

Candidate Questionnaire

Aerospace Machinists Dist. Lodge 751

Name: Larry Phillips

Office you seek: King County Executive

Campaign Name: Larry Phillips for King County Executive Incumbent: No

Campaign Address: PO Box 2545, Seattle, WA 98111

Campaign

Phone: 206.383.0766

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Have you previously held public office? Yes If yes, please list:

- Washington State House of Representatives, 36th Legislative District
- Metropolitan King County Council, District Four (present)

Why do you seek the endorsement of the Aerospace Machinists?

I have been honored to receive the Aerospace Machinists' endorsement in previous elections, including my last successful election to the King County Council in 2007.

Forging a close working relationship with labor has always been a cornerstone of my campaigns for the State House of Representatives and for the King County Council, and has remained so as an office holder at the state, regional and local levels of government. Labor has always been able to count on me, and will continue to have a friend in me as King County Executive.

I am particularly supportive of Aerospace Machinists, because, as builders of the world's best commercial airplanes, they command good, family wage jobs for our working families and for our local economy. I believe in and fully support the

fundamental right of workers to organize. As an elected official, I have consistently supported issues that are important to the Aerospace Machinists and the labor union that represents them, Lodge 751. As a King County Councilmember, I have introduced as prime sponsor and successfully gained passage of more collective bargaining agreements and labor legislation than any other member of the King County Council. This support is fundamental to my values: I earned a master's degree in Labor Law from George Washington University while working for U.S. Senator Henry M. Jackson.

Describe your view of the role of government in economic development:

Government has a vital and significant role in economic development; from educating our children—our future workforce—to regulating and stimulating industry and the marketplace, as well as maintaining and creating living-wage jobs through government policies, services, and capital projects. I value and am committed to government's role in promoting economic development at all levels, and especially now in a tough economy. As King County Executive, I will use the authorities and influence of my position to appropriately promote economic development for our region, always keeping in mind that those who actually work to build the economy must share equitably in the gains.

How can government ensure workers share in benefits of public investment:

Government can ensure that workers share in the benefits of public investments by establishing a level playing field for workers and contractors. As King County Executive, I will ensure that only responsible contractors, obeying labor, safety and environmental laws, training for apprenticeship opportunities, and paying prevailing wages, are eligible

for county contracts. I support various tools to accomplish this goal, not limited to but including:

- “Little Davis-Bacon” laws that require paying public works project workers prevailing wages.
- Responsible bidder policies—or a roster of prequalified “Responsible Contractors”—that ensure that contractors who benefit from public dollars play by the rules, upholding fair and equitable contracting practices.
- Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), including the right to use “union-only” PLAs when circumstances dictate that labor peace on critical infrastructure construction projects will help them be completed on-time, on-budget, and within established safety standards.
- Developer responsibility policies that ensure that developers who pursue government projects require their construction contractors to use apprentices and pay prevailing wages.

Government employees must have the opportunity to collectively bargain to improve their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of the workplace. Government must also resist efforts to privatize jobs currently performed by unionized government employees, and must also ensure that those companies receiving substantial tax breaks treat their employees fairly in terms of wages and benefits.

How can local government influence the growth in family wage jobs:

First, elected leaders at all levels must do more to strengthen our economy to create family wage jobs through infrastructure improvements that sustain good-paying jobs for working men and women for years at a time. Transit and highway improvements like light rail and the SR 99/Viaduct replacement project not only help people and goods move efficiently throughout the county, but put people to work for years at good paying jobs.

Secondly, stabilizing local and regional government services will help stabilize our communities. Preserving essential services, like public safety, public health, and transit, will help people prosper in their communities and help the economy as a whole. Stable local government services send a message that this continues to be a good place to invest and grow your business, and hire workers at good wages to get products and services out the door.

Lastly, strategically managing growth and investing in our future on a regional basis will help our economy improve in the long term. Supporting affordable housing, workforce training and apprenticeship programs, infrastructure development within King County, and connecting our economic/job centers will be top priorities when I'm King County Executive.

Your additional comments:

Joining a union is a basic right of employees to improve their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment in the workplace. I join the overwhelming majority of Americans in supporting strong laws that give employees the freedom to make their own choice about whether to have a union in their workplace without interference from management.

Specifically, **I support:**

- the right of workers to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining over wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment;
- workers rights to privacy, prohibiting employers from forcing workers to attend anti-union meetings against their will or face retaliation;
- the ability of unions to utilize union dues for political and legislative activities as a fundamental right to freedom of speech as a democratic organization;
- affordable universal healthcare for workers and their dependents;
- stringent safety regulations and workplace protections;
- protection and expansion of worker benefits including the Family and Medical Leave Act, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment Insurance;
- "Davis-Bacon" laws and protections for prevailing wages;
- increasing public training for worker training and benefits for workers-in-training;
- Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for public works projects; and
- the Employee Free Choice Act.

I oppose:

- "Right to Work" legislation which inhibits the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively;

- the erosion of the 40-hour work week and the resulting loss of potential for overtime pay;
- use of public funds to deter labor organizing; and
- privatization of jobs currently performed by unionized government employees.

Please return this questionnaire via fax to (206) 764-0344 OR via e-mail to SuzanM@iam751.org.