



*The Kitsap*

# *Voter*

*The League of Women Voters of Kitsap*

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Website: [www.lwvwa.org/kitsap](http://www.lwvwa.org/kitsap)

Board Contact Number: 206-842-3548

*November 2008*

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*BRUNCH*

*and*

*A Conversation about*

*EARLY LEARNING*

with

**Rep. Ruth Kagi**, chair of Children's and Family Services,  
Washington State House of Representatives  
and **Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis**, Seattle LWV

**November 8, 2008**

North-South Conference Room,  
Bremer Student Union Building

**Olympic College, Bremerton**

11:00 a. m. to 1:00 p. m.

Cost: \$18.00

**Reservations and payment in advance required.**

Send checks by **November 3** to: LWV Kitsap

P.O. Box 564

Kingston, WA 98346

Questions? Contact Margaret Colony, 360-598-3073 or [mcolony@wavecable.com](mailto:mcolony@wavecable.com)

## League Contacts

*Have a question to ask, or knowledge to share? Need more information? Here's who to call...*



<i>Community Outreach</i>	<i>Ellen Fisher</i>	<i>(206) 842-3548</i>
<i>Program issues</i>	<i>Pam Hamon</i>	<i>(360) 598-3508</i>
<i>Voter Education</i>	<i>Catherine Ahl</i>	<i>(360) 697-7924</i>
<i>Policies &amp; Procedures</i>	<i>Margaret Colony</i>	<i>(360) 598-3073</i>
<i>The Voter Editor</i>	<i>Peggy Drew</i>	<i>(206) 780-2914</i>
<i>Action</i>	<i>Luella Wells</i>	<i>(360) 598-3267</i>
<i>Civics</i>	<i>Pam Hamon</i>	<i>(360) 598-3508</i>
<i>International Relations</i>	<i>Helen Hoover</i>	<i>(360) 297-5727</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Annamarie Lavieri</i>	<i>(360) 638-1088</i>
<i>Membership Renewal</i>	<i>Myra Howrey</i>	<i>(360) 621-2752</i>
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Judy Matchett</i>	<i>(360) 830-4154</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Luella Wells</i>	<i>(360) 598-3267</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Pat Anderson</i>	<i>(360) 638-1821</i>
<i>Unit Coordinator</i>	<i>Pam Hamon</i>	<i>(360) 598-3508</i>
<b>Unit Leaders:</b>		
<i>Bainbridge Island</i>	<i>Madelyn Fox</i>	<i>(206) 842-5360</i>
<i>North Kitsap</i>	<i>Annamarie Lavieri</i>	<i>(360) 638-1088</i>
<i>Central &amp; South Kitsap</i>	<i>Ann Smith</i>	<i>(360) 871-3993</i>

## Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, October 29**    **LWV-K Action Workshop**, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Poulsbo Library  
Training on How and When to Do Action
- Tuesday, November 4**    **ELECTION DAY**
- Wednesday, November 5**    **Board Meeting**, 9:30 a. m., Poulsbo Library Lower Level Meeting Room
- Wednesday, November 5**    **Civics Committee Meeting**, 12:30 p. m. at Poulsbohemian Coffeehouse, Front St.
- Saturday, November 8**    **Brunch at Olympic College** – Panel Discussion on Early Care and Education
- Saturday, November 15**    **LWVWA Action Workshop** at St. Andrews Lutheran Church,  
2650 – 148th Avenue SE, Bellevue
- Wednesday, November 19**    **Unit Meetings, 9:30 a.m. at these locations:**
- Bainbridge Island** – at the home of Ellen Fisher, 5307 Battle Point Drive NE
- North Kitsap** – at the home of Carol Callan Haskins,  
6794 Wood Bay Lane NE, Poulsbo
- Central/South Kitsap** – North Conference Room of the Student Center at  
Olympic College, Judy McMillan & Ann Smith hosting
- All units will be discussing the Early Learning Study and the consensus questions.**
- Thursday, November 27**    **THANKSGIVING DAY**
- Wednesday, December 3**    **Coffee with Our Legislators**, 10:00 – 11:00 a. m.,  
Followed by **LWV-K Board Meeting**, 11:30 a. m.  
Poulsbo Library Lower Level Meeting Room

