



WASHINGTON STATE VOTER

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Barbara Seitle, President
Claudia Downing, Interim Editor

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON 2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Strengthening Democracy**
- **Priorities for a Healthy Washington**
 - **Improving Access to Health Care**
- **Improving Education and Early Learning**
- **Protecting Human Health and the Natural Environment**
 - **Working for a Better Washington**

See page 8 for details.

30 % - GENERAL ELECTION TURNOUT OR PROGRAM PLANNING PARTICIPATION?

The last turnout was less than 30%. Pretty bad, wouldn't you agree?

However, it wasn't an election turnout—it was a League of Women Voters turnout, for national program planning at the local level. Surely we can do better than that this time!

There are various ways your local League can tackle national program planning:

1. Each member can get out (or get online) and review the ***Impact on Issues*** publication of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Or you can check the summary of those positions in the ***Program in Action, a Leader's Guide to State Program***, the League of Women Voters of Washington publication.
2. Or, each local member can take a look at the specific issue(s) you are particularly concerned about and see if there is a national position that is helpful or if you want your League to point out weaknesses or gaps.

3. Whichever way you review, you'll want to talk to other local League members to alert them of any concerns and suggestions you have about National positions.
4. And then, in January, meet, discuss, decide and send the results of your local League deliberations to the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Read about the program planning process here, <http://lists.lwv.org/t/539123/2535772/379/0/> including information about submitting your response through a mail-in form or the soon-to-come online submission form, before the March 1, 2008 deadline. You can also join the LWVUS Program Planning discussion list <http://lists.lwv.org/t/539123/2535772/380/0/> to discuss and/or promote national issues for LWVUS Program Planning prior to Convention 2008.

Each of us has a voice. Let's let them hear us.

Linnea Hirst, LWVWA Program Chair
206-322-3076

**League of Women Voters of Washington
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2007-2009**

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CALENDAR

January 10 LWWWA Ed Fund Board Meeting
January 11 LWWWA Board Meeting
January 14 Legislative Session begins
February 1 Lobby Day, Olympia
February 18 President's Day. Office closed.
March 6 LWWWAEF Board Meeting
March 7 LWWWA Board Meeting
March 8 Good in Government Brunch
May 31-June 1 LWWWA Council, Yakima
June 13-17 LWWUS Convention, Portland

**BOARD SPLINTERS
November 9, 2007**

- The building that houses the state League office has been sold. Both LWWWA and LWWWA Ed Fund Boards have been advised that we will be given a one-year lease with \$150 a month increase in rent.
- LWWWA Lobby Team is in need of Land Use and Transportation trainees.
- LWWWA accepted the invitation to participate in the Vote Smart Bus Tour.
- LWWWA board officially congratulated the LWWWA Ed Fund board for their success in meeting the Challenge Grant.

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.

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We did it! Thanks to the generosity of so many League members and friends, we topped our goal of \$50,000 for the Challenge Match. You are all amazing.

Now we need to put this wonderful windfall to good use. What special voter service project has your League really been wanting to do, but didn't have the resources to accomplish? A local study? A panel on civic education in your schools? A major voter registration drive. A major "get out the vote" campaign involving your local radio or public access TV station? A *Know Your City* publication using the LWVUS *Know Your Community* as a guide? A first ever TRY? How about buying sets of *The State We're In; Washington*, for your local middle schools? These along with other suggestions and the guidelines for applying for one of the grants to local Leagues are on page 13 of this VOTER.

We had an exciting and thought provoking Action Workshop in November. The Lobby Team worked to hone our list of legislative priorities to what actually may be possible this year. But, they will need your help: each one of you. A little bit of effort on everyone's part is what makes a grassroots organization like ours successful. So, subscribe to the *Legislative Newsletter* either online or in print. (See coupon in this VOTER.) Answer the Action Alerts from the portfolio chairs by calling your legislator's office or sending an email. Just let them know you support or oppose a particular piece of legislation. Remember— if a legislator gets 10 emails or telephone calls on a particular issue, from voters in their district, they will begin to notice. They know that League members vote! It is YOU they will listen to. It will be a short session and everything will seem to fly by, so we all will be on alert!

Come to Lobby Day this year. Invite your legislators to a chat over coffee and doughnuts in the Columbia Room. Make an appointment to meet with them later in the day. Plan to attend a hearing. The legislative hearing schedule can be found at www.leg.wa.gov. It will also be posted in the room for Lobby Day.

January is Program Planning month for National Convention. We need to make our voices heard for the issues we think need to be studied or revisited. Each local League needs to take a good look at national positions: what's missing? What's out of date? The National Board needs to hear from the States by March 1st.

And last, but not least by any means, don't forget to mark your calendars for March 8; International Women's Day AND our Good in Government Brunch. You won't want to miss this wonderful event.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy and productive New Year.

In League, Barbara

Education Fund Report to Members

While the Education Fund continues to promote and market remaining copies of our civics education text, *The State We're In: Washington. Your guide to State, Tribal and Local Government*, planning for an update to this fifth edition is already underway. This fall a committee with Karen Verrill as project manager is interviewing teachers who use the book to see what changes they recommend to maintain the text as an outstanding civics tool for our young people.

Since this reader-friendly edition was published, 8500 copies have found their way into major libraries, bookstores, and mostly to middle and high schools— both public and private. School districts in Spokane, Yakima and Edmonds have adopted the text to meet their civics education requirements. These three districts plus the Kent District have each purchased 30-35 classroom sets for their students. Spokane and Yakima were able to purchase their books with help through matching grants League provided with contributions from generous donors. Other classroom sets have been donated by local Leagues or individuals to schools in their area.

