



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

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
Skip		Priest

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

State Representative—30th District, Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? X Yes No

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

20 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

23 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Skip Priest

Address: P.O. Box 23237

City/State/Zip: Federal Way, WA 98093

Campaign Phone: 206-510-7810

Campaign Fax: 253-661-6628

Campaign E-mail: mspriest@comcast.net

Campaign Website: www.skippriest.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)
State Representative—30 th District	Elective	1/1/2003	See attached list of current legislative responsibilities on resume. Not shown—Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee 2004-2005.
Federal Way City Council	Elective	1/1/92-12/31/97	Mayor—1996-1997

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

Office Title	Year of Run
State Senate—30 th District	1994

State Representative—30th District	1998

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 seeking my fourth term as State Representative for three related reasons:

First: I continue to care deeply about the people and communities of the 30th District and am honored to serve as their State Representative. For almost 20 years, I have had the privilege of working with many groups and individuals in the communities I serve to improve the quality of life of those who live within the District's boundaries. As a result, I have a personal knowledge of not only the needs but also the goals, dreams, and aspirations of those I represent. This commitment to all the residents of the 30th District—not just a few—is exemplified by my public and community service summarized in Section IV.

Second: We need experienced leaders in the legislature that are able to work across party lines to effectively address our state's ongoing challenges. It was just six years ago when I first came to the legislature that the State faced its largest budget deficit ever—a projected \$2.6 billion shortfall. We also had the third highest unemployment rate in the country. Through a bi-partisan effort we were able to address the budget deficit without raising taxes while still protecting those citizens who needed our help the most.

Unfortunately, history is repeating itself much sooner than anyone expected. As a result of an economy strained by the housing/credit bubble and a bow wave spawned by the creation of arguably marginal programs by the legislature, we once again face another projected \$2.5 billion deficit next biennium. This crisis is occurring at a time when the state faces critical spending increases in such areas as education, health care, pensions, and other support for our most vulnerable. Budget analysts predict the Federal Way School District lawsuit, now on appeal to the Washington Supreme Court, alone could add an additional \$800 million to the shortfall. As one who has experienced some of our state's darkest fiscal days, I would like to once again help design a constructive solution to successfully address this latest attack on budget solvency.

Third: As the above underscores, developing and implementing state priorities remains incredibly important. My priorities are clear and it is a message that I want to take again to Olympia. (1) We must enhance our support of our K-12 and higher education systems to ensure that our schools get the resources they need to achieve the outcomes we desire—an educated populace prepared to take advantage of the opportunities of the new economy.

(2) We must provide sufficient funds to protect the environment. Without this commitment, we cannot maintain the quality of life necessary to make neighborhoods livable and attract businesses to our community and state. (3) We must continue to seek ways to improve our business climate to ensure that we create sufficient family jobs and revenues to pay for state's needs.

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

I believe that I share three basic traits with other effective legislators. These are courage of conviction, integrity of purpose and tenacity. Just as importantly, I also am very aware of the importance of the word—we. Many years ago, I was extremely fortunate to have a mentor who taught me the management skills necessary for success at the highest levels of American business. His message was simple. When you succeed in your goals always share that success with those who work with you through the use of the term we. Only when you fail do you use the word I—because a true leader recognizes that it is his or her responsibility if goals are not achieved. It is an approach that I have found translates equally well in either the business or public arena.

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.

As I indicated above, my goals for almost twenty years as a community leader and public servant have been to (1) improve our public education system, (2) safeguard our local environment and, (3) enhance our state's business climate. During my tenure as a State Representative, these goals, not surprisingly, have continued to be my main priorities. Fortunately, I've had accomplishments in all three areas.

First: Improving public education. I'm proud of the leadership role I've taken in this critical area. During my first session, I was asked to serve on the Higher Education Committee. Much to my surprise, at my first committee hearing, witnesses testified that the state did not have a comprehensive plan for higher education. This came at a time when there was a growing awareness of the importance of higher education to the future of the state's economy. Working with university experts, Representative Fred Jarrett and I developed a comprehensive approach to begin addressing this critical issue. In addition to providing a blueprint for a number of significant higher education bills passed by the legislature, the approach was also presented at their request to both the Governor's Washington Learns Higher Education Committee and the Prosperity Partnership. In both cases it provided an important cornerstone for the discussions and recommendations that followed.

In the last several years, I have focused to a much greater extent on our K-12 system. All agree that our system is at a crossroads. To ensure a clear direction and long term strategy, the Legislature and the State Board of Education have done a great deal of work in a number of crucial areas including standards, assessments, and funding. This session, Representative Pat Sullivan and I led the initiative to change our approach to the WASL. Legislation we introduced (and passed by the Legislature) simplified the WASL at the elementary levels and replaced the current convoluted math assessment with clear and rigorous end-of-course

tests.

