

2003 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nick Name	Last Name
Elizabeth		Watson

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

Kent City Council, Position 3

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

Part of 1995 annexation to the city, 20 years in the Kent community

5. How long have you resided in King County?

23 years

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Partisan Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Elect Elizabeth Watson to Kent City Council

Address: 13604 SE 268th St.

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: 253-653-7265

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: elizabeth_watson@comcast.net

Campaign Website: _____

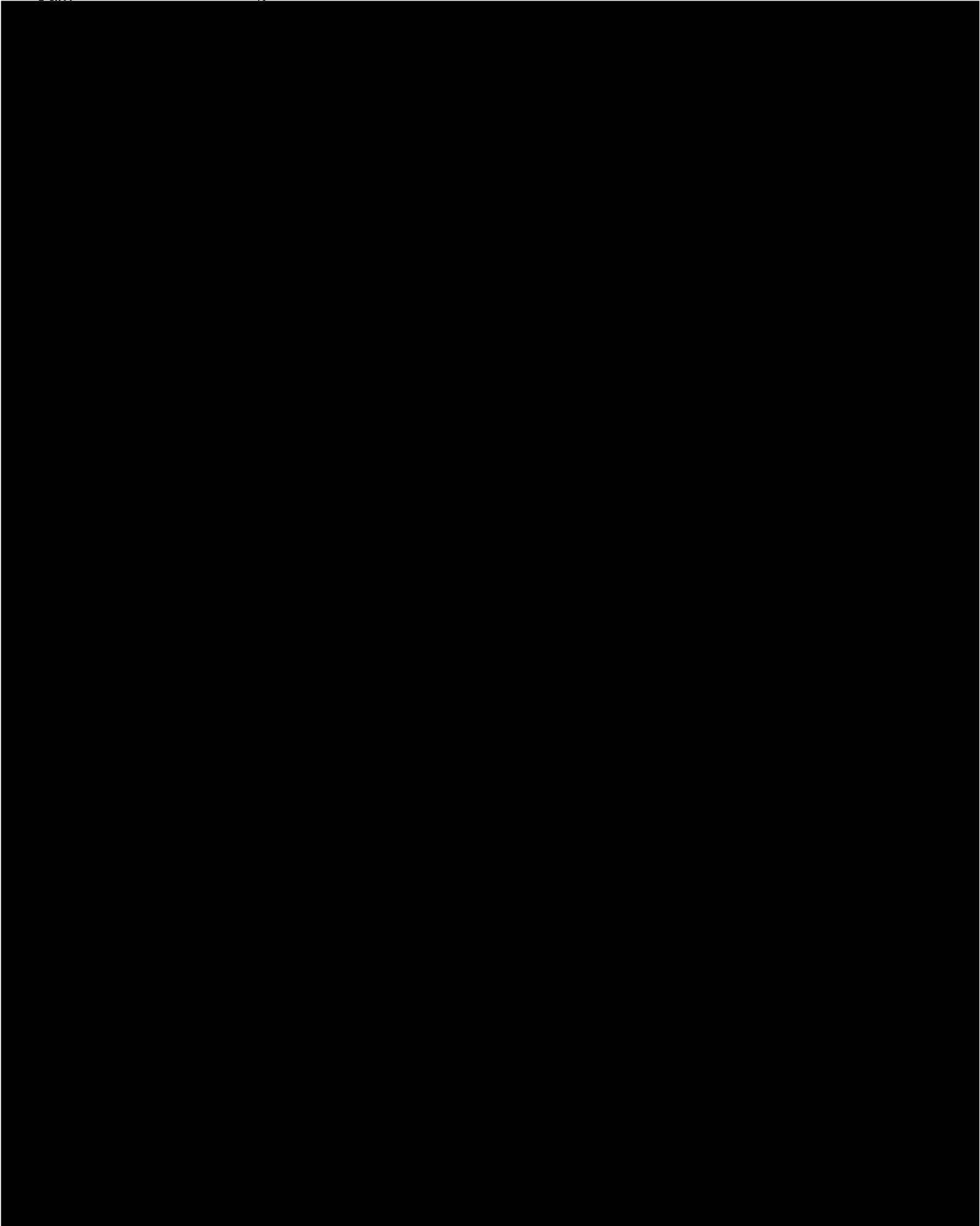
POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices which you have held. Include positions on appointive Boards or Commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run



SECTION III

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
 - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
 - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
 - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. In a page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

I would like to be a member of the Kent City Council because I believe in the the value of public service. The quote, "If you are not a part of the solution, you are a part of the problem" has been a guiding force in my life. I will work hard to ensure that Kent continues to be a great place to live and work. This means being willing to make the tough choices, during these difficult economic times. I realize it won't be easy, but with my expertise as a skilled negotiator I will bring new insights to the process. It is possible to balance genuine fiscal responsibility with a strong commitment to vital city services. I believe that city government should be effective, responsive and customer service oriented. I believe Kent has a bright future and I would like to be a part of it.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

I will bring enthusiasm, energy and commitment to the city council. I am an optimist who believes that public service is the greatest way to serve my community. I will bring a sense of purpose and vision to my role as a member of the council.

3. Please describe in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate effective skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

I have been fortunate in that I have been able to align my professional life to work on those issues most near to my heart. For five years I worked with the Head Start Program coordinating parent involvement activities, teaching parenting classes and assisting low income parents to acquire the skills needed to move out of poverty. For the last eight years I have had the privilege of assisting families in my own community through the Kent School District Family Advocate Program. My greatest contribution has been my current position with the Puget Sound Educational Services District. As an Educational Program Coordinator, I assist the 35 school districts in the Puget Sound region examine their policies and procedures to assist the estimated 15,000 homeless children in our area access a free, appropriate public school education. I feel the work I have done to make my community a better place will serve me well in my opportunity to serve as a member of the city council.

4. Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

I believe my first responsibility to my community is to raise responsible citizens. I have devoted the last 23 years to raising my children, providing that delicate balance between mother, community volunteer and employee. I am proud of the young people they have become and now that my son and daughter are both in college, I have the time needed to effectively serve on the city council.

As a part of the strategic planning team I worked with other community leaders to bring the nationally recognized "Communities in Schools" organization to the Kent community. I served as Executive Board Secretary and I am currently serving as Board President. This non-profit is mobilizing the business community, service clubs, social service agencies and city services to provide mentors and other needed resources to students in the Kent school district. As Board President I have been able to bring together these diverse groups to effectively serve the children of my community.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

As a member of the Kent City Council, my primary duty will be to work with the other council members to establish a plan for the future. This means a working budget that promotes genuine fiscal responsibility. As the citizen's representative to local government I will make sure that the voice of the ordinary citizen is heard and their interests defended. My duty is to find cost effective solutions to the challenges facing Kent.