



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

2007 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Nick Williamson, Encrypted Key Technologies

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 15, 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
Venus		Velázquez

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

Seattle City Council position 3

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

more than 15 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

more than 15 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Venus for Seattle City Council

Address: P.O. Box 9100

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98109

Campaign Phone: 206.450.3886

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: contact@venus4seattle.com

Campaign Website: venus4seattle.com

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)
Citiizens Advisory Committee on Investing in Educational Excellence	Appointive	2005-06	

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

Office Title	Year of Run

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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?
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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.)

Seattle needs a different kind of leadership to manage the new challenges and opportunities of a growing city. We need leaders who can hold ostensibly opposing ideas and bridge the gaps required to make good and sound policy. And we need leaders who are not afraid to make and stick with sometimes unpopular decisions. That's the requirement of leadership.

I believe we cannot risk losing the things that make a city great: thriving businesses, quality schools, strong families and safe neighborhoods. Seattle can and should be a great city with great schools, vibrant neighborhoods, plenty of green spaces and parks, good jobs, and quality, affordable housing—but we have to make the right decisions now to get the future we envision.

My three priorities are as follows:

- **Returning city budget priorities to core functions, including police, fire, roads, etc.**
- **Finding ways to keep families in the city (affordable housing, education)**
- **Keeping and attracting strong business that provide jobs and the revenues required to pay for our priorities.**

I also believe that who is at the table matters. Perspective is important. Councilmember Steinbrueck is the only person on the council with school-age children. When he steps down, that perspective will be lost. I am raising my family in the city, and my two young boys attend public schools. I understand the issues that families face in our cities, and I want to do something about them. I am running for office because I have the experience and track record to lead us into the future.

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

As a public affairs advocate I have a track record of standing up for what is right, getting things done in the face of controversy and bringing all stakeholders to the table to find solutions that work. I am a pragmatic problem solver and believe in working collaboratively to find practical solutions for the common good. I bring courage and conviction, and I am not afraid to make—and stand by—tough decisions. I also have the ability to hold and work through ideas that often appear opposing or contradictory.

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.

My work with the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation is a good example of my ability to bring together diverse groups with differing interests and find a solution that works for everyone. In 1999, when United Indians unveiled plans for a 14,000 square-foot People's Lodge, they faced vehement opposition from Magnolia community members who cited the size of the building, its impact on the park and the lack of parking space as major hurdles. When the leadership of the organization changed hands, United Indians hired me to come up with a solution to the impasse.

I worked with United Indians to resolve a 20-year conflict, successfully negotiating a win-win settlement between United Indians and Magnolia community members. Negotiations included representatives from the community coalition, United Indians and the City of Seattle. The result was a redesign of the project that addressed environmental, traffic and park and neighborhood concerns.

Last year, I worked with human services providers to secure \$14.1 million in county funding for veterans, families, seniors and children. I also advocated for my client, the King County Alliance for Human Services, in 2003 when county officials, facing a \$50 million budget shortfall, presented a budget that slashed funding for human services by 50%. The impact would have been devastating, resulting in the near elimination of programs for children, families and the homeless. I worked with the King County Alliance for Human Services to develop a strategy to reduce the proposed budget cuts. We successfully persuaded county officials to limit the proposed budget cuts to 15%, saving millions for programs that save people's lives, protect our communities and care for children.

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.

**Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing in Excellence
Committee member, 2005 – 2006**

**CASA Latina
Board of Directors, 1999 – 2002**

**Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors, 1996 – 2001
President, 2001**

**Public affairs advocate
Strategic consultant to environmental, human service and community based organizations
1999 – present**

**Neighborhood Planner, City of Seattle
1995 – 1999**

**Seward Park Environmental Learning Center
Board of Directors, 2005 to present**

**Minority Executive Directors Coalition
Member, 2003 – present**

National Hispana Leadership Institute Fellow, 1998

Leadership Tomorrow graduate, 1997

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

1. **Managing the City's budget and workforce.**
2. **Overseeing and creating a legislative balance to key City functions, including police, fire, courts and emergency preparedness; land use, community development, transportation and neighborhoods; city utilities, including electricity, water, sewer, drainage and solid waste; parks, community centers and libraries; housing, health and human services.**
3. **Creating a vision and plan for what we want our city to be and how we want it to grow.**

**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.*

**Master of social work, University of Washington, 1993
Bachelor of arts, University of Missouri, 1989**

**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.

**Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing in Excellence
Committee member, 2005–2006 * CASA Latina Board of Directors, 1999–2002 * Washington
State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 1996–2001; President, 2001 *
Seward Park Environmental Learning Center Board of Directors, 2005 – present * Minority
Executive Directors Coalition Member, 2003 – present * National Hispana Leadership Institute
Fellow, 1998 * Leadership Tomorrow graduate, 1997**

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

Candidate Evaluation Coordinator: Jason Thibedeau

810 Third Avenue, Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98104-1614

Phone: (206) 264-1070
Fax: (425) 671-0506

Email: cec@munileague.org
Website: www.munileague.org