IAFF Local 2595
Candidate Questionnaire

Name of campaign personnel and contact information.

Friends of Dow Constantine
Campaign Manager: Dylan Ordonez
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Campaign goals.

I want to set the foundation for a new prosperity, improving the quality of life in King County for working families. We need real transit and transportation choices, sensible and humane criminal justice, responsible preservation of our environment, and genuine regional leadership. Ultimately, our job as Democrats is to make government work for people, to hold fast to our progressive principles, and not to get hung up on defending parts of the status quo that are no longer working.

At this historic moment, with a new, innovative President in the White House, our county also needs renewal -- to clear away the debris of that which is no longer working, perfect that which is, and build an efficient, effective, 21st-century government. Building on my record as a reformer unafraid to lead on tough issues, I will work across old geographic boundaries to zero in on effective solutions to the problems we face as a region.

Budget.

$550,000-$800,000

Endorsements you have.

SeaTac Firefighters Local 2919
Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 587
Maritime Engineers' Beneficial Association District 1
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Vashon-Maury Island Democratic Club
34th LD Democrats
State Senator Joe McDermott, 34th Legislative District
State Senator Karen Keiser, 33rd Legislative District
State Representative Eileen Cody, 34th Legislative District
State Representative Bob Hasegawa, 11th Legislative District
State Representative Geoff Simpson, 47th Legislative District
Snohomish County Councilmember Mike Cooper

State Senator Lisa Brown, Senate Majority Leader
State Senator Ken Jacobsen, 46th Legislative District
State Senator Ed Murray, 43rd Legislative District
State Senator Kevin Ranker, 40th Legislative District
State Representative Sharon Nelson, 34th Legislative District
State Representative Brendan Williams, 22nd Legislative District
State Representative Tina Orwall, 33rd Legislative District
State Representative Dave Quall, 40th Legislative District
Former State Senator Erik Poulsen, 34th Legislative District
Former State Representative Dawn Mason, 37th Legislative District
Former State Representative Velma Veloria, 11th Legislative District
Burien Mayor Joan McGilton
Tukwila City Councilmember Joe Duffie
Tukwila City Councilmember Verna Griffin
Tukwila City Councilmember Dennis Robertson
Former Covington City Councilmember Rebecca Clark
Port of Seattle Commissioner Gael Tarleton
Port of Seattle Commissioner John Creighton
Burien City Councilmember Lucy Krakowiak
Ellensburg City Councilmember Fennelle Miller

Endorsements you would like.

Seattle Fire Fighters Union; Cascade Bicycle Club, Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Voters, Seattle Police Officers' Guild, Alki Foundation, SEAMEC, King County Labor Council, SEIU 775, UFCW 21, IAM 751, King County Democrats, and various legislative district Democratic organizations.

King County Medic One has the highest field resuscitation rates in the world and the most progressive advanced life-saving medicine. Executive Sims was always a staunch supporter of King County Medic One because of our world-class medical care and popularity with the voting citizens. We are proud of this history and the support we have received in the past from King County Government, but we want to remain number one. How can you help us to accomplish this goal and where do you see Medic One in five years from now and ten years from now?

In July of 2007, I worked hard with councilmembers to forge a compromise that ensured that the Medic One levy proposal was fully funded, while adding provisions to allow for future levy rate reductions. I have consistently been an ardent supporter of Medic One over the years, and was on this issue as well, even while some of my colleagues waffled on staffing and some other provisions in the levy. The Medic One levy was resoundingly approved by King County voters in November 2007 with 83 percent support.

Medic One was one of the first pre-hospital Advanced Life Support programs in the nation. It evolved out of unprecedented cooperation from local government and physicians, and hard work by paramedics on the street. Medics and Physicians from around the world have come to observe King County Medic One as a model to improve their own organizations. This has also made King County Medic One a very attractive asset that many local fire departments would like to control. How would

you seek to protect this unique public service and its regional approach to service?

My County Council district includes a unique mix of Seattle, suburban city, rural and urban unincorporated neighborhoods. Representing those urban and rural unincorporated areas, I understand better than most the need for a regional approach to delivery of Medic One services and will ensure that is maintained as King County Executive.

In the last Medic One levy, we received over 80% voter approval for our public service. Considering the vulnerability of the general fund to economic down turns and the possibility of a levy failing, is there another way to secure a reliable form of funding for King County Medic One?

As the economy suffers and people lose jobs and benefits, there is an increasing reliance on first responders—in particular fire and EMT personnel—to provide care and services that in the past would be rendered by a doctor, mental health professional, or in a hospital setting.

As King County Executive, I will work collaboratively with cities, fire districts and the public safety unions to better plan, staff, and fund our response networks.

King County labor relations has a long standing agreement with the King County Labor Coalition to not charge employees for medical premiums and, in exchange, the Locals accept only 90% of CPI (and never to exceed 6%). Some have suggested that King County Employees should pay for their medical premiums. What do you think of this plan and what do you think this does to the current CPI agreement with the King County Labor Coalition?

I support the current plan for represented employees. It has been fairly bargained and, as a consequence, involves fair trade-offs.

With regard to elected officials, top level managers and other highly paid non-represented employees, it is reasonable that we pay a small portion of our higher salaries toward our health care premiums in order to preserve services and front line jobs. In the face of the current budget crisis and as a way to protect jobs, I have proposed that we do so.

In the end we, locally and as a nation, must find a way to drive down the cost of basic health care. The administration of the insurance system, the cost of prescriptions and the cost of common tests are far greater than they should be. It is my belief that innovation here at home, and an innovative President in Washington DC, can deliver a better, more affordable system of ensuring health care access for all.