



# KING COUNTY SOUTH VOTER

December 2008

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

## HOLIDAY PARTY TIME!!

For our **potluck lunch** bring a salad or a dessert

For our **silent auction**, bring those special items, baked goods are especially well received. (Dave, we LOVE your holly)

For **your brain**, come and listen to **Paul Haak** as he discusses the state of “clean elections.”

Paul has been a volunteer with Washington Public Campaigns for three years and for the last two he has been on the Board of Directors. He is currently an employee in the IT Dept. of REI. His past jobs have included computer programmer, apple farmer and comedy writer! He is married and they have 3 dogs. His hobbies are woodturning and SAVING DEMOCRACY!

Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Silent Auction: 10:30 to end of Paul’s Talk

Speaker: 12:30 to 1:30, Paul Haak

Potluck: 11:30 a.m. Salads and Desserts

Place: Normandy Park Congregational Church, 19247 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. South, Normandy Park.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Horrors of horrors, we did not have a quorum at our last Board meeting. That was a first!! Not to be deterred, those of us present proceeded to “discuss” a number of issues but took no votes.

Regarding the program. It was noted that because we moved our discussion of the judiciary to September (see report in this Voter), we now were without a topic for March. We decided that using the material and ideas from national LWV on Sunshine Month (March) would be very interesting. Marge Henry took the LWVUS booklet called “Looking for Sunshine” home to review.

We selected the play “Proof” at the Renton Civic Theater for our fundraising event. Preview night will be April 9<sup>th</sup>. Irene is working on the arrangements for that. We always have a great time at our theater events. Units that month may address environmental issues

Ellen agreed to get a bio for the speaker at our party.  
*Becky*

**NOTICE!!! Enumclaw Unit changes to second Tuesday of the month**

**CALENDAR**

- Dec. 3 Board Meeting, 616 SW 152<sup>nd</sup>, LWV Office
- Dec. 4 First Thursday Forum, Seattle LWV. Panel on state, county and city financial crisis.
- Dec. 6 **LWV of KCS Holiday Party.** Potluck lunch, silent auction and speaker 10-2, Normandy Park Congregational Church, 19247 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South
- Dec 10-12: Three day filing period for King County Elections Director
- Jan. 12 Highline Unit. Subject: State and Local Program Go-Around
- Jan. 13 Enumclaw Unit. Same subject. **Change in date of unit**
- Jan. 15 Vashon Unit. Same subject
- Jan. 21 Federal Way Unit. Same subject.
- Jan. 14-16 Vote by Mail ballots mailed
- Feb. 3 Special Election for Elections Director and other local issues.
- Apr. 9 **“Proof” at Renton Civic Theater.** Our fundraiser for the year!

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**Unit Meetings**

- Highline:** Second Monday, 1:30 p.m. League office at 616 SW 152<sup>nd</sup>, Burien.  
Contact: MaryEllen Hamblin, 425-255-6675 for information
- Enumclaw:** Second **Tuesday**, 7-9 p.m., 1777 Highpoint, Enumclaw. Contact: Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799. **Note the change!**
- Federal Way:** Third Wednesday, 7-9 p.m., Foundation House, 32290 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. So, Federal Way. Contact: Barbara Cornwall, 206-870-2042.
- Vashon:** Third Thursday, 2:30 p.m. Vashon Library. Contact: Ellen Kritzman, 206-567-4837

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**League Office:** 616 SW 152<sup>nd</sup> St., Burien  
**Phone:** 206-243-7161  
**Email:** [walwvkcs@juno.com](mailto:walwvkcs@juno.com)



A gift in memory of Margaret Cox was received from Ann McNeely.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

From a book by David Sirota called Hostile Takeover published in 2006.

From the book jacket: "Sirota ...seeks to open the eyes of ordinary Americans to the fact that corporate interests have undermined democracy, aided and abetted their lackeys in our allegedly representative government."

He gives many examples (footnoted) of lobbying and campaign financing way beyond anything we hear about. One of his solutions: "Push to publicly finance elections..."

Two paragraphs near the end:

"Think about it: The same self-described proponents that want to cut government assistance to the poor in the name of eliminating the 'welfare state' support billions in government welfare checks to already-wealthy corporations. The same self-described 'capitalist' advocates of deregulation who eliminated bankruptcy protections for ordinary people in the name of 'accountability' are the people who created special bankruptcy protections exclusively for the superwealthy and large corporations. The same proponents of 'free' trade are the people who write restrictive clauses into trade deals that prevent Americans from buying cheaper medicines from other countries. And the list goes on. These hypocritical politicians, lobbyists, and spin artists are the real socialists - the corporate socialists who are running this country into the ground. (p. 301)

But if history is our guide, things are about to change. The story of America is not a story of pessimistic, passive people who sit back and get fooled. It is a story of a tenaciously optimistic people who stand up and fight back. From labor's fight to create the five day workweek, to women's fight for the right to vote, to African-Americans' fight for civil rights, our country's heritage is citizens reacting to extraordinary circumstances with a pugnacious attitude and triumphing in the face of seemingly all-powerful forces." (p. 303)

One other excerpt: "...a new fundraising apparatus whereby political candidates can actually raise campaign resources from small grassroots donors rather than huge corporations." (p.292)

Reviewed by Miriam Helgeland

## LEAGUE ACTION!!

Who says the League doesn't get down and technical?

