

Municipal League 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Gregg		Bennett

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): State Senate District 48

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes **No**

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 40 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 40 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Gregg Bennett for State Senate

Campaign Name: Bennett for Senate

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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)
NA			

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.)

I am running for office because I do not believe our representatives, of both parties, are doing a very good job of doing what is in the best interest of our state and it's residents. I have been concerned, and then I got mad last year when our state legislature passed a budget it "knew" did not have the revenues to support it. CPA trained, and a management consultant to large medical center complexes, I am familiar with the spending mindset and strategies to work within known funds. I am also a serial entrepreneur and don't understand the false tradeoffs we seem to be offered of cutting programs or raising taxes. As a long time business CEO type, I am always pressured to do more for less and work with what you have. It takes work, ideas, collaboration, and willingness to do more for less. We have not seen those characteristics coming from most of our current legislators.

I am to a point in my life where I feel "compelled" to give back. I have had a fantastic education, great business opportunities, a loving and supportive family and I am in a position where I can give back 100%.... and want to.

I feel very passionate about our education system and our kids are the very last concern. We have a failing education system and annual declines in competitiveness in an increasingly global economy. We must put a stake in the sand and begin to fix it rather than continue to fiddle while it gets worse. It is not all about the money. We need to evaluate students and teachers, and we need to go to school longer. It will require leadership and I am willing to lead the charge for a transformation of our education system.

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

For most of my professional career, I have been helping and coaching companies and health care organizations to be more efficient; more responsive to their customers' needs; and, to provide higher quality of service and care. I'm ready to go to work in the State Senate, to accomplish the same goals.

I believe cost, quality, and customer satisfaction benchmarks must be applied in Olympia just as they are applied in the real world. And, my more than 30 years of experience and business insights tells me it would only make us stronger...more efficient...and allow us to deliver a higher level of service to our kids, our employers and those most in need.

I am also an incredibly driven focused individual who excels in a team setting. I have identified real changes that I believe must be implemented in Olympia to keep our state from headed to the direction of California where we are facing real crisis. I look forward to the challenge of the Legislative process and seeing measurable results.

Perhaps my best trait is my willingness to study and listen. I am a "student" and look for all sides of an issue, then am confident to proceed with a direction and a conviction to get things done. I am not afraid to seek additional information of time allows. I am also not afraid to make decisions and move on.

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 developing, from scratch, Healthcare Business Services Inc (HBSI). After I graduated from business school in 1990, I started a new company whose service was to benchmark hospital performance. HBSI collected data from hospitals and then compared them to each other. We cracked the code of adjusting for hospital caseloads and providing real comparative information to hospital management so they could compare their performance to other similar hospitals.

Over the next 7 years, the company grew from 1 employee (me) to over 200 local employees based in Bellevue. In 1997, I was honored as the E&W Entrepreneur of the Year, and the business was recognized as the Eastside Emerging Business of the Year as well as a finalist for the Computerworld/Smithsonian national medical award.

Over the next 6 years or so, we continued to grow and acquired a few other companies. Before long we were a 1,000-person company based in Bellevue, Washington with \$125M in revenues and providing comparative information to half of the hospitals in the country. The company was sold in 2004 to a large publishing concern (The Thomsen Corporation) and I left the business to pursue angel investing.

A negative to the sale was the analysis of our local business environment by the new owner and the determination that other business environments were more favorable. As a result,

over the next three years, the Bellevue office as shut down and all functions were transferred to Ann Arbor.

I am proud of this company because it was initially a radical approach to measuring hospital performance; an approach which was cost effective, practical, and useful. Many of the clinical measures have transformed hospital operations to be more efficient and save lives.

- 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 an entrepreneur I coach local technology companies, and have helped over 25 Northwest-based startup and early-stage companies become self-sustaining businesses. I am on the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Angels of the Washington State Technology Alliance and was the E&W Software Entrepreneur of the year in 1998. As CEO, my company was the Eastside Chamber of Commerce Emerging Business of the Year in 1999.

I am the co-founder and President of the Bellevue Baseball Club. For over a decade I have coached youth sports and am a committed volunteer with Crossfire Premier Soccer. I am the parent advisor to the Bellevue High School Microfinance Club, and have taken two groups of 25 students to the Dominican Republic to study microfinance concepts. I also was a founding board member of SAMA (Science and Management of Addiction), which has developed local programs for parents to obtain help in working through the addiction issues of their children.

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

The most important duty I have as a State Senator is to listen and then lead. The voters elect this role to implement and execute the change they want to see in state government. When times are tough, as they are now, they expect their leaders to make difficult decisions. I hear every day on the doorstep that voters are tired of the status quo, they are becoming disenfranchised with the system because they don't believe anyone is listening...and even if they are they won't ever see real change out of Olympia. I want to change that. I am going to Olympia with a real plan for getting our state back in the game - with jobs and new investments in this state, improving our public schools and getting our state spending back on track.