



The Municipal League of King County  
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Seattle, WA 98104  
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## 2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Saul Ettlin, **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 90 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:

- X **Candidate Questionnaire**  
Sent by: X Email  US Mail  Fax  Not Sending
- X **Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**  
Sent by: X Email  US Mail  Fax  Not Sending  
 Check here if you DO NOT want your resume posted on the Municipal League website
- X **Campaign Materials (1<sup>st</sup> draft flyer)**  
Sent by: X Email  US Mail  Fax  Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications**  
Sent by:  Email  US Mail  Fax  Not Sending
- X **Photograph**  
Sent by: X Email  US Mail  Fax  Not Sending

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**Note: Electronically submitted questionnaires are strongly preferred. All materials can be emailed to [cec@munileague.org](mailto:cec@munileague.org). They can be processed and made available on-line far more rapidly than handwritten or typed submissions.**

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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.**

**We request that you return the Candidate Questionnaire  
by June 1, 2008**

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.

## 2008 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Jean	M	Bouffard

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

**King County Superior Court Judge Position 10**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes      X No

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

**18 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**18 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      BOUFFARD FOR JUDGE

Address:      26220 - 116th Avenue SE, #201

City/State/Zip:      Kent, WA 98030

Campaign Phone:      (206) 359-0897

Campaign Fax:      253-520-7743

Campaign E-mail:      jean@jmbouffard.com

Campaign Website:      www.bouffardforjudge.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)
King County Rural Forestry Commission	Appt	1998-2006	Chair 2000-2001
City of Covington Parks and Forestry Commission	Appt	1998-2000	Chair 1998-2000
Covington Governance Strategy Committee	Appt	1993-1995	Chair 1993-1995

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

Office Title	Year of Run
King County Council	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.)

**I believe in good government. By combining my community service commitment with my professional skills, as a legal counselor and litigator, I believe I can best contribute to good government by serving in the judicial branch. The experience - for 17 years as a solo attorney - of practicing law, providing legal counsel and litigating primarily in the Superior Court has taught me that I have the work ethic, the legal reasoning skills and the understanding of courtroom demeanor needed to perform the duties of judge.**

**I have relied solely on my own legal skills and my own decision-making ability to serve my clients and community, without the bank of lawyers found in large law firms and prosecutors offices. The experience of serving individuals and businesses in their civil legal disputes (contracts, construction, business partnerships, real estate, land use) has given me a clear understanding of how our courts and judges need to be user-friendly.**

**Throughout my career, I have committed my time and legal skills to support our communities. I have dedicated hundreds of hours of free legal advice to a wide variety of non-profit organizations and individuals without the means to purchase legal services, such as the South County Community Network, SHADOW organization, local service clubs, King Aquatics Club, Wildlife Habitat Injustice Prevention organization, and Covington Neighbors Council.**

**I have chaired many Boards, including County and City Commissions, made up of diverse stake holders. In such roles, I strive to work efficiently and delight in the process of leading the group to consensus to accomplish the goals set before us.**

**My experiences have prepared me to capably serve as a trial judge. I look forward to the opportunity to apply my knowledge and skills as judge to help make the judicial system work for everyone.**

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

**Decisive,  
knowledgable,  
compassionate,  
fair,  
honest,  
trustworthy,  
competent,  
conscientious,  
confident,  
efficient,  
driven,  
hard-working,  
dependable.**

**My law practice has primarily focused on serving small businesses and individuals in resolving their business, contract and real estate disputes. In dealing with the different personalities and courtroom demeanors of different judges over the years, I understand the need for appropriate balance between the appearance of fairness and courtroom efficiency. I am confident I can put those principles into practice as judge.**

**I have no large law firm of associates and paralegals and no county agency (like the prosecutor's office) to provide the brains behind the attorney. My personal ability to conduct the legal analysis, the strategy and the legal work necessary to represent my clients has proven successful over the years. Like the sole responsibility of a judge to manage her courtroom and case load, I have relied solely on my own research, writing and analytical skills to represent my clients and serve my community.**

**Because I care, I have spent countless hours serving our local governments, citizens and environment to help make this world a better place, taking on challenges, finding solutions, and accomplishing goals (for examples, see below). The greatest honor has been lawyers, clients and community members referring their friends and colleagues to me for legal services and advise.**

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.

**Legal research, reasoning and writing skills go to the heart of a judge's competency. I am proud that my legal skills and work ethic have allowed me to build a successful law practice based primarily on referrals from other lawyers, clients and community members.**

**I have never hesitated to study and conquer new areas of law or questions of law. One example occurred several years ago, when a group of community members asked for my assistance in challenging Wal-Mart's land use application in Covington. I provided my services pro bono, hit the books and figured out the appropriate legal issues and strategy. The Hearing Examiner granted our appeal on the issue of mitigating the local road impacts. (And I became a land use attorney).**

