



The Municipal League of King County  
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## 2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Saul Ettlin, **Director**

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

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

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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
Ross		Hunter

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

**State Representative, 48th Legislative District, Position #1**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**12 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**25 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      **Friends of Ross Hunter**

Address:      **PO Box 4204**

City/State/Zip:      **Bellevue, WA 98009-4204**

Campaign Phone:      **425 637-8149**

Campaign Fax:      **425 671-0615**

Campaign E-mail:      **ross@rosshunter.net**

Campaign Website:      **www.rosshunter.net**

#### 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	2003-present	Finance Committee Chair, past JLARC chair

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 because I know I can continue to make a difference for our schools and our community. I believe that we can build a new coalition of moderate legislators from both parties to make substantial changes to the way we do business as a state. (This gets harder as there are fewer Republicans in the central Puget Sound, but remains critical.) I have a handful of core beliefs about the role of government here in Washington. We must:**

**Adequately invest in our education system, from early learning through K12 and higher education. Our children must be prepared to compete in the new economy, and our economy must have educated workers to help attract the kind of businesses we want as a state. This year we have an opportunity to either succeed spectacularly with WA Learns, or fail equally spectacularly. It is important that we do one or the other, and not try incremental solutions.**

**Expand our transportation system so that it catches up with the population growth we have experienced over the last few decades. We have made progress here in the last 6 years, but the failure of proposition 1 leaves a big hole we must resolve. Part of this resolution is changing the governance model to be regional instead of balkanized.**

**Create a business climate that makes it reasonable for companies to locate and expand here.**

**Budget for the long-term, making prudent decisions about both revenue and expenses. I am fighting to increase the transparency and accountability of how we both raise revenue and spend it. I was proud to be the prime sponsor of the Rainy Day Fund bill in the House.**

**In short, I am a fiscally conservative Democrat who is generally thoughtful.**

**I'm a moderate.**

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

**I'm smart, assertive, goal-oriented, and hardworking. I provide leadership. I also am old enough to have developed the ability to listen to other people and figure out their needs and desires.**

**The legislature deals with a wide variety of issues, most of which are very complicated. It is hard to develop the expertise to understand the implications of proposed changes. I am a quick learner, and have developed a relatively deep understanding of the budget and revenue system for the state more quickly than most other members.**

**To make a difference in the legislature you have to be willing to make decisions and push an agenda. Balancing the difference between assertive and aggressive is important, and I try very hard to come down on the assertive side. Without the willingness to make change and take risks nothing happens.**

**I have a deep interest in making sure the state lives up to its constitutional requirement to amply provide for the education of all students, and am willing to push forward to make this happen. I am able to keep this goal foremost in my mind, and adapt all my energies in this direction, with minimal distractions.**

**I work hard. I read countless documents. I attend endless meetings. I listen to people for hours. I knock on thousands of doors. I answer constituent correspondence in the middle of the night.**

**I am able to provide leadership. I can bring groups of people together to accomplish things they could not do individually. This requires listening to their goals and desires and shaping an agenda that works for everyone. For example, this year I am driving the Basic Education Funding Task Force to produce a product that will be sufficiently bold so as to drive change state-wide, bringing together Democrats and Republicans in my efforts.**

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.

**The three accomplishments I'd like to address here come from different aspects of my life - public, charitable, and business.**

**In my second term in the legislature I was the driving force behind the legislature's response to the impending WASL graduation requirement. There was pressure to leave the requirement alone, and equally strong pressure to eliminate it. I felt this would be damaging to children, so I built a group of legislators of both parties who thought we could have a reasonable plan that met most concerns. We did this, including negotiations with the Senate and the Republicans in the House. The bill eventually passed with almost 90 votes in the House. I was also able to shape the budget item that implemented the remediation program so that it worked well for the children who needed extra help, and not just for the adults in the system.**