November 14, 2008

Shoreline Team

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

201 S. Jackson St. Ste., 600

Seattle, WA. 98117

RE: League of Women Voters of King County comments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the 2008 King County Shoreline Master Program update and October 2008 Shoreline Regulations

Dear King County Shorelines Team:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this 3<sup>rd</sup> draft (October 2008) of the King County Shoreline Master Program update. The League of Women Voters of Seattle and King County South have over 1000 members throughout King County. Our members have devoted significant efforts to working with local and state governments to improve protection of shorelines, wetlands, rivers, and streams throughout King County. The League of Women Voters of Washington promotes the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest. Our King County positions emphasize the enforcement of the Shoreline Management Act and other environmental regulations.

### October 2008 Draft Shorelines Policies (Chapter 5) and Regulations

We appreciate the commitment the Shoreline Team staff has given to reviewing our earlier December 2007 comments and the changes that have been included in the current 3<sup>rd</sup> draft. Our representative recently met with a staff member of the Shoreline Team and reviewed the latest changes. We support much of the SMP's provisions. In the following sections we comment on several issues that we previously raised, and bring to your attention an additional concern regarding economic development and water dependency in the latest draft of the Shoreline Regulations.

### King County Shoreline Master Plan Policies October 2008 page 5-25 figure S-1 and map change.

The changes to the Program policies are more protective of the Vashon/ Maury Island reach that is under Glacier Northwest ownership. The environmental designation of that section of Maury Island would be a Natural designation (as illustrated in Figure S-1) whereby docks are not allowed since the area is adjacent to a marine Aquatic Reserve in Restoration category B. Thank you for making this change.

### Shorelines of Statewide Significance: High-Intensity Vashon/Maury Island and Residential Lake Washington

Thank you for making the high-intensity buffer outside the urban growth area ( including Portage, a rural marine Vashon-Maury Island shoreline) 155' rather than 115' as in the earlier draft .

We appreciate the change to not allow any shoreline as a receiving site for transfer of development rights.

### Remaining Issues:

Our December 2007 letter emphasized the importance of the fresh-water habitat and migratory areas along the North Lake Washington shoreline in the Denny Park/ Holmes Pointe area between Kirkland and the City of Kenmore. The City of Kenmore has initiated their SMP update and at the latest public meeting the 3000' of undeveloped St. Edward shoreline draft shows a **Natural** designation.

#### Section 46, Docks.

We support the proposed standards for freshwater lakes in Section 46, Docks. These provisions provide better protection of shoreline critical habitats from adverse impacts associated with over water structures, including shading, water quality, fish spawning, holding and migration. We would like to see these strengthened to include recommendations from the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan such as the softening or removal of bulkheads, restoring overhanging riparian vegetation, replacing bulkheads and rip-rap with sandy beaches, using mesh dock surfaces, and implementing low impact development along shoreline and throughout upland areas. These additional provisions would apply to the North Lake Washington Denny Park/ Holmes Pointe area.

#### Subsection 46 C.

The subsection regarding joint use of docks( community docks) in subsection 46 C. needs additional language that addresses joint use of docks in relation to subdivisions.

#### Increased density in shoreline residential environment

Our December 2007 letter commented on the CAO which allows existing residential structures to be increased up to 1000' within the buffer area and this remains a concern.

#### Chapter 21A.34 Residential Density Incentives

The residential density incentives allows density bonuses for various public benefits including locating development within one-half mile of a designated transit route or rail station. Regulations to allow increased density in urban and rural shoreline areas, both inside and outside the buffer areas. Increases in residential density bonuses should be conditioned to assure that these regulations will not result in a net loss of ecological functions. We request that standards and policies be added either to the SMP or the Residential Density Incentives Chapter 21.A.34 to assure that increased density in shoreline areas does not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions.

#### Section 33. Shoreline Uses

Commercial Development including General services ( KCC 21A.08.050) and Retail ( KCC 21A.08.070) are allowed in High Intensity and Residential designations.

Item 7. of Section 33 allows retail uses which are part of mixed use development if the retail use supports water-dependent use in a High-intensity environment.

Item 8. of Section 33 allows retail uses in Residential environment to help achieve shoreline element goals one of which is :

a. economic development for uses that are water-dependent.

