



VOTER

DO A LITTLE CHANGE A LOT

A Biographical Sketch on Energy by Donna Ewing, Thurston Co.
and member LWVUS EF Climate Control Taskforce
(with the help of Elizabeth Davis and Toni Potter)

“DO A LITTLE, CHANGE A LOT” is a program to guide citizens of Northern Scotland in their efforts to reduce an individual’s or a family’s carbon footprint. An individual’s carbon footprint is defined as the amount of carbon a person generates per year through daily activities such as dishwashing, doing laundry, showering, maintaining a comfortable indoor temperature and driving. This paper will cover what my family has done as we strive toward a carbon neutral status.

Climate change is arguably the single, most important crisis in human history and will impact every living thing on earth. Efforts to positively alter this life-changing phenomenon must be worldwide and it would seem that those countries that have caused most of the problem should take initial responsibility for solving it. This is where you and I come in. Since Americans generate from 25 to 28% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, but with less than 5% of the world’s population, the most effective thing we can do is to lobby our elected officials to establish the laws that are essential to reduce these emissions. This will require improved efficiency and conservation in the use of energy and a reduced dependence on fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas). Every elected official and/or candidate at every level of government must have a realistic plan to slow and, ultimately, stop climate change. We as voting citizens MUST demand no less!

When our home was built in the 1970s several energy conservation measures were included in the construction. All heating ducts and hot water pipes were wrapped with insulation. The hot water heater was also wrapped (newer, energy efficient models are well insulated and do not require wrapping) and the attic was well insulated.

Beginning with outdoor projects, composting both yard and kitchen waste is an efficient way to reduce trash and recycling while creating a great water-conserving mulch and a natural fertilizer from worm castings. If you have neither the space nor the inclination for composting, consider grass cycling with a mulching, electric lawn mower (less air and noise pollution). We use no toxic chemicals on the lawn or garden—no herbicides or pesticides. In addition to being toxic

(cont. pg. 3)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Think this is a just another boring off-year election season? I wouldn’t bet on it! Decisions made at the local are most likely to impact us directly. It is important for us individually and collectively to explore the issues in our own communities, ask the candidates the tough questions, and make sure their answers are to the point. Ballot measures are frequently confusing. Let’s make sure we understand them and can explain them to others. The pros and cons are on the website.

LWVUS President Mary Wilson continues to testify before Congress on election issues. In July she testified on ballot integrity bills. She needs our help in collecting examples of things that are not working in the election process. Have you witnessed a person being turned away because they can’t produce a photo ID? What about mail-in ballots? Are real efforts being made to contact anyone whose signature on the ballot doesn’t quite match the signature on file? And what about provisional ballots? Are they being provided as they should be? Please let us know at the state office if you have

(cont. pg.2)

President's message con't.

witnessed any egregious act at the polls or local elections office. We will use the information ourselves and pass it on.

The League of Women Voters is committed to ensuring that no eligible voter is ever turned away from the polls.

Due to your generosity and that of some very good friends of the League, we are close to making our goal for the Challenge Match. We have contributions totaling \$41,000 to date; only \$9000.00 to go. With your continued support, I am sure we will make it by December. Thanks to all of you who have given to the Education Fund for this special endowment for civic education, and to all who will contribute between now and December.

However, please don't forget that the Education Fund is somewhat limited in what it can fund. The state League has an ongoing need to help fund operations and advocacy with donations that are not tax exempt. When you receive an appeal for each of these this fall and winter, keep in mind all that we do and all that we want to do. After 87 years, we remain the most respected and trusted grassroots political organization in the nation.

