

UA Local 32 - Candidate Questionnaire

Full Legal Name: Dow Constantine

Office you are seeking: King County Executive

Current Incumbent(s) Name: NA

Party Affiliation: Democrat Republican Other

Campaign Name: Friends of Dow Constantine

Campaign Manager Name: Dylan Ordonez

Campaign Address PO Box 16285

City and Zip Seattle, WA 98116

Office Phone (206) 484-7921

Current Occupation Chair, King County Council **Home Phone** xxxx

What other jobs have you had in the past?

State Senator

State Representative

King County Council Legislative Aide

Attorney

List all trade schools, high schools and colleges attended, degrees and areas of specialization:

Law Degree, University of Washington

Master's Degree, Urban Planning, University of Washington

Bachelor's Degree, Political Science, University of Washington

Graduate of West Seattle High School

Union Affiliation, if any, past or present: Alaska Fishermen's Union

Have you ever been involved in the following Union-related:

Mediation Negotiations Arbitration Labor disputes

List three reasons why you are running for office/re-election:

1. At this historic moment this county 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.
2. Building on my record as a reformer unafraid of taking the lead on tough issues, I will work across geographic boundaries and partisan divides to zero in on effective solutions to the problems we face as a region.
3. I want to set the foundation for a new prosperity, for our economy and working families, with real transit and transportation choices, sensible and humane criminal justice, responsible preservation of our environment, and genuine regional leadership.

How many hours each day do you expect to devote to your campaign?

I am committed to fulfilling my duties as the Chair of the County Council, and am devoting all additional hours to the campaign. 16 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Is your party likely to support you in this election? Yes No

I have already been endorsed by the 34th District Democrats and the Vashon/Maury Democratic Club

How many organized labor volunteers are currently committed to your campaign? Approx. 30

I have currently raised \$ \$75,000.

My campaign budget is likely to be \$ \$500,000-\$850,000.

In my last election I walked about 15 precincts.

I have walked many more precincts in the off years for other candidates, such as in 2008 for Tina Orwall.

In my last election volunteers walked about 50 precincts, separately from me. Including PCOs.

In my last election we dropped literature in about 50 precincts, but did not talk to people.

In my last election we called voters in about 100 precincts. Also did several weeks of radio ads.

The purpose of the call was to:

Identify voters Persuade voters Turnout voters

In my last election we mailed our voters 0 number of pieces.

List the names of organizations which have actually endorsed your candidacy.

Vashon-Maury Island Democratic Club
 34th LD Democrats
 Sen. Lisa Brown, Senate Majority Leader
 Rep. Eileen Cody, State Representative 34th LD
 Sen. Ken Jacobsen, State Senator, 46th LD
 Sen. Joe McDermott, State Senator, 34th LD
 Sen. Ed Murray, State Senator, 43rd LD
 Sen. Kevin Ranker, State Senator, 40th LD

Rep. Bob Hasegawa, State Representative, 11th LD
 Rep. Sharon Nelson, State Representative, 34th LD
 Rep. Brendan Williams, State Representative, 22nd LD
 Rep. Geoff Simpson, State Representative, 47th LD
 Tukwila City Councilmember Joe Duffie
 Tukwila City Councilmember Verna Griffin
 Port of Seattle Commissioner Gael Tarleton
 Snohomish County Council Chair Mike Cooper

List the names of some elected officials and organizations which will likely oppose your candidacy

Republican Party, BIAW and other conservative interest groups will definitely oppose my candidacy.

How would you vote on the following issues: (Circle Support or Oppose and explain your position)

Right to Work Legislation

Support / **Oppose** Explain: 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.

Retaining Prevailing Wage Status

Support / Oppose Explain: I have always supported prevailing wage provisions on government and 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.

Retaining State Certified Apprenticeship Programs

Support / Oppose Explain: I have always supported State Certified Apprenticeship Programs and other job training programs and will continue to support them, especially in the current recession.

Project Labor Agreements for Public Works

Support / Oppose Explain: I have always supported, worked on and voted for PLAs. They are fair to workers, provide management with certainty, and protect the taxpayer.

Increased funding for Contractor Compliance

Support / Oppose Explain: Making sure that private contractors are complying with prevailing wage, benefits, and safety standards is an important role - these efforts should be fully funded and staffed, and I voted to do so in Olympia.