This language is overly permissive and needs to be revised to place limitations on what retail uses might qualify as a uses that support economic development. The **S-507** High Intensity policy language states only that the mixed use support water dependent uses. Residential Shoreline Environment policy **S-515** limits non-water oriented commercial development to that which increases opportunities for public to access and enjoy shorelines or restores degraded environment. It does not suggest that it is appropriate that retail uses support economic uses that are water-dependent..

The Economic Element **S-301** does not address economic support , language is limited to encouraging “ commerce or other developments that are particularly dependent on their location on or use of the shorelines of the state”.

Please change items 7. and 8 in Section 33 and omit the language in 7. “retail use supports the water-dependent use” and 8. “economic development for uses that are water-dependent” which are not consistent with Economic Element **S-301** or with policies **S-515** and **S-507**.

Sincerely,

Denise Smith, The League of Women Voters of Seattle

Becky Cox, President, The League of Women Voters of King County South.

### **ELECTIONS DIRECTOR TO BE ELECTED**

The King County Council adopted an ordinance that adds three specific qualifications for the office of Elections Director that require that the person who is elected:

- Cannot hold an office in a political party while serving as the Director of Elections.
- Cannot have worked for, performed paid services for, or hold a financial interest in any non-governmental company that designs, manufactures or sells elections tabulation or voter registration equipment or software, for one year immediately before filing to run for, being appointed to, or holding the office.
- Must earn certification as an elections administrator from the Washington Secretary of State within 30 months of being elected or appointed to the office, and meet all continuing education requirements.

The King County Charter currently requires only that a candidate for County office be at least 21 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident and registered voter in King County.

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Make your check payable to and return to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105

PH: 206-622-8961, outside toll area, 1-800-419-2596, email: lwvwa@lwvwa.org, www.lwvwa.org

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Comments from Nancy Pearson, Tacoma/Pierce Co LWV:  
For those who have not heard of **John Roberts'** passing, I share this excellent tribute to a wonderful League member.

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John Roberts, 84, was a tireless environmental crusader  
Even nearing death, under hospice care as cancer raged through his bones, John Roberts kept pushing to protect the public -- and especially children -- from exposure to toxic chemicals.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT.....**

Bottled water is not safer. The federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing of municipal drinking water than bottled water.

Bottled water is much more expensive. At \$2 for a 20-ounce container, bottled water costs thousands of times more than tap water.

Bottled water hurts the environment. After millions of barrels of oil are used to produce and ship plastic water bottles, 90 percent of them land in the garbage instead of the recycle bin.

Kicking the bottle in favor of tap water is not enough. Our cities and towns need continued investment in pipes and treatment plants to ensure that future generations have access to safe, affordable, public water.

Information from [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org) .

### REMEMBER THIS UNIT MEETING?

(If you weren't there, pshaw!)

#### **Should judges be elected or appointed?**

was the discussion topic for the September units. At the annual meeting we voted to look at the state/county positions on the election of judges, which states that there should be an appointive process for selecting judges. *Our LWVWA state government position states: Jobs requiring technical skills should be appointive. Jobs requiring representation should be elective.* Judges do not represent the people. The qualifications for running for office require experience and training in the law. Even though the election process mandates citizen involvement, and judges can be removed from office at the next election, the drawback is that voters are required to do a great deal of searching and reading to learn enough about candidates to feel confident about making a selection. Seventy-five percent of voters do not vote for judges.

A majority of members favor retaining the position, with one suggestion that it be strengthened. They suggest that there is very little readily available information on the qualification of judges and are concerned about the possible influence of contributions on future decisions. Lawyers who might consider becoming a judge are reluctant to go through the election process. There was concern that commission members could be influenced by party affiliation or by personal bias.

Whether or not to further pursue taking any action on this topic will be presented as part of **Program-go-round at the January units**. If you have input on the subject, send a note or call one of the committee.

Irene Peyton chaired with Pat McCann, Mary Ehlers, and Becky Cox.

**IN YOUR FREE TIME-----**

## **BOOKS TO READ?**

Eisler, Riane, The Real Wealth of Nations

Garrison, Jim, America As Empire: Global Leader or Rogue Power?

Henry, James S., and Bill Bradley. The Blood Bankers: Tales From the Global Underground Economy

Korten, David, When Corporations Rule the World

Lappe, Francis Moore, Democracy's Edge: Choosing to Save Our Country by Bringing Democracy to Life

Rodriguez, Felix I. and John Weisman, Shadow Warrior: The CIA Hero of a Hundred Unkown Battles

Rossi, M.L., Globalization and its Discontents

Zinn, Howard, People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present

Your holiday reading list recommended by **Miriam Helgeland**

**Please note that the last page is our mailing page. You do not need to copy the last page!**

**HOLIDAY PARTY, DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>.  
POTLUCK  
AUCTION  
HEAR ABOUT CLEAN ELECTIONS!**

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