



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: X Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**
Sent by: X 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: X Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications**
Sent by: NA Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Photograph**
Sent by: X 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
David		Spring

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

House of Representatives, Fifth Legislative District, Position Two

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

15 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

30 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends for Spring

Address: P.O. Box 57

City/State/Zip: North Bend, WA 98045

Campaign Phone: 425-888-3031

Campaign Fax: NA

Campaign E-mail: springforhouse@aol.com

Campaign Website: Springforhouse.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)
Washington State Child Support Work Group	Appointive	Fall 2007 to present	
King County Middle Fork Planning Commission	Appointive	1996 to 1998	

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

Office Title	Year of Run

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 our State's families are facing many important problems and I want to help solve them. I have a Master's Degree in Education and I have taught courses in problem solving for nearly 20 years. I am also a parent. I think these experiences will help me represent the families of the Fifth District.

The most important problem we face is inadequate funding for education. Twenty years ago, our State was 11th in the nation in funding for education. We are now 44th in the nation. The State used to pay for 60% of building schools. Last year, they were only willing to pay 3% of the cost of building a needed High School in my community. Tens of thousands of children in our State currently are taking classes in cheap particle board boxes. Local property taxes for schools has been doubled in the past 20 years making home ownership even more difficult. It is time for our State legislature to meet its legal obligation to fully fund public education. I am offering a precise and detailed solution to this problem called "Fair Funding for Schools" which I hope to get passed in the legislature in 2009.

A second pressing problem in the Fifth Legislative District is transportation. We face traffic gridlock and soaring gas prices. The solution is an adequate light rail system. We are the only major urban area on the west coast without light rail. The lack of adequate mass transit is hurting our entire economy. It is time to think about the future. The cost of not building a light rail system is far greater than the cost of building one.

Both of these problems cannot be addressed without new sources of funding. Our current funding system is the most regressive of any State in America. It is extremely unfair to the poor and middle class. I have proposed a new source of funding that fairly distributes the burden among all of our citizens without any substantial change in the method of taxation or the amount of taxation for 97% of our citizens.

Complex problems require bold and creative solutions. I believe I can help solve our State's problems and get our economy moving in the right direction.

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

My most important trait is that I am a dedicated researcher. I work hard to understand the underlying causes of problems before proposing solutions. This requires not only a willingness to read scientific studies, and other past research on problems, but a willingness to listen to families and others directly affected by problems.

I am also good at conflict resolution. I believe in win-win solutions that involve everyone affected by a problem. I am particularly concerned about inclusion of those not well represented in the problem solving process. This includes children, minorities and those in lower income groups.

I think it is helpful that I am a parent myself. I understand how much parents are concerned about the future of their children.

Finally, I think it is helpful that I have been a teacher for over 20 years. Often the key to solving problems involves helping others learn about underlying causes, and the advantages and shortcomings of potential options. This in turn requires the ability to organize information. This scaffolding of knowledge is a key aspect of teaching.

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 worked hard to be a good parent The fact that my daughter is doing well in school is my greatest accomplishment to date.

In addition to teaching courses in problem solving and conflict resolution at Bellevue Community College, I was also an outdoor instructor there for nearly 20 years. I taught courses in wilderness leadership, glacier climbing and avalanche avoidance. I led over 100 groups to the summit of Mount Rainier without a single incident. More important, none of the graduates of any of my courses were ever killed in any of their subsequent outings. Instead, many of my former students credited my courses with saving their lives when confronted with a wilderness emergency.

Finally, I have also been a Rescue Leader in the Winter Division of King County Search and Rescue. In this capacity, I have twice appeared on the front page of the Seattle Times for my participation in wilderness rescues.

I have left search and rescue to a younger generation. But I still think I can help rescue our public schools with the same concern, dedication and determination I once was known for in the wilderness.

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 public career began in 1974 when I graduated with a degree in Education from Washington State University. I spent a year as a VISTA volunteer assisting the Lakota Native Americans in South Dakota. I learned a great deal about the importance of understanding and respecting cultural diversity. I then spent about ten years as a volunteer in King County Search and Rescue. This was followed by 20 years as an instructor at Bellevue Community College. The last few years have been spent as a Graduate student and researcher at the University of Washington. My areas of specialty have been child development and improving math and science education. I view my whole life as being involved in community service. Certainly one does not get into teaching to make money but rather to help others.

Along the way, I served on both King County and Washington State Commissions. I also have been actively involved in both the Peace Movement and the Environmental movement. So I have a diverse background in many areas of public service.

Recently I have been focused on being a good father for my daughter, who will turn nine years old in August and start third Grade in September. I decided to run for office in March of 2008 after our school district lost its third school construction bond measure in less than two years. I realized our school funding problem was not in North Bend, but in Olympia. Since then I have learned that growing school districts all around State are facing a crisis very similar to what we face in North Bend.

Ironically, legislators make even less than teachers. So if I win, going to Olympia will be a continuation of my life of service to my community.

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

I think a Representative has two primary duties. The first is to represent the families of the District. This means listening to their problems and concerns and letting others in Olympia know about those problems and concerns. The second duty is to work towards actually solving the problems of the families in the District so that those families can have happy and productive lives.

**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.*

**Master's Degree in Education, University of Washington.
Bachelor's Degree in Math and Science Education, WSU.**

**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.

**I have served as a VISTA volunteer and as a volunteer in King County Search and Rescue.
I have also served on both King County and Washington State Planning Commissions.**