



in Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE)
1st Avenue, Suite 206 • Seattle, WA 98121 • Phone: (206) 441-8510 • Fax: (206) 441-7103 • E-mail: kclc@igc.org

2009 Candidate Questionnaire

Full legal name: Lawrence Robinson Phillips

Your name as it will appear on the ballot: Larry Phillips

Candidate for: King County Executive
(please include position number, if applicable)

Anticipated opponent(s): Susan Hutchison, Ross Hunter, Fred Jarrett, Dow Constantine

Party Affiliation: Dem. GOP Other

Telephone: Campaign 206-303-9716 Home 206-619-1700 Business

E-mail address: swhiteaker@gmail.com Website: www.LarryPhillips.com

Address *(Please include city and zip):*

Campaign PO Box 2545, Seattle, WA 98111

Home 2686 Magnolia Blvd W., Seattle, WA 98199

Occupation: King County Councilmember

Birthplace: Seattle, Washington

Years of residence in Washington State: lifelong Years of residence in King County: lifelong

Union affiliation, if any, past or present: None. My wife has been a member of the Association of Flight Attendants for 32 years.

Major business interests: I served as the executive director of a well known local law firm, Shidler, McBroom, Gates and Lucas, responsible for hiring decisions, making payroll every week, and making partner distributions every quarter. I am involved in two closely-held family businesses which to this day has never failed to make a profit in the last 40 years.

Major civic interests: I serve on many local boards, including Sound Transit, the Evergreen Forest Trust, 4Culture, the Greater Lake Washington (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, the Cedar River Council, the Woodland Park Zoo, and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation. I am also the national co-chair for Climate Communities, an organization of locally elected officials who lobby the federal government to fund local solutions to tackle climate change.

Education: M.A., Labor Law, George Washington University; J.D., Willamette University; B.A., University of Washington, Queen Anne High School

Please provide comprehensive answers for all questions. You may attach additional pages.

• *Why are you seeking the endorsement of the M. L. King County Labor Council? Please list your qualifications and reasons for seeking this office:*

I am running for the office of King County Executive to continue serving the people of King County, and, to bring renewed energy and focus to protecting vital county services and building infrastructure projects. Right now, elected officials at all levels must lead to strengthen our economy. I am fighting for significant infrastructure improvements that will support family-wage jobs for working men and women. I will also stabilize local and regional government services – a critical priority in these times of economic

uncertainty for King County's citizens. The county also needs to continue to manage growth on a regional basis, which can only be done with effective King County Executive leadership.

I am seeking the endorsement of the Martin Luther King County Labor Council because I have always made organized labor a cornerstone of my public service and my campaigns, and because I wish to partner with organized labor and combine our efforts to rebuild and sustain our regional economy. There are few, if any, other organizations who truly understand the need for living-wage jobs and economic development more than the hard working men and women who work in and for organized labor unions. The endorsement of the M. L. King County Labor Council for my candidacy would send a strong signal that our next King County Executive will make revitalizing our regional economy, in partnership with labor, a top priority, something my opponents never discuss.

My qualifications for office include a better understanding of the King County – its people and places – than any other candidate in this race. Unlike my opponents, I have worked with people all across the county to tackle tough local issues in their communities. And I am the only candidate with a clear vision of what investments must be made today to help King County thrive in the future.

This vision for King County can be seen in the issues I have promoted and built my career on – managing growth, promoting urban renewal and development, protecting open space for future generations and supporting strategic investments in transportation, like Sound Transit and expansion of light rail, and the SR99 Viaduct replacement (tunnel) project.

As an elected official, I have consistently supported issues that are important to working families and the labor unions that represent them. I have introduced as prime sponsor and successfully gained passage of more collective bargaining agreements and labor-supported legislation than any other member of the King County Council. I am an ardent supporter of a federal Employee Free Choice Act, and have initiated successful legislation at the county level urging Congress to pass the Act.

- *What other endorsements have you received?*

I have received the endorsements of the Seattle/King County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO (sole), the Washington State Council of County and City Employees, AFL-CIO (sole), the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters (sole), Laborers Local 242 (sole), Carpenters Local

1797 (sole), ATU Local 587, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Locals 117 and 174 (both sole) and approximately 1,200 Democratic leaders, elected officials and individuals across King County.

