



"Seattle/King County Foundation for Political Leadership"

Questionnaire for Candidates 2009

1. Why are you running for office? (please limit your response to 50 words)

I was born and raised here, and care deeply about King County. We are blessed with great natural resources, well-educated and energized citizens, and innovative industries. I possess the executive skills, leadership and desire necessary to run King County more efficiently, meet our current challenges, and grow our regional economy.

2. In the past year King County has lost 20,000 jobs and the unemployment rate has risen from under four percent to eight percent. What are three specific actions that you, as an elected leader for the City/County/Port would pursue in the first year after your election to help reverse this trend and create a job-growing economy?

The most important thing we can do to create a job-growing economy is to protect and enhance the business climate. This includes maintaining fair and predictable tax, regulatory, and utility rate structures, and building communication, collaboration and cooperation with state, local and regional leaders to act on issues of shared economic interest. Three specific actions I would take as King County Executive to do so:

First, elected leaders at all levels of government must immediately strengthen our economy through major infrastructure investments and improvements that help sustain area businesses, provide family-wage jobs for years to come, and attract millions of dollars in federal and state matching funds. Transit and highway improvements like Sound Transit's light rail system, the SR/99-Viaduct replacement project via a Deep Bored Tunnel/Surface/Transit hybrid solution, and an affordable SR520 rebuild with smart tolling options not only ensure people and goods will move efficiently throughout King County and the region for decades to come, but will infuse the region with billions of dollars by putting thousands of people to work at good-paying jobs now.

Second, protecting critical local and regional services stabilizes our communities during these times of great individual uncertainty. Preserving essential services, like public safety, public health and transit, not only helps our communities prosper as a whole, but sends a message that King County continues to be a good place to invest in and grow a business. In safe communities with good transportation options, businesses can attract more customers and get products and services out the door and to market.

Third, strategically managing growth and investing in our future on a regional basis will improve our economic performance in the long run. This includes not only supporting our urban centers with increased densities and advocating for policies and measurements that result in

compact, affordable and well-designed cities, but also ensuring that land-use and transportation/transit planning are forever tied together for infrastructure investments. Two good examples are developments around Sound Transit's Light Rail stations and reconnecting Seattle to its waterfront via the Deep Bored Tunnel/Transit/Surface Street option. Both present great opportunities for economic development and business growth in the short term as these investments in new infrastructure are made. Strategically managing growth also includes advocating prudent, sustainable development practices, clean technologies, green collar jobs, and investments in the training necessary to employ tomorrow's workforce with good-paying, 21st Century jobs.

Lastly, within my first year as county executive I will strive to make King County more customer and business friendly by overhauling four areas of county government: permitting, purchasing, human resources and contracting. This will maximize efficient use of tax dollars and boost confidence among those who do business with King County.

3. As the economy has faltered, tax revenue has fallen on all levels of government, requiring cuts to government services and/or increased revenue to balance the budget. Where would you suggest the cuts take place? Do you support seeking additional revenue, and if so, where would you suggest looking for revenue?

I have chaired the King County Council's Budget Committee four times, guiding the council successfully through a budget crisis each year. Cumulatively, I have had to review and ultimately propose more than \$200 million in cuts to general fund expenses – a daunting challenge but each of my budgets were unanimously supported by the council, signed into law by the executive with no vetoes, and supported by independent elected officials like Sheriff Sue Rahr. I have always carried out budget analysis and negotiations in a collaborative manner, which allowed me the support to recommend restoring the Sheriff's top public safety priorities for 2009.

In reviewing potential cuts, I have always prioritized protecting constitutional and statutory mandates for law, safety and justice (sheriff, prosecutor, detention, courts and public defense) as well as elections and the assessor functions. When funding shortfalls dictated, discretionary programs like parks, trails, recreation, veterans, health and human services have either been cut or moved to other funding sources like voter-approved levies. These have been painful but necessary choices.

In the future, I will continue to protect public safety services first, while looking to cut discretionary programs and to streamline county administrative and overhead costs. For example, as budget chair last year, I called for an audit of Metro transit to ensure that every available Metro transit dollar was used as efficiently as possible in the face of a \$100 million budget shortfall in 2010. We expect the audit to yield substantial results for area bus service. I also sponsored the Charter Amendment calling for biennial budgets to allow the council to use the off year to delve deeply into the county's largest capital and operating expense budgets, like Metro, to find savings. This, coupled with other recent charter amendments I sponsored for budget reform, will give the council enhanced tools for effective budget control and reductions.

I support using currently available resources more efficiently before seeking new revenue. For instance, I supported legislation in Olympia this year removing "anti-supplanting" language so we could use existing mental health and drug dependency treatment taxes to keep our highly

successful drug court and mental health court open, and our jail costs down. The legislation was successful, with no additional tax burden to the public, and got both therapeutic courts out of the general fund budget crisis.

Secondly, if new revenue is required, I seek voter permission and approval for tax measures like Transit Now, our parks levies and veterans and human services. We may need voter approval again to sustain our current levels of Metro bus service, and I supported legislation in Olympia this year to gain such authority. This will only be sought after the results of our Metro operations audit are available, and only as a last resort. I would consider using this authority because the cost of letting our transit and transportation system erode would be too high for King County's businesses and citizens.

Thirdly, new voter approved revenues may be necessary to support our critical and mandated public safety services for the Sheriffs and Prosecutors office, detention and the Superior and District courts. The legislature has given county government additional property and sales tax authority for these priority services, and with voter approval, may be necessary to seek as a last resort.

4. From your interactions with the business community, what would you say are its two most pressing issues? How would you address them?

