



The Municipal League of King County
810 Third Avenue, Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 264-1070 • cec@munileague.org

2008 Board of Trustees

Bradley Meacham, **Chair**
Microsoft
Robert Klein, **Vice-Chair**
Short Crossman & Burgess PLLC
Norma Jean Hanson, **Secretary**
Norma Jean Hanson Paralegal Services
Kristin Peterson, **Treasurer**
Washington State Hospital Association

Jill D. Bowman, *Stoel Rives LLP*
Steve Call, *Cascade Water Alliance*
Bruce Carter, *Judge Pro Tem, Seattle Municipal Court*
Sandra Driscoll, *City Attorney (ret)*
Kathy Elias, *Prospect Delta*
Mary Gates, *consultant*
Albert Israel, *Mass Mutual Financial Group*
Chris Johnson, *Office of the Attorney General*
Cynara Lilly, *Online Video Service*
Gabe Meyer, *World Affairs Council*
Ramsey Ramerman, *Foster Pepper*
R. Todd Slind, *CH2MHill*
Lucy Steers, *consultant*
Wes Uhlman, *Wes Uhlman & Associates*
Jason Van Nort, *Puget Sound Energy*
Nick S. Verwolf, *Davis Wright Tremaine*
Jen Watkins
Rodney G. Wendt
Nick Williamson, *Encrypted Key Technologies*
Kendee Yamaguchi

Staff

Saul Ettlin, **Director**

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
Christopher		Hurst

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

State Representative, 31st Legislative District, Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

Life

5. How long have you resided in King County?

31st LD & area - Life

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Christopher Hurst
62504 Indian Summer Way E

Address: Enumclaw, WA 98022

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: (360) 663-2608

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: chris@christopherhurst.org, ali@christopherhurst.org

Campaign Website: www.christopherhurst.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)
State Representative – 31 st LD, Pos. 2	Elected	2007-2009	Vice Chair, Public Safety Emergency Preparedness
State Representative – 31 st LD, Pos. 2	Elected	2001-2003	Vice Chair, Judiciary; Chair, Community Security Committee
State Representative – 31 st LD, Pos. 2	Elected	1999-2001	Vice Chair, Judiciary Committee

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

Office Title	Year of Run
State Representative – 31 st LD, Pos. 2	1996

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?

-
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.)

This is the fifth time that I have answered this question for the Municipal League as part of this process. Although I don't have the previous questionnaires in front of me, I know that the answer will be quite different than the first one I answered in 1996.

Many years ago, my interest and focus in serving in elected office as a member of the House of Representatives was, in my estimation, a logical extension of a lifetime career in public service as a police detective. Although that is still a good foundational description of what moves me as an individual, I now have a significant amount of experience, both good and bad, that has tempered both my expectations and approach to public service with a certain degree of reality. I suspect that anyone entering the field of elective politics in our system of self government, with very few exceptions, brings a certain degree of naivety with them. Ultimately, each person will become either cynical and leave the process, become ineffective or learn and grow from their experiences and become leaders in a system where virtually nothing is really black and white. In fact, the ability to compromise and work with others with extraordinarily passionate and strong-held beliefs as seen by that individual, is an asset, as opposed to a personal compromise.

What I have learned, now serving my third term in the House, is that a very small number of individuals, regardless of party, are able to be effective in this endeavor, as well as the have the attendant introspection necessary to complete the process in a positive and constructive way and truly be leaders. It is in the learning, and eventual understanding of this process, that I believe a candidate for elective office brings not only the knowledge base on issues, but far more importantly, the human dynamic, which is the necessary catalyst to ultimately become a successful leader and Representative. Furthermore, I believe that the citizens at large, whom I represent, do not vote for me simply because of my position on issues but rather because I will look inside myself and take seriously each matter before me and exercise the judgment, with due care and caution, that they themselves would do were they in my position. It's my understanding of these above principles, combined with my personal sense of responsibility to the world in which I live, and the satisfaction that I have found in serving others, that leads me to seek a fourth term in the State House of Representatives.

On a more personal level, I retired from police work after 25 years and am now able to dedicate all of my time, not only during the Legislative Session but also during the interim, to issues, problems and public policy matters faced by people living in my District and the State of Washington. After first being elected to the State House in 1998, and serving for four years, I voluntarily left the Legislature when my daughter went into high school. As promised, when she turned 18, four years later, I ran again for my old seat in 2006, and for the second time in my political career, defeated an incumbent for the same seat. Those four years away from politics clearly served my family well, but also gave me an opportunity to reflect upon what I had done in politics and how I might do things differently upon my return. During those years, my family and I struggled with the difficulties of having my son deployed as a combat infantry soldier in Iraq and then two additional tours of duty in Afghanistan. Upon returning to elective office as my full-time job after the election in 2006, my resolve and dedication to alter the events and speak publicly on important policy matters has only become stronger. Back in the Legislature, I already had an acute understanding of the duties and challenges facing me but, more importantly, was able to approach this task with a very different perspective and a new sense of personal discipline and dedication.

