

VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS
P. O. BOX 784, FRIDAY HARBOR, WA 98250-0784

February 2008

Calendar

February 1, 2008, Friday -League of Women Voters of Washington LOBBY DAY - 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Columbia Room, Capital Building, Olympia.

February 4, Monday – Board Meeting – 12 pm – 2 pm, San Juan Island Library. Beginning planning for the LWVSJ Annual Meeting. All are welcome.

February 9, 2008 – Saturday - Washington State Republicans and Democrats Caucuses. Attend the caucus of your choice and participate in your democracy!

February 11, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 10 am – noon, San Juan Island Library. National LWV Convention Program Planning. (See information below.)

February 19, 2008 – School Levy and Primary Election

March 3, 2008, Monday – Board Meeting – 12 pm – 2 pm, San Juan Island Library. All are welcome.

March 10, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 10 am – noon, San Juan Island Library. The topic has been changed to a summary and discussion of LWV advocacy on issues during the 2008 Washington State Legislative Session.

April 7, 2008, Monday – Board Meeting – 12 pm – 2 pm, San Juan Island Library. All are welcome.

April 14, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 10 am – noon, San Juan Island Library. The topic is Children's Issues.

May 1, 2008, Thursday – LWVSJ Annual Meeting – 12-m – 2pm. Election of the Board, setting priorities for the coming year. Get it on your 2008 calendar!

June 13-17 LWVUS Convention 2008! Portland Oregon is hosting the 2008 National Convention! All LWV Members are invited by LWVUS to the LWVUS 48th National Convention on June 13-17, 2008 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. Read more about Convention 2008 at: <http://lists.lwv.org/t/497000/2462720/330/0/> To volunteer, contact Debbie Kaye, djek53@aol.com.

Note the TIME CHANGE for Membership Meetings. Board meetings are on the 1st Mondays and Membership Meetings are on 2nd Mondays. If you are coming from another island, call any Board Member and we'll arrange a ride from the ferry.

Getting Ready for the LWVSJ February meeting

By Susan Dehlendorf

On February 11, LWVSJ will devote our meeting to National Program Planning. Believe it or not, this is a lot more interesting than it sounds. The national league has an extensive set of Public Policy Positions in the areas of

- Representative Government
- International Relations
- Natural Resources and
- Social Policy

Before our meeting, each of us should take the time to review these positions. You can access them easily via the internet.

- 1) Find a summary in the Seattle League newsletter – www.seattlelwv.org, go to League Library, click on “here” in the third paragraph.
- 2) Go to www.lwv.org (that’s the national league) and explore. One avenue is to search for “program planning”, choose “Leader’s Guide,” then sign in by establishing a password, then scroll down to “program planning kit,” select “positions in brief.”

At the meeting we will decide whether we want to propose a new study, propose a review of a position or propose an issue studied by a local or state league for concurrence. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for each of us to become familiar with where the League has an official stand and to consider how we feel about such stands.

If you find the internet approach too difficult, please call Susan Dehlendorf, 378-1082, and she will figure out how to get you hard copies of some of the relevant documents.

Attached to this VOTER find two ideas being promoted for the National Convention: LWVNYS Study Request for LWVUS Conv.'08 concerning “The advisability of using the National Popular Vote Compact among the states as a method for electing the President;” and a memo on Arms Control and Disarmament from the LWV International Committee.

LWVSJ Happenings

January 7, 2008 – LWVSJ Board meeting. 5 board members and 1 other LWVSJ member were present. Discussion included: planning membership meetings: topics and time changes; acknowledging the need for clarification of Caucuses and Primaries; Janna Gingras resigned as Co-President for personal reasons, but will stay on until the end of the fiscal year as Member-at-Large and Voter editor. To see complete minutes of this or any LWVSJ Board meeting, contact Ann Jarrell.

January 14, 2008, – LWVSJ Membership Meeting –National LWV Immigration Study Consensus Questions. Ten people showed up to discuss the national LWV Immigration Study Questions. We all agreed that Federal Immigration laws should be socially humane as well as economically viable without overloading our resources and environment. Nancy Wight sent the official Consensus Response Form into national LWV so that our views will be considered in formulating a national position on this issue.

