

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Richard Conlin
Position sought	Seattle City Council Position 2
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	Congressional District 7, Legislative District 37, County Council District 2
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	People for Richard Conlin
Web page	www.richardconlin.com
Campaign Email address	Conlin2009@gmail.com
Manager	Sara Nelson
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 22318, Seattle, WA 98122
Campaign phone number	2069542322
Campaign FAX	None

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

I was elected to the Seattle City Council in November 1997 and reelected in 2001 and 2005, and have been selected by my colleagues to serve as Council President for 2008-2009. In my first term, I chaired the Council's Neighborhoods, Sustainability, and Community Development Committee, and moved 37 neighborhood plans through Council approval. The successful completion of the Neighborhood Planning Program was a key step in Seattle's implementation of Washington's Growth Management Act.

In my second term, I served as Chair of the Council's Transportation Committee. I worked to implement regional plans to improve transit, develop new funding sources for transportation maintenance and neighborhood transportation improvements, and support pedestrian and bicycle improvements to reduce dependence on the automobile. In my third term, I chair the Environment, Emergency Management, and Utilities Committee. The committee oversees solid waste, water, drainage, and sewer utilities, emergency management, and environmental initiatives, including salmon recovery, climate change, green building programs, and sustaining the urban forest. My work includes a major reshaping of Seattle's approach to solid waste and recycling ("Zero Waste Strategy") and developing sustainable infrastructure policies. I also serve on the Energy and Technology and the Parks and Seattle Center Committees, and Chair the Committees of the Whole on the State Route 520 Replacement Project and Economic Recovery and Renewal, and the Special Committee on Open Government.

I am a member of the Sound Transit Board of Directors and represent Seattle on the Growth Management Planning Council of King County. I also serve on the regional committee overseeing salmon recovery in the Duwamish-Green River Cedar River ecosystem. Prior to being elected as a Seattle City Councilmember, I was Director of the Community and Environment Department at Metrocenter YMCA from 1985 to 1996. Among the programs I led were Seattle YMCA Earth Service Corps, supporting youth development through environmental education and action, and the Master Home Environmentalist, training volunteers to reduce home indoor pollution. I was one of the co-founders of Sustainable Seattle, an organization that published the "Indicators of Sustainable Community," and now works to promote actions that further Seattle's progress towards long-term cultural, economic, environmental, and social health.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	Endorsed by LD 11
Union Endorsement	IUOE Local 609, IFPTE Local 17
Municipal League	Not completed as yet, rated 'Very Good' in 2005
SEAMEC	Not completed as yet, received A rating on all categories in 2005
Other Endorsements	Sierra Club

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I am asking for endorsements from labor, human rights, human services, advocates for gender and sexual preference equality, business, Democratic and environmental organizations. I was endorsed by King County Democrats, all Seattle Districts, the Sierra Club, King County Conservation Voters, Seattle Firefighters, King County Labor Council, and a wide range of unions in my last campaign, and plan to work to secure all of these endorsements again in 2009.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	x		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	x		
3	Do you support affirmative action?	x		
4	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	x		
5	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	x		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		x	
7	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	x		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	x		
9	Do you support major changes in the way we live to help stop global warming?	x		
10	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	x		

Please answer the following questions *		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		X
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		X
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		X

* If you answered "Yes" or "Qualified" please explain your answer.

Are you a member of another political party? If so, which ones? Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, whom?

No

Are you a member of your local Democratic District Party? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?

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Yes, PCO for 37-1905, managed Presidential Caucus sites in 2004, 2008, long history of involvement and engagement in Democratic Party. I have been an active Democrat for most of the last 40 years, including being an elected Democratic member of the Ingham County Commission in Michigan in 1972 and 1974, and an alternate delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

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.

I have raised \$85,000 to date of my \$180,000 budget, and have a campaign plan, campaign manager (Sara Nelson) and campaign consultant (Sheila Stickel) on board. I plan to again secure the endorsements of labor, environmental, and Democratic organizations, and also expect to have a number of endorsements from the business community as well this year.

What are the single most pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? What actions would you take if elected?