I also authored with Senator Steve Hobbs the first comprehensive legislative review of our state's approach to career and technical education in over 20 years. Reducing the state's unacceptably high drop-out rate is a personal passion of mine and CTE is a proven way to help achieve that goal. The legislation, as passed, will also provide many students with a different yet equally effective approach to learning the fundamentals of education—reading, writing, math and basic science.

Finally, the legislature created the Basic Education Finance Task Force, of which I am a member, to complete the work started by Washington Learns to address our current school funding crisis. Its mission is to review the state's definition of basic education and put together a finance plan that will help ensure that all students will have the opportunity to meet its goals. While the Task Force's final report will not be completed until December, I've attached two of my working documents that are driving the discussion as to how we can meet our constitutional responsibility to equitably and fully fund our public schools.

Second: Safeguarding the Environment. I am also very proud to be part of a group of South King County environmental leaders that are making a difference in restoring the Hylebos Creek watershed. 10 years ago, the Friends of the Hylebos was an organization seeking purpose and direction. Today, it is an organization with strong leadership, a clear vision, and a string of accomplishments that resulted last month in the Cascade Land Conservancy awarding it its prestigious Land Stewardship Award. As a legislator, I have worked with other government officials, including King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer and State Senator Tracy Eide to assist the group on several major projects. This has included the transfer of the West Hylebos State Park to the City of Federal Way to provide greater local control, working with the State Department of Transportation in Hylebos Creek buffer acquisition and stream restoration projects, and securing state capital budget funding to achieve the recently completed boardwalk replacement in the park. As a result of these efforts, we are very close to achieving our goal of establishing a template for the steps necessary to restore other urban streams.

Third: Improving the Business Climate. In my first session, I had the honor to serve on the select legislative task force charged with the responsibility of working with the Governor to "land the now 787." The bi-partisan task force was made up of four House members and four Senate members. Its charge was to put together a plan to make our state competitive in the contest to produce Boeing's next generation airliner. The final package contained a number of initiatives designed not only to help the aerospace industry but other businesses in our state as well. Together with Representative Eric Pettigrew and the Governor's office, I was pleased to play a leading role in putting together the legislative tax incentive package—a package we now know as instrumental in Boeing making its decision to site the 787 production facility in the Puget Sound area. Today, I am serving a similarly important task as a Trustee of the Governor's Life Science Discovery Fund. It is our responsibility as Trustees to provide a creative leadership role just as prior leaders in our state did when they made the initial investments in the fledgling aerospace industry over a half-century ago.

Success in all of the above accomplishments requires the type of bi-partisan collaboration that I believe is absolutely critical for our state to meet the challenges it faces. Hopefully, these accomplishments will also give both voters and members of the Municipal League a sense of confidence that I am prepared to continue to deliver on the goals and priorities that I believe will not only benefit the 30th District but the entire state as well.

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.

Federal Way Mayor/City Council (1992-1997)

Friends of the Hylebos Board/Advisory Board (2001-present), Member: (1992-present)

Multi-Service Center Board (2003-present)

Pacific Harbors Council, B.S.A. Board (1994-present)

Federal Way School District Construction Oversight Committee (2001-present)

Chamber of Commerce Advancing Leadership Board/Advisory Board (2001-present)

St. Francis Hospital Franciscan Fellowship President/Board (1996-present)

Federal Way Kiwanis Board (2000-2003), Member: (1991-present)

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

The primary duty of the office I seek remains inherent in the name of the office itself—State Representative. It is absolutely imperative that one “represents” the people of the 30th District by clearly understanding their priorities and then working to see that these priorities are achieved. How one actually achieves this goal can be extremely varied. It can be something very simple like giving a young boy or girl a chance to be a page for your office in Olympia. It can be teaching an “avid” class at a local junior high school. It can be helping grandparents obtain custody of their grandchildren from rotating foster homes in another state after their daughter tragically falls victim to drugs and alcohol. It can be major policy legislation that helps ensure a high quality job is maintained at Boeing or that all our children will be able to receive an excellent K-12 and higher education experience in our state. Or closer to home it can be responding to the request of the Zina Linnick family to update and upgrade our sex predator tracking and monitoring laws. No matter how it is achieved, however, the overriding responsibility of us all is—to represent.

**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.*

Brewster H.S., Brewster, WA

B.A., Political Science, Willamette University

J.D. with Honors, National Law Center, George Washington University

**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.