



# 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

## 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Suzan DelBene
Position Sought	U.S Representative, 1 <sup>st</sup> Congressional District
Residence Legislative, KC Council, & US Congressional District	48th LD, County Council District 6, Congressional District 1
Campaign PDC Name	
Campaign web site	www.delbeneforcongress.com
Campaign email	Suzan@delbeneforcongress.com
Candidate email	
Campaign manager contact information	
Campaign Phone #	(425) 483-1500
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 487, Bothell, WA 98041
Campaign consultant(s)	

1. For partisan races, please indicate your party preference as it will appear on the ballot

Democratic.

2. Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment, prior campaign, party/union affiliations, and other relevant background information.

I received my master's degree in business from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in biology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

I started my career doing medical research in Oregon and then here in Washington at ZymoGenetics. I spent the longest period of my career at Microsoft. I worked there for about 13 years over two periods, most recently serving as Corporate Vice President of the Mobile Communications Business, overseeing worldwide sales, marketing and product management efforts for the business. As part of my job I worked with key industry leaders, including device makers, mobile operators, distributors and retailers. Earlier in my career with Microsoft, I also led customer marketing for Windows 95.

In between my periods with Microsoft I worked as an entrepreneur. I was the founding vice president of marketing and store development at drugstore.com Inc., an online drugstore and pharmacy, and helped to take the company public in 1999.

After my time with drugstore.com, I served as CEO and President at Nimble Technology Inc., a Seattle-based business integration software company based on technology from the University of Washington. I led the company from the development of its business plan and products through to the company's acquisition.

In November 2010, I was appointed by Governor Gregoire to be Director of the Washington State Department of Revenue. During one of the most difficult budget challenges in state history, I worked to streamline processes and save money. I also travelled the state working with small businesses to develop solutions to



# 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

## 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

simplify the tax code and reduce administrative burdens on taxpayers.

I have also been a strategic advisor to Global Partnerships, a non-profit focused on supporting microfinance and sustainable solutions that serve those in poverty in Latin America.

In 2012, I was elected as the U.S. Representative for Washington State’s First Congressional District. Throughout my first term, I have shown strong leadership in Washington, DC, and if re-elected, I will continue to fight for our shared values of a strong middle class, a healthy environment, a safe and fair workplace, and equality for all.

In terms of service I have always been an active member of my local community. I am an active member of my church. I ran capital campaigns and served on the board of St. Mark’s Cathedral as well as serving as a Stephen’s Minister, which is someone who is trained to work one-on-one with people going through difficult times in their lives. I co-chaired part of the search process for a new rector at St. Thomas Medina and I served on the board of a school in Kirkland. I have been involved with the YWCA of King and Snohomish Counties for many years and served on their Eastside Committee which most recently helped to complete a transitional housing facility in Issaquah. I have 2 children, Becca and Zach, and am married to Kurt DelBene.

3. Please list all political party affiliations you have had in the past. Have you **ever** been a member of any other political party? Have you given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? (If so, when and to whom?)

Democratic. No. No.

4. Are you a member of your local Democratic Party organization? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer or held a position in your local Democratic Party Organization? (when/where?)

I am a member of my local Democratic District, as well as KCDCC and the State Party, and have contributed financially to them. I was an appointed PCO in the 48th LD prior to running for Congress in 2010. I also have contributed to organizations such as my local and state Democratic Committees, Planned Parenthood, WA NARAL, EMILY’s List and Equal Rights Washington.

**Please answer the following questions. If you answer ‘yes’, please provide details**

	YES	NO
5. Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court-ordered judgments?		X
6. Have you ever been a plaintiff or defendant in a civil matter?		X
7. Have you ever been found in violation of campaign finance rules by a federal, state, or local elections regulatory body?		X
8. Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		X

If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, please provide details in this space.

9. What are the top THREE messages in your campaign?

1. **STANDING UP FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS:** My life experience has taught me we must do more to help working families. We need policies to spur innovation and job growth, such as comprehensive immigration reform. I’ll continue to help protect Social Security & Medicare.



