



VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS
P. O. Box 784, Friday Harbor, WA 98250-0784**

October 2010

Calendar

October 15-16, 2010 General Election Candidates Forums

The 2010 candidates forums will be held on all four ferry-served islands. Candidates for U.S Representative, Congressional District 2; State Representative, District 40, Positions 1 and 2; San Juan County Council District 2; and the San Juan County Sheriff have been invited. The forums, which will take the place of our regular monthly membership meeting, are scheduled as follows:

Friday, October 15 th	Shaw San Juan	Shaw Community Center: 1:30 to 3:30 pm Friday Harbor Middle School: 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Saturday, October 16 th	Orcas Lopez	Orcas Senior Center: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Grace Episcopal Church: 4:30 to 6:30pm

October 23, 2010 and November 6, 2010 State Action Workshops for 2010 - Budget Issues: How to Save the Things We Love

The workshops will be held in Kennewick on October 23rd, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Lampson Building, 607 E. Columbia Drive.

The Bellevue workshop will take place on November 6th, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 2650 148th Ave., SE.

The cost is \$25 per venue per person and lunch will be included.

See the state website www.lwvwa.org for more information and the registration form.

Board meetings are generally on the 1st Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are usually on the 2nd Monday. Annual Membership meetings are in May of each year. If you are coming from another island, call any board member and we'll arrange a ride from the ferry.

**November 1, 2010 - Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

November 7-8, 2010 - Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration

The Washington State Historical Society/Women's History Consortium is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the amendment of the Washington constitution to give women the right to vote in the state. They are working with the Office of the Washington Secretary of State on events, exhibits, performances and celebrations. Go to <http://www.washingtonwomenshistory.org/> for more information.

**November 8, 2010 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Membership Meeting**

November's meeting will feature a panel discussion on energy. Speakers on nuclear, oil and alternative options will be included. A question and answer period will follow the discussion.

LWVSJ Happenings

We received a nice compliment from our state board liaison, Judy Ostrow, after she read the last edition of the *Voter*. "I continue to be impressed with your League! You are so active, and you address the important issues. I hope the proposed November meeting on energy is scheduled, because it sounds very interesting. Holding three forums in two days is awesome!"

**September 6, 2010 Board Meeting
Summary of the Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Co-President, Ann Jarrell. There will be no October general meeting. Our membership has increased to 56. There was a brief discussion of Captain Moore's October 26th and 27th lectures on the garbage gyre in the Pacific Ocean.

We received notice that Mr. Koster has declined to speak at the forums on the islands, therefore, candidates for the U.S. House will not be heard. Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations require that all sides be given equal time and that if one candidate will not participate, then no others may be permitted to participate. Candidates for all local positions have already signed up.

Sarah Crosby announced that the program for the November general meeting will be a panel discussion on energy with a question and answer period following. We will have speakers on nuclear, oil and alternative options. There was a discussion on Washington State I-1098 which the League supports. The holiday luncheon will be December 6th at the Orcas Hotel. Linnea Hurst, our state president, plans to attend.

September 13, 2010 - General Membership Meeting

This meeting was devoted to the "Citizens United v. FEC" Supreme Court Decision which was sent down last January. Tom Munsey has informed us that the presentation will play every night at 6:00 pm on Friday Harbor Cable, Public Access Channel 19 through the month of September, and that it will continue to be shown into October. The video can also be downloaded from www.sjmedia.org.

LWV of Washington

League of Women Voters of Washington's Positions on the Statewide Ballot Measures for the November 2, 2010 General Election

Read what the League of Women Voters of Washington's positions are on the statewide ballot measures for the November 2nd General Election by going to www.lwvwa.org.

League Events Around the State

Clallam County - November 13th, luncheon, speaker Nancy Amidei, "Reclaiming Democracy"

Kitsap County - October 14th, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, "Tax issues: I-1107, I-1053, I-1098. Eagles Nest, Kitsap Fairground Event Center

Tacoma/Pierce, October 11th, 6:00 pm, UW Tacoma Campus, speaker Bill Gates, Sr. on 1098

LWVWA Civic Engagement Project

State Revenue Sources and the State Budget Process

Where Does the Money Come From?

Information in this section comes from *A Citizen's Guide to the Washington State Budget* [Reference #1 at the bottom of this paper]

Most of the money the state uses to pay for services comes from state taxes: sales tax, property tax, and the Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax which taxes gross receipts rather than profit or income. Washington is one of seven states that does not have an income tax.

To pay for its activities, the state taxes citizens and businesses; receives federal and other grants; collects fees and assesses charges for licenses and permits; and borrows. In addition, there are other sources, including transfers. The state will also receive federal stimulus funds in 2009 and 2010.

2007-09 Revenue

Taxes 48.1%

Federal and other grants 25.7%

Licenses, permits & charges for services 16.2%

Borrowing 7.4%

Other sources (including transfers) 2.6%

State Taxes

Information in this section comes from the *Washington State Yearbook* [Reference #2 at the bottom of this paper]. The *Yearbook*, in turn, obtains its information from the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Secretary of State.

