue fighting for living-wage jobs, fully funding employee pensions, and protecting social security benefits in Congress.**

3. Do you plan to accept corporate PAC money for this campaign? Who is your single largest campaign donor?

**I will not accept corporate PAC money. My top donors are my husband and my mother.**

4. Do you support reversing the results of the Citizens United decision?

**Yes. Citizens United opened the floodgates for billions of dollars of dark money to pour into elections, and that is exactly what has happened. I strongly support H.J. Res. 2, the Democracy for All amendment, as well as H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and would vote for them if elected.**

5. Would you support the creation of a small-donor public financing program for Congressional elections?

**Yes. The reality of Congressional campaigns and the current system is that they are expensive and viability is tied to fundraising ability. Ideally, public financing for campaigns will create a more level playing field for candidates, and stronger bonds between elected officials and the people they represent.**

6. What is your first priority for CD10 in the next session of congress?

**My first priority will be working with the new Democratic administration to overturn the harmful policies enacted by this current administration. I personally want to help spearhead the largest federal investment in housing in decades. The federal government has abdicated its role in ensuring all of our citizens have safe and secure housing. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to get it done.**

7. Would you vote for the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore key portions of the Voting Rights Act and give the federal government tools to fight back against suppressive laws that target communities of color?

**Yes. We need to make voting easier for people, not harder. The current administration and GOP controlled states around the country are ushering in a new era of Jim Crow laws by erecting barriers for people of color to vote. I will work to reinstate the portion of the Voting Rights Act struck down by the Supreme Court.**

8. What is your position regarding the importance of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to combat climate change?

**Climate change is the defining challenge of our time, touching on everything from racial equity to economic justice to migration patterns to national security. If we don't address it, nothing else we do will matter. I strongly support efforts to reduce CO2 emissions, including cap and trade legislation, and making investments that will incentivize us as consumers and users of transportation to make choices that reduce our carbon footprint. I look forward to working with my colleagues to do just that in Congress.**

9. Do you support the *Green New Deal*?

**While well intentioned, the Green New Deal is more conceptual than actionable. We need impactful plans to address climate change that are attainable and effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while creating and maintaining family-wage jobs and ensure a just and equitable transition to clean energy sources. I look forward to working with labor, environmental groups,**

**businesses of all sizes, communities of color and other stakeholders to develop plans that will protect our environment and the livelihoods of workers.**

10. Do you favor having the United States participate in the Paris Accord of 2015?

**Yes. When I was Mayor of Tacoma, I was part of a national coalition of Mayors who committed their cities to the guidelines set forth in the Paris Climate Accords after the Trump Administration withdrew. I will strongly urge the United States to reenter the Paris Accords if elected to Congress.**

11. Do you believe that laws are needed to address gun violence?

**Yes. As Mayor, I led the effort to pass universal background checks for gun sales, which closed the gun show loophole in the City of Tacoma before the state of Washington passed it. When the NRA threatened to sue us, we were steadfast in our resolve to put the safety of our community first. In Congress, I will advocate for common sense gun safety laws that will help save lives by closing loopholes, keeps guns out of the hands of those with civil and criminal histories (including domestic abusers), and require background checks for all gun sales.**

12. What is your position on managing documented immigration, undocumented immigration, and "Dreamers"?

**I support comprehensive immigration reform. It is hard to believe that this policy goal, which once had bi-partisan support in Congress two decades ago, is now so difficult to achieve. Undocumented immigrants are our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and an integral part of our economy and community. We must provide a path to citizenship for those who wish to pursue it.**

**I also strongly support H.R. 6, which would protect Dreamers and TPS holders. Dreamers are American citizens in all but place of birth - they have grown up attending American schools, and know no home other than the United States. Because of our broken immigration system and the policies of the current administration, they are living in fear of being deported to places they may have never known nor visited. TPS holders are just as vulnerable - they often have no home to return to, and have come to the United States because they have no other option. Both Dreamers and TPS holders deserve to be protected and to**

**build a life here, and I will support this bill if elected.**

13. Should the United States rejoin the Iran Nuclear Deal?  
Why?

**Yes. The JCPOA was an important step toward peace and prosperity in the Middle East. It deterred Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, gave nuclear weapons inspectors unprecedented access to Iran's nuclear facilities, while creating opportunities for improved relations between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the global community.**

