

WASHINGTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2009

Candidate: Larry Phillips

These are my official positions in seeking office.

Candidate Signature _____

Date _____

This questionnaire is for the exclusive use of the WEA in determining a candidate's position and qualifications.

Return questionnaire to:

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WEA-PAC
KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
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Please state your position and/or views to the following questions.

Why are you a candidate for the office of King County Executive?

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.

Why do you believe you are the best qualified candidate for this position?

My qualifications for Executive include a better understanding of the 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 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 its expansion.

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.

What do you feel is the appropriate relationship between the government of King County and the public schools in King County?

Generally, one of support for our schools, students and parents, as King County government does not have a direct responsibility for public education as school districts do. However, county government can support the work of schools and the success of children through a variety of partnership opportunities. From public safety services by providing school safety officers, to partnerships for building and expanding athletic fields and playgrounds, to providing productive alternatives to juvenile detention to keep kids in school and out of trouble, King County's commitment to children can enhance the work of public schools to create a healthy, well-educated, successful student population. We can also provide transit opportunities through Metro, and support services through the Seattle/King County Department of Health.

All too often our schools – and teachers specifically – are given new responsibilities for our children's development without adequate compensation or support. If we are to build our economy and increase our ability to compete internationally, we all need to

fully support our schools and educators. I am pleased that President Obama is initiating new leadership on this issue and would like to see our region become a national model. This can only happen with effective partnerships that support the work of educators.

If elected, how would you use your office to promote the interests of children, students and public education in King County?

As Executive, I will use my authority and influence to support area public school levies. Children need to know firsthand that their community leaders are committed to their educational success - regardless of income level, ethnic heritage, gender or geographic area. As a regional service provider, King County can set the right tone of equity and justice in the delivery of services that support and enhance our schools. As King County Executive, I will prioritize funding for services that keep kids (and adults) healthy, safe and, therefore, ready to learn.

For example, over the last year, I have been taking a critical look at the status of King County's youth services center (juvenile detention) which is overcrowded and dilapidated, with failing water, sewer and heating systems. As the facility in which parents, attorneys, social workers and judges come together to determine strategies to get kids-- including an overwhelmingly disproportionate number of disadvantaged youth-- back into a productive education, the center needs to present a respectable and reliable environment – one that says to our youth “you are worthy and we value you.”

I have also consistently supported funding for local organizations and human service providers to engage youth in educational activities - be it Earthcorps' work to improve the environment, to Boys and Girls clubs' computer labs and after-school programming, to providing performing arts educational opportunities via 4Culture, to United Indians of All Tribes targeted outreach to troubled native american youth in the urban area. **With the right leadership, King County has great opportunities to build collaboration on behalf of kids and in support of teachers.**

Are you personally involved in the public schools in your community? Please describe any past or current involvement.

My siblings and I were all educated at local public schools. I am a proud graduate of Queen Anne High School and the University of Washington. My son attended our local neighborhood Blaine Elementary School. My family has benefitted from public education thanks to the work of many, many great teachers and I want other families to benefit as well.

As a state representative from the 36th District (1988-1992), I served on the House Education Committee, and was endorsed by the WEA/PULSE Board of Directors twice in both of my legislative elections in 1988 and 1990. I also received support and contributions from the Seattle Education Association. I had a 85% voting record with

WEA in weighted house roll calls in 1989-1990.

In 1990, I was a lead staff for Mayor Norm Rice's Seattle's Public Education Summit to bring community leaders together to promote educational priorities and opportunities for our community and Seattle Public Schools. The summit was very successful in bringing new resources to our schools.

As a King County Councilmember, I have helped create community-based grassroots grants including the Youth Sports Facility Grant fund which provides matching funds for local playgrounds and athletic fields. Numerous public schools throughout the county have benefitted from this fund. I also successfully advocated for dedicating a portion of sale proceeds from surplus Kingdome property to the Youth Sports Facility Grant fund.

As a councilmember representing District 4 I have visited district high schools' government classes to speak about challenges facing local government. I have welcomed Center School students to testify at budget hearings several years in a row. Their passionate and well-researched testimony usually makes them the "stars" of the hearings.

I have personally served as a coach for youth football, basketball, swimming, skiing and baseball, and as a scout troop leader.

Please list organizations you are affiliated with that work on behalf of children, students and/or public schools.

Below is a partial list of youth and educational organizations which I am either a member of or have advocated for as a county councilmember. As a parent, I am fully committed to building a community that supports the success of children and youth and the success of our teachers.

- 4culture arts education - board member
- Adams Elementary School Rain Garden - waterworks education grant
- Ballard Boys and Girls Club
 - Bayview-Kinnear playground project
- Center School government classes
- Hay Elementary School playground project
- Institute for Democratic Future
- McClure Middle School improvement project
- Mounger Pool (Magnolia pool)
- North Seattle Boys and Girls Club athletic fields
- Smith Cove athletic fields
- Soundview Park project (near Whittier Middle School)
- United Indians of All Tribes - Labateyah Youth Home and I'Wa S'il

Juvenile Justice program

- Woodland Park Zoo board member - advocate for county parks levy funding to benefit environmental education programming

I have annually supported PTA auctions in District 4 and throughout the county by donating a Cedar River raft trip to benefit the schools since 1995. My raft trip auction item has raised tens of thousands of dollars for charitable organizations benefitting youth.

Please briefly describe any interactions or work you have done on behalf of the community and technical colleges in King County.

In July 2008, I hosted a televised town hall meeting on Building a Green Economy which featured a presentation by Bob Markholdt from Seattle Vocational Institute on expanding apprenticeship opportunities for youth.

