

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Dusty Hoerler
Position sought	Washington State House of Representative Seat, 46 th District
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 th Legislative District, County Council District 1, 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Progressive Democrat, and a member of the 46 District Democrats.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Dusty Hoerler for State Representative appointment
Web page	www.dustyoerler.org
Campaign Email address	dusty@dustyoerler.org
Manager	NA
Campaign mailing address	8929 5 th Ave NE Seattle, WA 98115
Campaign phone number	
Campaign FAX	NA

Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

Background and Education

Having grown up on a small farm in Eastern Washington, I often accompanied my father to the job sites on which he was working as a journeyman plumber. It was there that I developed a sense of the attitudes and concerns of the more conservative, more rural trade workers living in that part of the state. After graduating from Curlew High School in June of 1997, I moved to Ballard and in July became a student at the Diver's Institute of Technology located on the Ship Canal. Graduating as a certified Commercial Diver, I moved to Morgan City, LA where I was employed by Cal Dive International and managed a crew of Seven as Lead Tender. Though the adventures were amazing, after three years I realized that living on the ocean did not provide me with the sense of place and the membership in a civic community for which I was looking.

The year 2000 brought me back to Western Washington to begin my Building Trades Plumber Apprenticeship Program with United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32. Completing this program in 2005, I earned an Associates Degree in Applied Sciences and was certified as a journeyman plumber.

Having been an active union member through my apprenticeship years, I became the secretary of the Political Action Committee and served in that capacity for three years.

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In 2007, I was honored to participate in a four-day candidate-training seminar taught by Murray Fishel and facilitated by the [Washington State Labor Council](#). This helped to prepare me to work on the Democratic Coordinated Campaign in 2008 (for Obama and Gregoire) as a release staffer from UA Local 32 with the Washington State Labor Council. Here I developed outreach techniques to communicate with union members on building and construction job sites.

For the last seven years, I have volunteered with the Labor Neighbor Program which is facilitated by the Washington State Labor Council for the purpose of informing members of candidates' voting records on labor issues.

In 2009, I assisted another member in the development of an internal program called "The Champion Program." This program rewarded more than 200 Local 32 members with a name engraved belt buckle to recognize their volunteer work for the betterment of the local union. The program also set up a framework to track member's volunteer involvement.

As 2009 came to an end, I was honored to receive the "Rising Star" Award presented by the Washington State Labor Council recognizing leadership, commitment and dedication to making Washington state a better place for working families.

I have been instrumental in organizing Local 32 members that are unemployed and in developing a framework through which these members can express their opinions on the issues affecting their lives. Realizing that many of them were facing foreclosure, I helped to organize a group to testify in favor of foreclosure prevention legislation in Olympia.

As chairman of the planning committee, I helped produce the first two Local 32 Candidate Fairs. The purpose of these fairs was to provide a forum for members to meet and interact with candidates for state and local office.

Community and Civic Activity

In 2005, I purchased my home in the Maple Leaf community where I continue to live today. As a member of the 46th District Democrats, I have worked on the Outreach Committee to host a community dinner event that brought together a diverse group of community members. The purpose of this event was to give citizens an opportunity to bring forward ideas that will help make our community stronger and more vibrant.

The City of Seattle's Green Building Task Force has provided me with another opportunity to serve. As a member of this task force, I have had an opportunity to help develop policies that foster green building practices and energy efficiency in new buildings as well as existing buildings across the city.

I served on the Seattle Public Utilities Sounding Board that worked to develop and implement a plan to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's clean water requirements for the city's drainage system over the next 15 years.

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	NA
Union Endorsement	Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32

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Municipal League	NA
SEAMEC	NA
Other Endorsements	Progressive Majority

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement? NA

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	Yes		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	Yes		
3	Do you support government funding of Planned Parenthood and other family planning services, including abortion and contraception?	Yes		
4	Do you support majority votes by state and local governments to enact taxes for revenue and to repeal tax exemptions?	Yes		
5	Do you support the Affordable Health Care Act?	Yes		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		No	
7	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	Yes		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	Yes		
9	Do you support Federal and State regulation of greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change?	Yes		
10	Do you support a constitutional amendment to limit free speech rights to persons, not corporations?	Yes		
11	Do you support public financing of campaigns?	Yes		

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

* 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 and when?

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I am not a member of any other party and have not made any contributions to members of any other party.

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?

I am a member of and have made financial contributions to the 46th District Democrats. Additionally, I have made financial contributions to democrats in local, state and national races as well as monthly contributions to an organization that promotes civic engagement for youth; The Washington Bus.

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?

My experiences as a blue collar worker, labor leader, and organizer to address long term unemployment issues have provided me with a unique perspective. I understand the desperate need to create jobs, provide health care, fund education and stop home foreclosures. We must find ways to create the revenue for the services and infrastructure our state needs to recover from this economic downturn. I will work with unwavering determination to provide solutions.

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

The need for quality "living wage" jobs, adequate funding for public education, post high school career paths for youth, quality health care options for all citizens, workable options for homeowners facing foreclosures and the repairing of our social safety net are some of our most pressing issues. If appointed, I will work with other progressive legislators to address these issues.

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.

N/A This is not a primary race.

I am fully committed to connecting with the communities in the 46th district to understand their needs and concerns. My background organizing in labor and my experience bridging the gap between citizens and the governmental process will be a great asset if I am appointed.

If I am not appointed, I will most certainly support the candidate who receives the appointment.

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?

Our structure for taxation is far too dependent on sales tax, making our system regressive and unstable. Citizens across our state must begin to consider alternative methods of taxation that more fairly distribute the financial burden of providing services within our state.

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

Maintaining and restoring funding for the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program, the State Housing Trust Fund and the Transitional Housing Operating and Rent Program are crucial to keeping the M. L. King County plan to end homelessness on track.

Additionally, our efforts to create living wage jobs, adequately fund public education, provide systems for affordable health care, foreclosure remedies and career pathways for our youth will reduce homelessness.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Affordable comprehensive health care is a basic human right, and a system that ensures adequate access for every citizen should be the responsibility of government.

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?

Love is something magical that happens between two people; love is the sacred part of marriage. It is unconscionable for the government to withhold the right to marry or have children from any two people.

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

The right to organize as workers; to form collective democratic organizations with others in the same line of work to better the quality of living will help to level the playing field for many economically disadvantaged. Adequate funding for the network of community collages in our state is important to provide pathways of success for many citizens seeking to better their economic opportunities.

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

Printed Name	Dusty Hoerler	Date
Signature	<i>Dusty Hoerler</i>	11-18-2011