



The Municipal League of King County
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Seattle, WA 98104
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2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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The Municipal League of King County requests every candidate who participates in the candidate evaluation process to **submit background information prior to his/her interview with a candidate evaluation committee**. The questionnaire is the basis of the League's research and interview process. The League's ratings are non-partisan; they are based on standards of Involvement, Effectiveness, Character, and Knowledge, all of which have been developed and refined over the past 90 years.

A printed version of the questionnaire is available for candidates who prefer to use the traditional format. To obtain a hard copy, please contact the League office. A copy of this questionnaire will be provided to Candidate Evaluation Committee members to help them prepare for your interview. Candidate responses, except the confidential section, will be available to the general public at the League website.

The Municipal League requests the following materials from candidates. Please check to make certain you have sent in your:

Candidate Questionnaire

Sent by: **Email x** US Mail Fax Not Sending

Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)

Sent by: **Email x** US Mail Fax Not Sending

Campaign Materials

Sent by: **Email x** US Mail Fax Not Sending

Constituent Newsletters and other publications

Not Sending

Photograph

Sent by: **Email x** US Mail Fax Not Sending

Note: Electronically submitted questionnaires are strongly preferred. All materials can be emailed to cec@munileague.org. They can be processed and made available on-line far more rapidly than handwritten or typed submissions.

For non-electronic submissions, please print clearly and legibly and return the application **as soon as possible in order to allow the committee the greatest amount of time to prepare a complete report on your skills and experience.**

**We request that you return the Candidate Questionnaire
by June 1, 2008**

If you have not yet been contacted to schedule an interview, or if you have questions about the candidate evaluation program, please contact the League office at 206-264-1070.

If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate in the candidate evaluation process, please contact the CEC Coordinator at the League office.

2008 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
John		Burbank

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

State Representative, 36th District, Position 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Open seat

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

23 years in the district at my current residence/25 years in Seattle

5. How long have you resided in King County?

25 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **Democrat**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Friends of John Burbank**

Address: **6755 Sycamore Ave NW**

City/State/Zip: **Seattle, WA 98117**

Campaign Phone: **206-755-5969**

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: **john@johnburbank.org**

Campaign Website: **www.johnburbank.org**

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)
Democratic precinct committee officer	Elective	1985-present	Chair, 32 nd District Democrats, 1985-1989

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

In the past thirty years, the polarization of income and wealth has created a small sliver of privileged people and corporations, while our middle class has been undermined and low-income people have become more desperate. This has been enabled by a negligence of democracy and government. We need to reverse this trend and revitalize our democracy. I would like to participate in this rejuvenation of democracy as a state legislator.

I have worked for decades for social justice and economic opportunity. I founded the Economic Opportunity Institute a decade ago to develop pragmatic solutions to the growing economic insecurity and narrowing of educational opportunities for middle class and low-income families. We have succeeded in some fundamental efforts in minimum wage policy, early childhood education, tax reform, retirement security, and health coverage. But there is much more systemic work to be done to rebuild the social foundations of our society in the globalized economy. I believe that the Legislature, as the center for democracy in our state, is the vital center for securing economic opportunity and enabling the "pursuit of happiness" for all.

We have a lot of work to do. The paramount constitutional duty of our state is the education of all children. We are failing that duty to our citizens. Citizens' rights to vote are undermined by a implicit poll tax that disenfranchises tens of thousands of rehabilitated ex-felons in our state. Health coverage is diminishing and turning into a lottery, depending on your employer and your insurance company. Retirement benefits have been cut, and current workers can no longer count on pensions to augment their social security. Our dependence on and subsidies for the private automobile have resulted in accelerating fuel emissions that add to global warming, threaten our air quality, and increase health risks. Our mass transit system was better 100 years ago than it is now. Puget Sound is threatened by the runoffs from sprawl and pollutants from industry and residential activities.