I am very proud of the fact that I have more support from organized labor than any other candidate in this race.

I have also received the sole endorsement of the 31st Legislative District Democrats, demonstrating my support from the working men and women of King County's most rural district.

The following organizations endorsed me during my last election to the King County Council (2007): M. L. King County Labor Council, Retired Public Employees Council of Washington State, SEIU Local 6, SEIU 775, UNITE HERE Local 8, IBEW Local 46, Corrections Guild Local 1350, UA 32 Plumbers and Pipefitters, King County Juvenile Detention Guild, Joint Council of Teamsters Local 28, Public Safety Employment SEIU Local 519, United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 1797, King County Democrats Central Committee, 33rd District Democrats, 36th District Democrats, 37th District Democrats, 43rd District Democrats, 46th District Democrats, Metropolitan Democratic Club, King County Young Democrats, Washington Conservation Voters, Aerospace Machinists Industrial District Lodge 75, SEAMEC highest rating: 5, SEAMEC straight "A's" on interview questions, Recommended by the King County Women's Political Caucus, Allied Arts, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

• Please list the most important issues facing you if elected and how you contrast yourself with your anticipated opponent(s). Please be specific about any diverging opinions you hold in regards to specific policy issues.

My three top priorities as King County Executive would be:

1. Strengthening our economy. I am fighting for significant infrastructure investments that support family wage jobs for working men and women. My opponents rarely mention the economy.
2. Family security and safety. Stabilizing local and regional government services to protect and restore essential public safety, public health, and transit services. My opponents talk consistently about "cutting" services and spending.
3. Promoting smart growth. Managing growth on a regional level is critically important for protecting the environment, supporting urban redevelopment, investing in regional mass transit and developing the "green" economy and "green" jobs. Shaping our future is never discussed by my opponents.

I am the only candidate in this race who consistently speaks about the need to create jobs with investments in infrastructure. My opponents agree with me that King County government must be made more efficient and transparent, but they never discuss our regional economic future. It is important to ensure that taxpayers are getting the most for their tax dollars, but this won't solve our economic crisis, or revitalize our regional economy. I believe that the essential remedy to our economic crisis is to put people back to work, something I will work very hard to do as King County Executive.

My opponents agree that services are important, but they only talk about "cutting spending." I am the only candidate with a record of protecting services even in a tough economic climate. I have chaired the council's budget committee four times, each time during an economic crisis. In each case, my budgets were passed unanimously by my colleagues on the council and never vetoed by the executive. Each garnered strong public support, including strong voter support for the taxes necessary to keep services available (parks, transit, light rail, Medic One, veterans and human services).

I am also the only candidate with the record of tackling some of King County's most pressing issues in growth management, mass transit and environmental conservation. For example, as a state legislator, I was a prime sponsor and architect of the state's Growth Management Act because I saw the threat urban sprawl would be to our environment in the future. After passing the law in Olympia, I ran and was elected to the King County Council to oversee the implementation of the law. Today, this law is still in effect and still protects open space in King County while ensuring urban redevelopment and revitalization in King County's urban core. My opponents talk about managing growth, but I have delivered.

• *Have you ever been involved as a worker in union-related mediation, negotiations, arbitration or labor disputes? (If so, please explain.)*

No.

• *Would you publicly support workers in their efforts to organize a labor union or to exercise their right to strike for a fair contract?*

I have publically supported unions during labor disputes because I strongly believe in a worker's right to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, workplace safety standards and other terms and

conditions of employment. I have publically supported workers exercising their right to strike for a fair contract.

Though I personally support a worker's right to join a union, as an elected official, I generally believe it is important to remain neutral during organizing campaigns. There are, however, situations where endorsing an organizing drive is appropriate to correct egregious employer working conditions. For instance, I was very supportive of UNITE HERE/Local 8's organizing and bargaining efforts to help hotel employees. There are also other means by which to help, such as my leadership on implementation of the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) sales tax revenue in a way that helped mental health workers organize within the area's provider network.

