

The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County

JANUARY 2015

VOL. 56, No. 6

New Year, New Choices

by Joanna Cullen, Program Co-Chair

Our January 8 Program Planning forum is intended to engage current members, develop new leaders, and involve the larger community while getting the important work of program planning done. While non-members are not able to participate in the consensus portion of a program planning unit meeting, they can certainly participate. What better way for someone to learn about the wide range of issues that the League works on? What better opportunity to debunk the myth, "I thought that you only worked on elections?" What better way to find out what issues non-members are interested in and may want to work on? Invite them to our program planning forum or to your January unit discussion. Learn from them. Join a committee and invite others to do so as well. It is the intellectual curiosity of the committees that leads to studies that culminate in the formation of positions; they often provide the impetus for League to take action; plus they find the speakers and prepare *Voter* materials for forums. When committees are not actively involved in a study, action, or event they continue to educate themselves.

In an effort to bring focus to our work of the League, the Board and Program Co-Chairs are suggesting that this year local units consider how forum topics are related to the King County Budget. During the upcoming forum, a speaker from King County will give us an overview of the county budget and answer questions about how the public can influence different aspects of it. Does your passion have a line item in the budget, or is it related to or

impacted by the budget, especially as it relates to hot topic forums? Often, our non-study forums have offered the opportunity for presentations on topics beyond King County. Thinking and acting locally does not preclude acting and thinking globally; the two may enhance one another. King County policies may either positively or negatively affect the revenue or policies of municipalities or the state. And how do policies at the state or municipal level affect the county budget and work?

The Metropolitan King County Council has four regional committees: Flood Control District Advisory Board, Transit, Water Quality, and Regional Policy. These bodies make policy recommendations to the Council on a wide spectrum of regional issues, including public safety, parks, transportation, environmental issues, and other systems that serve all of King County. Other standing committees include the Committee of the Whole, Budget and Fiscal Management, Government Accountability and Oversight, Law, Justice, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Economy and Environment, and Regional Water Quality Committee. The topics that may be referred to any of these committees or are a part of the committee's policy development are rich sources of information and exploration for any one of our League committees.

In 2015, let's inspire each other to think about how we can make a difference and support others to do the same.

Contents

President's Message	3
Calendar	4
Forum Schedule.....	5
Board Briefs.....	6
Committees.....	7
King County Connects	8
Updates from State and National LWV Olympia and Our Washington.....	9
National News.....	9
Action	10
Voter Service.....	11
Membership News Membership report	12
New Members	13
In Memoriam.....	14
Features Education Comm. Report.....	16
Waterfront Comm. Report.....	16
Duwamish Report.....	17
Transportation Comm. Report.....	18
Book Review	20
Program Program Planning 2015-16	21
Unit Instructions.....	22
Local Positions in Brief.....	28
State Positions in Brief.....	35
Unit Meetings.....	37
Board and Committee Contacts	39

Contact Information

President: Ellen Barton
The Voter Editor: Lisa Peterson

League of Women Voters
of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Avenue, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98122

Phone: 206-329-4848
Fax: 206-329-1273
info@seattlelww.org
www.seattlelww.org

Office Hours:
Weekdays, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

League of Women Voters of Washington
1402 Third Avenue, Suite 430
Seattle, WA 98101
206-622-8961
lwvwa@lwvwa.org
www.lwvwa.org

League of Women Voters of the United States
202-429-1965
lwv@lwv.org
www.lwv.org

Postal Regulations

The Voter is published monthly
except June and August by the League of
Women Voters of Seattle - King County,
1620 18th Ave, #101, Seattle, WA 98122.

Periodicals postage paid at
Seattle, WA.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to *The Voter*:

1620 18th Ave, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98122
The Voter (ISSN 0888-8841)

Connecting with the Leadership

Local Program Planning: January is program planning month - Yay! This is the time when we ask our members what hot topics for us to focus on during the new year for studies or forums or advocacy. We will have an interesting program planning forum on January 8 with a speaker or two, as well as committee chairs and members discussing some current issues and/or possible studies. Our idea is to focus on one overarching theme, i.e., taxes and the budget, and each forum or study that year would discuss one aspect of that issue, such as how to fund necessary human services programs, better public safety measures and methods to address climate change. We welcome any ideas for studies, events or forums and appreciate all suggestions from our members. I hope you plan to attend!

State Program Planning: This is State League convention year, so we have a chance to weigh in on State issues as well. Please plan to attend a unit meeting in January so you can contribute to that conversation. State issues will not be addressed at the January program planning meeting.

Committees: You are welcome to come to the January forum to learn more about our committees and what they are doing from members and chairs. If there isn't a committee doing what you are interested in, please consider joining other like-minded folks to start one!

Studies: It sounds as if we will have several suggestions for studies this year, including one on the Duwamish River clean-up and one on improving voter turnout in King County. If you have a suggestion for a study and people who are willing to work on it, the program planning forum is a good time to present it and try to attract some interest. Studies do not have to be on brand-new topics – there may be long-held League positions that you believe need updating. A study committee can make recommendations to the Board and at the annual meeting for updates to our existing positions.