The League often hears from school districts that have approved use of the book as a supplementary text and would like to buy it but cannot afford to add it to their budgets. Legislation adopted in recent sessions has put civic education back into the curriculum, especially calling for inclusion of information about tribes in the local area of a school district. *The State We're In* is the only existing book we know of that discusses tribal government in Washington. We hope that more school districts will find the League's civics text a classroom tool they need. If you would like to help make connections with schools in your area, please contact the state office.

Go to www.washingtonvoter.org for more about *The State We're In: Washington. Your guide to State, Tribal and Local Government*.

Nancy Pearson, Education Fund Board of Director

BEST WISHES, LINDA

Linda Johnson has resigned from the LWVWA Board of Directors effective December 1st. Linda and her newly retired husband are moving to Kansas, where she was state League president some time before moving to Seattle. Though her tenure with the board was brief, she is leaving us with a new appreciation of the word "community", as well as a treasure chest of new ideas for civic engagement and voter outreach. We will truly miss her, but wish her well as she returns home and transitions from urbanite to farmer and forester.

KRISTIN ROWE-FINKBEINER TO RECEIVE GOOD IN GOVERNMENT AWARD

Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, co-founder and executive director of MomsRising, has been chosen to receive the 2008 LWVWA Good In Government Award. The award will be presented at the Good In Government Brunch, Saturday, March 8, 10:00 am to Noon, at the Bell Harbor Conference Center, Seattle.

Rowe-Finkbeiner, a Kirkland resident, and MomsRising co-founder Joan Blades, are demonstrating the power of using technology to stimulate people to civic engagement. They have created an online grassroots movement "with a goal of bringing millions of people, who all share a common concern about the need to build a more family-friendly America, together as a non-partisan force for 2008 and beyond."

Each year for this award the LWVWA selects persons who have made outstanding contributions toward achieving good government. In announcing the award, LWVWA President Barbara Seitle stated, "The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens. MomsRising embodies this principle and brings voice to a series of issues vital to America, so we feel it is especially appropriate that we honor Kristin's efforts."

MARGARET LARSEN TO BE GOOD IN GOVERNMENT SPEAKER

The 2008 LWVWA Good In Government Brunch, to be held on International Women's Day, March 8, will both honor women's current contributions to good government and highlight work yet to be done.

Our featured speaker will be Margaret Larsen, veteran broadcast journalist and VP of Communications for Mercy Corps. Larsen will focus on "The Status of Women Around the World: How Women Can Help Women Build a Better World." As a volunteer and board member for Mercy Corps, Larsen spent ten years traveling to Lebanon, Albania, Macedonia, the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and Iraq. As an overseas correspondent, she covered the Persian Gulf War, the Kurdish refugee crisis in northern Iraq, Typhoon Thelma in the Philippines, British and Eastern European elections, and many other international developments.

The event will be held at the Seattle Bell Harbor International Conference Center Saturday, March 8, from 10:00am to Noon. Mark your calendar and save the date now for this very special event. Look for the announcement in your mail in early February and send your reservations in promptly.

EXCEPTIONAL, EXTRAORDINARY – LAEL BRAYMER TO BE HONORED AT GOOD IN GOVERNMENT EVENT

When I first joined the state League board in the 1980's, Lael Braymer was already a key person in the League office. For years, she was our contact with LWVUS when we wanted to use our Ed Fund account. She wrote many of our grants and knew how to get them approved ASAP. Lael was also the "hostess with the mostest" for all League events and the person most likely to house board members from eastern Washington for our two-day board meetings. Her dedication to the state League for at least 30 years has been the glue that held the office together through many presidents and two staff people and dozens of volunteers.

When I was president of LWVWA, Lael was office manager, confidante, friend and mentor. It was Lael who suggested that I call Claudia Downing, who had been our intern on the Curriculum Guide project for "The State We're In: Washington", and invite her to become our office administrator. I was not at all sure that Claudia, who had just completed her degree and had such outstanding skills, would agree to come to work for us -- but she did!

But one of the most important reasons for honoring Lael Braymer at this time and at this special event is that she has been instrumental in connecting our state League office to the wider world through her connection with the World Affairs Council. Over the years we have had many foreign visitors come through our office. When I was in Olympia last year accompanying my daughter on a lobbying effort, a legislator popped out of his office to greet me and remind me of a meeting with African officials years ago. I know this was one of many that Lael had organized for us. Tireless in her efforts in support of League, unfailingly gracious, our institutional memory, and a good friend to so many of us -- Lael Braymer truly epitomizes the best of the League of Women Voters of Washington. *Margaret Colony*

Pharmacy Board Update

Wayne Martin, MD

You probably know that a lawsuit has been filed to prevent the State from enforcing the new WACs requiring a pharmacy to fill all lawful prescriptions. Preliminary hearings have been held and the judge granted a preliminary injunction forbidding the enforcement of the WACs.

There is a fundamental commandment ruling the professional life of all health care providers- "FIRST-Do no harm!" Allowing pharmacists to refuse to fill lawful prescriptions because of a personal moral objection allows them to break the basic rule that we have always lived by. In addition, all pharmacists take an oath whereby they promise to help patients "achieve optimal benefit from their medications". Some pharmacists want relief from the basic commandment and from the oath they took voluntarily.

Examples of harm:

1. HIV medications have been refused. These medications do not cure-they merely suppress the growth of the virus. Any break in the medication schedule allows the virus to grow and as it grows it mutates. There has already been one well documented case of a HIV mutation that was untreatable and killed in 6 months. Any action by a health care professional that even slightly increases the probability of such a mutation is public health malpractice of the highest order.

2. Plan B. This is simply a convenient formulation of progesterone which works by blocking ovulation. As such it is time limited, i.e. the sooner it is taken the better is the chance of avoiding pregnancy. Therefore a delay in obtaining the medication increases the probability of pregnancy. It is claimed that plan B causes abortions by altering the condition of the endometrium. Actually the function of progesterone is to prepare and maintain the endometrium in a state that encourages implantation of the blastosphere. In fact, plan B increases the probability that implantation will take place. This probability is small and probably undetectable. There are complications and occasional deaths associated with pregnancy which the patient wishes to avoid. Again the fundamental commandment is broken. It also increases the financial burden of the state since many of the costs of these pregnancies will be paid by the state.

