



# KING COUNTY SOUTH

# VOTER

June 2007

*LWV Mission: The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens\* in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

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*VOTER Editor*

OFFICE PHONE 206-243-7161

FAX 206-243-7161

E-MAIL: [WALWVKCS@JUNO.COM](mailto:WALWVKCS@JUNO.COM)



## August 21, 2007

See page 5 for ballot issues.

\* Phrase 'of citizens' was removed from Mission statement at request of LWV National and vote of LWV-KCS at annual meeting, effective July 1, 2007.

Seattle Voter for May, 2007 contains reading material for *Ending Homelessness* on pages 23-35. Read at <http://seattle.wa.lwv.org/pdfs/voter.pdf>

If you want to represent LWV-KCS on this committee, contact Becky Cox (and see calendar on p. 3 for Social Justice meeting schedule). Seattle Forum on *Ending Homelessness* is available on Government access channel. See <http://www.seattlechannel.org/schedule/programDetails.asp?title=5010727> for schedule.

NO Voter newsletter will be produced for July or August.

Links are active on Voter at our online site > <http://www.lwvwa.org/king-co-south/index.htm>

## Dues

**Please pay your dues for July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008.**

Basic \$50.00 Dues Breakdown:

US per member (for studies, publications, lobbying and litigation, etc.)	\$17.00
WA per member (for studies, publications, lobbying and litigation, etc.)	\$26.80
KCS per member (for studies, publications, voter service, etc.)	\$ 6.20

See page 4 for information on challenge grant.

## President's Musings

No musings this month — gone fishin' for archeological finds on the island of Raivavae.

*Becky*



## Correction to March, 2007 Voter

The photograph (Clean Elections) on page 1 was provided courtesy of Dina Lydia of Washington Public Campaigns.

## Books

The League of Women Voters has released [\*\*Observing Your Government In Action: Protecting your Right to Know\*\*](#). This comprehensive resource guide, part of the League's Citizen Transparency Initiative, provides useful best practices and tips for observing government activities and promoting transparency. Download at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org/Projects/Openness_in_Government), Projects, 'Openness in Government' or [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Openness in Government2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=76&ContentID=8499](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Openness_in_Government2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=76&ContentID=8499)

An earlier LWV publication (download at above site) is **Looking for Sunshine: Protecting Your Right to Know**. The League of Women Voters Education Fund has created this Resource Guide to assist Leagues in dealing with this era of increasingly difficult public access to government information. This guide provides an overview of the most significant federal and state laws—those that protect and those that restrict public access to government information. It also suggests various ways that Leagues can become more active in this area, and identifies other national and state organizations involved in these issues.

A wonderful book for everyone concerned about the growth, development and well-being of children now and in the future is **Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder**, by Richard Louv, 2006. The thesis of the book is that children need contact with nature for the healthy development of their senses and thus for learning and creativity. The reverse, the author says, is also true: children who do not have that connection with nature do not develop their senses, learning ability and creativity to the fullest degree. Louv discusses numerous studies, research, school and other nature-connected programs to support this thesis. He specifically links the beneficial effects of direct contacts with nature to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, depression and obesity. Library call # 155.418 LOU, ISBN-13: 978-1565125223 (Shared by Elizabeth Davis.)

*Have you read a book on a topic other Leaguers might be interested in? Send your review to the office to have it included in the Voter. And if you own the book, and are willing to loan it to a member, include that comment.*

# Calendar

June 7	Seattle Forum: <u>Usually</u> 1st Thursday 7:30PM Seattle First Baptist Church 1111 Harvard Avenue (corner of Harvard & Seneca on First Hill) <u>Always</u> check <a href="http://seattlelwv.org/events.asp">http://seattlelwv.org/events.asp</a>
June 11	<b>HIGHLINE:</b> <i>Second Monday</i> , 1:30-3:30PM at our office. Contact: Christel Brunnenkant, 425-255-6981
June 13	Board Meeting: 1st <i>Wednesday</i> , 9:30-12 at our office, 616 SW 152nd, Burien. ( <u>Changed for June only.</u> )
June 14	<b>ENUMCLAW:</b> <i>Second Thursday</i> , 7-9PM High Point - 1777 Highpoint. Contact Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799
June 19	King County Coordinating Committee: Third Tues, 12:30PM, Seattle League Office Contact: Christel Brunnenkant, 425-255-6981 Tracks what is happening in county government
June 20	<b>FEDERAL WAY:</b> <i>Third Wed</i> , 7-9PM Foundation House, 32290 1st Ave. So. Kathy Jorgensen - 253-859-8349
June 21	<b>VASHON:</b> <i>Third Thursday</i> , 2:30PM at Vashon Library. Contact Jennie Hodgson at 206-463-5408.
June 22-24	State Convention, Vancouver
June 25	Social Justice Committee (Ending Homelessness): Fourth Monday, 5:30PM, Seattle League Office Contact: Pat Cleary at 206-725-9002