Barbara

Pros and Cons for all state wide Ballot Issues can be found on the LWVWA website, www.lwvwa.org

Study of Early Care and Education of Young Children

Adopted at convention 2007, this study is getting started. Most of the work will be done electronically. If you are interested in being a member of the study group contact:

Margie Reeves 360-866-7507
mpreeves@comcast.net

Pat Dickason 360 753 7647
p.dickason@comcast.net

Washington State Health Care

The statewide Health Committee wants to place an observer with every health coalition in the state, - there are many! Please email Ann Brand, Linda Johnson, or Susan Eidenschink with the names of any coalitions you know of, and with the names of those (YOU?) who might be willing to attend coalition meetings, and report on their activity to the state committee. Ann Brand, Chair
anklbrand@comcast.net
swlkj@comcast.net
susaneiden@juno.com

**LWVWA
Board Splinters**

- Betsy Greene was appointed a director
- Linda Johnson and Karen Kiessling were appointed to the nominating committee.
- LWV/Tacoma-Pierce County is hosting Convention 2009. Linnea Hirst will be board liaison.
- Voted to not take a position on R-67 and ESSJR 8206

League of Women Voters of Washington**Officers and Directors
2007-2009****Officers**

Barbara Seitle, President
Linda Johnson, 1st Vice President
Barbara Bush, 2nd Vice President
Myra Howrey, Secretary
Dorothy Spadoni, Treasurer

Directors

Pam Behring
Susan Eidenschink
Betsy Greene
Linnea Hirst
Karen Kiessling
Lori Sarancik

Staff

Claudia Downing, Administrative Director
Lonnie Johns-Brown, Lobbyist

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Send address changes to the League of Women Voters of Washington, 4710 University Way NE, Suite #214, Seattle, WA 98105

Do a Little – Change... con't

to air and water, such chemicals require energy to produce. Some water conservation has been achieved with soaker hoses in the garden and flowerbeds. We built a water collection system of six fifty-gallon pickle barrels that catch the water runoff from our storage shed. This extra water is most useful during our driest summer months. We also chip pruned tree limbs and storm debris to use as mulch around trees, shrubs and flowerbeds. We have added a number of trees (both native and ornamental) to our landscape, but we need to select more native plants because they require much less water and fertilizer.

Part of the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" mantra includes being a smart shopper. Think of how irritated you become when you buy a tiny item and have difficulty removing it from a large, mostly plastic wrapper. These are products to avoid whenever possible. Much plastic is produced from oil, more energy to manufacture the package and excessive landfill space when discarded. Look for a similar item wrapped in an efficient package, defined as just big enough to hold the product. If consumers avoid the poorly packaged items, the reduced sales may communicate to the producer that this product is unacceptable. Another aspect of smart shopping is to buy locally grown or produced products. Transportation is a huge contributor to climate change. To date our legislators are not enthusiastic about making the changes that are essential to improve our transportation system. Rail

transport and mass transit are two important alternatives to our obsession with cars, trucks and roadways. It is going to take major effort from all of us to overcome the power/money of the oil, auto and trucking industries. If you purchase or grow fruits and vegetables locally in season, you reduce the need for the long hauls by polluting trucks and airplanes. Our garden is a tremendous help with fresh vegetables and berries now and frozen for use through the winter months.

We have owned two hybrid autos over the past seven plus years and currently have one. We highly recommend hybrid vehicles that provide excellent gas mileage. Many hybrids are being developed with big engines now, defeating the goal of fuel efficiency. With the exception of the bus system in the metropolitan area, mass transit is just being developed in our region; therefore, residents of smaller towns have few alternatives to driving at this time other than car or vanpools. Walking or cycling serves well for short trips and light loads.

Over the past twelve to fifteen years the following are changes we have made in our home. We replaced the bulbs in our frequently used light fixtures with compact florescent bulbs and we added double-paned windows throughout the house. During the same timeframe, as appliances wore out, these were replaced with the most energy efficient/Energy Star type available. We decided against the icemaker and water dispenser when we replaced the refrigerator to help conserve energy. Although the energy

efficient appliances are more expensive initially, our energy bill is lower and it is not uncommon to receive rebates for many of these purchases. For instance, tax credits were available for both hybrid cars and a rebate was offered for our front-loading washer. Water conservation and a lower water bill are other benefits of the front-loading washer. Most of our laundry is hung outdoors during the summer months. This not only saves energy but also adds the wonderful outdoor aroma to the freshly washed clothing. Recently we replaced a wood-burning fireplace with a gas fireplace. When we had to replace our gas furnace, we purchased the most energy efficient with an automatic thermostat so that lowering our night setting to 58 degrees is done automatically. We also turn the temperature down when away for several hours or on a trip. During the winter our daytime setting is 67 to 68 degrees accompanied by a fleece jacket or wool sweater. Living in a more temperate climate allows us to use screened windows rather than air conditioning during the summer months. The numerous trees that surround our home help provide a comfortable temperature. We have added foam backing to our electrical outlets on outside walls, but we have many heat conserving measures still to be completed.

