



VOTER

Winter 2009 The League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105 Barbara Seittle, President
Vol. 50, No. 3 Tel: 206-622-8961 FAX: 206-622-4908 (outside toll area: 1-800-419-2596) email: lwwa@lwwa.org Betsy Greene, Editor

THE STATE WE'RE IN: WASHINGTON

This **brand new edition** of our textbook is now available. The compelling text covers the basics of government and is illustrated with graphs, photos and drawings. It is the only book that describes current and historic tribal governance and their interrelationship with state and local governments in Washington. There is new material on immigration, science and technology, globalization of trade and the Centennial Accord. The binding has been improved. It includes sidebars about people, current and historical events and reflects the ethnic and geographic diversity of our state.

It has been developed for grades 7-12 and is a useful tool for ESL, GED, Basic Ed and Immigration programs as well as any newcomer to the state or anyone who desires more knowledge about Washington State.

Its companion Teacher's Curriculum Guide is also available. Teachers, librarians and the WA State Indian Education Association endorse it. Download the order form at <http://www.lwwa.org/edfund/index.htm>, or contact our office at lwwa@lwwa.org. Copies of the 5th edition are available at special prices.



LWW/Clallam Co. members and state League President Barbara Seittle presenting *The State We're In: Washington* to the Superintendents of the Quillayute Valley School and the Crescent School Districts

LOBBY DAY 2009!!

Circle the date March 12 on your calendar; add a couple of stars and a few exclamation points. We need to be in Olympia in force that day to make ourselves heard on important League legislative priorities.

LWWWA Lobby Day, Thursday, March 12 Columbia Room of the Legislative Building

8:30 – 9:30 Registration and Coffee and Conversation with Legislators
9:30 – 11:30 Remarks by Legislative Leaders and our own Lobby Team
11:30 – 12:30 Lunch
Rest of the Day Appointments with representatives and senators and staff

We'll have plenty of Legislative Priority cards for your visits as well as talking points papers on the key issues.

It's not too early to make the appointments with your legislators, and to invite them to drop by the Columbia Room to join us for Coffee and Conversation any time between 8:30 and 9:30 that morning.

To register for Lobby Day, complete the form on the back page of this VOTER and send it to the State office.

On March 12, proudly wear your League of Women Voters pin; guaranteed to be noticed and admired.

SAVE THE DAY
LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION February 23, 2009
Rotunda, Legislative Building, Olympia
5pm to 7pm
The focus will be women's and children's issues
Details, when available, will be at www.lwwa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The elections are over, but the buzz and excitement of public participation still hangs in the air. Can we encourage it, engage with it, capitalize on it and be a force for good in our communities?

The national economy is in crisis, and the Washington State budget is facing a 6 billion dollar shortfall in the next biennium. It could be more after the next revenue forecast. The federal government can create money. The state can not. There will be budget cuts in all areas, from health care and education to much needed environmental programs. How will these cuts affect people in your community? How will they affect the quality of education in your schools?

The LWVWA has advocated a revision of the tax code for many years. But, unless the voting public understands the budget, the sources of revenue and how it is spent, how each segment affects a portion of their community, and why the budget yo-yos so dramatically with even minor changes in the state's economy we cannot begin to carry on an effective dialogue about ways to stabilize the revenue necessary to carry out the programs we all deem necessary and desirable.

Can we, as Leagues, take advantage of this new era of civic participation during our next biennium to advance the knowledge and engage our communities in this dialogue? And in the process engender enthusiasm and support for the League? Take a look at the proposal following this message and let us know what you think.

Meanwhile, the state legislature is in session and your Lobby Team is there monitoring the action. We are working on policy issues and doing what we can to retain the gains we made last year. We need your participation more than ever to remind your legislators of the issues we care about. Please read and respond to your Legislative Newsletter and make plans to come to Lobby Day March 12.

continued next column...

And some good advice from our Communications Director:

In trying times, especially, be **bold**.

- Be cheered by the new era of civic engagement. It is a wonderful thing for our democracy. It's a chance for League to apply its years of experience.
- Be enablers of one another. Affirm and support those League leaders, League members and local Leagues who are doing the work of the organization and bringing about positive change in their communities.
- Be a force for good in the community. Raise our sights beyond the unit-meeting level to the wider community. Troubled times require good people and good organizations to "step up".

Let's make this a banner New Year and a banner new biennium for League.

In League,

Barbara Seitle

LWVWA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT 2009 -2011

Budget Basics: Get Wise, Impact Issues, Create Change

The proposal

- Develop and carry out a statewide civic education program centered around the state budget and state tax system. Relate public policy issues (for example, health care, education, environmental protection) to real-life state budgeting and tax policy considerations.
- Demonstrate the connections between public policies and peoples' lives.
- Use the League's experience and expertise to help inform and empower a new wave of citizens who want to participate in governmental decision-making.

