

# THE VOTER



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This Newsletter published by and for the League of Women Voters of Yakima County

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION

To empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

## OFFICERS

*President:* Cynthia Garrick  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres:* Mary Crago  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres:* (Vacant)  
*Secretary:* Karen Pilon  
*Treasurer:* Janis Luvaas

## Board of Directors

Doris Ayyoub  
Jackie Call  
Jackie Hertel  
Kitty Jubran  
Becky Scholl  
Elaine Smith  
Millie Stenejhem

*Voter Editor :* Elaine Smith

## Annual Meeting Report

Elaine Beraza, Superintendent of Public Schools, Yakima, was our featured speaker. After briefly describing her background, Ms. Beraza entertained the group with a description of the new Eisenhower High School facility assisted by an architect's drawing of the new building. The recently passed Yakima bond issue and a School Improvement Grant (SIG) will permit the district to bring about needed changes throughout the school district. There remains the possibility, depending on funding, that the planned remodeling of Davis High School may be undertaken along with the Eisenhower project.

Ms. Beraza described her objectives in teacher training and student performance with particular emphasis on the continuing need for improvement in math education district-wide. She also described several alternative programs for high school completion including a pilot "On Line" High School which will graduate students this year.

Her primary goal is to graduate students from the K-12 system who are readers, writers and mathematicians. In answering a question from the group about bilingual education, she explained that the district is responsive and flexible in responding to the Hispanic population of the district, understanding that there are many different situations in the monolingual and bilingual families whose children are enrolled in the district.

Following Ms. Beraza's talk, it was determined that there was a quorum for the annual meeting. Elections were held for several positions. Janis Luvaas was elected as Treasurer, replacing interim treasurer, Doris Ayyoub who is returning as a Board member. Other returning Board members are Mary Crago, in a one year appointment as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for Programming and Kitty Jubran, for a term as a Board member. Resignations were announced from Lynne Baxter and Joyce Dinneson. Cynthia Garrick is still looking for a Co-President and for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President whose responsibilities include fund raising.

In asking for program recommendations, Cynthia Garrick, who announced she will continue as president for only one year, discussed the two types of programs the local league could undertake in the 2010-2011 year. The first category of program (small p) includes public forums on current issues and candidate forums for local elections. The second category (large P) includes local studies on local issues with the objective of developing positions for the local league. Such studies may be carried forward to the state or national leagues. No programs were proposed by those attending the meeting.

**During its annual planning retreat, June 12th, the Yakima County League Board will again address the question of a program for the coming year. Please, send your suggestions to Cynthia Garrick, 457 6371, cagarrick@yahoo.com, or Mary Crago, 966 9938, 2p1e5z@charter.net.**

## WEB Sites

Secretary of State:  
[www.secstate.wa.gov/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/)  
Yakima Co. Auditor:  
[www.co.yakima.wa.us/auditor/](http://www.co.yakima.wa.us/auditor/)  
LWVWA: [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)

## Funding the League

While we all may have been a little relieved to hear from Doris Ayyoub that the State League's dues will not be raised this year, we have to acknowledge that such a rise is coming eventually. The dues we pay for membership in the local League, as you know, go to support the work of the state League and the national League through PMP's (per members payments) which are based on the number of members, are levied on a quarterly basis and paid out of the local treasury. This leaves a small local budget which must be augmented by fund-raising if we are to have an office and the means of communicating with members. While we are most aware of the local League's activities, it is good to remind ourselves periodically of what we are contributing to on a state and national level. To that end, I am including in this year-end Voter, LWVWA President Linnea Hirst's March 26th letter to the Washington State Attorney General regarding his position on the recently passed national Health Care legislation

*Attorney General Rob McKenna*

*Office of the Attorney General*

*1125 Washington Street SE*

*P.O. Box 40100*

*Olympia, WA 98504-0100*

*The League of Women Voters of Washington has fought long and hard to get health care reform for our state citizens, and worked hard to pass the new comprehensive health care reform legislation. We support: "policies, as part of comprehensive reform of the existing health system, which: Ensure universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services. These services shall be available regardless of one's health status or financial status. Provide "seamless" coverage and continuity of care, to the extent possible, regardless of changes in life circumstances such as change in employment, marital status, financial status, or health status."*

*We strongly feel that the new legislation passed by Congress will begin to undo decades of neglect and inaction that has left millions of Americans uninsured and at risk. Therefore, we are very disappointed that you have joined a group of Attorneys General suing to block this new legislation.*

