



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine,
Co-Presidents

October 2006
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VOTER Editor, CJ Tyler-Watson
VOTER Publisher, Betty Banks

“The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy.”

October – Ballot Issues Discussions

October Unit meetings will provide the opportunity for members to discuss the issues on the November ballot. There are three statewide initiatives, one state constitutional amendment, and two local issues.

• State Issues

Your Fall 2006 LWVWA Voter will arrive in the mail around the first of October. Pages 5 & 6 of that publication provide more information on these initiatives (including League’s position and websites to contact for further information.

- o **I-920 (estate tax)**
- o **I-933 (“takings”/land use)**
- o **I-937 (energy resources)**
- o **HJR 4223** The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on increasing an exemption from the personal property tax. This amendment would authorize the legislature to increase the personal property tax exemption for taxable personal property owned by each “head of a family” from three thousand (\$3,000) to fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars.

• Local Issues –

o Spokane Transit Authority has two Propositions that are advisory votes regarding planning and funding for a proposed Light Rail System:

1 – Should STA identify regional funding sources and local taxing alternatives for the purpose of developing a funding plan for the construction of a \$263,000,000 light rail system (estimated in current dollars) between the cities of Spokane, Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake, and bring that funding plan to the voters at a future election?

2 – Should STA use existing resources to fund preliminary engineering/design and environmental analysis for a future light rail system between the cities of Spokane, Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake. The use of existing resources for this limited purpose will not result in a decrease in the level of overall current fixed route, paratransit and rideshare services, nor an increase in the current transit sales tax.

o City of Spokane Charter Amendment on procedure regarding recall elections of elected officials for violation of the City’s Code of Ethics

Forums

It is Forum season... **LWVSA** will be part of two separate Forums. **LWV Forum with CityCable 5** – On October 11 & 12 **LWV** will host a General Election Forum that will be taped by City of Spokane, CityCable 5. Both sessions start at 5:30 p.m. The sessions will be rebroadcast several times on CityCable 5. The schedule for the Forum is:

October 11 – Washington State Legislative races, starting with State Senate, District 6 (Brad Benson & Chris Marr), followed by the State Representatives – District 6 #1 (Don Barlow & John Serben), District 6 #2 (John Ahern & Barbara Lampert), District 3 #1 (Laura Carder & Alex Wood), District 4 #2 (Lynn Schindler & Ed Foote). Following the candidates, there will be pro and con speakers on the three state ballot issues and as well as the two local issues.

October 12 – Spokane County races beginning with the Spokane County Commissioner, District 3 race – Phil Harris & Bonnie Mager. Following will be the Assessor (Ralph Baker & Judy Personett), Auditor (Vicky Dalton & Mike Volz), Prosecuting Attorney (Bob Caruso & Steve Tucker), Treasurer (Skip Chilberg & Bob Wrigley), and Sheriff (James Flavel & Ozzie Knezovich)

Following those races, **Spokane District Court** judicial candidates will be presented – Position 3 (John Cooney & Mark Laiminger), Position 4 (Patti Connolly Walker & Mary Logan), Position 5 (Gregory Tripp & Jeffrey Leslie), Position 6 (Debra

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Unit Meetings

Remember, any member / potential member may attend any Unit

Oct. 9 Unit 7&9 12:30 p.m. 221 East Rockwood Blvd.
Sibyl Disch 747-4008

Oct. 12 Unit 5 9:30 a.m. LWV Office 2404 North Howard
Martha Preecs 325-4725

Units 3 and 4 will not meet at there regular times (due to the conflict with the General Election Forum on October 12). Members are advised to either attend another unit meeting, or be sure to be at the Forum on October 11 when the Ballot Issues will be presented.

President's Perspective...

Sometime when I am overwhelmed with all that there is to do, especially during this busy election season, the affirmation comes from an unexpected place.

While I was sitting down to a work meeting with a fellow recycler, he noted that I had been a part of "that candidate forum on TV." I confirmed that he was indeed talking about our Primary Candidate Forum and he said that he had happened onto the program, and just watched the entire thing. He said that watching that forum had really helped him make up his mind!

On Monday, September 25th, Sandy Paine and I had the pleasure of attending the luncheon for the Senate Committee Assembly.

