



KING COUNTY SOUTH VOTER

November 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?

The Nine The Nine

AUTHOR: JEFFERY TOOBIN
COME JOIN A BOOK CLUB STYLE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE
SUPREME COURT!

See Calendar on back for Unit Dates and Locations
Special Notice: An Additional Meeting at Valley View Library

Information after President's Message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Read any good books lately?" Our focus this fall is the courts, and to give us a common starting place, Jeffrey Toobin's *New York Times Best Book of the Year*, **THE NINE *Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*** has been recommended for discussion in our units and/or, the new format, *Conversation Cafés* in November. Beyond learning some new Latin phrases, we read such statements as "But (Justice) Kennedy knew the difference between his duties as a judge and his convictions as a Catholic." (Pg. 63) Who were/are the Federalists? And what is their perspective? Who knew there were so many ways to look at "orthodox" and "unusual"? Although the content of this book has taken place during (most of) our lifetimes, the inner workings are a revelation to us, the reader.

We hope you have enjoyed reading THE NINE, and suggest that if you are familiar with other books about the Supreme Court available to the general public, you will tell your unit leader to see how the conversation can develop and expand. Or perhaps prepare and submit a book review to include in a subsequent VOTER.

To continue the focus on the courts, the December "Holiday Party" speaker will be Chief Justice Barbara Madsen. Put Saturday, December 4th on your calendar so you can be sure to hear her remarks and add to your new knowledge base! Enjoy your discussions!

Happy Thanksgiving! Sandra Nelson, LWVKCS Administrative Team Mbr#3

Where's The Money?

Concerned about candidate and issue spending before you vote? It is very simple. All of the information is available on the Public Disclosure Commission website, www.pdc.wa.gov, along with the toll free phone number, 877/601-2828.

The Nine – Book Review Questions

For use at the discretion of the League Unit Leaders for the November book review meeting.

Opening Remarks – Unit Leader / Facilitator of Discussion

Reiterate the statement in the Press Release:

- We are here to review the book, "The Nine", and how ideological shifts in the court have had a significant impact on the direction of the country. (Essentially why the League choose this book for discussion.)

Describe why you personally wanted to read it. Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not? Ask others to comment.

Upcoming Event: December 4th – League Holiday Luncheon – guest speaker: Barbara Madson, Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court – will discuss issues such as election vs. appointment of WA state justices; how personal beliefs, convictions impact rulings.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you know about the subject prior to reading this book? How has this book changed or enhanced your view or increased your interest in the subject?
2. Discuss the author's bias towards one or more of the judges and/or conservative versus liberal viewpoints.
3. Which justices shared details and which did not? What hints did the author provide? (facilitator can read excerpts from the David Margolick book review)
4. What details about the secret world of the Supreme Court surprised you, which were most interesting, what details are still missing for you?
5. How has your view changed regarding the power of the Supreme Court and how it interprets the Constitution?
6. How has the background and personality of the justices, (also public opinion and current events) shaped the decisions of the Supreme Court?
7. What ideological shifts in the court have had a significant impact on the direction of the country and the course of history? What are some of the key decisions that the court has made?
8. What did you like or dislike about the book that hasn't been discussed already? Were you glad you read this book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Do you want to read other works by this author? Are you inclined to read more books on the topic? Why or why not?

DECEMBER EVENT

As the League turns its attention to the working of the U.S. Supreme Court, the League is pleased to announce that Barbara Madsen, chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, will speak at our Holiday Luncheon. The public is invited to this event, Saturday, December 4, at Highline Community College. Chief Justice Madsen will discuss the pros and cons of judicial selection and the process of Washington State Supreme Court decision-making as she sees it. Lunch will be served (no potluck this year) and the cost is \$12. Space is limited so plan ahead. For more information call 206-243-7161 and leave a message or e-mail us at WALWVKCS@JUNO.COM.

Submitted by Betty Colasurdo

WANT ADS

- ❖ Friends of the League (and prospective members.) Bring them to our Book Club meetings in November.
- ❖ Leaguers needed to call your local officials regarding storm water runoff policies and practices. Call Pat McCann, 206-878-2799. Gathering information can be done at home and can be a lot of fun, not to mention interesting.

Nov 8th, at the state Capital --the Day of Jubilation Celebration Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women Achieving the Right to Vote.

