



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:   xx Email    US Mail    Fax    Not Sending
- Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**  
Sent by:   xx 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   **xx** Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications**  
Sent by:    Email    US Mail    Fax   **xx** Not Sending
- Photograph**  
Sent by:   xx 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
Tan	M	Lam

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

**State Representative District 33, Position 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes      xx No

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

**Eight years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**11 Years**

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

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

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#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Tan Lam

Address: P.O Box 3385

City/State/Zip: Kent, WA 98089

Campaign Phone: 206-304-6552

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

Campaign E-mail: [tanlam@tancares.com](mailto:tanlam@tancares.com)

Campaign Website: [www.Tancares.com](http://www.Tancares.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)
NA			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
NA	

## 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.)

There is the old saying that you can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes. I'm running to represent our residents whose average income is \$15,000 less than surrounding areas. Education has suffered. Students perform poorly in math and science. Education is half of what has been achieved in surrounding areas. For residents in district 33, I have walked in your shoes not just a mile but more like 1,000 miles.

Growing up during the Vietnam War and spent two years in five refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines taught me the values of prudence, hard work, and caring. I arrived in the U.S. at 18 with 4th grade education with help eventually enrolled and graduated with a master degree from an Ivy League college.

In 1996, I left the biotechnology industry to become a teacher. I have always wanted to be a teacher, which is, in my opinion, the best way to repay my debt to America. I want to help students who are "average" or at-risk, like I was to succeed in school and be admitted to some of the nation's most prestigious colleges.

In 2000 my daughter, Thy, was born 16 weeks early and weighted only 1 pound and 8 oz. Thy was diagnosed with liver cancer at 12 months of age. My wife did not understand much English, so I quitted teaching and stayed home took care of my daughter. My daughter and I spend almost three years living at U.W. Medical Center and Children Hospital. We almost used up her life time insurance benefits. What did happen next? At three years old, Thy was diagnosed with autism. After hearing this diagnosis, my wife cried for days. We wanted to hear that Thy had an infection or a medical condition that was curable. Instead, we heard that dreaded word, autism that made us cringe.

I have walked the path you have walked and understand how you feel. Americans are working harder than ever but our families are falling further behind. Prices for everything from health care to groceries are skyrocketing but our paychecks remain the same or many cases less. Only if politicians truly understand what it's like to work and raise a family can they do their jobs and enact the change working families need.

I am running because I have specific plans for family, children, and local business. I want to be the candidate who will provide practical solutions that have direct benefit to local families and businesses. Solutions must be doable and have no cost to the residents and other taxpayers. I want to help the family and children now before the election. I challenge my opponent to come up with solutions that people can help it in their hand and able to do and benefit directly from it.

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

To earn the right to have represent the people, a leader must live his or her life with honesty and integrity. A leader must "walk the talk," be a source of inspiration, and understand another person's needs. I believe that I have all these characteristics to serve people in my district.

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 missed nine years of elementary, middle, and high school during the Vietnam War and during my two years in five refugee camps. I arrived in the U.S. at 18 with 4th grade education with help eventually enrolled and graduated with a master degree in Biochemistry from an Ivy League college. Collectively, I had 10 years of medical research and co-author of seven major scientific publications published in Journal of General Virology 76, 635-641, 1995; Viral Immunology 7, 51-59, 1994; Cellular Immunology 150, 90-100, 1993; and American Journal of Medical Genetics 43, 312-319, 1992.

2. When I was a graduate student at Dartmouth Medical School, I established Tu Luong Medical Mission Foundation and organized a network of students, doctors, and nurses into medical teams to travel to refugee camps and provided free medical services to Vietnamese refugees. TLF provided a way for pharmaceutical companies to furnish donations of money and supplies. When the last Vietnamese refugee camp closed, TLF reincorporated in Washington 1998 to provide grants and funding information to other nonprofits. We hope that by helping 1,000 nonprofits a year to solicit funding from different foundations and corporations, and in turn, each nonprofit reaches out to 500 clients per year; then TLF would have assisted 500,000 clients per year indirectly. That is our model.

3. How soon can you finish a two year professional teacher program with 75 credits? I finished the program in three months without buying a single textbook. I spent eight hours a day searching for reference on Google and another eight hours writing case study and essays. In three months time, I wrote over 1,000 pages for 120 academic essays.

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.

My American Dream plans include four projects. First virtual address is a high project that capable of creating 10,000 high paying jobs. Second, Saigon University provides online resources that help working adults earn college degree faster. Third, [ParentStudentSpace.com](http://ParentStudentSpace.com) provides an online space for parent and student collaboration on academic projects. Finally, we are working on King County Virtual Exhibition Center [KCVEC.com](http://KCVEC.com) for small business to increase sales and create jobs.

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

Representatives meet to engage in the process of public decision making on many issues affecting every citizen and the future prosperity of Washington State. The process involves cooperation to make critical decisions in everyone's best interests. They receive a great deal of technical information from their staffs, state agency personnel and professional lobbyists. Yet, much of what they actually decide depends on the views, interests and preferences of the citizens who elect them.

There is the old saying that you can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes. Americans are working harder than ever but our families are falling further behind. Prices for everything from health care to groceries are skyrocketing but our paychecks remain the same or many cases less. Only if politicians truly understand what it's like to work and raise a family can they do their jobs and enact the change working families need. These is the most important duty.

**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.*

Biochemistry, M.S., Dartmouth; Education, PBS, Western Governors Univ.; Biomedical Chemistry, B.S., Oral Roberts Univ.

**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.*

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

My American Dream plans include four projects. First virtual address is a high project that capable of creating 10,000 high paying jobs. Second, Saigon University provides online resources that help working adults earn college degree faster. Third, [ParentStudentSpace.com](http://ParentStudentSpace.com) provides an online space for parent and student collaboration on academic projects. Finally, we are working on King County Virtual Exhibition Center [KCVEC.com](http://KCVEC.com) for small business to increase sales and create jobs.