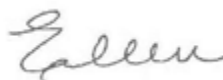
New Year's Resolutions: I read recently that having goals makes us happier. Since last year was mostly taken up with keeping my head above water due to my cancer diagnosis, I didn't get much else accomplished. I am looking forward to catching up this year! So I thought I would share some of my New Year's resolutions with you in the hopes that you will share some of your goals with me (especially if they have to do with League!)

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. Work less and play more;
2. Spend more time with my cat;
3. Make more effort to connect with friends;
4. Work more in my yard;
5. Complete those tasks around the house that have been building up this year – like cleaning up my office and basement;
6. Enjoy simple things more;
7. Don't be in such a hurry;
8. Do more, buy less;
9. Contribute more to my community; and
10. Take more risks.

Thank you all for everything that you have done for League and for your communities during the past year and...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



Ellen Barton
President

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (office closed)	2 (office closed)	3
4	5 <i>The Voter Deadline</i>	6	7	8 Forum: Program Planning 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Board Meeting 9 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15 Climate Change Comm. 10 a.m.	16	17
18	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (office closed)	20 Transportation Comm. 10 a.m.	21	22 Education Comm. 10 a.m.	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Econ & Tax Comm. 9:30 a.m.
February 1	2	3	4	5 Forum: Hospital Mergers 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Board Meeting 9 a.m.

Units meet during light shaded period

JANUARY

The Voter Deadline
Monday, January 5

Forum: Program Planning
Thursday, January 8
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Board Meeting
Saturday, January 10
9:00 a.m.
League Office

Climate Change Committee
Thursday, January 15
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, January 20
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, January 22
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, January 31
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

FEBRUARY

Forum: Hospital Mergers
Thursday, February 5
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Board Meeting
Saturday, February 7
9:00 a.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, February 9

Forum Schedule

Jan 8 - Program Planning

Feb 5 - Hospital Mergers

Mar 5 - Human Trafficking

Apr 2 - Reauthorization of the Columbia
River Treaty

May 21 - Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. The tentative schedule of forums for 2014 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information.



Save the Date!

We'll be having a special event on the evening of Saturday, April 18 at the Wing Luke Museum. Look for more details next month.



Board Briefs by Amanda Clark, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on December 6, 2014. This is a summary of their work.

Planning is moving along on the spring FUN fundraising event. Mark your calendars now for April 18 at the Wing Luke Museum. The museum will be open to event attendees, with the opportunity for guided behind-the-scenes tours of the former hotel that housed recent Asian immigrants and the current Bruce Lee exhibit.

Committee chairs also have been very busy. Janet Winans, Action Chair, organized a tour of the Duwamish River Waterway and South Park (see separate article this month). The result of the group's action and advocacy is a huge success.

The Program Committee is looking forward to the January 8 program planning forum. One idea they are pursuing is to have all forum topics take into consideration the King County budget. For example, if we had a forum on public transportation, what the impact on the budget would be and how the budget would affect transportation plans might be covered.

The League is cosponsoring an event on January 6 with SCPTSA and Seattle Education Association on what's next, now that the Legislature is in contempt of court for failing to fully fund basic education. Likewise, the League will cosponsor a January forum in Federal Way with the Federal Way Alliance against Human Trafficking. The Alliance may in turn cosponsor our forum on the same topic in March.

Voter Services registered 210 voters before the November election. The Horizon House unit was especially effective in its registration efforts. But the Speaker's Bureau could use more member volunteers who would like to speak to various groups about the League, the importance of voting, and other topics, as well as moderate candidates' forums. If you are interested, call the office. Training is available, and this is a good way to make a difference.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC), in both its values and practices, affirms its beliefs and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

LWVS-KC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS-KC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVS-KC affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.

Committees

Climate Change Committee

DATE: Thursday, January 15

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Speaker: Sasha Pollack of the Washington Environment Council.

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, January 31

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, January 22

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Topic: January's program planning materials, and the state of charter schools in Washington and in King County.

International Relations Committee

No meeting this month

The full committee is not meeting at this time; some members are meeting separately to organize the human trafficking forum in March.

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, January 20

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Speaker: Rob Johnson, Transportation Choices Coalition will discuss the upcoming legislative session.

We encourage participation in our committees by all interested members. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to community leaders, stakeholder organizations, and experts where you can have direct input on local issues that affect you.

Don't see a committee that covers your issue? Call the office and let us know. Sometimes people are working more informally without regularly scheduled meetings. If so, we may be able to help connect you with them or help you start your own.

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

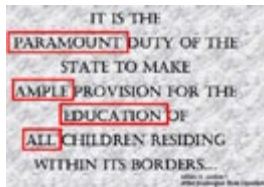
King County Connects — Announcements

The LWVS-KC is co-sponsoring both of these events this month. Please contact the office if you'd like to attend but need a ride. We'll try to arrange one.

PARAMOUNT DUTY

Why are our schools underfunded and over-crowded? What is the Legislature doing about this? What can we do?