A myriad of activities will be held on the capital campus in Olympia and LVWWA is a sponsor of the "Valiant Women for Votes" Vintage Fashion Show and Bellingham-based Linda Allen's "Here's to the Women", a mixture of traditional, contemporary and original songs celebrating women's stories and contributions. "The State We're In" will be on display in the State Reception Room, and myriad other activities including a parade, activities designed for children and parents and more. The events will be from 10-5 at the State Capital Building. The main program will be at 4 p.m. Come and join the fun!

League of Women Voters of Washington's Positions on the Statewide Ballot Measures for the November 2, 2010 General Election

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to support the following:

Referendum Bill 52: Engrossed House Bill 2561 passed the 2010 legislature and was signed by Governor Gregoire. The bill was named the Jobs Act. The bill provides for state general obligation bonds of up to \$505 million to fund energy efficiency projects in the state's K-12 schools and higher education facilities. The bonds would be funded by extending the current state tax on bottled water beyond its current expiration date of 2013. Because this bonding amount exceeds the state's current debt limit, the bill must be submitted to the state's voters.

The national League's positions on Natural Resources, particularly those related to global climate change, together with the extensive work the national League has

done in support of national climate change legislation, are the basis for League to support Referendum 52. LWVWA supported EHB 2561 in the 2010 legislative session.

Initiative 1098: concerns establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes. This measure would tax “adjusted gross income” above \$200,000 (individuals) and \$400,000 (joint-filers), reduce state property tax levies, reduce certain business and occupation taxes, and direct any increased revenues to education and health.

League of Women Voters of Washington position on tax structure states: Inequities in the distribution of the tax burden should be removed. Ability to pay is an important criterion. Flexibility and recognition of changing times and needs is important in tax policy. Income should be part of the tax base preferably through a graduated net income tax.

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to oppose the following:

Initiative 1053: concerns tax and fee increases imposed by state government. This measure would restate existing statutory requirements that legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds legislative majorities or receive voter approval, and that new or increased fees require majority legislative approval.

National League position includes that government must have the knowledge, resources and power to make decisions that meet citizens needs and reconcile conflicting interests and priorities, and it must be able to function in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time and duplication of effort.

Initiative Measure No. 1100 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits). This measure would close state liquor stores; authorize sale, distribution, and importation of spirits by private parties; and repeal certain requirements that govern the business operations of beer and wine distributors and producers.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1100 would lower state revenue approximately \$25 million per year through the privatization of liquor.

Initiative Measure No. 1105 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits). This measure would close all state liquor stores and license private parties to sell or distribute spirits. It would revise laws concerning regulation, taxation and government revenues from distribution and sale of spirits.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1105 would lower state revenue approximately \$100 million per year through the privatization of liquor.

Initiative 1107 concerns reversing certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws. This measure would end sales tax on candy; end temporary sales tax on some bottled

water; end temporary excise taxes on carbonated beverages; and reduce tax rates for certain food processors.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1107 would lower state tax revenue by \$55 million in the current fiscal year and \$218 million in the upcoming biennium by removing the tax on candy & gum, bottled water, soda and reinstating tax loopholes.

League believes all initiatives proposed should “require how revenue losses or budget increases might be covered, either through program cuts or increases in revenue sources.” (League position on Initiatives, IR-4)

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to take no position on the following:

Initiative 1082 concerns industrial insurance. This measure would authorize employers to purchase private industrial insurance beginning July 1, 2012; direct the legislature to enact conforming legislation by March 1, 2012; and eliminate the worker-paid share of medical-benefit premiums.

Engrossed Substitute House Joint Resolution 4220. The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on denying bail for persons charged with certain criminal offenses. This amendment would authorize courts to deny bail for offenses punishable by the possibility of life in prison, on clear and convincing evidence of a propensity for violence that would likely endanger persons.

On I-1082, if the federal government does not provide sufficient resources, then the state government must assume that responsibility. There is a question as to whether the state would have the resources if private insurance chose not to cover, and the federal government didn't sufficiently cover.

On ESHJR 4220, we are concerned about modifying constitutional protection to bail without full vetting. This constitutional amendment came about because of a very tragic incident rather than because over time, the legislature considered a problem and sought a solution.