**I took over a Cub Scout pack that was largely a collection of individual dens with no overall goals or activities. We had painful Pack meetings, no outdoor program, and mediocre membership. In the two years I was Cubmaster we doubled the number of scouts that went camping every year and doubled the number of days of camping. We increased the number of boys that graduated to Boy Scouts, improved our pack meetings and ceremonies, and grew the membership from 45-50 to almost 100 boys. We had to split the pack in half to keep it manageable. I am most proud that the leadership team started to work more closely together, and we grew a new generation of leaders to take over the Pack when I moved on.**

**I was asked to take over a product team at Microsoft that had almost none of the original members - only 3 people, including a temporary hire - and ship a major upgrade of the product within a year. I was able to hire a great team, build a solid organization, and ship the product. This required learning an entire new product category - I had never been a "server" person at Microsoft, and had little technical knowledge of the product area, nor had I worked with the set of customers. We did not lose any customers during the transition.**

**All these accomplishments have a common theme - I was able to build a group of people into a team and lead them to accomplish a goal that I set. This required listening, leadership, and drive.**

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.

**1997-2002 Cub Scout Pack 435 - Den Leader, Cubmaster. I substantially improved a Cub Scout pack over the 5 years I was involved in it, and handed off leadership to the next generation of leaders.**

**1999-2002 Cascade District Boy Scouts of America. I was Vice-Chair of the district council for the scouts while my son was involved in Cub scouting. I helped develop several activities including a Bike Rodeo and a Scout Expo at Bellevue Square Mall.**

**2000-2008 Bellevue Schools Foundation Trustee. I helped with program design and fundraising for "Project Discovery," the Bellevue Schools Foundation effort to improve science education in Elementary and Middle Schools in Bellevue. As a trustee I help set the strategic direction for the foundation and with fundraising. I serve on the strategic priorities and marketing committees.**

**2002, 2006 and 2008 Steering Committee, Bellevue Quality Schools. I worked with the committee that managed the election campaign for the Bellevue School District levies in both 2002 and 2006. In 2006 I managed the messages for the campaign in addition to managing the speaker bureau, during the legislative session. We passed with over 75% of the vote. In 2008 I largely provided strategic direction for a half-billion dollar bond issue, the largest in the state to pass.**

**2004-Now Hopelink board of directors. I have been asked to serve as a board member for the Eastside's largest human services organization. My role as a governmental representative on the board is to provide information about state budget process, and to learn how human services can be delivered effectively. I find this invaluable in my role on the Appropriations committee.**

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

**The Legislature creates laws for the state, sets the biennial budget, and oversees the executive branch's implementation of the laws and budget. Individual legislators also serve a crucial role in lubricating the system by helping individual constituents navigate the system.**

**The longest-lasting impact is creating new laws or modifying old ones. Making major changes requires extensive knowledge of the impact your decision is likely to have, plus the ability to think about possible alternatives. It is humbling to think about the long-term impact you can have, and it causes me to be very thoughtful about what I do. The longer I am in the Legislature the more concerned about this I become.**

**The most important duty I have for an individual constituent is the kind of help I and my office provide unblocking needed services or permits, or just making something that should happen actually do so.**

**The most ephemeral, but the most important, is our ability to change the pattern of thought of the electorate. We can use the "bully pulpit" to cause major changes in how people think about government, and this can change what is possible. Doing this on education funding in the next 2 years is the task I am taking on - you will see a lot of me in the press.**

**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.*

**BS Computer Science - Yale University - 1983**

**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.

**I am running for re-election because I know I can continue to make a difference for our schools and our community. Over the past 6 years we have successfully built a bi-partisan coalition of moderate legislators representing the Eastside and other parts of the state. This is critical to effective governance of Washington. We must:**

**Adequately invest in our education system.**

**Rebuild our transportation system.**

**Improve our business climate.**

**Budget for the long-term, making prudent decisions about both revenue and expenses. I am proud to have been the prime sponsor in the house of the constitutionally-protected "rainy day fund," setting aside money in good times for when we will need it most.**

**In short, I am a fiscally conservative Democrat who is generally thoughtful.**

**I'm a moderate.**