

King County Conservation Voters

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Questionnaire must be returned to KCCV Organizer Mina Hashemi Mercer (mina@wcvoters.org) by 5:00pm on April 22nd in order to qualify for an endorsement interview.

City Council Candidate Questionnaire Primary / General Election 2009

CANDIDATE **Richard Conlin** PHONE 206-954-2322

POSITION **Seattle City Council, Position 2** COMMITTEE NAME People for Richard Conlin

ADDRESS PO Box 22318, Seattle, WA 98122

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Sara Nelson

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CAMPAIGN DETAILS

1. What is your campaign message? Seattle works best when we work together. I'm running for reelection to the City Council because I have the experience, the commitment, and the knowledge to ensure that the City Council makes a real difference in the lives of people. Together, we can strengthen neighborhoods, foster economic recovery from the current crisis, and make Seattle a leader in becoming a more sustainable city in our fragile world.
2. Have you ever run for office before? If so, when and for what position?
3. Have you ever held office before? If so, when and for what position?
Yes, elected to Seattle City Council 1997, 2001, 2005
4. What is your fundraising goal? \$180,000
 - a. How much have you raised to date? \$75,000
 - b. How much has your opponent raised to date? Unsure

What is your fundraising strategy?

Raised to date

\$75000

September Mailing 1 x 5000 (September) @ 2% x \$100 avg	\$10000
Campaign Kickoff and Mailing (June 4)	\$12000
October Mailing 1500 x 5% x \$100 avg	\$7500
House Parties 30 x \$500 avg	\$15000
Web	\$10000
Richard's Calls \$8K per month for 7 months	\$56000

5. Please list the components of your field campaign, in order of priority, and how you intend to accomplish them.

A strong field campaign is the heart of my strategy. Our steering committee of 30 meets regularly. They head up a variety of committees, including fundraising, visibility and signs, issue areas, Web team, and administrative. That group will grow to 150 over the summer.

We are focusing a major amount of time and energy on a Web strategy this year. We are using social networking sites, regular web communications to volunteers, web fundraising, and web newsletters.

This summer the campaign will participate in events, parades and Conlin house parties throughout the City. We expect to participate in or organize more than 75 events. In the fall, we plan to have our literature carried by the Democratic Districts, have volunteers canvass targeted areas, and do sign-waving for the week preceding election.

6. Please list five other organizations from whom you seek an endorsement (or already have an endorsement). Endorsed so far by Sierra Club, Seattle-King County Realtors, IFTPE Local 17, IUOE Local 609, 11th District Democrats. Seeking endorsement of all Democratic Districts, Cascade Bicycle Club, about 15 unions, Alki Foundation.
7. General Background (please include a CV / resume, or list all relevant work experience, education, and community service; one page or less). Resume attached.

What is your campaign platform? Citizens must have a voice – and we must take positive actions as a community. That means getting resources into transportation to ensure mobility. It means keeping neighborhoods safe, supporting parks and libraries, working for public health, housing, education, and human services, and ensuring that police and firefighters have the support they need. And it means working well with other governments to keep light rail moving, to keep working on replacing the Viaduct and the 520 bridge, and to build cooperation on other regional issues.

The four priority issues that I will focus on in the coming months are:

1. Economic recovery – use City resources to stimulate the economy, maintain human services, work with small businesses on a Buy Local campaign, and prepare the ground for Seattle’s leadership in the next economy – the green economy.
2. Transportation – keep light rail projects moving as we build University Link, start work on light rail to the Eastside, and begin planning for the extension to Northgate and beyond; implement Seattle’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans, and make sure that road projects like SR 520 emphasize transit connectivity and environmental responsibility.
3. Open government – I have launched a major initiative on Open Government, to improve access to Seattle public records, provide full information and access to City Council and Board and Commission meetings, and create new models for civic engagement and public participation using web-based tools and innovative outreach efforts.
4. Hunger and food policy – Implement the Local Food Action Initiative to ensure that Farmers Markets are supported, expand community gardens and other local food-growing options, protect farmland through the transfer of development rights, promote local and organic food and work against child obesity, and bring together public and private efforts around hunger and malnutrition into a coordinated strategy to end hunger in Seattle (strategy to be announced in news conference with United Way on Friday, April 24).

ISSUE QUESTIONS

8. The Puget Sound Regional Council expects 1.7 million additional people and 1.2 million new jobs to the region by the year 2040. How would you propose to accommodate these new people, jobs, and necessary infrastructure? What legislative tools would you use as a city councilmember to manage this growth? What would you consider your top priority in terms of infrastructure investments to manage this growth?

