



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:

- Candidate Questionnaire**
Sent by: x Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**
Sent by: x Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Campaign Materials**
Sent by: Email x US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications**
Sent by: Email x US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Photograph**
Sent by: x 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
Steve		Sundquist

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

Seattle School Board, District VI

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

30 years in Seattle as an adult; 21 years in this director district

5. How long have you resided in King County?

My entire life other than college and graduate school; 30 years as an adult.

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Website: www.sundquist4schools.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)
Seattle School Board, District VI	Elective	12/2007 - Present	President 2011; Vice-President 2009 and 2010; Chair, Audit & Finance Committee 2008 and 2009

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 seeking re-election to the Seattle School Board in District VI, where I have had the honor of representing West Seattle and South Park since December, 2007. My youngest daughter is graduating from Chief Sealth International High School this spring, and my wife Liann and I couldn't be more pleased. In my first term, it has been a profound privilege to serve and advocate for all Seattle families, not just my own.

School board service in a major U.S. city like Seattle is hard and demanding work, and lacks easy solutions, but I thoroughly enjoy the challenge. Despite working through this recession-driven period of reduced resources and increased constraints, my board colleagues and I have challenged the status quo and pressed for needed improvements that are making a real difference for the students and families we serve. I have been a leader in our work.

We have made systemic changes in our school system to increase access, accountability, and academic rigor, and to foster a more service-oriented approach that encourages greater family involvement - all in pursuit of significant gains in student achievement. We have returned to a neighborhood-based student assignment plan that more equitably distributes academic and support services closer to home, and focuses everyone on making each school successful. Now, families and educators can support educational pathways for our students from kindergarten through high school. We achieved ground-breaking new contracts with our principals and teachers that incorporate evaluation systems that include student results, as well as increasing mentorship and career ladder opportunities for staff. We have implemented a district- and school-based improvement framework that includes scorecards for each and related resource allocations to drive school improvement. We have repeatedly made the difficult decisions required to remain financially solvent and live within our means in these difficult times. And when confronted with lax management oversight of the district's Regional Small Business Development Program, I led the board in coming to a unanimous, quick and decisive termination of our Superintendent and Chief Financial/Operating Officer.

These changes are taking root and helping to foster improvement in student outcomes, but the work is far from finished. That is why I have chosen to run again - because the challenge of improving

Seattle's schools is still significant, and my enthusiasm and passion for the work is stronger than ever.

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

I have a strong passion for public education, and as a parent who is about to graduate my second daughter from Chief Sealth International High School, I care deeply about working to ensure that all Seattle children have an opportunity for a great education. I am an effective listener, and I actively reach out to citizens, advocacy groups, and government leaders to solve problems and build support for effective education policy. For example, I have held approximately 50 open community meetings in my 3 ½ years on the board. I seek out data and evidence, and am analytical and decisive. These are important traits for school board service, as citizen and stakeholder pressures are strong and frequently pull in opposing directions. I am also pragmatic and optimistic, which are useful in a policy environment where many have strongly held, ideologically-driven beliefs. I work very hard, and I am regarded as a consensus builder and team player. This is reflected in my having been elected by my board colleagues as Vice President twice, and this year as President. Finally, in my private sector life, I had experience in serving and interacting with the Russell Investment Group corporate board, and I have also held a number of non-profit board leadership roles. This experience has helped me to understand the governance responsibilities and role of a board; how it is separate from management and staff; and how to build accountability between board and management for a vision, plan, and results.

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 a dedicated husband, and parent of two daughters who have or will (on June 17) graduate from Chief Sealth International High School. My wife Liann works as a Nutritionist for the Pike Market Medical Clinic, and we have recently taken in our 19 year old niece from Spokane. My oldest daughter is a junior at Portland State University, and my youngest is about to depart for the University of Redlands in Southern California. We recently assisted my parents in downsizing and moving into a graduated care retirement community nearby. My roles as husband and father and son are the most important roles in my life, and I am proud of our accomplishments as a family.

I am also proud of my accomplishments on the Seattle School Board. As I mentioned in (1) above, we have made many systemic changes in our school system to increase access, accountability, and academic rigor, and to foster a more service-oriented approach that encourages great family involvement. This work has all been in pursuit of significant gains in student achievement by all students, and a narrowing of the achievement gap. I have had a leadership role in all of these efforts. Additionally, when confronted with lax management oversight of the district's Regional Small Business Development Program, we moved quickly to a unanimous and decisive termination of our Superintendent and Chief Financial/Operating Officer, saving our citizens and district from a potentially long, debilitating, and trust-destroying process.

Lastly, I am also very proud of my 20+ year career at Russell Investment Group, a global leader in providing sophisticated institutional and retail investment strategies. During this time I managed multi-million dollar budgets, hundreds of staff, large operations, national distribution relationships, and systems and services. I served as Managing Director, Chief Information Officer, and received Russell's highest recognition for leadership achievement.

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.

Public Service and Education Leadership

- Elected School Board Director on the Seattle School Board representing District VI from 2007 – 2011
 - . Currently in first year as Board President
 - . Served two years as Board Vice President
 - . Served two years as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee
- Board Director, Alliance for Education: This organization works to help every child in Seattle Public Schools succeed, and I serve on the board in my role as President of the Seattle School Board (2011 – Present)
- Worked with parents and the school community to help establish the International Baccalaureate Program at Chief Sealth High School. (2005 - 2007)
- Member, Washington State University Honors College Advisory Board. (1991 – 2008)

Community Service and Board Leadership

- Board Director, Climate Solutions: Volunteer Board Director of Washington's leading global warming research and advocacy organization (2007-Present)
- Partner, Social Venture Partners: Volunteer Partner with Seattle-based non-profit organization dedicated to addressing educational, social and environmental issues in the Puget Sound region (2005-Present)
- Leader, Fauntleroy Church, UCC: Past Moderator of Fauntleroy Church. Currently leading the Capital Campaign for this church in the United Church of Christ denomination (1995-Present)
- Member, Seattle Rotary (Club #4 downtown): (2006 – Present)
- Board Director, Groundwire: Volunteer Board Director for non-profit that helps environmental organizations use IT for communicating and building relationships (2005 – 2010)

Professional Experience

- Managing Director, Chief Information Officer, Director of Systems Development, Russell Investment Group: Twenty-two years of successful finance, IT, and management experience, leading large operations and systems, oversight of multi-million dollar budgets and direction of hundreds of staff. Received Russell's Leadership Award, its highest recognition for leadership achievement. (1984-2005)

Education

- M.B.A., Computers & Information Systems and Finance; University of Chicago, Dean's Honor List (1981)
- B.S. Computer Science; Washington State University, summa cum laude, S. Town Stephenson Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi (1979)

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

In K-12 public education governance, school board members serve as policy makers and also have an oversight responsibility. They make long-term, strategic decisions which include the creation of a shared vision, goal setting, an accompanying plan for achieving the goals, financial planning, oversight and evaluation of the superintendent, and instituting accountability systems for educational policies and the achievement of board plans. Policy areas might include: bond and levy elections, budget adoption, facilities, educational objective setting and assessment, curriculum adoption, instructional methodologies, fiscal planning and oversight, employee relations, and transportation. School board directors are the publicly accountable link between the community and the school district, and thus work to understand the community's wishes and translate them into policy and plans for the district.

It is important to note that while school boards form a governance team with the Superintendent and are ultimately responsible for the delivery of educational services, it is vital that the board does not perform the administration of day-to-day functions. As the policy-makers and overseers of the district, school boards work with their administrators to adopt policy and establish plans and goals, and then must evaluate whether those plans and policies are being followed and met.

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