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Continued from page 2

Implementation strategies

- Provide a package of user-friendly materials, created by LWVWA, to be used in workshops or other public outreach venues.
- Build a network of local Leagues willing to partner in bringing the program to their communities.
- Seek collaborative relationships with other organizations at both the state and local level (e.g. WA State Budget and Policy Center, WA Tax Fairness Coalition, People United for a Fair Economy; Church councils; PTAs).
- Use a wide range of information-disseminating techniques, including new media opportunities such as blogging and social networking, to reach a broad spectrum of the public.
- Encourage local Leagues to apply for LWVWA Education Fund Civic Engagement grants to cover expenses of local activities related to this project.

Goals

- Apply the League's vast experience and expertise to the task of informing and involving citizens during a new era of civic participation, 2009-2011.
- Build the strength and vitality of the LWVWA and LWVWA Education Fund through increased visibility in the community that leads to a measurable increase in LWV membership and community financial support.

Do you think this is a good idea? Do you have ideas about a program such as this you would like to share? Would your League like to participate in this program? We need to hear from you. Can you send us a message via your Program Planning consensus or discuss it at your next board or general meeting and tell us the results? Your state boards thank you

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION ELECTING THE PRESIDENT

During the spring and fall of 2008, the League provided a valuable service to high school students and their teachers through a series of sixteen articles in the Seattle Times on "Electing the President". Examples of subjects were "How to be the Nominee", "Debate Watching 101", and "The Informed Citizen", concluding with "Election Day" in two parts. Teachers in 102 school districts in 25 counties, plus private and independent schools, community colleges and universities and all readers of the papers found the articles in the "full run of the press". In Seattle, 700 teachers used the material as did 266 in Yakima. This useful material made a difference to the teachers who are struggling to comply with the unfunded mandate to teach civics to their students---the next generation of voters. The Seattle Times donated the space otherwise used for advertising revenue and the Education Funds of the Seattle and State Leagues spent \$16,000 subsidizing the newspaper and the distribution costs. The articles can be found at www.washingtonvoter.org on the Voter's Toolkit page.

OPPORTUNITY FOR DONORS

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 extends for 2008 and 2009 the "IRA charitable rollover" provision. This provision allows taxpayers aged 70 ½ or older to make tax-free contributions of up to \$100,000 in both 2008 and 2009, from either traditional or Roth IRAs, to qualified charitable organizations such as the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Donations from IRAs are not treated as an itemized deduction, like most charitable contributions, but are excluded from taxable income. Thus, the IRA rollover provision applies to taxpayers who itemize as well as those who take the standard deduction. Every donor's circumstances are different so please consult with your tax advisor to see if an IRA rollover is right for you. Contact the State League at 206-622-8961 for additional information.

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL LEAGUES

LWV/Clark County, aided by many citizens, engaged 66 students from Evergreen, Heritage and Ridgefield high schools in a lively exercise centered on the US Bill of Rights as part of a Constitution Day program. (below)



LWV/Jefferson County co-sponsored with AAUW, the City of Port Townsend, and *The Port Townsend/Jefferson County Leader*, in November, 2008, a public forum addressing the increasing concerns and questions regarding the recent initiation of checkpoints and border patrol activities on the Olympic Peninsula.

LWV/Clallam County presented a classroom set of *The State We're In: Washington* to Superintendent Diana Reaume of the Quillayute Valley School District and Superintendent Tom Anderson of the Crescent School District. The books were purchased by the LWV/CLA with funds they received from a Civic Education grant from the State League Education Fund.

!!! LWVWA Office Needs Rug !!!
In the 12x18 or 10x14 foot range

Our lease stipulates the renter cover a percentage of the bare wooden floor area so if you are redecorating or downsizing and have a rug, please, consider the people living below the League office and donate it to the office. A runner is also needed.

FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION "Reflections on Democracy"

May 29 – 31, 2009
Murano Hotel, Tacoma, WA

The convention consists of local League delegates and MAL units in the number provided in the LWVWA bylaws, the president of each local League or an alternate in the event that the president is unable to attend and the members of the state board.

The convention adopts program, elects officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopts a budget for the ensuing two years; and votes to readopt LWVWA positions and discusses and votes on recommended and non-recommended program.

