



# VOTER

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

**January 2010**

## **Calendar**

**January 11, 2010 - 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library  
Monthly Membership Meeting**

The January 11<sup>th</sup> program topic will be a discussion of the three top Legislative Priorities for the WA State legislative session. Members who attended the Action Workshop will give a synopsis of those priorities. In addition, LWVUS Convention Program Planning issues will be presented, discussed and finalized. Members are asked to prepare for participation in Program Planning by looking at *Impact on Issues, 2008-2010* and more specifically *Positions in Brief 2008-2010* which is available on the LWVUS website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). The *Positions* document is also attached to the email transmitting this issue of the *Voter*.

We will also hear from a representative of the school district and from Jim Cole of EMS about the upcoming special election for the school and EMS levies.

**January 19, 2010 - Columbia Room, State Capitol, Olympia  
LWVWA Lobby Day**

Join us for Lobby Day and be among the first to see the second terrific *YouTube* video by the Civic Engagement Project Committee. The first video the League did—on I-1033—was the most watched video on *YouTube* on some days, and had rave reviews from a wide range of people and websites. (If you missed that video, be sure to see it by going to the LWVWA website, and click on *Positions* to find it.)

League Lobby Day is always a very interesting day. We gather and talk about legislative issues, hear an important speaker or two (last year it was Governor Gregoire), and meet at least some of the state legislators and their staffs who come into our meeting room.

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

Even more interesting and important, many of us make appointments to go to the offices of our individual legislators to give them our Legislative Priorities cards and to discuss those priorities with them. It's a full day, a day we come away from with a real feeling of satisfaction.

Please do join us! And don't forget that you'll be in on the special treat of the unveiling of our next two-minute video.

See page 7 of this issue of the ***Voter*** for more information and the registration form.

### **February 9, 2010 – Special Election**

There will be a special election in San Juan County on February 9<sup>th</sup> (ballots will be mailed to registered voters on about January 20<sup>th</sup>). The election will be for three school board levies; Lopez School District, Orcas School District and San Juan School District. San Juan Island will also have a renewal of the Hospital District levy including EMS. Ballots must be returned by hand or mailed/postmarked by February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **LWVSJ Happenings**

### **January 4, 2010 – Monthly Board Meeting**

#### Summary of Board Meeting Minutes

The January 11<sup>th</sup> program will be to discuss the three top Legislative Priorities for the WA State legislative session. Attendees of the Action Workshop will give a synopsis of those priorities. In addition, LWVUS Convention Program Planning issues will be presented, discussed and finalized. Lobby Day will be organized among interested members.

The February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the LWV Recruitment Open House at the home of Susan Dehlendorf. Note that this is a Saturday from 3-5 pm. This will take the place of the regular general meeting scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday. We will invite the applicants for the position of Superior Court Judge: Stuart Andrews, Don Eaton, John Wickham and Randy Gaylord and any others who declare themselves as applicants for the position. They will be given an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves to the attendees. This meeting will serve two purposes. One to introduce Superior Court applicants to League members and guests and the second is to give potential new members insight into the type of activities the League is involved with. Transportation to Susan's home for ferry riders from other islands will be arranged if needed.

The March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a presentation on the Critical Area Ordinance by Shireen Hale from the SJC Planning Department with a question and answer session to follow. Shireen is well versed in the requirements of the CAO, its relationship to the Growth Management Act and implications of inaction.

April will be a book review. All members are being asked to read "The Nine" and a discussion will ensue.

For the Annual Meeting we will ask Jeff Morris and Kevin Ranker to speak. The date is to be determined. There was also a brief discussion on having a presentation on nuclear power. This topic will be pursued as a presentation for next year.

The purchase of a portable microphone system (basically a portable public address system) is under consideration and is being researched as to cost and quality.

### **December 7, 2009 – Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon**

The Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon was a great success with over forty members and guests attending. In addition to the chance to socialize with others and to enjoy a delicious Vinny's meal, attendees were treated to a very informative presentation by Judy Ostrow, from the State LWV Board. Judy brought us up to date on the LWVWA's Civic Engagement Project.

### **November 9, 2009 - Membership Meeting**

Our November membership meeting made the local news. The following is the article that appeared in the December 2<sup>nd</sup> *San Juan Update*.

#### **Passing the citizenship test.... By Ian Byington on Dec 2, 2009**



*It's always good to have a special guest at your meetings....A statuesque Lady Liberty appeared at the League of Women Voters meeting last month. Members and guests tested themselves by taking the U.S. citizenship naturalization test and learned about the history of immigration.*

Last month the League of Women Voters held their regular meeting with something special – first of all, the Statue of Liberty showed up, as you can see. (That’s Susan Dehlendorf, I think...)

The other interesting thing was they offered a test that’s like the one folks who are becoming new citizens get to take...so I asked if I could share the questions with you (so you could see how you do!)

