

# VOTER

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

June 2008

## Calendar

### **May 31 - June 1, LWVWA Council 2008 at the Clarion Hotel in Yakima**

The Agenda, Registration Form and other materials are now available online in the *Members Only* section at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org), (*User Name:* lwvwa; *Password:* voter and click on "Council"). Council is composed of the president of each local League, the chair of each UAL or an alternate in the event that the president or chair is unable to attend, plus one additional delegate chosen by each local League, and members of the state board. That's two delegates total per League. Observers are welcome! For more information contact: League of Women Voters of Washington, 206-622-8961, email: [lwvwa@lwvwa.org](mailto:lwvwa@lwvwa.org).

### **June 2, Monday, Noon -to 2:00 pm at the San Juan County Library**

The programs for the coming year will be planned. All members are invited. Any member interested in chairing a committee should attend this meeting.

### **June 13 - 17 LWVUS Convention 2008**

All LWV Members are invited to the LWVUS 48th National Convention on June 13-17, 2008 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. Become involved with League priorities and policies at the national level. For those interested in convention happenings, but unable to attend, follow convention activities on the League's website at: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council\\_and\\_Convention](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention).

*Board meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays. 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.*

## **LWVSJ Happenings**

### **April 14, 2008, Membership Meeting**

Members attending this meeting were provided a wealth of information on children's issues; local, state, and national. Joyce Sobel, Executive Director of the San Juan Island Family Resource Center, and Dave Parks, Social Worker, Division of Children and Family Services, Department of Social and Health Services presented their perspectives on the needs for mental health services for children in the county as well as information on adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and trauma-sensitive schools.

### **April 15, 2008, League of Women Voters of Washington Transportation Meeting**

A meeting to discuss rural transportation issues was held in Mount Vernon last month. Martha Rose, Director of Island Transit and Dale O'Brian, Director of Skagit Transit contributed their views to the session. The primary point of discussion was how to encourage the use of public transportation in this era of climate change/greenhouse gas problems and ever-rising fuel costs.

The State League's Transportation Committee is planning a meeting in San Juan County in September. More information on this important meeting will be forthcoming.

### **April 26, 2008, LWVSJ Special Event: "Global Warming and Elections 2008: What are the Candidates Telling Us and What Do We Need to Know?"**

The meeting to discuss the presidential candidates' positions on and the importance of policies on global warming was held in Friday Harbor. Dr. Edwin Dolan, author of TANSTAAFL: The Economic Strategy for Environmental Crisis was the presenter. Over 50 people attended and participated in the discussion. The meeting was also attended by Barbara Seitle, LWVWA President.

### **April 30, 2008, Presentation to Soroptimist International of Friday Harbor**

Nancy Wight, President of LWVSJ delivered a presentation to members of SIFRI at their weekly luncheon meeting. Among the topics included were:

- History of the League
- Membership criteria
- Study and support of issues rather than particular candidates
- Recent topics of study including immigration policy and election administration

An invitation to join the League was also issued.

### **May 5, 2008, LWVSJ Board Meeting**

Items discussed at the meeting included:

- Final preparations for the May 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Luncheon

- A request from The Nature Conservancy soliciting support for the Aquatic Reserve in San Juan County. A call to Barbara Seitle to determine the appropriateness of such a position will be made. A forum on the issue will also be discussed at a later date.

The next board meeting will be Monday, June 2nd from noon to 2:00 pm at the library. The programs for the coming year's meetings will be planned.

### **May 7, 2008, LWVSJ Annual Meeting**

Twenty-two members and three guests attended the annual membership luncheon meeting at Vinny's Ristorante. A number of business matters, including financial reports, the bylaws revision, and membership year changes, were discussed and acted upon. The membership year change means that current memberships are effective through May 2009. Officers for the upcoming year were elected. For further information on any of these items, consult the meeting minutes which were emailed to each member.

Although our guest of honor, Harriet Spanel was unable to attend, a number of members and guests contributed to a video which was sent to Senator Spanel as an expression of our appreciation for her years of service.