14. What is your position on international trade agreements?

**As the most trade-dependent state in the country, 40% of Washington's economy is directly and indirectly tied to trade. I support trade agreements, with strong labor and environmental protections. We need trade policy that allows us to expand our exports and increase family-wage jobs here at home while providing environmental protections and worker rights at home and abroad. Small local businesses are the biggest beneficiary of robust trade in our state.**

**The United States has the great advantage of having one of the most desirable markets in the world. We should use this leverage to ensure that countries that want access to our market are protecting their workers and environment.**

15. What is your position on regulating financial institutions to protect consumers?

**I strongly support increasing regulations on financial institutions. Investment banks have become untethered from the risks they are taking, and everyday people pay the price. I strongly support separating investment and commercial banking and will advocate for reenacting the Glass-Steagall Act.**

**I also support the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The CFPB is one of the most important legacies of the Obama presidency. People deserve to have an advocate in the government to protect them from malicious financial actors. I will work to reverse the current administration's attempts to weaken the CFPB and promote policies that further strengthen it.**

16. Should the VA health system be privatized?

**No. Privatizing the Veterans Administration Health System will not solve its challenges. The VA health system provides needed health care to people who need it. We can and should address inefficiencies in the current system, but it should not be privatized.**

17. What is your current position on health care for all?

**Health care is a right, not a privilege. The status quo is untenable and affects not only people's health but their economic security. I believe everyone should have health care, and to get there we must make it affordable, accessible, transparent and equitable. Even those with insurance are paying sky-high deductibles and copays. I strongly support adding the public health care option, which will improve coverage and will lead to better insurance plans from private insurers through increased competition. I am also open to lowering the eligibility age for Medicare. I will fight to strengthen protections for people with preexisting conditions and end surprise billings. I will take on the pharmaceutical industry and fight for things like patent reform so that generic drugs can come to market more quickly to lower the cost of prescription drugs. Behavioral health, reproductive health, dental and vision care should be part of basic healthcare. We have sent people to the moon in this country - universal health care is a goal we can achieve.**

18. Please fill in the blank: **\_Black\_** lives matter. Why did you choose that word?

**The Black Lives Matter movement is a response to the fractured relationship between the criminal justice system and the black community, including centuries of economic, and social injustice. I was proud to walk with police chief Don Ramsdell at the head of Tacoma's peace march in 2014 after Michael Brown was tragically shot and killed in Ferguson, Missouri.**

19. Do you believe women have a right to control their personal healthcare needs including contraception and abortion?

**Yes. A woman's right to choose is not only morally right - it is a healthcare issue and an economic empowerment issue. I strongly support giving women the access and choices they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. I will defend Planned Parenthood against defunding efforts and will advocate fiercely against overturning *Roe v. Wade*, as well as fight to make reproductive healthcare safe, affordable and available to those who want it.**

20. Do you support collective bargaining on behalf of all workers?

**Yes. It is no coincidence that the decline of unions has coincided with an increase in income inequality. Part of restoring a strong middle class means restoring unions - collective bargaining is a fundamental worker right which has increased wages and improved benefits for all workers. It must be protected.**

21. What legislation would you promote to create small businesses in order to create new jobs?

**I support expansion of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR), which help small businesses bring promising technological ideas into the commercial sector, and I support H.R. 246, which makes it easier for small businesses to take advantage of these programs. I will also push for expanding tax incentives for women- and minority-owned small businesses.**

22. What is your position on the presence or absence of religion in government?

**Our nation was founded on the separation of church and state, and that is the way it should stay. I support freedom of religion but it cannot be used to discriminate against minorities.**

23. What is your position on the role of government in supporting public education?

**The federal government should help provide sufficient educational resources for**

**all children, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability or economic status, so they can be successful. The government should also hold schools up to a standard of achievement and transparency, and because of the wide disparity across and within states, the federal Department of Education should collaborate with school districts to identify proper local standards.**

24. What caucuses do you plan to join if elected?

**Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, New Democratic Coalition.**

The candidate assumes full responsibility for all answers to this questionnaire. Your responses to this questionnaire should be considered public knowledge as we cannot assure confidentiality when making the questionnaire available to our membership.