



2009 KING COUNTY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General Campaign Information

1. Candidate's name: Dow Constantine
2. For which position/seat are you running? King County Executive
3. Who is your campaign manager and what is his/her contact information?

Dylan Ordonez, dylan@dowconstantine.com, 206-484-7921
4. Please provide current contact information for your campaign and indicate the best way for us to contact you in the future (e.g. fax, email).
 - a. Mailing address: PO Box 16285, Seattle, WA 98116
 - b. Office phone: 206-484-7921
 - c. Cell phone: xxx
 - d. Fax: 206-282-1805
 - e. Email: info@dowconstantine.com
 - f. Web site: www.DowConstantine.com
5. Who are your campaign consultants?

Christian Sinderman, General Consulting
Tracy Newman, Fundraising
Diane McDaniel, Outreach
6. What is your current occupation?

Chair, King County Council
7. What is the focus of your platform? What would your priorities be for change in Seattle if elected to this seat?

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.

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.

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.

8. Which committees would you be interested in serving on if elected?

NA

9. Do you have a specific base(s) of voters that you will target during your campaign?

I plan on speaking in person, through volunteers and supporters and via campaign communication with likely voters in the Primary and General elections who are considered democrats or persuadable. My field campaign will involve speaking with my base through doorbelling and phone banks as well as reaching out to persuadable voters.

10. What is your fundraising goal for this campaign?

I intend to raise between \$550,000-\$800,000 in order to communicate my message to voters across King County.

Union/ Labor Involvement

1. Do you have or have you had any affiliation with a union? If so, which union?

Alaska Fishermen's Union

2. Have you ever been involved in a union organizing campaign or labor dispute? If so, please explain.

I have publicly supported organizing drives, walked the picket line and invaded a board meeting for striking nurses at the former West Seattle Mental Health. At the request of a UFCW local I have recently urged the board of a local nonprofit (to which I have in the past been a donor, no less) to come to the table and reach an agreement. From my days as a salmon cold storage plant worker, when we organized for the Alaska Fishermen's Union, to the days of the teachers strikes that sent my parents to the picket lines, I have always been with the workers, and will continue to stand up for workers' rights at King County Executive.

3. 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.

4. Do you support and will you honor picket lines? Would you walk on a picket line in support of workers?

Absolutely. See previous question. I have supported organizing efforts as a member of the Legislature and King County Council. I will continue to advocate publicly and behind the scenes for workers.

5. Do you support the right of workers to form a union through a card check neutrality agreement rather than through the cumbersome National Labor Relations Board process? Please explain.

Yes. Laws protecting the right to organize are, in a sense, bringing our shared democratic principles into the workplace. And there is no more democratic notion than this: The majority rules. You win an election by majority vote. If it works in politics, it should apply to union elections as well. I will use the access and visibility of the office of executive to advance this legislation.

6. UNITE HERE Local 8's top priority is organizing non-union hotel workers. In order to do so effectively, workers need the support of their community, including elected officials. If elected, would you:

- a. publicly support workers in their efforts to organize a labor union or to exercise their right to strike for a fair contract?

Absolutely. I have supported organizing efforts and the right to strike in the legislature and on the King County Council. I will continue to do so as King County Executive.

- b. urge employers to respect their employees' right to form a union and remain neutral during a union organizing campaign?

Yes.

- c. urge employers to recognize a union voluntarily when the majority of their employees choose to form one?

Yes.

- d. write a letter to non-union workers endorsing an organizing drive by UNITE HERE Local 8?

Yes.

- e. write a letter to urge an employer to re-hire a worker fired because s/he supported the union during an organizing drive?

Yes.

7. Would you advocate for an area- or county-wide living wage ordinance? Please explain your answer.

In order to set the foundation for a new prosperity for King County and our working families it is critical that employees earn a living wage. As Executive I am committed to advocating for our families and for a living wage ordinance.

New Hotel Development

1. UNITE HERE welcomes economic growth and development as long as new businesses adopt standards that are friendly to the community and to working families. As an elected official, you will deal quite often with businesses seeking to develop or expand in our community. What standards or conditions do you believe are appropriate for the government to impose on businesses in terms of employment, public health, environmental impacts, and the right of workers to form a union without employer interference/ intimidation?

