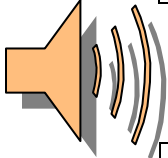




KING COUNTY SOUTH VOTER

March 2010

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?

VOTE! MARCH 16TH
(Check Eligibility)

King Conservation District

What Is It?
Where Is It?
Who Are They?
I Need to Vote?

Join our Unit Meetings for a lively discussion about the King Conservation District.

Discussion material and questions are part of this Voter. You, with the perfect voting records if you are eligible---VOTE! Info in this Voter.

Locations and time of Unit Mtgs are on the calendar (last page).

CLARIFYING **LANDLORD/TENANT** **ISSUES!**

Civic Education Forum

Join an Outstanding Panel of Experts on All Sides of The Issues

March 16, 2010
7 -8:30 pm

Highline ERAC Building
(Across from Azteca on Ambaum Blvd)
15675 Ambaum Blvd SW
Burien, WA

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM MESSAGE

From your "next-in-line" President,

We have now been Des Moines residents for five years. We moved "South" to be closer to family and to leave mosquitoes and ice behind. I traded mosquitoes for slugs and brought the ice and cold with me! I was not prepared for getting around in the big city or having so many shopping places! I now understand the difference between S and SW, but am still frustrated because I can't do all my errands in an hour.

Having been in service to the League since 1965 when we organized the Fairbanks, Alaska League, and in 1966 we organized the state league, and during those years serving on both boards in most capacities, had not prepared me for league life in the LWVKCS. I am totally unprepared when it comes to the history of our state and local positions and with the answer to my questions, which is, "that's how we've always done it."

Having temporary presidents has complicated further the life of our dedicated leader, Becky, rather than giving her more time for herself. Just as your work life or home life has decisions to be reached which are based upon your past experience, so does the work of the League. The pro tem president must depend upon Becky to provide information and advice. Each League member has a talent to share, and in order to have a functioning league, each member must contribute by serving on one committee, attending units and other meetings or actively responding to particular League correspondence.

I will end this message with a thank you to Mary Ehlers, a very new league member, for her work setting up our website, spearheading the two civic engagement public meetings and for her invitation to her home to celebrate League's anniversary on February 14.

Sincerely, Irene Peyton

SECOND CIVIC EDUCATION FORUM

Clarifying Landlord/Tenant Issues

Our panel of knowledgeable people will include **Tim Seth**, Washington Landlord Assoc., **Alouise Urness**, Tenant Counselor, **Patty Dudley**, King Co Dispute Resolution Ctr, and **Stephan Freeborn**, Freeborn Law Offices.

With many people changing their living status these days, we need to know how to handle any situation. Will you be renting? Or will you be renting to someone? Either way it presents its own unique problems.

Come with your questions (and perhaps a piece of pie!)

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION & PLANT SALE

Note: The district is supported by property taxes—any registered voter, other than those living in Enumclaw, Milton, Pacific and Federal Way, may vote!

King Conservation District Polling Locations/Addresses & Hours on March 16, 2010:

AUBURN-- King County Library/Muckleshoot Branch – 1102 Auburn Way South, Auburn WA 98002; Poll hours 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

DES MOINES-- King County Library/Des Moines Branch - 21620 11th Avenue S., Des Moines WA 98198; Poll hours 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SEATTLE--Seattle Public Library (Downtown Main Branch) - 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle WA 98104; Poll hours 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

VASHON--King County Library/Vashon Island Branch – 17210 Vashon Highway S.W., Vashon Island, WA 98070; Poll Hours 10:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

King Conservation District Plant Sale

The **native** plant sale is Friday, March 5th, 9am-4pm and Saturday, March 6th, 9am to 2pm, at the District Offices, 1107 SW Grady Way. Ste 130, Renton, WA.

They accept credit cards and checks. Please make checks payable to King Conservation District.

Most plants are pre-ordered but what is not picked up will be available at Grady Way at the times above. There are bare-root plants and some in small pots or as plugs.

It's a Centennial Celebration --

What: **May's Vote**, a play sponsored by the Vashon Unit of the League of Women Voters, the Inquiring Mind Program of Humanities Washington, and the Vashon Parks District

When: **Sunday, March 21**, 4:30-6:00

Where: Chautauqua Elementary School, Multi-purpose Room

Cost: **FREE** (donations accepted)

Prim and proper Emma Smith DeVoe and outrageous, flamboyant May Arkwright Hutton worked side by side to win the vote for women in Washington State in 1910. Though they agreed on the goal, they totally disagreed on how to achieve it. Emma, based in Western Washington, a professional suffrage organizer trained by Susan B. Anthony, believed to win the vote it was imperative to approach men in a ladylike

manner. "You have to persuade them, convince them, argue their resistance down". May, a rags-to-riches Spokane millionaire and ex-mining camp cook, believed "You gotta charm the pants off 'em. You don't focus on the issue, you distract 'em from it".

