



MEDIA RELEASE

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Olympia – Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman will announce her candidacy for the office of Secretary of State at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 30 at the Capitol Press Corps White House. Wyman is running for the position held for the past ten years by Sam Reed, who announced his retirement Tuesday.

Wyman believes her management and elections experience make her the most qualified candidate for Secretary of State. “My demonstrated record conducting over 80 accurate, open, and clean elections has given me the foundation to serve the citizens of our state,” Wyman continued, “With 20 years experience managing elections, records, licensing, and finance, I have the real-world experience to be ready to start the job on day one.”

Wyman’s leadership has won her the respect and support of people from across the political spectrum, including the bipartisan endorsements of 23 current and past county auditors.

Her three priorities as Secretary of State will be to: move the voter registration system into the 21st century to make elections more accurate, cost-effective, and efficient; continue the election reforms in an environment of significant reductions in federal funding; and protect open and accessible government.

Wyman joined the Auditor’s Office in 1991, and after serving eight years as county elections manager, she was appointed Thurston County Auditor in January 2001 to fill the vacancy created by Sam Reed. She was re-elected to her fourth term in November 2010. Wyman manages an office with four diverse operations, including elections, recording, licensing, and financial services. She oversees a staff of 40.

In 2004, Wyman became one of the few elections officials in the country to be a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) through Auburn University and the Election Center. She has been a Washington State Certified Election Administrator since 1995. Wyman

is a graduate of California State University, Long Beach and holds a Master's of Public Administration degree from Troy State University, European Division.

Wyman is a nationally-recognized leader in elections. She was selected to participate in multiple work groups and panels for organizations including the Pew Center on the States, the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission, the Federal Election Commission and the Elections Center. Wyman traveled to Russia as a member of an international election observation team in 1997. She also represents county auditors on the King County Elections Oversight Committee and the Secretary of State's Voting Systems Standards Board. Wyman is a member and past president of the Washington State Association of County Auditors.

Wyman has a passion for protecting military, overseas, and underserved voters rights, stemming from her own experiences as a military wife stationed in Germany. She has made great strides in Thurston County to ensure all eligible voters have the opportunity to cast an informed ballot and participate in elections.

Cutting-edge ideas that improve service and reduce costs are the hallmark of her accomplishments. From pioneering e-mail delivery of overseas ballots, which increases the time the voter has to vote, to improving ballot processing to produce earlier, meaningful election results, Wyman and her team have led the way.

During Wyman's tenure, the Thurston County Auditor's Office has won four Government Finance Officers Association Certificates of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting, three national Achievement Awards for significant innovations in county government from the National Association of Counties, and the Secretary of State's Voter Outreach Award in 2005. In May 2009, Wyman was honored with the Norm Maleng Local Public Service Award and was named 2010 Auditor of the Year by the Office of the Secretary of State.

Wyman is involved in her community. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Lacey, serves as the chair of the TwinStar Credit Union supervisory committee, and is the past president of the United Way of Thurston County. She enjoys giving back to her community by supporting organizations such as the Little Red School House, Miss Thurston County Scholarship Program, North Thurston Public Schools, Well Fed, Well Read Program, Boys and Girls Clubs of Thurston County, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Kim and her husband, John, make their home in Lacey with their two children.

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