



The Municipal League of King County
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Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 264-1070 • cec@munileague.org

2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Saul Ettlin, **Director**

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
Scott	B	White

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

WA State House of Representatives, 46th LD, position 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

12+ years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

12+ years (fourth generation Washingtonian)

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: People for Scott White

Address: PO Box 25313

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98165-2213

Campaign Phone: 206-310-7970

Campaign Fax: na

Campaign E-mail: Scott.white46@comcast.net

Campaign Website: www.scottwhite.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)
Chair, 46th District Democrats	Elective	2003-2007	Head of local Democratic Party organization
Precinct Committee Officer (PCO)	Elective	1998-present	Local neighborhood party officer
Humanities Washington (Board of Directors)	Appointed by Gov. Gregoire	2007-present	Member of Board Finance Committee

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

Office Title	Year of Run
na	

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.)

State government will face many new and many familiar challenges in the years ahead. Issues such as basic education, growth management, transportation solutions, economic development, criminal justice policy and budget deficits are growing more complex with each year. As an active member of my community and a professional with a strong background in state and local government, I have experienced firsthand both how government *can* help citizens and what must happen on the inside to ensure that government *actually does* help citizens. I'm running for public office because I want to raise the bar and increase the effectiveness of our King County legislative delegation. There is so much work to do, and so much of that work I understand and have experience in, that I feel a sense of responsibility to ensure that the coming challenges are addressed in a responsible manner and that the citizenry is getting value from their government.

I am particularly interested in education (K-12 and higher ed), the environment and economic development. As a parent and part-time educator, I understand how public education is the foundation for our communities—and potentially the great equalizer for many social inequities. As a long-time outdoorsman who has enjoyed camping and hiking all over our great state, I want to make sure that our natural environment can be enjoyed by future generations. And as a professional in the public sector, I know that a strong economy is needed to maintain a tax base that will sufficiently fund the basic program needs for a healthy society. To that end, I want more out of my state legislature. I want more than someone who will got to Olympia to cast a vote—I want someone who has a deep understanding of the issues at stake and who really knows what it means to bring people together to solve problems.

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

1. Connection to the local community and entire state. As a fourth-generation Washingtonian, a long-time resident of the 46th legislative district and a parent of a young family, I am committed to making my local community and my state a healthy and safe place to live, work and play. While Seattle is my home, I was raised in Thurston County and have family connections in Eastern Washington, Skagit Valley and the Pacific Coast. As a result, I understand the importance of thinking about issues both on a statewide and local scale. I am currently involved with several community organizations, including: Humanities Washington (statewide in scope), United Way of King County (regional in scope), Seattle Works (citywide in scope), Wedgwood Community Council (neighborhood in scope), among others. When I think of my role as a future legislator, I think about the opportunities to work with colleagues from around the state to achieve our potential to create a world class community for future generations.

2. Knowledge of Policy, Budgets and Legislative Process. As a senior level professional in the public sector, I have had the unique opportunity to work on many state and local government issues. I have served as professional non-partisan policy, budget and management staff for the WA State House of Representatives, WA State Senate and the Metropolitan King County Council. In these capacities, I have written, negotiated and helped to pass countless pieces of legislation over the years. I have also worked extensively on budget, operational management and an array of policy issues with far reaching impacts. In addition to my success as a practitioner, I also teach public policy to graduate students at the UW Evans School of Public Affairs.

3. Ability to work with all sides to develop solutions. As mentioned above, I have extensive experience working in the legislative arena in both State and Local government. In this capacity I have worked closely with *both* Democrats and Republicans, *as well as* business leaders, labor community, environmentalists, educators, citizens activists and other sectors of the community to develop solutions to our most challenging policy issues. I understand that passing legislation is a *team effort* that requires building relationships and understanding mutual interests. Too often we see myopic activists elected to public office who are unwilling to acknowledge different perspectives on an issue, whether they agree with those differing perspectives or not. I will bring a solutions based approach that will involve working with all sectors and members of the community.

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.

1. Chair, 46th District Democrats (grassroots community organizer)

When I was elected as Chair of the 46th District Democrats in 2003, the organization did not have a website, membership was sagging and the internal capacity of the organization was quite low. During my five year tenure as chair, I lead a team that turned the organization into the top Democratic organization in the state. Under my leadership we:

- Doubled the membership
- Tripled the budget
- Created the best website in the state
- Moved to a larger meeting site
- Increased our activism on issues
- Set aside money to donate to candidates
- Conducted countless training session to engage citizens in the political process

In honor of my success in leading the organization, I was recognized as “Chair of the Year” by the Washington State Democrats and “Democrat of the Year” by the King County Democrats.