Barbara Callander and Toni Douglass each bring over 25 years of professional acting experience to their performances. They have been touring original plays about women's history for over a decade.

May's Vote, written in 1988 under a grant from the Washington State Centennial Commission, has toured throughout Washington since 1989. It was performed that year at Centennial Inaugural Ceremonies in Olympia and at the League of Women Voters State Convention.

DIRECTIONS TO CHAUTAUQUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Drive south on Vashon Hwy. from the n. end ferry dock
Go 1.2 mi. south from the 4-way stop in Vashon, to next 4-way stop
Turn left on Cemetery Rd. (Coffee Roasterie on the right)
Go 0.3 mi. and turn right into the schools campus (across from Community Church)
Take the left fork to Chautauqua Elementary
Use the parking lot in front and enter the right hand set of doors
Go downstairs to the multi-purpose room

STATE AND NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Both state and national Leagues are printing League information on-line on the League websites. If you are using a computer, be sure to check both of the sites for up to date information. The suspension of printing of the Voters is due to an unprecedented lack of funds at both levels. Websites are lwvwa.org and lww.org.

(Don't type in a .com address-I did that once and wondered where in the heck I was! Ed.)

SINGLE-PAYER VASHON, WEST SEATTLE/BURIEN

There are a number of SP events and meetings happening in the next few weeks. A good summary of most of them can be found at the current HCFA-WA Single-Payer Action Teams Update here: www.healthcareforallwa.org/action-team-updates/

PLAN AHEAD NOW

The Board decided at the November meeting that there **WILL** be unit meetings even if we are having a special event. Here are the proposed unit topics for the rest of the year and our special events.

April: Units: Topic: Health Care (Congressional action on reform should be done)
The national LWV website, LWV.org, has position papers on health care reform.

May: Annual Meeting, date TBD. Unit Meetings.

May 21-23: LWV of Washington Council Meeting, Bellingham. We can have 2 delegates.

June 11-15: LWV of US National Convention, Atlanta, Georgia. We can have 1 delegate and unlimited observers!

ULTIMATE ACTION

Court ruling affirms the Constitution

On Feb. 4, Superior Court Judge John Erlick ruled that the State is in violation of Article IX, Section 1 of the State Constitution, "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders..." The lawsuit, brought by the McCleary and Venema families and the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), a coalition of which LWVWA is a member, asked the court to define paramount, ample, all and education.

Judge Erlick reaffirmed the Supreme Court's 1978 ruling that paramount means "preeminent, supreme and more important than all others" and that funding education is "the State's first and highest priority before any other State programs or operations." Ample means "considerably more than adequate or sufficient" – "to be ample so no public school has to rely upon local levies, PTA fundraisers, private donations, or other non-State sources." All means "each and every child... not just those children who enjoy the advantage of being born... more privileged, more politically popular, or more easy to teach." Education means "the basic knowledge and skills needed to compete in today's economy and meaningfully participate in this State's democracy."

As the plaintiffs asked, the Judge ordered the State to determine the actual costs of providing all children with an education and to fully fund that actual cost with stable and dependable State sources – and to proceed with real and measurable progress. It was a total victory for Washington's school children.

Catherine Ahl
Education Chair, LWVWA

Ed. Note: Use your **Legislative Newsletter** to take action as a private citizen on any issue about which you are concerned. The state office needs your e-mail to get the newsletter to you.

ON-LINE CALENDARING FOR THE LEAGUE

A Reminder

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.

We have not been overwhelming Mary with data to be entered.

WANT AD

Needed: Two delegates to State Council in Bellingham
One delegate to National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

The League has some funds for both but not the whole enchilada. A personal contribution will be needed.

TRYs Are Here

Seattle LWV, with the diligent help of our own, **Susan Sanders**, has launched the 2010 edition of **They Represent You**. A must have for everyone! Take them to your friends and organizations to which you belong. Call the office for arrangements to get them. Many thanks to Miriam Helgeland for picking up our supply.

