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COMPLETE

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Page 1: Campaign Contact Information

Q1

Campaign contact information

Candidate first name	JOHN
Candidate last name	COMERFORD
Campaign email	john@kcd2021.com
Campaign phone (optional)	206-625-3200
Campaign website (optional)	www.kcd2021.com

Q2

Position Sought

County Conservation District Supervisor

Q3

Jurisdiction

King County

Q4

Position number

Respondent skipped this question

Q5

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Manager first name	JOHN P
Manager last name	COMERFORD
Manager email	jpc@jplife.com

Q6

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Treasurer first name	JOHN P
Treasurer last name	COMERFORD
Treasurer email	jpc@jpclife.com

Q7

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Consultant first name	JOHN P
Consultant last name	COMERFORD
Consultant email	jpc@jpclife.com

Q8

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

N/A

Q9

Additional Campaign contact information (all optional)

Facebook	John Comerford for King County Supervisor
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Page 2: Yes / No Questions

Q10

Yes

Are you a Democrat?

Q11

Yes/No Questions

	Yes/No
Have you ever been a member of another political party?	No
Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?	No
Do you have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?	Yes
If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?	Yes
Is there anything from your past that might hamper your success as a candidate?	No

Page 3: Candidate Background

Q12

Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation etc.) in 200 words or less.

Current Occupation/Employer: • Managing Director, RetireCorp - A Social Purpose Corporation

Career includes serving as: • Associate Director of the White House Conference on Economic Development • President of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank • Managing Director of Calvert Group, the largest socially and environmentally responsible investment and mutual fund company in the US.

Education: • MPhil (Behavioral Finance) – The University of Cambridge • MSc in Organizational Behavior – The University of London • MS in Management – The American College • MS in Financial Services – The American College • Master of Liberal Arts (Business and Public Policy) – Harvard University • BA – The University of Massachusetts

Professional Credentials: • Chartered Financial Consultant, Registered Fiduciary, Accredited Investment Fiduciary, Professional Pension Plan Consultant

Military Service – Honorable Discharge, US Air Force

Significant Volunteer Experience: • Co-Founder of the Queen Anne Food Bank • Trustee of the World Affairs Council of Seattle. • Secretary and Member, Washington Economic Development Finance Authority • Member, Washington Public Employees Benefit Board Investment Advisory Board, • Former Vice-Chair, City of Seattle Employee Retirement System • Member, Washington Task Force on Infrastructure and Public Banking • Member, National Advisory Community Investment Board • Member of the General Board of the University of Cambridge and Member of the Executive Committee of the University.

Q13

Please describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics in 200 words or less.

I have been a PCO in the 36th LD for many years and previously served on the 36th LD Executive Board. I am an elected alternate to the King County Democratic Central Committee and had served previously as an elected delegate. I have been an elected delegate to the Washington Democratic State Convention every year since 2000. I had been a PCO in the 43rd LD before 2002 redistricting. In 2016, I was a Democratic candidate for State Treasurer, earning the KCD endorsement and winning the Democratic vote in 34 out of 39 Washington counties. I have been active in every major election and have been appointed by Governor Inslee to several State Boards and Commissions. I served in senior positions in the Carter Administrations. I have also contributed to over 30 Democratic candidates in the past 5 years. Prior to moving to Washington, I was the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Congress from Florida's 16th Congressional District in 1992 and 1994 and chaired the Northern Palm Beach County Democratic Committee. My history in the Democratic party goes back to John F. Kennedy's 1956 Senate campaign.

Q14

Please describe the progress of your campaign and goals in 200 words or less. Why are you running for this position? How do you plan to win?

I am running for the King Conservation District Board (KCD) because I believe that the conservation of our Planet's environmental resources are the most important actions that we can take as individuals and as a nation.

There are many aspects to a successful conservation program. Finance is one aspect. I bring long-term expertise in ESG investing (environmental, social and governance) and public finance to the King County Conservation District, along with an ability to build cooperative partnerships that will leverage KCD funds to accomplish even greater results:

- I want to develop partnerships with King County school districts that will include conservation education, local conservation projects and internships.
- I want to promote conservation of the environment at the Port of Seattle to protect our harbors against water pollution and our neighborhoods against noise and air pollution.
- I want to expand the concept of local 'pea patches' throughout King County where individuals can collectively grow their own food. And perhaps most of all.
- I want to protect family farms and encourage expansion of locally owned farms, dairies and ranches through unique and new financing mechanisms.

My campaign is going well. I have received endorsements from Senator's Wellman, Kuderer, Hasegawa, Carlyle and Lias, County Council Members Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Dave Uptegrove, Rep. Valdez and State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti. I have a Facebook page and a website (www.kcd2021.com).

Q15

What issues do you think aren't getting enough attention from media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected?