Hear from two dynamic speakers at this educational event:



Tom Ahearne, (NEWS) the trial lawyer from the McCleary case will speak on how WA State is not meeting its “Paramount Duty” to fully fund education. He will also talk about the latest “contempt” decision on holding our legislators accountable.

Andrew Nicholas from the WA State Budget and Policy Center will talk about the challenges of financing basic education and the reforms to the revenue system that can make that possible.



PARAMOUNT DUTY

When: Tuesday, January 6, 2015--6:30 to 8:30pm

Where: John Stanford Center Auditorium, 2445 3rd Ave. S., Seattle

Why: Because bake sales and auctions cannot fill funding gaps in basic education

Event is FREE, but seating is limited. **RSVP at:**

<https://paramountduty2015.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by:



Forum - Ending Sexual Exploitation by Ending Demand
Thursday, January 8, 2015, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Federal Way City Hall Chambers, 33325 8th Ave. S, Federal Way, WA 98003

Speakers:

Peter Qualliotine, Director of Men's Accountability, Organization for Prostitution Survivors

Val Richey, King County Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Edward Sumner, Director of Development, REST (Real Escape from the Sex Trade)

Hosted by the Federal Way Coalition Against Trafficking

Updates from our State and National Leagues

All members of the LWV of Seattle-King County are also automatically members of the LWV of Washington and the LWV of the United States, whose work focuses on issues of state and national concern, respectively. Be sure to sign up for weekly email newsletters and/or visit their websites: www.lwvwa.org and www.lwv.org for the latest information.

Olympia and Our Washington

Gearing up for the legislative session (and taking a short break for the holidays) is foremost on the state League agenda at the moment. For details on how we're coordinating locally with efforts in Olympia, see Pat Griffith's Action article on the next page.

If you are someone who follows the Legislature, you should be aware that the leg.wa.gov website has been retooled. It's a work in process and we think everything will still be on the site, you just may not find it where you expect to. Check it out.

The LWVWA has switched from a quarterly Voter newsletter to a monthly - and now they are sending it electronically. So look for it in your inbox every month and be sure we have your current email address so you can read all about the state League and the other Leagues around Washington.

The state convention will be in Yakima this year from June 12 to June 14. We rarely send our full complement of 20+ delegates because we don't have the funds to underwrite the cost for all of them. However, members are welcome to apply to be delegates if they are willing to pay their own way. Typically the cost is \$325 to \$450 depending on whether you attend 2 or 3 days plus rooming arrangements. Convention is a great chance to connect with Leaguers from around the state, share experiences, and learn new skills. Tours of the area are also a part of the experience - we're guessing some wineries may be on the list this year. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, let us know and we'll keep you up-to-date on the plans as they are finalized.

National News

League Opposes Omnibus Appropriations Bill

The League joined coalition partners on a letter to the U.S. House and Senate encouraging them to oppose the FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The League opposes the legislation because it contains destructive campaign finance provisions that would increase limits on individual contributions to a political party.

Tell the FEC What to do About Citizens United

The Federal Election Commission (FEC), the federal agency in charge of our nation's campaign finance laws, is now accepting public comment about steps they should take "to address corruption in the political process." The FEC can do something to stop the secret money polluting our elections and end coordinated expenditures by outside groups. Use the link on the lwv.org website to take action now.

LWVUS Legislative Priorities

The LWVUS Board will be setting legislative priorities for the upcoming session in January. The Board sets priorities using this filter: opportunities for the League to make an impact; program decisions made at Convention and/or Council; member interest; and resources available to manage effectively. Given the current composition of Congress, we will have to focus on defending voting rights and threats to existing campaign finance law, good climate change work and the Affordable Health Care Act. So as you consider what to recommend as legislative priorities, ask yourself how important you think it is for the League to fight for our core issues.

If you would like to make suggestions, please email Advocacy Committee Chair Chris Carson at carsonlwv@yahoo.com. Please indicate whether the suggestions are from an individual member or a committee. Suggestions must be received by January 12.

Action

HELP US MOVE THE LEAGUE'S ACTION AGENDA

by Pat Griffith

With the 2015 State Legislative session approaching, we are organizing local league members to advocate for our 2015 Legislative Priorities:

Protect Democracy: Expand opportunities to meaningfully participate in elections. Minimize the influence of money in politics. Promote more representative elections systems.

Raise Revenue: Adopt balanced, fair, adequate and flexible state revenue policies to meet critical needs.

Address Climate Change: Implement best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to protect air and water quality. Incorporate environmental quality and public health impacts in transportation decisions, particularly regarding fossil fuels.

Support Education: Fully fund basic education as defined by the Legislature and required by the state Constitution.

Additional priorities include Children, Families and Early Learning, Health Care, Natural Resources, Transportation and Agriculture. Issue papers on the above can be found on the State League's website (www.lwvwa.org).

As the King County League, our area encompasses all or parts of 17 of the 49 state legislative districts. These districts are: 1, 5, 10, 11, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47 and 48. The TRY shows areas covered by each district.

