



The Municipal League of King County

810 Third Avenue, Suite 224

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:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Campaign Materials | Sent by: <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Not Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph | Sent by: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | <input 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 206-622-8333.

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
Christine		Chew

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

Bellevue School District No. 405, Director Position No. 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

Almost 18 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Almost 18 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: _____

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)
Bellevue School District Director 2	appointed	Sept 2010 - present	School board liaison to PTSA council

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.)

Bellevue Schools have a strong reputation and have delivered strong educational experiences to students in our community for many years. As the technologies, professional opportunities and communities shift and grow over time, our educational system must also shift to keep pace. Bellevue has many opportunities in this area. Similarly, Bellevue has many areas for growth to ensure it can meet and leverage these opportunities. Among the top areas for continued growth, Bellevue needs a strong strategic plan, a clear culture of and plan for shared accountability, an evolved approach to community collaboration and communication, and a plan for instruction that meets the needs of ALL students, including those who struggle, those needing enhanced learning and all others too.

I am deeply committed to ensuring that every member of our community has access to a high quality education that allows him/her to pursue a productive and satisfying life and that ensures our community has the high-quality work-force it needs. My passion for and commitment to public education dates back to my own K-12 education years – from elementary school onward, I actively volunteered to help students and teachers in my own and neighboring districts. I advocate for public school policies and funding through my voting and in conversation with others in our community. I have worked in public schools in this region. I continue to volunteer in them. And I am studying to find ways to improve science learning for all students. I am proud to be part of a school district with a strong record of achievement. I hope to help the Bellevue School District continue to grow, leveraging all of its assets to do even better and reach even more students. Serving on the school board will allow me to share my experiences and expertise in a way that can help support the school district in setting priorities, following through on strong commitments, evaluating successes, and making pragmatic trade-offs that acknowledge fiscal reality, the perspectives of our community members and the mission of the Bellevue School District.

Having been initially appointed to fill a vacancy for this school board director position, I chose to run for election at the end of this term for two reasons. First, I remain committed to the ideals that initially attracted me to this position. Second, I believe it takes time to acclimate to the role of school board director, which my short-term appointment allowed me to do. Now it is time to build on that foundation to further advance these ideals in our school community. I now have more clear and specific vision around the aspects of our school district that require the most attention and I have been developing the understanding,

partnerships and plan that will allow me to more fully address these issues.

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

An experienced professional, a parent and a student of education, I bring leadership to the board that is founded on deep understanding of the educational, organizational, and operational issues that are at the heart of the workings of the school district. I understand how organizational decisions impact individual students and families, and I am driven to support services for all students, including those who have not experienced early scholastic success. My specific strengths include the ability to build consensus, to seek out and understand multiple perspectives involved in issues, to understand the short- and long-term implications of decisions, and to operate with strong values. I hold integrity as a core operating value and I conduct my personal and professional life with attention to transparency, respect, empathy, understanding and pragmatism. Through these values, I foster strong relationships with partners, board members, staff and others involved in my professional work in ways that would be relevant to my work on the school board. I have demonstrated a personal commitment to helping underserved students improve their access to and outcomes from educational endeavors – I would continue to support this commitment in my work with the district. I have experience with the standard district programs, with the PRISM program and with many different types of extra-curricular activities – I understand the need for differentiation in the classroom balanced by a commitment to providing strong academic opportunities in all classrooms for all students. My combined skills, experiences and values set me up to serve as a partner in guiding the school district in its work to achieve its mission and to ensure that it stays on course and sets course corrections as needed.

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.

In my professional life, I once worked on a very cutting edge technology product with a big vision that was not making sufficient and timely progress. As an opportunity presented itself for me to take a leadership role in this work, I took the initiative to work with other managers across the team to articulate and prioritize our vision for the product. We worked with higher level management to agree on a shared vision and coordinated our teams to deliver on that vision. I helped draw the team together and set a series of achievable milestones. Despite technological, personnel and organizational challenges, our team developed a strong sense of shared goals, shared accountability for achieving them and a culture of supporting one another. I drove these efforts in sustained collaboration with other leads on the project. We did this while integrating with a newly acquired team, coordinating a substantial number of interdependencies with other teams, and through multiple management reorganizations. Ultimately, we were able to deliver a working prototype that evolved into a shipping product. Serving as an effective school board member requires a similar mix of skills, vision and ability to execute.