We welcomed youth to the meeting and incorporated interactive dialogue on the future of our local economy and job opportunities for the next generation.

As a Sound Transit Board member and advocate for Metro transit, I have regularly supported expanding transportation choices -- bus, rail -- to employment and education centers. For example, recent expansion of the Eastgate Park and Ride near Bellevue Community College.

The 2009 year began with a \$93 million shortfall and cuts to departments and services. How would you solve the budget gap for 2010 while still ensuring that health and other basic human services would continue to be provided?

The King County Council is required to pass a balanced budget every year. As budget chair four times, I led deliberations to successfully close large budget deficits and pass balanced budgets on time with unanimous support. Each time, health and human services were a priority and preserved within our means. Maintaining public services in a post-Eyman initiative environment -- services the public has come to expect -- requires careful prioritization. As a result, we have had to make tough choices, eliminating lines of business in order to protect others. As budget chair in 2008, I worked with my leadership team to give top priority to public safety, health and quality of life (human) services. We developed a legislative strategy to provide the county with options for new revenue to support these priorities. Unfortunately, the legislature chose not to give us these options, protecting the interests of utility companies instead. At the conclusion of the legislative session, I met with the alliance of human service providers and the Minority Executive Directors Coalition to review ways to expand our veterans' and human services levy to maintain funding for human services and add health as a new levy component. With voter approval, this will give us stable and sufficient funding outside of competition in the general fund by law, safety and justice interests.

What do you believe the role of unions should be in the County's budget and legislative processes? What steps will you take to ensure their meaningful participation?

I have a long history of support for workers' right to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. I have made it a personal priority since my first year on the county council in 1992 to consult actively and regularly with the leadership of the King County Coalition of Labor Unions and to meet with individual union leadership upon request or in response to a specific issue. As a King County Councilmember, I have introduced, sponsored and passed more collective bargaining agreements or pieces of labor legislation than any other member of the council.

As Executive, I will maintain the Labor Liaison staff position in the Executive's Office and the Monthly Labor Roundtable meetings with County workers' representatives. I will participate in the Annual Labor Summit – special meeting of the County Council, Executive and labor leadership to address labor issues of County workers' unions and the labor community at large.

A top priority upon entering the King County Executive's office will be to appoint a respected labor liaison who can be an effective conduit for two-way communication and information between my office and labor organizations.

A recent example is the County Council's vote in 2007 to create a dedicated tax for funding mental health services. I was the principal advocate for including language requiring providers who benefit from the new funding to allow employees the right to organize if they choose to do so. I worked closely with SEIU 1199 for this language and was ultimately successful. As a result, mental health service workers at agencies funded by King County have had a consistent option to advocate and organize for the purpose of collective bargaining. This recently met with success for all of the King County mental health providers affected by the legislation have now submitted partnership agreements to the County Executive (see attached letter).

Overall, I believe I have a time-tested, proven labor record.

What have you done to support community and union organizing in your life?

What will you continue to do as the King County Executive?

As an elected official, I have 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 pieces of

labor 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. Also, please see the attached letter. On a more personal note, my wife has been a member of the Association of Flight Attendants for 32 years.

As Executive, I will maintain the Labor Liaison staff position in the Executive's Office and the Monthly Labor Roundtable meetings with County workers' representatives. I will participate in the Annual Labor Summit – special meeting of the County Council, Executive and labor leadership to address labor issues of County workers' unions and the labor community at large.

What organizations, elected officials and noteworthy individuals are currently supporting your candidacy?

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 (sole endorsements by both) and approximately 1,200 Democratic leaders, elected officials and individuals in King County. (list attached)

These are the only labor organizations to have endorsed to date, and I am very proud of the fact that I have far more support from organized labor than any other candidate in this race.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Larry Phillips

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CITY & ZIP: Seattle, WA 98199

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OCCUPATION: King County Councilmember / public servant / attorney

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Organizational Memberships (*church, community, service, social, union, professional, etc.*) 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

Brief Employment History:

Larry first entered public service in 1977 when he moved to Washington, D.C. to work for Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson. His primary staffing responsibilities were labor and tax issues. In 1981, he earned a Masters of Law degree with emphasis in Labor Law from the George Washington University National Law Center.

Later that year Larry returned to Seattle to run Randy Revelle's campaign for King County Executive. Revelle won the election, and Larry served as his Chief of Staff until 1986. He learned about every aspect of King County government as he advised the Executive on all major policy, programmatic, and political decisions. After Revelle left office, Larry served as Executive Director of a 55-member Seattle law firm, Shidler McBroom Gates & Lucas.

Larry's interest in public service never waned, and in 1988 he ran and won election to the Washington State House of Representatives. He went to Olympia to represent the 36th Legislative District, where he served for two terms as a member of the House Education, Local Government, Environmental Affairs, and Revenue Committees. He was an author and a prime sponsor of the 1990 Growth Management Act, as well as legislation to prevent oil spills in Puget Sound. He also fought successfully for smaller class sizes in public schools and adequate funding for K-12 education.

In November 1991, Larry won his seat on the Metropolitan King County Council to represent District Four. He took on salmon protection, land use and environmental issues, as well as the provision of open space and active parks and recreation for youth and families. He spearheaded the Waterways 2000 program, which identified and acquired over 1,800 acres of prime salmon habitat for preservation. His work as chair of the Regional Water Quality Committee led to the adoption of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan. The plan provides for construction of a third wastewater treatment plant (Brightwater) in order to protect our natural environment and water quality, while allowing economic development to continue within the urban growth area.