Thanks to Allison Feher and volunteers, we now have a database of members by district and a map showing distribution of members and League units. Members are concentrated in Seattle districts (199 members in the 43rd District, covering Capitol Hill and the University district,

82 in the 36th District, covering Queen Anne, Magnolia, Ballard and parts of Belltown, 75 in the 46th District in Northeast Seattle, and 48 in the 34th District covering West Seattle, Vashon and parts of Burien. We also have some districts like the 11th, which covers Beacon Hill, Renton, and Tukwila with just a few members, and no members in the 47th District containing parts of Kent, Auburn, Covington and the area east of Maple Valley.

How can you get involved? Sign up for the local action team. We would like at least one person per unit and district to make regular phone or email contact with their district Senator and Representatives to present LWVWA positions. League position papers are available online on the state website, seattlelwvwa.org. Also, all members will receive via email the state legislative newsletter containing bill information.

It's not too early to introduce yourself to your legislators, and you don't have to be an expert to lobby on an issue you are interested in. The key is to build a relationship with your elected officials and their legislative assistants. The TRY contains the phone and email contacts you will need. Until the 2015 TRY is available, you can find contact information at www.leg.wa.gov, with Legislative committee assignments available mid-December.

To effectively lobby, you may identify yourself as a League member, but must stay with League position language. Use a separate phone call or email for opinions that are not the League's. A legislator once confirmed that it only takes five comments on an issue to make a real difference.

Ready to sign up or have questions? Please contact Pat Griffith, Legislative Liaison, at 206-285-2452 or email: pgseattle@q.com or seattle74peg@gmail.com.

ACTION REPORT

by Janet Winans

I organized a tour of the Duwamish River Waterway and South Park with James Rasmussen, coordinator of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition and Technical Action Group. He and two team members met eight League members and friends so that we could actually see the river from the shoreline of the Duwamish River Park in South Park, with its posted, “no swimming or fishing” signs. We looked through the chain-link fence that lines the south side across from the Boeing plant and observed the already underway cleanup projects, and listened as he told us about the long-term effort his coalition has been engaged in since even before the river became a Superfund site in 2001. Just recently, the EPA announced that \$342 million will be required for cleanup. The effort specifically includes Boeing, King County, the City of Seattle, and the Port of Seattle, along with all entities that have used the river to dump business waste. The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group had lobbied for less than what the EPA decided was needed, perhaps because DRCC/TAG has worked so hard to demonstrate what is needed. We intend to recommend this topic as a study this year.

In addition, I attended a newly forming women’s activism coalition that State Senator Marilyn Chase is organizing. Young women from Skagit County drove down on a weeknight because of their interest in farm worker organizing among women who are active in their unions, and young tech-savvy professional women were very interested in helping. It sounded as if Senator Chase would like to have a coordinated group of women with a focused legislative agenda to support her as she works to move legislation through the session. State Representative Ruth Kagi attended along with the contract lobbyist for NARAL. It is potentially a good fit for League involvement, but it is a fledgling effort.

Finally, in my roles as transportation chair and member of the climate change committee, on December 3 I attended the Freight Mobility Round Table presentation of the state Department of Ecology’s work coordinating a comprehensive package to help the Governor deal with the already-increasing flow of oil trains into the state. As many as 130 trains per week are expected in the near future, loaded with Bakken Oil with flash points from -40 degrees F to 70 degrees F. This is the same flammability as gasoline, but it is transported without any of the safety requirements for gasoline.

Voter Service

Voter Service Committee Forming

Are you interested in emerging issues in voter outreach, voter registration, or voter turnout? Do you want to be part of the League’s ongoing efforts to register voters, to write ballot issue summaries, to monitor elections, to put on candidate and issues forums, to edit the TRY, to develop articles of interest for *The Voter* and many more exciting and interesting voter service projects - all with the goal of informing voters and inspiring them to turn out for each and every election?

The Voter Service Committee will begin meeting in January, and if you are interested in any aspect, we would love to have you join us! We will collectively decide on a specific day of the week and time to have regular meetings.

We hope you will join us!

Please e-mail voterservice@seattlelwv.org, or call 206-329-4848 to be put on the new Voter Services committee list!

Getting Connected Membership News

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PANEEN DAVIDSON, CHAIR

It's the time of fresh beginnings and resolutions. If you are like me, some resolutions appear year after year – mine are to exercise and eat better... This year it'd be great to have some new ones.

January is also the start of new beginnings for League. Our January Forum and unit meetings will focus on Program Planning. The topics for the excellent and timely forums we had last fall – and that we look forward to this winter and spring – are primarily the result of discussions and feedback and consensus from members who in January 2014 attended the program planning forum or a January unit meeting – or both.

I encourage you to attend the January 8 Program Planning Forum as well as a unit meeting, if possible. Units will discuss proposed topics suggested by the Program Committee, formulate their own topics, discuss and come to consensus on their top issues and recommended studies. What the Seattle-King County League will focus on during the upcoming 2015-16 year will be a result of January's member input on our current positions and how they are able to address current issues in our membership communities.

The Board will compile the results from all units for presentation to the membership at our May 2015 Annual Meeting. Remember, any member can attend any unit meeting – meeting times and locations are located at the back of the *Voter* as well as on our seattlelvw.org website.