- *What process or system have you or would you use to guarantee that labor was given an opportunity for input on issues that affect working people?*

I will continue to use a "labor liaison" with direct access to me and my office to ensure that labor's voice is always heard early on with issues effecting working people.

Throughout my life, I have consistently worked for and helped elect leaders who support labor. I am a pro-labor candidate and elected official as well as a member of the Democratic party and support its efforts to advance the cause of organizing and collective bargaining over wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment, including safety and benefits. Labor unions, by electing leaders who know their issues and philosophically support union workers, can ensure their voice is heard. As King County Executive, I will continue to make labor relations a priority by ensuring that highly qualified staff are devoted to this issue, listen to labor issues as they arise, and bring them to my attention.

- *Do you feel public entities should use taxpayers' dollars to hire outside labor relations consultants for negotiating with unions? (Yes or No, please explain.)*

No! "Outside labor relations consultants" is often a code phrase for union busters. Public entities should honor and respect the right of public employees to bargain collectively over the terms and conditions of their employment. A fundamental part of that respect is to hire and have internal managers who will sit down with labor leaders and negotiate fair collective bargaining agreements.

- *What companies will be doing your campaign signs and campaign literature?*

I use unionized printers to produce campaign literature and signs – Art Boruck Printing and Urban Press. My invitations and envelopes for my upcoming 2009 Salmon Bake were printed by Urban Press, a unionized, woman-owned small business located in Georgetown. Each invitation proudly displays the union bug. My remittance envelopes were also printed by Urban Press and proudly display the union bug.

• *Do you support and will you abide by the local and national AFL-CIO “Do Not Patronize/Unfair to Worker” lists?*

I have always supported and abided by the “Do Not Patronize/Unfair to Worker” lists; I believe the lists are a useful tool for people who want to avoid businesses that mistreat workers.

• *On which committees are you presently serving? On which committees would you be interested in serving, if elected?*

I currently serve on the following Council committees:

- Regional Water Quality Committee (Chair)
- Physical Environment (Vice Chair)
- Government Accountability and Oversight
- Employment and Administration

I currently serve on the following community boards and committees:

- Sound Transit Board*
- Sound Transit Central Link Oversight Committee (Chair)
- Sound Transit Executive Committee*
- Water Resource Inventory Area #8 Salmon Recovery Council
- Cedar River Council (Founder, Co-Chair)*
- Growth Management Planning Council*
- 4Culture Board
- Woodland Park Zoo Board
- Henry M. Jackson Foundation*
- Climate Communities (National Co-Chair)*

* If elected as King County Executive, I will continue to serve on these boards and committees, and many more.

The National Employee Free Choice Act would ensure that when a majority of employees in a workplace decide to form a union, they can do so without the debilitating obstacles employers now use to block their workers' free choice to organize and collectively bargain.

- ***If elected, would you support such resolutions and what would you do to ensure their passage?***

I am a strong supporter of a federal Employee Free Choice Act, and have successfully initiated and advocated for legislation at the county level urging Congress to pass the Act. In 2006, I was prime sponsor of a motion to support the Act which passed with a bipartisan vote of 7:1.

BUILDING TRADES:

Project labor agreements have been used for decades on large public works projects and provide stability on complex construction projects. PLAs improve job opportunities for minorities, females and low-income people in local communities who are trying to break into the construction trades through the use of apprenticeship training programs.

Supported broadly by labor, community and environmental organizations, PLAs result in better, cheaper, faster and more environmentally sustainable construction projects as well as ensuring that construction work will be done with the highest possible quality standards.

- *If elected, what would you do to advocate for the use of project labor agreements and do you support PLAs on the following projects: (Yes or No please explain.)*

-Alaska Way Viaduct replacement? Yes.

-Children's Hospital expansion? Yes.

-Sound Transit 2 construction? Yes.

-Washington State Trade and Convention Center expansion? Yes.

I sponsored legislation for Project Labor Agreements to be used in the expansion of Harborview Hospital, construction of the Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the building of Sound Transit's Link Light Rail system. All have worked well, and I expect that an improved PLA can be obtained for the SR99/Viaduct replacement project now that President Obama has removed the restrictions on mandatory PLAs.

