



The Municipal League of King County
810 Third Avenue, Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 264-1070 · cec@munileague.org

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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:

- 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 League's website
- Campaign Materials (first time candidate – I do not have campaign items yet)**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications (I am not the incumbent)**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Don't have any
- 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.**

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

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Julie		Kempf

2. How long have you resided in King County?

40+ years since 1965, continually since 1969 – four generations of my family have lived and worked in King County, but I was born in Virginia due to my father's station of service at the time as a Vietnam-era US Marine Corps officer.

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Kempf

Address: POB 31877

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98103

Campaign Phone: 206-523-6268

Campaign Fax: On request - please call or e-mail for connection arrangements

Campaign E-mail: electjulie@juliekempf.com

Campaign Website: www.juliekempf.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)
1 of 2 Green Lake Community Council representatives to the Woodland Park Zoo Neighborhood Liaison Committee	Appointive	2008- present	
Superintendent of Elections	Appointive	1999 – Dec 31, 2002	Top official managing the day-to-day operations of the Elections Section under a policymaking Division Manager for Records, Elections, and Licensing. Appointed to position after winning a rigorous national search and lengthy interview and vetting process.
Precinct Committee Officer (D) SEA 46-1282	Elective	2006- present	* twice won contested races for the position
Precinct Committee Officer (D) SEA 11-1455	Elective	1997-1999	* resigned upon becoming acting Superintendent of Elections Served as State Committee Woman representing 11 th District
Precinct Committee Officer (D) KEN 33-2825	Elective	1994-1997	Served on the Executive Board of the 33 rd District

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

Office Title	Year of Run
State Representative – District 33, Pos. 2	Competed for appointment to a vacancy in a field of 6 – January 1996

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.)

The single most important function of local county government in our nation is the administration of public elections.

While some may debate this statement, citing fire and/or life safety services as more critical to the public, I would respectfully disagree. The policies that determine how resources are allocated and utilized, where personnel are stationed, what acceptable response times are, etc., all come from elected officials. Those elected officials, and thus the policies that guide all government services are chosen by the people at the ballot box.

The public election is the mechanism by which American voters govern themselves.

Thus, it is imperative that every county elections office have at it's helm a strong, principled advocate for the voters best interests above all else – who will fight for opportunities for full enfranchisement of all qualified voters, while safeguarding the voter rolls from errors; who will fight for as many possible means by which a voter can cast a ballot; who will fight for resources to ensure that voters have ample understandable information about contests on their ballot; and who will ensure that vote tabulation is completed accurately and timely, using appropriate technology.

I am the right person for this office at this time in King County.

I am running for the position of Director of Elections because, quite simply, I am passionate about elections and election integrity– free, fair, and open elections are the majority of my life's work. In this office, I would wake up each day with optimism and energy, ready to tackle each day's advocacy for the voters, knowing that I and my staff were truly performing worthwhile work.

I am also running because no other candidate in the field can claim the range of election knowledge I possess, nor the varied roles I have experienced – I have experienced the breadth that the American election experience has to offer. Yes, I have managed elections here, in one of the largest most

complex jurisdictions in the nation. I have also served in subordinate office roles such as voter registrar, as the election operations head, I have programmed election databases, built ballot artwork, conducted pollworker training, and worked at the polls myself. I have lobbied as a private citizen for election reform laws, I have written essays on election reform topics, have performed extensive analysis of election data for activist groups and the press, have served as an expert witness in an election trial, have conducted voter registration drives, I have managed political campaigns, have been a candidate, and last, but certainly not least, I have voted in every election. I have truly seen the election process in King County, its strengths, and its weaknesses, from every possible side.

And further, no other candidate on this ballot has successfully managed this elections office in a time of crisis. Although the appointee heading the department has had three relatively uneventful years, the elections have not been as flawless as advertised, and the office has not been truly tested in crisis. There has been no lack of funding or resources (indeed, the elections budget has managed to become somewhat inflated) and there have been very few close elections – the one most significant close contest in the past three years featured a seriously botched recount, but because it was a primary contest and the battle was for the second name on the ballot, the press did not cover the problem and it was ignored.

Our county, just like our nation, is in a time of deep financial crisis. Over the next three years, this office will be tested. Resources will dry up. Staff will be strained, especially if there are close election contests. Special interests will test the Elections Director to see if influence can be had. I am the only candidate who brings both several years of experience managing King County elections while in a financial crisis, and I've previously proven that I can set aside all partisanship while in the office serving the public. (It's notable that while I am known as a Democrat, some of my strongest supporters are Republicans who experienced the balance and fairness with which I previously managed the office.)