3. Refusal to fill prescriptions for antibiotics on the grounds that the prescribing personnel were involved in providing abortions-even when it is obvious that no abortion was involved. This risk should be obvious.

The regulations only require that the pharmacist act in a courteous manner. The regulation requires that a business named a pharmacy fill all legal prescriptions in a timely and professional manner. Pharmacists who do not wish to handle any

contraceptives seem to be fully employed at the multitude of duties available. Other personnel dispense contraceptives. It is alleged that the single person pharmacy will be forced to fill prescriptions that are anathema to him or go out of business. However, he is free to hire someone to fill these prescriptions or to open a business that will sell whatever drugs he is comfortable dispensing.

For the moment the suit goes forward with a trial date set for October. The result will almost certainly be appealed on up to the Supreme Court. The plaintiffs will cry "Religious Freedom"; the defendants-"Women's Rights and Patient Safety". Finally the LWVWA Board is contemplating what action the League might take. Your Chair will continue to work with the defendant's council as an individual for the present. Any information you have on refusal to fill prescriptions and the manner in which it is done would be appreciated.

Current Status Healthy Youth Act

Wayne Martin, MD

As you probably know the Healthy Youth Act passed the last session of the Legislature. This Act requires that the school districts teach a comprehensive sex education program or no program at all. The program can be a program approved by the OSPI and/or the DOH or may be constructed by the local school district. Usually the local programs are combinations of several programs that are the best fit for the local school districts. While OSPI and DOH are good sources, The Healthy Youth Alliance, (healthyyouthalliances.org) is a local private resource. These programs were developed by the Center for Disease Control and have been field tested and the results documented. The experts in the field recommend that the instructors be local teachers and that they be trained in the chosen program.

I figure that we are about 33% done. School Boards will decide on whether or not sex ed will be on the curricula, what the program will be, the time allotted, etc. This will almost certainly involve public hearings in the local districts. Frequently only people living on the district are allowed to testify. Please get involved; pretty please. The LWVWA is a member of the Healthy Youth Alliance (HYA). Help is available in the form of talking points, a power point presentation, and in rehearsing your presentation either through me or through HYA. The main chores we have remaining are 1. Get the school board to add comprehensive sex ed to the curriculum, 2. get the program approved, and 3. Get the funds needed to train the teacher(s). If you want help, call me at (425) 746 9960 or email at docmartin924@aol.com

REMEMBER I-872, THE TOP TWO PRIMARY?

The constitutionality of the “top two primary” system has finally wound its way to the US Supreme Court as Case # 06-713. The arguments can be found on the web by searching for “Supreme Court Arguments”.

The case was the Washington State Grange vs. Washington State Republican Party, et al, consolidated with Washington vs. Washington State Republican Party, et. al, on 10/1/07. The state’s case was argued by Robert McKenna, Attorney General of the State of Washington. The reason the case ended up in the US Supreme Court was that the 9th Circuit Court ruled I-872 unconstitutional. Washington’s argument centered around the “expression of party preference” that would be on the ballot, the fact that voters would not be selecting a party’s nominee and the fact that parties would not be harmed by this system (the top two).

The respondent’s argument by John White of the Republican Party centered around the right of the parties to choose their nominees and that I-872 would not use any nominating process separate from the primary. There was a lot of questioning by the justices about the voter’s ability to find and understand information about the candidate’s affiliation and positions on the ballot.

The Supreme Court decided to consider another case, #06-766, New York State Board of Elections, et al, vs. Margarita Lopez Torres, on 10/3/07. New York has an interesting primary system and Ms. Torres believed her access to the general election ballot was made unnecessarily difficult. New York State argued that the 1st Amendment reserves the right for a political party to select its standard bearer. The opposing side argued that the New York system denied access to the ballot. There was no argument about the parties’ right to exist and nominate a candidate for the general election.

The Washington political parties expected a decision by December 2007 but the combining of the cases probably pushes a decision to March 2008. All the above is taken from the actual arguments and from former members of the No on I-872 Committee.

Becky Cox
Former LWVWA Chair of the No on I-872 Committee

Choosing the Candidates for President

Barbara Seitle

In 1988, the League of Women Voters worked with the leadership of both major parties to gather enough signatures to bring Initiative 99 to the legislature, and in 1989, the legislature passed the bill authorizing presidential primaries in Washington State.

There is a reason Washington passed the legislation. In 1988, the Washington State Republican Party chose long shot candidate Pat Robertson as Washington’s Republican nominee for President. But, according to the polls, he was not the frontrunner among Washington voters. What happened? The party had used the caucus system, rather than a presidential primary, to select its candidate. 1988 was also the year that many Democratic caucuses selected Jesse Jackson as their presidential nominee.

In 1992, the first presidential primary was held in Washington. This was a seminal event for the people of this state; an opportunity for every individual who wanted to express their preference for the candidate for president to do so. Not just the party faithful – but each and every one of us.

The League firmly believes in open government and maximum citizen participation; Government of the people, by the people, and for the people. So, even though the Democratic Party has never considered the results of the presidential primary, and the Republicans have apportioned only a percentage of their delegates based on the results of the presidential primary, nearly 42 percent of voters participated in the last presidential primary in our state. By contrast, only two to four percent of us have participated in caucuses in previous years.

There are many obstacles to participating in party caucuses. They are not always easy to find as they are frequently held in private places like someone’s home. They tend to be led by very partisan people (candidate’s representatives). Many who have not participated before may feel intimidated.

