

2017 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Dow		Constantine

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

King County Executive

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

All my life (55 years)

5. How long have you resided in King County?

All my life (55 years)

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Partisan Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	Friends of Dow Constantine
Address:	PO Box 16285
City/State/Zip:	Seattle, WA 98116
Campaign Phone:	206-661-0281
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Campaign Website:	www.dowconstantine.com

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
King County Executive	Elected	2009 – present	
King County Council	Elected	2002 – 2009	Council Chair, 2009
Washington State Senate	Elected	2000 – 2002	Vice Chair, Ways & Means and Judiciary Committees
Washington House of Representatives	Elected	1997 – 2000	Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run
NA	

SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
 - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
 - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
 - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. **In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)**

When I decided to run for Executive eight years ago, I did so because of my passion for parks and open spaces, economic opportunity and cultural diversity, and the boundless spirit of the families and communities of our forward-thinking region. Since I was elected Executive in 2009, my goal has been to guarantee that King County's government works for everyone. We have created significant change and progress in this government, advancing unprecedented reforms and setting the stage for future prosperity. But there is still more work to be done.

I am seeking re-election as King County Executive to continue the progress we have made together and ensure that King County remains a place where all are welcomed, all are valued, and everyone has an opportunity to prosper. My goal – our mission – is that every resident feels welcome and knows that no matter who they are, where they were born, or their economic status, they have a safe home here, in King County.

To keep King County moving in this direction, we must protect funding for critical programs threatened with cuts from our federal government, defend the developments we have made to welcome immigrants and refugees, build infrastructure and quality transportation solutions, and protect women's health. And we must work to make progress on the greatest challenges of our time: homelessness, education funding, building equity and opportunity and confronting climate change. Guiding this work, and every initiative, will be the continued goal of becoming the most forward-looking and best-run government in the nation and ensuring that our home is welcoming and equitable for all.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

I am collaborative and work well with others. From a local government perspective, I have focused on regional partnerships and have worked hard to develop strong relationships with leadership in all of King County's 39 cities. Together, we have accomplished much. We launched the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance – a coalition of local, state, and tribal leaders from across the Northwest working together to raise awareness for the safety risks of oil and coal transportation. We enrolled nearly 200,000 uninsured residents in affordable healthcare. And we rebuilt the South Park Bridge, preserved the longest remaining natural shoreline in Puget Sound on Maury Island, and secured funding to protect South King County communities from flooding. From a stakeholder perspective, I have cultivated robust and reliable relationships with business, labor, environmental organizations, women's groups, and more. Together with Planned Parenthood, we have reduced teen birth rates by more than half since 2008. We worked with the business community and labor to create the King County Aerospace Alliance, an example of what we can accomplish when we bring the public sector and business together to work toward a common goal of fostering long-term economic vitality and growth in our region. This work earned me the James R. Ellis Regional Leadership Award from the Municipal League of King County in 2012.

I am an innovative problem solver, with the vision to continue leading King County forward. I created and lead the passage of "Best Start for Kids" legislation – the most comprehensive approach to childhood development in the nation, investing in prevention and early intervention, so that more children and youth in King County reach adulthood healthy and ready to succeed. This multigenerational strategy supports good outcomes for children, parents and grandparents. As Chair of the Sound Transit Board, I proposed, created passage of, and supported Sound Transit 3, which expands our high capacity rail system to provide people a viable alternative to sitting in traffic.

I offer a proven record of reform and effective advocacy. I was named "Public Official of the Year" from Governing magazine and received the American Government award from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, along with the Leaders in Healthcare award from Seattle Business Magazine for the County's success in containing the cost of employee health care and saving \$46 million.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

I am proud of the work I have done throughout my time in public service to strengthen transportation. As a King County Councilmember, I helped push forward the expansion of rail and bus service, to keep our regional economy – and the people who live here – moving forward. As Executive, I secured temporary funding authority from the Legislature, and then a supermajority of the County Council, to preserve Metro Transit service during the recession. And most recently, As Chair of the Sound Transit Board, I both proposed, created passage of, and supported Sound Transit 3. ST3 expands our high capacity rail system to provide people a viable alternative to sitting in traffic. As more and more of our residents begin to use rail, they embrace it - they're never stuck in traffic, they know exactly when they'll arrive and they gain confidence that they'll get back home to their families on time. Maintenance and improvement of our transportation system is one of the greatest challenges facing King County, and I will work tirelessly to make Metro ever more efficient, to keep our buses on the road, and to properly maintain those roads for multiple modes.