**Enjoy the rest of December – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

# President's

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I am excited about the speakers on early care and education of young children that Margaret Colony has arranged for us for the General Meeting on Saturday, November 8. The main speaker, **Ruth Kagi** represents north Seattle in the legislature and has been recognized as an outstanding legislator. She is chair of the House Committee on Children and Family Services and serves on the Children, Families and Health Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. She has received numerous honors for her work on behalf of children including the following: Champion for Children, from The Children’s Alliance 2006 and Champion for Education from the League of Education Voters. She is also a past vice-president of the League of Women Voters of Washington.

A second speaker is **Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis** from the Seattle League. She played a major part in creation of the state study and was recommended by Margie Reeves, our lobbyist on these issues, because of her knowledge.

What outstanding speakers! Don’t miss hearing them at the brunch – 10:00 a.m. November 8 at Olympic College.

The “Early Care and Education of Young Children, Abridged Report” is on the state web site <lwwa@lwwa.org> and can be downloaded; it gives valuable information.

There will also be information about the study in the fall state Voter. We will have our consensus meetings at the Unit meetings on November 19.

Coming up in December is an opportunity to meet informally with our newly elected legislators. Plan to be at the coffee at the Poulsbo Library, December 3.

Finally, I want to say thank you to Myrna Casad, Pat Anderson and Ann Smith who hosted the unit meetings last month. Our unit meetings provide an opportunity to meet in smaller groups throughout the county for discussion and further education. We had seven guests at the units who indicate that they plan to become League members. Look for bios of some interesting people in future *Voters*!

Ellen Fisher,  
President

P. S. I have learned that we have another Honorary (50-Year) Member in LWV-Kitsap. Since we are not yet 50 years old, she had to start in a different League. See the article on Page 7 to learn about Lucy Johnson’s League beginnings.

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• *Check out our website:* •  
• [www.lwwa.org/kitsap](http://www.lwwa.org/kitsap) •  
• *Our Voter is now posted on the website.* •  
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*The Health Committee is reactivating.*

Please call or email Pam Hamon (360-598-3508 or pchamon@msn.com) if you are interested in participating on this very important committee. We will decide on meeting times once the committee is formed. The LWVUS wants local Leagues to educate our communities on health care issues - there's lots to learn, so come join us.

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*Civics Committee Meeting:*

Wednesday, November 5th 12:30 p. m. at Poulsbohemian Coffeehouse.

We will review the responses from our school districts as to how they are meeting the civics mandate in the school year 2008-2009. We will also decide on a civics education brochure and future plans for the committee. Be sure to read the Civics article on Page 6, written by Sandra Day O'Connor and Lee Hamilton.

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*Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce Forum*

This forum on October 15 will include the candidates for the Superior Court and the Kitsap County Auditor as well as the 23rd District Representatives.

The luncheon is open to the public. Luncheon registration begins at 11:30 at Wing Point Golf and Country Club; the cost is \$15, call ahead for reservations. The program will probably get going 12:10 to 12:15. The BI Chamber of Commerce prefers you buy lunch, but you can pay a \$2 fee to attend.

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**LWV-K ACTION WORKSHOP**

**OCTOBER 29, 2008 – 10:00 a. m. - 12:00 Noon**  
**Lower Level of the Poulsbo Library**

**A training for Board members, Unit leaders**  
**and any League member interested in joining**  
**the LWV-K ACTION TEAM**

**THE HOW, WHEN AND WHERE TO TAKE ACTION**

**RSVP to Luella Wells, 360-598-3267 or lawells@wavecable.com**

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## *Voter Education*

At the LWV Kitsap Board Retreat on June 4, the priorities for 2008-09 were set: Membership, Voter Education, and Action. Voter Education work began immediately, with Ann Smith having already volunteered to reserve a facility, contact the candidates, and to do all the other tasks involved with setting up a candidates' forum. Therefore, the first League forum was held July 24th for the four candidates running in the Primary for District 2 County Commissioner.