What to do? First, we need to show the parties that we want to be heard and counted. We must educate the public and get out the vote in this primary as we always do. Forty two percent choosing a presidential candidate is not enough! Then, those of us who are not local or state League officers need to take a friend and attend a caucus. Encourage others to do the same. Encourage those at the caucus to do the right thing: listen to the popular vote and choose their delegates accordingly. It is the democratic way.

AUNTIE KAY WANTS YOU **TO JOIN THE LEAGUE LEGACY ASSOCIATES!!!**

Kay Buss, shown here in her Pullman home, turned 97 on Thanksgiving Day. And she is a thankful person with a grand sense of humor. This is why she is mimicking the famous poster of WWII showing Uncle Sam pointing a finger at all who passed by, urging them to join the war effort.

Kay is a founding member of the League of Women Voters of Pullman begun in 1950. She was 1st Vice President during that inaugural year. You can tell she likes to be at the beginning of things. Now she wants you to join her in founding the League Legacy Associates of the League of Women Voters of Washington. She has put LWVWA in her will and wants you to do the same. She is a Life Member of the League and a Legacy leader in this important effort to give the state League a fund to keep it alive and healthy for the next hundred years.



Kay believes that Life Members are the “best bets” for putting the state League in their will or estate plan. She says,

“Who better knows the value of the work of the League? We are women who have paid our membership dues and been active for more than 50 years. We would never stay in any organization for that time if it did not do something so special we had to keep it strong. We Life Members are so grateful for the work of the League. It is unique and must continue to do its work of promoting good government, open meetings, inclusive decision-making and honest actions on the part of elected and appointed officials.”

“Come on Life Members, put your money where you mouth is. Put the League in your will and let it have a piece of your estate when you no longer need that money.” Kay wants to Challenge Life Members to join her in putting the state League in their will or estate plan. She wants all the long-time Leaguers to lead the way for those members who follow. After all says Kay, you have to have the state League operation to be able to function at the local level. And a fund that pays the operations cost of keeping the office open and the staff working for us is a good investment. If the day comes when funding is strong enough to establish an endowment, Kay thinks that would be superb. But until then, she knows her investment through her estate is needed. Just as, she says, your investment through your estate is too.

From Kay Buss, to you, a healthy year and a thankful attitude toward all the good that comes your way.

Karen Kiessling, LWVWA Development Co-Chair, 509-332-4755

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE LEGACY ASSOCIATIES

**LAEL BRAYMER
KAY BUSS
LEE CARPENTER
MARGARET COLONY
KAREN KIESSLING
BARBARA SEITL**

Please join them by putting the LWVWA in your will or trust. Then tell the state League office so your name can be added to this list. We will add founding members to the LLA throughout 2008. You do not need to provide a copy of your will, or even the relevant page. You may use language similar to this to put your bequest in place: **I HEREBY GIVE, DEVISE, BEQUEATH (PERCENTAGE OR \$ AMOUNT) TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON.** Always check with your lawyer on issues regarding your will or trust documents.

LWVWA 2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Strengthening Democracy

LWVWA will strengthen democracy in Washington by:

- working to pass local option campaign finance legislation
- working to pass adequate funding for Civics Education and testing

Priorities for a Healthy Washington

LWVWA will protect Washington's natural environment:

- Implement global warming pollution reduction goals (SB 6001-2007)
- Encourage responsible land use planning that reduces emissions of global warming gases
- Create programs that protect and promote trees and urban forests
- Promote programs that provide locally grown produce from small and mid-size farms for schools and food banks

Improving Access to Health Care

LWVWA will work to improve access to health care in Washington by supporting legislation that:

- provides full implementation of Cover All Kids (SB 5093)
- funds premium assistance for the Health Insurance Partnership
- provides coverage for low income 19-25 year olds
- funds an analysis and comparison of the costs to be borne by individuals, business, and government of 3-4 models of health care delivery
- funds home visits for Pierce County low income children with asthma

Improving Education and Early Learning

LWVWA will work for improved education and early learning in Washington by supporting:

- a plan to amply fund basic education
- policies and programs that promote the well-being and safety of all children
- professional development of child care staff with adequate compensation

Protecting Human Health and the Natural Environment

- Prevent hazardous wastes, including radioactive, from being deposited at any site until that site has been cleaned up
- Protect children from harm due to unsafe toys and child products

Working for a Better Washington

- The League will continue to work for a better Washington by supporting policy solutions that guarantee reproductive choice, provide adequate regulation of handguns, provide sustainable transportation infrastructure improvement and development, and move toward a fairer, more balanced system of taxation.

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**PEDESTRIAN ISSUES—
LOOKING FOR COMMONALITY:
PEDESTRIAN CONCERNS AND NEEDS**

Lois Laughlin and Linnea Hirst, LWV/Seattle

In mid-September, League members interested in a variety of transportation issues met in Ellensburg to list and discuss problems of getting about, and to consider which of them we might address as a statewide committee.

Throughout that discussion, we found commonalities in broad overviews and diversity in how and what to tackle. Some of the commonalities included topics like clear signage for highways and streets as well as interconnections between the many transportation modes, e.g. car to but to ferry to trail to train to airplane, that affect both vehicle and non-motorized travelers. Our discussion, of course, included the overarching impacts of climate change, air quality and costs.

One major topic of common interest on that list was pedestrian-specific issues. After all, we are all pedestrians, though not always and not necessarily when and where we prefer.

Walking can be a joyful, health-enhancing experience. According to a recent study in King County, "Residents of the most walkable areas...were less likely to be overweight or obese and more likely to report being physically active," to say nothing of the resultant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions when they are walking rather than driving. (That study was referenced in the LWVWA report "The Growth Management Act of Washington State: Successes and Challenges" August 2006, page 17.)