I led, with State Senator Sharon Nelson, the ongoing fight to stop an international mining company from converting publicly-owned critical shoreline habitat within the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve to industrial uses. After more than a dozen years fighting the massive expansion of the gravel mine, we completed the County's purchase of 250 acres of upland forest and a mile of undeveloped Puget Sound shoreline and habitat for the endangered orca. Combined with the adjacent Maury Island Marine Park, this land represents the largest public holding of protected marine

shoreline in all of Puget Sound. I have been a long-time advocate for open space preservation and am incredibly proud of this effort that reflects our county's commitment to lasting, positive change.

I am also very proud of the reforms and innovations I have launched in King County government since taking office, as part of our "Best Run Government" initiative. By instituting best management practices, empowering employees to collaborate, and striving for second-to-none customer service, we are creating a culture of continuous improvement. This has resulted in process improvements all throughout King County, whether shortening the time to renew car tabs, to seeking building permits, or creating operational efficiencies such as reducing inventory costs in Metro's maintenance and service division so that Metro can reinvest those savings to add more bus service. Together, my administration has been able to bring the costs of operating county government down to the rate of inflation plus population growth.

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

Raised in West Seattle, I spent childhood summers at my grandfather's cabin. My grandfather was a saw filer, and saving his wages, he built this cabin alongside Kayak Point, with his own hands. So when a global oil company unveiled a plan to build a vast tanker terminal and refinery at Kayak Point, he joined his community in fighting back. This started before people had many tools to protect the Sound - before the EPA, and before the Clean Water Act - but they were determined and nearly a decade later they celebrated victory with the grand opening of Kayak Point County Park. It was this experience that introduced me to the power of grassroots politics and the law - lessons that would guide my future public service career.

In my senior year at West Seattle High School, I ran for student body president. I won the election and quickly learned a good lesson - that, as difficult as a campaign can be, the hard work really starts once you take office. I earned three degrees at the University of Washington: my Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Master's Degree in Urban Planning, and Law Degree. I remain active with both of my *alma maters*, West Seattle High School and the University of Washington. As former President of the West Seattle High School Alumni Association, Founder and Vice President of the West Seattle High School Foundation, and a devoted Husky, I am committed to ensuring that today's youth have the same opportunity I did for an exceptional public education.

Additionally, I have been a licensed attorney for 27 years, and have worked on numerous community projects over the years. I have also volunteered as a board member or trustee for the Seattle Open Space Oversight Committee, West Seattle Helpline, ArtsWest, Allied Arts, and the Seattle Design Review Board. I currently serve on the boards of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition and Mountains to Sound Greenway.

In the Legislature, on the County Council, as County Executive, and in my personal volunteering, I have committed myself to issues that improve the quality of life for all of King County's residents. I have lived in this community my entire life and work tirelessly to ensure what we all love about this region remains for generations to come.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

King County is the 13th most populous of America's 3,142 counties, with a diverse population of 2.1 million people, spread across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Because of the size and importance of the jurisdiction, the King County Executive is widely considered to be the second most significant elected executive official in the state, after the Governor, representing nearly 30 percent of the population and 50 percent of the economy of Washington State.

The Executive leads the second largest government in Washington State with 12,500 employees (down from 14,000 four years ago) providing crucial services for the County's residents: courts and jails, public health and restaurant inspections, clean water and clean air, sewage treatment and flood control, land use permitting, open space and regional parks, one of the largest public transit agencies in the country, and much more.

King County is one of the best places in the nation to live, work, and raise a family, but as stated in my answer to question one, we must work hard to ensure that King County remains a place where all are welcomed, all are valued, and everyone has an opportunity to prosper. Too many of our residents look ahead at their future and want more. As Executive, it is my job to create efficient, performance-based government that is continuously improving, and guarantee that King County's government works for everyone.

As Executive, I have cultivated strong internal, regional and community partnerships to find solutions and unite around shared goals of efficiency, inclusiveness, and prosperity. I have worked for efficient, performance-based government – getting the most value for each tax dollar, so that we are better able to deliver on the promise of opportunity for all. I ensured that the County invested in the health of our employees and re-vamped customer service. We are continuing to drive down the rate of youth detention and increasing the early investments, timely interventions and access to alternatives to traditional adjudication, consistent with our strategy to create stronger, safer communities. As a strong supporter of environmental protection, I have taken leadership roles on the tough issues of growth management, preserving open space, and expanding transit mobility and renewable energy.

We have accomplished much to strengthen the diverse, dynamic communities of King County and Puget Sound, and I hope to continue this work in the next four years.