## 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

# 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

2. **STANDING UP TO SPECIAL INTERESTS:** Congress is too busy working for special interests rather than helping working families. I'll fight to change that.

3. **CREATING JOBS:** I have a record of getting results from my time in the private sector & in state government. I know what it takes to create jobs and build an economy that works for everyone.

10. Describe how you will communicate these messages to voters and the progress you've made on this to date. Please include total fundraising to date, anticipated fundraising, and cash on hand. Please also include your plans for direct voter contact (advertising, knocking on doors, etc.)

It is critically important to get my message out to voters. The campaign is currently designing an aggressive field program that will identify a targeted universe of voters. Generally, we have focused our time on meetings throughout the district to organize support, as well as on fundraising. We know what it takes to raise the kind of money needed for this campaign: an aggressive call time operation, numerous fundraising events, and a strategic low dollar online fundraising operation.

We expect that this election will be highly targeted and competitive and could cost more than \$3 million. Going into in 2014 with a significant level of momentum and broad support, we have raised over \$1.2 million through Q1 of 2014. The campaign also has a cash-on-hand amount of nearly \$1 million.

11. What is the single most pressing issue facing your jurisdiction and how will you address it?

Creating Jobs and Building an Economy that works for everyone: Jobs and the economy are the most pressing concerns of people in the 1st Congressional District and across the country. I know firsthand what it is like to struggle financially growing up and how much a job can be a source of economic stability and health as well as a source of personal pride. I'll fight every day for policies that help Washingtonians get ahead: better schools, ensuring equal pay for equal work, raising the minimum wage, job creating investments in infrastructure and I'll support our seniors by protecting Social Security and Medicare. Additionally, to grow our economy, reduce our deficit and help millions of working families, we must fix our broken immigration system.

12. If you are a candidate in a contested race, what record of performance, ability, experience, personal qualities, and positions on issue distinguish you from your opponent? If you do not make it through a Primary race, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election?

13. What creative solutions can you offer to address problems of the economically disadvantaged?

To address problems facing the economically disadvantaged, we need to protect and strengthen the social safety net. First, we need to ensure that affordable housing options exist. During my first term in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of critical affordable housing programs like Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Project-Based Rental Assistance, and other forms of public housing. We need to also ensure that the federal government is continuing to support new construction dedicated to affordable housing. I believe one of the best ways to do this is to protect the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, including an extension of the 9 percent floor for new construction and rehabilitation. Additionally, we must continue to offer assistance to the residents of Washington who are facing underwater mortgages or foreclosures on their homes. I strongly support programs to give homeowners a break during these tough times, allow workers who have been laid off



## 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

time to get back on their feet, and provide homeowners with one-on-one counseling about their options.

Another critical component of bolstering the social safety net is to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, quality healthcare. The ACA has taken a number of meaningful steps toward slowing the growth of healthcare costs and expanding access to affordable coverage, and it's clear that the enactment of the Healthplanfinder, the expansion of Medicaid and the new regulations curbing unscrupulous insurance practices have provided vital assistance to low-income families in Washington with the cost of healthcare. However, there is still much work to be done, and I will continue to advocate for increasing access to affordable health coverage.

14. What do you believe needs to be done to improve the quality of, and access to, education in Washington State from pre-K to post-secondary? If your position includes an increase in spending, please explain where you would find the revenue and/or what other spending would you cut.

