

Northwest Vietnamese News Questionnaire

Councilmember Richard Conlin, People for Richard Conlin, PO Box 22318, Seattle, WA 98122,
www.richardconlin.com

1. How can you stop, prevent, or slow down the gentrification/displacement of the poor and ethnic minority from their neighborhoods? In other words, how do we effectively support the retention of the minority population in Seattle?
 - Increase incomes through support for small business, improved schools, job training and placement services, effective human services and health programs, and other steps that will help people emerge from poverty into better economic circumstances.
 - Take action on incentive zoning, the low-income housing levy, and other programs that will ensure that people with limited means can continue to find affordable housing in Seattle.
2. How can you help with distribution or provide supports, grants, or funding for business development to smaller ethnic minority neighborhoods in Seattle?
 - Effectively use community based institutions such as Impact Capital and Community Capital, and provide funding from federal stimulus funds for small business assistance.
 - Work with VAEDA and other organizations that represent smaller ethnic minority neighborhoods to design programs through the City's Office for Economic Development to ensure that communities have the opportunity to identify their own needs and the most effective ways to meet them (I worked closely with the business community in Little Saigon on the Dearborn/Goodwill project, and assisted the community in finding ways to address the concerns raised by this project).
 - Support micro-lending programs that will help the smallest businesses to get started, and increase the threshold for the city's Business and Occupations Tax to exempt these small businesses from the City's tax.
3. How can you help to diversifying the current public employee workforce and reducing employment barriers: technology access, criminal history, education?
 - Continue to support the City's small grants program for technology access (I led the successful effort to increase funding by 30% in the 2009 budget).
 - Work with the School District and Community College network to coordinate City services with educational institutions and provide city support and assistance to help the School District improve the performance of Seattle Schools.
4. What can you do to improve the living condition and create economic opportunity for residents in lower income and higher crime rate neighborhoods?
 - Ensure that the Seattle Police Department has adequate staffing and performance guidelines to carry out its mission of protecting public safety, while supporting community policing programs and ensuring that SPD has a diverse workforce that is accountable to the community.
 - Continue to fund programs like the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund to support small business development in that area (I sponsored and moved through the Council the legislation that funded the RVCDF in 2002).
5. Improve participation and awareness of available public services to the Vietnamese Community?
 - Increase the outreach efforts for City programs and services, in coordination with community based organizations that can guide City involvement in reaching the Vietnamese community.

- Develop new ways to reach Vietnamese populations as part of the City Council's program on Open Government, which I launched early this year and which has a major focus on connecting the City Council to populations that do not often participate in City government.