Personally, I believe I've done a good job, but in all truthfulness, would have to defer to others for a less biased analysis.

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

In 2006, my wife and I knocked on the doors of more than 15,000 homes in the 31st District. Considering the rural character of much of our District, it was no easy task. Therefore, I would say that this is an example of tenacity and dedication to a difficult project. Unseating an incumbent is challenging but this is the second time that I have done so. In 1998, I defeated Les Thomas and in that year, my wife, a friend of mine and I signed up 5,200 new voters. The willingness to engage in a complex and difficult process in a district like this is an undertaking requiring either a great level of tenacity or, in the alternative, foolishness. In my estimation, it is not enough to simply step forward but rather to step forward with a full understanding of what one is getting themselves into as well as the commitment to see it done right. Clearly, there is no shame in losing and, in fact, I probably learned more from the campaign that I lost in 1996, than in the three subsequent races that I won. However, stepping forward without the proper level of commitment and dedication and in such an important task is not only imprudent, but unacceptable. The importance and responsibility of elective office in our form of government can not be understated and, therefore, requires a high level of commitment and a willingness to put forth an extraordinary personal effort in both campaigning and serving.

Although this didn't necessarily come easy for me, I believe I have become a very good negotiator and listener. Speaker Chopp has assigned me more and more tasks and I believe that if you spoke to my colleagues in the House of Representatives, most would say that I have not only learned a great deal, but changed much as an individual. Indeed, I believe that the citizens in my District, who tend to almost entirely ignore political party labels and vote for persons of either party, would, for the most part, say that they feel well served and well

represented. Even those who would vote against me would probably acknowledge a high level of passion and also a willingness to listen and engage with those of the most diverse views and, more specifically, views that are at most in conflict with my own. I am of the belief that it is through the process of a conflict of ideas or ideals, during the civil process of a healthy debate, that the free flow of ideas eventually becomes merged into good public policy. I'm proud to be a democrat and represent these ideals of my party. But I believe that my District, above anything else, values my willingness to first view each issue in a non-partisan light before choosing a course of action or position on a particular vote.

Finally, and this may seem a bit odd, I came back to Olympia with a new set of guiding principles in how I think elected officials should conduct business on behalf of their citizens. Although there are quite a number of elements to this personal process, preeminent among them was my desire to permanently change the relationship between elected officials and lobbyists, or what political insiders call the "Third House." In keeping with this, I have a no-gifts policy and will not take so much as a cup of coffee from a lobbyist, and I have introduced legislation to ban gifts for all elected officials. Legislators in Olympia take more than half a million dollars per year in gifts from contract lobbyists. I believe that if we do not make fundamental and substantive changes in the relationship between elected officials and professional lobbyists, we as a state and nation will lose the heart and confidence of the American people.

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. Throughout my 25-year career in law enforcement, I had an opportunity to specialize in investigations. At the end of my career, I was the Commander of a 15-city Homicide and Violent Crimes Task Force. It took almost two years to bring together this coalition of cities throughout King County and develop the theoretical, operational and tactical elements necessary to turn this idea into a functional reality. After being assigned this task and ultimately its successful completion, the chiefs of the 15 cities made me the Commander of the unit, in which capacity I oversaw not only the operations of the task force as it related to very serious crimes, but also the supervision of the 14 detectives in the unit. The idea was to pool the resources of many cities to have a high level of government efficiency and also a team which had technical and tactical ability in responding to major crimes that was second-to-none. The creation of this project and, ultimately, having the opportunity to serve as the leader at the end of my career, was a privilege and an accomplishment of which I am very proud.
 2. There are many challenges and successes of which I am very proud in my political career but one, in particular, is very near and dear to my heart. In the 1998 campaign, my wife, a friend and I signed up 5,200 new voters in the 31st Legislative District. This was not only a turning point in the campaign but, equally important, it was a turning point in the lives of the people we registered to vote. These individuals became enfranchised in the process of participating in their own representative government. This was accomplished in just over nine months and was no easy task, as it was done one person and one door at a time. I find great satisfaction in sharing my interest in our form of self government with others. I also look to the possibility of having them share that passion in place of apathy, cynicism or a lack of understanding on how to participate.
 3. During the 2007 Legislative Session, the Washington State Legislature enacted a Senate bill creating a task force to study the increasing problem and impacts

of gang violence throughout the state. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Gregoire and Speaker Chopp appointed me to be a member of this work group. I was elected Co-Chairman of the committee and presided over this process throughout the summer and fall of 2007, during which time our work group had meetings and public hearings in Yakima, Bellingham, Spokane, Vancouver, Tacoma and Seattle. We produced a report and legislative recommendations which were eventually turned into the omnibus gang bill, of which I was the prime sponsor, in January 2008. I've attached a copy of the report from this work group, which eventually became the bill that I sponsored that was passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Gregoire in 2008, as the first step of a process that will be further implemented in 2009. To be concise, we decided that the only logical approach to dealing with criminal street gangs was an equal combination of the principles of prevention, intervention and suppression as a single, holistic approach, as opposed to the failed policies of the past that relied entirely on law enforcement. I'm very proud of the results that we attained through this year's work and it was my privilege to serve as a leader in this effort.