The Kingston Chamber of Commerce held a forum for County Commissioner candidates on August 26th, and LWV-K provided the moderator and timekeeper. LWV-K forums were held on September 17th – an Education-Focused one for candidates for the 23rd Legislative District Senator and Representatives positions, on September 23rd for candidates for the District 1 and 2 County Commissioner positions, and on October 16th for the 26th Legislative District Representatives positions. We also assisted with the Hansville Community Center “Pies & Meet the Candidates” night.

Although we wish we had the resources (both financial and woman-power) to have done more forums, we take pride in having hosted 100% more forums than we did two years ago. Because of the Community Partnership between LWV-K and the Kitsap Sun, there were many ads for our forums and newspaper articles afterwards. The biweekly newspapers also provided good publicity and articles.

In this year of the Olympics, I'd like to give medals to the following League members:

Gold – Pat Anderson for attending every forum (including the Kingston Chamber & Hansville ones) and being timekeeper at all but one  
– Ann Smith for volunteering before being asked, attending all the League hosted forums, and moderating at one

Silver – LWV-K members Carol Haskins, Cindi Nevins, and Helen Hoover for volunteering to help with a forum without being asked – shining examples of League-like behavior

Bronze – Luella Wells and Margaret Colony for attending LWV-K hosted forums outside their electoral districts just to offer moral support – again very League-like

Your Board has included Voter Education as a priority based on input from members, and we will be calling on members in each unit next summer and fall to set up forums in your areas for mayor, city council, school board, port and fire district candidates. This is the mission of LWV. Voter registration is a part of it; making sure registered voters are informed is critical.

Catherine Ahl  
Voter Education Chair

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*A Democracy without Civics?* By Sandra Day O'Connor (24 years as a Supreme Court Justice) and Lee H. Hamilton (34 year Democratic congressman from Indiana) who co-chair the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools.

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*The following article was printed in the Christian Science Monitor September 18, 2008*

September 17 marked the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Students across the country spent a few minutes of their day learning about the remarkable work of our nation's founders.

This is nice, but America's schools should be doing a much more thorough job of honoring the civic mission that was the reason for their founding.

Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of the first advocates for public education in America, argued forcefully that schools play a crucial role in preparing the citizens of a democracy. "There is but one method of rendering a republican form of government durable" he wrote, "and that is by disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through education."

With young people voting at higher rates than ever before, it might seem that the founders would be pleased with our progress. Yet civic engagement requires more than voting in presidential elections every four years. A healthy democracy demand sustained citizen participation, and our schools must give students the knowledge and tools to participate.

Sadly, civic education has been in steady decline over the past generation, as high stakes testing and an emphasis on literacy and math dominate school reforms. Too many young people today do not understand how our political system works. They lack the tools to shape their communities through their own participation.

This shows up on national tests – though not, disappointingly, any of the tests our government uses to gauge school performance. On the last nationwide civics assessment, administered in 2006, two-thirds of students scored below proficiency. Not even a third of eighth-graders surveyed could identify the historical purpose of the Declaration of Independence. Less than a fifth of high school seniors could explain how citizen participation benefits democracy.

Equally troubling, we face a widening civic achievement gap. Hispanic and African-American students are twice as likely as their white counterparts to lack civic knowledge and skills, while low income students score significantly lower than middle and upper-income students. In other words, our schools' failure when it comes to civic education is especially stark in communities most in need of civic engagement.

If we hope to sustain American democracy, we need to treat civic learning as on a par with other academic subjects. To participate fully in our democracy, students need to understand our government, our history, and our laws. They need to appreciate the skills democracy imposes on us – consensus building, compromise, civility and rational discourse – and how they can be applied to the problems confronted by their communities and our nation as a whole. Restoring this civic mission of schools will require a concerted effort in school districts, at statehouses, and by the federal government.