Many members are initially attracted to the League because of our studies and positions we take on issues of importance to them and their community. The League, whether local, state, or national, can only endorse or take action on issues it has studied and on which it has relevant positions. Think about adding one resolution this year: invite a neighbor, friend or relative to at least one forum in 2015. Or resolve to become more active yourself – perhaps by joining

a committee.

One way to become more knowledgeable about an area you are interested in is to join a League standing or study committee. The committees and their meeting dates and topics are listed on the Committees page in each *Voter*. In addition, each *Voter* has reports from committees outlining their current activities. All members are welcome to attend committee meetings – you don't have to be a committee member. Some committee members are “experts” in the topic – but the League is all about education, so the “eager to learn” are also welcome. Committees often have expert guest speakers on the topic of interest. The meetings are a means to hear from these community experts first hand – and of course, learn from very knowledgeable members as well. A new committee this year is Climate Change. The International Relations Committee is working on the materials for the March forum on Human Trafficking. If you have any questions about a committee or an issue not covered by a committee, call the office and find out how to get connected.

Gift Memberships

I must admit it never occurred to me to consider a gift membership (duh!), but what a great way to introduce a friend or neighbor to the League! During this holiday gift-giving season I did give a gift membership. Think about what a great gift it would be for a student you know who is turning 18 and newly eligible to vote, or an individual membership for a friend or neighbor who cares about community but has never been to a League event, or for a relative who might like to know more about the League that you care so much about. Introducing more people to our excellent events and materials can only help voters feel empowered by education and knowing that each vote does make a difference. Like it says in our mission statement, it's one great way to “encourage informed and active participation in government.”

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Katie Dudley graduated from the University of Oregon, where she double-majored in English and Cultural Anthropology. She holds her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.

Immediately prior to moving to Seattle, Katie lived in Japan, where she taught English to middle school and high school children. Ms. Dudley is proud to have voted in every major election since she registered to vote on her 18th birthday! She has actively protested the Iraq war. She also volunteered for SMART, an Oregon program focused on improving literacy for children, and has volunteered for other fundraisers as well. She currently works as a paralegal with Ellen Barton at an elder law firm.

Katie volunteered to step in on very short notice as the Education Fund Treasurer and help while Ginna Owens is out. The Board voted unanimously at the November Board Meeting to approve her nomination.

Robyn Grad attended our League-sponsored fundraising breakfast that honored Lloyd Hara, King County Assessor, with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Good Government. Based on that, she decided she wanted to be involved and joined League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County.

She graduated from the University of Washington's Foster School of Business with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing. With over 35 years in the investment industry, she is currently Vice President for Marketing and Client Relations at Washington Capital Management. In addition to many professional affiliations, Robyn has been a leader in community organizations including the National Parks Conservation Association Northwest Regional Council, Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences, Seattle Art Museum's Supporters and the Washington Women's Foundation. She has volunteered with Junior League, Ronald McDonald House Charities and Seattle Country Day

School.

Robyn enjoys hiking, skiing, golf and traveling, especially visiting national parks. She and her husband, Phil, have two children.

Medora Moberg recently retired from 33 years of teaching mostly English and Drama. She also worked as an actor. This peripatetic student earned her Bachelor's degree in English, Biology and German and went on to earn a Master's degree in Teaching of Reading. In addition, she did Shakespeare and Art Studies at Cambridge, England and in Florence, Italy.

Following retirement from public school teaching, Medora worked for King County Elections as an inspector of 12 precincts and a teacher of election judges. She also worked with the Consortium for Better Schools scoring student essays. Also active in the Capitol Hill Lion's Club, she has served as president and program chair. In addition, Plymouth UCC Church has claimed much of her time and talent. She has served on several boards, including the Peace Action Group, Social Action Committee and has traveled to Nicaragua as a delegate with Crossing Borders. On top of all that, on Thursday evenings, Medora practices with the Plymouth choir.

She joined League to gain "reliable information on issues and candidates and an opportunity to meet with others whose purpose is to further not only good but best choices for the common good." She lives in Horizon House.

Linda Murtfeldt, new League member and former nonprofit manager and teacher, says she is interested in all things League and has already joined the new Climate Change Committee!

She and her husband had a small native plant nursery in Minnesota where they raised their two children. Linda worked for the Minnesota Zoological Garden where she helped start a captive animal inventory system, now used for breeding endangered species. Later she worked for the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity in the volunteer services department and eventually

became Director of Program and Services.

Linda was recruited in 1997 to become Executive Director of Seattle Habitat for Humanity. After growing the organization, she left to return to school, adding a Master's degree in Nutrition from Bastyr University to her existing Bachelor's degree in Biology and Education from Washington University in St. Louis and a M.Ed. in Science from the University of Minnesota. Her last job was a nutritionist for Odessa Brown Children's Clinic in the Central District in Seattle.

Since retirement, Linda has enjoyed travel, hiking and volunteering with Seattle Audubon Society in their elementary school program FUN (Finding Urban Nature) and on their Conservation Committee.