I have been tested in times of deep county financial crisis, as well as close elections, and I have largely succeeded. Knight-Ridder newspaper group determined that King County was the most accurately run Presidential election process in any urban area in the 2000 election. This is not to say that I have not made my share of errors. I have had instances where I would have preferred to claim a better performance, but I have learned and grown from my mistakes and have the skills and tools to prevent such mistakes in the future.

And lastly I am running, because the King County Elections office desperately needs to be brought into the bright light of open sunshine. The current appointed Elections Director insists that the past three years' worth of elections have been nearly "flawless", when in fact, there has been everything from small glitches in printing and counts, to a major recount foul-up that have been downplayed to the public, rather than very visibly identified and analyzed. This is a disappointing public reaction to the miasma that was the 2004 Governor's Election.

Public Disclosure requests currently are filled much too slowly; many times documents that could be disclosed are withheld under obscure loopholes which may meet the letter, do not meet the spirit of the State's public disclosure law. Public disclosure requests need to be filled timely and fully, without missing documents.

In many ways, this election is not only a choice of a leader to establish the tenor of the election office – it is a contest to see if the King County Election office is prepared to be fully open and transparent

in its dealings – both current and past. It is a race to install leadership that will provide public documents withheld from previous elections, before the preservation period lapses, and the documents are shredded and the information lost to the public for all time.

I alone among the field of candidates have the right combination of knowledge, experience, commitment to fully open government, and political independence and courage to lead the office at this important juncture and to be the voters' prime advocate in the King County Courthouse and in Olympia.

I hope you will honor me with a prestigious top Municipal League ranking.

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

I am passionate about elections and the role of elections in our democracy, and have devoted the latter half of my life to free, fair and open elections, as an election administrator, as an outside election expert and activist, and as a private citizen. I have seen the effect of poorly run elections on the confidence of voters, and have seen the benefit of well-run elections to our democratic society.

I am fair and treat everyone with respect, regardless of their background or education, whether they are a supervisor or subordinate, friend or adversary. This is imperative in the leader of the elections office.

I am a good communicator. I have the ability to synthesize complex election administration and/or election law issues into clear, easily understood statements for laypersons. This is important in keeping the election office responsive to the public. A voter shouldn't have to wade through "bureaucratese" simply to have a clear answer, regardless of the complexity of their question.

I am calm and persistent. When I have received incomplete or inadequate information from an employee, supervisor, or government agency, if the issue is important, I will continue to pursue the matter until I have complete information. I will not fold under pressure, nor get discouraged if multiple attempts are needed to complete a project accurately. My motto is the old Japanese proverb, "Fall down seven times, get up eight."

I am a rapid learner with an agile mind. I do not, nor will I ever, have all the answers. I continue to learn daily on a 360 degree basis – from my mentors and those above me, from those supervised and coached by me, from peers, friends, stakeholders and private citizens. Although I have significant experience in election administration, especially election administration in times of crisis, I do not believe that it is ever possible to be finished with learning one's profession and adapting to changing times, demands, and needs.

Last but definitely not least: I am politically courageous and resilient. It is always harder to challenge one's friends than it is to stand up to one's enemies, and in the case of advocating for free and fair elections, at times I find I must stand up to both friend and foe alike, if their goal would be to unfairly influence elections.

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: I am proud of the impartial, efficient and accurate administration of the 2000 Presidential year election, including the very close Gorton-Cantwell Senate race and recount. Despite the fact that we were deep in a budget crisis and had eleven vacancies in permanent staff, our elections team rose to the occasion and performed with excellence. The attorneys from the major political parties who observed on-site, even on the Republican side suffering the election loss (one of whom would later become Councilmember Reagan Dunn) had high praise for our fairness, security, and attention to detail. The recount following hardly varied from the original count. In the copious national analysis following the election, Knight-Ridder newspapers found that the Seattle/King County administration of the Presidential election was the most accurate of any of the 50 major urban centers nationally.

We were tested, and we rose to the test.

#2: I am proud of my role in the resolution of the Alaska Democratic Party's lawsuit against the State of Alaska, regarding whether the full tabulation database would be released as part of a Public Disclosure request in 2005, or whether only the final results would be provided to the plaintiff. Diebold Election Systems, possibly through misunderstanding the request, attempted to claim, through the Alaska State Elections office, that the subtotals, and other interim tabulation database data were "proprietary information" that could not be disclosed to the public.

