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Page 1: Campaign Contact Information

Q1

Campaign contact information

Candidate first name	Wayne
Candidate last name	Gullstad
Campaign email	gullstad@comcast.net
Campaign phone (optional)	206-427-0785

Q2

Position Sought

County Conservation District Supervisor

Q3

Jurisdiction

King County

Q4

Position number

3

Q5

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q7

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

Additional Campaign contact information (all optional)

Page 2: Yes / No Questions

Q10 Candidate for non-partisan position

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?	No
If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?	No
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.

Raised in Seattle. Ingraham High School; University of Washington (B.S., Forest Management); UCLA (MBA). Employment: Woolworth, Clean-up Boy (no kidding!); Washington Steam Cleaning, carpet cleaner; LAMCO, laborer then general manager; Crown Zellerbach, laborer; Hewlett-Packard, financial analyst; Waldorf Corporation, acting controller; CityForest Corporation, CEO. Community/Civic: Duluth (MN)Lighthouse for the Blind, board; Wash. Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Wildlife Area Advisory Committee; King County Farm-Fish-Flood, committee member; Mercer Island Girls' Basketball Booster Club, board chair; Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, volunteer coach for basketball, football, soccer, baseball and T-ball; King County Drainage District No. 7, Commissioner; mentored Somali orphan high school boys through a U.W./University Unitarian Church program; Loaves & Fishes, Portland OR, entertained senior citizens at lunch programs; Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance, board member; BLM/gay and gender rights CHOP protester.

Q13

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

We occasionally provide financial support to candidates at the state and local level.

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 was introduced to King Conservation District (KCD) from the perspective of a farmer. We have a 150 acre farm in King County. I worked with KCD on projects at the farm that provided benefit to both the farm and to the environment. As I became more familiar with KCD, both its programs and its staff, I became more and more impressed. I have never seen a governmental entity that is so effective and economically efficient at accomplishing its (very worthy) goals. This brings me to why I'm running. KCD does very important work positively affecting family farms and our environment. They are also an influential participant in the development of policies and programs affecting diverse issues such as water quality and urban food deserts. Three of the five positions on the Board of Supervisors are elected. It is important that these positions be filled with people with the background, capability and willingness to serve. I was encouraged to run for this position by people who have worked with me in similar roles. I have the background, skills and temperament to do a great job for KCD. However, if there is another candidate with a better skill set, terrific! Mission accomplished! In other words, my goal in running is to ensure the position is filled with a qualified, committed candidate. Whether or not it's me.

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?

Five opportunities once elected:

1. Funding. KCD is largely funded through assessments on county resident's property tax bills. However, very few county residents have ever heard of KCD. Three years ago, KCD faced a serious threat to its ongoing funding through tax assessment. It is critical that KCD clearly understands the decision makers and influencers in this funding process. And, as appropriate, systematically inform those influencers regarding the objectives and accomplishments of the organization.
 2. Outreach. KCD provides workshops demonstrating, for example, improved farming practices. Oddly, half the workshop participants are not farmers. They are county residents interested in cover crops, manure management, pasture rotation or practically anything going on at a farm. This is a great outreach opportunity. A great opportunity to spread the word to county residents about the worthwhile work of KCD.
 3. Opportunity. The demographic profile of the farm industry is dramatically skewed. In general, the people owning the farms look very different than the people doing the work. Social and economic barriers can make it difficult for some to transition from laborer to owner. Programs, such as Snoqualmie Valley Tilth's Experience Farming Project, can encourage this transition. King Conservation District should take an active role assisting with and encouraging such programs to accelerate the transition to better diversity in farm ownership.
 4. Sustainability. There is no question that modified agricultural practices can positively influence Ag's effect on ecological factors such as water quality and carbon sequestration. Washing State University's Extension Office in Puyallup is doing research on low-till and no-till field corn for western Washington. This is a very significant crop in King County. It would be terrific for KCD to directly involve themselves in this effort.
 5. New ecological threats. Climate change and evolving societal views on environmental issues are both driving emerging ecological challenges for farming. KCD is already doing an awesome job of taking a leadership role in addressing these issues. (e.g., KCD's influential role in King County's Fish-Farm-Flood project.) More of the same will be required as new challenges emerge.
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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?

In the previous question I outlined five priority opportunities. The two that are most urgent to me are dealing with emerging ecological threats and improving diversity and equity in farm ownership. Both these issues deserve immediate attention because they are a problem now. However, my number one priority once elected will be to listen thoughtfully to others' ideas and priorities. Everyone's ideas need to be heard. Then the organization needs to work collaboratively to decide, based on the KCD's mission and available resources, the organization's strategic plan. I will advocate for the issues I feel are important, but I will fully support the plan adopted by the board and organization.

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?

Regarding the areas not currently participating, we first need to understand if they need KCD. They may have other means of providing the key services/benefits KCD offers. Assuming we feel KCD can bring value, this becomes a marketing challenge. And it's a different challenge depending on the target customer.

The most straight forward marketing challenge is the rural areas. The benefits to farms (especially small farms) is direct and identifiable. These farmers are effective influencers of the decision makers. So how are the farmers convinced? The most effective influencer of a farmer is another farmer. Hands down! So the best approach is in coffee shops (cliques of farmers routinely start there day in a coffee shop) and on-farm visits. With other farmers along to discuss the benefits. The farmers are left with instructions on the best way to communicate their support for KCD with the authoritative body making the decision.

The pitch to the urban/suburban areas is more difficult. They've already opted out of the "greater good" argument. The best approach with them is to further develop the urban-targeted KCD projects aimed at food availability, small urban gardens, and other benefits to cities and suburbs. Then you have a value proposition to bring to the table.

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.

I've touched on these issues already with some specific references in my answers above. But I can address this more broadly. Racism and poverty are clearly linked. No objective person can dispute this. Climate change is real. We are experiencing its impacts now and should expect to continue doing so for decades at least. Ecological and economic disruptions, such as those we will experience with climate change, disproportionately impact those with less economic power. Those with less resources, less influence, and fewer options will suffer the greatest hurt. From the KCD perspective I feel it is incumbent on us to do two things. First, ensure that our service to the community is done in a way that is inclusive. For example, we need to be sure that when we communicate the services we can provide the communication is in a format that will reach all potential beneficiaries, not just the ones with specific access to information. Second, we need to actively look for opportunities to help the disadvantaged access the same opportunities that are available to others. An example is the access to farm ownership program I discussed earlier.

The first item above is a question of fairness--making sure that everyone has an opportunity to participate. The second item pursues altering the cultural landscape. The farm ownership program specifically targets a class of people that has been systematically excluded from opportunity. Such a program has multigenerational benefits. Permanent benefits.

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)

Wayne J. Gullstad

Date

Feb. 16, 2021