The federal government should embrace civic education when it revisits education reform next year. Developing and then mandating civics standards – and increasing funding for civics learning – would go a long way toward jump-starting progress.

States likewise can elevate the importance of civic learning by creating commissions to review thoroughly the state's approach to civic education, instituting civics as a graduation requirement, and funding professional and curricular development.

Schools, which the noted education reformer John Dewey called the "midwife of democracy" should include civic learning in their mission statements and incorporate civics – including discussion of controversial topics and the responsibilities of citizen engagement – into their curricula for students of all ages.

The anniversary of the Constitution and the upcoming presidential election offer a chance to reflect on the health of American democracy. Still, democracy is a sustained conversation among citizens over how best to govern their communities. It is not enough for this conversation to take place on one day, or even over the course of one campaign.

Our democratic discourse must begin in America's schools, which shape the attitudes and experiences of more citizens than any other institution.

The anniversary of the Constitution should be an occasion for reaffirming our long-term commitment to civic participation. That means restoring education for democracy to its central place in our schools. Only then can we fulfill the Constitution's promise of a more perfect union.

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# Personalia

*Life Member, Lucy Johnson*

When Lucy Johnson moved from New York City to Greenwich, Connecticut in 1954 she decided to join the League. Her mother was a big League person in Pennsylvania who had been president of the local league and on the state board. Her mother said, "You have got to join!" so she did.

Lucy was active in the Greenwich League serving on a variety of study committees. One committee was a national study of U.S. involvement in S. E. Asia before the U.S. got into the Vietnam war.

She was also active in getting rid of the last vestiges of county government in Connecticut. The last major responsibility of county government was care of "neglected and uncared for children" and they weren't doing a good job of that.

"That the first thing I was involved with in the League was an immediate success may have been misleading, because over time I learned that usually success only comes as the culmination of years of hard work," she says.

Lucy joined the Kitsap League when she moved here in 2004 and we are glad she did.

Please add these new members to your Membership Directory:

Josh Brown  
614 Division Street, MS-4  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Barbara V. Linsert  
20095 Blue Rund Loop NE  
Poulsbo, WA 98370  
360-779-5533 blinsert@comcast.net

P. S. Your new Membership Directory will be available this fall! Thanks to Myra Howrey and Catherine Ahl for their hard work on this project.

Clip & Mail

**The League of Women Voters of Kitsap County invites you to join us.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories  
(please circle one):

- \$15 Voter subscription only
- \$50 Basic Membership
- \$75 Household (two or more members at the same address)
- \$100 Carrie Chapman Catt Member
- \$150 Jo Huey Member

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to Operating Fund\*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to Education Fund+

Please make checks payable to:  
LWV Kitsap

Membership/Dues should be mailed to:  
P. O. Box 564  
Kingston, WA 98346

Send other correspondence to:  
P. O. Box 1524  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

\* Dues and Donations to the Operating Fund are not tax-deductible.

+ Donations to the Education Fund are tax-deductible.

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## *Ballot Issues*

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Ballot Issues Forum due to lack of speakers. However, this *Voter* should reach you near the time ballots are mailed, so here is some concise information about the three Initiatives which will be on the November ballot. Much more detailed analysis is available on the State League website, [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org). The link is on the main page.

### **I-985 – Reduce Traffic**

This measure dedicates a portion of existing vehicle-related revenue to help fund the opening of carpool lanes to everyone during non-peak hours, the synchronization of traffic lights on heavily-traveled arterials and streets, and the oversight responsibilities of the state auditor, as well as to increase funding for emergency roadside assistance. It diverts 15% of sales and use taxes from vehicle sales and 1/2 to 1% of funds from transportation-related public works projects and tolls from the state general fund into a “Reduce Traffic Congestion Account” which can only be used for the issues listed above.

