



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
Gerry		Pollet

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

State Representative 46th District Pos. 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

28 years Seattle; 18 years 46th District

5. How long have you resided in King County?

28 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Gerry Pollet for State Representative

Address: 7750-17th Ave NE

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98115

Campaign Phone: (206)528-0078

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: Gerry-pollet@msn.com

Campaign Website: Gerrypolletforstaterep.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)
Hanford Advisory Board	Appointed USDOE, EPA, WA Ecology; elected chair Budgets & Contracts committee	8 th term elected since 1996	Chair, Budget and Contracts oversight committee for the nation's largest public works or environmental project
Model Toxics Control Act advisory committee / Policy Advisory Committee	Appointed, WA Ecology, representing environmental community	1996-2001 approx	Developed proposed rules for risk assessments and public involvement; drafted language to update statute and rules agreed to by consensus.
Seattle City Light Strategic Planning and Toxics Advisory Committees	Appointed	Various years from 1988-1998	Responsible for subcommittees and developing proposals, ensuring public constituencies involved and supportive.

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

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 went to law school to be a public interest attorney. When I graduated, I chose to work for non-profit public interest groups working on policy and legislation for consumer protection, the environment and open government as well as public interest litigation.

I have four very clear priorities for representing the 46th District in the State House:

- a) to be a champion for our environment and for our State to be a leader in fighting global warming;
- b) to bring my experience in our schools to the Legislature and improve our education system;
- c) to bring my expertise to Olympia to champion open government and accountability; and,
- d) to work to make quality health care accessible to every resident of Washington.

I have successfully drafted and developed the consensus to pass major pieces of consumer protection, open government and environmental legislation. My legal and issue expertise, knowledge of the Legislature, decades of involvement in North Seattle neighborhood and school issues, and my organizing background will allow me to be effective in serving these priorities and in effectively representing the 46th District. My commitment is to work all year round with the advocacy communities for education, environment, open government and health to develop legislative proposals and to ensure that legislation is being implemented.

Our state needs knowledgeable leadership and a champion in the Legislature for our efforts to combat global warming and protect the environment. I have been encouraged by scores of Seattle neighborhood activists and leaders of environmental groups across our state to run for this open seat, having led legislative efforts for the environment for over twenty five years. I am a nationally recognized leader and expert on energy and bring great expertise on global warming. Just as importantly, I bring a unique background as a grassroots organizer successfully working with citizen groups in every corner of our state. I have the expertise and leadership experience to help make our state a leader in the fight against global warming and to help us enact the serious steps needed to meet recently adopted targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (which I lobbied for). I have specific proposals to tackle the need for increasing transit – which our district needs and wants – to meet our important vehicle use reduction target, which is necessary to meet the goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I will be the only legislator from all of Seattle's legislative districts who is a current public school parent and active volunteer in our public schools. It is vital that our district, indeed all of Seattle, has a knowledgeable advocate for improving our state's education system and who knows first hand the specific current challenges facing Seattle's schools. Many public school activists, teachers, staff, principals and parents encouraged me to run. I have been endorsed by 46th District resident Lisa Macfarlane, President of the League of Education Voters (for id only), (continued...)

AFT-WA, AFL-CIO (American Federation of Teachers) and many PTSA leaders, teachers, etc... I have specific proposals based on that input and experience for improving our schools (including pre-k learning and higher education), which I am discussing with school groups and individuals all over North Seattle.

I have worked statewide for open government and lobbied for open government issues for many years. I currently serve on the executive committee and board (Secretary), and legal committee of the Washington Coalition for Open Government. Amongst my past accomplishments are drafting and successfully leading the effort to pass Washington's state and local government whistleblower protection law and improving public records and open meeting performance by many state and local government agencies. Open government needs more champions in Olympia. I bring legal expertise and real life experience working with citizens from across the political and geographic spectrum of our state on behalf of openness in government. Amongst the key issues needing knowledgeable advocates to address in the Legislature are the hundreds of exemptions to our public records disclosure laws and recent court rulings which allow governments to sue individuals or citizen groups who ask for public records.