Recently widowed, **Joella Werlin** moved to Seattle from Portland to be near family. 45 years ago she joined the League in Portland and served on the board. Through League she learned a lot about the community, and when she applied for a job that background impressed the general manager of KATU-TV. He offered her the advertised position as his executive secretary and soon promoted her to associate producer of "Town Hall," and then on to Public Affairs Director for the station. Retiring from there after 17 years, she became a personal historian, helping people preserve life stories through oral history recordings and memoirs.

In 1995 she participated in the United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing. She "hooked up" with the Women's Refugee Commission, founded under the umbrella of the International Rescue Committee, and drew on her TV production experience to record stories of refugee women. She continues to be an advocate for refugee women and children, and wants to become more directly involved as a volunteer. She also admits to being easily distracted by the pleasures of walking and exploring in her Capitol Hill neighborhood and the many cultural and educational opportunities Seattle offers!

Joella has remained a League member, helping with special activities. She credits the League for her understanding of what society needs from its citizens to have effective representative government. Joella thinks League has been the most important training ground for women in civic responsibility and leadership, and men are further strengthening League's image and mission.

In Memoriam

Naomie Fredeen Bulloch (1926 - 2014)

Naomie passed away November 20, 2014. Born in Bellingham, she graduated from Ballard High School and attended the University of Washington. Married for 70 years to Doug, whom she met at the Seattle USO during World War II.

She worked as a journalist and advertising copywriter in New York during the war. She was a gifted writer and continued as a volunteer writer for the League of Women Voters and the Nordic Heritage Museum. She also served on the King County Metro Board.

A forty-five year member of the League of Women Voters, Naomie served as president of its Lake Washington East chapter and was also a member of the state board for a time. She was instrumental in the development and publication of the state League civics textbook, *The State We're In*, now in its seventh edition. This was something of a family affair as both sister Natalie Toevs and daughter Christy were also involved.

She is fondly remembered by her compatriots on the state board for her hard work and also for opening her home for meetings and serving marvelous dinners - "a lovely person and an absolute joy to work with."

Naomie is survived by her husband, sister, children and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held December 14.

Long-time League member **Mary Slotnick** died on Monday, November 3. A native of Seattle, she grew up in Wallingford and attended the University of Washington. She married Herman Slotnick in 1941. During the war, Mary did war work near the Army bases where Herman was stationed, then returned home where she went to work for Boeing on the assembly line building B-17 bombers. She went back to college and earned her Bachelor's degree in English Literature.

In 1955, the family moved to Fairbanks. Mary entered graduate school, earning her Master's degree in English in 1959. Her involvement with League began there, where she helped organize a provisional local league in 1964, just four years after Alaska's statehood.

By then, Mary had five children and she was teaching English at the University. Asked to serve as League President, she was reluctant to take on one more responsibility, but accepted the vice-presidency. However, by the time the Fairbanks North Star Borough League was recognized as a full-fledged league, the provisional president had stepped down, so Mary became its first president after all!



Mary and Herman returned to Lake Forest Park upon retirement, and she quickly became active in League here, serving on the Board as secretary and as membership chair, and also volunteered in the office. In 1997, Mary and Herman moved to University House in her old neighborhood, Wallingford, being among its first residents; Mary is remembered for helping to shape its character. She started their library, led a Shakespeare group, and advocated successfully with

the city for bus shelters, sidewalk repairs, and audible traffic lights in the neighborhood. At 85, she regularly participated in weekly demonstrations against the then-impending war in Iraq.

She also continued her League participation, starting a unit in the facility not once but twice. The first time the unit did not last, but a few

years later Mary joined with other Leaguers to again establish a unit at University House. Their effort was successful, and although she was then past 90, she was unit co-leader the first year.

Mary is survived by five children, two of whom, Beatrice Crane in Seattle and Sylvia Slotnick in Fairbanks, are League members, 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Features

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

In December, Rachel Schulkin, Outreach Manager for the Office of Education, briefed us on the planning for the Seattle Preschool Program funded by Proposition 1B. We will have more information on this in the next Voter.

Seattle-King County League is cosponsoring Paramount Duty with the Seattle Council PTSA (SCPTSA) and the Seattle Education Association (SEA) on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Mark your calendar now to make sure you save the date. It will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the John Stanford Center Auditorium, 2445 3rd Ave. South in Seattle.

Tom Ahearne, from Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) who is the trial lawyer from the McCleary education case, will speak on how Washington State is not meeting its “paramount duty” to fully fund education. Their web site describes State League’s involvement in education funding at: <http://waschool-excellence.org/about/>. He will also talk about the Washington State Supreme Court’s “contempt” decision on holding our legislators accountable.

Andrew Nicholas from the Washington State Budget and Policy Center will talk about the challenges of financing basic education and reforms to the revenue system that can make that possible.

At the January Education Committee Meeting, we will be considering January’s program planning materials, and addressing the state of charter schools in the state of Washington and in King County. The focus of our discussion will be largely determined by whether the Washington State Supreme Court has issued a ruling on whether charter schools meet the definition of “common schools” and can be funded with state money. The ruling is expected to come at the end of 2014 or beginning of 2015. Please plan to attend and bring a friend on January 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the League office.

WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REPORT

Bertha’s Woes Worse; Aquarium’s Stealth Plan Continues

Our Seattle-King County League Waterfront Committee continues to follow the interminable story of Bertha, the world’s largest tunnel drill, now mired in mud. The bearing replacement discussed last June has not begun, since the repair pit dug in front is only 80 feet of the necessary 120 foot depth. Now the Seattle Tunnel Partners (STP) and the State report that water pumping out of the soil in and around the pit (“dewatering”) has evidently caused soil settlement in the Pioneer Square area of up to 1 inch, threatening to damage surrounding buildings, many of which are historic landmarks. One of our committee members sat through the two-hour Council meeting on December 8, listening to the barely comprehensible verbal contortions of State engineers avoiding clear statements as to the safety of the Viaduct, and whether the settlement was actually due to the dewatering (a known risk for soil settlement) or was just a coincidence!

Seattle City Council members admonished the State staff for failing to inform the Council about this issue at once. Instead, the State waited a few days until they “confirmed” the data, letting a *Seattle Times* reporter get the story before the Council did. Now STP says that the prior estimate for repairing Bertha is pushed back from March 2015 to an as-yet-unannounced future date. We hope that by the time you read this there will have been some good news.

Everyone loves the Aquarium. However, the Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS), which leased the City-owned aquarium in January 2010, continues to work with architects on expansion plans that include a two-story building in the water directly in front of Waterfront Park. As we have reported before, this building will block over 30% of the Park’s views and violate two

City SEPA Policies. Moreover, SEAS' own consultants reported to them on February 20, 2014 that all SEAS' needs may be accomplished by expanding to the west instead, so that the south expansion in front of the Park is not needed. At this time, SEAS is not allowing public release of this SRG report.

SEAS has held no public hearings and has not yet asked for any public input on their current plans, and is proceeding with planning this \$200 million expansion (one-half of that, \$100 million, is public tax money). This is despite having no Master Plan, even though the lease of 2010 requires the Aquarium to create one. And, although the Aquarium is owned by the City of Seattle, even the City Administration is unable to find out where SEAS' plans stand!

The Waterfront Committee has met with SEAS, the City Department of the Waterfront, and Councilmembers Godden, O'Brien, Licata, and Clark, and with staff of Burgess and Bagshaw.

All have listened respectfully and raised good questions. When SEAS finally brings its plans to the Council for approval, we are hoping they will remember our questions and concerns prior to voting.

Waterfront Committee member Mary Coltrane, past Seattle-King County President, has resigned from the committee due to other commitments, and we thank her for the excellent role she has played. Once again we ask League members who care about our city parks to assist us in trying to preserve the views from Waterfront Park. Please contact us with your suggestions and any assistance you would be willing to provide.

LWVS-KC Waterfront Committee:

Lois Laughlin

Judy Bevington

Charles and Nancy Bagley

DUWAMISH STUDY

by Janet Winans

Introduction

In the December 3, 2014 Seattle Times, there was an article of the EPA's December 2 decision and announcement that it would require the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG), Boeing, the Port of Seattle, the City of Seattle, King County and many others who have used the Duwamish to dispose of their industrial toxic waste will be required to invest \$340,000,000 to bring water quality in the river to a 90% level of non-toxicity. This article provides background about the river, its people, and the circumstances that have led first to it being designated a Super Fund site, and now an EPA-ordered cleanup site. I will be proposing a LWVS-KC study of this issue at the January planning forum and at the annual meeting.

Background and History

The Duwamish River is a major tributary to Puget Sound, draining from many glaciers in the Cascades, and an estuary of major ecological importance. The people who lived along it and maximized its resources for generations are known as "The Duwamish." In 1850, when Colonel Isaac Ebey hired local guides to take him up the river, he traveled past about 17 villages of people before he arrived at a huge lake, now Lake Washington.

Those villagers were displaced by the early white settlers to such an extent that up until now they have not been recognized as a Native American Tribe by the U.S. Government. This *Seattle Weekly* link provides the richest information about the history and current situation of The Duwamish that I found in my research:

<http://www.seattleweekly.com/home/948747-129/river-duwamish-fish-seattle-cleanup-epa>

In August, I took the "Port of Seattle 101" tour of the Duwamish. This Port-led series offered the opportunity to tour many of the Port's facilities. One of the reasons for the Port's 101 tour of the Duwamish was to show the significant

effort that the LDWG, Boeing, the Port of Seattle, the City of Seattle and King County have invested in cleaning up the river in the last 10+ years since the river was declared a Superfund site. The cleanup is far from complete, however. There has been serious disagreement between the LDWG and the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group (DRCC/TAG) about the level of toxins to be allowed to remain. The EPA's decision provides almost all the funds that DRCC/TAG believe will be necessary to meet their cleanup standards. While 90% cleanup sounds exemplary, that level will not make the sea life in the estuary safe to eat.

I have long been interested in the Duwamish, and was glad to meet James Rasmussen, Coordinator of the DRCC/TAG, who was one of the spokespeople for the river users. While DRCC/TAG has submitted thousands of comments to the EPA from the diverse communities impacted by toxins, the cost of the cleanup will be borne by the LDWG, so they have been a powerful voice in the process.