CALENDAR

Civic Education Day, February 2
Legislative Reception, February 23
LWVWA Lobby Day, March 12
LWVWA State Board Meeting, March 13
LWVWA State Convention, May 29-31
LWVUS Council, June 13-15

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

Officers

Barbara Seitle, President, South Whidbey Island
Barbara Bush, 2nd Vice President, Snohomish County
Myra Howrey, Secretary, Kitsap County
Dorothy Spadoni, Treasurer, Tacoma-Pierce County

Directors

Pam Behring, Spokane Area
Susan Eidschink, Tacoma-Pierce County
Betsy Greene, Seattle
Linnea Hirst, Seattle
Judy Ostrow, Seattle

Staff

Claudia Downing, Administrative Director
Lonnie Johns Brown, Lobbyist

League of Women Voters of Washington 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The LWVWA

Strengthens Democracy

- public campaign financing for judicial position
- same day voter registration
- restoration of felon voting rights
- inclusion of a civics class in the Core 24 Graduation Requirements

Strengthens Education and Early Learning

- a new K-12 basic education funding structure
- policies and programs that promote the well-being and safety of all children, including the Child Care Quality and Improvement Rating System
- professional development programs and adequate compensation for childcare providers
- improved components of the child care subsidy and co-pay system

Improves Access to Health Care

- guarantee access for all residents in comprehensive, uniform, and affordable health services
- fully fund Cover All Kids, fund primary care doctor incentives to work in underserved areas, fund the Health Insurance Partnership and public health

Protects Reproductive Rights

- defend the \$5 million funding level for Family Planning and work for an increase to \$8 million
- work to repeal the requirement that DOH apply for Title V funds to support Abstinence Only sex education programs

Protects Natural Resources and Human Health

Reduces Climate Change Gas Emissions

- implement an effective and fair system to reduce global warming gas emission
- support responsible land use planning to decrease climate change
- enact energy efficiency and conservation programs
- prevent hazardous wastes, including mixed chemical and radioactive waste, from being

deposited at any site until that site has been cleaned up

- protect children from harm due to exposures to toxic chemicals and other toxic substances

Promotes a Balanced Transportation System

- increase affordable and reliable access to public transportation
- decrease the number of single-occupancy vehicles on roads, bridges and ferries
- increase fuel efficiency by promoting development and use of alternative fuel sources across all modes of transportation

LWVWA BOARD ACTIONS

1 - Adopted a new position for Early Child Care and Education (see page 7 for complete position)

2 - Voted to join the 'Early Learning Action Alliance' Coalition.

3 - Voted to join the Washington Coalition for Open Government. (December meeting)

4 - Voted to support the four 2009 priorities of the Environmental Priorities Coalition, formerly the Healthy WA Coalition. (November meeting)
The priorities are: Creating Transit-oriented Communities, Energy Efficient and Green Buildings, Capping Climate Pollution and Funding for the Environment. (see article page 7)

Leave a Legacy for League Associates

This box contains the names of members who put the League of Women Voters of Washington in their wills or estate plans.

Nancy Pearson

Helen Eisenberg

Barbara Seitle

Karen Kiessling

_____ Should your name be here?
_____ or here?

Please, notify the state office if you have included the League in your will.

MANY THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

Catherine Ahl in memory of Nancy Jander
 Doris Ayyoub
 Theresa Baker
 Genevieve Baker
 Sandy Barney
 Pam Behring
 Victoria Bennett
 R.C. Bibb
 Martha Bird
 Marinic Borromeo
 Ann Bowden
 Ann Brand
 Lisa Brown
 Barbara Bush
 Ellen Bynum in memory of Imogene
 Bowen
 Patsy Campbell
 Sandra Cannon
 Lee Carpenter in memory of Helen
 Eisenberg
 Ed Chadd
 Kay Chelemedos
 Camille Clayton
 Lucy Copass in honor of Nancy Miller
 Lois Curtis
 Susan Daniels
 Gena DiLabio
 Rita Durand
 Susan Eidenschink
 Dee Anne Finken Megrditchian

Ellen Fisher
 Doris Gilmore
 Susan Glass
 Joan Green in memory of Addie Koester
 Charles Hale
 Alice Hale
 Alice Harris
 Ann Henry
 William Hogan
 Maretta Holden
 Sally Hood
 Cynthia Howe
 Myra Howrey
 Anne Jacobson
 Mrs. L.N. Johanson
 Sara Jane Johnson
 Beverly Johnson-Torelli
 Gail Katz
 Ellen Kritzman in memory of Enid Dolstad
 Joan Lappin
 Eleanor Laxdall
 Dave & Dorothy Lilly
 Laura Lundgren
 Judy MacMillan
 Wayne & Dorris Martin
 Charlene McKenzie
 Doug and Theresa McLean
 Sunshine Millhorn
 Kathleen Moritis
 Sue Mozer

