

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Dow Constantine
Position sought	King County Executive
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	34 th Legislative District 8 th County Council District 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes. Yes.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Friends of Dow Constantine
Web page	www.dowconstantine.com
Campaign Email address	dow@dowconstantine.com
Manager	Dylan Ordonez
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 16285, Seattle, WA 98116
Campaign phone number	(206)484-7921
Campaign FAX	(206)322-6108

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

Raised in West Seattle and a graduate of West Seattle High, I still live in the neighborhood I grew up in. I received my Bachelor's Degree, a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and a Law Degree from UW.

I was a practicing attorney for 19 years and worked on a number of community projects including helping activist Charlie Chong with efforts to preserve open space. Through that work I came to know then County Councilmember Greg Nickels and went on to serve as a Council legislative aide.

In 1996 I won election to Washington's House of Representatives and became co-chair of the Judiciary Committee. I was re-elected in 1998, and moved up to the State Senate in 2000 when Senator Mike Heavey was elected judge. In the Senate, I served as vice-chair of the Ways and Means Committee and vice-chair of the Judiciary Committee.

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

I was appointed to the King County Council in January 2002, and have been elected four times by the voters. As a King County Councilmember and now as Council Chair, I have worked for efficient, performance-based government – getting the most value for each tax dollar. A strong supporter of the environment, I have taken a leadership role on the tough issues of growth management, salmon recovery, and expanding transit mobility.

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	34 th District Democrats Vashon–Maury Island Democratic Club
Union Endorsement	Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 587
Municipal League	Ratings have not been made at this time
SEAMEC	SEAMEC ratings not yet made; Previously posted top 5AAAAA ratings
Other Endorsements	I have attached a partial list of endorsers to date

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I would be honored to have the endorsement of each King County Legislative District Democratic group along with the King County Democrats. I am also seeking the support of Seattle Fire Fighters Union; Cascade Bicycle Club, Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Voters, Seattle Police Officers' Guild, SEAMEC, King County Labor Council, SEIU 775, UFCW 21, IAM 751 and a number of other progressive organizations.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	x		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	x		
3	Do you support affirmative action?	x		
4	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	x		
5	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	x		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		x	
7	Do you support the Davis–Bacon Act?	x		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	x		
9	Do you support major changes in the way we live to help stop global warming?	x		
10	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	x		

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions *		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		x
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		x
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		x

* If you answered "Yes" or "Qualified" please explain your answer.

Are you a member of another political party? If so, which ones? Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, whom?

No. I have always been a Democrat and always supported Democratic candidates.

Are you a member of your local Democratic District Party? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?

Yes, I am a member of the 34th District Democrats and have contributed to a number of Democratic groups including the State Democratic Party, SDCC & HDCC, King County Democrats and the 33rd and 34th District Democrats.

I was a PCO in the 34th District during the late 1980s and the 1990s. My partner, Shirley Carlson, has now taken over as our PCO, and my father, John Constantine, is PCO in our adjacent precinct.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

I want to set the foundation for a new prosperity, improving the quality of life in King County for working families. We need real transit and transportation choices, sensible and humane criminal justice, responsible preservation of our environment, and genuine regional leadership. Ultimately, our job as Democrats is to make government work for people, to hold fast to our progressive principles, and not to get hung up on defending parts of the status quo that are no longer working.

At this historic moment, with a new, innovative President in the White House, our county also needs renewal -- to clear away the debris of that which is no longer working, perfect that which is, and build an efficient, effective, 21st-century government. Building on my record as a reformer unafraid to lead on tough issues, I will work across old geographic boundaries to zero in on effective solutions to the problems we face as a region.

In order to achieve this, I am hard at work speaking with organizations and individuals across the county and raising the funds necessary to communicate this message with voters. To date I have raised \$165,000, and plan to raise between \$550,000 - \$800,000 total.

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

I have a great team hard at work implementing our campaign plan. They include:

Christian Sinderman, Consultant
Erin Schultz, Associate Consultant
Dylan Ordonez, Campaign Manager
Jared Jonson, Campaign Coordinator
Sandeep Kaushik, Media Consultant

Tracy Newman, Fundraising Consultant
Diane McDaniel, Outreach Coordinator
Jason Bennett, Treasurer
Shirley Carlson, Deputy Treasurer
Martha Kongsgaard, Finance Chair

What are the single most pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? What actions would you take if elected?

When elected King County Executive I will work to address four critical challenges facing our county:

I will make the county a partner in economic development— putting the focus on strengthening our neighborhoods and suburban communities and on assisting small business.

