



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
Charles	W.	Johnson

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

**Justice, Washington Supreme Court, position 4**

3. Are you the incumbent?            X Yes  No

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

**Life-long resident of Washington State.**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**N/A**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

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#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:    Committee to Re-elect Justice Johnson

Address:            1110 S. Capitol Way, Suite 225

City/State/Zip:    Olympia, WA 98501

Campaign Phone:    c/o Stu Morgan @ 253-572-4500

Campaign Fax:     None

Campaign E-mail:    [johnsonj08@comcast.net](mailto:johnsonj08@comcast.net)

Campaign Website:    [www.justicecharlesjohnson.com](http://www.justicecharlesjohnson.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)
Justice, Washington Supreme Court	Elected		Associate Chief Justice

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

## 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.)

Serving 18 years on the State Supreme Court has shown I possess the necessary skills, intellect, impartiality, and commitment to improving the system to make it fairer, more efficient and accessible. I know more must be done and I want to continue to make a contribution to improving the delivery of justice, the fairness to all persons and the access to justice for the poor. I continue to enjoy the challenges facing the Court and the work I do.

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

After almost 18 years as a member of the State Supreme Court, I have established that I possess the necessary intellect, integrity, courage, fairness and impartiality for the job. I continue to work to attempt to make the legal system fairer, more efficient, and more accessible. I have always held the public's interest above my own and work hard to do the best I can on each case that comes before the court, and every activity I am involved in to improve society.

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.

Certainly my legal background resulted in me having a deep compassion and empathy for people who must resort to the legal system to resolve their disputes. I have attached a list of my professional involvements and recognitions which shows where I have chosen to be involved, both in this state and nationally, in efforts and activities to improve the fairness and equality of justice and social issues.

I also appreciate the natural beauty we are surrounded by in this state and enjoy sailing, hiking, snowshoeing, and mountain climbing. Although my climbing has come more recently, having made it to Camp Muir and Mount Saint Helens last summer, I hope to summit Adams and Rainier while my health (bad back) allows. I consider these activities to be sort of spiritual and feel my outlook is improved and makes it easier to withstand the pressures of serving on the Court.

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 personally support many efforts to improve educational opportunities for students. For many years I have funded a "Justice Scholarship" awarded as part of the Hispanic Academic Achievers Program in the Tri-Cities, the YMCA Partners for Youth Program in Tacoma and Olympia, the Auburn Rotary Scholarship Program, the Seattle University School of Law Scholarship, the University of Washington and Washington State University Scholarship Programs, and many others. In addition to my involvement in the WACAP, my wife and I joined Habitat for Humanity in Gig Harbor (although we haven't been called to exercise our hammering skills or to use our pick-up).

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

The Supreme Court is the state's highest court. Its opinions are published, become the law of the state, and set precedent for subsequent cases decided in Washington.

The Court has original jurisdiction of petitions against state officers and can review decisions of lower courts if the money or value of property involved exceeds \$200. The \$200 limitation is not in effect if the case involves a question of the legality of a tax, duty, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, or the validity of a statute.

Direct Supreme Court review of a trial court decision is permitted if the action involves a state officer, a trial court has ruled a statute or ordinance unconstitutional, conflicting statutes or rules of law are involved, or the issue is of broad public interest and requires a prompt and ultimate determination. *All* cases in which the death penalty has been imposed are reviewed directly by the Supreme Court. In all other cases, review of Court of Appeals decisions is left to the discretion of the court.

The Supreme Court is the final rule-making authority for all of the state's courts. Though local courts make their own rules of procedure, these rules must conform to, or not conflict with, those established by the Supreme Court. In addition, the Supreme Court has administrative responsibility for operation of the state court system. It also has a supervisory responsibility over certain activities of the *Washington State Bar Association*, including attorney disciplinary matters.

**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.*

B.A.	University of Washington	1969-1973	Economics
J.D.	University of Puget Sound (Now Seattle University)	1974-1976	

**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.*

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