Bringing new businesses to King County and keeping them here is a priority of mine in order to ensure the economic growth and health of our region. Just as important, however, is ensuring that businesses in the region also provide for the economic health and prosperity of their employees and the larger community. I support the concept of economic impact studies and am committed to ensuring the right of all employees to organize.

2. Where the government has a proprietary interest in development, would you support the inclusion of labor peace requirements in future RFPs and development agreements? "Labor peace" is a commitment from the developer/operator of a business that there will be no labor disruptions once the facility opens in order to protect the government's investment. The developer is then required to get a no strike pledge from any relevant union. Please explain your answer.

Yes. In addition to protecting its investment, the government can to leverage better conditions for workers and help raise standards throughout the community.

3. The Washington State Convention and Trade Center (WSCTC) is proposing a major expansion of its facilities. More than 1,000 hotel jobs are likely to result from such an expansion. In what manner would you be willing to work with UNITE HERE Local 8 to ensure that the jobs directly and indirectly created from this expansion are family-wage jobs with quality, affordable health and retirement benefits?

In the Legislature and on the County Council I have worked closely with unions to ensure that public resources are spent in the best interests of our working families,

and I will involve unions at the negotiating table as public projects develop. Specifically, public concessions or subsidies should be tied directly to meaningful protections for workers.

4. UNITE HERE Local 8 is a member of Puget Sound Sage, a local nonprofit focused on advocacy for responsible development, affordable housing, living wages, and a fair, healthy economy. Development often has negative, as well as positive, impacts on a community. Large developments, left unchecked, can disrupt communities and displace small business. Puget Sound Sage and its member organizations are using Community Benefits Agreements (“CBAs”) as a tool to address community impacts and promote development that benefits workers, neighbors, small businesses, and developers. What is your opinion of CBAs? Will you actively encourage developers, with whatever legal and other appropriate means at your disposal, to enter into a CBA with community organizations such as Puget Sound Sage?

I support CBAs. I think it is critical to have these broader discussions before a project begins than to either force a community to deal with negative impacts of a development or see that project delayed through litigation and other conflict. As I have said before I would use whatever legal means at my disposal to encourage a developer to negotiate a CBA.

I have also been a longtime and vocal supporter of impact fees and other tools that assure that the public is not forced to subsidize the cost of development, and that proper infrastructure—from sewers to sidewalks to schools—are constructed.

Other Policy Positions

5. Do you support ordinances like Seattle’s “Don’t Ask” ordinance that prohibits police or government employees from asking about a person’s immigration status? Do you think that local agencies should cooperate with federal agencies in enforcing immigration laws?

I agree with the idea that basic services should not be predicated on immigration status, and that it is dangerous for all to have people be afraid to talk to the police about crimes they have witnessed, to testify in court, to cooperate with health officials, etc. Our focus should be on getting people legal, not on driving them into an underground existence that jeopardizes us all.

6. Like many leaders of local, state, and national government, King County politicians have embraced the rhetoric of “green jobs.” But there is mounting concern as to whether new “green jobs” in energy conservation and alternative energy production will be good jobs, with wage standards and apprenticeship pathways to family-wage careers.

Do you support the application of job standards such as apprenticeship utilization and prevailing wage to County facilitated jobs in energy conservation and alternative energy production? Will you urge the King County Housing Authority to apply them to its energy efficiency services?

What will you do to make sure these jobs go to low-income people and people of color?

I am the one candidate for executive with significant manufacturing, light industrial, port and freight distribution facilities in my district. I have been a longtime champion for protection of industrial lands and investment in Port facilities and worker training.

As executive I'll make creation of family wage jobs a real priority, making the county a partner to cutting edge firms committed to clean energy, green building and other innovations, and working to keep our traditional industries competitive in a changing economic environment. I strongly support ensuring opportunities for workers and a supply of skilled workers for our economy - including the newly emerging economy - through apprenticeship programs.