



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
Juan		Martinez

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

**State Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> legislative district**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes      X  No

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

**1 year in district, 20 years in King County**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**20 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

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#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Juan Martinez

Address: PO Box 2536

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98111

Campaign Phone: 206.841.3616

Campaign Fax: N/A

Campaign E-mail: [info@juanforsenate.com](mailto:info@juanforsenate.com)

Campaign Website: Juanforsenate.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)
Democratic PCO – 37 <sup>th</sup> District	Elected	2002 - 2004	

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.)

**I am running for office because I believe the residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> District need new and better representation in Olympia. The 11<sup>th</sup> is one of the most economically and culturally diverse districts in the State, ranging from the neighborhoods of White Center in unincorporated King County to the wealthier Renton suburbs of Fairwood. To date, I have doorbelled over 3,000 households in the district and, regardless of what neighborhood I am in or who I am speaking with at the door, four key issues continue to be raised: improving the quality of our schools, reducing the high cost of living, providing accessible health care for all and improving our transportation mess. Consistently, I hear about these issues and, in the same breath, that our current elected officials are not doing enough to tackle these critical issues.**

**I was raised with a strong sense of public duty and taught, from an early age, the importance of being involved in community and standing up for what is right. I want to stand up for the people of the 11<sup>th</sup> and help find solutions to these issues that are weighing on my friends and neighbors. There is no reason Washington State should be 46<sup>th</sup> in class size and the legislature can change that by appropriating additional funding and using non-financial incentives to encourage smaller class sizes in districts around the state. The legislature has a long way to go to ensuring tax equity for all residents, starting with reducing some of the significant corporate tax breaks that end up putting real pressure on families across the state. These are examples of areas where I will be the voice for the 11<sup>th</sup> district in the Legislature. I will not only bring our issues to Olympia but will also bring home solutions.**

**We in the 11<sup>th</sup> are currently not well served by our State Senator. She supports using hundreds of millions of public tax dollars to build two new stadiums. And, she opposes caps on predatory payday lenders who can currently charge over 391%. These are not values in line with our district. At a time where gas is approaching \$4.50 a gallon, how can we reasonably suggest that public tax dollars be used to fund professional sports? Why would anyone block a community-led effort to ensure fair credit laws apply to everyone? The people of the 11<sup>th</sup> do not share these views, myself included. Our elected leadership should reflect the district's values, not those of professional sports teams or payday lenders.**

**I am running to ensure that the people and families of the 11<sup>th</sup> are represented and their voices are heard.**

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

**My defining trait has always been my sense of optimism and my belief that, with hard work we can literally change the world. There are so many difficult issues facing us on the local, state and national level and, particularly in these tough economic times, many around us are saying there is nothing we can do to affect change on various issues. I don't buy that and I don't live like that. I have seen change in my community, from cross walks being installed because of multi-year campaigns by focused individuals, to the return of the bald eagle in our city's parks because of our region-wide effort to reclaim the environment. We can share the same victories when we make our educational system work for all students, when we provide universal health care and when we honestly and rationally sit down to solve the region's transportation mess.**

**The optimistic in me also believes in the best in everyone. I think this is why I have such a track record of coalition building around tough issues like tax equity. I have significant experience working with people from all cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities and geographic regions in Washington State. My professional experience has ranged from working with homeless families to organizing a statewide field effort to oppose the roll back of a progressive tax in our state.**

**Finally, I think the most important characteristic for an elected official is the ability to listen. As I mentioned, I've knocked on thousands of doors and while I have been there to ask for their vote, I have spent more time listening, taking in what is being said and hearing the people of the 11<sup>th</sup> discuss the solutions they would like to see. I will bring their voices to Olympia and, when elected, continue to listen.**

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.

**Last year, I secured funds to purchase furniture and equipment for the new math and science building at Seattle Central Community College (SCCC). While I was on the student council at SCCC from 1994-1995, I created a rainy day fund for unspent revenue that continued to roll over year after year. Then, this past year, after the new math and science building was constructed and the Board was informed there was no additional funds to purchase furniture and equipment, I went to the student council and requested that we use a part of that money to purchase the new equipment. Without my long-term involvement with SCCC, it is unlikely that new equipment would have been purchased.**

**I am also very proud of my continued tenacity regarding my education. I am only the second person from my family to attend college and, while it hasn't been an easy road, I continue to work toward additional educational attainment. After high school, I went to culinary school and then an apprenticeship that lasted six years, seven months and three days. Fourteen years after my high school graduation I received my Bachelor of Arts and I am now on track to get my Masters next year, seven years after graduating from undergraduate school. I believe this commitment shows my tenacity and my willingness to work hard toward my goals.**

**Finally, my successes in building coalition is another trait I am very proud of and, I believe, has direct bearing on how I will serve as an elected official. I have a proven track record of bringing people together around difficult issues and am proud of my ability to build bridges, particularly among diverse communities and interests.**

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.

**State Field Director, Washington Tax Fairness Coalition – 2006 -2008** – As field director, I established and maintained relationships with 75 endorsing organizations which included labor, education, fairth based, community and human services organizations. Other duties included coordinating educational forums and events for coalition members and the general public and managing our statewide advocacy campaigns to prevent major, and regressive, tax code restructuring.

**Constituent Advocate, Congressman Jim McDermott’s Office – 2004 – 2006** – My role on the Congressman’s staff ranged from representing the congressman at various events and forms to rating policy briefings on issues relating to labor, housing and human services. My primary responsibility focused on advocating for the prompt and effective resolution of constituents’ issues and concerns.

**Financial Services Specialist, Department of Social and Health Services – 1998 – 2004** – An advocate for homeless families, I helped clients negotiate local, state and federal bureaucracies to get hooked up with needed services such as alcohol and drug treatment, as well as foodstamps and medical coupons.

In my volunteer capacity as a Commissioner for the Seattle Housing Authority and Boardmember for the Seattle Central Community College Foundation, I have helped to provide strategic advice for these important organizations.

In the political realm, I have served as a PCO, as the Vice Chair of the 37<sup>th</sup> District Democrats and as Chair of the Institute for a Democratic Future, giving me significant political contacts and an broad understanding of our unique political structure.

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

The most important duty of any legislator is to represent the district for which you serve. A legislator must bring the concerns of the district forward, even when such concerns may be in conflict with the legislator’s own views. Legislators must be open, go out of their way to hear from residents in the district and supply solutions to constituent problems in a timely manner.

A legislator must be willing to work across the aisle and build coalitions with colleagues in order to move important policies and objectives forward.

**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 LakeHills Highschool, Tacoma. Went on to attend South Seattle Community College where I trained to be a chef. I then attended Seattle Central Community College and received a transfer degree to be completed at Evergreen State College in 2002. Currently enrolled at Seattle University pursuing my Master's Degree in Public Administration.**

**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.