Unfortunately, walking in many areas isn't always or in every place joyful. Personal safety can be a major problem, especially in the winter months of short days and long twilights. Children walking to school or bus collection point, shoppers crossing a street or parking lot, walkers moving along a road to their home or bus stop can be very vulnerable.

In a future *VOTER*, we will discuss such issues as creating safe walking routes to schools; reducing speeding within neighborhoods; adding aids to pedestrian sub-groups that use canes and walkers, push strollers, are hard-of sight, in order to assist them in getting around independently. We'll discuss traffic-calming measures, sidewalk placement, pedestrian bridges, and other pedestrian-related solutions in use throughout the world.

After all, ways to encourage walking—and biking—to reduce auto miles and as a health benefit, touch us all, no matter where in the state we live.

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Puget Sound Partnership under direction of David Dicks has been working the last several months to implement sections of the Puget Sound 20/20 Action Agenda. The Leadership Council has appointed the Ecosystem Coordination Board of 20 individuals including representatives from the Action Focus Areas - Strait of Juan de Fuca; Hood Canal; San Juan Islands; Whidbey Island; Central Puget Sound (North and South). The representatives chosen by the Leadership Council were agency staff or elected officials from the six areas. The Ecosystem Board for the Action Areas is composed of government representatives. Some felt there should be representation from local citizen representatives. The nine members of the Science Panel have also been chosen. The members come from Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), U.S. Geological Survey(USGS), the US Navy, one from Washington State University (WSU) and two from University of Washington, and one from NOAA. There is currently a suggestion that loan arrangements be developed with other governmental entities so that policy and scientific staff experts can assist in developing the Action Agenda and a strategic science program. There were over 50 applicants for the Science Panel.

The Leadership Council of the Partnership will meet on December 17th, 2007 to select the top 20 Early Actions for immediate implementation.

League is one of over 30 organizations of the environmental caucus which meets monthly with People for Puget Sound to bring the environmental community together on a unified agenda to work with the Partnership to provide information, recommendations, and support for recovery action. We have had several meetings to develop our top five recommended actions that would protect and restore marine, estuarine, and fishwater river environments that make up the Puget Sound ecosystem. If implemented quickly, they will produce early results and success upon which the Partnership can build momentum and public support for its 2020 Action Agenda. (At the time for the *VOTER* article submission these top five are not yet submitted-- see the next Spring *VOTER* article).

Several League members have contacted me with questions regarding shoreline issues after reading the article in the last *VOTER*. Please continue this dialogue. Shoreline Master Program updates are in process in King County (and incorporated cities such as Issaquah), Jefferson County, and in Pierce County. Ann Aagaard aagaarda@nwlink.com, 425-488-8418.

UTILITIES, CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, AND DECOUPLING

The League is very concerned about climate change. We know that using less fossil fuel to generate electricity will decrease greenhouse gases which cause climate change. We also know that efficient energy use is the cheapest and cleanest resource available. Energy efficiency programs by utilities can vary but often include refurbishing industries so they use less energy, issuing rebates to customers that buy energy efficient appliances and instituting hourly controls on the use of energy. It follows that we should be interested in what can be done to get more utilities to increase their energy efficient programs.

The problem is that utilities make money by selling energy and they need money to pay fixed costs like poles, wires, meters, meter readers and, in the case of private utilities, profit for their investors. The answer is a carefully constructed "decoupling program". A decoupling program separates a utility's bottom line from the amount of energy it sells. This can be done by rate adjustments upward to make up for losses from reduced sales, or downward to reflect any higher-than expected sales.

At present utilities initiate rate cases before the Washington Utility Commission when they wish to raise rates. With decoupling, utilities would need to agree to periodic rate cases or to setting a profit threshold that triggers a rate case. Rates could justifiably be raised if the utility was not recouping its per-customer fixed costs as customers do not want the utility to make deep cuts in services. Factors that

cause a utility not to have enough to pay their fixed costs without a rate increase include warmer than usual weather, storms that damage transmission lines, and declining usage per customer due to improved building codes, or appliance efficiency standards. Factors that might make a utility enough money to justify a rate decrease are unseasonably cold weather, or an increase in electric powered devices that customers buy. In any case the amount of fossil fuel or renewable fuel will go down with energy efficiency so if energy efficiency occurs we can predict that rates will go down. Utilities should like decoupling if carefully constructed because it reduces their risk. This "win-win" decoupling does not need legislation, only the approval of the Washington Utilities Commission.

The League helped pass I- 937 which requires eighteen utilities to institute all cost effective energy efficiency. If you get your electricity from one of the following utilities, ask them if they are on course for getting all cost effective energy efficiency as required by I- 937. Avista, PacifiCorp, Puget Sound Energy, Peninsula Light Co., Benton County PUD No .1, Chelan County PUD No . 1, Clallam County PUD No. 1, Clark County PUD No. 1, Cowlitz County PUD No. 1, Grays Harbor County PUD No. 1, Lewis County PUD No. 1, Snohomish County PUD No. 1, Grant County PUD No. 2, Mason County PUD No. 3, Seattle City Light, Tacoma Power.

Direct questions to antoniapotter@comcast.net or mwineman@comcast.net

Our sincere thanks to those answering the call this Fall to help us defray our operating costs.