With regard to a Spokane County Voter's Pamphlet, I had responded to a request from Paul Brandt to testify at a special hearing conducted by the County Commissioners. At that time, the Commissioners did not vote in favor of the printed pamphlet (that would be produced through a grant from HAVA). Since that time, both the Commissioners and our League office received numerous phone calls. Sandy called the Commissioners to let them know of the number of calls to our League office alone. Sandy received a follow-up call from the Commissioners office saying that there will now be a printed Voters Pamphlet mailed to each registered voter in the County!

It seems to all add up — we are involved in what we do to help provide Voter Service in our community. Now, if I could just get my kids to be sure to return their ballots!

Ann Murphy

Quotable Quote

"One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." Plato

Tax Facts:

The most common methods of raising revenue for state government can be compared to a three-legged stool: income, sales and property taxes. The state of Washington has a two-legged stool from which approximately 53% of state revenues rely on sales taxes. A sales tax is considered "regressive" because it disproportionately affects low-income persons. Example: In Washington State, households earning \$25,000 (lowest 20% of population) pay 8.5% of their income in state taxes, mostly sales and sin taxes. Those in the upper 20% (incomes of \$150,000) pay 5.8%. The averages for the United States are 8% for low income and 9.10% for upper income.

Pam Behring



Splinters from the Board



Treasurer's Report:

Checking \$358.83 Savings \$4,656.76



Membership Totals:

Local 72 National 12 Total 84

Unit Meeting Attendance: 22

32 members have paid their dues. Remainder of dues need to be paid now.



Ann Murphy and **Sandy Paine** will attend the luncheon for the Washington State Senate and staffers on Sept. 25.



Pam Behring will attend the Washington Tax Coalition Workshop on Sept. 24.



Posters have been distributed for the Library Foundation Forum on Oct. 18.



Sandy Haupt will be designing signage and holiday invitations with the League logo.



150 phone calls were received in the office requesting and debating the importance of a county voters pamphlet for the primary.



Pam Behring, Mary Lloyd and Ann Murphy will speak with current legislators on transportation issues.

Water Drops



City of Spokane Master Shorelines Program:



- Open House, October 19, 2006, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, West Central Community Center, 1603 N Belt Street.
- "Spokane Building Blocks" Shoreline Update, CityCable5, DVD available at 625-6300.
- Website www.spokaneplanning.org/, click on "Shorelines Update."

Spokane River

Clean Water Workshop

Saturday Nov. 4, 2006

9 am - 3 pm at Gonzaga Law School
721 N. Cincinnati St.

Learn about water issues and how to be an advocate for the river. The workshop is *free*, but you are asked to register for the free lunch, call 328-8144 or go to www.info@spokaneriver.net

Alice Stolz

The LWV VOTER is published monthly except in the summer by the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area, 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane WA 99205. Members of the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area subscribe through their annual dues. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen, 18 or older, may join the League of Women Voters.

Member Profile Section

Vivian Winston, a life member of League of Women Voters, has been recognized by the Women Helping Women Fund. The WHWF has established a scholarship in honor of Vivian that will provide help with childcare to women going back to school to complete an undergraduate degree. The scholarship was announced at the annual luncheon in May. Anyone wishing to donate can make the donation out to the WHWF / Vivian Winston Scholarship Fund and mail it to the WHWF office, 1315 N. Napa Street, Spokane, WA 99202. Vivian is one of the co-founders of the Women Helping Women Fund, and a long time advocate for women and children. Vivian recently celebrated her 95th birthday. Thank you Vivian for all that you are, and have been!

AnnMurphy

Jean Wells is doing well but has been busy caring for her father. She has, however, registered voters and distributed information on the initiatives at Coeur d' Alene Park on July 20 at the request of Voices and Children's Alliance. She will be the timer at the candidate forum held October 5 at Northeast Community Center. Thank you, Jean, for your contributions to League.

Pam Behring

Growth Management

- City of Spokane Planning Services Department news letter **Plan It Spokane**. To receive by mail or electronically, call 625-6016.
- To monitor development applications/permits/variances, etc., go to website www.spokaneplanning.org/ and click on box at the bottom of the site titled "Planning Application Summary Sheets, File #: PASS (for short)."
- Spokane County Building and Planning newsletter **Planning Ahead**. To be on the mailing list, call 477-3675.
- Comprehensive Plan Update: www.spokanecounty.org/bp/, where you see "View the information and comments submitted for the **Five Year Update** of the Comprehensive Plan map and text. The update is for years 2006-2026," click on "click here for more...."

