



The Municipal League of King County
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Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 264-1070 · cec@munileague.org

2007 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 22, 2007**

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.

2007 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nick Name	Last Name
Grant		Degginger

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

Bellevue City Council Position 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

25 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

47 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Grant Degginger for Bellevue City Council

Address: 12819 SE 38th Street PMB 315

City/State/Zip: Bellevue, WA 98006

Campaign Phone: (425)641-5897

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: degginger@comcast.net

Campaign Website: _____

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices which you have held. Include positions on appointive Boards or Commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
Bellevue City Council	Elective	1999 to Present	Mayor (2006 to present); Deputy Mayor (2002-2004)
Bellevue Planning Commission	Appointive	1991 to 1998	Chair 1995-96

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

Office Title	Year of Run

SECTION III

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?
-

1. In a 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.)

This is an exciting time in Bellevue's history. The many cranes in the skyline evidence the city's transformation into an urban center that hosts the second largest number of jobs in the county and the second highest level of retail sales in the state. The challenge we face is how to maintain an outstanding quality of life, strong neighborhoods and an award winning parks system in this evolving community.

I have worked hard as a councilmember and before that as a planning commissioner to lead Bellevue in a graceful transition from a suburb to an urban center while continuing its national reputation as one of the safest cities in the country and one of the top 100 cities in America for young people. I have led efforts to improve the way the city delivers development services, have supported efforts to expand our parks system, acquire open space, protect critical areas, improve environmental stewardship and forge successful partnerships with our school district.

Bellevue's location and the volume of economic activity taking place within its borders necessitates its active involvement in regional matters. Improvements to regional infrastructure including transportation and water supply will be necessary for Bellevue to remain the center of business, retail and cultural activity on the Eastside. I want to continue the positive efforts that Bellevue and its neighboring cities have made in developing solutions in the major transportation corridors (405, I-90 and 520) and in water supply through the Cascade Water Alliance.

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

There are five characteristics that are relevant to being successful as a councilmember. First, local government is the one closest to the people. I enjoy helping people, whether at council meetings, neighborhood forums, or even in the grocery store. I like having the opportunity to help solve problems or find ways in which the city can help meet their needs or the needs of their organization. Having a positive outlook and compassion for others makes serving in this position so rewarding.

Second, I believe I am a good listener. People want to know that their elected officials know how to listen as well as how to talk. Whether it is listening to citizens during public hearings, staff members during council presentations or my colleagues during meetings, active listening, asking good questions and obtaining necessary information are important elements to effective decision making. People want to know that they have been heard, that their opinion matters and that they have been treated with dignity and respect.

Third, I try to be open minded. Nobody has a monopoly on good ideas. A willingness to test new solutions, even ones from unlikely sources, is helpful.

The fourth characteristic is leadership. I have been able to bring people together to work toward a common goal in many different contexts including forging a consensus amongst fellow council members and developing a regional solutions in concert with other elected officials.

Finally, I am an effective advocate. Once there is consensus on a solution, I enjoy having the opportunity to work persuasively for its adoption.

3. Please describe in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate effective 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. Unanimous Adoption of City Budget. For the first time in many, many years, the city's biennial budget was adopted with an 7-0 vote. I worked to align the Council around a budget that included major new investments in vehicular and pedestrian mobility in the downtown, improvements in neighborhood connectivity (sidewalks and trails), public safety, environmental stewardship, community partnerships and the arts.

2. Critical Areas Protection and Environmental Stewardship. I led an effort to forge a consensus on a new critical areas ordinance that provides enhanced buffers and protection for streams, wetlands and steep slope while providing options for property owners to meet critical area functions and values. The ordinance was not challenged in court and it has served as a model for other jurisdictions. Following that effort, I have championed an enviironmental stewardship initiative throughout all departments of city government to both reduce our carbon emissions and to enhance environmental quality. One of the fiirst steps in this initiative is to improve and restore the city's tree canopy. This work is just getting underway. Code amendments to provide incentives for green building and low impact design will be forthcoming.

