



# VOTER

Summer 2008 The League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105 Barbara Seittle, President  
Vol. 50, No. 1 Tel: 206-622-8961 FAX: 206-622-4908 (outside toll area: 1-800-419-2596) email: lwwa@lwwwa.org Betsy Greene, Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Council! Convention! 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades! Supreme Court Forum! KOMO Voter Registration Day! Local Leagues doing voter registration! Local Leagues hosting forums! Watching the vote counts at the August 19 Primary! We are all busy doing our bit to safeguard democracy this year.

LWVWA is hosting a forum for candidates for the Supreme Court July 17 at Seattle City Hall. The forum is being co-sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association and the King County Bar Association. It will be taped by TVW for rebroadcast and will be streamed on their website, [www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org) until the primary Election, August 19. Please look for it and encourage your friends and colleagues to watch it. This is part of the LWVUS "safeguarding democracy" program. Maintaining an independent judiciary is a cornerstone of that program. We do need to do a better job of informing voters about judicial elections. We are happy to have received a grant to assist us in this work. For more information about the judiciary, see [www.votingforjudges.org](http://www.votingforjudges.org)

During your local forums, do not forget to recommend our voter education website, [www.washingtonvoter.org](http://www.washingtonvoter.org) for election information and links to more information about the courts. Our motto: No ads, no bias, just information.

We also post on [www.lwwa.org](http://www.lwwa.org) and [www.KOMONEWS.com](http://www.KOMONEWS.com).

Many local Leagues are also participating in our state wide voter registration day with KOMOTV and KOMO 1000 radio July 18. We also hope to organize a major get-out-the-vote drive with them.

*Continued column 2 →*

## TWO ACTION WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

LWVWA will hold two Action workshops this Fall - one hosted by LWV Benton-Franklin on Saturday, November 8, and one hosted by the Lake Washington East Units of LWV Seattle on Saturday, November 15. This is an effort to expand our lobbying impact and to give more attention to issues important in the eastern half of the state.

If you haven't attended an Action workshop, they provide a combination of information on key issues for the coming legislature and helpful hints on how each of us can become more effective citizen lobbyists – right from our homes.

An Early Bird Registration form is in this issue.

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

**The Lothlorien Building**

**Email and phone numbers have not changed.**

*Continued from column 1*

The work we all do is so important to safeguarding democracy. I can't think of a better way to spend my time this summer and fall. Let's not forget to have fun in the process!

In League,  
Barbara

## Local Leagues and the Vote Smart Bus

Six local Leagues will host the Project Vote Smart Bus in August as it tours Washington: Pullman, Spokane Area, Yakima, Snohomish County, Tacoma/Pierce County, and Thurston County will each host the bus in their communities for a day or ½ day. Some of the planned venues include a farmers market, university campus, and shopping mall. In addition to hosting the bus, each League will have a booth to register voters and distribute voting and election information.

Project Vote Smart (PVS) is a nonpartisan national organization whose mission is to provide all citizens with accurate, abundant, relevant information on candidates, incumbents, and issues free of charge. The Vote Smart Bus has traveled over 25,000 miles, made 90+ stops, and visited 33 states so far. PVS describes the purpose of the tour thus: "...to teach voters how to defend themselves against the rhetoric and misinformation that come out of political campaigns today."

To learn more about Project Vote Smart, go to <http://votesmart.org>

## Announcements

Margery Dickinson, LWV-Benton/Franklin Counties, and Ruth Schroeder, LWV-Seattle, have been appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court task force that will review the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Elizabeth Davis, LWV So. Whidbey Island, was appointed by Gov. Gregoire to the Children's Safe Products Act Advisory Board.

Susan Eidenschink will replace Karen Kiessling, who has resigned from LWVWA board, on the nominating committee.