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION HISTORY IN WASHINGTON

Washington State Conservation Commission A Timeline for Conservation in Washington State

At the turn of the nineteenth century Americans began to realize that the seemingly infinite resources of the country were actually finite and, if misused, could disappear. In response, a movement arose among people who sought to conserve resources by using them more efficiently. Known as conservationists, their numbers included politicians, business owners, and concerned citizens.

August 8, 1908 - the Washington Forestry Association formed

Nov 1908 - first Washington State Conservation Congress in Seattle

January 1909 - reorganized as the Washington Conservation Association and broadened its scope:

"To conserve, preserve and promote the development of the forests, the minerals, the waters for power and irrigation, the soils and other natural resources within the State of Washington, and to co-operate with the Federal and state authorities and with other organizations, public or private, in accomplishing these purposes. To assist in and encourage the bona fide settlement of our public lands and the development of our material resources in order to advance the civil and social wellbeing of the commonwealth." (Bylaws and Charter Member List, 3-4).

January 1909, the National Conservation Commission, appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), issued its report, calling the nation to conserve resources, the government to prevent forest fires and to fight them more effectively, to improve waterways for flood control, to facilitate trade, industry to use minerals, fuels, and water more efficiently, thereby conserving them for future generations.

August 26, 1909 - first National Conservation Congress, organized by the Washington Conservation Association, occurred during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, a world fair held on the University of Washington campus. Delegates came from 45 states, several agencies of the federal government, churches, universities, and private organizations and businesses. Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946), the first chief of the Forest Service, advocated the wise use of natural resources. Dignitaries from the Army, the Department of Agriculture, the Reclamation Service, and representatives of several women's organizations encouraged careful use of resources, rather than preservation, or protection from use.

1915 Last annual congress. After that, disunity among the disparate groups making up the conservation movement prevented further national congresses.

March 17, 1939 - The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) was formed. Washington Governor Clarence D. Martin signed legislation creating the Conservation Commission, to serve conservation districts and farmers.

"To lead the citizens of the state in the wise stewardship, conservation, and protection of soil, water, and related natural resources on private lands. We help conservation districts coordinate programs, facilitate productive working relationships with other organizations, and help districts be successful. The Conservation Commission also provides grant funds to conservation districts, maintains accounting procedures in cooperation with the state Auditor's office, oversees conservation district elections, and appoints two board members to each local conservation district board. "

For the next 14 years, Commissioners assisted local farmers in forming conservation districts with five-member boards of supervisors who began long-range planning to assess resource needs.

Conservation districts are governed by farmers, landowners, and other local citizens interested in conservation. District staff walk the land and get to know landowners, trust is developed, and projects move forward to reduce soil erosion, conserve water, prevent pollution and runoff, and enhance habitat.

WSCC works with the federal Soil Conservation Service (NRCS today).

WSCC works with state agencies. Example: The 1988 agreement between Washington State Dept. of Ecology and WSCC allowed conservation districts to intervene and help farmers voluntarily solve water pollution problems before Ecology took enforcement action.

- 1978-79 the Clean Water Act provided funding to hire field technicians and assist landowners to improve water quality. WSCC partnered with WSU Extension and hosted regional community groups to discuss the social, economic, and scientific feasibility of practices that protect water quality. Three books of Best Management Practices: for dryland farming, irrigated farming, and livestock.
- The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Plant Materials Center was created, allowing districts to sell plants for income.
- Legislation was passed *allowing a county to collect an assessment in support of a conservation district.*

WSCC and the 47 conservation district programs and services expand to use private citizen incentives, i.e., cost-share dollars and technical assistance.

Example: in recent three year's time, with State grants, protected 1,296 miles of streams with livestock exclusion fencing and native plantings; 568,443 acres of land from erosion and runoff; saved 5,739 acre feet of water for instream habitat use, all through the installation of 7,171 conservation practices.

March 17, 2009, The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and WSCC co-sponsored an evening celebrating WSCC's 70 years of service to conservation districts and landowners. The event was held at the Water Street Café in Olympia.

The WSCC board has ten members with experience in ranching, farming, law, management, public service, and natural resource management: 4 elected from conservation districts, 4 appointed to represent state agencies, 2 appointed by the Governor. The board employs an executive director to implement the board's policies and plans, who in turn employs staff to manage agency financial programs, provide direct service to conservation districts, and perform functions to implement the WSCC Strategic Plan for 2009-2015. Headquartered in Lacey, with satellite offices in Longview, Okanogan, Olympia, Spokane, and Yakima.