This initiative deals only with ways to move automobile traffic more efficiently; it does not address any public transit issues. But it does divert money from the state general fund which pays for the state’s primary responsibility, public education, and other state priorities. Also, some of the issues it addresses (i.e., traffic light synchronization) are already being done.

The State Board of the League of Women Voters of Washington has voted to oppose I-985 and recommends that voters go [www.NoOn985.com](http://www.NoOn985.com) for more detailed information on reasons for the opposition by the League and other organizations.

### **I-1000 – Death With Dignity**

This measure would permit terminally ill, competent, adult Washington residents, who are medically predicted to have six months or less to live, to request and self-administer lethal medication prescribed by a physician. This measure resembles Oregon’s landmark *Death With Dignity Act of 1994*, in effect since 1997 and twice upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Under this law, a patient would make both an oral request and a written request through a standard form; it must be witnessed by two persons, one of whom is not a relative and has no potential to gain by the patient’s death. A physician must certify that the patient has a terminal illness, is competent and qualified, and has expressed a wish to die. The initiative includes a waiting period following each request and confirmation of the diagnosis and competence of the patient by a second physician. Physicians acting in good faith would be immune from liability. There is no identified cost for this program.

This initiative remains very controversial and is both supported and opposed by a variety of persons and organizations, largely on humanitarian, moral and religious grounds. The state Board of the League of Women Voters of Washington has taken no position on this initiative.

### **I-1029 – Long-Term Care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities.**

This measure would require long-term workers to be certified as home-care aides based on an examination, with exceptions; increase training and criminal check background requirements; and establish disciplinary requirements and procedures. It would double the number of hours of training required for state certification and require that certification be completed within 150 days of hire. Costs of this program are undetermined but would be borne by the state and probably by the patients and families.

The State Board of the League of Women Voters of Washington has voted to support this initiative. Voters may go to [www.yeson1029.org](http://www.yeson1029.org) for details on who supports this initiative (advocates for persons with disabilities, legislators, labor unions), why the training and background check requirements are important, and reasons it is being done by the initiative process.

**The League of Women Voters of Washington  
ACTION WORKSHOP 2008  
REGISTRATION**

**Cost \$20**

**Lunch Provided**

**NEW THIS YEAR – TWO VENUES!**

**Choose one or both:**

**Benton/Franklin Counties, November 8**

**Bellevue, November 15**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/email \_\_\_\_\_

VISA       MC

card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

check enclosed

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

LWV-Kitsap members will be attending the Action Workshop at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 2650 – 148th Avenue SE, Bellevue. We would like to have a large group attend this very informative meeting this year, and we plan to carpool. So – fill out and mail in your registration form, and then call or email either Ellen Fisher (206-842-3548, ellenfishe@gmail.com) or Luella Wells (360-598-3267, lawells@wavecable.com) to let them know you would like to join the carpool. You’ll meet a lot of great Leaguers and will learn from knowledgeable people about many of the issues expected to come before the Legislature in 2009.

Look inside for —  
 A Democracy Without Civics?  
 Action Workshop Registration Forms  
 Civics Committee  
 Health Committee  
 Life Member Bio  
 President's Corner  
 Upcoming Events  
 Voter Education News

## November 2008 Voter

FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
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League of Women Voters  
 of Kitsap County, WA  
 P. O. Box 1524  
 Poulsbo, WA 98370



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# November

# 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Other Important Dates: <b>October 29 - LWV-K Action Workshop</b> See Page 4 for details						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> ELECTION DAY!	<b>5</b> Board Meeting, 9:30 am at Poulsbo Library; Civics Comm., 12:30 at Poulsbohemian Coffehouse	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Brunch and a Conversation about Early Learning, 11:00 at Olympic College
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> LWVWA Action Workshop in Bllevue
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Unit Meetings on Early Learning Consensus, 9:30 a.m. See Page 2 for locations	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> /	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> HAPPY THANKS-GIVING!	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						