Our state is struggling with health care reform. I will represent my constituents' desires to make access to quality health care a right for all residents of Washington. I have specific proposals to break the log jam on reform, developed with health care advocates. My background as an organizer and commitment to work with health care advocates statewide will enable me to be effective.

My commitment to represent my constituents and to openness and accountability include being available to meet regularly with 46th District residents during the legislative session in the District. Residents shouldn't have to go to Olympia to talk in person with their own Representative (where it is hard for them to get appointments if they do go down to Olympia and have little chance to "drop in" and talk with their State Representatives). I will have regularly scheduled open door office hours in the 46th District during the Session (e.g., an evening and / or Saturday mornings) as well as all year.

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

I have devoted my life and career to working in the public interest: as an attorney, organizer and leader of non-profit groups. My proven dedication to openness, honesty and accountability in government are traits we need in our Legislature and want to inspire more people to serve with.

Independence and placing the public interest ahead of the interests of either a political party or a private entity are traits which the residents of the 46th District want in their Representative. Many times, open government goals are stymied by interests of political parties and political officials within my own party, who prefer to keep the status quo, avoid accountability or preserve current political advantages.

My independence and willingness to fight for openness, for example, are important for including the Legislature under public records disclosure and public campaign financing laws, or for ensuring that my party's caucus supports legislation that is in the public interest when powerful private interests are willing to give great sums of money to candidates of my party. It's easy for a candidate to say they support those proposals. The test is whether they will effectively fight for them behind closed doors and be able to organize for them. I have stood up to such powerful interests in my own political party in order to fight for legislation in the public interest many times – with warnings that doing so would not be good if I wanted to enhance my own political career or, financial threats.

I am a consensus and bridge builder, while being able to organize constituencies on behalf of public interest legislation. I have proven in numerous advisory committees and in negotiations with business interests that I work effectively at developing proposals that protect the legitimate interests of all parties including those that have broad political differences with me or the organizations I was representing.

For example, because of my willingness to work on behalf of common goals with people who disagree with me on many political issues, I have been elected 8 times to chair the Budget and Contracts oversight committee of the Hanford Advisory Board by members who primarily represent Tri-City business and governments and who openly joke about my being the only liberal Democrat they work with.

I am a practitioner of principled facilitation, to ask people to bring forward the principles or goals they are seeking to achieve or protect, rather than only talking about their "positions". These skills have allowed me to develop legislative agreements on major ratepayer protection and hazardous waste legislation. I also serve effectively on the board of the WA Coalition for Open Government with people who are on the far end of the political spectrum from me – and have had to defend them and our collaboration from people more interested in party labels.

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.

I have devoted my life and my career to working in the public interest and for my community.

My most important public interest accomplishment, in my mind, is the training and inspiration given to many interns and volunteers to work or volunteer in the public interest and their communities. Over 25 years working for public interest groups, I have had the joyous experience of helping to inspire and train hundreds of volunteers and students and to see many of them take on leadership roles in their communities and other environmental, consumer or social justice groups after leaving the organization or campaign I was involved with at the time. In the 1980's, I helped build the Washington Public Interest Research Group (WashPIRG), which was simply a student group at the University of Washington when I became Executive Director, into a three campus organization and over 20,000 citizen members across the state and to start the group's first legislative program. That program trained legislative interns who are still doing good work for our environment and other public interest work in their communities, as well as winning major legislative and organizing victories. At Heart of America Northwest (where I am Executive Director), I continue to work to inspire undergraduate and law students we work with at the UW to choose environmental / public interest law careers, and to recruit volunteers all over our state to be involved and trained to be effective as active citizens.

