

## **Candidate Questionnaire**

### **Aerospace Machinists Dist. Lodge 751**

**Name:** Dow Constantine

**Office you seek:** King County Executive

**Campaign Name:** Friends of Dow Constantine      **Incumbent:** N

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 16284, Seattle, WA 98116

**Campaign Phone:** (206) 484-7921

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Have you previously held public office? Y If yes, please list:**

King County Councilmember, Dist. 8	2002-Present (Council Chair since Jan 2009)
State Senator, 34 <sup>th</sup> LD	2000-2002
State Representative, 34 <sup>th</sup> LD	1997-2000

**Why do you seek the endorsement of the Aerospace Machinists?**

My priorities for the residents of King County parallel the priorities of your organization. I have a long history fighting for the economic well-being, health and safety of workers and their families, and will continue that fight as King County Executive. I would be honored to have the Aerospace Machinists' support.

**Describe your view of the role of government in economic development:**

Since joining the King County Council I have been a champion for economic growth and infrastructure development in our region. When others hesitated, I helped lead the way for last year's successful light rail and transit investments. I have: Worked on real transportation solutions that serve industry and families; Helped protect our base of light industrial and port jobs; Stood by our county employees to avoid painful layoffs during this awful recession. When I am the Executive we will continue to work together in partnership.

**How can government ensure workers share in benefits of public investment:**

First and foremost, government can ensure that public investments include protections for workers—from wages and benefits, to sharing in the outcome of incentives, to

protecting unemployment compensation and the rights of injured workers, to ensuring access to other public benefits.

Specific to the aerospace industry, government can assure that any future incentives or programs to attract and retain aerospace jobs include no rollback in worker protections, and enforced neutrality for organizing.

### **How can local government influence the growth in family wage jobs:**

In addition to the protections outlined above, there are three critical ways that local government can encourage the growth in family wage jobs:

Support prevailing wages on government jobs. I have always supported prevailing wage provisions on government and transit projects. As a young staffer at the King County Council I worked on “Boston Harbor Agreement” language in preparation for the first Sound Transit projects. In the legislature my 100% pro-worker record included several measures involving prevailing wage, such as a bill designed to increase enforcement of prevailing wage laws. At the County Council I have insisted that we include the strongest available language so that union-scale wages and benefits are paid, and that we enter into project labor agreements to benefit all workers and ensure on-time, on-budget delivery of projects.

Oppose, as I did throughout my time in the legislature, a state “right to work” bill. It’s a dangerous race to the bottom that fundamentally destabilizes working and middle class families, and ultimately lowers the standard of living for all.

Oppose contracting out government services. I have always opposed and have voted repeatedly against contracting out of government services performed by union workers. We should never be afraid to reform our own institutions – change is often good and necessary - but we should always be wary of the panacea of “privatization”.

### **Your additional comments:**

I would be honored to have your endorsement. The challenges we face in our homes, workplaces and in government are daunting. They require new leadership and fresh ideas. The best ideas to improve services often come not from elected politicians or senior management, but from those who actually deliver services to the people. Our dedicated county workers have the insight and experience to show us how to succeed even in challenging times. I have appreciated the work we have done together over the years to improve the lives - and livelihoods - of represented employees and their families, and I will build upon that record of collaboration and trust as Executive.

**Please return this questionnaire via fax to (206) 764-0344 OR via e-mail to [SuzanM@iam751.org](mailto:SuzanM@iam751.org).**