3. Developing and Implementing a Long Term Water Supply Plan for the Eastside. Water, like transportation is an essential piece of infrastructure. In transportation, we have seen the consequences of not taking action ahead of the crisis. The Cascade Water Alliance, a

consortium of eight East and South King County cities and water districts, developed and is now implementing a program to meet the water supply needs of its over 300,000 customers for decades to come. The work of CWA has received the support of our US Senators, numerous members of our congressional delegation and many state legislators. I have been serving as the chair of the CWA.

4. Please list or describe your 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 been engaged in the private practice of law at Lane Powell PC for 22 years. I chair the firm's construction practice group. My background and experience in construction and litigation has been particularly beneficial in my work on the City Council. I have an understanding and appreciation for how our comprehensive plan, building and land use codes work in practice. These issues frequently are before us as are a multitude of public works contracts. My background in dispute resolution, particularly construction dispute resolution was valuable when the City encountered cost and performance issues relating to construction of the New City Hall. I helped develop strategies that led to a successful resolution of the litigation on terms favorable to the City. Also, I chaired the city's Construction Codes Advisory Committee composed of contractors, design professionals, developers and city staff. The committee developed recommendations to streamline and improve the permitting and inspection processes. The recommendations were adopted by the Council and were recognized for significantly improving the City's business climate. Before joining the Council, I served on the Planning Commission during the time when we developed the first comprehensive plan following passage of the Growth Management Act. The plan articulated the vision for the development of the downtown as the focal point of density both for jobs and housing.

Prior to practicing law, I spent four years in Washington DC on the staff of a member of Congress from the Seattle area (Joel Pritchard). I learned from an outstanding mentor how to build coalitions and work across party lines to get valuable legislation passed including the Washington Wilderness Act and the Pacific Northwest Regional Power and Planning Act.

As an elected official, I have had the opportunity to work on a number of community and regional activities. In 2003, I co-chaired the Neighborhoods Committee for the City of Bellevue's 50th Anniversary. Earlier this year, I served on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Committee at the request of the County Executive. The committee developed the recommendations for this fall's Medic One levy that will be on the ballot in November.

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

There are at least five important duties and responsibilities of councilmembers under Bellevue's form of government. They are:

- 1. Setting Policy.** The council must articulate its vision for the city. It must implement the vision through the priorities it sets in the budget and in the work plan it sets for the staff. The policy making and budget functions are the council's most important roles.
- 2. Communication.** Each councilmember and the council as a whole has the responsibility to reach out to the residents to determine their needs and goals and to ensure that there is support for the direction the council is taking the city.
- 3. Constituent Service.** As the level of government closest to the people, every councilmember has a responsibility to help residents address any issue or need for city services as quickly as possible.
- 4. Regional policy.** A councilmember must be able to effectively collaborate with elected officials at the local, county, state and federal levels. This has become a more important attribute of the job because so many issues including transportation, infrastructure, human services, and public safety have regional components to them.
- 5. Oversight.** A councilmember and the council as a whole has the responsibility to ensure that staff are implementing the council's policy directives and are managing city resources in a fiscally prudent manner.

**EDUCATION BACKGROUND SUMMARY
FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT**

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report is distributed to voters in print and/or 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.*

**BA Communications, University of Washington 1977
JD University of Puget Sound 1985**

**CIVIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY
FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT**

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report also 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.

**Mayor, City of Bellevue, 2006 to present
Deputy Mayor, City of Bellevue, 2002-2004
Bellevue City Council, 1999 to present
Cascade Water Alliance, Chair
King County Growth Management Planning Council
King County EMS Levy Task Force
enterprise Seattle Board
Jail Advisory Group
I-405 Executive Committee
Bellevue Planning Commission Liason**

Finished!

If at all possible, send your response to the Municipal League electronically as an 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR CAMPAIGN!

THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY

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