Washington State Conservation Commission
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503
Mail: POB 47721, Olympia, WA 98504-7721
Phone (360) 407-6200

State statutes for the Washington State Conservation Commission are in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Rules for the Washington State Conservation Commission are in Chapter 135

WAC (Washington Administrative Code). Conservation Districts Law is in Title 89.08 RCW (Revised Code of Washington).

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

History

The Conservation District in King County was established at the same time as the Pierce Conservation District, in 1949. It was organized under Chapter 89.08 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) to protect and conserve natural resources throughout King County except for the incorporated boundaries of Enumclaw, Milton (belongs to the Pierce CD), Pacific, Federal Way, and Skykomish.

Mission, Vision, Values

Their stated mission is, "to promote the sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship."

Their vision is "King Conservation District will be recognized as a leader in achieving community based stewardship of land within the District, with economically and environmentally sustainable working lands, vibrant agriculture, and technically sound land, water, and habitat stewardship embraced by all citizens."

Their stated values are:

Service, respect, cooperation, responsibility, effectiveness, accountability, transparency.

Organization

An all-volunteer board of three elected supervisors and two appointed supervisors governs the district. The Washington Conservation Commission makes the two appointments. The supervisors must be landowners. There is also an advisory board of around 16 to provide feedback on the activities of the district. The supervisors hold monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month. The advisory board meets quarterly, or as needed.

The district has a staff of 15.

The King CD reports to the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) and is required to prepare an annual report. The state commission reports to the governor. All CDs belong to an association of CDs referred to as the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD).

The Chair of the Board of Supervisors believed an area of improvement for all the conservation districts might be to better coordinate efforts to reduce cost. Various Conservation Districts (CDs) have different goals and procedures that can delay efforts to work together.

The CD office is located at:

1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057
Telephone: 425-282-1900

Funding

The KCD is funded through grants, local taxes and direct contracts. The annual budget exceeds \$6,000,000. The current yearly property assessment of \$10.00 on real property located within the CD's boundaries arouses interest in what benefits accrue to property owners from such an assessment. Some of the programs of local interest are in the section entitled: "...District Activities and Program." The funds are used to conduct project planning and implementation to benefit the residents of King County. It will show up on your tax statement as "Conservation District" or "Soils and Water."

Constituency

The King Conservation District serves all of King County with the exception of the towns that have “opted out” of the district. Those towns are Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton (they belong to the Pierce County CD), Pacific and Skykomish. All registered voters, other than those in the aforementioned towns, are eligible to vote in the CD elections and to use the services of the district.

Elections

The process by which all Washington State Conservation Districts run their elections is governed by Chapter 89.08 of the RCW and by Washington State Conservation Commission guidelines. They are required to hold their election in the first quarter of the year. One supervisor is elected each year for a three year term.

Candidates for the Board of Supervisors must file 30 days before the election with a petition containing 25 names. Write-in candidates must file their intent 30 days in advance, also, but are not required to have the petition.

Although King County is now an all-mail-in ballot county, the King Conservation District (King CD) conducts elections at polling places located around the county. This year there are seven polling locations. The operation of the polling places and conduction of the election is handled by a private company called Election Trust. The managing partner of Election Trust is John Bodine and he is the polling officer. Election Trust counts, certifies the results, sends results to the Washington State Conservation Commission who then send the results to the King CD for sign-off by the Board of Supervisors.

Election Trust obtains a list of registered voters from the King County Elections Office in order to verify the eligibility of each person desiring to vote. People voting will sign in and if their address is one of the cities that has opted out, they will be asked to verify that they live within the city limits. They cannot vote in that case. Some voters may not know for sure whether they live in or out of the city limits. If actual residency is not clear, they may cast a provisional ballot. Two cities, Carnation and Seattle, used electronic voting as an option.

The chairman of the Board of Supervisors said that they do not use the special election ballot that is run by the county in the first quarter of the year because of expense. Special districts have to pay approximately \$.25 per voter in the specific district to have their issue on the ballot. In the case of the King CD, they would have to pay \$.25 for all registered voters in King County. There are over 600,000 registered voters. This amounts to an excess of \$1 million dollars. The King CD believes this is not a wise use of funds and constitutes almost 1/6th of their budget. The 2010 contract with Election Trust is \$35,000 to run the election.

The source of information about voting and candidates is on the King CD website, www.kingcd.org.

The amount and kind of pre election information provided by King CD was not determined. They are required to publish a notice of election in the same newspaper used by King County for legal notices.