*At a time when Washington state must cut back on not only the Basic Health Plan but also on other important areas requiring adequate state funding, such as education, we are discouraged that you plan to spend state funds to deny new health coverage for small business owners and other state residents.*

*Your office takes consumer protection seriously, and this bill protects consumers. It protects consumers with pre-existing conditions who are guaranteed coverage; small businesses who will receive tax credits to help them finally afford coverage; Washingtonians who will receive improved Medicare benefits; and existing consumers who are now newly protected from being thrown off their insurance when they get ill, when premiums rise, when they lose a job, or when they change jobs.*

*We ask that you reconsider your action, drop your plans to sue the Federal Government, and instead work to protect consumers, to save the state important funding, and to allow citizens to wake up to a new future that looks a great deal more promising.*

*Linnea Hirst, President*

*League of Women Voters of Washington*

*4730 University Way NE, #720*

*Seattle, WA 98105*

*206-622-8961    [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)    [lwvwa@lwvwa.org](mailto:lwvwa@lwvwa.org)*

**Here is a summary of national League President Mary Wilson's testimony before the US Senate in response to the recent Supreme Court decision on Campaign Financing:**

*Earlier this year the Supreme Court handed down a far-reaching decision allowing corporations and unions to spend unlimited advertising funds in candidate elections. **Making matters worse, Citizens United v. FEC allows this unlimited spending to be done in secret!***

*Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. The League has taken up this cause, and now we're asking our supporters to join us in the fight.*

**Here are 5 reasons you should add your voice to this debate:**

1. **Secret money has no place in American democracy.** Corporations and unions should not be allowed to spend money in elections without full disclosure to the American public. The role of the voter -- not the corporation or organization -- in determining elections must be protected.
2. **Corporations and unions should have to stand by their ads.** When huge sums are spent to urge voters to take a certain action through advertisements, it should be clear who footed the bill. The "stand by your ad" system in elections works for candidates -- we need it in place for corporate America too.
3. **Federal bailout money should stay out of electioneering.** Companies that receive federal bailouts should not be able to spend money in elections. This is a clear conflict of interest that is even more damaging without full disclosure.
4. **Coordinated spending should be open spending.** When a candidate, corporation or union get together to encourage voters to support or oppose a candidate, it should be clear who paid for any advertising or media.
5. **Foreign corporations should never have a hand in American elections.** As it currently stands, Citizens United allows foreign corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money, secretly, on campaign advertising to influence the outcome of elections. A company controlled from outside the United States should not spend huge sums to support or oppose candidates.

*Legislation to require disclosure of corporate and union electioneering, known as [the DISCLOSE Act](#), has been introduced in the House and Senate, and the League of Women Voters is strongly supporting this bill. Our elected officials must protect the rights of voters. Congress must pass a fair and balanced bill before the 2010 elections to ensure these rights.*

Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS <http://www.lwv.org/>

**For an interesting picture of the state League's lobbying efforts in the Washington state legislature this year, go to [lwvwa.org](http://lwvwa.org) and click on the *advocacy page* which will lead you to **Issue #9 Wrap****

**League of Women Voters of Washington supports I-1098  
For petitions, to volunteer, donate and for more information go to**

**[Yes on 1098](#)**

We support based on League's position on tax structures which states:  
"Inequities in the distribution of the tax burden should be removed. Ability to pay is an important criterion. Flexibility and recognition of changing times and needs is important in tax policy. Income should be part of the tax base preferably through a graduated net income tax."

E-mail: [info@yeson1098.com](mailto:info@yeson1098.com) • Phone: [\(206\)225-4610](tel:(206)225-4610) • Mailing address: PO BOX 1077, Seattle, WA 98111

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA  
COUNTY

Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories:

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$10 Student Associate**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$60 Basic**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$70 Contributing**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$80 Supporting**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$40 Each additional family member**  
at the same residence

**Student Associate** is not a voting member

**Make checks payable to:** LWVYC

**Mail to:** PO Box 723

Yakima, WA 98907

**Phone:** 509 452 3419

## Observer Corps Opportunities

Yakima County Commissioners

Yakima City Council Chambers

Tuesdays, 10 am

129 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street 574 1500

[yakima.county.us/cmrs/](http://yakima.county.us/cmrs/)

Yakima City Council

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 pm

(See Y Pac, Cable 22 for broadcasts)

Yakima City Council Chambers

129 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street 575 6050

[ci.yakima.wa.us/council/](http://ci.yakima.wa.us/council/)

Please call

Jackie Call, Mary Crago, Jackie Hertel, or Marilyn  
Shearer for forms and information to get started.