



The Municipal League of King County  
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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  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
Phyllis	A.	Huster

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

**5<sup>th</sup> District State Senate, Position 1**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**1.5 Years in district**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**Almost 2 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Phyllis For Senate  
7829 Elderberry Ave. SE

Address: Snoqualmie, WA 98065

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Phone: 425.736.6644

Campaign Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail: [Phyllis@phyllisforsenate.com](mailto:Phyllis@phyllisforsenate.com)

Campaign Website: Phyllisforsenate.com

#### 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)
Precinct Committee Officer – Snoqualmie 3409 Precinct	Elective	May 2008 to Current	Precinct Captain
Caucus Chair – February Democratic Caucus Snoqualmie 3409	Elective	May 2008 to Current	Caucus 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.)

**Like most Americans, I feel very ignored by current legislators at the federal level and at the state level on all issues. As a moderate democrat I feel unrepresented by both parties. From the economy to the environment to education/transportation and healthcare it's clear that the system of government is not longer listening to citizens. I want to run as a listening legislator who can make a real difference to the voters of the 5th. I feel qualified to fix the very simple local problems here in the 5<sup>th</sup> district such as unnecessary traffic congestion, unfunded schools, rampant urban density growth without careful infrastructure planning, inadequate healthcare access and skyrocketing recessionary economic factors and local job loss that threatens my long term financial portfolio. I'm a progressive to moderate democrat who feels like I have to take government into my hands to improve the lives of myself and my neighbors. I believe it is an honor and privilege to serve my fellow neighbors and the residents of WA state. I would be humbled and thrilled to focus not on my own needs but the needs of others as a state Senator. I am also running because I know I can win. Here are 5 reasons why this 5<sup>th</sup> district is winnable by a democrat and specifically, by me.**

**#1 I have gotten a national attention and support from Stonewall democrats to support my race because they feel an LGBT Senator represents a potential 60% supermajority is strategic.**

**#2 This is a banner year for democrats because of the Presidential race, because Obama has had a strong get out the vote field campaign and because the caucuses saw huge democratic turnout.**

**#3 The Governor and Darcy burner's races will help my race in awareness and field activity in my district.**

**#4 The bulk of my fundraising dollars have come from small in-district local democratic donors rather than PACs or Lobbyists. This means I am truly funded by and represented by the people of the 5<sup>th</sup> district.**

**#5 I am hoping to make the 5<sup>th</sup> district a more comfortable economic place to retire.**

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

**I'm a Libra, with a tendency to want all parties to be happy, so I am a great diplomat and good at getting adversarial parties to cooperate for a common cause. When Jonny Viebrock (democratic candidate for Jay Rodne's House Seate) and David Spring (democratic candidate for Glenn Anderson's House seat) both wanted to run for the same house seat, I had them over to my house and helped them understand it was better for them to take on Glenn Anderson and Jay Rodne as separate seats and this helped the Democratic party look organized and focused with a full slate of democrat challengers this year. I feel I'm great with cutting thru the bureaucracy to get large financial organizations to execute and perform with minimal budgets and maximum results. By the time I was 33, I was sitting on the board of a fortune 500 company so I learned to look at things strategically and began saving large companies millions in wasted budget or bad organizational processes or systems. As a Procurement Manager at Microsoft, I found million dollar telecom circuits they were paying for that were not being used/ I also successfully removed millions off the bottom line by purchasing and negotiating the lowest price for products using a 'category spend' mentality of buying all the circuits once and from a top few set of vendors. I believe these category spend and procurement strengths can help the state government maximize it's financial muscle and achieve economies of scale and purchasing power to drive costs and cost of goods out of the budget and drive efficiency and organization to how budgets are managed. I am also a great communicator. I'm good at taking complex areas and communicating them clearly and simply to people to drive a vision that drives a mass group to change in a positive direction. I drove the American Idol wireless voting technology which shifted the use of US Cellphone texting from 20% penetration and use to 80% use within a year. I'm also ruthless about representing the people. I spent 4 years collecting and sharing Election inaccuracy data with a group who are suing the state of Georgia for election integrity and I'm tenacious about preserving the underpinnings of our democracy such as honest/auditable elections. I will not back down from the tough fights to put government back in the hands of the citizens. Website for lawsuit is [www.voterga.org](http://www.voterga.org)**

