

# League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties

## THE VOTER

Ginger Vetrano, President // Judy Golberg, Editor

P. O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352

October 2009

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### Calendar of Events

October 1	5:30 PM	TABLE TALK, Thursday evening at Alice Bryant's home, 2408 Alexander, Richland, 375-0189 – All members welcome! Light meal provided (\$3 donations towards food) - see article for topics
October 7	11:30 AM	CANDIDATES FORUM, West Richland
October 15	5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING – All members welcome to participate. Mimi and Margery to provide light meal
November 3		GENERAL ELECTIONS

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### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

There are still some candidate forums planned. If you can help call Kay Ottem or Marilyn Perkins. By attending those that feature candidates you will be voting on, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn their position on different issues.

At the Table Talk on October 1<sup>st</sup> we will discuss the tax Initiative (I-1033) and Referendum 71 that will be on the November ballot—both should spark a good conversation.

Health Care and Climate Change are the LWVUS's big priorities this year. Susan Kayser and Ellyn Murphy have been our local leaders. If you missed the documentary on health care that was presented at Parkview Estates, you will have further opportunities to see it later. It is excellent.

*Ginger Vetrano*

President, [vetrano@charter.net](mailto:vetrano@charter.net) or 735-4248

### LOCAL LEAGUE

**OCTOBER TABLE TALK** – Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Table Talk will be held at Alice Bryant's home in Richland. The topic to be discussed is:

- Ballot Issues

A light meal will be provided. \$3 is a suggested contribution toward the meal.

Report from September Table Talk: Duane Davidson, Benton County Treasurer presented the report to the citizens that provides concise information about what the Treasurer's office does, its accomplishments, the property taxes and where they are distributed and what the future plans are. This report can be accessed at: [www.co.benton.wa.us/treasurer](http://www.co.benton.wa.us/treasurer). Copies are also available in the Treasurer's offices.

Susan Kayser and Kathy Utz provided an update on Health Care Reform. Several books, articles and videos were shared to help stimulate one's knowledge. A viewing of one of the videos was scheduled during the month. Kathy has written several articles to assist with public understanding on this subject. Distribution of this information will be discussed with the committee.

Future Table Talk topics were suggested. Subject to change, but at this time the following subjects were scheduled: November 5 – Health Care Reform; December 3 – Climate Change; January 7 – National League Program Planning; February – State Convention Resolutions.

### MEMBERSHIP

2009-2010 dues are due and can be paid by sending them to: LWV B-F, Attention- Helen LaDouceur, PO Box 765, Richland 99352. \$60 is the amount to be paid.



**THINKING AHEAD**

A suggestion has been made that we celebrate Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2010, by inviting all women who have held an elected office in the past or are presently serving our communities. A committee has formed to plan the event. Any suggestions or offers to help would be appreciated. Contact [Ginger Vetrano](#).

**STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS****LWVWA URGES VOTERS TO:**

Vote YES on Referendum-71 and NO on Initiative 1033. For League's position paper, see details at the following link: [LWVWA positions](#)

**ACTION WORKSHOP(s)**

The November 7 State League's Action Workshop will be held at the Lampson Building in Kennewick, 8am-3pm. As hosts, we will be asking members to pitch in to help with food to serve for lunch.

Registration is \$25 to attend this workshop. This is a great way to learn about the State League's issues.

**CONVENTION 2011**

Benton-Franklin League is hosting the next LWVWA convention the weekend of May 19-22, 2011. The process of hosting takes a little bit of help from most of our members. A committee meeting will be held late October to begin the process.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

LWVUS is under attack by a group calling itself League of American Voters. This group is conducting an advertising campaign against health care reform that seeks to undermine public support by sowing fear and mistrust.

LWVUS sent a letter calling them to task for using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League of Women Voters in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform. LWVUS asked them to reveal the major sources of funding for the advertising campaign. Their response? A blast email to their followers condemning the League of Women Voters.

LWVUS has begun to get disruptive and downright rude phone calls and emails from "supporters" of the so-called League of American Voters. LWVUS is arranging for greater security due to a variety of threats that have been made and has begun exploring what legal options are available to help us protect our name in the face of those who are misusing it

National League has been making an appeal for financial support to help combat this group. For more information, please see the League's website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

**In Case You Missed It!**

The following links to articles, Editorials and interesting "stuff" are provided for the benefits of those who can access the Internet and missed seeing these tidbits. For those of you without computer access and the article sounds interesting, please contact me (627-5347) or the person listed and we will try to print it and mail it. (This is not always possible since many times it could be a link to a video or no longer available.)

Port of Kennewick ideas for enhancements between Columbia Drive and the river can be seen at <http://www.tricityherald.com/business/story/694650.html>. Questions? Contact Helen

<http://www.americancivilliteracy.org/resources/quiz.aspx>

Are you more knowledgeable than the average citizen? The average score for all 2,508 Americans taking the following test was 49%; college educators scored 55%. Can you do better? Questions were drawn from past ISI surveys, as well as other nationally recognized exams.