The two parties in the case had been at a stalemate for nine months, but I was able to break down the elements of the dispute into clear terms and explain in one afternoon in a pre-deposition interview that the data being requested was not part of the proprietary Diebold product in any way, but was simply interim tabulation numbers, in other words, *election results*, which was certainly the property of the voters of the State of Alaska, and should be available as a part of a public disclosure request.

The dispute was resolved between the parties the next day.

#3: I am proud of standing firm in my resolve to bring sunshine to the past operations of the King County Election Office, despite open harassment including false arrest, blackballing, threats, stonewalling, and active attempts to discredit my assertions. Also of getting the information out regarding security inadequacy, felons hired as subcontractors by Diebold, discarded procedures, and irregularities, even if I had to use unconventional means to do so, when conventional means did not work.

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 am unique in that I will bring experience both years of hands on election administration experience, as well as the fresh perspective of an election integrity activist and a concerned citizen to the job of Elections Director.

Over the course of twenty five years, I have been a King County voter, a pollworker inspector and volunteer deputy voter registrar before the advent of Motor Voter, as well as an elected precinct committee officer in each of the three different precincts in the county that I have lived, I have been a political party officer, an election integrity activist and consultant on election issues, as well as an expert witness for election law matters. I have written essays on election reform issues, and consulted for local and national press on background election questions for columns they are writing.

These activities described below have given me the opportunities over the years to acquire and hone my community organizing skills, my communication skills, my management and oversight skills, and my ability to foresee and respond to the needs of people and projects. Recent activism in the past four years, has helped to hone my philosophies of election administration by requiring me to articulate and refine my own thoughts so that I might be better able to communicate those principles to others.

From 1981 – 1985 I was active on the WSU campus in social issue politics. In parliamentary procedure class, I met and became friends with Diane Ballasiotes, whose murder here in Seattle in 1988 by a sexual predator on work release reawakened my interest in legislative lobbying, in this case for sentencing reform and involuntary commitment of sex predators who were a danger to the community.

After re-establishing myself in King County post-college, one of my first civic activities was to volunteer as a pollworker. I served in this capacity, up to six times per year, from 1986 – 1997, when I joined the election office management team and could no longer work at the polls. A particular aspect I enjoyed was that I was assigned to my childhood junior high school and was able to interact with long time neighbors and even some of my former teachers each election day.

From 1989-1993, when the program was discontinued, I served as a volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar. This was during the period when an election staff member or trained volunteer deputy was needed to witness voter registration applications. Nearly every weekend during that time frame, I staffed a booth at a supermarket, Costco, or community fair to register voters. I have been involved in volunteer voter registration drives from 1989 to the present, most recently this summer.

When my local PCO felt it was time to retire, I ran with her blessing to succeed her as PCO of my neighborhood precinct. I have served in this capacity in the three different neighborhoods in which I have lived since 1994, with the exception of the time I worked at the election office and discontinued all partisan activity. I have always seen this office as more than political, and especially when I lived in the Avalon/Delridge neighborhood in West Seattle, we used the precinct as an organizing point for our neighborhood watch program.

From 1998-January 2003, I served in the King County Election office. I was first hired as Asst Superintendent of Voter Registration, and later was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Election Operations, before being tapped, first on an acting basis, and later permanently after a national search and rigorous interview process, for the position of Superintendent of Elections. The elections office during this time frame was extremely strapped for resources and budget, and, while this was a curse in many ways, the hidden benefit was that our enforced short handedness gave me opportunity to learn each and every work station in the office, and put me in the enviable position of having the skills and knowledge to train new employees on any position in the entire operation, with the exception of the more advanced GIS (cartography) positions. This is a skill set that I do not believe any other candidate for this office can reasonably claim.

After the debacle of the 2000 Presidential election activities in Florida, I chose to apply for and attend law school, without plans to actively practice law, but specifically to enhance my skills as an election administrator, which would clearly benefit from legal training. I attended the Seattle University School of Law night program for working professionals from May of 2001 – spring of 2003. I have not yet completed my JD, but the legal skills, including research and writing, and the fundamental understanding of the law I gained are absolutely of benefit to anyone contemplating election administration as a profession.