I will continue to deliver on difficult environmental issues, including protecting sensitive shoreline habitat from destruction, fixing land use regulations to protect people, wildlife and natural systems, and expanding the public investment in forests, farmlands and open space.

I will ensure that King County makes the investments in transportation necessary to keeping our regional economy—and the people who live here—moving forward, just as I have as a Sound Transit Board Member and Transportation Committee Chair.

I will push for the reform our government requires to make its operations efficient and sustainable, to protect workers' security, and to ensure that those who need a helping hand are able to get it.

If you are a candidate in a contested primary race, what record of performance, ability, experience, personal qualities, and positions on issues distinguish you from your opponent(s)? If you do not receive the nomination, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election? Please explain.

To meet the challenges we face - costs outstripping revenues year after year, vital services being cut - King County must make difficult decisions that will require strong, new leadership, a true regional focus, and an emphasis on lasting solutions—not on gimmicks and quick fixes that saddle taxpayers and future generations with even greater problems.

I offer a real record of reform, a focus on regional cooperation, and the vision to lead King County forward. And I have never hesitated to take on the tough issues and do the "heavy lifting".

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

I've taken on the tough issues, and I have the scars to prove it. So I am not intimidated by the problems we face, nor by the campaign we must wage to bring my message of focus and change to voters across King County.

Do you believe the current structure of taxes and/or fees that generate funds in your area are fair? If not, how would you change it?

No. In fact, as a Senator in 2001 I co-authored (with Sen. Lisa Brown) the legislation that created the Gates Tax Study Commission, designed specifically to address the profound inequities in our tax system. The state's tax system, and by extension the county's, is horribly unfair to lower income and working people, and folks struggling to build new, small businesses and create jobs. Both initiatives and expert lobbying by well-heeled interests over the course of decades that has left us with perhaps the worst tax system in the nation.

Especially in this economy, we cannot ask the struggling worker, in danger of losing both job and home, for more property and sales tax money without seeking to make the best, most efficient use of what we have.

What should our state tax system look like? It should ask that people contribute, roughly, based on their ability to pay. That means less sales tax on basic goods, consideration that a house is more than an investment and must be protected, and that business taxes should be shifted toward profits made or value added, not necessarily on gross receipts. Business tax policy should encourage job growth.

To paraphrase our new president, as Executive I will put an end to programs that no longer work, reform those in need of improvement, and invest finite resources where they can be proven to deliver the most service to people.

In other words, the measure of effectiveness is not spending more dollars, but getting the most for each dollar spent.

This is a tough distinction for some politicians to grasp, let alone embrace.

King County has a ten year plan to end homelessness. What ideas do you have to increase low income and affordable housing/?

I served for a decade on the board of the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, and we built or preserved many units of affordable housing in one of the region's most affordable neighborhoods. I believe that we have to use both public and private means to create the amount of housing needed for a growing and economically diverse population of nearly 2,000,000 people.

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Health care costs are destroying the ability of local governments, and all employers, to provide the kind of benefits that employees need and deserve. Any action that helps lower costs is one that I support. I have always held health care to be a fundamental right for all people and voted consistently in Olympia to expand coverage for seniors, children and others in direct need.

What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

In the Legislature and on the County Council I have long fought for equal rights for all people. I was very proud last year to co-sponsor legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in county employment and contracting. I have consistently earned top AAAAA ("5") ratings from SEAMEC for "engaging in leadership or extensive activism on LGBT issues". I am proud to be endorsed by Sen. Ed Murray, Sen. Joe McDermott, and gay and lesbian leaders from across the region.

What creative solutions can you offer to address the problems of the economically disadvantaged?

I think that this moment offers a particular opportunity – with the economic stimulus money from the federal government and the prospect of a sustainable economic recovery in the offing, we must tie the new prosperity to opportunity for all – we must make sure that, when the tide that lifts all ships rises, everybody has a boat. That means infrastructure investments should be tied to apprenticeship requirements. It means that local, small contractors should have a shot at parts of big public contracts. It means that we should re-invest in K-12 and higher education, rather than slashing as the legislature has just done. The “big winners deserve it, and tough luck to the rest of you” ethic celebrated by the 1980s Republicans and their progeny should be cast aside for a new, but very old-fashioned way of thinking: We are one. We are all in this together. Everyone needs to have the chance in our society to fulfill his or her potential, through education, training, and fair and equal treatment.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.

Printed Name	Dow Constantine	Date
Signature	Dow Constantine	5/1/09