I will work towards a new economy, built around green jobs and the unique strengths of Seattle's businesses and people. At the same time, we must support our families and our neighborhoods, especially those who are most affected by the economic downturn. In my first year as Council President I have led my colleagues in creating and carrying out an action plan for Seattle, based on our principles of economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, social justice, and community. I want to continue this work - and keep the Council connected and accountable to the public. I've demonstrated my ability to be innovative and responsive through my years of experience with major issues. I pledge to work hard to bring Seattle back to economic health, put people first, support local business and our regional economy, and protect Seattle's environment over the next four years. That is the blueprint for a sustainable future for Seattle.

If you are a candidate in a contested primary race, what record of performance, ability, experience, personal qualities, and positions on issues distinguish you from your opponent(s)? If you do not receive the nomination, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election? Please explain.

Not clear yet who opponents will be. This is a nonpartisan race. I would support a fellow Democrat if one received the nomination.

Do you believe the current structure of taxes and/or fees that generate funds in your area are fair? If not, how would you change it?

Seattle is, unfortunately, bound by state law in our ability to define taxes. I would like to see a simpler tax structure, with less dependence on taxes such as sales tax that are most regressive, adoption of an income tax, and reshaping our business taxes to give incentives for employment and encourage small business development. The City has limited ability to control these, but I have proposed changes in our current business tax that would provide incentives for small business and job creation.

King County has a ten year plan to end homelessness. What ideas do you have to increase low income and affordable housing/?

I played a key role in the creation of Seattle's Transfer of Development Rights and Bonus programs, which require the development and funding of low income housing as a prerequisite for building in downtown zones. I also assisted in developing the incentive zoning program, which extends these concepts to other

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zones around the City. I will continue to be involved in the work of government and community based agencies to increase the supply of low income housing in Seattle. I was one of the Councilmembers who ensured that the Low Income Housing Levy was expanded in 2002, and will support expanding it again this year. I will only support redevelopment of low income housing that ensures full replacement of all low income housing units and a guarantee that every family will have the opportunity to move back into the redeveloped community.

I endorse the commitment to "A Roof Over Every Head", and will work to implement plans to create a governance structure to address homelessness issues, to improve data collection, and to build the community will to achieve this goal. I recognize, however, that there are significant shortfalls in both the Ten-Year Plan and in the funding and implementation that has been committed to it, and support additional steps that will address the issue of homelessness.

I am committed to realigning funding support as needed in order to support programs that research has demonstrated to be effective and to coordinate the provision of services from prevention and service programs. I am also committed to ensuring that the City continues to fund human service and housing programs as a high priority.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I support a single-payer national health care system. Until that can be put into place, I support strong efforts on the state and local level to fund community clinics and other ways to ensure that no one is denied care because of income or any other reason.

What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

I believe it is important for all people to have equal access to marriage and the privileges that come with that institution. In the interim, I support same sex civil unions, and of course parental rights. As a City Council member, I voted for domestic partnership benefits at the city and will continue to do all I can to ensure true equality.

What creative solutions can you offer to address the problems of the economically disadvantaged?

It is government's job to stand up for the people who cannot stand up for themselves. I have a strong voting record of support for human services and have used my influence to get more money for health and human services programs. I will continue to do so, and to support and initiate programs that strengthen community networks to help the disadvantaged and bring disadvantaged citizens into the mainstream, including new immigrant populations. My work to support immigrant families involved in domestic violence situations on the Council has been recognized by an award from the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. I have led the work of the Council on funding programs to feed the hungry and have worked with United Way to develop a coordinated strategy to end hunger and malnutrition in King County, announced at a news conference April 24. My Local Food Action Initiative focuses on both hunger issues and access to healthy, local food, and I recently worked with a coalition of groups to develop a community action grant for submission to the US Department of Agriculture. Among other things, this grant would provide funding for the Clean Greens program organized out of New Hope Baptist Church and for additional garden space for immigrant communities under Seattle's P-Patch program.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.

Printed Name	Richard Conlin	Date May 15, 2009
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Signature		
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