So – here ya go:

1. *What does the Constitution do?*
2. *The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?*
3. *What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?*
4. *What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?*
5. *What keeps one branch of government from becoming ?*
6. *The House of Representatives has how many voting members?*
7. *Why do some states have more representatives than others?*
8. *If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President? If that person cannot serve, who becomes President?*
9. *What does the President’s Cabinet do?*
10. *What does the judicial branch do?*
11. *Who is the Chief Justice?*
12. *What is one power reserved to the federal government? What is one power belonging to the states?*
13. *Name one right only for U.S. citizens. Name two rights of everyone living in the United States.*
14. *What is one promise you make when you become a U. S. citizen?*
15. *Why did the colonists fight the British?*
16. *Name three (or more) of the original 13 states.*
17. *The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one (or more) of the writers.*
18. *What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?*
19. *Who was President during World War I?*
20. *Name one (or more) American Indian tribes in the United States.*
21. *Name one (or both) of the longest rivers in the United States.*
22. *Name one U.S. territory (or more).*
23. *Name two (or up to 10) national U.S. holidays.*
24. *Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

## **LWV of Washington**

### **LWVWA Civic Engagement Project - Budget Basics and Tax Facts – Introduction**

In a year when headlines and TV anchors blare the news of record budget shortfalls at all levels of government, people are made painfully aware of the importance of “the purse.” But even in times when the economy is doing well, and income appears to be flowing into governmental coffers,

issues surrounding exactly where the money comes from to fund governmental services – and on exactly which services the money should be spent – are still of major importance.

All of us, when asked, could cite programs and services provided by government that we would be hard-pressed to forgo: Dan petitions for new soccer fields so his team can schedule more games. Mary, whose paycheck dried up just as her diabetes ramped up, hopes she can obtain subsidized health care benefits. Fred spoke at a city council meeting demanding that the potholes on his street be filled in. Esther's passion is preserving habitat for salmon; Karen's is preserving class size in her kids' school.

Of course, not everyone agrees on the relative importance of each of these programs and services. In the face of diverse and competing demands, how do we decide which programs and services will receive funding, how much each program or service will receive and where those funds will come from? The budget process is the mechanism for resolving such issues.

A budget is a blueprint or roadmap showing money flows – where the money will come from, how it will be spent. Governments at all levels draw up budgets, just as families sometimes do. Governments also set tax policies and strategies, since taxes form a major part of the revenue stream identified in the budget or budgets.

The legislator who understands and influences monetary decisions is capable of wielding great power. The citizen who understands budgeting and tax policy can have great impact, too.

The "Source" papers that accompany these information pieces can set you on track to discuss state budgeting and state tax policy – and to make your voice heard in the halls of government on issues that are important to you. They can be found on the LWVWA website. Click on the link to the Civic Engagement Project at <http://www.lwvwa.org/>.

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

## **National LWV**

### **LEAGUE RECOGNIZES SENATE FOR PASSING HISTORIC HEALTH CARE REFORM**

#### **Hopeful that Final Bill will Include Public Insurance Option**

Washington, D.C. – League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson today acknowledged the Senate's passage of health care reform legislation before the Christmas holidays as a step forward in the struggle to extend health care coverage to all Americans.

"The League is encouraged to see the Senate take action that moves health care reform closer to final passage," she said. "However, we are extremely disappointed that this deal came at the expense of a public insurance option, an element the League believes is crucial to protecting consumer choice and controlling health care costs in the long-run."

“The harsh reality is that we can no longer afford to do nothing, and key provisions of this bill are a step in the right direction,” Wilson continued. “The Senate bill extends coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans, expands Medicaid coverage for the poor, subsidizes some of the costs of care for individuals, and prevents insurance companies from denying insurance to those with pre-existing conditions or dropping coverage due to an illness. These are historic reforms that should not be underestimated, and will greatly reduce the suffering that has gone on for too long in this health care crisis,” Wilson continued. “Our hope is that the bill that comes out of Conference will include these provisions and more, including a government-run insurance option for those who cannot afford private coverage or find adequate coverage in their area.”

“Americans are counting on Congress and the President to finally put an end to this health care crisis,” Wilson concluded.

# League of Women Voters of Washington

## LOBBY DAY

January 19, 2010

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

REGISTRATION

Cost: \$25 per person

Lunch Provided

Columbia Room, State Capitol, Olympia

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/email \_\_\_\_\_

VISA                       M/C

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

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

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>

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

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

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Co-Chair Voter Services Committee:	Nancy Wight	378-3810	<a href="mailto:nancywight@centurytel.net">nancywight@centurytel.net</a>

***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** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEMBERS: Join before January 31<sup>st</sup> and save \$10!**

Circle one: (Individual Membership-renewal: \$50) (Individual Membership-new: \$40)  
(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:**

League of Women Voters of the San Juans  
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