



2009 Written Candidate Questionnaire

Mailing Address: 1122 E. Pike St., Box#901, Seattle, WA 98122

Seattle Interview Site: 1605 12th Ave, Room # 21 (12th Ave & E. Pine St. – *Inside the same building as the State liquor store, our office is down the hall from the Seattle Gay News*)

Office Telephone: 206-860-7583

Fax Number: 206-322-7188

Email: seamec.sc@gmail.com

Please fill out this questionnaire and return it to SEAMEC either by mail, fax, or email. **The candidate must sign and date** this front page. If you are emailing the questionnaire to us, please be sure to either include a scan of the front page or mail or fax the signed front page to SEAMEC. Feel free to attach additional pages as needed and/or a copy of your resume.

Once we receive your questionnaire, we will contact you about scheduling an interview.

Candidate's name: Richard Conlin

Position sought (and number if appropriate): Seattle City Council, Position 2

Please select one: Incumbent Challenger Open Seat

Campaign address: PO Box 22318, Seattle, WA 98122_

Campaign telephone: (206) 954-2322

Campaign fax: (206) 282-5543

Campaign email: conlin2009@gmail.com

Campaign website: www.richardconlin.com

Campaign manager's name: Sara Nelson

Consultant(s): Sheila Stickel

Contact cell phone for day of interview: (206) 954-2322 (Conlin)

My signature below indicates that the answers to the attached questionnaire are an accurate portrayal of my views and that I understand my answers may be publicly disclosed by SEAMEC.

Signature:

Date: 8/3/2009

ISSUES

Please answer the following questions with a mark (e.g., 'x' or '✓') under "Yes", "No," or "Qualified." **If you are unsure, please qualify. Please explain any answer you mark as "Qualified" in the space provided under the question, or attach additional pages.**

| Yes | No | Qualified | |
|-----|----|--|--|
| Xx | | | 1. Do you support same-sex couples having the right to civil marriage in the state of Washington? |
| Xx | | | 2. Should the state of Washington recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states? |
| | Xx | Civil unions are not an acceptable alternative to equal marriage rights. | 3. Can domestic partnerships provide sufficient legal protections to families formed by same-sex couples (or is marriage required to do this)? |
| Xx | | | 4. Would you have voted for the 2009 Washington State domestic partnership law? |
| | | | 5. Should public funds be available for people in economic need for the following medically necessary gender-identity related healthcare issues: |
| Xx | | | a. Counseling? |
| Xx | | | b. Medication/hormone treatment? |
| Xx | | | c. Surgery? |
| | xx | | 6. Domestic partnership rights have been expanded in the Washington Legislature during the 2009 session. However, domestic partners are still defined as same-sex couples or heterosexual couples over the age of 62. Do you favor this age restriction? |

Please answer the following questions with a mark (e.g., 'x' or '✓') under "Yes", "No," or "Qualified." **If you are unsure, please qualify. Please explain any answer you mark as "Qualified" in the space provided under the question, or attach additional pages.**

| Yes | No | Qualified | |
|-----|----|-----------|---|
| Xx | | | 7. If a referendum or initiative was filed to repeal domestic partnership laws, would you actively campaign against it? |
| Xx | | | 8. Do you support the Washington State law that protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity? |
| | Xx | | 9. Some pharmacists in the state of Washington have demanded the right to refuse to fill prescriptions that violate their personal values. Do you support this right? |
| Xx | | | 10. Should jails, prisons, mental institutions, etc., distribute condoms to inmates to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases? |
| Xx | | | 11. Do you support maintaining public funding of abortion services for women in economic need in Washington State? |

Please answer the following questions with a mark (e.g., 'x' or '✓') under "Yes", "No," or "Qualified." **If you are unsure, please qualify. Please explain any answer you mark as "Qualified" in the space provided under the question, or attach additional pages.**

| Yes | No | Qualified | |
|-----|----|-----------|--|
| Xx | | | 12. Do you agree with the current law allowing eligible patients be able to use medical marijuana when recommended by their physician? |
| Xx | | | 13. Do you agree with the current law allowing a terminally ill, mentally competent adult to seek the assistance of a physician to end his or her own life (Initiative 1000 of 2008)? |
| Xx | | | 14. Do you believe comprehensive <u>age- appropriate</u> sex education in public schools should begin by age 10? |
| Xx | | | <p>15. Have you ever visited or been a guest in the home of a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person in the last five years?</p> <p>[If Yes] Please elaborate.</p> <p>Many times. I have many friends and acquaintances in the LGBT community, from one of my legislative assistants to members of my book club. I have been a strong supporter of PFLAG, and very much appreciate their work.</p> <p>[If No] If the organization Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) invited you to visit such a home, would you agree to attend?</p> |

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. What are your three highest priorities as a candidate?

1. I want to continue my work to get resources into Seattle's transportation network, to maintain our roads and bridges implement our neighborhood plans, promote economic prosperity through freight mobility, and ensure that Seattle is a safe place to walk and bicycle.