As King County Executive, I would promote the use "union-only" PLAs when circumstances show and dictate such a PLA will obtain labor peace for critical infrastructure, helping projects to be completed on-time, on-budget, and within established safety standards.

For public work projects estimated at \$200,000 or less, state agencies and local governments may use the "small works roster" to award contracts. When an agency or local government elects to use this process, it must solicit bids from at least five contractors who have requested to be listed. The agency or local government, if it decides to award the contract, awards it to the lowest responsible bidder.

- ***If elected, how would you ensure companies awarded bids on the small works roster uphold wage, hour, safety and apprenticeship utilization standards?***

I support creating a level playing field for contractors who play by the rules and pay prevailing wages. Responsible Bidder policies—or a roster of prequalified “Responsible Contractors”—are a valuable tool for ensuring that contractors who benefit from public dollars play by the rules, upholding fair and equitable contracting practices. As King County Executive, I will ensure that only responsible contractors, operating on a level playing field, and obeying labor, safety and environmental laws, training for apprenticeship opportunities, and paying prevailing wages are eligible for county contracts.

- ***What solutions would you seek for stronger regulation, monitoring and enforcement of these standards on projects that do not mandate the application of Davis Bacon laws?***

I am a strong supporter of organized labor, apprenticeships and prevailing wages, and I have supported King County policies that require contractors and subcontractors to adhere to high labor standards.

I recently sponsored a successful amendment to King County Flood District legislation governing contracts to ensure that consideration for a contractor’s history and reputation for paying prevailing wages and meeting apprenticeship targets is considered when awarding Flood District contracts. I would also support codifying the recently developed King County Developer Responsibility policy, which requires developers who pursue projects on County-owned land to require their construction contractors to use apprentices and pay prevailing wages.

I would also advocate that bids include a provision to pay for independent personal to monitor and enforce adopted standards and regulations within these contracts.

Apprenticeship utilization requirements in Washington State have brought thousands of workers into living wage employment. The current requirement is 15% for public works with the intent to broaden opportunities for workers to gain job skills and advance across a broad spectrum of construction trades. In the interest of short-term cost savings, contractors are often found to utilize only one (and generally the lowest paid) craft to fulfill these requirements, circumventing the objective of apprenticeship utilization.

- ***Would you support instituting a craft-by-craft requirement in city and county projects or alternative solutions to address this issue?***

Yes. I believe that craft-by-craft requirements are a good tool to ensure that apprenticeship targets are met across all construction trades. I believe certified apprenticeship programs are important for taxpayers, workers and the local economy. Training workers to master skills leads to higher quality craftsmanship, which, in turn, leads to stable, family-wage jobs and helps the local economy.

PUBLIC SECTOR

The published report [Value Subtracted](http://www.ifpte17.org/publications/docs/Value_subtracted.pdf)¹, which contains the results of a recent study conducted by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, states that contracting out services in the public sector led to cost overruns of an average 20 to 30 percent when work was sent to private companies.

- ***With local governments across Washington State struggling with severe budget deficits, please list what alternative solutions you would propose to address current shortfalls and/or diversify available revenue streams?***

The county revenue structure is particularly flawed; we have a “structural gap” in our general fund caused by a statutory cap on our property tax revenues of no more than a 1% increase each year, due to Tim Eyman’s I-747 and the legislature’s capitation. At the same time, annual inflation and the cost of providing government services consistently tops 1%. Counties can’t keep up, and despite having cut hundreds of millions of dollars out of King County’s budget over a number of years, we now find ourselves at risk of dismantling basic government services that protect public safety, public health, and human services.

I successfully lobbied the State Legislature this session to give King County—and every county across the state—more revenue options, more flexibility for using existing revenues, solutions to address unfunded mandates, and more flexibility to help citizens living in urban unincorporated areas become members of cities. I will move as Executive to implement these new tools given to counties by the Legislature, and to seek additional revenue streams like a utility tax to support basic services. I will also seek to move for an expanded veterans, health, and human services levy to support our most vulnerable citizens.

