CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2018 GENERAL ELECTION

Position:\_\_\_Maria Cantwell\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate:\_\_\_United States Senate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Biographical Information:*

* Education/Past & Present Employment/Business Experience

**Education:** First in her family to graduate college with the help of financial aid. Received B.A. in Public Administration from Miami University.

**Business Experience:** Real Networks, Vice President of Marketing & Senior Vice President of the Consumer Products Division 1995-2000.

**Elected Experience:** U.S. Senate 2001-present, U.S. House of Representatives 1993-1995, Washington State Legislature 1987-1993.

* Past & Present Community Involvement

Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Honorary Council of Advisors; South Snohomish Chamber of Commerce, Former Board Member; Mountlake Terrace Friends of the Library; Alderwood Rotary, Former Board Member; Apollo Alliance, Founding Board Member

*Candidate Questionnaire:*

* Why are you running for office?

I'm proud to represent the people of Washington state and the values we share.  In the Senate, I've learned how to overcome partisan divides and gridlock to get things done for students, seniors, veterans, women and working families who make Washington their home. I've authored legislation to help bring prosperity to our state and nation. And I've fought to ensure that prosperity lifts us all up, not just a few. I believe in protecting the health of our families and the environment we live in. I believe in making smart long-term investments, like caring for our children and making education affordable. By working together, we can find real solutions to the problems and challenges facing our country -- we can grow the economy, build clean energy jobs, protect the environment, provide educational opportunities for all people at all stages of life, protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and ensure that housing, health care and retirement remain affordable for working families.

* **What have you done to prepare for this position?**

In the late-nineties, I worked in the private sector and played a role in the development of digital media.  Many of the most successful businesses in the world were founded in Washington state and this is where they’ve grown and prospered. Throughout my career, I've worked to support our state’s unique and enviable culture of science, innovation and economic growth. I've seen how successful Washington companies operate, and I know what it means to our state. It means jobs.

In the US Senate, I am the Ranking Member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which has enabled me to ensure the cleanup of Hanford gets proper funding to maintain a safe working environment and to meet critical cleanup milestones. As a member of the Senate Small Businesses Committee, I have worked to help small businesses tackle the challenges they face -- from exporting their products overseas to cybersecurity and to meeting the needs of a 21st century workforce.

* **What are three actions you would support to strengthen small business and entrepreneurship?**
* **Increase Exports** - I will fight tooth and nail for policies that help Washington businesses export their products around the globe. I helped reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which has helped 144 Washington companies export more than $52 billion in products ranging from beer to commercial airplanes. I am now fighting to make sure the Ex-Im Bank can support all Washington businesses, both big and small.
* **Apprenticeship** - I’m fighting for more apprentice jobs so more working families can earn and learn. *My Apprenticeship and Jobs Training Act* would help make sure businesses are able to find employees with the skills they need while, at the same time helping get more Americans back to work and raise wages.
* **Net Neutrality** - I believe protecting an open Internet is critical to ensuring entrepreneurs and innovators can create jobs. Without it, innovation will be stifled. Small businesses would be particularly affected by the loss of net neutrality because of the higher rates for internet connectivity.
* **What do you believe is the greatest economic challenge facing our region and what would be your approach to address it?**

There are a number economic challenges we need to address, including expanded access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs and net neutrality. Another critical issue we need to address immediately is President Trump’s trade war.  As one of the most trade dependent states in the country, trade wars impact the Washington economy in a major way. Trade wars make U.S. products more expensive overseas and as a result cause exporters to lose market share and shelf space, which are hard to regain. The Administration must resolve these disputes through negotiations. The United States must continue to look for opportunities to increase exports, including making sure the Export-Import Bank can help all businesses, big and small.

In addition, we must have full funding for Hanford cleanup – especially after the recent tunnel collapse. Any cuts would be not only irresponsible, but would undermine the federal government’s obligation to clean up Hanford.

* **If elected, what will be your top two priority issues and how will you facilitate these changes and/or ideas?**

In the Senate, I've authored legislation to help bring prosperity to our small businesses, state and nation. And I've fought to ensure that prosperity lifts us all up, not just a few. My mission is to ensure that our prosperity is shared, so I fight for things working families need, like access to education, apprenticeships, and job training, and making housing, health care, and child care more affordable.

We must also continue the progress we’ve made in cleaning up Hanford.  I will continue to fight to ensure that the federal government meets its obligations to clean up the Hanford site. Strong and predictable funding is critical to continued cleanup progress and to the federal government fulfilling its legal and moral obligation to remediate the Hanford site. In addition, I helped establish the Hanford Workforce Engagement Center, to protect the workers involved in the cleanup and to ensure they have the most stringent possible protections in place as

* **Over 4500 Tri-Citians have already participated in the MyTri2030 Regional Vision project by helping to identify big opportunities that will benefit the entire region.  In principle, do you support this community-driven effort? And as goals emerge, would you be interested in working together to advance regional initiatives?**

Collaborative, community-driven efforts are key to moving forward on our shared goals, and it’s an approach I take when representing our state.