The King Conservation District Activities and Programs

What are we getting for our money? A description of a few local projects of interest to the LWV of King County South follows:

Miller Creek Basin Plan (Cities of Normandy Park and Burien)

A plan for stormwater management, water quality protection and habitat improvement.

City of Burien: Walker Creek headwaters purchase. Acquire 21 acres of wetlands to protect them from development.

City of Burien: Seahurst Park North Shoreline Design. Design removal of the north seawall at Seahurst Park in order to restore shoreline habitat.

Cascade Land Conservancy: Acquire three acres of shoreline of one of the last feasible feeder bluffs to restore along the central Puget Sound. Shoreline is important for maintaining various life stages of salmon populations.

City of Kent: Meridian Valley Realignment , Restoration-Design and Permitting. Conduct design and permitting for relocation of a stream to improve fish passage and habitat.

City of Renton: Upper Springbrook Creek: Replace existing roadside ditch with natural meandering stream channel with spawning, rearing and storm refuge habitat for migrating salmon.

City of Auburn: Smith Parcel Acquisition: Acquire a .64 acre parcel of land situated between publicly owned lands adjacent to the Green River, allowing future project phases to set back a segment of the river levee and restore riverine habitat.

Other activities include:

- Consults with homeowners to solve problems relating to land use. They prefer working with larger land parcels rather than small urban lots.
- Help people work within the Growth Management Act requirements.
- The Washington State Conservation Commission has a nursery in Mt. Vernon where they raise native plants and trees for plant sales held by the county CDs.
- KCD has a wet land nursery on Grady Way near their office.
- One of their best cooperative efforts is with "Horses for Clean Water." KCD helps with planning and grants.
- Cooperate with citizen groups. Did stream rehabilitation for the Madrona neighborhood.
- Earthcare—contract with them for removal of noxious weeds.
- Hold workshops
 - Bluff Management, free, 4 hours
 - Managing Horses—in the Enumclaw area
 - Specific problems addressed for specific groups

This sampling of projects to which KCD has provided funds and advice on protection of salmon habitat and shorelines along Puget Sound and the Duwamish-Green River system speak well of the expertise and funding provided to municipalities and county areas by KCD.

References:

1. Washington Conservation Commission, www.scc.wa.gov
2. King Conservation District, www.kingcd.org
3. Interview with KCD Chair, Board of Supervisors, Bill Knutsen and Public Information Officer, Jason Chambers, 1/22/10
4. Washington Conservation Commission Newsletter, Winter 2009
5. Telephone interview with Election Trust, John Bodine, Feb. 17, 2010
6. The King Conservation District Assessment Report. KCD-Funded Projects 1998-2009
7. Telephone interview with Finance Manager, King County Elections, Bill Adams.
8. Pierce Conservation District Study, Tacoma Pierce County LWV, April 2008

THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR LEAGUE USE ONLY
HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED BY KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 2010

CALENDAR

- Mar 3: Board Meeting, 9:45-12 noon, 616 SW 152nd, Burien WA.
President Pro Tem, Irene Peyton, 206-878-6977.
- Mar 4: Seattle 1st Thurs. Forum, 7:30 pm, **Town Hall, 8th & Seneca (note change).**
Topic: **Women and Climate Change**
- Mar 8: Highline Unit, League office, 616 SW 152nd, Burien, 1:30-3:30pm.
Chair: MaryEllen Hamblin, 425-255-6675. Topic: King Conservation District
- Mar 9: Enumclaw Unit, 7-9pm, Highpoint Village, Enumclaw
Topic: King Conservation District **Chair: Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799**
- Mar 16: **Civic Education Forum: Landlord and Tenant Rights**, Highline School District ERAC, 15675 Ambaum Ave SW, Burien, WA. 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 16: **King Conservation District Election** (See polling place info in this Voter)
- Mar 17: Federal Way Unit, 7-9pm, Foundation House, 32290 1st Ave So, Federal Way.
Chair: Mary Ehlers, 253-941-1930. Topic: Transportation Review
- Mar 18: Vashon Unit, 2:00-4:00, Vashon Library. **Contact: Ellen Kritzman, 206-567-4837.** Topic: King Conservation District
- Mar 21: **May's Vote.** Sponsored by the Vashon Unit. 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Chautauqua Elementary School, Multi-purpose Rm. More info in this Voter.
- April 8: **THEATER PARTY**, co sponsored with Renton AAUW. Location: Renton Civic Theater. **"Rumors" by Neil Simon.** Curtain time 7:30 p.m.

LWV of KCS
PO Box 66037
206-243-7161
walwvkcs@juno.com