Washington State LWV

New LWV Ferries Position: As requested by members at the 2005 state League convention, the board approved at the January meeting the following Ferries Position for addition to the Transportation Position.

The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that 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 {tolls} should not be expected to totally fund ferry operations in Washington State.

This position is none too soon as the state Legislature meets this week to discuss the transportation budget, conduct a Work Session on Tolls 101, and, on Thursday, January 17, conduct public hearings. Substitute House Bill 1773 - Regarding the imposition of tolls addresses future tolling for state highways, as well as ferries.

The Ferry Study Committee continues under a new title--Ferry Subcommittee as part of the Transportation Committee. Twelve local Leagues participated in the study and will be notified about further participation; interested new participants are encouraged.

From: Betty Todd, Ferry Subcommittee, 360.385.9987, todd_bs@olympen.com

Legislative Session Begins - Your Voice Is Needed Two weeks of the short (60-day) legislative session is already behind us—seven weeks to go before they wrap up for the year. Three features stand out in this session. First, it's short, so everything will happen very quickly. Second, the economic picture isn't so rosy, so there won't be much new spending. Third, it's an election year and that will color all the action. Your Lobby Team (nineteen volunteers and our paid lobbyist, Lonnie Johns-Brown) are already hard at work representing the League on all the issues we care about. But YOUR VOICE IS ALSO NEEDED. The Legislative E-Newsletter serves two purposes: to keep our members informed each week *and* to request that you take action. Call or email your legislators on the League's priority issues for the week and any other issues that are dear to your heart. The newsletter will give you the information you need along with the League position. – **Barbara L. Bush, LWVWA Action Chair**
To read the newsletter online, go to: <http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/>. To sign up for the newsletter, contact the State LWV office: lwvwa@lwvwa.org.

Public Campaign Financing: The Local Option Bills

SHB 1551 passed the House, 56 to 38 (4 excused). The measure applies to all local jurisdictions and requires a referendum or advisory ballot as a condition for implementing a local public financing system. SSB 5278 is in Senate Rules, and the floor vote could come at any time. The senate version also requires voter approval of any local public financing system, but language limiting the use of public funds for local campaigns to cities only was eliminated. If passed by the Senate, this bill, like the House bill, will allow all local jurisdictions the option.

Action— Contact your Senators asking their support for SSB5278 when it comes to the full Senate for a vote, and ask them to support the local option bill. Passage of this bill will simply allow local jurisdictions the option of using public funds for local political campaigns. It does not mandate public campaign financing. This bill merely restores the local public financing option that was eliminated by passage of I-134 in 1992. Contact— Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, <<mailto:mbcchamberlin@harbornet.com>>

National LWV

A message from Mary G. Wilson, President, LWVUS

To make sure all eligible voters are heard on Election Day, the LWVUS has adopted five core areas of election administration reform we are carrying out through our Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project and other national efforts:

- Opposing ID and documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements
- Enhancing administration of statewide voter registration databases and guarding against wrongful or incorrect purging
- Protecting voters against unnecessary restrictions on voter registration
- Improving poll worker recruitment, training and supervision
- Strengthening polling place management and ballot design

In addition, the League of Women Voters Education Fund is continuing to educate voters by providing comprehensive state-by-state election and voting information on their Web site, VOTE411.org. This one-stop shop of election information has voting deadlines, information on candidates and polling places, as well as voting requirements.

There is too much at stake in this election for citizens to sit back and not make their voices heard. The League is working tirelessly to ensure every eligible citizen can participate in this critical election year and make an informed decision on Election Day.

Mission of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a non-profit, non-partisan, political membership organization.

*We encourage informed and active participation in government,
and seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy.*

*The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.
Membership is open to any citizen over the age of 18 who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies.
All LWVUS meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.*

Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans

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Voter Editor: Janna Gingras, 378-6104, jannag@rockisland.com. If you have items for the Voter, please submit them to Janna by the 25th of each month for the next month's issue.