First and foremost this election is not getting enough attention from the media and local community organizations. While the increase in the number of candidates from 2 to 9 is a hopeful advance, the King Conservation District is one of the best kept secrets in state and local government. As a board member, I intend to change this through public appearances and partnership development.

I think that the board members need to be more proactive in developing partnerships and relationships with other organizations, particularly those that have the capability to promote the partnership. We need a better PR and media function and should be looking for grant funds to finance this function, not precious dollars needed for programming. As an accredited Global Professional in Human Resources (GPHR) I bring a unique skill set that can help maximize the value of our HR function as well as assuring diversity, making the staff more reflective of the community it serves, as I have done in previous professional and board positions.

My campaign will be investing in digital media and I hope to be able to reach at least 50,000 King County households to make them aware of the KCD and the election.

Q16

What are your 6-month and long-term priorities with the King County Conservation District around conservation in King County and how would you achieve them?

Six Month Priority

My initial function will be to learn about the various KCD programs and the people who run them. Less talking and more walking. During this time, I will seek to establish my area of expertise and function on the board as well as getting to know my new colleagues. I will also be working on a plan to begin implementing the priorities that I have discussed above as well as reviewing and understanding past board actions through a lens of social and racial equality.

Long-Term Priorities

My long-term priorities are discussed above. Here is how I believe that I would implement them. Of course, these plans are subject to change based on what I learn in the first six months of my tenure:

- Partnerships with King County Schools - I would initially reach out to the local district board chairs and superintendents to learn about their conservation programs. After this initial contact, I would come back to the KCD board to discuss my thoughts about how we can either improve or enhance the school district programs, especially in the area of conservation education.
- Monitoring the Port of Seattle - I would spend time during the first six months learning about all of the water, air and noise problems that result from Port activities and begin to attend meetings where these issues are discussed. Then, I would come back to the KCD board with ideas and actions that we might take to improve Port conservation efforts.
- Promoting additional 'pea patches' - I will work to find out what makes a 'pea patch' program successful and utilize this information to help inform local KCD communities of the benefits and success of existing 'pea patches'.
- Protecting and growing family farms - This is an area where I can utilize my financial expertise to leverage funding from the philanthropic sector and the Legislature to increase local farm acreage, particularly small family farms and cooperatives. This is also an area where we can develop partnerships with other conservation organizations.
- Staff diversity - Utilizing my HR and management experience, particularly in the area of hiring, training and retaining a diverse workforce, I can help staff with the HR function and reach out to underrepresented communities when searching for new hires.

Q17

There are cities, suburban, and rural areas that do not participate in the conservation district (i.e. Federal Way, Milton, Pacific, Skykomish, and Enumclaw), how would you bring awareness and engage them to join? How do you plan to bring awareness about conservation and KCD in the urban, suburban, and rural areas of King County?

Once I have gotten to know KCD better, I would begin by reaching out to local elected officials on an informal basis to let them know about the KCD. Working with the KCD board and staff, I would develop a brochure and a sample application process promoting membership in the KCD. I would follow up these informal meetings with local presentations outlining the benefits of participating in the KCD. I will work with staff to determine the necessary legislative and regulatory hurdles that must be overcome. Lastly, I would involve local environmental, community and political organizations to support local governmental participation.

Q18

Please explain the intersection between racism, poverty, and climate change, and discuss how you would apply and prioritize Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in decision making.

Racism and poverty are two societal illnesses that have been with the United State almost since the beginning our our Nation. Climate change, which has also been with us for centuries, is something that is becoming more common to us as our Planet has grown and taken more natural resources to support this growth and the wealth that it has engendered to a very small portion of our population.

Where these three illnesses come together is best described as an institutional failure of historic and catastrophic proportions and should at the heart of any democratic discussion on the survival of our Planet and long-term equity.

While I could spend thousands of words expounding my ideas on this issue, I will limit myself to a brief discussion of decision making within the framework of the KCD.

First of all, every project we undertake must be evaluated though a lens that focuses on how that action will impact racism, poverty and climate change. In order to accomplish this objective, the board must come up with both a quantitative and a qualitative scoring process to evaluate all projects and the three criteria discussed above must be at the core of this scoring process.

Secondly, we need to make sure that our staff is representative of the diversity within our community. We also need to reach out to low-income and BIPOC communities to make them aware of the KCD and the opportunities that we have available. In other words, we must be proactive. This includes making sure that there are more BIPOC board candidates.

Lastly, and this gets to the prioritization part of this question, the board must be clear on how its' past actions have impacted these three issues and see if there can be any remediation of past wrongs. Undertaking this process, will help us determine the necessary prioritization of our action within the area of diversity, equity and inclusion. I see this as the most critical agenda items for the new board.

Page 5: Submit Questionnaire

Q19

I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Candidate full name (as signature)

John Paul Comerford

Date

2/13/2021
