



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 Cressman & Burgess PLLC
Norma Jean Hanson, Secretary
*Norma Jean Hanson
Paralegal Services*
Kristin Peterson, Treasurer
*Washington State Hospital
Association*

Jill D. Bowman,
Stoel Rives LLP

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

Gabe Meyer

Ramsey Ramerman,
Foster Pepper

R. Todd Slind,
CH2MHill

Wes Uhlman,
Wes Uhlman & Associates

Nick S. Verwolf,
Davis Wright Tremaine

Rodney G. Wendt

Nick Williamson, *Encrypted Key
Technologies*

Kendee Yamaguchi

Staff

Saul Ettlin, Director

2009 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE KING COUNTY ELECTIONS 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 100 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:

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Candidate Questionnaire | Sent by: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Resume (education, employment, and professional activities) | Sent by: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sending |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check here if you DO NOT want your resume posted on the League's website | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Campaign Materials | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Constituent Newsletters and other publications | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Photograph | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.**

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.

A League volunteer Candidate Investigator is waiting to receive your questionnaire to begin his or her work. Please complete and return your questionnaire to the League office at your earliest convenience.

Please have your questionnaire to us no later than Dec 15th, 2008

If you have any question about completing the questionnaire, please feel free to contact us at 206-264-1070

2009 Candidate Questionnaire

King County Election Director

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Christopher	P.	Clifford

2. How long have you resided in King County?

48 years

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Clifford for Director

Address: 2721 Talbot Rd. S.

City/State/Zip: Renton

Campaign Phone: 425-255-0447

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: _____

Campaign Website: _____

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)
North Bay Planning Area Committee member	Elected	2005-2008 reelected 2008-2011	Chairman 2008 Vice Chair 2007, 2006

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Renton City Council	2001, 1997
Renton Mayor	1995

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.)

King County Director of Elections must provide for the voters of King County the confidence that their votes are being safely counted and the integrity that their votes are being honestly counted. Over the years the people of King County have had a number of reasons to have their confidence in the office shaken and the integrity of the office placed in doubt.

I believe that I would be able to bring back the confidence and integrity of the office. I am not beholding to any political party. I believe that my years of citizen activism have shown that I am willing to fight for open and honest government.

I also believe that voter outreach is an important part of this office. As a teacher I have worked with a large variety of demographics and I am comfortable speaking with groups of young and old alike. We need to stress how important each vote is and how jealously the legitimate votes are protected.

I have a unique combination of public and private sector experience that I would bring to this office. I am also serving in an elected position where our committee oversees a ten million dollar budget. We have suffered through too many years of chronic lying and incompetence in this office. I believe I can correct that pattern.

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

I believe integrity is the most important personal characteristic for any public office. I was taught that if you will lie about the little things you will lie about the big ones. I believe that actions define character. I have a reputation of doing what I say I will do.

We can only have confidence in our public offices if the people serving are open and honest. We do not demand perfection but we must demand people to have the character to be honest and direct with us regarding their work in public office. It is when our leaders lack integrity we lose our confidence in government.

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 most proud of the children my wife and I have raised and the family we have created. It takes hard work, communication, compassion, and self sacrifice to create a functioning family and successful children.

I am proud of my work with students who have are difficult to reach. These children can be combative, rude, and resistant to the benefits of the lesson or education I am trying to provide them. Working with students from torn families, gang ties, or other personal problems and having them connect with an academic subject matter takes that same qualities required in raising a family. I am proud that many of my former students call me and keep in contact with me to tell me of their accomplishments or seek my assistance when they are confronted with trouble.

Running a business or an office that is a great place to work requires the same type of qualities that being a parent or being a teacher demand. When you believe in what you are doing it is infectious, when you allow others to grow in their work environment they will shine.

I lead by example and I am proud of my recent 9-0 Supreme Court decision. I tell my children, students and employees that you can achieve anything you set your mind to do, and I live by that statement. I believe that we can have an honest and open office of Elections in King County that the people can believe in and the type of office the people deserve.

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.

I have worked in the private and public sector and serve as an elected official. I have volunteered and served on a curriculum review committee(1993), sight based decision making council (present), and have served as a department head in my school (2007).

I currently work on a committee with twenty three other members. I am proud that they have elected me to serve as the chair of that committee and in the past have allowed me to serve as vice chair. I been elected and reelected to that committee in 2005 and 2008.

Communication and respect for those you serve with are key skills in succeeding. Being able to openly and honestly communicate makes any activity easier and more productive.

Standing for what you believe in to prevent injustice is a leadership skill that I believe we have too little of in this day and age. I worked with residents of a number of areas to prevent tolls from being placed on roads throughout the region (1995). I have worked with minority businesses to prevent harassment and discrimination (1998) against their businesses by government. I have fought for freedom of speech (1997) and open government (2001). I have held officials accountable for dishonest or unethical behavior while serving in public office, King County Councilmember Jane Hague and Port of Seattle Commissioner Pat Davis.

I believe that our government and our political system are only as strong as our willingness to serve and make it what we all believe it can and should be.

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

The duties are to distribute, securely account for, and tabulate the votes cast in King County elections. Other duties include voters identification, voters pamphlets, and voter registration.

The security and counting of legitimate ballots is the most important duty of this office. That duty entails a number of areas such as legitimate voter registration and validating voter rolls.

In King County we have seen the results of when the security of the votes is in doubt. The 2004 election fiasco in King County made us a national embarrassment. The willingness of the people in charge to mislead the public and defend incompetence has shaken the confidence of the people of King County.

We have seen groups launch drives to falsely register voters and defraud our system. The elections office has not been diligent in spotting areas of concern over issues such as residency or large numbers of voters in precincts with few residential homes. When we do not protect and diligently guard against illegitimate voters we disenfranchise legitimate voters. We must never allow legitimate votes to be disenfranchised.

**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 (teaching) University of Puget Sound, BA (History) UPS, AA and AAS (law enforcement) Green River CC

**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.

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.

A League volunteer Candidate Investigator is waiting to receive your questionnaire to begin his or her work. Please complete and return your questionnaire to the League office at your earliest convenience.

Please have your questionnaire to us no later than Dec 15th, 2008

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

THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY

Director: Saul Ettlin

810 Third Avenue, Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98104-1614

Phone: (206) 264-1070
Fax: (425) 671-0506

Email: cec@munileague.org
Website: www.munileague.org