After leaving the election office, I assisted Bev Harris with some of the early investigations of Black Box Voting, including providing her with critical documents and information about the 23 count embezzler that I had found was assigned by Diebold Elections to King County 's election technology project and contract. (I had originally discovered this information working on a law school assignment, while working for King County. I provided this information upon discovery immediately to my supervisor. His response was to instruct me to destroy the documents, and to keep my mouth shut, lest my career at the county come to a quick and ugly end.) Bev Harris' efforts in this arena earned her a Municipal League award in 2004.

I also founded, along with Andy Stephenson and Gentry Lange, the Washington Citizens for Fair Elections, an elections watchdog group that predicted and attempted to avert the local meltdown of the 2004 election.

Since 2004, I have been a background technical source for a number of members of the press, and have provided information about election administration and technology to producers for 60 Minutes, to many major newspapers and radio stations nationally, to other election offices and the Alaska State elections office, to the investigative committee for Cuyahoga County Elections Irregularities in 2004, and to the Brennan Center.

In the past two years, I have been very active in the League of Women Voters Civic Education committee, and have been a LWV speaker for many events on the topics of local government and civic education.

I would bring a unique perspective to the position of Elections Director in that I have the substantial hands-on experience in the myriad of internal roles at the election office, and could perform as well as train others to perform nearly every job in the office, as well as having active experience in many different external stakeholder and voter roles. I am an elections Jill-of-all-Trades with a level of intensity and experience across the spectrum, which is replicated in very few individuals nationally.

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

The King County Director of Elections is the executive level policymaker for the King County Elections office. The first publicly-elected Director will provide a vision and philosophy of the administration of elections – hopefully, a balance between the responsibility of the office staff to be both gatekeepers and facilitators, in the bright sunshine of truly open government -- which will guide the efforts of the elections team, including the top technician and administrator of the office, the Superintendent of Elections.

Through the oversight of the Superintendent, the duties of the Director of Elections include: ensuring that qualified voters can register with ease; that the voter rolls are kept current and complete; that changing jurisdictional and taxation boundaries as well as other address information is also kept up-to-date; that ballots are available by a variety of means, making them accessible to all county voters regardless of abilities or physical location; that information about upcoming election dates and contests is readily available well in advance for candidates, campaigns, press, and voters; ensuring that election day, and the 79 surrounding days that the election is “live” are run efficiently and fairly.

In addition to those ongoing election office tasks overseen through the Superintendent, the Director will be responsible to advocate for legislation changes that benefit the public voter, for a right-sized (neither too large and wasteful, nor too small and detrimental) budget and resource allocation from the county and state, and to model and instill a commitment to fully open and transparent function at all levels of the office.

This latter, I believe, is the single most important duty of the Director of Elections -- *to model and instill a commitment to fully open and transparent functioning at all levels of the office.*

Certainly, there are key elements of what the election office does – counting the votes accurately, for one – that are clearly important. But these elements, I would argue, are ongoing necessities, that anything less is unacceptable.

Fully open government is a philosophy, a *way* of executing the work that must be done, of performing the essential tasks that make up the business of elections, which can only be instilled by the publicly elected policymaker – the person the people have hired to run their elections and serve as local steward of their democracy.

Coming in a close second, I believe the next most important duty of the King County Elections Director is to serve as the primary advocate for the rights of voters of King County. The right for citizens to register conveniently, accurately, and without undue barrier. The right to receive information about upcoming elections so to cast an informed vote. The right to have ballot titles written in such a way that the effect of passage of the measure is clear to all. The right to cast a ballot with ease regardless of where the voter is located.

Voters need and deserve an elected official looking out for their rights as voters and citizens, and advocating effectively for them. When elected, S/he must do just that. The Director of Elections must not be passive.

**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.*

Diploma with High Honors, Thomas Jefferson High School, Federal Way, WA 1981
Bachelor of Arts in Speech, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 1985
Washington State Election Administrator Certification, per OSOS training requirements, 1999-2003
Coursework towards Juris Doctor, Seattle University School of Law (have not yet completed JD)

**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 value my community and have led many charitable efforts: food, clothing, and blanket drives, a shelter toiletries drive, a jog-a-thon, several fun runs, a youth drama camp for at-risk kids, and free alterations of donated career clothing for job coaching clients.

Founding Member, Washington Citizens for Fair Elections
Deputy Registrar of Voters, 5 yrs
Pollworker - Inspector, 10 yrs
League of Women Voters - Civic Education Committee & Local Government Speaker
WP Zoo Neighborhood Liaison
Member & Donor: NW Women's Law Center, Habitat for Humanity

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