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.

I've been married to my wife, April, for 29 years and raised two children with her. I can't imagine any undertaking in life requiring more work and communication for such an endeavor to be successful. As to my role in the activity and the year(s) in which I was involved, I would submit that this is an ongoing process.

I have served as a member of the Washington State House of Representatives for three terms and am currently in a campaign seeking election to my fourth. I've been involved in elections in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006 and 2008.

Less than two years ago, I retired after completing more than 25 years as a commissioned police officer in Washington State, during which time I had an opportunity to learn many lessons about life, community, the suffering of victims, the social costs of poorly educated people and an opportunity to understand the difference between justice and order.

From 1999 to 2003, I served as a member of the Washington State Sentencing Guidelines, where we worked on and submitted to the Legislature most of the criminal sentencing proposals that were enacted into law in recent years.

My family and I are members of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Enumclaw. My family was involved in 4H when my children were younger. I'm a member of the Sierra Club as well as the National Association of Flight Instructors. Additionally, in recent years, I have assisted an organization, called Doctors Without Borders, with fundraising and will expand upon this duty in the future.

Prior to entering police work, when I was a young man, I worked in the woods as a logger and, eventually, started, owned and operated my own company with 10 employees. This experience, of being a small business owner, has been very important to me throughout my life and in my current job as a Legislator. My wife, April, is currently the owner of a small

business in Enumclaw, where she grooms cats and dogs, called April's Pet Salon. I have learned that small businesses are the backbone of local communities.

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

First, and foremost, is constituent work. People don't care all that much about Olympia and Washington DC. Life occurs in houses, families and communities where the people actually live. More than anything in American democracy, people want to be heard. I give everyone my home phone number and address. I have always felt that, at the very least, citizens must be able to call and talk to their representatives and voice their ideas and concerns. Yes, you do get calls in the middle of the night sometimes, and some are profane; however, that is not that common and if you really listen to people, they begin to feel well served. That is the heart of representative government. I go out and meet people at their homes. I like to see how each community lives. I like to see local problems first-hand. Generally speaking, people vote for politicians because they have met them, trust their judgment and feel they can get in touch with them if they want and need to. Not because of partisan issues. A member of the State House of Representatives is nothing more than an extension of the hopes, dreams, wishes and complaints of the citizens they serve. Therein lays the foundation of effective representation and the development of sound policy for constituents on matters before the Legislature.

Next would be attendance to committee meetings and functions to learn the details of as many issues as possible, in order to make the best possible judgments on votes before the Legislature. The development of relationships with groups, citizens at large, experts and other elected officials is very important in this process. You cannot, in the end, support or oppose an issue until you understand the issue from both sides. There is very little black and white, and much gray. The older I get, the more I understand this. We govern this country by consensus. Every voice matters. And as much as we may disagree with them, we must support the rights of others to voice their views, too. I do not like the red state/blue state mentality. Divisive politics have been harmful in the last 10 years and it is time to move away from that attitude.

Voting ones conscience. We vote electronically in the House of Representatives from our

desk on the floor of the House, and there is only a red button and a green one, not a “maybe” button. Sometimes, elected officials probably wish there was one, but an elected official must be willing to stand and be counted. I try to never miss a vote and have never dodged one. In the face of two bad options, one must pick the best one by looking inside ones self and not be concerned about the political consequences.

Not taking ones self too seriously. Julia Patterson, upon my first election, gave me the best advice anyone ever has. She told me that in Olympia, every day, people would tell you that you are a “10.” And after a while, some people begin to believe it and lose their way. She then told me that I would never be anything more that I was today, and that good legislators keep their perspective by remembering this. She was right. I tried to get people and staff to call me Chris instead of “Representative Hurst.” It seems small, but it was important to me. To remember that I was simply the instrument of policy and not anything more, in and of myself. When I left the Legislature for my family four years ago, it was also a test of my commitment to this belief – to make sure that it had not become too important to me personally. I like the work, but do not have to have the position.

Finally, and very importantly, spending time in quiet reflection and self assessment. I do this by hiking in the mountains. A person can get too wrapped up in things and again, lose perspective. I find the peace of the mountains restores my soul, balance and perspective. Plus the exercise makes me more effective.

**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.*

Graduated from Kent Meridian High School in 1973, attended the Washington State Basic Law Enforcement Academy in 1981, earned an AA Degree in Aviation from Green River Community College in 1988 and became an FAA certified Airline Transport Pilot and Flight & Ground Instructor.

**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.