I am running for the Legislature with the experience of having *drafted, developed the coalitions for, and led successful lobbying campaigns to pass Washington laws to:*

- Protect consumers,
- Protect our children and communities from exposure to hazardous wastes and to require polluters to cleanup local hazardous waste sites and leaking gas station tanks (I wrote and led campaign efforts for key portions of our state Superfund law, Model Toxics Control Act, and our rules for community involvement and minimizing cancer risk to children in cleanup decisions);
- Protect state and local government whistleblowers;
- Protect telephone and electric utility ratepayers (including leading the lobbying efforts to stop deregulation of local phone service and defeat plans to charge us by the minute and mile for local phone service; and, wrote and won passage of the law setting affordable universal telephone service as the basis for our state's regulatory program);
- Stop sprawl, require planning for growth, and allow local governments to require developers to pay for infrastructure needed to serve major developments in the Growth Management Act.

Through legislative (at both the state and Congressional levels), organizing, research and litigation efforts, I successfully ended the discharge of over two billion gallons a year of **untreated** liquid hazardous and radioactive wastes at Hanford, much of which was discharged in trenches alongside the Columbia River. This effort took from 1989 to 1995 to accomplish. In 2004, through Initiative 297 (which I was chair of), we won an end to the dumping of radioactive and hazardous solid wastes in unlined, leaking soil trenches at Hanford – a national landmark for cleanup of the highly contaminated US Department of Energy nuclear weapons plants. This is an effort I had led the organizing to accomplish for 15 years as Director of Heart of America Northwest. Many experts say that these two steps have been the most significant steps taken for the cleanup of Hanford, which is the most contaminated area in the western hemisphere. My expertise on the economics of cleanup and oversight of government contracts has led to savings of hundreds of millions of dollars for taxpayers and testimony to the US House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee (I have also testified by invitation to other Congressional committees). My work for Heart of America Northwest has won the national Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's award as "Grassroots Activist of the Year"; and, has also been honored with the Evergreen Award by the Evergreen State Society, and the top annual award for work in our state for peace and the environment by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (previously awarded to Chris Gregoire and Mike Lowry).

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.

In 1987, when I first started working to expose the massive contamination at Hanford and to unite the region to cleanup the western hemisphere's most contaminated area, few people knew of the threats to the Columbia River and public health. To tackle the problem I co-founded Heart of America Northwest and created a task force, which the Governors of Washington and Oregon and many Members of the two states' Congressional delegation agreed to sponsor. The task force, including major regional business leaders, created the proposal for cleanup that the entire region united behind. I spearheaded the efforts to unify the region to the point where Hanford Clean-up is like motherhood and apple pie for regional officials – which is a far cry from when our first efforts were met with claims that we were killing jobs (Now, Hanford Clean-Up is funded at \$2 billion a year and employs far more than nuclear weapons production did). That ability to bring wide ranging interests together to tackle a major regional problem is important for our Legislature.

Over the past twelve years, I have been an active volunteer in our public schools and have lobbied for improving our schools. I have volunteered hundreds of hours and actively recruited volunteers and campaigned for initiatives to lower class size, increase pay for teachers and allow school levies to pass with a "simple majority." For the latter, we ran phone banks from our home with parents and elementary students – training the students to be involved and join in making calls! I have worked on increasing school funding and participated in many meetings in regard to school governance and funding, and lobbied to replace the WASL. I have participated in, and help promote, meetings for parents and teachers across North Seattle on common problems facing schools in the 46th District.

Since 1980, I have been engaged in numerous neighborhood efforts in North Seattle and to enhance the quality of life in all of Seattle. I have served on several Seattle City Light advisory groups appointed by the Mayor or Council, including the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee and to the toxics reduction advisory committee. The latter involved work with neighborhood groups across the city to address concerns ranging from pesticide use to high voltage line placement, and succeeded in removing many hazards from our communities and setting a model used by all City agencies. I was deeply involved in taking the input from neighborhood groups and developing plans or proposals that were viewed as practical by the utility to be adopted. I have also worked to ensure neighborhood concerns were addressed in regard to transportation, to protect trees and habitat in Seattle, provide parks or open space and address planning and zoning issues. This history is why I many neighborhood and community council leaders are actively working for and supporting my campaign.