**The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens 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.**



**Pullman** League at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Johnson, WA. League members marched, danced on Segway (person in center is standing on it.) and distributed Top Two flyers. Using a Civic Education grant from LWVWA EF they bought the LWV sashes that they wore for the first time. They plan to repeat the activity in the Lentil Parade in August to advertise the fall forums and General Election ballot issues debates.

## LWV/Kitsap County

Because "It is the Paramount duty of the state to make "ample provision" for the education of all children," the LWV Kitsap is holding an Education-Focused candidates' forum for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District Senator and Representatives candidates on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The forum will be cosponsored by the PTA Region 1 Council, and the first hour at least will be devoted to education-related questions only.

Since the four school districts in the 23<sup>rd</sup> District are facing a total of \$6.2M budget cuts, it is expected that educators, parents, and taxpayers will show up in large numbers to ask questions and hear the answers given by the candidates.

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## LWVUS Convention Highlights



Nancy Eitreim, former Seattle League president was elected to the LWVUS 2008-2010 board.

League delegates from 49 states attended the 2008 convention in Portland, Oregon, June 13-June 17.

Delegates voted to:

1. Conduct a national study on "the advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President."
2. Educate members and their communities to be better prepared to advocate on health care issues.
3. Conduct a "multi-level education and advocacy campaign to promote solutions to global climate change".
4. Propose a resolution procedure for 2010 convention, and discuss it at 2009 national council meeting.
5. Amend League principles to include the additional statement, as follows: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
6. Increase national PMP to \$28 for 2008-2009, and \$29.20 for 2009-2010.

The delegates defeated proposals to:

1. Establish a nuclear arms control and disarmament task force, offered by LWVWA.
2. Concur on redistricting position of Fairfax, (VA) League.
3. Amend LWVUS bylaws sections regarding the national PMP, advocacy on national issues at state level and terms of office for national board members.

Former Oregon governor, Barbara Roberts, spoke to "*Women as Political Leaders*" based on her experience as the first woman to serve as governor of Oregon. Dr. John Kitzhaber, also a former governor of Oregon, addressed the issue of health care "*The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*". Both received standing ovations following their speeches. When recordings of the plenary speakers become available on the LWVUS website, interested League members might take the time to listen to them because of their excellence.

*Excerpt from articles by Laura McCarty, LWV/Snohomish County and Tacoma-Pierce County VOTER*

## Early Care and Education of the Young Child Study

The 2007 LWVWA Convention delegates voted to do a one-year study of early child care and education. It is intended to be the basis for an update of LWVWA's state program position: **Children's Programs, Day Care for Children adopted** in 1984.

This statewide study incorporates the major developments that occurred in the past two legislative sessions: It includes recent information on brain research and on long term child development research that have answered questions about when learning begins and how important the earliest years are. This work raises questions about the adequacy of investments in the early years. The study also includes a description of the early care and education system in Washington along with the roles of parents and communities.

## Puget Sound Partnership

The Puget Sound Partnership held TOPIC AREA meetings throughout the Sound this spring. TOPIC AREAS include Human Health; Human Quality of Life; Species, Food-webs, and Biodiversity; Habitats and Land Use; Water Quality; and Water Quantity.

A few points from the Land Use and Habitat of Puget Sound meeting: the threats to habitat from land use practices remain great; vital habitats continue to be degraded and lost; there is significant uncertainty regarding the ability of current land use and protection programs to address the threats despite considerable money being spent and the various laws at different government levels do not address the ecosystem as a whole.

We as a society need to use the land and these laws in ways that minimize adverse impact on habitat. We need greater enforcement of existing laws, and a fair and unbiased review of the application of these laws.

We need to know why past efforts have not worked. What are the "gaps?" The present framework still carries with it problems that plagued past efforts. Statewide standards and effectiveness monitoring are necessary. In order to restore the Sound by 2020, our efforts to protect habitat must take on an urgency that has not been seen before.

In July the Puget Sound Partnership will hold a second series of public workshops. An "ecosystem profile" for each of the seven areas has been developed and the public is being asked to evaluate these profiles.