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 I ran a winning campaign for an open Lesbian state house candidate, Karla Drenner from the 86<sup>th</sup> district in Georgia in an 80% African American and lower income district. We won by 62% and it taught me that African Americans cannot be pigeon holed to consistently vote against GLBT candidates. Instead I found most voters tend to vote the personality of the candidate and Karla's opponent was arrogant and a bad listener of the citizens. The campaign also taught me the power of the phrase "all government is local." Karla was beloved by her district because she would drop everything to deliver food to the underprivileged or give her time helping hand out fans to seniors in the heat of summer. Most of my political aspirations come from seeing the tangible improvements Karla made in her constituent's everyday lives. How this applies to my role in office is never forgetting the people in my district who need the most help and making these people a higher priority than the lobbyists who sometimes chew up senator's schedules.**

**#2 I raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Howard Dean during his presidential race and feel I personally impacted his rise to the head of the DNC, thru house parties and active campaigning. We in Georgia raised early money within the Gay community and threw house parties and I met Howard Dean when he had only \$50K and not a chance of winning the presidential nomination. The Georgiafordean.com organization also built a grassroots progressive base of 16,000 supporters and I learned that activating friends and neighbors in politics was as rewarding as it was productive. On that campaign my most proud accomplishment was offering a homeless Dean supporter, Joe Vecchio a place to live as he and his wife were thrown out of their apartment. What was a humanitarian cause for me became a lifelong friendship and I continue to be a steward and family friend of Joe's 3 boys in Georgia. The details on this are found here:**

**[http://atlanta.creativeloafing.com/gyrobase/a\\_sadly\\_average\\_joe/Content?oid=13044](http://atlanta.creativeloafing.com/gyrobase/a_sadly_average_joe/Content?oid=13044)**

**#3 Choosing to participate as a Cooperative student as a way to pay my way through Georgia Tech (college) and paying my first year of college off of \$1.00 per hour babysitting money which amounted to a whole lot of babysitting. Faced with a hard obstacle of college which was expensive, I found a creative funding solution that allowed me to get thru 5 years of Georgia tech without student loans or the kind of debt that is so debilitating to our current day college students. This required making good grades while working hard every other quarter and saving money for the following quarter. It took wisdom and entrepreneurial talent to get thru college without debt and I started my first consulting company by the time I was 18 years old writing software for police departments and county offices. I was willing to work crazy hours and take on adult like responsibility for IT functions within several Atlanta and Dekalb based businesses at a very early age of 18-25. I began programming computers when I was 10 years old and had my first patentable ideas by the time I was 24. I am an out of the box thinker and faced with insurmountable financial obstacles I am creative and hardworking which I feel is what the Senate in this state most requires at the moment.**

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.

#### **EMPLOYMENT:**

As a 20 year telecommunication expert and published author, I performed strategic executive consulting on key market choices such as wireless and DSL launches and traveled all over the world meeting with VP's and CEOs of large companies. As a Microsoft procurement manager, I saved millions of dollars by cutting out waste, negotiating smart contracts, categorizing spend in a single category and advising on recycling programs which adds revenues to the bottom line. I feel this operational effectiveness, which is one of my strengths, prepares me well to sit in a Senate seat that will be updating the state's transportation, education, healthcare and other budgets & functions. While I feel government and business have different philosophical values, business is profit driven and government is policy driven. I feel the tactical operations and execution of government can be quite similar to business and my operations skills at Sr. Manager layers at T-Mobile, AT&T managing a \$500M + budget and T-Mobile prepare me well to manage state budgets.

