



The Municipal League of King County

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Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 622-8333 · cec@munileague.org

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2011 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Municipal League of King County requests every candidate who participates in the candidate evaluation process **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 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 public on the League's 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
- 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.**

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 206-622-8333.

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 the questionnaire to the League office at your earliest convenience.

Please have your materials to us no later than June 10th, 2011.

Email the completed questionnaire and other materials to:
cec@munileague.org

2011 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Harium	Joseph	Martin-Morris

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

Seattle School Board, District III

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

19 years 11 months

5. How long have you resided in King County?

19 years 11 months

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Harium For School Board

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: _____

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: _____

Campaign Website: www.harium.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)
School Board Director	Elective	Elected 11/07	Chair - Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee

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

Office Title	Year of Run

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 am running for re-election to the Seattle Schools Board to continue the work I started 3 and half years ago, to make all our schools quality places focused on the needs of our students. Systemic change does take time. Stability and continuity in your Seattle School Board is the best way ensure that continued progress can be made. During my tenure, this school board has made positive changes, such as:

- * Refining of a predictable student assignment plan**
- * Improving the partnership between the city and the district**
- * Producing district and school report cards**
- * A landmark Collective Bargaining Agreement with our teachers and principals**
- * Reducing the number of redundant and outdated school board policies**

Seattle's schools are vital and exciting places of learning with great teachers and a passionate community. Over the past 3 years I have been an advocate for public education within and beyond our district. My participation as a Steering Committee member for the Council of Urban Boards of Education has allowed me to help shape education policy at both the local and national levels. Our schools can be places where every student is provided academic choices that fit their dreams and desires. With the right leadership and focus on the needs of our children, we can achieve quality in every neighborhood.

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

There are several characteristics that make me an effective school board member. First is my professional background. As a former teacher and district staff member for Boston Public Schools, I know what goes on in both in the classroom and at the central office. And as a national educational consultant, I have a deep understanding of public school needs, and the ability to work with diverse groups and build consensus. My role as PTSA President and Site Council District Liaison Chair, has given me the skill to advocate for our students. MBA training gives me the analytical skills to work on financial and organization issues effectively. My current work as a IT manager at the Boeing Company provides me with daily experience in working with diverse groups and solving problems. It is this unique combination of characteristics that well suit me for the office of school board director.

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.

One accomplishment that I am proud of is the adoption by the district of the public engagement framework. I brought this framework to the district's attention as a model of how I believe this district and the public should interact. It allows everyone to understand when we working together if we are informing, consulting, or collaborating during our exchanges. I worked with the board, the staff, and parent partners to adopt the framework.

I am also proud of the work I have done around policy development and renewal. Policy work is not accomplished by a single board member. It takes collaboration to get the four 4 votes needed to make any policy. It requires the board working in concert. Every policy has the fingerprints of each board member on it. A sentence here, a word change there, through our committees is how we work. I have been on the Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee since I joined the board. For the past two years I have been the chair of that committee. This committee has reviewed, updated, and removed more policies than any other committee. When I assumed the chair of the committee, one of my first acts was to rename the committee to add the word "Policy" to it. I did this to make it clear that the focus of the committee was to set curriculum direction through policy work.

As a board member I am very proud of the collective bargaining agreement that we signed in 2010 with our teachers. This agreement was ground-breaking and has created a model for other districts around the country. The focus on helping teachers improve their practice from collaboration with the district cannot be overstated.

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.

- **Currently serving on Seattle School Board since 2007**
- **Chair of the Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee for the past two year and member of that committee since 2008**
- **Chair of the Washington State School Directors Association - Urban Suburban Task Force**
- **Member of the National Steering Committee of the Council of Urban Boards of Education since 2009**
- **Member of the Executive Committee of Seattle College Access Network**
- **Member of the Advisory Committee of Reel Grrls**
- **Member of Washington State Delegation to the Federal Relations Network**
- **President of the Nathan Hale PTSA for two consecutive terms (2004-2006)**
- **Coach girls recreational soccer for 7 years until 2004**
- **Member of the AEII at Decatur Elementary School site council and chaired the District Relations Committee for over 5 years (1994-2004)**

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

My duties as a school board member involve several core areas all of which are pivotal to being effective on the school board:

SETTING THE VISION

The board establishes the vision for the future of education in the community, and then formulates the goals, defines the outcomes, and sets the course. Vision is not about what we are, but where we are going. Vision captures a critical dimension of a school system.

POLICY GOVERNANCE

It is through policy that the board establishes the direction. Policy sets forth the “what” of how the district should act which can then be translated into the “how” by the superintendent and his/her staff.

OVERSIGHT

Also closely related to vision is oversight. It is through the board’s oversight of district activities that we ensure that the system is on the right path. It allows the board to make corrections before we have gone too far away from the board’s original intent.

SETTING STANDARDS

Another major component of a systems approach is the establishment of standards for performance. In order to know whether we are performing in accordance with expectations, we need to establish specific and clearly delineated standards. Those standards need to be tied in realistic ways to the expectations of the community.

In order to perform the above duties board members need the following qualities:

ACCOUNTABILITY

Increasingly, we hear our citizen use the word accountability with regard to the district and the school board. At the end of the day the system and the school board must be held accountable for what happens to students and how well they perform. This means knowing when changes are need to achieve the goals for all students.

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

A climate of ethical behavior is an essential aspect of system culture. Ethical behavior is a by-product of a positive culture. Leading-edge organizations are very conscious of ethics because of its powerful effect on behavior. Effective school boards give priority attention to ethics as well, because it factors importantly in what students and teachers are able to accomplish. Ethics also is a critical determinant of how parents and others in the community view schools.

COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are an important dimension in effective organizations. Through our collaborations we are able to work more effectively together. These relationships are critical in a time where we are forced to do more with less. The quality of relationships in an organization will largely determine how well that organization operates.

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 the questionnaire to the League office at your earliest convenience.

Please have your materials to us no later than June 10, 2011. May 28th is preferred!

Email the completed questionnaire and other materials to:

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

THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY

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