*Ann Aagaard, Shoreline and Wetland Chair  
425-488-8418. ann\_aagaard@verizon.net*

## LWVWA Council

Council was held in and hosted by LWV/Yakima.

A highlight of Council was the explanation of Parliamentary Procedure by Judy Golberg, LWV/Benton-Franklin Counties, and a former LWVWA president. Her Power Point presentation will be available on the LWVWA website for all to use.

Another very useful session was President Barbara Seitle's "*League 101*", all about where to find the resources to help navigate terminology and procedures that are unique to League. This included a walk through of the State and National websites. They are the first places to look when there is a question of what or how to do it.

A discussion of Action and Communication in League, based on a questionnaire that was sent out prior to council brought forth some ideas of how to improve legislative action by local Leagues and communication between State and local Leagues and among local Leagues.

Two new positions were adopted by delegates:

1) Ferries in Washington State are part of the highway system and should be funded as such. Passenger-Only ferries should be funded as are other modes of public transportation. The fare box should not be expected to totally fund ferry operations in Washington State.

2) LWVWA believes that: the Voter Registration State Database (VRSD) should not be used to deny people the right to vote. No proof of citizenship other than the sworn signature on the registration form should be required for Voter Registration. There should be random audits of all ballots, with the percentage of ballots audited to be determined by a statistician. The mail-in ballot postmark deadline should be election day.

*source: LWV Tacoma-Pierce County VOTER and others*

## Ed Fund and Civic Education

Last year a generous donor offered a grant of \$50,000 for civic education to the Education Fund and an additional \$50,000 if the League could match the original \$50,000 donation by the end of the year. Members and friends met—even exceeded—this challenge with their checks and pledges, so exciting projects are now in the works. If you have a pledge due in the next few months, please, send it to the office, attention: Treasurer Dorris Martin.



Lois North (left), former Washington State Senator and Representative from the 44<sup>th</sup> District and past Seattle League president, presented an award to Barbara Seittle and LWVWA for their work on the local options bill at the Washington Public Campaigns Banquet June 21.

### Local Option Public Campaign Finance Bill

The Local Option Public Campaign Financing bill, SB 5278, was a key 2008 legislative priority for LWVWA. In addition to appearances at hearings, meetings with key legislators, Op-Ed pieces and media contacts, our members generated hundreds of email and phone contacts in support of the legislation.

Passage of the local option bill is a major first step toward making public campaign financing a possibility for the citizens of Washington. Next goals include legislative action to make public campaign financing available for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals candidates.



Certificates of appreciation were given by LWVWA to Senator Rosa Franklin and Representative Joe McDermott for their work on the local options bill during the past legislative session. LWV presidents from the legislators districts participated in the presentations - Lyz Kurnitz Thurlow of LWV/Tacoma-Pierce County and Becky Cox of LWV/King County South.

### Calendar

Voter Registration Day – July 18  
 LWVWA EF board retreat – July 25  
 LWVWA Board Retreat – August 22  
 Early Child & Education Study to members-Sept.  
 LWVWA Board Meeting September 12  
 Action Workshops:  
 Benton-Franklin Counties – November 8  
 Bellevue – November 15  
 Early Child Study consensus due December 12

WA Primary Election – August 19  
 WA General Election – November 4

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

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#### Staff

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 Lonnie Johns Brown, Lobbyist

### LWVWATOPICS

The LWVWA list is an opportunity to discuss topics or post information of interest to League members.

To subscribe send a message to [lwwatopics-requests@lwwa.org](mailto:lwwatopics-requests@lwwa.org)

**ACTION WORKSHOP  
EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION**

**Cost: \$20  
Lunch Provided**

**NEW THIS YEAR – TWO VENUES!**

Choose one or both:

- Benton/Franklin Counties, Nov. 8**  
 **Bellevue, Nov 15**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

VISA  M/C

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

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



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Seattle, WA 98105

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