



VOTER

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

February 2011

Calendar

February Membership Meeting

In lieu of a regular membership meeting, members are encouraged to attend *Lobby Day* which is on February 24th in Olympia. See page 4 for the registration form and directions.

**March 7, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

**March 14, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Membership Meeting**

The March general membership meeting will be devoted to the upcoming County Charter Review process which will begin this year with the election of the Charter Review Committee. Eighteen people, elected by district, will comprise the committee. After a period of review and public input, they will propose any changes to the current charter. Those changes will be voted upon in the county's November 2012 general election. This five year review of the charter is required by state law. The next review is not required for 10 years, so this is our last chance to make changes for a decade.

Our meeting will be composed of two stages. First, George Johnson will speak about the background of the current charter. A second speaker will talk about what will occur during the review process this year, and then we will have a discussion about what citizens believe has worked, and what has not worked. The panel will include five individuals. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

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.

LWVSJ Happenings

February 14, 2011 – Board Meeting

A summary of this board meeting will be included in the March issue of the *Voter*.

January 11, 2011 – Membership Meeting

For those of you who were not able to attend the January Membership Meeting, I want to give you an update. The meeting was about state LWV Program Planning. We recommended three topics for State League to put on their list of priorities this coming year: taxes, transportation and early childhood education.

We formed a committee to determine whether or not the WA State Ferry study done by LWVWA (it is on the state website www.lwvwa.org) should be updated or whether, as it reads now, it provides adequate provisions to accomplish what we wanted it to. The majority of members stated that they would equate ferries with highways, wanted to achieve transportation equity and that all in the state should bear the burden of costs. We also want to look closely at privatization. If anyone on Orcas would like to be on this committee, they would be a good addition. We have two SJI and one Lopez members on the committee now.

We must respond to LWVWA by February 14th but hope to have the recommendation by the next board meeting. We are not sure at this time what would be involved if we recommended an update. WE may have to participate in the update process, but most felt that we should not let this go by the wayside and should put forth our opinion. These ferries are our highway to the rest of the state. SO... if there is interest in being on the committee, anyone would be welcome. They can get in touch with me and I will pass on their names to the committee.

Also, in lieu of the membership meeting in February, we are encouraging members to participate in Lobby Day in Olympia, February 24th. If you are interested in attending Lobby Day, let me know because we would like to reserve a block of rooms for our contingent at a nearby hotel the night before. We also would welcome Orcas members to be part of this. We would also be happy to carpool or caravan. If anyone is interested and was not at the meeting to put their names on the signup sheet, please contact me.

Ann Jarrell

378-4939

LWV of Washington

Below is the agenda for the League of Women Voters of Washington's annual day in Olympia to be held Thursday, February 24th. There is still time to register! Call 206-622-8961 or email lwvwa@lwvwa.org. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch. Don't forget to make appointments with your legislators ahead of time. We hope to see you there!

February 24th, 2011

Capitol Building

Columbia Room

Agenda

8:00 Registration, Coffee

8:30 Welcome – Linnea Hirst, LWVWA President

8:40 Lobby Day Perspectives – Lonnie Johns-Brown, LVVWA Lobbyist

9:00 Introduction of Lobby Team – Kim Abel, Lobby Team Chair

Lobby Team Handouts

9:20 Panel on Washington Spending, What's Gone, What Could Be Lost and What the Future Looks Like Without “It”

Health Care: Jennifer Allen, Healthy Washington Coalition

Children’s Issues: Laurie Lippold, Children’s Home Society of WA

Education: Dan Steele, Asst. Exec. Dir. for Government Relations for WASA (WA Association of School Administrators)

Environment: Bill Robinson, Nature Conservancy

10:40 Break

**11:00 Suzanne DelBene, Department of Revenue Director
Perspectives on Revenues for Washington’s Future**

11:30 Lobbying How To’s - By Lobby Team

12:30 Lunch available in Columbia Room - Sit with Lobby Team Member to Review Lobbying Handout, Issue Papers and Hone Message to Legislators

12:30- 2:30 Lobbying -Visit with your legislators, go to hearings, then report back. Complete the evaluation form. What did you hear from legislators? What hearings did you monitor? Your assessment; do you have a follow up?

2:30 Adjourn

LOBBY DAY

February 24, 2011

Registration 8:30 am; Program begins 9:00 am

REGISTRATION Cost: \$25 per person, Lunch Provided

Columbia Room, State Capitol, Olympia

You will make a difference when you come to Lobby Day at our State Capitol. Learn how to help our Volunteer Lobby Team and then put your knowledge into practice immediately. Make appointments NOW to meet your legislators and spread the League's priorities (find the 2011 LWVWA Priorities at www.lwvwa.org under *Positions*).

Name

Address*

City, State, Zip *

Tel/email

VISA Mastercard*

Expiration Date*

Check enclosed

Mail to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105

*required for credit card processing



Directions:

From I-5 Southbound: Bear right on ramp at sign reading "Exit 105A to State Capitol" and go west for 0.8 miles. Continue on 14th Avenue SE and go west for 0.4 miles to the Visitor Information Center at Capitol Way S at 14th Avenue SW.

From I-5 Northbound: Bear right on ramp at sign reading "Exit 105A to State Capitol" and go northeast for 0.3 miles. Bear right on 14th Avenue SE and go west for 0.6 miles to Capitol Way S at 14th Avenue SW. You can see a map at <http://www.ga.wa.gov/visitor/direction.htm>. Or, you can check out the Legislature web-site at

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/visitingthelegislature.aspx>

LWVWA Program Planning Process Update

The Seattle League did a comprehensive study on privatization in 2009. It can be found at <http://www.seattlelwv.org/sites/default/files/privatization2009.pdf>. They also conducted a study on public/private partnerships. The State League is being asked to take positions on the many efforts to privatize government. There will be a request at the state convention to adopt a concurrence with the Seattle League's positions.