Knut & Ann Aagaard
Catherine Ahl
Rose Marion Ames
Martha Anamosa & Duane Fulgham
Cathy Anderson
Doris Ayyoub, In memory of Geneve
Bowden
Nadine Baker
Helen Baker St. John
Karen Barron
Ann Beal
Pam Behring
Carol Bingham
Robert & Kenlyn Blecker
Jeanette Boegl
Adele Bonciolini
Edward Boone Jr.
Evelyn Boyd
Lael Braymer
Helen Brewer
Naomie Bulloch
Barbara Bush
Sally Ann Cahill
Ellen Camin
Sally Chamberlain
Kay Chelemedos
Anne Conkle
Lucy Copass
Marilyn Cowger
Diane Crow

Patricia Davis
Gena Dilabio
Barbara Dobson
Ray & Vicky Downs
Rita Durand
Susan Eidenschink
Marilyn Erickson
Diana Estberg
Brenda Etter
DeeAnne Finken
Rosemary Flora
Donna Foster
Susan Fuchs
Betsy Greene
Gerald Griffin
Audrey Gruger
Mary Ellen Hambln
Constance Hellyer
Linnea Hirst
Maretta Holden
Myra Howrey
Esther Instebo
Anne Jacobson
Linda Johnson
Dorothea D. Jones, In honor of mother
Sally vanNiel
Charlotte Kanemori
Jennifer Kauffman
Joyce Kent Brown
Karen Kiessling

Terri Kimball
Ellen Kritzman
Mary Kohlli
Norma Kruger, In honor of friend Mary
Hovander
Jean Kyle
Charmian Lander
Joan Lappin, In memory of husband
Robinson Lappin
Judy MacMillian
Kathy Mattern
Wayne & Dorris Martin
Rosalie McCreary
Michele Meith
Jean Moehring
Janet Nail
Andrew Nelson
Nancy Newman
Louisa Nishitani
Sara Orr Smith
Nancy Pearson
Virginia Pellegrino
Billie Pierce, In honor of friend Virginia
Taylor
Bruno & Elizabeth Pierini
Mary Pneuman
Helen Pulsifer
Marion Reed
Ruth Ridder
John Roberts

Inge Roberts
Joann Roomes
David Rush
Mark San Souci
Dean Schennum
Barbara Seittle
Luana Sever
Joan Smith
Pamela Smith
Kathleen Sommers
John & Alice Stolz
Dorothy Swanson
Tami Szerlip, In honor of friend Myra
Lupton
Joan Thomas
Peggy Tlapak
Jolene Unsoeld
Doris Van Alen, In memory of Dorothy
Roberts
Philip Vandeman
Shirley Vandermeer
Ginger Vetrano
Luella Wells
Constance Wentzel
Agnes Wicknick
Alyce Wiggins
Frances Williamson
Britt-Mari Wisniewski

As of 12/10/07

ACTION WORKSHOP WRAP-UP

Barb Bush, LWVWA Action Chair

Seventy-five members from fourteen local Leagues around the state enjoyed lively discussion and a wealth of information at the LWVWA Action Workshop, November 10 in Bellevue. Many thanks go to the Eastside Unit of the Seattle League for hosting the event and preparing all the delicious food.

Local option public campaign financing, funding for civic education, health care proposals, and climate change action were covered in depth by the invited speakers who included: State Representatives Pat Lantz and Eileen Cody; Caleb Perkins, OSPI; John King, Washington Public Campaigns; Dr. Bob Crittenden, U of W School of Medicine; Kerri Cechovic, Washington Environmental Council; Genesee Cooper Adkins, Transportation Choices Coalition; and, Kim Drury, Northwest energy Coalition. Lonnie Johns-Brown, LWVWA Lobbyist, provided insights into the coming legislative session. All of the speakers stressed how important League input is to the legislative process. They urged us not only to respond to the Action Alerts our lobby team sends out, but also to report feedback from our contacts with legislators.



A few of the many participants at the Action Workshop

Workshop participants received Action Kits to take home to their local Leagues. The kits featured rollout of a statewide action plan for passing public campaign financing. All local Leagues have an important part to play in this campaign.

Members are asked to contact their legislators before the legislative session starts in January to ask them to support House Bill 1551 and Senate Bill 5278. Information about the bills has been sent to League Presidents and Action Chairs for distribution to their members. When you contact your legislators, please report their responses to your Action Chair or President so that we can compile that information

Other steps that Leagues and members can take include:

- Hold a forum on public campaign financing sometime in 2008.
- Write letters to the editor supporting public financing.
- Attend Lobby Day February 1 and lobby your representatives.
- Include the topic in your local Speaker's Bureau
- Talk it up with family, friends, acquaintances.

Public Campaign Financing for WA State and the Local Option Bill

Chris Chamberlin

A public campaign financing system is a voluntary method of campaign funding. Candidates who opt to run for office using public funds must "qualify" by securing a designated number of small (frequently 5\$) contributions from prospective constituents. Once qualified, candidates who want public financing must agree not to self-fund their campaigns or accept any private donations. A matching fund provision is available for candidates who qualify for and accept public funding and are outspent by an opponent who runs using private funding sources.

The League of Women Voters, at national and state levels, holds a position supportive of campaign finance options, e.g., public financing, that enables candidates to compete more equitably for public office, promote citizen participation in the election process, ensure the public's right to know and combat undue

influence from special interests. The LWVUS recently praised the introduction of the bipartisan Presidential Funding Act of 2007 by Senators Russ Feingold (D WI) and Susan Collins (R ME) and Representatives Chris Shays (R CT) and David Pryce (D NC). The legislation would revive the federal election process and level the playing field for all candidates. "The dollar sign has too tight a hold over our democracy," said national League president Mary G. Wilson.

Prior to 1992, the city of Seattle had a longstanding and successful system of partial public campaign financing in place. In fact, Seattle became, in 1978, the first city in the United States to implement a public financing system. LWV/Seattle and other citizen activist groups played an important role in bringing about the city council ordinance that created the program. The system was voluntary, and the city budget provided for the funding. The city annually included coupons with one monthly electric utility bill in an effort to determine continuing citizen support for the program. Customers were instructed to return the coupon with payment and to indicate consent for public money to be used for public financing.