November Book Club: More Books on the Supreme Court

For more background information, Susan Sanders recommends the following:

The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries That Defined America By: Thirteen/WNET, Jeffrey Rosen, Library call no. 347.732634 ROS, ISBN-13: 978-0805081824

Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Control of the United States Supreme Court By: Jan Crawford Greenburg, Library call no. 347.732634 GRE, ISBN-13: 978-1594201011

Two books on the temperaments and effectiveness of Supreme Court Justices: Mr. Rosen juxtaposes two important figures from each of four historic time periods, and provides a look at what we might expect from Chief Justice Roberts. Mr. Rosen specifies the effective justice is the one who builds coalitions, promotes the institution of the Court, and has the highest "Emotional Intelligence" quotient, although he doesn't use that term. This book is the companion to a program aired by PBS in February

Ms Greenburg focuses on the Rehnquist court to the present, and provides insights into the selection, opinion-writing, conferences, and personalities of the justices.

Submitted by Susan Sanders

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ETC

Interesting Links

New York Times: nytimes.com

Washington Post:

Washingtonpost.com

National League: lww.org

Washington League: lwwa.org

WHERE DO OUR TAX DOLLARS AND FEES GO?

As a result of our September unit discussions on what services we need and how do we pay for them, education was most often selected as a priority which should be provided for all by the government. Health care is not seen as a community service but as a national concern.

Utilities should be paid for by fees and could be provided by private enterprise....but major structures for sewer, water and electricity could require the participation of governments providing the structures for regulating and transporting: e.g. Sewage and water treatment and major transmission lines.

Police, judiciary systems, fire, road maintenance/snow removal, planning and zoning, pollution control, aid to the needs, old age assistance, assistance for the handicapped should be supported by taxes. Other services could be paid through fees, service areas or private pay, with or without government grants or non-profit organizations, churches, trade unions.

The need for regulation and enforcement by a government entity was recognized and needs to be considered as an expense for every desired service and hence depends on taxes and fees.

Further discussion could address services we expect from other levels of government: districts, counties, state, federal, international agencies, as well as the complications that arise as businesses and government agencies attempt to address interstate issues.

The unit discussions did not require consensus.

Summarized from unit reports by Irene Peyton

League of Women Voters of Washington

Action Workshop for 2010

Lobby Team Priority Topics:

Budget Issues: How to save the things we love

Cost \$25 per venue per person

Hope to see you there!

Bellevue

November 6, 2010

9:30am to 2:30pm (Lunch will be served)

St. Andrews Lutheran Church

2650—148th Ave SE, Bellevue WA

League of Women Voters of Washington

ACTION WORKSHOP 2010

REGISTRATION

Cost: \$25 per venue per person

Lunch Provided

Name _____

Tel/email _____

___ VISA ___ M/C

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

___ Check enclosed

Mail to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way NE, Suite 720, Seattle WA 98105

PRELIMINARY 2010-2011 CALENDAR

December 2010

Dec 1: Board Meeting

Dec 4: Holiday Party. **SAVE THE DATE!** Our speaker will be State Supreme Court Justice, Barbara Madsen.

January 2011

Jan 5: Board Meeting

Units: Next year's subject for state LWV and local LWV

February 2011

Feb 2: Board Meeting

Feb 24: State LWV Lobby Day, Columbia Room, Capitol, Olympia

Units: Local study: Storm Water Management in KCS

March 2011

Mar 2: Board Meeting

Units: Conversation Café: Violence in our Communities. Public is invited.

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

- Nov 2: General Election. Get out there and VOTE!
- Nov 3: Health Care Reform Presentations: Valley Medical Center. 10:00 to 11:30 AM
- Nov 3: Board Meeting, 9:45-12 noon, 616 SW 152nd, Burien, WA.
Contact Co-president, Sande Nelson, 360-825-4240, with agenda concerns.
- Nov 6: State LWV Action Workshop, St. Andrews, Bellevue
- Nov 8: Highline Unit, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 616 SW 152nd St, Burien.
- Nov 8: Day of Jubilation, Capital Building Olympia. Time 10-5. Special Program at 4 p.m.
- Nov 9: Enumclaw Unit, 7-9 p.m., Highpoint Village. Unit Chair: Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799
- Nov 10: Health Care Reform Presentation: Valley Medical Center. 10:00 to 11:30 AM
- Nov 16: NEW UNIT: VALLEY VIEW LIBRARY, 6:45 to 8:45, 17850 Military Road, SeaTac.
- Nov 17: Federal Way Unit, 7-9 p.m., Foundation House, 32290 First Ave. S.
Unit Chairs: Miriam Helgeland, 253-852-4167 and Cindy Piennett, 253-839-2883
- Nov 17: Immigration Issues. Location: Burien Library, 400 SW 152nd St, Burien, WA. Sponsored by Humanities Washington through the U of W. Time: 7 p.m.
- Nov 25: Thanksgiving!

LWV of KCS
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