Our power company (electric and gas) and numerous other energy companies across the nation will provide rebates for many energy saving measures within the home. You can save from \$50 to \$500 depending on (cont. pg. 4)

the appliance that you are purchasing. We plan to have an energy audit by a contractor recommended by the power company and we will gradually institute the recommendations as we can afford them. The power company's recently instituted Gas Weatherization Program provides up to 50% rebate for floor, attic, wall and duct insulation and duct sealing.

Finally, the same company has a Green Power Program in which a customer can invest in clean, renewable energy by purchasing "green tags" at \$2.00 per tag. This contribution to clean energy is made a part of our monthly energy bill. There are a number of similar services available across the United States. One example is the Center for Resource Solutions. In February 2002 we began the Green Power Program with monthly purchases of 6 green tags and two years ago we increased that to 10 green tags as a method to offset the carbon emissions that we produce. In calculating our carbon footprint which includes two cross country air trips per year, one source indicated that we had become carbon neutral with the \$20.00 per month that we contribute to clean energy, but the Green Tags calculator indicated that we are offsetting less than half of our footprint with this contribution. This disparity is caused by the differing costs of projects used by the companies to offset the carbon emissions. Since I believe that the higher estimates are more realistic, we obviously have a way to go to become carbon neutral. Carbon neutrality is achieved through reducing energy used plus

offsetting the carbon emissions that we still generate with projects such as planting trees, constructing "green" buildings, and increasing sources and supplies of alternative, clean energy. Common examples of clean energy are wind, solar and biomass. Since 1991 we have reduced our electric usage by more than 2,500 kilowatt hours per year (3 average months worth) and our natural gas usage by 279 therms* per year (2 to 3 average months worth).

I hope that sharing these experiences as we attempt to reduce the amount of carbon we emit will be helpful to you. Many of you may well be doing far more or have found methods to better accomplish the goal of carbon neutrality. For those of you who are just getting started, your timing is excellent because manufacturers are creating more efficient appliances and the choices available to you are increasing exponentially. If you are in the market for a new home, this is the perfect time. Look into the Energy Star/Green Homes that are gaining popularity.

Use; or, if you don't have access to a computer, contact your energy company to request a similar list or go to your local library. Other ideas for saving energy and money can be found in the "Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings," available from local bookstores, amazon.com or online.

*A Therm is a unit equivalent to 100,000 British Thermal Units (BTUs), used as a basis of charges for gas supplied.

References used to complete this paper, and user friendly resources as well as book recommendations are printed on the LWVWA web site www.lwvwa.org, or may be obtained from the author.

LWVWA Statement for the Climate Advisory Team, Washington Climate Challenge, Seattle, August 7, 2007

Elizabeth Davis, Natural Resources Chair, expressed LWVWA appreciation for the efforts of the advisory team and the governor in taking action to combat global warming saying many excellent options have been presented. She spoke to the need to reduce carbon emissions and increase use of clean energy sources; expressed disappointment that the forestry options are not ready, voiced concern about the many opportunities during the adoption process for weakening or eliminating the options and said public understanding and support are essential.

Elizabeth's testimony in its entirety is available at www.lwvwa.org.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

So, the members of the State Board are introducing themselves to you

Barbara Seitle, President. Barbara has devoted much of her career to work in municipal government and governmental planning. She was a planning official, served as elected councilmember and three terms as mayor of a Northern California Town. In addition she was a member of the Council of Governments in San Mateo County and a member of the board of a major Transit Agency. Prior to that she was employed by Stanford University. Since moving to Washington permanently in 1996, she has been a member and President of the South Whidbey Island League of Women Voters and was elected President of LWVWA in 2005. She has also served as Vice President and a member of the board of the Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation

She holds a BA in Music from Northwestern University and a Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. She and her husband reside in Langley, Washington.

