



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
Matthew	R.	Hale

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

King County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 26

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes X No

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

26 Years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Same

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: People for Matthew R. Hale

Address: 15222 10th SW, #232

City/State/Zip: Burien, WA 98166

Campaign Phone: 206-248-6764 or cell 509-280-3984

Campaign Fax: N/A

Campaign E-mail: peopleformatthewrhale@gmail.com

Campaign Website: Peopleformatthewrhale.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)
None			

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.)

In America, our courts are the great levelers, where all men and women are equal under the law. The courts are our modern day dueling grounds where people of all backgrounds hope and pray for a fair shake and for justice. Unfortunately, my experience has taught me that those who cannot afford the best representation, or any representation, can be ground down the gristmill of procedure. My experience has shown that there is a strong sense that the fair administration of justice is often lost at the courthouse steps, where the party with the most money has the best chance of prevailing. This violates our American notion of the purpose of the courts. And, while I hold no illusions that the court is run by men with all of their faults and frailty, I do not believe that the notion of justice is a lofty ideal which cannot be achieved. Rather, I believe that, even with the challenges of our time, justice and fairness must be a living, working reality.

I have an insatiable hunger for justice and a belief that justice should flow out of the courthouse like a mighty stream for all who enter its doors. This is what I will bring to the court. I believe that and every person that crosses through the threshold of the court house door should do so confidently, knowing that they will be heard, they will be treated with compassionate fairness, and that justice will be done.

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

I am patient, compassionate, fair minded and have an unquenchable passion for justice. In matters concerning the law, I am meticulous and a perfectionist, striving to understand and apply the law in the most appropriate way possible. I am a talented writer and public speaker and have a strong ability to mediate disputes among people. I also have a desire to serve the people of my county, who are my neighbors and fellow citizens.

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.

While I was in college, I worked at the local crisis hotline, working graveyard. There I learned to communicate with people from all walks of life facing all sorts of situations.

On one particular night, I received a call from a desperate woman who was in the midst of attempting suicide by overdosing herself on some toxic, prescription medicine. Unfortunately, our phone system was not able to trace the call, so we had way to locate her. She was in a drug induced haze and was evasive to my questioning. She would not tell me her address. She would not let me transfer the call to a mental health professional. I confirmed the type and quantity of medication she had taken and realized that she would not survive unless she was given medical attention.

I was afraid that this woman was going to die because she was fading in and out of coherence. I managed to gain her trust over the phone. And, in spite of the haze caused by the medication, I was able to glean some clues as to who she was and where she was located. I realized that, since she had taken prescriptions, her doctors name would be written on the bottles. My best hope was to learn who her doctor was and contact him to find out where she lived. Once I coaxed her to give me her doctor's name, I was able to pass that information along to a co-worker, who was able to get in touch with her doctor. Through her doctor, we were able to get her address. Tears of relief came to my eyes when I heard the paramedics knocking on her apartment door. She said goodbye and hung up the phone as I heard the door opening and the paramedics asking her questions.

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.

Growing up, I worked in physical labor and construction to pay my way through school. I worked with people from all backgrounds and all walks of life, and I learned to be an electrician in the process. Having that background, I have experienced the struggles and the difficulties that the average working person faces.

I worked at the Spokane crisis line from 2000 to 2001. My involvement with the crisis taught me how to communicate with people from all walks of life in all situations. It was there that I learned to be compassionate and understanding with all people and to treat each one of them fairly, whether I liked them or not.

I have also had a diverse and varied legal career. I have represented estates through the probate process, represented people charged with crimes, represented small businesses and business start ups, represented landlords and tenants, represented business being sued, and represented individuals suing businesses. I have argued countless motions to the courts and have represented people in appeals. My varied background gives me the abilities and knowledge necessary to effectively perform as a superior court judge dealing in all areas of the law.

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

The single most important duty of a Superior Court Judge is to ensure that justice is accomplished. This is done through hearing motions and arguments of counsel and deciding those issues before the court by applying the law and following the law. This is done by running an efficient court room, in order to minimize any delay in the process. This is done by respecting all people without representation. Finally, any decision that a judge makes must be made with sound, well communicated reasoning in order to ensure that the confidence in the judicial system is maintained, and that the public is confident that justice is done at the Superior Court.

**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.*

**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.