



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
Ron	A	Weigelt

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

31st Legislative District position number 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

5. How long have you resided in King County?

I was born in King County in 1957 and lived there until 1975 when I moved to attend Eastern Washington University. I currently reside in Pierce County but the 31st Legislative District crosses into King County.

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Ron Weigelt for State Representative**

Address: **454 Trullinger Street**

City/State/Zip: **Buckley, WA 98321**

Campaign Phone: **360 761-7149**

Campaign Fax: **Call campaign line**

Campaign E-mail: **Vote4RonWeigelt@comcast.net**

Campaign Website: **http://weigelt4rep.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)
Buckley City Council	Elected	2004 – 2008	Public Safety Committee Chair person first term, currently Chair person of Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Drains
City of Buckley Board of Adjusters	Appointed	2002 & 2003	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Federal Way School Board	1993
State Senate, 30 th District	1994

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'm running for State Representative because I am frustrated by a lack of progress in Olympia on issues that matter to our families and communities. I know we can do better.

Working together, we can stabilize our economy by targeting tax relief to seniors, working families, and small business. We can expand opportunity by investing in education and job training, improve public safety with tougher sentencing and monitoring, and prevent growth from overwhelming our roads. On the City Council, I have placed priorities above partisanship; I will do the same working in Olympia.

I am running for State Representative because I know that I can have a positive impact on our future. I know that I am not the only one who feels like 2007 and 2008 have been difficult years. We all feel the pain at the gas pump and the pinch of rising food costs. We were shocked and disappointed with the national panic caused by poisoned pet food, contaminated children's toys, and contaminated produce. More and more it feels as though the laws intended to protect our collective best interests are absent, or ignored. One of the things I would like to do in Olympia is to advocate for stronger consumer protection laws. We can pass laws which will offer us real and timely protection from a wide range of threats, from predatory lending practices to contaminated food.

I am running for the State Legislature because I believe that by working together we can improve our schools, our communities, and our government itself. I believe that workers in America are the most productive in the world. Yet, we face stagnant wages and family incomes, increasing income insecurity, eroding health care benefits, and disappearing pensions. While the past is out of our control, the future is not! We do have the power to shape our future. We can create and implement a working family agenda that will result in jobs that will support a family, pensions that will support us in our senior years, and medical coverage which we can rely on!

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

In 1980, I joined the United States Army as a Private First Class. I later attended Officer Candidate School and received an Officers Commission. Twelve years of military service reinforced important personal characteristics I was taught growing up, and added a few additional traits.

First, honesty, truthfulness, and integrity were essential to my success as an officer. It was absolutely essential that the men and women who served with me knew that they could count on me to be honest and truthful with them. And, that I would keep my word and commitments. The consequences of failing to do so can be especially catastrophic in an environment where the lives of others may depend on you doing what you say you will do.

Team work is another essential component of my character. In High School I was part of a Gymnastics Team. In college, I was part of the Student Body Legislature and Student Body President. Being raised with three brothers and two sisters, working with other people to get things done was an essential ingredient of our family. I have continued to put community priorities above partisan politics as a member of the City Council, and have found that we get much more done by working together than by fighting about what to do.

As a Human Resources Manager, and as an officer, I have always encouraged people to praise in public and criticize in private. I have also found that we get much more done if we don't worry about who will get the credit but rather focus on what we will get done for the good of the community.

Finally, someone once said that we were given two ears and one mouth for a reason, so that we would listen twice as much as we talk. I believe that listening is an essential charter trait for a leader.

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 am proud of the fact that I was the first member of my family to attend and graduate from college, that I was able to join the military and serve my Country and that as a member of the City Council I have successfully sponsored some ideas to law and supported others in doing the same.

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.

As a youngster in the late 1960's and early 1970's, I sponsored a fund raising carnival for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and later participated in Walk-a-thon fund raising for the March of Dimes. In College, I organized a protest over the payment of sub-minimum wages to students. In the Army, I learned problem solving skills and developed leadership skills. After my discharge in 1992, I worked briefly in a hospital emergency room and later worked for the Seattle Housing Authority. I have learned a great deal about how to be compassionate and empathetic towards others. I have hosted foster children and I have worked to help specific people, and I have worked to help specific groups in need. I have also practiced advocacy as a union representative and developed great skill at understanding the needs of others as I negotiated labor contracts for both a union and management. On the City Council, I have learned how to make things happen by working with others and leading a balanced life.

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

Scott Turow, author of Presumed Innocent and Limitations, wrote that "The law, for all its failings, has a noble goal – to make the little bit of life that people can actually control more just. We can't end disease or natural disasters, but we can devise rules for our dealings with one another that fairly weigh the rights and needs of everyone, and which, therefore, reflect our best vision of ourselves." Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President, once said, "This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all us to live in." And, Martin Luther King, JR. declared that "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter".

With those the things in mind, the most important duties of the office I seek include:

- Passing laws that will help us to deal with each other fairly while weighing the rights and needs of everyone.
- Making our State a great place live by passing legislation that protects the environment, provides healthcare, and which otherwise focuses our funding and collective effort in a positive and protective manner.
- Speaking up for those who are least able to speak for themselves, including vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and the poor.
- Being fiscally responsible, planning for the future while attending to the present.

These are the most important duties because I believe they will best serve the taxpayers of the State.

**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.*

Masters Degree in Public Administration, Bachelors Degree in Political Science. Senior Professional in Human Resources certification.

**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 always had a strong sense of community and have felt compassion and empathy for the problems of others. This sense of community grew from activities in my childhood (such as sponsoring a fund raiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and later participating in "Walk-a-thon" fund raising events for the March of Dimes), and it remains with me to this day. As an adult, for example, I have hosted foster children, gathered food for food banks, and helped with community projects. On the City Council, I have learned how to make things happen by working with others in addressing community priorities. I am also active in our local Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, working to help veterans in our community. Civic involvement is vital to our success as a society. I agree with Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, who once said, "This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all us to live in." Civic involvement, volunteerism, and community involvement are vital components of what makes our society a great one.