Seattle must work with King County and our suburban partners to continue our implementation of growth management through a strategy that links walkable, compact communities with a range of transportation options, including rail, bus, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. We can implement this through our cooperative work on the Growth Management Planning Council, which I currently serve as Vice-Chair, and by the City working with our partners to develop transit and taking action in Seattle to ensure that we have the zoning to accommodate the population we are expecting and the community facilities and infrastructure to sustain our neighborhoods. Our most critical infrastructure investment right now is light rail, and as a member of the Sound Transit Board I will work to effectively get light rail to the Eastside and to Northgate and beyond, at the same time pushing to create transit oriented communities around the light rail nodes.

9. Transportation accounts for about half of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. As a city councilmember in a King County city, it is likely you do not have direct

control over all aspects of the transportation system that serves your city. How do you prioritize transportation investments? How might you accomplish some of these priorities, given that you may not directly control that facet of the transportation system?

I give priority to investments that will reduce single occupancy vehicle traffic. That means more transit and bike/ped facilities, and it means an efficient road network where freight and bus traffic has priority. While Seattle has the ability to develop its own bike/ped facilities and to undertake some significant projects to reshape travel patterns, most of this work will require cooperation on a regional level. As a Sound Transit Board member and a Councilmember with positive relationships with many suburban and County Councilmembers, I am well-positioned to keep building these cooperative efforts.

10. Please lay out the main tenets of a piece of legislation or a political strategy you would use to tackle the following issues:

- a. Tree canopy cover in your city is disappearing at an alarming rate; however, much of the existing tree canopy is on private property (ie: single family homes). I successfully sponsored legislation that protects groves of trees and limits the cutting of trees on private property to three per year, approved by the Council earlier this year. While the Mayor supported applying this to lots greater than 10K square feet in size (less than 10% of residential lots), I persuaded the Council to set the regulations for lots down to 5K square feet, thus covering more than 70% of the residential lots in Seattle. The next step in this strategy is to ensure that we have an inventory of trees, that we make these interim regulations permanent, and that we put a package of incentives in place to reward and encourage householders to plant and properly maintain their trees.
- b. Your city has laid out climate pollution reduction goals – based primarily on energy conservation and transportation, which you must meet in four years. I led the city in committing to implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in 2000, a commitment which the Mayor extended in 2005. I have worked to strengthen and expand City Light's conservation programs, and last year led the Council in rejecting City Light's proposed resource strategy because it did not implement maximum conservation. Since 1998, I have led efforts to develop Green Building strategies, and sponsored the legislation that commits the City to reaching at least the silver LEED standard in all new and renovated city buildings. I have also led efforts to reduce automobile use by developing alternatives and putting in place disincentives such as a parking tax and reduced parking space requirements for new development. I would continue on these paths in the future.

In addition, I have secured adoption of two innovative strategies that will have numerous environmental benefits and move us in a positive direction on climate change. The Zero Waste Strategy tackles the challenge of

waste reduction through expanded recycling, waste reduction, and product stewardship strategies, including a food waste collection program that begins with single family homes and by 2011 will include multiple family and commercial buildings as well, regulations and incentives to ensure recycling of construction and demolition waste, product bans on Styrofoam and disposable bags, and a series of other steps. The Local Food Action Initiative focuses on developing a sustainable food strategy through encouraging food production and farmer's markets in the City, supporting the transfer of development rights from farmland to the City, and working with United Way on a long range strategy to end hunger, malnutrition, and childhood obesity. Carrying out these strategies will be a major commitment of mine in my next term.

- c. Your city is faced with a stormwater pollution problem near a development that is causing major complications with fish in the adjacent stream.

The critical step is prevention – putting regulations and investments in place before the development is constructed. I led the Council in moving forward with natural drainage strategies that rely on swales and daylighted creeks rather than piping stormwater, as well as the adoption of new drainage rates that are based on the amount of impervious surface on specific properties. I also sponsored amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance that strengthened the limits on development in vulnerable areas. If a problem is taking place despite these steps, then the City must set a priority for protection of the stream and watershed, ensure that the development is in compliance with all applicable regulations, and then work with the property owner to design systems that will remedy the problem. While the primary responsibility for remediating problems caused by development must be borne by the property owner, typically in such situations there are also issues with the City system in the area as well, and private-public partnerships are often the best way to ensure that the problem gets resolved before there is further environmental damage.