Continued page 13

Reductions - Cap & Trade versus Carbon Tax Two Alternatives to Legislate Greenhouse Gas

Because there is now agreement that greenhouse gases need to be controlled to limit the negative effects of climate change, the focus of the current debate has shifted to the best means of control. Two approaches to enforce limits on greenhouse gas emissions have been suggested: cap and trade or carbon tax. Both approaches are market-based policy tools that create incentives to reduce emissions. The pros and cons of each approach will be topics in the 2008 Washington and federal legislatures, as well as the Western Regional Initiative process.

Cap & Trade Approach. A Cap & Trade program is based on the government setting a maximum limit or **cap to the total quantity of greenhouse gas pollutants** (e.g., carbon dioxide) that are allowed to be emitted. Once the cap is established, the government issues or auctions permits for businesses to emit a certain quantity of greenhouse gas pollutants. This allows the price of energy and energy-associated products to fluctuate around the total fixed quantity of emissions according to market forces.

Pros:

- Sets firm limits on emissions that achieve a specific environmental goal such as that recommended by the U.N.'s International Panel for Climate Change (e.g. decrease emissions to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050).
- It is a market-based approach designed to achieve the overall cap at the lowest possible cost.
- Companies have the flexibility to choose how they will achieve their emissions targets. For example, those who can reduce their emissions inexpensively can sell extra allowances to emitters who have difficulty complying i.e. have to pay more.
- Cap-and-trade is the basis of existing programs: the U.S. acid rain pollution control program (achieved greater reductions at lower costs than expected) and European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for CO₂ control.
- Includes various cost-control mechanisms (such as the ability to borrow and payback later and mitigation offset projects) to limit permit price volatility.

Cons:

- Volatility in the price of emissions permits from year to year has occurred in both the acid rain and ETS programs. For example, increased energy demand during cold or heat waves can cause the permit price spikes. This volatility can weaken investment in lower-carbon technologies.

- The selected method for allocating emissions permits factors heavily into the overall fairness and efficiency of the cap-and-trade approach.
- Some argue it is more complex and costly to administer because it requires an emissions permits allocation system, and markets, brokers, and monitoring of emissions trading.

Carbon Tax Approach. A carbon tax program requires each emitter to **pay a tax for every ton of greenhouse gas pollution they emit**. This approach is a price-based policy that limits emissions by fixing fossil fuel energy prices based on their carbon content and allowing emissions levels to vary according to economic activity.



Pros:

- Fixes the price of carbon emissions.
- To achieve climatic goals, the carbon tax rate can be adjusted over time to attain greater emissions reductions.
- Creates a permanent incentive to reduce emissions, thereby

encouraging investment in alternative fuels and energy-efficient technologies that have high up-front costs.

- Allowing emissions to vary from year to year gives firms the flexibility to abate less and pay more in taxes when abatement costs are unusually high (and vice-versa when abatement costs are low). Some argue it is simpler and less expensive to administer and enforce and can be levied and collected through existing institutions that have experience in enforcing compliance.

Cons:

- Does not ensure that any particular emissions target is met, rather it allows the quantity of emissions to fluctuate as the demand for energy rises or falls.

Both approaches require monitoring and enforcement (checking that allowances match overall emissions for cap and trade and calculating taxable emissions and guaranteed payment for the carbon tax). Both approaches have to also address how to distribute costs and benefits (how to distribute and/or auction emission allowances for cap and trade or who pays and what to do with the revenue for the carbon tax).

Although most businesses and environmentalists support a cap-and-trade approach, economists generally favor a carbon tax. Most climate change proposals currently under consideration regionally and nationally reduce emissions through cap-and-trade programs. Two regional cap and trade programs are already under development: the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), formed by ten Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, and the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) of six Western states including Washington, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba. A third group of Midwestern states has just begun the process and will likely follow the lead of the RGGI or WCI.

If you have any questions on this or related climate change energy issues, please submit to mwineman@comcast.net or antoniapotter@comcast.net and we will have future articles on them.

Public Campaign Financing *Continued from page 11*

Seattle's public financing program expired through a sunset clause in 1983 and was reinstated in 1984. The success of the program is suggested by the fact that during the public financing years of 1979 to 1992 more women and minorities served on the city council than in prior years. Also, during the sunset period election cycles, fewer contributions in larger amounts were received by candidates than during the public financing years, and this trend, of course, continues. The program withstood a constitutional challenge in 1983.

In November 1992, voters passed initiative 134. The primary purpose of I-134 was the imposition of restrictions on private contributions to state political campaigns. It contained an obscure provision that appeared to be little known at the time that effectively banned the local option to use public financing for local campaigns. Although it was inconsistent with the intent of the initiative and Seattle had to repeal their "local option". Lieutenant Governor Joel Pritchard, who campaigned for I-134, said he did not know of the ban until after the initiative was filed and that he would lobby the legislature for its repeal.

Local jurisdictions with at least partial public financing systems in place include New York, Los Angeles, Albuquerque, San Francisco, and as of 2005, Portland, Oregon. Carol Cushman, President of LWV Portland was recently quoted as follows: "Portland's option to replace private money fundraising with

voter-owned elections has already demonstrated that it can reduce the influence of special interests as well as increase competition. We urge all candidates for 2008 city races to use the Campaign Finance Fund or at least limit their campaign spending to the amount provided under the new system and stop taking large checks from private donors."

Civic Education Outreach Grant Guidelines

The LWVWA Ed Fund has allocated funding that will allow grants to local Leagues up to \$750 for new outreach initiatives in Voter Service. Most grants will be \$500, but special requests can be made for up to \$750, if necessary. Limit one per year per League.

Given issues such as the early primary, mail-in ballots, and lack of attendance at or interest in traditional candidate forums, we need to develop new effective ways to educate voters about the issues and candidates, and to engage them in the election process.

These grants are NOT to be used to fund your traditional activities, but are only available to try new, creative ways to reach voters.

We will be especially interested in funding Civic Education projects that target

- groups not typically reached by the League;
- groups representing areas of diversity, including race, language, ethnicity, or age;
- non-traditional methods of reaching voters, including the use of text messaging, blogs, web sites, My Space, or other alternative forms of communication;
- projects that develop new coalition partners.