#### **FAMILY:**

I was born in a lower income family of 8 kids with a mom and dad that grew up on farms. This simple rural Illinois upbringing taught me 3 things. Work hard, get a good education and take care of your family, friends and neighbors. I realize the power of active listening as I helped family members sort out emotional changes in their lives. When my father died in the early 90's, my family was financially devastated by dad's lack of planning. At a time when my family wanted to sell mom's house and get my 60+ year old mom a job, I showed leadership and wisdom of setting up a family fund (supported by small monthly payments by each of the 8 kids) that was used to both save mom's house and pay for her bills that were not covered by social security or medicare. This smart move has resulted in all 8 of us having an interest in an appreciating asset which benefits us all one day. To this day, the wisdom of that juncture in our lives was that we all now see mom is happy in the home she raised us in, and she is healthy and financially covered as she enters her elder years. This was a leadership I showed at age 28 to say taking care of mom was more important, and by breaking down the task, we all could help without being negatively impacted. To this day, my own mom forms much of my policies on elder care. I don't feel we are doing enough for the honored citizens who have helped create the Washington state we all now enjoy. I also think we cannot let the wisdom generation suffer or the youth generation be given the same opportunities as our elders.

#### **COMMUNITY**

This value of supporting my neighbors was clear when I used to volunteer at Georgia Tech to help vision impaired individuals. I would help GTRI Georgia Tech research Institute with providing speech synthesizers to blind citizens so that they could get jobs and participate in the workforce as normal people. I also testified before Ga. State congress on the power of technology to reduce and normalize the disabilities of the vision impaired community. I still believe strongly we can use a combination of our technology and smart teaching practices to help disabled students learn at the same rate as regular students.

#### **PUBLIC LIFE:**

I had a key moment at the February caucuses in Snoqualmie where I was elected to run the caucus, and the instructions asked for people to make contributions to the democratic party to continue to organize events that allow citizens to choose their elected officials. At first it was hard to consider asking my neighbors for money but then when I realized the cause, it felt easier and after asking and pointing out the good cause to which this money would go, I found folks wrote 8 or 9 checks in the room of 60 people, so it was touching to see the power of asking and receiving funds in a political event. As a candidate, I still have a lot to learn

about fundraising, but that day taught me a lot about coming from the right intention when you ask for money for your campaign. While I fully support washclean, and state funded campaigns to end the 'who's the richest regardless of the evil donors fundraising contest as determining the winners', I still feel as of now, it was a valuable lesson to me as I began my own campaign. Oddly, that same money I was collected went to the 5<sup>th</sup> district democrats and that very same money came back to me as the local 5<sup>th</sup> district democrats have by and large been the biggest donors in my campaign. What that tells me is the state governments have lost their leadership and the local groups are by their very grassroots nature taking back their government by fielding candidates who represent their wishes.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD:**

I attend the Snoqualmie United Methodist Church, oddly enough as the side effect of the Mt. Si Day of Silence protests that were happening. As an open Lesbian running for the state senate, I viewed the agitation of Ken Hutcherson in my neighborhood school district as a serious violation of the school board's charter to make sure students feel safe and honored even if the kids are members of the GLBT community. It was both a judgment error and a violation of the school charter to allow such a divisive and historically bigoted man speak to the students that day. I went to the protests on the day of silence only to witness children behaving with the maturity and honor of adults and saw the Teachers such as Kit McCormack and Eric Goldhammer heroically fight for the student's right to protect tolerance as a school wide ethic. On that day, I met a pastor Kathy from the Snoqualmie United Methodist Church and when she admitted being open to the LGBT community worshipping at her church, I realized a lifetime of staying away from churches because they did not accept me for who I am could be changed by a simple attendance at this church. I found myself crying with a feeling of great release in the first few sermons and now feel the church and its members have changed my concept of community service as we participate in CROP walk and other forms of raising money for foodbanks and services as far away as Africa.

