

## 2009 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Reagan		Dunn

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

**King County Council, District 9**

3. Are you the incumbent?                    x Yes  No

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

**I have lived in the district my whole life with the exception of two and half years that I spent serving in the U.S. Justice Department.**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**Same.**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **N/A**

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:                    Friends of Reagan Dunn

Address:                                P.O. Box 40417

City/State/Zip:                    Bellevue, WA 98015

Campaign Phone:                (253) 709-2870

Campaign Fax:                    N/A

Campaign E-mail:                [Reagan.dunn@gmail.com](mailto:Reagan.dunn@gmail.com)

Campaign Website:              www.reagandunn.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 Councilmember, District 9	Elected	2005-Present	Currently Chairman of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee and Vice Chair of the Committee of the Whole
Senior Counsel to the Director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys	Appointed	2002-2003	National Coordinator for Project Safe Neighborhoods, Chaired the Attorney General's Task Force on Gun Violence

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

<b>Office Title</b>	<b>Year of Run</b>
N/A	N/A

## 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.)

I am running to serve the people of Southeast King County, not just by solving the challenges facing county government but also helping to solve their problems interacting with the county on a day to day basis.

Since 2005, I have faithfully represented the people of District 9 and have personally met thousands of them. They have taught me a great deal about what the priorities of King County government should be. I am running to make sure that their values of fiscal restraint, low taxes, effective government, public safety, environmental protection and customer service are represented on the King County Council.

The people of Southeast King County are struggling through this recession just like the rest of King County. They have told me that they can't afford new taxes right now. They expect the government to tighten its belt and become more effective with what it has - just like they are doing.

That being stated, King County has real problems in providing high quality service. The people of District 9 call me daily complaining about their interactions with county government. They expect us to continue improving service regardless of the recession. That's what I'm there to do.

I represent the most beautiful district in King County. District 9 includes much of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, the most productive salmon habitat in the Cedar River, the most scenic views in the Green River Gorge and Mount Rainier. My constituents expect me to work hard to protect these natural resources forever. That's what I have been doing and that's what I will continue to do as long as I represent them on the King County Council.

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

**Integrity** is the foundation of represented democracy. Public service is a public trust. I take that very seriously and I have demonstrated it in my work with my colleagues and my constituents.

**Experience** is critical to being a good public official. I have worked at every level of government: at the U.S. Justice Department under John Ashcroft, at the State as Clerk to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and at the County as a Councilmember. Those positions also represent all branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. I use these experiences everyday in understanding policy and working with a wide array of stakeholders on any given issue.

**Intelligence** is critical to understanding complex policy issues and working towards solutions to the problems facing King County today. I have a law degree from the University of Washington to demonstrate academic success but the greatest measure of intelligence is in a person's actions. In the past four years, I have put forward a series of common sense reforms that have passed the King County Council unanimously. I have attached an accomplishment list for your review.

**Compassion** is what keeps elected officials grounded in what is most important. In my life, I have had lots of opportunities to serve my neighbors and my community. As a young lawyer, I worked with the Eastside Legal Assistance program providing pro bono legal help to victims of domestic violence. In the past four years, I have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful non-profit groups such as the Soup Ladies of Maple Valley who provide food to first responders and Vine Maple Place who provide transitional housing and job skills assistance. What I am most proud of though is helping neighbors when they really need it. When I found out that a developer was purchasing a local trailer park and planning to bulldoze it for condos, I started a campaign to stop it. Through perseverance, I was able to convince the King County Housing Authority to buy the property and keep it operating as low income housing.

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.

1) ***Raging River Open Space Acquisition*** - Recently, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust came to me and asked for help in purchasing 7,000 acres of open space along the Raging River in unincorporated King County. This property was the largest remaining, privately held, piece of open space in the King County portion of the Greenway. I worked with the King County Executive to identify more than \$3 million to purchase conservation easements on the property and close a funding gap to make the deal work. This required extensive work with the State Department of Natural Resources, the King County Executive and many, many environmental stakeholders. In the end, we were able to accomplish the largest open space acquisition since the Snoqualmie Tree Farm.

2) ***Safer Neighborhoods Initiative*** - Meth houses are a serious problem in unincorporated King County. Not only are they rampant, dangerous and toxic, the inhabitants terrorize their neighbors and make life miserable. A couple who lived in unincorporated Renton came to me with an unbelievable story. They had been trying to get rid of a meth house in their neighborhood for more than a year. King County Sheriff's deputies had been to the house 37 times! They couldn't get enough evidence for a warrant but there was clear anecdotal evidence of drug trafficking. I proposed a major piece of legislation that would make it easier for the Sheriff to crack down on drug houses. I worked with the Rental Housing Association of Puget Sound to have the Sheriff notify landlords when suspected criminal activity was occurring. This created a partnership between the police and the landlords. In addition, the reforms called for fines on landlords who were notified of the illegal activity and refused to cooperate with the Sheriff. The reform has been so successful that we are

considering expanding the law to commercial property to target drugs and prostitution.