I strongly believe we must ensure that all children in the U.S. have access to high-quality public education, regardless of their zip code or income level. I am committed to expanding access to early childhood education for students from low-income families by cosponsoring legislation like the Strong Start for America's Children Act (H.R. 3461), and maintaining robust funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. I also believe we need to increase federal funding for core programs like the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which will help close the achievement gap in K-12 schools and ensure that all graduating students are college- and career-ready—including those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Finally, I believe we need to take concrete steps to make college more affordable for our nation's students. During my first term in Congress, I successfully helped stop the doubling of student loan interest rates scheduled to take place on July 1, 2013, and I introduced new legislation earlier this year to reduce the burden of rising textbook costs in higher education (H.R. 4259). Going forward, I am committed to finding new and innovative ways to help students in order to ensure every student has access to a high-quality college education. To provide for an increase in federal spending on public education, I support eliminating inefficient and unfair tax breaks and subsidies that don't make sense in today's economy and are no longer giving us an adequate return.

15. What is the most urgent transportation issue for your jurisdiction, what are your ideas for addressing the issue, and what role will you play in devising a solution?

An efficient and functioning infrastructure system is critical to the economy of the Washington's First District. Infrastructure improvements are crucial for public safety, as well as a robust and strengthened economy. Unfortunately, many of our roads and bridges are aging rapidly and in a state of disrepair. Now is the time to invest in safety improvements for our bridges and in renovations along I-5 and Highway 2.

Transportation improvements that move people and goods more efficiently will help spur economic growth by strengthening connections to our ports, supporting trade and helping connect people to their workplace. Infrastructure projects will also create jobs and help get our people back to work. I will continue to fight for a comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization. I am also committed to work to improve passenger rail service, public transit, and our crumbling roads and bridges.



## 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

### 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

16. What is the most urgent environmental issue for your jurisdiction, what are your ideas for addressing the issue, and what role will you play in devising a solution?

I know firsthand that what makes living in the 1st Congressional District so special is the natural environment that surrounds us. We are home to some of our nation's most beautiful forests, mountains and waterways, and I understand how important it is that we preserve these natural resources for future generations to enjoy. As we address our nation's fiscal challenges, it is important that we make smart decisions to help stimulate economic growth while also protecting the environment. Our lands and natural resources provide us with spectacular outdoor recreational opportunities, and too often, they are talked about as just an amenity for our residents. From hiking, fishing, mountain biking, hunting and winter sports, outdoor recreation is big business. More so than any other part of the country, our forests, mountains, rivers and lakes can be a sustained source of economic revitalization. We must preserve our natural resources in a way that keeps them accessible for people to enjoy today and for generations into the future.

This is why I've sponsored several bills to protect lands and help grow our economy. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act. These two bills would expand the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and designate both the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers as Wild and Scenic. Additionally, I worked to reintroduce the San Juan Islands National Conservation Area Act which would designate 1,000 acres of land as a national conservation area. I was pleased that on March 25, 2013, President Obama issued a proclamation designating the San Juan Islands as one of the United States' newest national monuments. I've also introduced legislation to save the historic fire lookout on Green Mountain inside the Glacier Peak Wilderness that would have been removed if Congress didn't act. Thanks to support from our delegation the bill passed and was signed by the President on April 15th. Finally, I've introduced legislation to protect 14 miles of Illabot Creek in Skagit County. In addition to legislation that protects our natural resources, we must actively maintain our outdoor spaces and access to them. It is crucial that we invest in our existing parks, waterways and trails. Preserving access to these public lands helps boost the regional economy through the businesses and communities that support tourism and recreation. For Washington to have a vibrant, strong economy, we must remember that our outdoor recreation industry needs to play a starring role.

17. What is the most urgent infrastructure issue for your jurisdiction, what are your ideas for addressing the issue, and what role will you play in devising a solution?

An efficient and functioning infrastructure system is critical to the economy of the Washington's First District. Infrastructure improvements are crucial for public safety, as well as a robust and strengthened economy. Unfortunately, many of our roads and bridges are aging rapidly and in a state of disrepair. Now is the time to invest in safety improvements for our bridges and in renovations along I-5 and Highway 2.

Transportation improvements that move people and goods more efficiently will help spur economic growth by strengthening connections to our ports, supporting trade and helping connect people to their workplace. Infrastructure projects will also create jobs and help get our people back to work. I will continue to fight for a comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization. I am also committed to work to improve passenger rail service, public transit, and our crumbling roads and bridges.