Linda Johnson, 1st VP. Linda has been actively involved in the League since 1980. Her first involvement was on a school study committee. She has served on the board for each of the three local Leagues where she has been a member, and has been on the state board, and served as state president, in Kansas. She and her husband, Carl, moved to Seattle almost 5 years ago. She has been the Program Vice-President and Treasurer on the Seattle League board. In addition to her activity in the League, she is active in her church, sings in the choir, and serves on the governing body. She enjoys outdoor activity with her

husband and dog; cooking and dining with her daughters; square dancing, playing bridge, and reading novels.

Barbara Bush, 2nd VP. I am a graduate of Eastern Washington University, University of Washington and Georgetown Law School. I practiced law in Washington, D.C. for 24 years, specializing in tax law. Earlier careers included elementary and jr. high school teaching and six years in Germany as an administrator of a Jr. College program for GIs. Upon retirement in 2002 I returned to Washington State, settled in Mukilteo and joined the League. League activity has included: board member, 2nd VP, now 1st VP of LWV/Snohomish County, co-chair of the State Tax Study Committee, Tax Portfolio Chair in 2007 legislature, and member LWVWA board.

I am a mother of 3 daughters and a son, and grandmother of 5 rambunctious boys. I enjoy working on issues, traveling, reading, playing piano, spending time with my family, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones.

Myra Howrey, Secretary. I joined League in 1973, in Longmont, Colo, when a neighbor dropped by and invited me to a new member luncheon. Originally I saw it as a way to escape my children, but soon found much enjoyment in communicating with so many interesting, vital women.

One of my fondest memories in the Longmont League was leading the discussions on Alternate Energy Sources while carrying my third (and last) child in a baby carrier. We moved to Bainbridge in 1979. There were 3 things I did as soon

as we got there - find the Library, register to vote, and locate the Kitsap League. I have been on the Kitsap Board in varying positions - Finance Chair, Co-President, Social Policy and Treasurer and am now in charge of member records off board. I work almost full time as Office Manager and Bookkeeper at Helpline House, a non-profit community service provider. My husband Jerry and I live in Suquamish, just north of Bainbridge Island; we are the proud grandparents of Maxwell Lee age 4 and Amelia Rose age 2.

Dorothy Spadoni, Treasurer. I joined the League of Women Voters of Kitsap County in January, 2001 because I understood the League had a position on the Electoral College.

I was asked to assist as a Unit leader and soon found myself serving as Unit leader. In 2003 I served on the Nominating Committee. I served as Board secretary for 2003-2005 and president of LWV/Kitsap for 2005-2007.

In the 6 1/2 years I have been in the League I have helped register citizens to vote and I worked with a very dedicated committee that spent three years working on a "Know Your City Bremerton" booklet that has been distributed to Bremerton officials, real estate offices, Kitsap County libraries and Chambers of Commerce.

Continued next page

Directors

Pam Behring. I have been a member of LWVSA for over 20 years. My first job in League was to look at the transportation of nuclear waste from Spokane to the Tri-Cities and what followed was a State study on this subject. Consequently, I was appointed, as a League representative, to the Nuclear Waste Advisory Council for the State of Washington. I have remained on the Spokane Board for most of the following years, serving a term as president and participating in forums and campaigns that include gun safety, environmental protection, and public transportation. Currently, I have worked on the tax study committee. On occasion, I teach anthropology as an adjunct at Gonzaga University and relax by pulling endless weeds from my garden.

Susan Eidenschink. I have been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1999. I gradually became more involved in the LWV of Tacoma-Pierce County and was asked if I would consider being the treasurer of the LWV/T-PC in 2004. I was the treasurer for two years and then was asked to consider being the second vice president. I have been the second vice president of LWV/T-PC during the past year. I have helped with the local VOTER, helped plan and coordinate general meetings, and arranged for speakers at several Unit Meetings. I am currently participating in the LWVWA Transportation Study on Ferries.

Betsy Greene. I joined the League in 1958 while living in Mystic, CN where I took part in a Foreign Aid study. I've served on the New Orleans board, Lake Washington East board as well as LWVWA board. I am still interested in international relations. I am a member of the International Relations Committee. I like to garden, read and learn.

Linnea Hirst. I first joined in the early '60s in Fort Worth, TX. I co-chaired the local study of U.S.-China relations, served on the local board and acted as moderator for various League-sponsored public events in Fort Worth.

