

UA Local 32 - Candidate Questionnaire

Full Legal Name: Richard Byrd Conlin

Office you are seeking: Seattle City Council, Position 2

Current Incumbent(s) Name: I am the incumbent

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Campaign Name: People for Richard Conlin

Campaign Manager Name: Sara Nelson

Campaign Address PO Box 22318

City and Zip Seattle 98122 **Office Phone** (206)954-2322

Current Occupation Councilmember **Home Phone** (206)329-0658

What other jobs have you had in the past? Publisher, YES! Magazine; Community Projects Director, Metrocenter YMCA; Owner, Alcor Community Oriented Development (business); Lecturer, University of Botswana and Swaziland; Commissioner, Ingham County, Michigan; Projects Director, Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRGIM); Systems Representative, Burroughs Corporation; Letter Carrier, US Post Office

List all trade schools, high schools and colleges attended, degrees and areas of specialization:

Yorktown High School, Graduate, 1965
Michigan State University, BA, History and Political Science, 1968
Michigan State University, MA, Political Science, 1971

Union Affiliation, if any, past or present: None

Have you ever been involved in the following Union-related: Not directly.

Mediation Negotiations Arbitration Labor disputes

List three reasons why you are running for office/re-election:

1. To foster Seattle's economic recovery from the current recession and that Seattle is prepared and ready to be part of the next economy.

2. To ensure that light rail gets to Northgate and across Lake Washington, and that our urban centers and villages are effectively linked by transit, bicycle, and pedestrian connections.

3. To support great neighborhoods and communities throughout Seattle, with strong public safety, good human services, and parks, libraries, and other community facilities for all.

How many hours each day do you expect to devote to your campaign? four

Is your party likely to support you in this election? Yes

How many organized labor volunteers are currently committed to your campaign?

I have currently raised \$ 105,000.

My campaign budget is likely to be \$ 185,000

In my last election I walked six precincts.

In my last election volunteers walked 300 precincts, separately from me.

In my last election we dropped literature in 300 precincts, but did not talk to people.

In my last election we called voters in zero precincts.

The purpose of the call was to:

Identify voters

Persuade voters

Turnout voters

In my last election we mailed our voters 200,000 number of pieces.

List the names of organizations which have actually endorsed your candidacy .

Sierra Club, King County Conservation Voters, 11th District Democrats, 37th District Democrats, SEIU 1199NW, SEIU 775NW, Seattle-King County Association of Realtors, IFTPE Local 17, Operating Engineers Local 609

Hon. Tim Burgess, Hon. Reuven Carlyle, Hon. Sally Clark, Hon. Frank Chopp, Hon. Mary Lou Dickerson, Hon. Bob Ferguson, Hon. Jean Godden, Hon. Larry Gossett, Hon. Bruce Harrell, Hon. Bob Hasegawa, Hon. Zack Hudgins, Hon. Ken Jacobson, Hon. Adam Kline, Hon. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Hon. Ed Murray, Hon. Eric Pettigrew, Hon. Tom Rasmussen, Hon. Peter Steinbrueck, Hon. Jim Street

List the names of some elected officials and organizations which will likely oppose your candidacy

Not aware of any

How would you vote on the following issues:
(Circle Support or Oppose and explain your position)

Right to Work Legislation

Oppose Explain

Retaining Prevailing Wage Status

Support Explain:

Retaining State Certified Apprenticeship Programs

Support Explain: I have stood up for the retention of apprenticeship programs at the City as well.

Project Labor Agreements for Public Works

Support Explain: I supported PLA's for City Hall and the Justice Center, as well as for Sound Transit, and will support them again in the future.

Increased funding for Contractor Compliance

Support Explain: As needed.

Establishing Pipefitter Certification and Licensing

Support Explain: Insofar as the City has this under its jurisdiction

Upholding Mechanical and Plumbing Industry Codes

Support Explain: We do enforce these, and I am very much in support of that.

In general, what do you see as the appropriate role for elected officials to play in labor-management disputes?

I have supported the labor movement in many different ways, including:

- casting the decisive vote to reject the Hedreen proposal to transfer development credits to build a non-union hotel. Without my vote, the deal would have gone through – but I didn't bow to pressure and stood up when I was most needed;
- writing the University of Washington to support the graduate students when they overwhelmingly voted for representation by GSEAC/UAW and the University stonewalled recognizing their union and negotiating a contract, writing Northwest Hospital President Bill Schneider calling on him to agree to a quick union election and refrain from anti-union activities, and speaking at the rallies for SEIU District 1199NW's Northwest Hospital organizing drive;
- writing an op-ed and joining rallies on behalf of SEIU Local 6's organizing campaign for security guards, writing a letter to Darigold supporting Teamsters 66 members when Darigold locked them out, and writing the grocery companies in support of UFCW 1105 against a Southern California style lockout;
- supporting the efforts of SEIU to ensure that the RFP for security services at Seattle City Hall makes wages and working conditions a criteria for evaluation;

- working with Puget Sound SAGE to help secure support for conditions to protect the community and workers when the Council considers the street vacations for the Dearborn Street development project;
- refusing to support rezoning of the Port's North Bay site that would have reduced the potential for industrial jobs;
- opposing the use of the Design Build Operate Maintain contract for the Seattle Monorail because it would have excluded ATU 587 from representing the operating and maintenance staff.