- ***What is your position on contracting out public services?***

I oppose contracting out public services. I believe the public sector should pay a fair wage to workers who are represented and not seek to circumvent that representation. If the public wants quality services, they

¹ http://www.ifpte17.org/publications/docs/Value_subtracted.pdf

must support represented workers who provide expertise and dedication. Contracting out too often leads to higher costs and lower quality services.

Working on a fire engine places extreme physical demands on members and exposes them to many different hazardous conditions and substances. Seattle Fire Fighters undergo thorough medical examinations prior to being hired to ensure there are no pre-existing medical conditions. However, fire fighters are more susceptible to certain types of cancers. More than 1/3 of fire fighters hired in Seattle before 1977 have developed cancer. Fire fighters are also 10-100 times more likely as the general public to have a heart attack.

- ***If elected, what will you do to ensure the City of Seattle lives up to its responsibilities for the health and safety of fire fighters and other employees?***

I will do everything I can within the authorities and influence of the Executive's office to advocate for fire fighters' health and safety in local cities. I have very close relationships with local elected municipal officials all across King County and have often called on them as a King County Councilmember to fashion solutions to challenging health and safety issues. While the elected officials of individual cities have the ultimate authority over working conditions of the fire fighters they employ, the King County Executive has the power and the influence to lead the region on protecting the safety and health of our "frontline" fire fighters. I intend to use this power and influence on the fire fighters' behalf.

Currently, fire fighters who suffer catastrophic injuries on the job and are no longer employable by the Seattle Fire Department lose all medical coverage. Local 27 and the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters are working with the Governor and the Legislature to pass legislation that would allow fire fighters who are catastrophically injured on the job to purchase health insurance from the state.

- ***Do you support extending the option to purchase health insurance coverage for fire fighters who are disabled due to a line of duty catastrophic injury?***

Yes. I absolutely support extending the option to purchase health insurance coverage from the state for fire fighters who are disabled due to a line-of-duty catastrophic injury. Fire fighters are dedicated public servants who too often sacrifice their health—and sometimes their lives—to protect all of us. There is no way to fully compensate for these sacrifices, but we can at least honor our fire fighters' service by

ensuring that medical coverage is available to them through their employer or within their pension plan.

As your King County Executive, I will work to see that this happens.

An emergency response to a citizen begins with a call to a fire fighter/dispatcher. This person is responsible for obtaining all necessary information from the caller, dispatch the most appropriate resources, and continue to assess, calm, and assist the caller until help arrives. A mistake in call-taking and dispatching can have grave consequences. Once fire fighters are on the scene the dispatcher monitors the radio and assists the fire fighters on the scene. These essential tasks are only effective if the dispatcher has fire fighting experience. Lives are saved based on the actions and fire fighting experience of uniformed dispatchers.

- ***If elected, will you actively support the continued use of uniformed fire dispatchers in the Seattle Fire Department?***

Yes. Lives—of both fire fighters and citizens—are on the line in crisis situations, and the role of dispatchers is critical to monitor and offer “lifesaving” assistance in an emergency. Dispatchers serving as “mission control” must have top notch fire fighting qualifications, including training and experience. As King County Executive, I would not have direct control over the Seattle Fire Department, but I will advocate for the continued use of uniformed fire dispatchers with all appropriate and legal means at my disposal.

With the economic downturn, the demands on the Seattle Fire Department will increase dramatically. As citizens lose health care coverage and home and business maintenance deteriorates, we will see a rise in both medical and fire calls. Emergency services should be strengthened in times like these.

- ***Will you oppose any reductions to fire department service?***

I would oppose any reductions to Seattle Fire Department service, and will do so within the appropriate and legal means available to the King County Executive. One of the cornerstones of my Executive campaign is to stabilize and strengthen critical county services during this period of economic uncertainty, with emergency/public safety at the top of the list. At the King County Council level, I have chaired the County’s Budget Committee four times and guided it through a budget crisis each time. I have always done this on a collaborative basis, prioritizing critical services, working with labor representatives to

protect existing service levels, and protecting jobs and benefits. Statutory requirements and life/safety services are always protected first, and discretionary programs are prioritized on the basis of public safety, public health, and human services. In addition, I will continue to seek new funding sources and opportunities to keep these services available to the public.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) sets national standards for the fire service to protect the public and make fire fighters as safe as possible when they do their job. Four-person staffing is a result of NFPA 1710. Every fire engine and truck needs at least four fire fighters on it to effectively and safely get the job done. Seattle Fire Fighters negotiated four-person staffing for every fire engine and truck in Seattle. They even agreed to work extra shifts to help pay for it because it is so critical to public safety and fire fighter safety.

