



2009 SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

General Campaign Information

1. Candidate's name: Richard Conlin

2. For which position/seat are you running? Seattle City Council, Position 2

3. Who is your campaign manager and what is his/her contact information? Sara Nelson, sara@richardconlin.com, 206-910-8762

4. Please provide current contact information for your campaign and indicate the best way for us to contact you in the future (e.g. fax, email).
 - a. Mailing address: People for Richard Conlin, PO Box 22318, Seattle 98122

 - b. Office phone: 206-954-2322

 - c. Cell phone: same

 - d. Fax: none

 - e. Email: info@richardconlin.com, conlin2009@gmail.com

 - f. Web site: www.richardconlin.com

5. Who are your campaign consultants? The Advocacy Group

6. What is your current occupation? Councilmember

7. What is the focus of your platform? What would your priorities be for change in Seattle if elected to this seat?

My goal is to keep Seattle stable and moving forward in these challenging times. As Council President, I 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 am convinced that we can work together to 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've demonstrated my ability to be innovative and responsive. I've made decisions that affect many lives – about public safety, transportation, health care, and education. I've been willing to make tough choices, to take votes based on what I believe in -- and to stand up for the people of Seattle.

My job is to listen to people, resolve conflict, and make decisions based on a set of core values. We reach our goals by making well thought out decisions and asking tough questions on all issues, including the billions of dollars in transportation projects that will change the face of our city.

I will continue to be a strong leader and to deliver results. In the next four years, I want to:

- Bring Seattle back to economic health, ensure that those who are left out and left behind have the human services they need, support local business and our regional economy, and protect Seattle's environment through holistic and creative solutions to environmental issues. That is the blueprint for a sustainable future for Seattle.
- Continue to implement our neighborhood plans, growth management strategies, and transportation choices that make Seattle a safe place to walk and bicycle.
- Keep 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.
- Continue my regional leadership work, on the Sound Transit Board to get light rail to Northgate and across Lake Washington to the Eastside, to keep moving on

the Viaduct and bridge replacements, and for salmon recovery and the health of Puget Sound.

- Restore faith in government by listening and responding to citizens, valuing and supporting our diverse communities, and preserving open, accountable government and a City Council that develops superb public policy to keep Seattle vibrant, functioning, and resilient.

8. Which committees would you be interested in serving on if elected?

Currently serve as Council President, Chair the Environment, Emergency Management, and Utilities Committee, and serve on the Energy and Technology Committee and the Parks and Seattle Center Committee, as well as on the Sound Transit Board of Directors and Finance Committee. I also Chair the Economic Recovery and SR 520 Committees Whole, as well as the Special Committee on Open Government. I would want to keep all of these committees, as they are at the center of the work I am currently engaged in, but find all the Council Committees interesting and would serve on others in the future.

9. Do you have a specific base(s) of voters that you will target during your campaign?

Environmental, labor, and neighborhood activists.

10. What is your fundraising goal for this campaign?

\$185,000

Union/ Labor Involvement

1. Do you have or have you had any affiliation with a union? If so, which union?

No. My daughter is a member of UFCW Local 21.

2. Have you ever been involved in a union organizing campaign or labor dispute? If so, please explain.

I tried to organize a union when I was working for the Burroughs Corporation as a Systems Representative in the 1970's. Unfortunately, when management found out about our efforts, they split us up by transferring some people and offering additional pay to others, so we were never able to secure a majority of signatures. This was in a time before the practice of union busting was developed as extensively as it is now. Even with a relatively benign response, it was not possible to move unionization forward, and I have great understanding and empathy for those who are on the frontlines in organizing now.

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

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.

- 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.

At the City level, I have participated in the Labor-Management Leadership Committee and supported labor's place at the table. When the City hired contract workers in information technology, I stood up for IFPTE Local 17 and successfully fought to have permanent positions created instead. When the Mayor proposed cutting firefighter positions and closing a fire station, I spoke against it and was willing to vote to cut the Mayor's office budget instead. When the Mayor proposed to cut the Bookmobile and lay off the WSCCCE Council 2 employees, I proposed a tax increase to keep the Bookmobile running, and got my colleagues to support it.