After moving to New Hampshire I joined the Durham-Dover LWV, served on that board, and headed a study of water-related issues. After a few years, I went back to school, then to a career that didn't allow time for the LWV or much other volunteer work.

In the mid-90s, my husband and I came west for a few years, and I immediately joined the Seattle League, and its newly formed committee to study the proposed comprehensive plan. From that experience, I joined the Land Use committee and the regional transportation committee. I also chaired the annual auction committee one year.

Since we came back to Seattle permanently in 2003, I've been involved in the Land Use committee and help with the annual review of the Seattle LWV's treasurer's books. In 2005-06, I took part in the study of Washington State Management Act. I'm now chair of the state transportation committee and am on the state board.

Karen Kiessling. I moved to Pullman, Washington, in the fall of 1967 and immediately joined the local League as I had belonged in Madison, Wisconsin, where we lived prior to Pullman. In fact, I grew up in a League household as my mother was a member from my earliest memory.

Offices held in League here are Board Secretary, Vice President, President several times, Voter Service Chair because I have for more than 20 years been involved

with candidate forums and ballot issues debates which are videotaped in replayed often on cable channels for voter information. I am currently serving as Vice President until a mid-year change in March of 2008 when I will serve as President.

When I was approached to run for public office -- and of course amazed at the idea of it -- and then entertained, I ultimately ran and won and realized along the way that League training is as good as it gets for those who are interested in public service through elected office.

Lori Sarancik. I have been a member of the League in Cowlitz County for 4 years. I was a regular member for a year, then President-Elect for a year, and finally President for the past two years.

Why did I come to the League? I am very interested in politics and I wanted to be involved with a non-partisan approach. This group allows me a chance to gain a lot of information. I interact with a very intelligent group of ladies that I admire and respect. Some of our board members are former local politicians and all are currently involved in many community groups. I am also a former president of our local Toastmasters group and involved in CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Abused and Neglected children.).

Personally, I am married and I have a 4 year old son. I work for The Home Depot where I am an Operations and Merchandising Manager of the Chehalis store. I expect to be running my own store shortly. I love marketing, training and the pace of retail. I grew up in Southern California and I have lived in the Northwest for approximately 12 years. I have a Bachelors Degree in English from UCLA and many years of business management and analysis.

Spotlight on Local Leagues

Skagit County is sponsoring a forum October 4th to help citizens of the county learn the fundamentals of Wetland Mitigation Banking.

Seattle is co-hosting with the UW Institute for Global and Regional Studies a briefing on nuclear proliferation and non-proliferation November 8th for a select group of community leaders.

Benton/Franklin Counties celebrated Women's Suffrage Day with its annual membership picnic August 23rd.

Snohomish County hosted a Constitution Day Seminar September 17th at Everett Community College.

Membership – “Storybank”

LWVUS has a new approach to increasing membership. As part of the Membership Recruitment Initiative it has developed a **Storybank** to collect and house stories of achievement from League members across the country.

There is no better way to explain the benefits of membership than to share stories that communicate the rewards of League membership. The stories reflect the value of being a member of League of Women Voters – *the* organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

The **Storybank** needs stories about what League means to you, how your experience impacted your own life and what it has meant to your community.

The stories will have multiple uses. Many will be posted to the LWVUS web page, others may be used in membership materials, shared with media or added to LWVUS publications. Local Leagues may use the stories as well.

Learn more and/or read member's stories by going to the Membership Recruitment Initiative page of the “For Members” section on the LWV website – www.lwv.org. If you do not have internet access, call your local League.

Plan Now for 2009

The Nominating Committee expects all members to consider being on the state board. Being on the board brings a whole new perspective to the influence and importance of the League.

Becky Cox, Chair

Calendar

LWVWA Board meeting, November 9, 2007

Action Workshop – November 10, 2007

Washington State Ferry Study Consensus due in LWVWA office – December 4, 2007

Winter *VOTER* deadline December 7, 2007

Lobby Day – February 1, 2008

Good in Government Brunch – March 8, 2008

LWVWA Council – May 31-June 1, 2008, Yakima

LWVUS Convention – June 13 – 17, 2008, Portland



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Watch for creation of the
League Legacy Associates
In the Winter *VOTER*.

