



The Municipal League of King County
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2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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 US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
 Check here if you DO NOT want your resume posted on the Municipal League website
- Campaign Materials**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Photograph**
Sent by: Email 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
Mary Lou	None	Dickerson

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

State representative 36th District, Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? X Yes No

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

for almost 40 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

for almost 40 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **Democratic Party**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Mary Lou Dickerson

Address: 719 North 68th Street

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA. 98103

Campaign Phone: 206.782.6129

Campaign Fax: none

Campaign E-mail: maryloudickerson@comcast.net

Campaign Website: none

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)
State representative	Elective	11/94 to present	Chair of the Human Services Committee
Member of the Washington State Family Policy Council	Appointive	1997 to present	Board member
Member of the Board of EITIP (The Birth to Three Program	Appointive	several years	Board member

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

Office Title	Year of Run

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 for re-election as state representative because I have a passion for improving the lives of children and families in this state. I am an effective voice for their needs and would like to continue the work that I have begun on their behalf. As chair of the Human Services Committee I am well positioned to do so. My appointment to the National Conference of State Legislators delegation on Helping Working Families also well positions me for this goal. In the last four years I have passed scores of legislation aimed at improving the lives of children and families. I took the lead in passing the Toxic Toys Bill (also known as the Children's Safe Products Act), the Children's Mental Health Bill (HB1088), legislation to improve emergency preparedness, family leave, help foster youth continue on to higher education, as well as legislation to protect vulnerable children caught in the cycle of chronic child neglect.

For the last three years I have also worked hard on environmental legislation and see this as a natural extension of my work on behalf of children and families. I took the lead last year in passing the House of Representative's version of the climate change legislation, called Clean Air Clean Fuels. This year I worked closely with the Washington State Toxics Coalition to pass the Toxic Toys Bill. I want to continue my work in the environmental arena and plan to continue to work on climate change legislation as well as improvements to the Toxic Toys Bill.

I also have convened a stakeholder group of over 70 organizations and state leaders who want to take the next steps in developing a Comprehensive Children's Mental Health System in Washington. This will be the next step in meeting the goals outlined in HB 1088. Related to good mental health is the development of solid social and emotional skills in our K-12 system. I am working to convince my colleagues that social emotional learning should be considered a part of basic education. Again I have enlisted the help of scores of stakeholders in beginning this conversation with the education community.

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

I am a person who enjoys involvement and leadership. Delving into issues, learning about all sides, encouraging win-win solutions, are all activities that I love. This is why you will see a host of activities on my attached resume. I founded Treehouse and the Ballard Family Center. As a Board member of Reinvesting in Youth I took the lead in legislation that establishes a state system of reinvesting in local programs that provide effective prevention and early intervention to youth in the Juvenile Justice system. I am a board member of First Place and see it as a natural extension of my role as chair of Human Services.

I am an effective legislator who believes in the power of hard work. I took the lead on scores of successful bills in the last four years. I believe in treating my colleagues from both parties with respect, and in the power of teamwork. These are the keys to my success.

My colleagues have learned that I keep my promises and that I am reliable and honest. I'm also very tenacious. I continue to work on passage of legislation, often for several years, as long as I believe that it is important and necessary. My child neglect bill, known as the "Justice and Raiden Act" is an example of this.

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.

Last year I passed the Children's Mental Health Bill, a complex piece of legislation that: establishes goals for the development of a comprehensive children's mental health system by 2012, provision of evidence based training to be provided to practitioners who treat children, consultation for primary care physicians on treatment of mentally ill children, expansion of the pool of qualified practitioners, increasing the number of outpatient visits for which the state will pay, and development of several wrap-around pilots in the state. I was successful the first year because I developed a stakeholder group of over 50 organizations which took on the hard work of lobbying for the legislation in a time of tight resources. I involved the group in the many drafts of the bill, was willing to compromise, and kept the stakeholders informed at every critical juncture.

Three years ago, after several years of trying to change our state's outmoded child neglect laws, I was successful in passing the "Justice and Raiden Act" which allows the state to better protect children who are victims of chronic child neglect. I negotiated with a large group of stakeholders, and with state officials in order to get the final language in the bill. I worked with Democrats and Republicans to craft the final legislation and even convinced a conservative Republican senator to allow me to add the legislation to her bill which had a convenient title. I wrote opinion pieces for the press and worked with editorial boards to put pressure on my colleagues to finally pass the bill.

Earlier in my career in the Legislature I was able to establish, and continue to the present, funding in tight budget times, for drug affected babies and their mothers. I worked closely with members from both parties and with stakeholders and DSHS to craft and pass the legislation. The program has a comprehensive evaluation component and has shown significant results and cost effectiveness. It is these results that have saved the program

even while others were being cut due to budget deficits.

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.

These activities are listed on the resume which I have attached. In addition to the employment section, you will see a section entitled, "Outstanding Accomplishments" as well as one entitled "Additional Responsibilities". Please refer to these sections for the answer.

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

Legislators are problem solvers who assess need in the state, or district, develop proposed solutions to answer the need, and persuade their colleagues and stakeholders that the solutions are worth supporting. Each of these roles is significant because, without them, it would be impossible to pass good legislation. In addition, legislators must be responsible for difficult decisions on budget. They must make sure that the budget represents the values important to Washington residents. They also must balance conflicting priorities.

In addition to initiating and passing legislation, legislators must also work as mediators and problem solvers in their districts on non-legislative issues. An example of this role is that two years ago I spent a great deal of time working on Viaduct related issues. I played a key role in assuring that an expert, independent panel would review the top two Viaduct options. I met with the expert panel's chair to discuss important questions that should be raised in considering the feasibility of the options.

Legislators also provide constituent services and educate the voters on important issues in their communities. This is important if we are to have an educated and informed public.

**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.*

M.S.W., Univ. of Hawaii, 1973, Bachelor's degree in Journalism, Univ. of Oregon, 1968, also post grad. work in Public Admin.

**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 first Bd. President of Treehouse. Founder of the Ballard Family Ctr. Bd. Member of First Place. Bd. Member of Reinvesting in Youth. Bd. Member of the Women's History Consortium. Bd. Member of the state's Birth to Three Program. Leadership Tomorrow class of '87. Bd. Member of the Phinney Neighborhood Association.