2. Chief of Staff, King County Council (senior professional in local gov’t)

I was appointed as Chief of Staff for the Metropolitan King County Council in 2004. In this capacity I was responsible for a staff of approximately 150 that served the legislative body charged with providing policy and budgetary oversight to a \$4+ billion local government operation that serves 1.8 million people. During my 2+ year tenure as Chief of Staff we adopted balanced budgets, passed the Critical Areas Ordinance, implemented a new series of Town Hall Forums that took Council meetings out into the community and addressed countless other regional issues.

3. Parent (personal)

While this question is likely geared more towards professional accomplishments, I must note that being a parent is the most important responsibility I will ever have. My wife and I share a passion for public service and civic engagement. We are working every day to instill those values in our children.

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.

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3. Board Member, Humanities Washington (non-profit organization)

I was appointed by Governor Gregoire to serve on the Board of Humanities Washington. In this capacity, I work with other Board members from around the state to evaluate and make decisions on how to allocate resources to fund humanities education programs. This requires working with colleagues from different geographical areas to develop policies and a budget that works in support of the mission of the organization from a statewide perspective.

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

A State Representative serves as the voice (representative) of his or her community on matters before the State Legislature. During legislative sessions, the Legislature is called upon to: enact or reject legislation affecting public policy in the state; provide for the levy and collection of taxes and other revenue to support state government and assist local government; and appropriate funds for these purposes. Although laws are enacted only when the Legislature is convened in formal session, policy issues and the general operation of state and local government are under continuous review by legislators serving on permanent and interim study committees. (Taken in part from the WA Secretary of State's website.)

In this context, one of the most important roles is to develop and maintain a strong relationship with the community you are representing so that you can be an effective voice for them while serving as a legislator. In order to be an effective legislator while in session, it is critical to develop and maintain strong working relationships with your colleagues from around the state. Last but not least, it is important to develop and maintain a knowledge base on the many issues before the legislature so that you can engage in the debate to fully assess issues and then make informed decisions.

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 of Public Administration – University of Washington
BA in Political Science – Western 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.*

Check here if you would like the Municipal League to copy the first 500 characters from Question 4 to paste into this section.

A respected policy expert and proven community organizer, Scott White has an outstanding record of meeting challenges head-on and bringing people together to get the job done!

Proven Community Leader

Scott has volunteered countless hours for many neighborhood and non-profit organizations in an effort to make our community a better place to live, work and play!

- Humanities Washington – Appointed by Governor Gregoire to Board of Directors
- United Way of King County – Public Policy Committee
- CityYear – Mentor to youth participants
- EarthCorps – Helped to establish organization in mid-1990s
- SeattleWorks – Team leader and volunteer
- Municipal League of Seattle/King County – Volunteer
- Wedgwood Community Council – north Seattle neighborhood organization
- Engrossed House Joint Resolution 4204 – Served on Steering Committee in support of the successful ballot measure allowing school levies to pass with a simple majority vote

Successful Grassroots Organizer

Scott has successfully organized and empowered thousands of grassroots activists in Seattle and King County—helping them to have a voice in the political process!

- 46th District Democrats – Chair 2003-2007
- King County Democrats – Co-Chair, Legislative Action Committee
- Washington State Democrats – “Chair of the Year”
- King County Democrats – “Democrat of the Year”

Respected Professional

Scott is widely respected for his work on state and local government issues, including budget and finance, civil rights, labor relations, growth management and community development!

Current:

- Government Relations Officer, King County government
- Lecturer, University of Washington, Evans School of Public Affairs

Former:

- Chief of Staff and Senior Analyst, Metropolitan King County Council
- Staff, Washington State Senate Health and Long-term Care Committee
- Staff, Washington State House of Reps. Government Operations Committee
- Staff, Washington State Department of Ecology and Personnel

Finished!

If at all possible, send your response to the Municipal League electronically as an email attachment, or insert it into an e-mail message (cec@munileague.org). Mail and fax numbers are listed below. If the League has not contacted you to schedule an interview, please call the League office at your earliest convenience.

Don't forget to send the following to the Municipal League: a resume, a photo, campaign literature, and, if you are an incumbent, constituent newsletters and other materials. Please use the check-off list on the cover sheet of this packet to indicate which items you have sent.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR CAMPAIGN!

THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY

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