Whenever I am asked, I have supported workers in their struggles to organize unions, bargain good contracts, and achieve a decent standard of living for their families.

Specifically, when is it appropriate for elected officials to help mediate such disputes?

When asked.

Specifically, when is it appropriate to speak publicly in support of workers?

As noted above, I believe that elected officials should speak publicly in support of workers whenever possible. The only exception is when unions are engaged in collective bargaining with the City, when that could be construed as improper.

Do you support the practice of contracting out public services? No

Regular, ongoing work should be performed by public employees. When the City hired contract workers in information technology I worked with IFPTE Local 17 to have permanent positions created instead. I worked with AFSCME to ensure that the jobs of the library workers who staff the Bookmobile were preserved, and found the source of funds that the Council was able to use to preserve the Bookmobile. I supported the Labor Council's advocacy for public operation of the Monorail. In the end, keeping the work in-house allows us to follow labor practices that are consistent with our values, and it is generally less expensive than contracting out.

What process or system have you or would you use to guarantee that Local 32 was given an opportunity for input on issues that affect our members?

I would always have an open door to Local 32, as your experience demonstrates. I proactively consult affected unions on specific issues that affect them.

Who would you use as a resource for Labor related questions you may have?

I would begin with people like Marty Yellam, John Masterjohn, Joe McGee, Diana Douglas, and Patti Kievel on City labor issues, or the representative of the specific local involved. On other issues, not necessarily related specifically to the City, I would call on people like David Freiboth or Rick Sawyer for KCLC, on people like Sergio Salinas, Jonathan Rosenbloom, or Adam Glickman-Flora at SEIU, Karen Deal or Steve Williamson at UFCW 21, or other folks who were involved in the particular issue, or David West at Puget Sound SAGE or Verlene Jones at SPRI for other political issues.

With health care costs skyrocketing and insurance profits on the rise, what concrete action will you take to guarantee quality, affordable health care for everyone in Washington?

I will continue to press for universal health care through our federal legislators, for full funding for the Basic Health Plan and other health provisions at the State level, and for full and increased funding for community clinics and other health services that the City supports. I will also seek to maintain the current contract provisions that ensure health care for City employees, support the provisions in the contracts of the Coalition of City Unions that limit employee contributions towards health insurance, and oppose increasing those contributions.

Have you spent time analyzing the 5 proposals forwarded from ESSB 6333 and the Insurance Commissioners office and if so, what is your opinion of these plans?

I have not analyzed those proposals, which are not within the authority of the City to implement.

Please explain you understanding of the current drug pricing schemes used in pharmaceuticals today and what if any changes you would make in this system if you had a chance?

I am not familiar with this issue, and I do not believe that the City has any authority over this issue. If there is anything that the City could do, I would be willing to work with you to support provisions that will address the high cost of pharmaceuticals, which are a major burden on the health care system and especially on older Americans.

Please explain whether or not your views agree with the statement “Health Care should be a fundamental human right”?

I strongly agree with that, and have sponsored and voted for resolutions on the Seattle City Council calling for national health care insurance. Beyond that, as a member of the Council I have led the Council in funding for neighborhood health care clinics, and both buildings and specific funding for health programs for organizations such as the International Community Health Services. As a member of the Board of Health I have consistently advocated for and supported programs and funding for community health care and innovative approaches to ensuring the health of all of the people of Seattle and King County.

Will you vote for legislation that would prohibit drug company sales representative from having access to information about what medications doctors are prescribing for their patients?

Again, this is not a City issue, but I am committed to the privacy of the doctor-patient relationship, and do not believe that this would be appropriate.

Are there any changes in our current health care system that you do think are needed? If yes, what do you feel the critical elements of such a system should be?

I support universal health care. The critical elements of such a system would include universal access, provisions for cost control and privacy, and a fair funding system.

***When completed, fax to:
Attention: Eric Gilbreath
425-277-7370***

E-Mail Address:
Eric@ualocal32.com

Revised 05/15/08

Opeiu#8/Afl-cio
Company draino/political action committee/candidate questionnaire