18. What is the most urgent revenue issue for your jurisdiction, what are your ideas for addressing the issue, and what role will you play in devising a solution? Do you believe how revenue is collected in





## 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

### 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

your jurisdiction is fair?

Like many of my constituents, I believe our tax code is overly complex and confusing. As the former director of the Washington State Department of Revenue, I understand the need for a tax code that is simplified and fair for hardworking families and small businesses. Our current tax system undermines competitiveness when it should be encouraging job creation and innovation. It is unnecessarily complicated and the tax burden is not fairly shared. We need comprehensive tax reform that supports the middle class, as their success and prosperity will drive long-term economic growth. We should look to eliminate inefficient and unfair tax breaks and subsidies that don't make sense in today's economy. Any time our federal government offers a tax break or subsidy it needs to be considered a budgetary expenditure. I believe that we must evaluate these expenditures regularly and eliminate those that are no longer giving us an adequate return. At the state level, I believe our leaders in Olympia must work on a long term plan to provide more sustainable funding mechanisms, if we are to continue important programs that protect the most vulnerable, fund education and keep our infrastructure strong.

Additionally, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Marketplace Fairness Act (H.R. 684) in the House of Representatives. This bill would level the playing field between online and brick-and-mortar retailers and ensure that states and local governments are able to collect sales and use taxes owed for online purchases. I am actively working with my colleagues to advance this legislation because I understand that it could play a critical role in stabilizing revenue in our state. The WA Department of Revenue recently estimated that passage of this bill would provide an additional \$135.8 million to the State General Fund in FY 2015, and \$250.2 million in FY 2016.

19. What is the most urgent public safety issue for your jurisdiction, what are your ideas for addressing the issue, and what role will you play in devising a solution?

I believe that Congress has an obligation to ensure that as police officers face countless risks in the line of duty, we are doing everything possible to protect them. Ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the public is especially critical right now. Throughout my first term in Congress, I have fought to protect funding for the critical federal programs that support state and local law enforcement, including the Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, and the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program.

I have also been a strong advocate for reducing crime and building safer communities and neighborhoods. For example, I have supported legislation including the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act to strengthen our domestic violence laws, and the National Blue Alert Act to help states create a "Blue Alert" system to quickly disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is fatally injured or killed in the line of duty. I also co-sponsored a bipartisan compromise bill to strengthen our nation's background check system. This legislation, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act, protects the Second Amendment rights of gun owners while strengthening our ability to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, terrorists, and those who are severely mentally ill.

20. What is the most urgent land use issue for your jurisdiction, what are your ideas for addressing the issue, and what role will you play in devising a solution?

I know firsthand that what makes living in the 1st Congressional District so special is the natural environment that surrounds us. We are home to some of our nation's most beautiful forests, mountains and waterways, and I



## 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

### 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

understand how important it is that we preserve these natural resources for future generations to enjoy. As we address our nation's fiscal challenges, it is important that we make smart decisions to help stimulate economic growth while also protecting the environment. Our lands and natural resources provide us with spectacular outdoor recreational opportunities, and too often, they are talked about as just an amenity for our residents. From hiking, fishing, mountain biking, hunting and winter sports, outdoor recreation is big business. More so than any other part of the country, our forests, mountains, rivers and lakes can be a sustained source of economic revitalization. We must preserve our natural resources in a way that keeps them accessible for people to enjoy today and for generations into the future.

