



KING COUNTY SOUTH VOTER

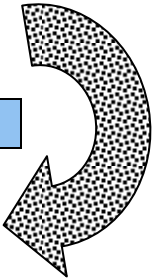
November 2009

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH?

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

“What about my property taxes?” is being presented by the LWVKCS on **Tuesday, November 17 at 7pm, 15675 Ambaum Blvd SW, Burien.**



MaryEllen Hamblin has arranged to have a forum with a noted panel of speakers. Handouts are also being developed to address

- How your property taxes are assessed and used
- How an individual can effect their own property taxes
- How a levy effects your taxes

PRESIDENT PRO TEM MESSAGE

President's Message:

As you know we are rotating the presidency and I am “IT” for November. The deal is, if you are not going anywhere, as several others are, - YOU GET TO BE PRESIDENT ! As always at this time of year the League is busy doing what it can to educate other people – remember those other people are making decisions at the ballot box that affect us all. Board members were talking about voting (of course) and were feeling somewhat sad that we no longer go to the ballot box but to the mail box.

Voting was sort of a communal thing where you would see your neighbors and talk a bit about kids and what's going on in t he world.

We have truly lost something of importance.

MaryEllen Hamblin

THE LEAGUE IN ACTION

The League has moderated candidate forums during the month of October

Black Diamond Form, Moderated by Kathy Jorgensen

Shorewood Community Club: Moderated by Dave Lilly

Vashon Form: Moderated by the Vashon Unit and co-sponsored by the PTSA

Non-Partisan vs Support of an Issue

LWV is a non-partisan organization. However, occasionally we support or oppose **issues** that our study and consensus show to be, in our opinion, in the public interest, or not. Thus you will find the state League taking a position on the following issues this year.

No on I-1033 Please click this link to watch the video presented by LWVWA:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RUqwfVaYPQ&feature=autofb>

Yes on R-71

Locally, the LWVs of King County are supporting **King Co. Charter Amendment 4.**

This issue addresses securing environmentally sensitive areas owned by the county.

The recent state Voter outlines our position on the two state initiatives. Also the state Voter's pamphlet should be in your hands. You will probably find local issues in there, too.

Read and be prepared to vote!

ON-LINE CALENDARING FOR THE LEAGUE

A Reminder from last month.....

KCS now has an electronic calendar accessible by any league member on the internet. If you want to look at the calendar, type in the url:

www.google.com/calendar (to go to the website)

sign in (upper right corner) with: walwvkcs@juno.com

password: consensus

Mary Ehlers has agreed to be the "calendar master" so if you want her to add events or make changes please send her an e-mail (maryehlers@comcast.net) or call her at 253-941-1930.

When you change or add something on the calendar, please let Mary know for coordination purposes as we get used to using this new tool.

BOOK REVIEWS

Waxwings, by Jonathan Rabin

Mr. Rabin was born in England and has lived in Seattle since 1990. He has written 10 books and has received numerous literary honors.

Waxwings tells the story of a Chinese illegal immigrant that arrives in Seattle in a cargo container. It describes how he survives, integrates himself into the community making a life for himself outside the mainstream. He intersects with a UW professor with a dot-com wife and a four-year old son. The professor's life starts to come apart, starting with his wife leaving him. Their lives intertwine during the period when the WTO was meeting in Seattle. The professor is in the wrong place at the wrong time and becomes associated with a missing child situation that gets ugly. I found this book to be enjoyable to read. It looked at immigration and civil rights with Seattle as the backdrop and (blessedly) the author does not dwell on rain to describe Seattle.

Submitted by Mary Ehlers

SUMMARY OF HEALTH CARE DISCUSSIONS

LWVKCS September Community Conversations Report On Health Care

This is a combination of the concerns that were discussed.

Problems we would like to see resolved:

- Doctors refusing to see Medicare patients
- Over use of emergency rooms
- Too many tests
- 20 minute doctor visits don't allow time for patient questions or clear instructions
- Providers whose English is inadequate. Patient is not sure he/she is understood and patient may misunderstand instructions.
- Long wait between making the appointment and getting in to see the doctor and long waits in the waiting room.

The most likely ways to pay for health care is a federal tax and premiums.

Federal Way members anticipate huge savings, which would follow the large expense needed to put a new plan into action. They want the pharmaceutical companies to contribute at least as much as they put in to advertising.

The Vashon League had a presentation by Roger Fulton describing the current options before Congress. He strongly supports single payer and the members present agreed. They also discussed the need for "clean elections" in order to prevent having legislators beholden to special interests and large corporations.

Leagues are using all internet options, traditional letters to the editor and public gatherings.

Our ideal Health care plan would cover all children, cover basic preventive care, mental health, dental, vision, long term care, reproductive health and alternative health care providers.
Irene Peyton, Unit Coordinator

Members Can Update Their Own Contact Information

News from National LWV

Keeping the member database up-to-date and accurate helps us all! Encourage your members to update their own information in the database by running this sample notice in the next edition of your Voter: "Any member can update his/her own contact information by selecting any webpage from the "For Members" menu on our national website and then selecting the "Update Your Information" menu item. After you login with your personal email address and password, you will be taken to your "My League" (Your Profile) webpage where you can change your personal contact information. Select the "Submit Changes" button when you are finished. Using the menu on the left-hand side of the page, you can also subscribe or unsubscribe to League-sponsored list and/or indicate the issue areas that are of interest.

Don't forget to send LWV of KCS your changes, too. You might miss an issue of our fabulous Voter or other local and state announcements!

ULTIMATE ACTION

League of Women Voters of Washington

ACTION WORKSHOP 2009

REGISTRATION

Cost: \$25 per venue per person

Lunch Provided

Choose one or both venues:

Benton/Franklin Counties, November 7, 2009

Bellevue, November 21, 2009

Name _____

Tel/email _____

VISA M/C

Card # _____

exp. date _____

Check enclosed

Mail to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105

BALLOT ISSUES MEETING

Karen Lunder, Moderator

Co-sponsored by the Renton AAUW



Jon Jensen, King Co. Charter Review Committee Member, discussing Charter Change



LWV Members, L to R, Susan Sanders, Jane Shafer
Barbara Cornwall, Miriam Helgeland

The Ballot Issues meeting had a hardy band of interested voters. It turned out that speakers were pretty hard to come by!

Karen did an awesome job of being the “devil’s advocate” on issues where there were no opposing speakers.

Our co-sponsors, Renton AAUW, did an amazing job in seeing that we had adequate calories in the form of cookies, breads, brownies, etc, to sustain us (for about 2 years).

Thanks, Karen, for all your work on the meeting.

CALENDAR

- Nov 3: GENERAL ELECTION
- Nov 4:: 9:45-12 noon, Board Meeting, 616 SW 152nd, Burien WA
- Nov 5: Seattle 1st Thurs. Forum, 7:30 pm, First Baptist Church, 9th and Harvard.
Topic: Post Election Recap and Discussion.
- Nov 17: **WHAT ABOUT MY PROPERTY TAXES?** 7:00 p.m. Civic Engagement
Forum on Property Taxes. Highline School District ERAC Bldg., 15675
Ambaum Blvd., Burien WA.
- Dec Holiday Party. Location TBD
- Apr 8: Theater Party, co sponsored with Renton AAUW. Renton Civic Theater.
“Rumors” by Neil Simon.

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