



The Municipal League of King County
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2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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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:

- Candidate Questionnaire**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
 Check here if you DO NOT want your resume posted on the Municipal League website
- 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.**

**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
Julia	L	Garratt

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

King County Superior Court, Position 01

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

Since 1961, a total of 42 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Since 1961 a total of 42 years – continual residency since 12/81

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Committee to Elect Julia Garratt
PMB 309, 6047 Coal Creek Parkway SE

Address: Newcastle, WA 98059

City/State/Zip: (206) 353-9963 or (206) 235-0995

Campaign Phone: None

Campaign Fax: julia.garratt@gmail.com

Campaign E-mail: To be provided later

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)
Board Member, Indeterminate Sentence Review Board	Appointed by Governors Lowry, Locke and Gregoire	4/94 to present	The Board consisted of 3 members until 9/07 when the legislature increased the Board to 5 members. In this capacity I chair committees on the Board and am actively engaged with staff in implementing rules and procedures affecting my office. These are governed by RCW 9.95 and WAC 381-70
Washington Women Lawyers – Board Member on State Board	Appointed	1/01 to 6/03	Newsletter/Website Editor
Washington Women Lawyers – Director on Foundation	Appointed	1/03 to present	I am one of 8 directors on the Foundation

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

Office Title	Year of Run
King County Superior Court	2004

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.)

Judges are public servants and the public is best served if those positions are filled by individuals who can balance hard work, compassion, integrity and wisdom in upholding the laws of the State of Washington. I have the qualifications, experience and desire to fulfill the responsibilities of this position. I have worked in the public sector for 28 years. I stand in the unique position of having practiced on multiple sides of the legal system. This has been invaluable in giving me perspective and understanding of the dynamics behind each role and has added to my professional development and improved my judicial skills. I began my judicial training in 1998 as of today's date, have served in this capacity almost 1000 days. Since that time I have continued to improve my professional and legal skills in multiple areas of the court system. I have a broad background in criminal justice. I have practiced law under multiple sentencing structures in our state and monitored some of the most dangerous convicted offenders in our system under the parole board's jurisdiction. Superior Court has provided training in civil, family court/dependencies, juvenile drug court, family treatment court and involuntary commitment. I have continued to meet these new challenges, supplementing the court's training with independent reading and research to familiarize myself with these new areas of law. I have met and enjoyed each new challenge. I am seeking this office due to my experience as a judge and because I have derived great personal satisfaction in managing a courtroom and doing it well.

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

My strongest personal traits are my demeanor, organization skills and common sense. I have been an attorney for 29 years. During this time I have raised two boys (for a time as a single mother) and, for the past 11 years, two additional step-children. I have learned to prioritize my time, balance multiple tasks and responsibilities and learn from my mistakes.

During the past 10 years I have worked at both the parole board and as a pro tem judge. The parole board requires extensive travel to different prisons around the state as well as institutions in other states. I have juggled volunteer work, family and these two highly demanding jobs with patience, professionalism and a consistent application of common sense. When I began sitting as a judge pro tem in 1998 I wanted to gain experience as well as see how I was perceived by the court system and participants. During this process I have derived great personal satisfaction in managing a courtroom and doing it well. As a pro tem we sit at the pleasure of the presiding Judge. It is well known if a pro tem does not do an efficient job or does not maintain the quality and caliber of performance expected by the other sitting Judges, the position will not continue. I have continued to receive positive feedback from the Judges, court staff and participants. I have been called back over the years to the extent that as of today I have appeared as a pro tem close to 1000 days. I believe my accomplishments as a pro tem Judge well demonstrate my qualification.

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.

1. **During the years I was an attorney at the Associate Counsel for the Accused, another attorney and I volunteered time representing a female co-worker who was being harassed by a former spouse (an attorney representing himself) through repeated and frivolous proceedings in Family Court. This co-worker was previously a victim of domestic violence by this individual. She was a single mother who had been financially depleted through repeated post divorce court proceedings. We appeared on her behalf 75-100 times in Family Court, Superior Court, the Court of Appeals and in response to one appeal by the respondent to the Supreme Court. During this representation I had to familiarize myself in detail with the applicable statutes and case law. This work was pro bono and involved a substantial commitment due both to the subject matter and the trial tactics of the former spouse.**

2. **As a public defender I was assigned the case of Gary Minnix, a mentally disabled man who was charged with approximately 9 counts of Rape 1 and multiple counts of Burglary 1. The press had labeled this man the "Columbia City Rapist" and media attention was intense. Initially the family had hired private counsel who withdrew shortly before the scheduled trial date. This was a complicated case with multiple issues involving competence to stand trial, pressure from the community to convict a purported serial rapist and the challenge of communicating with a client whose mental disability prevented any meaningful ability to assist in his own defense. Due to late substitution of counsel the victims were angry and hostile at the delay and the necessity of repeating interviews. There were multiple competency hearings before the Honorable James Bates. He eventually reversed his previous ruling and found Mr. Minnix incompetent to stand trial. This was a significant case for me as it involved multiple complex issues involving the mentally disabled and due process rights to a fair trial. Charges were eventually dismissed against Mr. Minnix and he was committed to Western State Hospital.**