We will share your successes with other Leagues, so all of us can indirectly benefit from your efforts, and from the grant you may receive.

The forms for applying for a grant are online at <http://www.lwvwa.org/edfund/index.htm>.

Human Health Effects of Developmental Exposure to Chemicals in Our Environment

Elizabeth Davis, LWVWA Natural Resource Committee Chair

In May 2007, researchers in the fields of environmental health, environmental chemistry, developmental biology, toxicology, epidemiology, nutrition, oncology, and pediatrics gathered at the International Conference on Fetal Programming and Developmental Toxicity. There the 24 member scientific committee produced the Faroes Statement (the meeting was in the Faroe Islands) to summarize the scientific evidence that chemical exposures before birth make babies more likely to develop health problems--such as diabetes, prostate cancer, fertility problems and thyroid disorders later in life.

The Faroes Statement was published in July 2007 as an online article in the journal *Basic & Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology*, and will also appear in a print issue of this journal in early 2008.

Summary of Key Conclusions

"Three aspects of children's health are important in conjunction with developmental toxicity risks. First, the mother's chemical body burden will be shared with her foetus or neonate, and the child may, in some instances, be exposed to larger doses relative to the body weight. Second, susceptibility to a wide range of adverse effects is increased during development, from preconception through adolescence, depending on the organ system. Third, developmental exposures to environmental chemicals can lead to life-long functional deficits and disease."

"The old paradigm ... was that 'the dose makes the poison'. However, for exposures sustained during early development, another critical, but largely ignored, issue is that 'the timing makes the poison'. This extended paradigm deserves wide attention to protect the foetus and child against preventable hazards."

Summary of Key Recommendations

"The accumulated research evidence suggests that prevention efforts against toxic exposures to environmental chemicals should focus on protecting the embryo, foetus and small child as highly vulnerable populations."

"Prevention should not await definitive evidence of causality when delays in decision-making would lead to the propagation of toxic exposures and their long-term, harmful consequences."

"Risk assessment of environmental chemicals needs to take into account the susceptibility of early development and the long-term implications of adverse programming in a variety of organ systems. Although test protocols exist to assess reproductive toxicity, neurodevelopmental toxicity and immune toxicity, such tests are not routinely used, and the potential for such effects is, therefore, not necessarily considered in decisions on safety levels of environmental exposures."

The above information is based on a brief report prepared by Washington Toxics Coalition. The full Faroes Statement can be found at: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1742-7843.2007.00114.x>.

LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!!!
LOBBY DAY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008
COLUMBIA ROOM, CAPITAL BUILDING, OLYMPIA

Observe the action; be part of the action! Three weeks after the legislature goes into session, we should have a good sense of what (and who) we need to work on.

We're trying some new things this year to give you more time to spend meeting with your legislators, attending hearings, or observing floor action. The tentative schedule is:

- ▶ 8:30-9:15 Coffee and Donuts with our legislators in the Columbia Room. All representatives and senators will receive an invitation to this informal "mingle" from President Barbara Seitle and you can add a personal invitation of your own when you make the appointment to meet with them.
- ▶ 9:15-10:30 Invited: the House Speaker and Minority Leader and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders to address us about the session
- ▶ 10:30-11:00 We'll sort out the issues.
- ▶ 11:00 With **talking point papers*** and **legislative appointment report forms*** well in hand and **LWV buttons*** proudly displayed, we will all descend on the legislature!
- ▶ 12:00–1:30 Box lunches will be available in the Columbia Room
- ▶ 2:30 We will officially adjourn at 2:30. Before then, you can return to the Columbia Room and turn in your report forms. A summary of our Lobby Day efforts will be published in the Spring Voter.

*these materials will be available when you register

LWV Thurston County will host the event and will once again offer B & B facilities in members' homes for those Leaguers wishing to come to Olympia on Thursday. The charge for the B & B is \$10. Contact Marilyn Funk at bfmz@comcast.net or call 360-357-7967.

Circle February 1 on your calendar, and complete and send in the registration form below with your check for \$20 (includes lunch).

Let's make a lot of noise!!! We really do matter, but only if we show up and speak out.

✂-----

LOBBY DAY REGISTRATION Friday, February 1, 2008

NAME: _____ Phone _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 Email _____

Make checks for \$20.00 payable to LWVWA. Mail with this form to LWVWA, 4710 University Way, # 214, Seattle, WA 98105.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 29 , 2008. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL LEAGUES



The LWV/Benton and Franklin Counties has completed a one-year study “*Location of Benton County Seat*” (online at <http://www.lvwva.org/benton-franklin/index.html>) of whether the County seat should remain in Prosser or be moved to Kennewick. The study along with a letter to the Board of Commissioners was presented to the Commissioners December 3rd with League’s recommendations. The study determined that it appears no further growth in the center of population would be possible without one of two things happening -- moving the county seat which takes the vote of the citizens or changing the laws that limit certain elected officials from moving their office or records out of the county seat. There are other counties that may benefit from the change in these laws. Both of these options are difficult to achieve but possible. The Tri-City Herald featured the study in the next day’s paper that included a link to the website.

LWV/Spokane Area in partnership with historian Nancy Engle has applied for a \$5,000 grant from the Women's History Consortium to research ERA History in Eastern Washington. The project will explore the sentiments for and against the ERA in the counties of Spokane, Kittitas, Benton and Franklin, during two dates – 1972 because voters in the state narrowly approved adding an ERA amendment to the State Constitution and, 1977 because that was the year the Washington Women’s Party sponsored the International Women’s Year Conference on behalf of the national ERA amendment. The research project promises to become a foundation for further scholarly work recording the history of women’s activism in Eastern Washington during the 1970’s.



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