In a democracy, our responsibilities are to be stewards for everyone, from the wealthiest, to the middle class, to the poor among us, and stewards for our environment, to insure a healthy quality of life for our children and grandchildren. I am hope to be a representative for the interests of this democracy for all in the Legislature. That is why I seek this office.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.
- **Commitment to a life of work for social progress, shared economic opportunity and educational advancement for all.**
 - **Ability to bring together diverse coalitions and organizations to put into place policy for the greater good.**
 - **Willingness to take risks in order to achieve social progress.**
 - **Knowledge of economic, tax, education, health, social, and environmental policy**
 - **Knowledge of legislative pathways and ins-and-outs of policy development.**
 - **Persistence and determination to realize social gains**
 - **Entrepreneurial and innovative in developing social policy.**
 - **Forthright**
 - **Excellent writer and columnist**
 - **Respectful of others, no matter what their station in life.**
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. **Informing the policy for our state's minimum wage initiative in 1998. We became the first state in the nation to attach an automatic annual cost-of-living adjustment to the minimum wage, so that it keeps up with inflation. This simple provision benefits 300,000 low wage workers in our state. The policy idea has now been replicated in states across the country, including Missouri and Florida.**
 2. **Catalyzing the basic health plan initiative in 2001. This took five years of patient and persistent policy development, organizing, and coalition building to realize this expansion of health coverage. I was responsible for all facets of this development, from policy language, to determining and finding the funding for public opinion research, to putting together the critical mass of organizations, people, and gravitas to successfully pass this initiative, which mandated expansion of health coverage by 50,000 slots. Passage of this initiative made it impossible to disband the Basic Health Plan, as was contemplated during the 2003 recession.**
 3. **Writing the Early Childhood Education Career and Wage Ladder policy and helping to gain funding for this proposal, and later, putting it into state law. This unique intervention for high quality child care is one of the few evidenced-based policies that manifest real improvements in early learning. By focusing on the role of the teacher, and creating ladders for professional development and compensation, teacher morale and education has improved, and the quality of care for the 7500 children currently in wage ladder centers has improved significantly.**

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.

- **Founder and Executive Director, Economic Opportunity Institute: an activist public policy institute devoted to economic security and educational opportunity for middle class and low-income families.**
- **Greenwood Elementary School PTA: 1992 – 2001, Jog-a-Thon Chair for several of these years**
- **Hamilton and Eckstein Middle School PTAs: 1999-2004**
- **Ballard High School PTA: 2001-current; Legislative Coordinator, for a couple of these years**
- **Seattle PTSA Board, 2002/3**
- **Girl Scout Cookie Mom, 1996**
- **Youth Soccer Coach, 1995-2001**
- **Co-Chair, Central America Peace Campaign, 1984-1987**
- **Chair, 32nd District Democrats, 1985-1989**
- **Political Director, Wahsington State Labor Council, 1987-1992**
- **Project Manager, Fremont Public Association, responsible for helping transfer Sand Point Naval Base to the City of Seattle and establishing housing for the homeless there.**
- **Staff/Staff Coordinator, Senate Democratic Caucus, Olympia WA, 1984-1987**
- **Lead staff, Senate Democratic Campaign Committee, Olympia WA, 1984, 1986**

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

The State Legislature is the vehicle of representative democracy to determine the laws of the state of Washington, to move forward policy for the greater good, and to fulfill the mandates of the Washington state constitution. These lawmaker duties include

- **Development of new policy**
- **Review of new policy**
- **Work with colleagues to shape and move policy forward**
- **Work with constituency organizations to shape and move policy forward**
- **Work with citizens of the 36th District to shape and move policy forward**
- **Vote for and help to enact laws for greater good and the renewal and strengthening of our democracy.**

**EDUCATION BACKGROUND SUMMARY
FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT**

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report is distributed to voters in print and on our website. It includes a summary of the candidate's education. Please summarize your education in 120 characters (letters, punctuation, and space all combined). The League will delete material that exceeds the space limit by beginning with the last entry. Suggested order is (degree) (subject) (school) (year, if desired).

Note: *If this question is left blank the League will not include education information in your candidate profile.*

**Master of Public Administration, University of Washington, 1997
B.A., Political Economy, Evergreen State College, 1977**

**CIVIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY
FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT**

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report includes a summary of each candidate's civic involvement. Please summarize your civic involvement in the space below. We will make every attempt to include the information in the Candidate Evaluation Report as submitted. Due to space restrictions in the Report, your response is limited to 500 characters (letters, punctuation, and spaces all combined). It is important that you list your involvement beginning with the most important and ending with the least important. If you exceed the length of response permitted, or if the League should find it necessary to shorten responses for publication purposes, deletions will be made beginning with the last item listed.

Note: *This information will appear verbatim on the League's Candidate Evaluation Report. If this question is left blank, the Municipal League will not include information on your civic involvement in the Report.*

Check here if you would like the Municipal League to copy the first 500 characters from Question 4 to paste into this section.

**Founder and Executive Director, Economic Opportunity Institute, 1998-present
Project Manager, Fremont Public Association, including helping transfer Sand Point
Naval Base to the City of Seattle and establishing housing for the homeless, 1995-1997
Political Director, Washington State Labor Council, 1987-1992
Chair, 32nd District Democrats, 1985-1989
Greenwood Elementary, Hamilton and Eckstein Middle, Ballard High PTAs
Seattle PTSA Board, 2002/3
Co-Chair, Central America Peace Campaign, 1984-1987**