



# VOTER

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

August 2008

## Calendar

September 8, 2008 – Monday, Noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library  
Monthly Board Meeting

On the agenda will be preparation for the General Election Forum. All members are welcome.

September 15, 2008 – Monday, Noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library  
Membership Meeting

The primary purpose for this meeting will be planning for the General Election Forum.

September 17, Wednesday, 10 am to 5 pm –Transportation Summit

This event is being supported by a coalition of organizations including the State LWV and is open to the public. More information will be published as it becomes available.

*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

## July 14 – Monthly Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at noon. Present were Nancy Wight, Pat Curtin, Carol Baylis, Joyce Lewin, Joyce Harrell, Carolyn deRoos, Doris VanAlen, Susan Dehlendorf and Ann Jarrell. Minutes from the June meetings were approved without changes. The treasurer's report indicated we have \$4200 in the savings account and \$249 in the checking account.

**New Business:** Nancy solicited volunteers for committee chairs.

Program Chair: No single person volunteered to coordinate the entire year's program. However, it was determined that we will need speakers only for the months January through April. Individual members volunteered to organize those specific meetings. A preliminary schedule of programs was decided.

- August: Primary Forum
- September: National Election Forum Planning
- October: National Election Forum
- November: National Election
- December: Christmas Luncheon
- January: Topic - Education issues in Friday Harbor School District/San Juan County. Request the new High School principal as speaker. Program organizer TBD.
- February: Topic - Immigration. Program organizer Carolyn deRoos.
- March: Topic - Local issues regarding a new community hospital. Program organizer Susan Dehlendorf
- April: Topic - Local natural environmental issues such as storm water runoff. Program organizer Ann Jarrell et.al.
- May: Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Voter Services Committee: Forum Planning: Nancy and Carol. Voter Registration Day: Lee Sturdivant. Lee asked for volunteers to sit at the voter registration table outside Friday Harbor Drug July 18<sup>th</sup> in support of KOMO TV's area wide voter registration promotion.

Publicity Committee: Susan will do press releases as needed. The League will still need someone to do publicity flyers or other printed materials when necessary.

### **Old Business**

The Primary Forum is to be held on San Juan Island at the Mullis Center August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Members present volunteered for many of the organizational chores involved in presenting the forum but more volunteer help would be welcome. Carolyn deRoos will be moderating. Susan will issue another press release for publication in late July.

Joyce Harrell noted that the Green Party candidate for president is Cynthia McKenny. She also brought to our attention the public notice in the Journal regarding dates for voter registration. There was some question whether these dates conflicted with legal voter registration time limits. Nancy will call the election office to get a definitive answer.

### **July 18 – Voter Registration Day**

Lee Sturdivant set up the "Register to Vote" event in front of the Friday Harbor Drug Store on July 18<sup>th</sup>, the last day to register before the Primary. Helping Lee were Joyce Harrell, Louisa Nishitani, Doris Van Alen, Ann Jarrell and Nancy Wight. Lee also got some help from two young gentlemen who volunteered. Lee was able to get all the forms to the Election Office before they closed at 5:00pm. Thank you all.

### **August 2 – Primary Candidates' Forum**

The 2008 Primary Candidates' Forum was held at the Mullis Center. Nearly 100 people, including candidates, attended. Videos of the proceedings have been made available to members from the other islands and will be available in each library. The entire forum has also been posted online at [www.sjmedia.org](http://www.sjmedia.org). Click on the League link on the left-hand side of the page.

### **State/Local LWV**

The rebroadcast of the Washington State Supreme Court Candidate Forum held July 17 has started running on TVW, the Washington State Public Affairs Network. You can find the full schedule of rebroadcasts and web streaming on the site at: <http://www.tvw.org/index.cfm?bhcp=1>

The League of Women Voters of Washington's offices have recently moved. They are now located at:

4730 University Way NE, #720  
Seattle, WA 98105  
(in the Lothlorien Building).

Phone: 206-622-8961  
FAX: 206-622-4908  
(outside toll area: 800-419-2596)  
Email: [lwwa@lwwa.org](mailto:lwwa@lwwa.org).

## National LWV

### VA SECRETARY PEAKE URGED TO STOP BLOCKING VOTER REGISTRATION

#### *Voting Rights Groups Encourage Voter Registration at VA Facilities*

Washington, DC—Today, leading voting rights groups called on James B. Peake, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to reverse a recent decision that prohibits VA offices and facilities from offering voter registration and potentially registering tens of thousands of veterans.

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), Common Cause, Demos and the League of Women Voters urged Secretary Peake to approve future state requests to allow voter registration at VA agencies and offices. This would be a reversal of his ruling on a May 1, 2008, request by California Secretary of State Debra Bowen that he agree to the designation of VA sites in her state as voter registration agencies, as permitted under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz made a similar request on July 2, 2008.

“As a former secretary of state, I know how important it is for our veterans to be able to participate in our democracy,” said Miles Rapoport, president of Demos and former Secretary of State of Connecticut. “I urge James Peake to stop blocking voter registration by our vets.”

The national voting rights groups—in conjunction with their grassroots state-based chapters around the country—also sent letters today to chief election officials in each state, calling on them to request that the VA agree to the designation of its offices and facilities in their states as voter registration agencies.

“Designation of VA facilities as voter registration agencies is the single most important action that can be taken to help veterans participate in our nation’s elections,” said Bob Edgar, president of Common Cause. “We will be working with state election officials to make this a reality.”

In addition to the refusal to accept designation as a voter registration agency, the Department of Veterans Affairs has recently taken other steps that restrict voter registration opportunities for America’s veterans. On May 5, 2008, the Veterans Health Administration issued Directive 2008-025, prohibiting all voter registration drives at its medical facilities and raising legal barriers to activities by nonpartisan voter registration groups like the League of Women Voters.

“Secretary Peake’s actions are baffling,” according to Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “Why is he standing in the way of non-partisan voter registration?” she asked. “Obviously, Secretary Peake is getting bad advice on how to help veterans.”

U.S. Senators Feinstein, Kerry and Akaka, and 10 Secretaries of State have separately called on VA Secretary Peake to rescind the new Directive and help veterans register to vote.

“For veterans with disabilities, voter registration opportunities through the VA are essential,” said Jim Dickson, vice-president of American Association of Persons with Disabilities. “Veterans with disabilities have a harder time registering to vote through state agencies, so we call on Secretary Peake to help.”

State election officials meet next week at a conference of the National Association of Secretaries of State, which will be held from July 25-28 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Many of these election officials are expected to discuss voter registration opportunities for veterans.

***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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***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***

***[marty@rockisland.com](mailto:marty@rockisland.com)***