4. Do you support and will you honor picket lines? Would you walk on a picket line in support of workers?

Yes, I have spoken at rallies and walked on picket lines in support of workers.

5. Do you support the right of workers to form a union through a card check neutrality agreement rather than through the cumbersome National Labor Relations Board process? Please explain.

Yes. I believe that the right to form unions for collective bargaining is fundamental to democracy. The NLRB has proven to be inadequate to protecting workers rights under current laws. No one should ever have to worry about getting fired for organizing a union in their workplace and once workers have voted to be union no one should ever have to worry about getting a fair contract. I would sponsor a resolution in support of the EFCA

and work with labor to find ways to put a spotlight on this issue. I would support all efforts to expose employers who interfere with union organizing campaigns and refuse to negotiate collective bargaining agreements.

6. UNITE HERE Local 8's top priority is organizing non-union hotel workers. In order to do so effectively, workers need the support of their community, including elected officials. If elected, would you:
 - a. publicly support workers in their efforts to organize a labor union or to exercise their right to strike for a fair contract? Yes
 - b. urge employers to respect their employees' right to form a union and remain neutral during a union organizing campaign? Yes
 - c. urge employers to recognize a union voluntarily when the majority of their employees choose to form one? Yes
 - d. write a letter to non-union workers endorsing an organizing drive by UNITE HERE Local 8? Yes
 - e. write a letter to urge an employer to re-hire a worker fired because s/he supported the union during an organizing drive? Yes

7. Would you advocate for an area- or city-wide living wage ordinance? Please explain why or why not.

I support the concept of a living wage, which would be well above the current minimum wage. However, I am not convinced that a City wage ordinance will be either legally defensible or workable, and it would do little good if it led to jobs being relocated elsewhere. I am willing to consider the legal and policy arguments in favor of this kind of ordinance, and to change my mind if the evidence shows that it is something that will make a difference.

New Hotel Development

1. UNITE HERE welcomes economic growth and development as long as new businesses adopt standards that are friendly to the community and to working families. As an elected official, you will deal quite often with businesses seeking to develop or expand in our community. What standards or conditions do you believe are appropriate for the government to impose on businesses in terms of employment, public health, environmental impacts, and the right of workers to form a union without employer interference/ intimidation?

Wherever the government has a proprietary right over development, it should establish strict standards for the rights of workers, fair employment, protection of public health, protection of the environment, and include actions such as Project Labor Agreements in the decision making and implementation process.

Because of federal law and Washington's strong property rights Constitution and Supreme Court, the City has less opportunity to implement such strict standards over private development. We should, however, push the envelope wherever we have the opportunity to do so, such as I did in voting against the Hedreen transfer of development rights or in assisting the Dearborn Street Coalition in working on a Community Benefits Agreement by using the street vacation process as an opportunity.

2. Where the government has a proprietary interest in development, would you support the inclusion of labor peace requirements in future RFPs and development agreements? "Labor peace" is a commitment from the developer/operator of a business that there will be no labor disruptions once the facility opens in order to protect the government's investment. The developer is then required to get a no strike pledge from any relevant union. Please explain your answer.

Absolutely. That is why I supported PLA's for City Hall and the Justice Center and for the Sound Transit LINK project. As a member of the Sound Transit Board, I will press for and advocate PLA's for the next phases of light rail development, and will do so in other major projects that I may have the opportunity to influence.

3. Other cities in the U.S. have adopted legislation that allows local elected bodies to condition or veto a hotel development project based on an analysis of the development's impacts on the community, e.g. increased demand for public healthcare among low-wage hotel employees. Would you support including in the city's permitting process this type of "Impact Analysis" for new hotel and other large-scale developments? Why or why not?