The *Yearbook* lists the state tax categories, and provides data regarding the tax base for each type of tax, a description of the tax, and the rate.

- State General and Selective Sales Taxes

Example: Rental car tax (Tax base: Retail car rentals; Tax rate, 5.9%)

- State Gross Receipts/Business Taxes

Example: Insurance premiums tax (Tax base: Gross premiums received by licensed insurers; Tax rate: Ocean marine/trade 0.95%, all other insurers, 2.0%).

- State Property Tax – Schools

(Tax base: assessed value of taxable real and personal property, annually adjusted to 100% true and fair value.)

- State Excise Taxes in lieu of property tax

Example: Timber excise tax (Tax base: Stumpage value of timber at the time of harvest; Tax rate: public lands 2.9% (2008), private lands 1.0%).

- Other State Taxes

Example: Real Estate excise tax (Tax base: sales of real property; Tax rate 1.28% of selling price).

- Major Local Government Tax Sources

Example: King County Stadiums (Tax base: Prepared food and drinks, 0.5%; baseball sales/use, 0.017%; football sales/use, 0.016%)

Other State Revenue by Source [2]

- Licenses, permits and fees

- Federal revenue, by department and program

- State charges and miscellaneous revenue

- Private/local revenue

- Transfers

- Other revenues and financing sources (principally bond activity).

Additional Revenues

- City and County Taxes - Department of Revenue www.dor.wa.gov

To find the tax rates of your city and county, use the Department of Revenue's website dor.wa.gov and in the left hand column, click on "Sales and use tax rates" and then your address. The sales tax varies by municipality. The personal property tax comprises 30% of state and local taxes. It funds public schools, libraries, fire departments, parks and recreation. The amount which is to be paid is determined by the County Assessor; the state Treasurer collects the tax.

- Federal Funds

Washington receives federal funds from a number of departments. For a complete list, plus the dollar amounts that the state received in 2008, refer to the *Washington State Yearbook, 2009* (Reference #2, below).

- Stimulus Funds www.wa.gov

To learn how your community will benefit from the current stimulus funds, go to wa.gov, then “Official Site of Governor Chris Gregoire”; in the right-hand column, click on “Federal Recovery.” There is a county-by-county map of recovery funding, amounts and programs.

- Department of Natural Resources www.dnr.wa.gov

In its website, dnr.wa.gov, there are headings which describe programs which generate revenue. For example, “Leasing & Land Transactions” provides information on the sale and lease of public lands. It gives notice of upcoming auctions as well as providing the prices paid at recent auctions. The land for sale is listed by county. Additional headings provide information on other revenue-generating programs in this department (license fees, leases, and others).

*League of Women Voters of Washington
Civics Engagement Project, August 2009*

WASHINGTON STATE BUDGET PROCESS - RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

For a description of the budget process, as well as charts illustrating the sources of revenue, go to the website www.wa.gov, then click on “Governor Christine Gregoire”; in the left-hand column, click on “Washington State Budget Process.” Excellent information on the budget process can also be found on the website of the Office of Financial Management. www.ofm.wa.gov/reports/budgetprocess.

Major Resources/References:

[1] *A Citizen's Guide to the Washington State Budget*
Senate Ways and Means Committee
311 John A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0482
Telephone: 360-786-7715
Fax: 360-786-7615
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/senate/scs/wm/default.htm>

[2] *Washington State Yearbook*
Electronic Handbook Publishers Inc.
704 228th Ave NE
Sammamish WA 98074
Telephone: 425-836-0598
Fax: 425-836-0310
info@washingtonstateyearbook.com
Public libraries also carry this book.

National LWV

Despite all our efforts, especially the hard work by the Leagues of Women Voters of Maine and Massachusetts, the [DISCLOSE Act failed](#) by a 59-39 vote. The League lobbied to support the Act, which would have partially restored transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections. The League of Women Voters of Maine's event to encourage their Senators to support the bill received wide coverage from [national press and press in Maine](#). The League issued [a statement](#); sent a [letter to the full Senate](#); and sent a [letter with coalition partners to Senators Snowe and Collins of Maine and Brown of Massachusetts](#), urging them to support the DISCLOSE Act. We focused on these three Senators' crucial votes, but they didn't come through. The fight continues as we expect the legislation to be brought to the Senate again in a lame-duck session after the November elections.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President

Mission of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Goal of the League of Women Voters

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 LWVSJ meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.

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

Co-Presidents:	Ann Jarrell	378-4939	anndon66@hotmail.com
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JOIN US TODAY!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Circle one: (Individual Membership-renewal: \$50) (Two members at same address \$75)
(Student Membership \$25)

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of WA Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check (to LWVWA-EF) in the amount of \$_____.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

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Friday Harbor, WA 98250I

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