Alice Stolz

MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want to join The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____

Fax: _____ e-mail: _____

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Hayes & Mike Nelson). The evening will close with the candidates for US Representative, District 5 - Peter Goldmark & Cathy McMorris.

The rebroadcast schedule:

10/13	9:00 p.m.	County Offices
10/14	3:30 p.m.	State Leg/US Rep
	5:00 p.m.	District Court Judges
	8:30 p.m.	Ballot Issues
10/16	9:30 a.m.	County Offices
10/17	9:00 p.m.	Ballot Issues
10/20	9:00 p.m.	District Court Judges
10/21	8:30 p.m.	State Leg/US Rep
10/22	10:30 a.m.	County Offices
	12:00 p.m.	Ballot Issues
10/26	11:30 a.m.	District Court Judges
	8:30 p.m.	State Leg/US Rep
10/27	9:00 p.m.	Ballot Issues
10/28	4:00 p.m.	District Court Judges
	8:30 p.m.	County Offices
10/29	10:00 a.m.	State Leg/US Rep

November replay TBA

Town Hall Candidate Forum – October 18 (7:00 – 8:30

p.m.). The Spokane Public Library Foundation along with the Spokane Public Library and LWVSA will host a forum for the candidates in the County Commissioner race, the State Senate (District 6) and House of Representatives (District 3 & 6). The Forum will be at the Downtown Public Library (906 W. Main Ave.). Questions will come from the citizens in attendance and an informal reception will follow.

For another perspective with the candidates, catch the Chase Youth Forum on CityCable 5 – 10/21 (12:30 p.m.), 10/22 (2:30 p.m.) and 10/31 (8 p.m.)

Plan to come out and join in the Forums – they really are great and informative events.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES BY NOV. 1ST! ! !

Or call **Betty Banks** at 326-3442

Please make check payable to & mail to:

LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane, WA 99205

\$ 65. Individual	distribution
	Local \$21.70
	State \$18
	Nat'l \$26.30
\$100. Household	
\$100. Sustaining Member	
\$150. Benefactor	
\$ 45. Student Rate	



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE SPOKANE AREA**

2404 N. Howard
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 326-8026

WWW.LWVWA.ORG/SPOKANE

LWV/Spokane Area

Co-Presidents:

Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine

Secretary:

Sandy Haupt

Treasurer:

Betty Banks

Directors:

Pam Behring, Nancy O’Keeffe

Nominating Committee:

Chris Clark, Chair, & Suzi Hokonson

TO:

Calendar

- Oct. 11 & 12 General Election Forum w/ CityCable 5
- Oct. 10-12 Ballot Issues Unit Meetings
- Oct. 18 Forum w/ Library Foundation
- Oct. 19 **LWVSA Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at LWV office.**
- Oct. 24 UN Day Dinner
Ballot Issues presentation
("Need to Know" group),
Emanuel Lutheran, 6 pm
- Nov. 4 Spokane River Clean Water Workshop
(see page 2)
- Nov. 7 **Election Day**
- Nov. 9 & 13 Unit Meetings – Election Reform
- Nov. 16 **LWVSA Board Meeting, 5:30 pm at LWV office**
- Nov. 18 **LWVWA Action Workshop, Bellevue**
- Nov. 28 **Legislative Luncheon**

Looking Ahead -Unit meetings in November will be discussion on the State Study on Election Reform. You can get your own copy on-line at: www.lwvwa.org. Some print copies will be available at your October Unit meetings. This will be a consensus study and the next VOTER will have more information.

UN DAY DINNER
Tuesday Oct. 24th
Mukogawa Fort Wright Commons
\$25.00
Keynote speaker: Deb Harper, MD
"Maternal Health & Well-Being:
A Cornerstone of the Millennium Development Goals."
For More Info: Jane Bowen, Treasurer (534-5253)

Updated Member Handbooks will be available at the October unit meetings and at the Election Forums. For those members not attending those meetings, the Handbook will be mailed.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES BY NOV. 1ST!!!