In my current professional role as an executive director of a nonprofit, I have spent the past three years growing our organization from a small startup to a growing and maturing organization with a strong rate of success. We have grown both our services and our organizational capacity, developing a shared strategic plan and increasing our profile in the community. We did this while maintaining the high effectiveness of our core program (100% of our students every year have earned admission to college, even as we have more than doubled the number of students we serve) and continuing to evolve our program in response to ongoing student feedback and other learning. This work has required the development of current staff, a major increase in the size of the team, development of our board of directors, significant increases in our fund raising, core changes to our operational practices and a reflective culture that maintains an open organizational mind. While we continue to evolve

our practices and strive to advance our strategic plan, our work over the past three years has brought us from serving approximately 80 high school students to serving 227. We have increased our staffing, grown the funds we are raising, increased funding stability and donor participation, secured core grants and extended our services to include a pilot outreach program to our college students. This work has required a shared strategic direction, collaborative execution, student focus and ongoing accountability across our organization – all important aspects of school board 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 add value to the board of directors because I have experience in education from many different perspectives and I am an experienced organizational leader. I am currently the executive director of College Access Now (9/2008-present), an education-related non-profit that partners with Seattle public schools. I taught high school science (Redmond High School, 9/1998-9/2000). I am a current doctoral student (University of Washington, 9/2008-present) in science education, studying issues of equity, student ownership, instruction and teacher preparation. I also have eight years of experience working in the software industry (as a lead program manager at Microsoft, 9/2000-9/2008) and five years experience working in the environmental industry (11/1993-6/1998). Coupling these professional/educational experiences with being a parent in the Bellevue school district, I bring a well-rounded perspective to the Bellevue school board. I understand many educational issues both in depth and from a breadth of perspectives (executive officer, parent/student, teacher, and researcher). As the executive director for an education-related nonprofit, I bring the experience making funding decisions and trade-offs in a tight economy. Through my work in the software and environmental industries, I developed strong team leadership and project management experiences as well as my ability to diplomatically discuss, investigate and resolve contentious and critical issues in pragmatic, productive and high-integrity ways.

I have experience with multiple schools and programs within the Bellevue schools. I've been an advocate for the Bellevue Schools Foundation, taking time to serve on the small grants committee, which gave me another perspective into the needs and values of individual classroom teachers in the district. I take an active role in my own children's education, helping me to better understand the implications of curriculum and instructional decisions as well as those decisions that impact the social environments and individual values in which teachers and students operate each day. While each of these perspectives is valuable to the board, it is the unique combination of all of them that I offer as a true value add.

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

A strong school board member ensures all voices are heard in setting district agendas and making decisions. S/he supports the district in accomplishing its mission while ensuring that the implications of decisions are understood and accounted for in operating plans and budgets. S/he is responsible for establishing the strategic direction of the district. S/he holds the district accountable for delivering on its obligations – particularly the effective education of all students, responsible use of resources, and operations that adhere to district values. S/he operates with respect among all parties and is comfortable discussing controversial issues productively, transparently and respectfully to ensure the best decisions are made. S/he must ensure that the best overall decisions are made with full understanding of their implications to all individuals and groups within the district, and that all students (regardless of socio-economic or racial/ethnic background, current scholastic level of success, presence of disabilities, etc.) get a rich education that prepares them for college, career and life. S/he must also ensure the district operates in a fiscally responsible fashion with an approved and monitored budget. This includes taking time to understand the progress and success/learnings from new programs and capital projects in which the district has invested. Finally, s/he is a strong advocate for education in the community and with relevant partners and government agencies.

While each of these duties is critical to a strong school board director, the most critical among them include ensuring all voices are heard and considered, setting strategic direction, holding the district collectively accountable for advancing its mission and for serving as a champion of the district and its students/community. Currently, we are working to define a

strong strategic plan for the district that includes a focus on accountability and other core district values. In collaboration with the other school board members, I helped articulate a strong set of values to guide our work in both the strategic plan and in executing the work of the district. As a continuing school board member, I seek to further define this work and to help us more consistently execute on our shared values, particularly those around transparency, communication and collaboration.

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 31st 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

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

Phone: (206) 622-8333

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