3. As the Chair and committee member of Governor Locke's Quality Improvement project I spent significant time directly involved with improving the manner in which the Parole Board did business. One targeted area was directed towards improving communication with victims and families of victims. Until 2001 the primary population under the Board's jurisdiction was pre-SRA (those whose crimes occurred prior to 7/84). The remaining population of approximately 500 offenders is comprised primarily of murders, sexual offenders and the severely mentally ill. The offenders in this group committed very violent crimes, often leaving multiple victims of the same offense. The victims and family members who meet with the Board are often still exceptionally traumatized. As of September 2001, the passage of the Sex Offender Management Act has placed the majority of persons convicted of sex offenses under the Board's jurisdiction. Quite understandably, the victims of these offenses suffer significantly and often have difficulty meeting with the Board and vocalizing the multiple impacts on their lives. All individuals are treated with sensitivity and respect. The committee began implementing improvements to reduce the stress and anxiety of crime victims who appear before the Board. The feedback subsequent to these meetings has been gratifying. I have repeatedly heard that meeting with us has given them a sense of closure. I consider my efforts in assisting this process to be significant not only to the individuals I speak with but also to my own professional development.

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.

My home is diverse both ethnically and culturally. My husband is Latino and our blended family includes my bi-racial step-children. My husband grew up working agricultural farms in Washington and Oregon as a migrant worker. Many members of my extended family do not speak English as a primary language. As noted in question 3 (1) above, I have provided significant pro bono work in the past. After I was appointed to the ISRB in 1994, my ability to provide pro bono assistance became limited due to my statutory duties. My extended family is large and many are socially and economically deprived. I have provided, on more occasions than I can count, legal advice and assistance. This advice has extended to friends of the family in their close knit community. Although a significant call for help has resulted because of an arrest, more often it is due to a civil question. For example; in 2006 a young woman had a baby with a young man from Oregon. Their relationship ended shortly after the baby's birth, and his family obtained an ex parte order giving the father legal custody of the (still nursing) baby. The mother was young and a victim of domestic abuse, but had not reported it to the authorities. The terror and grief of this woman's entire family was palatable and heart breaking. The police simply showed up at her family's home in Walla Walla and ordered her to relinquish the baby. She felt that because the father was Caucasian, came from a middle class family and she was young, poor and Latina, the court was not treating her fairly. The manner in which the family was treated by the court when they tried to respond to this order was frustrating and discouraging. As a judicial officer I advised her to comply with the lawful order, even though her first inclination was to flee with the baby. I spent numerous hours contacting resources for her in Oregon, obtaining references for legal counsel, answering questions and providing advice. The baby was eventually returned to her custody, but not before many precious months had lapsed. Through my contacts with family and volunteer work I have become more sensitive to the issues affecting non-English speaking persons who interact with the court system, whether as a defendant, respondent, witness or family member. I have learned you cannot rely on yes or no answers when speaking with an individual who does not have an interpreter. There needs to be a meaningful exchange to educate the court on the level of understanding as well as provide a sufficient record.

For the past 7 years I have volunteered my time at El Centro de La Raza, participated in activities through this organization, assisted in annual fundraising and provided support. I have also, in the past 7 years, volunteered with the Washington Health Authority at their annual Latina Health Fair. The health fair provides a variety of medical services, screening and information to low income adults and children from all ethnic backgrounds.

I have been a board member for Washington Women Lawyers for the past 7 years. I was the newsletter/website editor for the State Board for 2 ½ years and a director on the foundation for the past 5 years. My involvement and commitment to the State Board and foundation of WWL evolved due to the organization's mission. This mission has always included fighting for the rights of all gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, women, persons of color and persons with disabilities.

I am a mother of 2 children and 2 step-children. I have volunteered as a parent volunteer at multiple school fundraisers and as a volunteer speaker (Lawyers in the classroom) on several occasions at our local high school. As a parent I have interacted with the public school system in areas dealing with learning disabilities, truancy, substance abuse and teenage depression. This added awareness has greatly increased my judicial skills in family law, dependency and the Becca (truancy, at risk youth and child in need of services) calendars.

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

I have regularly worked in King County Superior Court for the past 10 years as a Judge Pro Tem. In almost 1000 days appearing in this capacity, I am well familiar with the duties of the office I seek. Judges are public servants whose duties extend beyond the traditional work day. A Judge must have the skills and patience to manage a courtroom efficiently as well as hear cases and render decisions. There are administrative duties and a Judge must have the ability to work as a collective group in addressing issues facing the court system. It is most important that a Judge is willing to serve as a public servant, maintain the quality, decorum and professionalism expected by their colleagues and spend the time necessary to carry out both duties in the courtroom and behind the scenes.

**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.*

**Juris Doctorate degree, Gonzaga School of Law, May 1979
BA, Society and Justice, University of Washington, Dec. 1975**

**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.

I believe in meaningful civic involvement. I have volunteered my time in public schools teaching a classes as a volunteer speaker, fundraisers at El Centro de la Raza, the Washington Health Care Authorities' Latina Health Fair (past 7 years), at Pierce County YWCA's fundraiser, as a Board Member on Washington Women Lawyers (State Board and Foundation), and in providing more hours of pro bono work than I can count.