- ***If elected, will you preserve four-person staffing on every fire engine and fire truck in Seattle?***

As King County Executive, I will work for preserving four-person staffing on every fire engine and truck in Seattle. While the King County Executive has no direct authority to preserve such staffing for fire engines and trucks in Seattle, I would urge Seattle as a matter of public safety and fire fighter safety to retain this staffing standard.

- ***Please describe what you feel are the most pressing public safety issues facing Seattle and how you would address these issues as a member of the Seattle City Council.***

The most pressing public safety challenge in this tough economy is finding and preserving stable funding resources to ensure we are fully meeting our community's life-saving public safety needs and fully taking advantage of existing public safety resources.

As a King County Councilmember, I have consistently fought for these revenues and services. Deciding to place Medic One/EMS levies on the ballot for voters, and as a citizen casting my vote in favor each time, I was proud to sponsor, support and campaign for the Medic One/EMS levies when I had opportunities to do so in 1997, 1998, 2001, and 2007. Most recently in 2007, I was proud to be the prime sponsor of the King County legislation that placed the levy on the November 2007 ballot, which voters subsequently approved, ensuring funding for emergency medical services through 2013. I also attended and spoke at the Downtown Seattle Medic One/EMS rally during the levy renewal campaign in 2007.

In my capacity as the County Council's Budget Chair and in the face of repeated revenue shortfalls, I have consistently prioritized critical public safety services in balancing our budgets each time—working collaboratively with the labor representatives of affected unions and their members, and protecting as many jobs, benefits and services as possible to provide continuity of public safety programs the public relies on daily. I will continue this record of opening my door to labor representatives and prioritizing critical public safety services as King County Executive

MARITIME

As recognized in a report by the Seattle Planning Commission², Seattle is struggling to maintain industrial lands for industrial uses due to widespread speculation on zoning changes in industrial areas. This has caused difficulties for industrial businesses trying to relocate or expand in the city, thus jeopardizing 220,000 middle class jobs that make up 25% of the total employment in the City of Seattle.

While many areas of Seattle are conducive to real-estate and commercial development, this is not the case for industrial zoning. Being uniquely situated close to major water ways, freight lines and cargo terminals makes preservation of our industrial lands critical.

- ***Please state your position on what kind of development and zoning laws you see as appropriate within these jurisdictions.***

Preservation of our existing industrial lands is critical to maintaining a diverse, healthy and growing local economy, and essential for thriving communities in King County. Since 1992, I have represented the citizens of King County Council District Four, which includes the industrial and maritime areas of Ballard, Interbay and Lake Union. I have consistently fought for their protection and preservation.

As part of the Growth Management Act's local implementation, I drafted and sponsored policies protecting the preservation of existing industrial-zoned lands in King County. I have worked for their retention in every update of our Countywide Planning Policies and comprehensive land use plans. As a councilmember, I have pushed the City of Seattle to preserve industrial lands within city limits and advocated for affordable rents and proper facility maintenance at the Port of Seattle's historic Fishermen's Terminal. In addition, I have consistently advocated for "Brownfields" redevelopment opportunities on heavily polluted industrial lands, particularly along the Duwamish Industrial Corridor.

Some 1,800 port trucks expose thousands of people working and living in the communities near the Port of Seattle to dangerously high levels of diesel pollution. The men and women driving the polluting trucks cannot afford to meet higher environmental standards because they do not have the rights to negotiate safe and fair working conditions for themselves.

² http://www.cityofseattle.net/planningcommission/docs/ILReport07_web.pdf

To be sustainable and effective, the Port of Seattle's clean truck plan must hold profiting motor carriers responsible for providing clean and fuel efficient trucks and ensure truck drivers' abilities to negotiate fair and safe working conditions. An effective clean truck plan — like those implemented at the Ports of Los Angeles and Vancouver, BC — would ultimately bring hundreds of good, green jobs to King County and increase the Port of Seattle's operational efficiency.