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

**Duties:** I will list the most important duties and why below:

#### **LISTENING TO VOTERS:**

Unlike Nancy Pelosi, I'm ruthless about listening to the voters. A quote on every one of my flyers is this: "I believe governing is a privilege and that legislators should responsive to the concerns of all people, and not just those with the loudest voices and the biggest lobbyist checks. Far too often incumbents get so mired in the politics of Olympia that they forget to represent their district." I have felt unrepresented by Cheryl Pflug who thinks telephone only town hall forums and missing 120 votes in the last biennium is acceptable behaviour for a Senator. It is not acceptable to me and that's why I'm running against her. Listening to the voters often yields simpler solutions and focuses me on my work in Olympia in a way that often even our best democrats seem to forget. Why? If you don't listen to the voters, you don't have a democracy. Instead you have a banana republic police state that pretends to be democratic which is our current form of government.

#### **ENACTING MORE QUALITY & BASIC LEGISLATION:**

I feel my role will be to untangle the mess of Levy and Bonds. Everything from bond/levy caps, to supermajority versus simple, to grandfather issues keep us from defining and paying for basic education and solving the real problem of overcrowded schools and scenario where the citizens don't approve a bond such as recently happened in Snoqualmie in march. Losing by 58% shows we should remove the supermajority requirement as well as probe why citizens feel they are being given not enough say in how much is spent on these perhaps opulent schools with too expensive athletic fields, as well as why the state does not bear the cost of basic school expansion and why communities are punished for their own growth. I feel that we have too many laws and too complicated. Similar to the intention of the Governor's Task force on Basic education, my goals is to enact more quality, simplified, bureaucracy busting

basic legislation and untangle the mess of historical laws that hurt the 5<sup>th</sup> district and short our citizens by millions in lost state budgets because the laws don't take into account our 74%(according to US Census from 2000 to 2006) growth in places like Snoqualmie, (30% in the overall 5<sup>th</sup> district for same time period). Why? Because government doesn't have to be complicated, only it simply and efficiently must meet the needs of its taxpaying citizens. It must do so in the fastest, most efficient manner possible.

**APPLYING STRONG FISCAL MANAGEMENT TO STATE GOVERNMENT:**

I feel my background in procurement and managing large telecommunication budgets prepares me well to teach the state some tricks in conserving it's capital and spending it in a way that is smart and maximizes the state funds. I could see helping setup a stronger procurement structure to support reducing category spend and encouraging vendor partnerships & negotiating more shrewdly with key state based vendors. I feel I am an out of the box thinker who can find creative new sources of state income such as attracting "green industry" and high tech jobs to the state. I also believe WA state can become a world leader in alternative energy, carbon footprint reduction and recycling and other areas of emerging needs. While the rest of the country races toward recession, I'd seek to put recession proof hooks in the government that includes a buy local incentive program to begin showing WA state companies that we are loyal to their presence. At the same time I'd offer corporations telecommuter credits so we keep more people from being on the road and look for creative transit, park and ride, bus and road improvements that makes the 5<sup>th</sup> district both a tourist destination and an easy place to visit and return home to. Why? Because without money you don't have a functioning for the people government. And without the right fiscal priorities you end up spending more money later to clean up the messes you allowed to happen by not spending sooner. When I met a voter today talk about special education funding for school kids the phrase came out today at Maple Valley Days. "If you don't spend now on our special needs children, they will grow up to be special needs adults which will cost the system twice or times as much." I love that concept. I also do not agree with the 'punish the poor' mentality of so many republicans. Smart fiscal management includes helping our communities thrive economically rather than allowing some people to make vast fortunes while not even a few neighborhoods over, we have children sitting in the hallways during physics class.

**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.*

**Bachelor's of Information and Computer Science. Georgia Institute of Technology. 185 hours toward graduation. Minors in artificial intelligence and database.**

**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.