**As a law clerk to the Chief Judge of the Oregon Court of Appeals, I often drafted the legal arguments for opinions assigned to the Chief Judge. On one particular occasion, I found it impossible to develop sound legal arguments that supported the result the Chief Judge had requested. I presented the legal arguments as I determined/reasoned the precedent required. Not only did the Chief Judge and the deciding appellate panel agree with my analysis, so did the Oregon Supreme Court in affirming the decision and vacating its own earlier opinion.**

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 have listed below many of the Boards, Commissions and organizations I have served throughout my career. My commitment to these groups, in fulfilling their goals, providing legal advise or serving in a leadership role has enhanced my decision-making abilities, my ability to be fair and provide due process, my confidence I can get the job done, and my ability to do the job efficiently.**

Washington Conservation Voters, King County Chapter		
	Co-Chair	2004-2006
	Board Member	1998-2008
King County Rural Forestry Commission		
	Chair	2000-2001
	Member	1998-2006
Rotary Club of Covington, WA	President	2006-2007
	Charter Member	2002 to date
King Aquatic Club	Pro Bono Legal Adviser	2006-2008
SHADOW Lake Bog Organization (Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands org.)		
	Board Member	1999 to date

Grass Lake Elementary School, Angela Ramsey's 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade class	Moot Court developer/organizer	2004
City of Covington Parks and Forestry Commission, Chair		1998-2000
Covington Chamber of Commerce, Charter President		1992-1993
	Chair, Surface Water Management Comm.	1996
	Board of Directors	1997-1998
Covington Incorporation Committee		1995-1996
United Way South Community Council		
	Vice Chair	1997-1999
	Member	1995-1999
Rotary Club of Maple Valley, WA		
	President	1995-1996
	Chair, Cedar River Clean Up Project	1993
	Member	1991-2000
Rotary International		
	Paul Harris Member	
	Trainer, NW Pres-Elect Training Seminars	1998
	Trainer, NW Pres-Elect Training Seminars	1997
Candidate, King County Council, 9th District (D)		1997
Member, Covington Water District Task Forces		1995-1996
Member, Covington Incorporation Committee		1995-1996
Chair, Covington Governance Strategies Committee		1993-1995
Member, Unincorporated King County Coalition		1993-1994

**My employment history, which follows, depicts the breadth and depth of my legal experience, reflecting my skills and demonstrating my readiness to serve as a King County Superior Court Judge.**

<b>1991 to date</b>	<b>Sole Practitioner/Owner</b> <b>J. M. BOUFFARD, Attorney at Law</b> <b>Contract, Business and Real Estate Law</b> <a href="http://www.jmbouffard.com">www.jmbouffard.com</a>
<b>1987 to 1990</b>	<b>Associate attorney</b> <b>STOLL, STOLL, BERNE and LOKTING, PS aka Stoll Berne</b> <b>Portland, OR</b> <b>Complex Business Litigation &amp; Securities Class Actions</b>
<b>1985 to 1987</b>	<b>Law Clerk to Chief Judge George Joseph</b> <b>OREGON COURT OF APPEALS</b> <b>Salem, OR</b>
<b>1984-1985</b> <b>School year</b>	<b>Law Clerk to the Deputy Attorney General</b> <b>OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE</b> <b>Salem, OR</b>

<b>Summer 1984</b>	<b>Intern to Honorable Judge Otto Skopil NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS Portland, OR</b>
<b>1983-1984 School year</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant Legal Writing, Reading and Research</b>
<b>1982-1983 School year</b>	<b>Law Clerk to civil litigation sole practitioner</b>
<b>1980-1982</b>	<b>Field Organizer Dakota Resource Council</b>

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

**Beginning with the most important duties, Superior Court judges need to have a working understanding of the law, the rules of procedure and the rules of evidence, as well as an above average ability to research and analyze the law. This competence duty goes to the heart of the judicial skills needed to perform the daily role of judge.**

**Judges need to be decisive in order to rule from the bench on objections and on motions. Judges need to be self-motivated and hard-working because our courts carry ever increasing workloads without any supervisor to “crack the whip” on individual judges.**

**Judges should have a strong commitment to justice in that a judge needs to reflect impartiality, fairness and understanding of all sides represented, and positions being presented, in the courtroom. The respect for our judicial system depends on judges treating those appearing in court, and/or serving on juries, with respect and dignity.**

Judges must also have an ability to read people, recognize agendas and decide who is truthful. This skill comes from experience in working with diverse groups of people and individuals and proves critical in a judge's ability to weigh evidence.

### **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.*

**J.D. w/Natural Resources Law  
Lewis & Clark Law School**

**B.S. in Resource Conservation w/High Honors  
U of MT Forestry School**

### **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.

**Washington Conservation Voters, King County Chapter, Co-Chair**

**King County Rural Forestry Commission, Chair**

**Covington Parks and Forestry Commission, Chair**

**Rotary Club of Covington, Pres**

**Covington Chamber of Commerce, Charter Pres**

**United Way South Community Council, Vice Chair**

**SHADOW Lake Bog Organization, Board Member**

**Maple Valley Rotary Club, Pres**

**Covington Governance Strategies Committee, Chair**

**Covington Water District Task Force**

**Covington Incorporation Committee**