- ***As Port Commissioner, what would you do to reduce dangerous port truck diesel pollution in the Port's backyard communities and ensure port truck drivers' rights to negotiate fair and safe working conditions?***

As King County Executive, I will work for an effective clean truck plan at the Port of Seattle. While the King County Executive has no direct authority implement such a plan, I would urge the Port of Seattle as a matter of worker safety and fairness, as well as environmental protection, to implement an effective clean truck plan.

The Port is an economic engine for Washington State generating and sustaining thousands of living wage jobs and over \$31 billion in revenue each year. Several proposals have gone before the state legislature to

repeal the Port of Seattle's taxing authority. The tax levy is dedicated to capital improvement projects used to maintain and improve the infrastructure necessary to keep the Port of Seattle a competitive destination for international trade.

- ***Please state your position on the Port of Seattle's taxing authority?***

I support the Port of Seattle's tax levy authority. Public investment in Port of Seattle facilities and programs brings thousands of family-wage jobs and widespread economic benefit not only to local workers and their families, but to the region as well. An appropriate Port Tax Levy that is not overly burdensome to working families already struggling in a tough economy and complemented by the Port of Seattle's existing enterprises, will improve the Port's infrastructure, including container terminal development, dock improvements, and freight mobility projects. This will ensure that the Port of Seattle can compete in an increasingly competitive global economy. These tax dollars are vital for key infrastructure projects necessary to secure our economic future.

HOSPITALITY TRADES

One way to address the issues surrounding living wages is to encourage unionization. One of the main reasons union density has declined sharply in the service industry is that employers have grown much more willing to (illegally) fight organizing campaigns. As a result, language guaranteeing tools such as card check neutrality and break room access (“non-work areas”) is critical to effectively exercise worker’s rights to organize.

- ***Would you support amending the city’s comprehensive plan and planning code to include language requiring an “economic impact statement” for all new large hotel and retail development? Such an amendment would require applicants to provide a detailed and credible analysis of the effects of such a development on existing public revenues, on area wages and benefits, on the demand for public services, on environmental infrastructure, on total vehicle miles traveled and the like.***

“Economic Impact Statements” are a logical extension of existing requirements for environmental impact statements and traffic concurrency requirements borne by developers. I support this concept as a promising tool for ensuring that neighborhoods and governments responsible for providing basic services are not surprised by any unintended economic side effects of development after the fact.

One tool that has proven effective in giving communities a voice in certain large-scale mixed-use development is a Community Benefits Agreement. CBAs are private contracts signed by community groups and the developer which set forth a range of community benefits that the developer agrees to provide as part of the development project:

- ***Do you support the concept of a Community Benefits Agreement?***

Yes. I support Community Benefit Agreements as a great tool to hold developers accountable to the communities in which they develop. Mutually beneficial agreements like CBAs can ensure that existing residents are not left behind when new developments enter their communities, by allowing them to shape their neighborhood and ensure that growth occurs equitably for that community’s economy, environment and character.

- ***Would you support language within a CBA that mandates union card check neutrality and access to employees and to non-work areas?***

Yes. Language ensuring union card check neutrality and access to employees and to non-work areas is important to protecting workers' right to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining.

- ***If a developer is not willing to negotiate a CBA at first request by the community, would you use whatever legal and appropriate means at your disposal to encourage a developer to enter into a CBA with those groups? (yes/no)***

Yes. If a developer were unwilling to negotiate a CBA, and the situation were appropriate, I would use the legal means available to me to encourage the developer to enter a CBA. I would advocate for and work to achieve a mutually beneficially solution that represents a partnership for equitable development, upholding community standards for affordable housing, livable wages, and a healthy economy.