Below is the concurrence proposal on privatization that LWV/Seattle would like other chapters to consider during the Program Planning process. Since LWV/SJ has completed its planning activities, this proposal will be presented to the board for consideration.

Privatization

As many of you know, the movement to privatize government services, assets and functions is charging ahead due to the tremendous budget deficits. It is a complex topic with lots of posturing from special interest groups. It is increasingly important to provide effective citizen input to insure the public is being served as decisions are being made at the polls and in the legislature.

On a state level there are no positions that cover this important topic and therefore our hands are tied. We could not take a stand. The most recent issues on the ballot were to privatize workers compensation and liquor sales. Other efforts being presented in the legislature include privatizing bridges, ferries, parks, schools, social services, prisons, transportation and utilities, just to name a few. State assets are being sold to make the budget balance and services are being dropped. There are times when the decisions to privatize (turn over to for-profit organizations) can be good and times when they are not good. Leagues would like to be able to be involved in providing citizen input into these decisions.

Thank you,
Nora Leech, LWV/Seattle

National LWV

Oppose Effort to Undermine Vital Role of Average Citizens and Small Donors in Financing Presidential Elections, Vote No on H.R. 359

January 24, 2011

Dear Representative,

Our groups strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 359, a bill to repeal the presidential public financing system. This legislation would eliminate a system which has given average citizens and small donors a critically important role to play in funding our presidential campaigns.

The presidential public financing system has served the country and presidential candidates of both parties well for most of its 35-year existence. The system only began to decline when campaign costs outstripped the public financing provided to participating candidates and frontloading changes in the presidential nominating process occurred.

The presidential public financing system needs to be repaired, not repealed, in order to continue serving the interests of the American people and protecting against corruption. The groups opposing H.R. 359 include Americans for Campaign Reform, Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, League of Women Voters, People For the American Way, Public Campaign, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG.

On January 5, 2011 newly elected Speaker John Boehner promised the American people “a fair, open process” in Congress. We cannot see how this commitment matches up with the plan to bring H.R. 359 to the floor for a vote in the first month of a two-year Congress with no hearings on the legislation and no consideration of the legislation by the committee of jurisdiction.

Since 1976, the presidential public financing system has been voluntarily used by most candidates from both parties. For example, every Republican presidential nominee from 1976 to 2008 used the presidential public financing system to finance their general election campaigns. This included President Gerald Ford, President Ronald Reagan (twice), President George H.W. Bush, Senator Bob Dole, President George W. Bush (twice) and Senator John McCain.

Similarly all Democratic presidential nominees during this same period, with the exception of President Barack Obama, used the system to pay for their general election campaigns. This included President Jimmy Carter (twice), Vice President Walter Mondale, Governor Michael Dukakis, President Bill Clinton (twice), Vice President Al Gore and Senator John Kerry. The Republican and Democratic parties have also requested and received public funds to pay for their national presidential nominating conventions for every convention from 1976 to 2008.

The *Citizens United* decision which unleashed corporate expenditures in our national elections demonstrates just how essential it is to repair the presidential public financing system. A modernized system would provide presidential candidates with a viable alternative way to finance their campaigns focused on average citizens and small donors, as opposed to being dependent on big donors, bundlers, lobbyists, and corporate and other outside spenders.

Reps. David Price (D-N.C.) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) introduced legislation in the last Congress (H.R. 6061), and will be re-introducing it again, that would modernize the presidential public financing system and make it an attractive and viable option again. The key goal of this legislation is to increase the role and importance of small donors in presidential campaigns and decrease the role and importance of influence-seeking money.

Public financing of presidential elections has been valuable because it has provided candidates with the monies they need to mount viable candidacies and wage competitive campaigns. In this way, public funding has not only served to promote competition in elections and provide more meaningful choices to voters, but it has also helped to ensure that more presidential candidates have the opportunity to share their views with the electorate. For many candidates, public funding was the source of sorely needed funds at crucial points in a presidential race.

President Ronald Reagan, for example, probably benefited from public financing as much as any candidate who has used the system. President Reagan participated in the presidential public financing system in all three of his presidential campaigns in 1976, 1980 and 1984. Due to his broad base of supporters throughout the nation, President Reagan was able to capitalize on his small-donor fundraising capacity to accrue substantial sums of public money. In fact, even in 1984, when as President he was seeking reelection without significant opposition from within his own party, President Reagan raised about 60 percent of the funds for his campaign from small donors and, as a result, received \$9.7 million in primary matching funds. Most notably, this was the maximum amount of public money a primary candidate could receive in accordance with the law at the time. To date, President Reagan stands as the only candidate to ever reach the public funding primary campaign maximum.

It is essential to the health and integrity of our democracy to defeat the effort this week to kill the presidential public financing system and to move towards modernizing the system. House members should support efforts to increase the role and importance of average citizens and small donors in our presidential elections. Representatives should not take action to turn the elections over to big donors, bundlers, lobbyists, corporate spenders and other outside spenders.

Our organizations strongly urge you to vote against H.R 359.

Americans for Campaign Reform
Brennan Center for Justice
Campaign Legal Center
Common Cause
Democracy 21

League of Women Voters
People For the American Way
Public Campaign
Public Citizen
U.S PIRG

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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Voter Services Chair	Jill Johnson	370-5104	jilljohnson888@hotmail.com

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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