3) **Transparency in Taxation** - It came to my attention that almost 50% of all property owners were not getting a breakdown of where their property taxes were going. Homeowners who paid their property taxes through mortgage companies never saw their tax statements. King County has over 500 different taxing districts within its boundaries representing local government, school districts, fire districts, hospital districts and libraries. Almost all of these jurisdictions put out levies for a vote of the people but property owners have no idea what they are already paying. I proposed an ordinance to require King County to send courtesy tax statements to those who previously never saw them. Since then we have put those tax statements on the county website to save money and for greater convenience.

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.

The attached resume provides my specific history with respect to past professional and community activities. For the sake of brevity, I will not repeat them here. However, my employment and volunteer opportunities have taught me a number of things that are relevant to my job today.

My experience as a federal prosecutor and Senior Counsel in the Justice Department gave me valuable experience in the challenges facing local government. This was especially true in my experiences working in homeland security, gun violence and methamphetamine cases. Each of these issues presents numerous challenges to local law enforcement and policy makers. I saw first hand what meth makers can do to a community. I saw first hand the impact of a terrorist attack on families. It is why I am such a passionate champion of law enforcement and why I believe that there is no greater duty for government than to keep people safe.

Through my experience in private legal practice at Inslee, Best, Doezie and Ryder, I gained experience on land use issues that are very relevant to the forty percent of my district living in unincorporated King County. Specifically, I represented cities in land use cases, drafted ordinances and advised them on labor policies. All of these experiences directly translate to work I am currently doing on the King County Council. As a result, I have emerged as a valuable asset to my colleagues in discussing legal policy issues and my experiences have allowed me to produce a broad array of legislation on land use and other topics.

Working for the Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court gave me a view of government that not many elected officials see. I saw the law through the eyes of a judge. I did the research and helped draft opinions in the highest court in the State of Washington. That experience allows me to think through how a court would view legislation being considered by the Council.

Before becoming a King County Councilmember, I had volunteered extensively for a number of non-profit organizations. The various groups represented business, domestic violence victims and the poor. Those experience's more than anything else in my life helped me to develop compassion for others. I have put that compassion to use in my job as a King County Councilmember. There are literally hundreds of non-profit groups in King County doing the most important work. I have chosen a handful in my district to focus on. The group includes community centers, a transitional housing provider, a restaurant owner who cares for first responders and a number of faith based organizations. Through my work on the Council, I have provided financial assistance, donated a surplus truck, helped coordinate the clean-up of a run-down trailer park and donated my time and money. In my opinion, there is no more important work than helping your neighbor.

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

My job as a King County Councilmember consists of three major tasks: 1) making policy for the county, 2) overseeing its financial resources through the budget and 3) making sure that individual citizen's have access to County government.

I am one of nine Council members and I vote on policy that is put forward by individual Councilmember's and the King County Executive. All members have the ability to introduce policies and bring them before the Council for consideration. In my four years on the Council, I have introduced a series of legislation that changed King County policies in profound ways. A list of accomplishments is attached for your review.

Financial issues often dominate debate when resources are tight. It is the duty of a King County Councilmember to watch the budget at all times to make sure the county's resources are managed appropriately. During times like these, it is especially important that the county prioritize government spending and make more out of the resources it has. Last year, I proposed a counter-cyclical reserve fund that would set aside money when times were good to off-set services reductions when the economy inevitably declines.

I also represent approximately 200,000 constituents that live in the areas of Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton, Kent, Covington, Maple Valley, Black Diamond and Enumclaw as well as unincorporated areas in the district. I am the constituent's voice on the council. If they have difficulties working within the county government I assist them in accessing county government and interact with the agencies on their behalf.

My duties include meetings within the district to keep my constituents abreast of current issues and to host town hall meetings to hear their concerns and suggestions. I also meet with stakeholders and community leaders regarding their issues of interest.

The duty I consider the most important is safeguarding the county's financial resources. This fall, the King County Council will decide how to cut \$40 to \$50 million from the budget. That decision could literally make my constituents less safe through cuts in law enforcement and the courts. It is imperative that the Council make the right choices and prioritize spending on behalf of their constituents who are counting on them.