- ***What other solutions do you propose to ensure public benefits in the development or redevelopment of private property?***

In addition to CBA, developer responsibility policies and other tools mentioned within this questionnaire, I would engage with labor and community leaders to identify and consider other tools to help the community benefit socially and economically from development and redevelopment. Such policies ensure that those who build our economy and sustain the livelihood of our region – workers and community members – share in its growth and betterment. With regard to public property sold to a developer for private development, this could include the application of prevailing wage standards to the construction project through the sale documents.

Motivated by public sentiment to end government purchasing from sweatshops and prompted by local grassroots campaigns, over 180 states, cities, counties, and school districts in the United States have adopted "sweatfree" procurement policies. These policies require contractors to assure that they and their subcontractors maintain good working conditions in return for public contracts to supply uniforms and other products.

- ***As an elected official would you advocate for a sweat free procurement policy on all publicly purchased uniforms?***

Yes; absolutely.

- ***Considering no single local government has the resources to monitor and verify working conditions or enforce sweat free procurement requirements at supplier factories beyond their immediate jurisdiction, what solutions would you propose to ensure compliance with any adopted “sweatfree” procurement polities?***

By working with non-profit advocacy groups such as SweatFree Communities, as well as the established network of cities, counties, and states across the nation that have declared themselves “sweat free,” there is great potential to utilize a shared knowledge base of sweatfree manufacturers and to work with other jurisdictions on bulk purchasing from these manufacturers.

EDUCATION

Historically, the labor community, the American Federation of Teachers and the Washington Education Association have opposed the sole use of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), or any other single test, in making high-stakes decisions about students and schools, instead advocating for the assessment of student learning by using multiple measures of student and school success. This legislative session, the Governor signed into law the elimination of a requirement that students keep taking the Washington Assessment of Student Learning's math test every year until graduation and beginning in spring 2010, the state will replace the WASL with two new tests: the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) in grades 3-8 and the High School Proficiency Exams (HPSE).

- ***What alternative assessment tools would you advocate to provide more diagnostic information (strengths and weaknesses) to teachers/families, shorten the turnaround time on student test scores, increase the use of technology and minimize the costs of administering the test?***

I believe we must move away from our dependence on the WASL in making decisions about student ability and school resources. Alternative assessment tools, including classroom teacher-directed tests and class participation should not be discounted.

- ***What is your position on taxpayer-funded vouchers for private schools?***

I oppose taxpayer-funded vouchers for private schools and favor instead the strengthening our existing public school system. We cannot afford to divert resources to private schools that are not accountable for their performance to the tax paying public.

Having well-trained, well-qualified educators teaching our children is critical to improving the quality of our public schools in King County. Fair compensation includes full funding for cost-of-living increases and health care benefits, adequate retirement benefits and making up what has been lost to inflation. This year Washington public schools and colleges are potentially facing more than \$2 billion in budget cuts and are currently at risk of the suspension/permanent loss of the I-732 COLA for two years.

- ***What solutions would you propose at a local level to mediate current budget shortfalls and ensure investments are made to ensure public school students, teachers and employees have the necessary resources to succeed?***

As King County Executive, I will prioritize funding for services that keep kids healthy, safe and, therefore, ready to learn. King County is actively working with Seattle Public Schools and other local school districts to provide transportation for district students on Metro buses. This eliminates unnecessary duplicative transit service and helps school districts to use their tight budgets to cover costs directly related to educating students, not transporting them to school. I will also work to expand the veterans and human services levy to include health services so vulnerable populations, like kids, get the help they need to stay healthy and succeed in school.

- ***What solutions would you propose to address the achievement gap, reduce class sizes and improve school facilities in your jurisdiction?***

All of these issues come down to adequate funding for schools, and we must do much more to ensure that schools, teachers, and students get the resources they desperately need. The state is responsible for funding basic education, and not only has the state failed to do so in the past—this was determined in a court of law—but the Legislature suspended voter-approved annual cost-of-living increases for teachers. We must continue to remind the state of its constitutional duty to adequately fund education. In addition, restrictions on local school levies should be loosened to allow a straight majority requirement for passage

of school levies, and the cap on school levy revenues should be re-examined. As a state legislator, I voted for tax reform (1989) that included a state income tax, as well as budgets (1989, 1991) that reduced class size and provided more funding for school facility construction.

Signed _____

Date: _____

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