



The Municipal League of King County
810 Third Avenue, Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 264-1070 • cec@munileague.org

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
MARY	E	FAIRHURST

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

Supreme Court Justice Position No. 3

3. Are you the incumbent? X Yes No

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

N/A

5. How long have you resided in King County?

N/A

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Committee to Re-Elect Justice Mary Fairhurst**

Address: **6936 Littlerock Rd. S.W.**

City/State/Zip: **Tumwater, WA 98512**

Campaign Phone: **206-898-9841**

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: **info@justicemaryfairhurst.com**

Campaign Website: www.justicemaryfairhurst.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)
Supreme Court	Elected	2003-2008	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

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 running for re-election as a Supreme Court Justice because I am dedicated to ensuring we have an impartial legal system that treats people fairly, equally, and protects the basic rights of every man, woman, and child. I am committed to enhancing the public's trust and confidence, making the court efficient, responsive and safe, and ensuring everyone has equal ability to access the court.

As a Supreme Court Justice, I decide cases that affect every person in the state of Washington. In every case, I study the facts carefully, apply the law astutely and reach a fair and impartial result. I have served and do serve on many committees and commissions to improve the legal system. Perhaps most significantly, I chair the Judicial Information System Committee and the Board for Judicial Administration's Public Trust and Confidence Committee. Finally, as a Supreme Court Justice, I have the opportunity, which I embrace, to educate the public through speeches and presentations about the legal system, the independence of the judiciary, and the very important role the courts and the rule of law play in our democratic government.

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

My most important personal characteristics or traits are integrity, honesty, courageousness, compassion, respectfulness, and commitment to working hard and doing a job well.

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. My dissent in Andersen v. King County. This case involved a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act. My dissent opined that there is no rational basis for considering that the ability to procreate justifies limiting marriage to heterosexual couples. It also concluded that marriage is a fundamental right. It illustrates the ability to make difficult decisions based on the constitution, law, and facts presented on a highly charged issue on which people have strongly held views.

2. My work as co-counsel in Hallett v. Payne. This federal district court case involved a stipulation and judgment over correcting conditions in the medical, mental health, and dental services at the women's prison. I became involved as co-counsel when I went to the Attorney General's Office Corrections Division in 1995 and was involved until I left the division for a promotion in 1999. The case involved many experts giving their opinions, over 30 depositions, production of thousands of documents, significant briefing and a 2 week evidentiary hearing in which the prison prevailed on every issue in a 58 page opinion by Magistrate Judge Wilson. It illustrates the ability to work hard and with others on complex issues.

3. Being elected to the Washington Supreme Court and giving the Court for the first time a majority of women and being only the second woman and first public sector lawyer elected as President of the Washington State Bar Association. It illustrates the willingness to assume important and responsible leadership positions.

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.

Washington State Supreme Court: Judicial Information Systems Committee, chair 2008-present; Board for Judicial Administration (BJA), Public Trust & Confidence Committee, chair, 2003-present; BJA Court Security Committee, member 2007-present; Court liaison to WSBA's Council on Public Legal Education, 2003-present; Court Rules Committee, member, 2003-present; Personnel Committee, member, 2004-present; Court liaison to WSBA's Ethics 2003 Model Rules Committee, 2003-2004; Court liaison to WSBA's Character & Fitness Standards Committee, member, 2004-2006; Gender and Justice Commission, member, 2001-2004.

Washington State Bar Association (WSBA); President WSBA 1997-1998; President-Elect WSBA 1996-1997 (chair); Board of Governors (WSBA), Third Congressional District – 1993-1996, Treasurer 1995-1996; Washington Women Lawyers (WWL) (state board: President 1989-1990; President-Elect 1988-1989; Legislative Liaison 1986-1988; WWL Capitol Chapter; Governmental Lawyers Bar Association; Thurston County Bar Association; National Association of Women Judges; Girl Scouts, Pacific Peaks Council, member 1995-1997; American Judicature Society, member 2003-2006.

Gonzaga University (GU) Law School Board of Advisors, member 2000-present, president 2007- present; GU Board of Regents, member, 2007-present; GU School of Law Alumni Association, president, 2007-present; Saint Michael's Catholic Church – Co-chair, Capital Building Campaign General Phase fall 1992, member, Social Action Commission 1991-1995, Chair for Social Action Weekend Oct. 1995, Lector 1991 to present, Catechist for 10th graders 1991-1992, member Parish Planning Project Committee 1989-1990; Thurston County Volunteer Legal Clinic 1995-2002; YMCA Mock Trial Competition 1996-present; YMCA Youth and Government, We Build Young Leaders Campaign, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997.

Numerous speaking engagements to groups of varied interests and ages about the courts, the independence of the judiciary, and the rule of law.

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

The duties of a Supreme Court Justice are to decide cases that come before us in a fair and impartial manner. We are the final determiners of judicial and lawyer discipline. We adopt the state court rules. Through leadership and involvement, we have the ability to greatly impact the administration of justice which I do by chairing and serving on many court-related committees. Another aspect of our job, which is not required, but which I consider very important and engage in regularly, is educating the public about the legal system, the courts, and the role the judiciary plays in government and in our society.

All of the duties are important but deciding cases fairly and impartially is the most important because it is the right thing to do and is essential to our democratic system of government.

**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.*

Law degree with high honors in 1984 and B.A. in political science with honors in 1979, both from Gonzaga University

**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 State Bar Association, President, Board of Governors, member; Washington Women Lawyers, President, member; Gonzaga Law Alumni Association and Board of Advisors, President; Gonzaga Board of Regents, member; Council on Public Legal Education, member; YMCA Youth & Government, volunteer; Thurston County Volunteer Legal Clinic, volunteer; We the People, Board member; National Association of Women Judges, member; Pacific Peaks Girl Scout Council, member; American Judicature Society, member