June 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Forum	8	9
10	11 Highline	12	13 Board	14 Enumclaw	15	16
17	18	19 KCCC	20 Federal Way	21 Vashon	22 Convention	23 Convention
24 Convention	25 Social Justice	26	27	28	29	30
July 2007						
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August 2007						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

## LWV-KCS May Board Meeting

Christel Brunnenkant, as Chair of the League of Women Voters King County Coordinating Council, spoke to the **KC Charter Review Commission** on April 24<sup>th</sup> about League's support for forms of government representative of the areas governed. Her comments on the charter: 1. The regional committees should be continued and their functions reviewed; 2. CRC recommendations to the County Council should be automatically placed on the next general election ballot; 3. Voters should be given the opportunity to decide whether King County elected positions should be partisan or non-partisan; 4. County positions requiring technical expertise (including the Elections director) should be appointed, while those requiring representation of the people (such as the Council and school boards) should be elected; 5. Campaigns at every level of government should be publicly financed. Hear her presentation or read the minutes at <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/charter/minutes.aspx>

Before the **Maury Island Reserve SSB6011** failed to pass, Dow Constantine (KC Councilmember) wrote "We can't afford to allow an industrial operation in a sensitive environment and then study the damage after the fact." A coalition of environmental groups will continue to work this issue, pressuring Governor Gregoire for support. Read more at <http://www.vashonbeachcomber.com/portals-code/searchd.cgi>, [http://www.esw.org/news/archives/2007/04/8\\_billion\\_puget\\_sound\\_bill\\_pas.php](http://www.esw.org/news/archives/2007/04/8_billion_puget_sound_bill_pas.php).

## LWV-KCS Annual Meeting

Voting: the slate of officers and directors passed as proposed, as did the bylaw change, program, and budget. The non-recommended items did not pass. Betty Colasurdo will be the focal for our new transportation availability study.

Rhoda Karusaitis, speaking for Faye Wilkerson, announced a **Challenge Grant** at the State LWV: a family has donated \$50,000 to the State LWV Education Fund and will additionally match any donations dollar-for-dollar (up to \$50,000) to the Education Fund until December, 2007. Contact 206-622-8961 or read more at <http://lwvwa.org/edfund/index.htm> (no information at site yet). NOTE to participate in this Challenge Grant, your donation may not be labeled for use by our local League.

## Can Puget Sound Be Saved?

Jean Hueston introduced our Annual Meeting guest speaker, 33<sup>rd</sup> District Representative Dave Upthegrove. He explained that his topic reflected the concerns about Puget Sound considered during the recent legislative session. After six years in the legislature he became chair of a new Select Committee on Puget Sound for the current biennium.

Representative Upthegrove began with a video of an underwater view of Hood Canal. With poor circulation due to the canal's geological configuration, sewage systems and rainwater runoff are critical problems. At the site shown in the film there were abnormal distributions of fish, many of them displaying unusual characteristics. There were also many dead fish.

He went on to talk of the many areas of contaminated sediments in Puget Sound. More fish are being listed as endangered, including four species of salmon. There has been a ninety percent drop in rockfish. Bird life is declining. And 30,000 acres of shellfish beds are closed because of contamination.

The Select Committee was charged with carrying out the recommendations from the Governor's original Puget Sound Partnership, a public/private advisory group. The results included several bills passed by the 2007 legislature. One of those created a new Puget Sound Partnership, a state agency whose director will be a member of the Governor's cabinet. Governor Gregoire has already appointed Bill Ruckelshaus as chair of the new council. Strict accountability was built into the implementing legislation, giving the council everything short of regulatory authority. The goal of the agency is action that will lead to recovery of Puget Sound by 2020.