From my conversations with business leaders, the most pressing issues facing the business community are protecting and enhancing the business climate to ensure our regional economy is not at a competitive disadvantage. The King County Executive can address this by:

- 1) Establishing transit and transportation projects and services that stimulate the economy and embrace mobility for employees, freight, goods and services. As a Sound Transit Board Member and the Central Link Oversight Committee Chair, I oversaw the on time, under budget construction of light rail between Downtown and SeaTac. Light rail will significantly enhance mobility and business competitiveness. Light rail will open for revenue service on July 18th, and thanks to voter approval of ST2 in November 2008, system expansion soon will connect the additional urban centers of Northgate, Lynnwood, Federal Way, Bellevue, and Overlake. I was an early and steadfast advocate for the 2007 Roads and Transit Proposition 1, and the 2008 Mass Transit Now proposal. I have also been an advocate for replacing the SR99/Alaska Way Viaduct with a Bored Tunnel/Transit/Surface Street hybrid solution to ensure the flow of people, goods and freight through our geographically constrained Downtown, as well as avoiding the enormous negative impact of viaduct-related construction on the central waterfront and the regional economy. The Bored Tunnel option will also create a much more inviting waterfront for businesses, developers, tourists and residents, again enhancing our overall business climate.
- 2) Fueling a job-growing economy that advances smart investments in our urban core and positions our region for success as the economy recovers. This includes advancing development and redevelopment in our urban centers and helping to diversify our economy through infrastructure investments (roads, highways, bridges, transit) that attract and expand high-end and emerging businesses and industries, like clean technology, green jobs, and global health. Advancing regional mobility through investments in Sound Transit's rail system, the viaduct and SR520 replacement projects, and freight enhancements will significantly enhance our business climate.

Lastly, King County must improve its customer service through reforms and changes in how King County issues permits at DDES, awards contracts for capital projects, procures goods and services, and operates its human resources. Effective reforms in these county functions

will help assure a greater sense of confidence in our business climate and promote economic recovery.

5. In what areas has the government worked best with the business community? In what areas has the government not worked well with business?

King County has worked well with the business community in promoting job and housing opportunities within our urban core, redevelopment of our urban centers to accommodate urban levels of density and new, quality neighborhoods, and providing transportation and transit enhancements that improve mobility, especially during the most congested times of day. We have also been an effective partner with the business community in promoting and enhancing parks and recreation and trail opportunities, expanding our water quality and wastewater systems, such as Brightwater, to meet a 30-year planning horizon for residential and commercial sewer service while protecting Puget Sound, preserving open space and landscapes, and enhancing and promoting the arts and cultural opportunities – all vital to making and keeping our region attractive to businesses and entrepreneurs.

We have not worked well with the business community in understanding how our operations can be detrimental to business competition and the business climate; hence the need for changes at DDES and within our contracting, procurement and human resources services. And we have not done well in communicating and “speaking with one voice” on critical infrastructure proposals, like the Viaduct or the 2007 “Roads and Transit” ballot proposition. Failure to do so has divided us, kept us from building effective coalitions to act on common points of economic opportunity, and stymied key decisions and investments important for growing our local and regional economy. Improved communication, understanding and action will enhance the business climate and get our economy moving again.

6. Please list some of your key endorsements (individuals or organizations).

My campaign is publically supported by more than 1,100 individuals and organizations. Please go to www.LarryPhillips.com to learn firsthand the breadth and depth of my support for King County Executive. Key business supporters include include: Jim Ellis, Jon and Judy Runstad, Bob Wallace, Skip Rowley, Peter Orser, Jim Warjone, Charlie Connors, Tim Hatley, Bob Yerkes, Brian Ross, Carl & Renee Behnke, Craig Kinzer, Dan McGrady, Donald Lachman, Doug Walker, Dan Labriola, Eric Campbell, Gene Mullins, Skip Kotkins, Herb & Shirley Bridge, Jack Hilovsky, Jason Fiorito, Jerry Farley, Jim & Gretchen Faulstich, John Creighton, John Hempelmann, John & Marilyn Warner, Jon Bridge, Jon Fine, Ken & Marleen Alhadeff, Tina Bueche, Kurt & Linda Zumdieck, Kym Allen, Max and Beth Israel Paul Fichter, Perrin Kaplan, Phyllis & David Brunner, Bob Jirsa, Ron Main, Ron Sher, Ron & Robyn Lewis, Scott & Abigail Morris, Shaun Speamon, Stan Gent, Steve Leahy, Suzie Burke and Laurel Zoppi.

I have also been honored to receive the recommendation of the Alki Foundation in my previous council campaigns, and am seeking and would be honored to receive your recommendation to the business community for King County Executive.

7. What is your fundraising goal and how much have you raised to date?

My campaign budget through the November general election is \$750,000. I reported having raised \$216,000 to the PDC as of March 31, and have currently raised more than \$250,000 through mid-April.

8. Why should the Alki Foundation recommend you?

I have the breadth and depth of executive experience in both the public and private sectors that uniquely qualifies me for King County Executive. I have a long track record of proven leadership you can count on to get things done in King County, even under the most challenging circumstances. I listen to all interests and perspectives on issues, moving to forge effective solutions. As my list of supporters indicates, I have friends and allies across a wide spectrum of interests, including business and labor leaders, environmentalists, builders and developers, rural land owners and urban condo dwellers, and elected officials from across King County. I have a solid record of effectively using these partnerships to gain concrete results, and I am the only candidate with significant working knowledge of the executive functions of county government enabling me to lead and make the changes King County needs right now.