Ann Murphy
 Sandra Nelson
 Lois North
 Mariette O'Donnell
 Judith Ostrow
 Dorothy Owens
 Nancy Pearson
 Mary Pneuman
 Marion Reed
 Bob & Ruthe Ridder in memory of Betty
 Sargent
 John Roberts in honor of David (and Jen)
 Nixon
 Barbara Rutherford
 Peggy Saari
 Frances Scheidel
 Carol Selander
 Luana Sever
 Kathleen Sommers
 Olive Spannaus
 John & Alice Stolz
 Dorothy Swanson
 Joan Thomas
 Connie Waddington
 Linda Ward
 Luella Wells
 Alyce Wiggins
 Karla Wight
 Faye Wilkinson
 Lucinda Wingard



ACTION ACTION ACTION

By now you have received our Action Fundraising letter. Please respond as best you can – it is very important to keeping a League presence in Olympia.

*League members marching on Olympia. Date unknown.
 From Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Fall 2002.*

– 2009 FOCUS IN OLYMPIA – ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES COALITION

The twenty-four organizations comprising the Environmental Priorities Coalition have chosen their four priorities for 2009. Three provide solutions to reducing global climate change gas emissions, and one takes action to promote clean water in Washington. Here they are:

1. Cap and Invest

With a limit on greenhouse gas emissions and a system under which polluting entities pay for permits based upon the amount of pollution generated, substantial revenues will be raised to combat global climate change. This new revenue will be invested to reduce fossil fuel dependence, create new and green jobs, spur new clean-tech innovation, while assisting moderate- and low-income people with volatile energy prices.

2. Efficiency First

Energy efficiency is the cheapest and most immediate way to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and will create thousands of good, family-wage jobs in Washington. This bill will put “efficiency first” by promoting super-efficient, low-energy-use buildings, providing incentives to maximize energy efficiency, requiring energy use information on buildings offered for sale or lease; and making our public buildings models of energy efficiency. This policy will also help to ensure that low-income consumers can cope with rising energy costs.

3. Transit-Oriented Communities

Transit-Oriented Communities would revise the state’s transportation and land-use planning framework to assist local jurisdictions to plan for growth in a sustainable and climate-friendly way. The bill will provide incentives for cities and developers to create affordable, livable, transit-oriented development, increasing transportation choices.

4. Invest in Clean Water

This package of targeted polluter-pays fees will protect the taxpaying public and ensure that polluters take responsibility for the impacts of their actions. The effort will raise new revenue to fund critical projects to save Puget Sound and restore Washington’s rivers and lakes. By investing in storm water infrastructure, toxics prevention and other programs, we create new jobs, relieve financial pressure on local government, and promote new economic stimulus.

Environmental Priorities Coalition is the new name for the former Priorities for a Healthy Washington Coalition. LWVWA is a member. 2009 is the sixth year that these organizations have been working together to pass good environmental and natural resources legislation in Olympia. For more information about the coalition, check out its website (www.environmentalpriorities.org) or, contact Elizabeth Davis, elizabethd@whidbey.com

New Position for Early Care and Education of Young Children

The LWVWA believes

- The quality of the child’s early care and education, birth-5, is critical to maximizing the child’s future development.
- Parents are a child’s first teachers.
- The State of Washington has an important role in assisting parents to ensure that all children have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

The LWVWA believes the State of Washington should support:

- Home visiting and other educational programs for parents with young children
- Programs for children with special needs
- Increasing access to preschool programs for children age 3 – 5
- Quality child care programs for children age birth – 5
- Expanding the definition of Basic Education to include the birth to five years ***
- Improvements to child care programs
- Encouraging public-private partnerships to expand the early care system

The State should marshal a variety of resources to fund these programs, such as federal funding, state funding, public-private partnerships and other financial sources.

***This provision returned to the committee for review of consensus data and possible revision. Not adopted by the board.

NEW CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE MEMBER

Ellyn Murphy, PhD. is the new LWVWA member of the LWVUS climate change taskforce. She is a Senior Program Manager in the Energy and Environment Directorate, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. She lives in Richland and is a member of LWV Benton-Franklin Counties.

LOBBY DAY REGISTRATION
Thursday, March 12, 2009
Cost \$20, Lunch included

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

Email _____

Make checks for \$20.00 payable to LWVWA and mail with this form to LWVWA, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105. You can download this form at www.lwvwa.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE March 9, 2009

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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.

The Washington State *VOTER* is published quarterly by the League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105. Yearly subscription is \$10.00. Members subscribe through their annual dues. Call 206-622-8961 for a local League in your area or go online at www.lwvwa.org.

Send address changes to League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way, N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105



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