It is not clear to me that this would actually have as much impact as more direct efforts to support union organizing in this industry. There are also real legal risks in bringing labor issues into land use legislation. I have supported and worked with the Dearborn Street Coalition in their work to find a way to incorporate fair labor standards in the agreement with the developers, and to use the City's street vacation process as a way to engage the City's authority in ensuring that these guarantees were effective. It was not legally possible to engage in these discussions under the provisions of the land use code, and I am very doubtful if the mechanism that you are proposing here will turn out to be workable.

4. The Washington State Convention and Trade Center (WSCTC) is proposing a major expansion of its facilities. More than 1,000 hotel jobs are likely to result from such an expansion. In what manner would you be willing to work with UNITE HERE Local 8 to ensure that the jobs directly and indirectly created from this expansion are family-wage jobs with quality, affordable health and retirement benefits?

This is a public project, and should be able to incorporate these standards under the proprietary role of government. I would commit to working with UNITE HERE Local 8 to exert whatever influence I have to making this happen, including voting against discretionary city legislation that would be needed to permit this expansion if there are

not appropriate labor provisions. As noted above, I demonstrated my willingness to take these kinds of stands when I voted to deny the Transfer of Development Rights credits to the proposed Hedreen hotel project.

5. UNITE HERE Local 8 is a member of Puget Sound Sage, a local nonprofit focused on advocacy for responsible development, affordable housing, living wages, and a fair, healthy economy. Development often has negative, as well as positive, impacts on a community. Large developments, left unchecked, can disrupt communities and displace small business. Puget Sound Sage and its member organizations are using Community Benefits Agreements (“CBAs”) as a tool to address community impacts and promote development that benefits workers, neighbors, small businesses, and developers. What is your opinion of CBAs? Will you actively encourage developers, with whatever legal and other appropriate means at your disposal, to enter into a CBA with community organizations such as Puget Sound Sage?

I am very intrigued by Community Benefits Agreements, support the concept, and was very pleased to see the effective work of the Dearborn Street Coalition in securing such an agreement. I would be willing to use whatever legal and other appropriate means I would have to support a CBA, as I did on the Dearborn project.

6. The Dearborn CBA is an example of the community demanding that development create living wage jobs. Both creation of living wage jobs and access to those jobs are major barriers facing many workers in low-income communities in our city. What will you do to ensure that development leads to living wage jobs for people from the communities who need them the most?

See above.

Other Policy Positions

7. Last December, City Council passed an incentive zoning policy that will require developers to set aside 17.5% of the bonus area received in an upzone for housing affordable to households making up to 80% of area median income. This policy failed to address the needs of low-wage workers being pushed out of our city’s communities. What will you do to ensure the creation of housing affordable to workers making 30-50% of area median income in developing communities, including the use of incentive and bonus programs?

I played a key role in the creation of the residential development phase 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 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 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.

8. Do you support ordinances like Seattle's "Don't Ask" ordinance that prohibits police or government employees from asking about a person's immigration status? Yes Do you think that local agencies should cooperate with federal agencies in enforcing immigration laws? No

I have a long track record of support for immigrant communities, and I played the key role in securing funding for Casa Latina and stood up for Casa Latina when it was beleaguered by community opposition in securing a new site and threatened with a law suit by a right wing legal foundation.

9. Like many leaders of local, state, and national government, Seattle politicians have embraced the rhetoric of "green jobs." But there is mounting concern as to whether new "green jobs" in energy conservation and alternative energy production will be good jobs, with wage standards and apprenticeship pathways to family-wage careers.

Do you support the application of job standards such as apprenticeship utilization and prevailing wage to City facilitated jobs in energy conservation and alternative energy production? Yes

What will you do to make sure these jobs go to low-income people and people of color?

I am a strong supporter of apprenticeship requirements, and would make those the key tool for implementing this idea. Recently, I successfully prevented Seattle Public Utilities from reducing its apprenticeship program as part of its budget cuts, and have taken the same position on proposed City Light budget reductions. I would consult with UNITE HERE and other labor organizations to ensure that green jobs will be good jobs.