This is why I've sponsored several bills to protect lands and help grow our economy. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act. These two bills would expand the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and designate both the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers as Wild and Scenic. Additionally, I worked to reintroduce the San Juan Islands National Conservation Area Act which would designate 1,000 acres of land as a national conservation area. I was pleased that on March 25, 2013, President Obama issued a proclamation designating the San Juan Islands as one of the United States' newest national monuments. I've also introduced legislation to save the historic fire lookout on Green Mountain inside the Glacier Peak Wilderness that would have been removed if Congress didn't act. Thanks to support from our delegation the bill passed and was signed by the President on April 15th. Finally, I've introduced legislation to protect 14 miles of Illabot Creek in Skagit County. In addition to legislation that protects our natural resources, we must actively maintain our outdoor spaces and access to them. It is crucial that we invest in our existing parks, waterways and trails. Preserving access to these public lands helps boost the regional economy through the businesses and communities that support tourism and recreation. For Washington to have a vibrant, strong economy, we must remember that our outdoor recreation industry needs to play a starring role.

21. What is the most urgent organizational issue for your jurisdiction, what are your ideas for addressing the issue, and what role will you play in devising a solution?

1. Creating Jobs and Building an Economy that works for everyone: Jobs and the economy are the most pressing concerns of people in the 1st Congressional District and across the country. I know firsthand what it is like to struggle financially growing up and how much a job can be a source of economic stability and health as well as a source of personal pride. I'll fight every day for policies that help Washingtonians get ahead: better schools, ensuring equal pay for equal work, raising the minimum wage, job creating investments in infrastructure and I'll support our seniors by protecting Social Security and Medicare. Additionally, to grow our economy, reduce our deficit and help millions of working families, we must fix our broken immigration system.

2. Education: Education is critical for the long-term success of our families and the economy. I will continue my efforts to make college more affordable such as stopping the doubling of student loan interest rates last year. In addition to the \$200 million I secured in new job-training funds, we must do more to support employee training and expand apprenticeships to ensure we have a trained workforce who can step into the new jobs being created today and in the future. I am committed to ensuring that every child has access to a quality education and invest more in early learning and our K-12 schools.

3. Passing a Responsible, Long-term Budget: Budgeting thirty or sixty days at a time is the worst and most expensive way to do it. To build the foundation for long-term economic growth, we must craft a responsible and



# 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

## 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire


long-term budget that reduces the deficit and focuses on job-creating investments. We must simplify and reform our tax code. This means closing unnecessary tax breaks for special interests and ensuring that everyone pays their fair share. We must make smart funding decisions based on what gives us the best return on investment such as in infrastructure, basic research and education – all proven job creating investments.

Please answer the following questions.	YES	NO	Qualified
22. Do you support the 46 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District Platform?	X		
23. Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to collectively bargain and strike?	X		
24. Do you support government funding of family planning services, including abortion and contraception?	X		
25. Do you support simple majority votes in legislative bodies for revenue increases or to repeal tax exemptions?	X		
26. Do you oppose school vouchers? Do you oppose charter schools?			x
27. Would you support prevailing wage rules on projects in your jurisdiction?	X		
28. Do you support equal rights and pay for women?	X		
29. Do you support Federal and State regulation of greenhouse gases contributing to climate change?	X		
30. Do you support a constitutional amendment to limit free speech rights to persons and not corporations?	X		
31. Do you support public financing of campaigns?	X		
32. Are you pro choice?	X		
33. Do you support full employment, marriage, medical, and parental rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered people?	X		
34. Do you support area standards of wages and benefits?	X		

If you answered 'NO' or 'Qualified' to any of these questions, please use this space to comment.

26. I oppose school vouchers. While I opposed Initiative 1240, I support efforts to ensure that all our public schools, including charters, provide a high-quality education that prepares students for postsecondary education or the workforce. I strongly support efforts to hold charter schools to the same standards of transparency and accountability as traditional public schools.

**I have read this completed questionnaire. I approve and certify as accurate all the answers and information contained herein.**

Printed Name	Suzan DelBene
Signature	
Date	5/20/2014





# 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

## 2014 Non-Judicial Candidates Questionnaire

Please return this questionnaire by the deadline to:

[chair@46dems.org](mailto:chair@46dems.org)  
[elections@46dems.org](mailto:elections@46dems.org)