Establishing Pipefitter Certification and Licensing

Support / Oppose Explain: I have always supported improvement in training and licensing to assure quality work by skilled workers.

Upholding Mechanical and Plumbing Industry Codes

Support / Oppose Explain: These codes are essential to public safety and quality of work. They must be upheld and arguments to the contrary—increased costs, delay projects, etc.—are misguided.

In general, what do you see as the appropriate role for elected officials to play in labor-management disputes?

Elected officials can play an important role to promote justice, ensure a level playing field for all parties, and advocate for workers. I have and would publicly support workers in their efforts to organize and achieve fair treatment.

Specifically, when is it appropriate for elected officials to help mediate such disputes?

It is appropriate in circumstances when there is injustice or where public safety is threatened. It may also be appropriate where economic conditions and experience show that workers cannot gain a fair playing field; for example, where salaries and working conditions are so oppressive to workers that they cannot sustain their families.

Specifically, when is it appropriate to speak publicly in support of workers?

I would be more inclined to become an active participant because I would be using my influence to rally public support as opposed to being a direct participant in mediation. For example, I have walked the picket line and invaded a board meeting for striking nurses at the former West Seattle Mental Health.

Do you support the practice of contracting out public services? Yes No

If yes, please explain the reason(s): I would only support stepping away from boutique lines of work that the county is unable for some reason to competently perform. On the other hand, I have supported creating and bringing new lines of work – like passenger ferry service – in house.

What process or system have you or would you use to guarantee that Local 32 was given an opportunity for input on issues that affect our members?

My door would be open and I would actively seek input from Local 32 and other unions. I have demonstrated in my working life that I am a bridge-builder who reaches out and isn't afraid to look for better solutions. Labor needs an active advocate. I will be that person.

Who would you use as a resource for Labor related questions you may have?

I will have a top-level advisor who comes from and is intimately involved with the labor movement. I have always worked closely with labor leaders and experts in labor policy both inside and outside of government, and am proud of my 100% **labor voting record** while in the legislature, a track record of unflinching support I have maintained in the county council.

As executive would seek not only a qualified labor relations expert to serve in a senior capacity, but also convene regular meetings of labor officials from across the spectrum of unions.

With health care costs skyrocketing and insurance profits on the rise, what concrete action will you take to guarantee quality, affordable health care for everyone in Washington?

Health care costs are destroying the ability of local governments, and all employers, to provide the kind of benefits that employees need and deserve. Any action that helps lower costs is one that I support.

Have you spent time analyzing the 5 proposals forwarded from ESSB 6333 and the Insurance Commissioners office and if so, what is your opinion of these plans?

I am highly supportive of any effort to reform our health care delivery system and think these proposals demonstrate that we have some real options to accomplish this in Washington State. The most important outcome from the proposals is that we can dramatically increase coverage and still save the state money. I am particularly interested in the proposal modeled after the Washington Public Employees Benefits.

Please explain your understanding of the current drug pricing schemes used in pharmaceuticals today and what if any changes you would make in this system if you had a chance?

In the legislature I consistently supported open access to less expensive generic and other sources of prescription medication. I also supported expansion of basic health and CHIP and expanding purchasing pools and other ways to leverage lower costs.

As executive I would build on the strong start of Executive Sims in brining the buying power of King County and other large employers to bear in driving down pharmaceutical costs for workers, and would use the bully pulpit of the office and county health department resources to continue advocating and working directly to provide needed medications at lower costs.

Please explain whether or not your views agree with the statement “Health Care should be a fundamental human right”?

I have always held health care to be a fundamental right for all people and voted consistently in Olympia to expand coverage for seniors, children and others in direct need.

Will you vote for legislation that would prohibit drug company sales representative from having access to information about what medications doctors are prescribing for their patients?

Yes. I am a long-time privacy advocate, all the way back to my days as the Judiciary Committee Co-Chair in the House.

Are there any changes in our current health care system that you do think are needed? If yes, what do you feel the critical elements of such a system should be?

Workers should not be forced into shoddy, sub-standard care or unfamiliar providers. And they should not have their care depend on the opinions of those whose compensation depends on benefits being denied. People want to go to their own doctors, whom they trust and who have worked with them over time. I worked for years in the legislature, as Co-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee and with the Trial Lawyers Association to fight these kinds of practices.

***When completed, fax to:
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Company draino/political action committee/candidate questionnaire