If you have put the League of Women Voters of Washington in your will or estate plan let us know by contacting President Barbara Seitle at bseitle@whidbey.com

YOUR EDUCATION FUND

The League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund has a 501 (c)(3) tax status. Donors can give tax deductible contributions directly to the Education Fund, or to local Leagues for deposit in an account they establish with the Ed Fund. Currently, 14 local Leagues have taken advantage of that opportunity. Local Leagues can draw on their accounts by submitting project requests to the Ed Fund Board. The Board has the responsibility of ensuring that the proposed project is indeed educational, and that it reaches beyond League membership to the public.

Opportunities for local Leagues:

- Print and distribute *They Represent You*.
- Pay half of their national per member payment.
- Fund ballot issue forums, candidate nights and other public meetings.
- Innovative projects such as the Kara Kondo Memorial Garden in Yakima County.

Here are a few of the things the LWVWA Education Fund does:

- The State We're In: Washington – Your guide to state, tribal and local government. The League is working in partnership with Education Service District 113 to put TSWI and the Teacher's Curriculum Guide online for the purpose of training teachers how to use the materials, classroom use and individual student use. This will expand the reach of the book and perhaps enable us to reach other ESDs.
- Supports the voter education website, www.washingtonvoter.org. The site provides balanced, reliable and comprehensive information at election time. It is currently being updated.
- Will fund grants to local Leagues to enhance visibility in their communities that otherwise would not be possible.

Having an Education Fund enables state and local Leagues to enhance their fundraising by offering the opportunity for donors to make tax deductible contributions. Raising this money expands Leagues ability to fulfill the mission to provide voter service and civic education. Education Fund money cannot be used for advocacy.

LOBBY DAY – SAVE THE DATE



It's not too early to be planning for Lobby Day, February 1, 2008. LWV of Thurston County has reserved the Columbia Room in the Capitol Building for us again, so we will be right in the middle of all the action. This year more time will be set aside for meeting with legislators and attending hearings and committee meetings. The goal is to build on the enthusiasm that was generated by last year's excellent event and to increase the number of Leaguers who participate. Every voice counts.

If you were at last year's workshop, you know how energizing it was. If you weren't at last year's workshop, now is the time. After all, when we take ACTION, good things happen.

The League of Women Voters of Washington opposes Initiative 960

Initiative 960 would require two-thirds legislative approval or voter approval for tax increases, legislative approval of fee increases, certain published information on tax-increasing bills, and advisory votes on taxes enacted without voter approval.

Because of its many requirements, I-960 would create a bureaucratic mess requiring voters to approve even routine fund transfers and regular budget matters. The hurdles and delays it would cause put funding for vital health care, education, environment, transportation and other priorities at risk.

The fundamental principles of the League include support of representative government, one person/one vote, and majority rule.

1. **Initiative 960 requires either a 2/3 vote of the legislature or a vote of the people on all tax increases.**

This initiative would allow a minority of legislators to control important fiscal decisions.

2. **I-960 broadens the legal definition of “tax increase” to include:**

“any action or combination of actions by the legislature that increases state tax revenue deposited in any fund, budget or account.”

There are hundreds of state government funds and accounts. Taken literally, I-960 would require the legislature to vote on any transfer of revenues from one fund or account to another and require a 2/3 vote to approve it.

3. **I-960 requires a majority vote of the Legislature on any fee increase.**

Under current law, the state may authorize agencies, boards or commissions to set fees up to a certain limit. The legislature must approve any fee that goes above the set limit. The legislature can withdraw fee-setting authority at any time. The majority vote requirement and the expanded definition of “tax increase” would unnecessarily tie up the legislature.

4. **I-960 requires the Office of Financial Management to email regular updates on tax increases to interested members of the public.**

While this sounds like a step for transparency in government, the email information would be sharply restricted and unbalanced. It would be limited to ten year cost projections and a list of legislators who voted in favor; there would be no nonpartisan analysis of the proposal.