Developing a piece of the budget during the last session was a new experience for this representative, a change from wading through all the budgeting proposals from his colleagues. He figures he spent about thirty-five hours in conference committee meetings working out the differences between House and Senate bills on the Puget Sound Partnership. It is hoped the funding provided by the state will attract federal funds to help in the clean-up. This project is expected to demonstrate wise use of the money allocated, and look for some dedicated sources for further funds (perhaps a tax on toilet paper for Puget Sound Cleanup?).

In addition to ecological concerns about Puget Sound there are others related to industry, culture, and development. Runoff is a major problem in industrial areas, but how many restrictions can be placed on private industry? There are runoff solutions of a "don't harm" mode, i.e. reduced amounts of paving. Are people willing to pay a high price to improve on past damage? Can we leave shorelines in their natural state or return them to that condition?

Representative Upthegrove praised the Native American tribal efforts on ecological issues. In closing he returned to a question raised earlier about the problem on Maury Island where a company wanting to mine gravel from its own property needs access across public tidelands to carry the gravel to ships for delivery to their market. Legislative proposals for dealing with this issue were not successful in the last session. (Notes on guest speaker by Jane Shafer)

## Ballot Issues for August 21, 2007 Election

(Note that ballot issues can be submitted through May 29, after this newsletter is published.)

Two Levy issues will be on the ballot to Expand Parks & Recreation Opportunities  
(following text from <http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/documents/levy%20fact%20sheet%20final.pdf>):

- The 3-cent allocation to King County will be applied to:
  - o Protect additional lands, shorelines, and streams within our watersheds as open space and ensuring appropriate public access to these areas.
  - o Expand the County's regional trail system in accordance with the King County Regional Trail Plan by acquiring trail corridors and developing key urban trail connections. Trails to be developed include:
    - East Lake Sammamish trail
    - Sammamish River Trail connection to East Lake Sammamish Trail
    - Soos Creek Trail
  - o Funds may not supplant existing funding.
  
- The 1-cent allocation to cities will be allocated through application to the Conservation Futures Tax Citizen Oversight Committee, whose mission will be expanded for this purpose.
  - o Cities or citizen groups may apply for funds.
  - o Funds must be matched (grantees must provide not less than equivalent value to the amount of the grant)
  - o City trail projects must support connections to the regional trail system, defined to include both county regional trails and city trails that are regional in nature, and may specifically include local trails in underserved areas linking to city or county trails that connect to regional trails.
  - o City open space projects must be consistent with the criteria in the current King County Conservation Futures Tax program.
  - o Funds may not supplant existing funding.
  
- The 1-cent allocation to the Woodland Park Zoo will be allocated to expanding the Zoo's environmental education and conservation programs, and making capital improvements to Zoo facilities, including:
  - o Zoo environmental education and conservation programs to be expanded include programs such as: School-to-Zoo, Wild Wise, Forest Explorers and Zoo Corp; interpretive programs such as Willawong Station (interactive bird aviary). Funds could be used for technology support, curriculum development, capital, staffing, and other tools supporting these educational programs.
  - o Capital improvements include green space enhancements on the zoo grounds.
  - o Funds may not supplant existing funding.

Read more at <http://www.metrokc.gov/MKCC/news/2007/0507/parkslevy.htm>  
and <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/0329parks.aspx>

**JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES	INDIVIDUAL	HOUSEHOLD
SUSTAINING	\$75.00	\$112.50
BASIC	50.00	75.00
LIGHT	35.00	52.50

Voting Districts U.S. _____ Washington State _____ King County _____
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PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LWV-KCS AND MAIL TO; P O BOX 66037, SEATTLE, WA 98166-0037

DUES \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 DONATIONS (always appreciated) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

League of Women Voters of King County South is a 501 (c) 4 organization and donations are not tax deductible. To make a tax deductible contribution prepare a separate check made out to LWVWA Education Fund Memo: For Account of LWV of KCS

Do you want to receive LWV Voter and study material by Email?  Yes  No

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
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 PO Box 66037  
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***Legislative  
 Session  
 Wrap-up at  
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