2. I am also committed to keeping our communities safe and healthy, by supporting our parks and libraries, working for better public health, housing, education, and human services, and ensuring that our police and firefighters have the support they need.

3. 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. 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.

2. Why should the LGBT community vote for you?

I have lobbied Congressional representatives on behalf of AIDS funding and marriage rights. I've donated money and time to LGBT organizations or causes including the Lifelong Aids Alliance, Lambert House, Harvey Muggy Democrats. I also have marched in the Gay Pride Parade for 11 of the last 12 years, and for four years contributed \$100 annually to the Pride Day Awards.

I have attended numerous events in the LGBT community over the last decade, both as a candidate and an elected official.

I have strongly supported the rights of LGBT workers and fair hiring and employment practices in the City and policies that support the LGBT community (see details below).

Prior to my work in the City, Arlis Stewart was my supervisor at Metrocenter YMCA, and I supported her efforts to get the YMCA involved in support of the LGBT community. As Director of Seattle YMCA Earth Service Corps, I was especially involved in ensuring that the program served LGBT high school students respectfully and effectively, and in combating homophobia among program participants.

Last, but not least, I have hired LGTB staff and my current campaign consultant is a lesbian.

3. What does transgender mean?

Transgender is a word that an individual uses to describe behavioral tendencies that diverge from the normative gender role, (but not always) assigned at birth, as well as the role traditionally held by society. Meaning that a woman may be born with female organs, but her gender identity is decidedly more male. She may decide (as Chastity Bono has recently) to surgically reassign the organs and hormones to match a male gender identity. That individual then would then refer to himself as a male. Or, a transgender individual may have characteristics that are normally associated with a particular gender, identify elsewhere on the traditional gender continuum, or exist outside of it as "other," "agender," "third gender". As I understand it, transgender person may also identify as biender, or along several places on either the traditional transgender continuum, or the more encompassing continuums which have been developed in response to the significantly more detailed studies done in recent years.

4. What would you do to protect LGBT rights at your level of government?

I have strongly supported the rights of LGBT workers and fair hiring and employment practices in the City. I supported legislation to make gender identity a protected class under Seattle's civil rights code, allowing the Office for Civil Rights to take action on discrimination.

We rely on the following questions to develop our understanding of your record or history of activism toward LGBT rights and interests. Please be thorough so we are fully aware of your record; feel free to attach additional pages.

1. Which organizations and/or individuals would you consult to help you decide an issue that involves the LGBT community?

Leaders of key organizations, such as Equal Rights WA, Pride, LRC, the LGBT Community Center, the Lifelong Aids Alliance, Greater Seattle Business Association, and SEAMEC. Among the specific individuals I would consult would be Councilmembers Tom Rasmussen and Sally Clark, David Schraer, Tim Bradbury, Senator Ed Murray, Representative Jamie Pedersen, Tina Podlodowski, Sheila Stickel, Lonnie Lusardo, Bill Dubay.

2. Have you contacted an elected official regarding any legislation or issue specifically affecting the LGBT community? Please specify who, what issue, and when.

I have lobbied both Congress and Legislators on issues relating to AIDS funding and marriage and domestic partner rights. As a member of the Board of Health, I worked to get the BOH to send letters to decision makers regarding the pharmacist issue. On the City Council, I have supported the work of the City's Commission on Sexual Minorities and have led efforts to fund relevant program activities, such as the Teen Helpline, Lambert House, and the Rainbow Train. I actively worked to secure approval of the 'Private Right of Action', code provisions that allow LGBT individuals to file employment discrimination cases based on sexual orientation or gender identity, a right not part of the State code. I have supported the City's Domestic Partnership Registration, funding for programs addressing same-sex partner domestic violence, and provisions that require the city to select contractors that do not discriminate between benefits provided to employees with legally recognized spouses and employees with domestic partners.

3. Have you ever raised LGBT issues to any non-LGBT audiences? Please specify the issue(s), to what group(s) and when.

Yes. I have strongly supported the rights of LGBT workers and fair hiring and employment practices in the City, as well as the rights to health care and marriage equality. I have stated this to audiences, from labor to business to neighborhood groups, and have never equivocated on this commitment.

4. Have you ever advocated for pro-LGBT policies in your workplace, faith institution, organizations, or elsewhere? Please specify what policies, when it took place, and the outcome of your activities.

Yes. Again, I have strongly supported the rights of LGBT workers and fair hiring and employment practices in the City, and have worked to ensure equality for all, as noted above.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Please rate yourself in the following areas using this scale: A – Excellent, B – Good, C – Fair, D – Poor, F - None

B Knowledge of LGBT issues

A Sentiment/sympathy towards LGBT issues

A History/record on LGBT issues

Do you publicly self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender? *

Yes

No

*: Your answer is not intended to influence SEAMEC's evaluation, rating or endorsement of your candidacy. Answering "Yes" implies your approval to be identified on SEAMEC's materials as a member of the LGBT community. If you are not publicly open and out, please answer "No." Should we decide to identify publicly LGBT candidates on the rating sheet or communications, we will state that sexual orientation and/or gender identity is not an indication of qualification for office.