5. **I-960 requires that any tax increase passed by the legislature must be subject to an advisory vote of the people.**

The Voters Pamphlet description for each advisory vote would require the following statement:

“The legislature imposed, without a vote of the people,
a 13 word description of policy costing \$X million in its first ten years
for government spending”

and would include every legislator’s contact information, party affiliation and how they voted. OFM estimates that this requirement and the email requirement described above in #4 could cost up to \$1.8 million a year, including \$1.2 million for local election expenses.

VOTE NO ON I-960. For additional updated talking points, go to www.no960.com.

The League of Women Voters of Washington Supports EHJR 4204

EHJR 4204, a constitution amendment, would allow school districts levies to pass with a simple majority rather than a super majority.

For the first time in sixty-three years, the voters of the state of Washington will be allowed to vote on a constitutional amendment (**EHJR 4204**) which, if approved, will allow school district levies to pass with a simple majority rather than a supermajority.

- The supermajority requirement allows a minority of voters to obstruct resources for student learning when the majority supports those resources.
- Officials are elected with a simple majority, initiatives and referenda are passed with a simple majority, and most local jurisdictions pass taxes with a simple majority.
- EHJR 4204 would restore fairness and equity by allowing school levies to be approved by a majority of those voting.

The League of Women Voters of Washington has had a position supporting **Simple Majority** since 1977 and strongly supports **EHJR 4204**. For more information, www.simplemajority2007.org

Lights, Camera, ACTION!!! – Workshop, that is

Attention Everyone: Save Saturday, November 10, for the LWVWA Action Workshop. You won't want to be anywhere else.

How can we move the legislature ahead on health care this year?

How can we be effective in our communities to further the fight on global warming?

How do we help in the push for civic education funding?

From 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. we will learn about some key issues that need our ACTION, and, even more important, with some fun scenarios we will PRACTICE how to talk with legislators – in our home towns, by phone and email, and even in Olympia.

If you were at last year's workshop, you know how energizing it was. If you weren't at last year's workshop, now is the time. After all, when we take ACTION, good things happen. Send in your registration form today, (on address page of this issue).

Puget Sound Partnership

The 2007 Legislature passed the Puget Sound Partnership bill with strong legislative and public support. The bill is codified as Chapter 90.71. League was active throughout the adoption process.

The implementation of the bill is in process. Governor Gregoire has appointed the Leadership Council with Bill Ruckelshaus as chair. On August 27, she selected David Dicks as the Partnership Director. David Dicks is a dynamic action-oriented leader who is committed to changing the way we do business for the sake of saving Puget Sound.

David addressed some of his top priorities at the August 30th/31st meeting in Bremerton which had about 200 attendees. A number of League members attended the meeting and shared their notes. This article summarizes a few of the important items addressed at that meeting.

Priorities for the next 6 months.

develop the draft 2020 Action Agenda; development a list of the "top 25" key projects; form the non-profit foundation; launch the public engagement campaign; build trust and create energy and excitement.

At their August meeting, the Council established action areas boundaries in the Puget Sound Basin as directed by 90.71. The geographic areas of the basin called "Action Areas" are: a) Strait of Juan de Fuca; b) San Juan Islands; c). Whidbey Island; d). North Central Puget Sound; e) South Central Puget Sound; f) South Puget Sound; g) Hood Canal.

The main advisory committee to the Council is the Ecosystem Coordination Board which includes one representative from each Action Area. The task in the Action Areas is to complement the Partnership's work to compile and assess management, restoration and protection plans and programs at the regional scale for the Puget Sound basin. This Ecosystem Coordination Board is the primary venue for stakeholder representation in the Partnership.

League has active members throughout the Puget Sound basin, and you are encouraged to access the website for information on the Partnership, and sign up for their newsletter with announcements and meeting schedules. pugetsoundpartnership@PSAT.WA.GOV.

Ann Aagaard, Shoreline and wetlands chair attends monthly environmental caucus meetings focused on the following the Partnership activities to save Puget Sound by 20/20. aagaarda@nwlink.com ph. 425-488-8418

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE 2008 LWVWA LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR
League of Women Voters of Washington's**

ACTION WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 10, 2007

**Registration (\$20) begins at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and rolls
Program 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

*****Always great speakers and timely topics*****

St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 2650 – 148th Avenue SE, Bellevue

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.



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