I directed the signature drive (2003) and served as Chair for "Yes on I-297: Protect Washington," the statewide initiative campaign to require cleanup and protect the Columbia River and our environment from Hanford being a national radioactive hazardous waste dump for nuclear weapons production wastes. I was responsible for building a diverse coalition that included groups from every corner of the state, and for recruiting volunteers from across the state. We won in 2004 with a *record number of votes for any ballot initiative or candidate in Washington state history*, and we have succeeded in keeping many of those volunteers actively engaged in public policy on Hanford Clean-Up and other environmental issues.

As a member of the board executive committee (serving now as Secretary of the Board) and legal committee of the Washington Coalition for Open Government, I have assisted citizens and neighborhood groups all over Washington State in efforts to ensure that government is open and accountable. I have assisted many in efforts to see public records needed to participate in important public policy decisions, or ensure that local governments (or sometimes state boards) meet in public. This hands on experience with neighborhood and citizen groups, local newspapers, and local public officials provides me with the background to tackle open government issues in Olympia as an advocate and expert who knows the obstacles first hand, and can work with all parties to ensure that proposed solutions will work.

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

First and foremost is the duty to represent the values of my district on policy issues facing Washington State and to ensure that the concerns of 46th District residents are being addressed by the State. Those concerns and priorities are not parochial. Our district's voters clearly want a Representative who will be a leader on behalf of their values on major statewide issues, including their desire for our State to lead the nation in fighting global warming and to dramatically improve our state's education system from pre-k through higher education. These are my clear priorities.

In talking to thousands of residents, I am confident that the 46th District's voters do not see their Representatives as representing solely their local interest. I view the job as representing the broad interests of our State, even where that may clash with local self-interests, based on the clear values I have told voters I will apply to our state's issues.

To represent the values and concerns of the 46th District, I believe it is vitally important to be accessible and actively discussing issues with residents, neighborhood and community groups, advocacy groups (e.g., for education), and businesses. I also believe it is important to continue to be at community meetings or public hearings about local issues of concern.

I will hold regular office hours in the district, including drop in hours, during the legislative session so constituents do not have to go to Olympia to see their own legislators during the session. I have been in Olympia during the legislative session every year since 1983. I have seen how difficult it is for a regular constituent to see their own legislators even if they make the trek to Olympia. Appointments are hard to come by. Residents of the 46th shouldn't have to go to Olympia to hope to see their Representative during the sessions, when the Legislature is in the news and more people are aware and want to discuss issues with their legislators.

This input is also vital for a legislator to ensure that the concerns of constituents are reflected in the state's budget. The budget is where hundreds, if not thousands, of policy issues are prioritized. It is very important for me as a legislator to be engaged in the budget and ensure that it reflects both the major priorities and values I have promised to represent, but also engaged to support the myriad important interests of the district, including, for example local social service agencies.

Finally, I believe that our District's Representative should be working to put forward proposals with key constituency groups to address our state's needs for education, revenue, tax and health care reform. I have promised to use my expertise to develop proposals to find ways to fully fund our "paramount" duty to "amply provide" for education. This has to include working to develop proposals for closing tax exemptions to provide revenue for that commitment, and for tax reform.

**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. Magna Cum Laude, Clark University (1980);
J.D. University of Washington School of Law (1983)**

**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.

**My career is devoted to civic involvement: Director, Heart of America Northwest;
Chair, "Protect Washington" coalition (cleanup of contaminated sites);
Vice-Chair, 46th District Democrats (4th term);
Washington Coalition for Open Government, Board Secretary;
Volunteer: PTSA; Seattle Public Schools, levies / initiatives; neighborhoods;
Chair, Hanford Advisory Board Budget & Contracts oversight (8th elected term);
Advisory committees: WA Ecology hazardous waste cleanup; City Light Strategic Planning**