### **State/Local LWV**

The legislature has tasked WSF to develop a plan for managing the ferry system over the next 20 years. You may be familiar with the ferry study that the state League produced in 2007. Each local League will have an opportunity to speak out on the strategies that may go into that plan during the Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) meetings to be held around the state beginning in June. The proposed strategies include:

- reducing demand during the morning and afternoon traffic peaks
- matching schedules to actual demand, using a reservation system
- implementing new ticket issuing and collection procedures
- making holding areas more efficient
- addressing unloading congestion
- addressing parking issues
- improving coordination with other transit systems
- improving services to bicycle and pedestrian riders

Liz Illg has offered to serve as the spokesperson for the LWVSJ and will work with state League Transportation Committee members to draft our position statement. Any members interested in participating in this vital discussion should contact Liz at:

[lizillg@rockisland.com](mailto:lizillg@rockisland.com)

## National LWV

### League Says Supreme Court Voter ID Decision "Disgraceful" Voters Cannot Look to Court to Ensure Fair Elections

Washington, DC — "This is a disgraceful decision by a court that has no credibility on election issues. The court has shown once again that it does not respect voters," said Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Wilson went on to say, "Because of the procedural status of the case, there was no record on which the Court could judge how great the burden of a photo ID requirement would be on voters. Nonetheless, the three key justices found that that it was not excessively burdensome. This finding is intellectually as well as morally bankrupt. There is a concerted effort in this country to disenfranchise legal voters and, unfortunately, this Supreme Court has joined those ugly efforts. This is a "bad decision for our democracy. Just because the Supreme Court says a bad policy is constitutional doesn't mean legislatures should adopt it. The League of Women Voters will be fighting against these limitations on democracy in the states and, when necessary, in Congress. It is simply disgraceful when the Supreme Court refuses to protect the constitutional voting rights of Americans." Wilson concluded, "We can no longer look to this Supreme Court to ensure fair elections."

The League of Women Voters of Indiana, LWV of Indianapolis and the League of Women Voters of the United States filed a joint amicus brief in the Supreme Court case, Crawford v. et al.

### **ACTION ALERT: The Senate Must Act on Global Climate Change**

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world. With the U.S. Senate expected to take up legislation this spring, now is the time to let your Senators know that they should support strong action to control global warming.

Please contact your Senators and tell them to support and strengthen S. 2191, America's Climate Security Act.

Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts. America's Climate Security Act, S. 2191, sponsored by Senators Lieberman and Warner, will establish the basic framework that is necessary to curtail the pollution that is causing climate change.

S. 2191 is a good first step. The bill establishes a "cap and trade" system that will, if properly carried out, achieve two essential goals: cutting greenhouse gas emissions enough to prevent the worst impacts of global climate change, and doing so in an economically efficient manner. The "cap" sets a limit on allowable emissions from electric power, transportation and manufacturing sources that will decline over time to meet the pollution-reduction goal. The "trading" system sets up a market that allows sources to

buy, sell, borrow and trade emission allowances so reductions can be achieved in the most cost-effective ways.

However, the legislation should be strengthened in two ways. First, the bill should ensure that pollution reduction goals are consistent with the best scientific analyses. Currently, the legislation does not achieve all the reductions that will likely be needed, and advances in scientific knowledge may later indicate a need for quicker or greater reductions. Second, the auction system should be expanded to include more emissions earlier in the process. This will both speed compliance and increase the economic efficiency of the program.

Tell your Senators to oppose weakening amendments, particularly loopholes that undermine the emissions cap through such mechanisms as a so-called "safety valve" that would allow sources to purchase unlimited emission allowances.

### **Take Action**

- Contact your Senators now, by phone or by email, and tell them to strengthen and pass S. 2191, as well as to oppose weakening amendments. Tell them that global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world.
- Send this alert to other concerned citizens — your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators today!

Learn more about what the League is doing to protect against global climate change at: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global Climate Change](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change)

***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.*

***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 LWVWSJ meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.*

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

President, Nancy Wight	378—3810	<a href="mailto:nancywight@centurytel.net">nancywight@centurytel.net</a>
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Member—At—Large, Beverley Zapalac	468—9040	<a href="mailto:beverlykz@centurytel.net">beverlykz@centurytel.net</a>

***JOIN US TODAY!***

**YES!** I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans for the year June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009.

***Name(s)*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Address*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Phone*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Email*** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

(Individual Membership \$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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***Voter Editor: Marty Huleatte 378-2894***

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