On the Port tour, he explained what we were seeing as we went up the river. There was so much more to learn that I invited Mr. Rasmussen to lead a tour of the South Park shoreline and community for the League and eight of us joined him and two of his colleagues in November.

The river looks very different from the shore than it did from the big tour boat. The Duwamish River defines a border between industrial Seattle on the north and the people who live and have lived along the south bank in the communities of South Park and Georgetown, neighborhoods in the city of Seattle, and King County. Now, some sites along that shoreline have "names" like T117, as in Terminal 117. And yet, the populations of South Park and Georgetown are the most diverse in the county. They include the last of the Duwamish River people who greeted the Denny Party as well as more recent immigrants to our area.

A League study will provide an important perspective on the challenges posed by a cleanup of

this major estuary along Elliott Bay. It is amazing how much the rest of the city and county have benefited from that river for the last 150 years. How do we amortize the cost of cleaning the industrial toxins out of the river to include both those 150 years and a future of pristine shorelines?

A Seattle city official told Mr. Rasmussen that the Duwamish is the "wealth of the city." After more than 150 years, the South Park and Georgetown residents have found the laws to empower them in their struggle to reestablish clean water and their health.

After more than 20 years of scientific analysis and legal argument, the above groups and other industrial users will invest back into the river. The \$340 million award is the largest investment in their community that the Duwamish people have ever received. It is important that this investment be used to do more than just dredge the channel and dump barge loads of removed sediment. The people must be given the tools to manage the river's quality and to maintain their claim to the homes they now possess. A tragic outcome would be that entities use the cleanup money to the detriment of all who made this possible.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

by Janet Winans

Last June, wearing his hats as King County Executive and head of Metro Transit, Chair of Sound Transit and member of the Board of the Puget Sound Regional Council, Dow Constantine directed these agencies to establish cooperation across the region. The state legislation that established Sound Transit almost 20 years ago requires coordination between all agencies in its region: King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. As Sound Transit works to develop and build high-capacity transit (HCT) to connect

the region's employment centers, they must also work with local transit agencies to complement their mission. In addition, decisions about what to fund and where to build require agreement from all communities in the Sound Transit region. Our committee members are very interested in how the multiple transportation agencies coordinate both their services and their separate budget demands, particularly as new projects are planned. Our November speaker, Ms. Trinity Parker, Government & Community Relations Officer for Sound Transit, will have a central role in the inter-county and inter-agency process that Mr. Constantine has directed.

Ms. Parker has just moved from a similar position for the City of Bellevue and was very involved in the discussions and procedures that have led, finally, to agreements that will bring Sound Transit to Bellevue and other east side communities. She brings the expertise she gained through her years of negotiation from Bellevue's perspective to her new role at Sound Transit.

According to Ms. Parker, members of the Bellevue business community and city government are recognizing that major demographic, social and business changes are causing changes in the kinds of services the city must provide. After many years of resisting efforts to enhance public transit on the east side, they have joined Sound Transit in its efforts to extend service there.

That new cooperation from Bellevue is particularly interesting. Seattle has benefited by being a strong supporter of mass transit and is the "core" destination for the first Sound Transit Light Rail service extending from SeaTac to the downtown bus tunnel, while Bellevue officials were not competing for it to come there. Now, voters in all three counties must agree to another tax levy, Sound Transit 3 (ST3), in order for it to be extended to Bellevue and other regions waiting for service. The funds raised by Sound Transit 2 are committed to existing projects, such as Link Light Rail to the University District and to Angle Lake, both due to open in 2016. ST3 will provide funding for service to North-

gate in 2021 and to the Eastside, Lynnwood, and Kent/Des Moines in 2023, extending services to the east. Sounder "heavy" rail service connects Pierce and Snohomish counties to the west side of Lake Washington destinations in coordination with Pierce and Snohomish Community Transit and Rapid Ride.

Sound Transit may be unique in the country for the cooperation that it has demanded and fostered between governments and agencies. The Seattle bus tunnel is the only one in the nation that has both bus and rail connections.

A critical issue in the mass transit conversation is the "last mile" that connects riders from their homes to transit and then to their destinations. That is where the most cooperation between transit agencies is essential. In Seattle, we have light rail and "heavy" rail with the Sounder system, Rapid Ride and streetcars, with the First Hill street car due to begin service in 2015. As each of these links connect to economic centers, local bus systems that must provide connections to and from neighborhoods. As the new types of mass transit come online, all of the existing routes used will be rearranged. For instance, the new University station will make the commute from downtown, north and south much faster and carry many more passengers per trip than the buses that have been carrying those passengers. Those buses can be reallocated to become feeders to and from the Light rail stations.

Sound Transit 3 is expected to be on the ballot in 2016. Our committee will be engaged to see how it is written and how it allocates resources to all residents. We are interested in making sure that the "last mile" is included in all planning decisions.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

TOMS RIVER: A STORY OF SCIENCE AND SALVATION By Dan Fagin

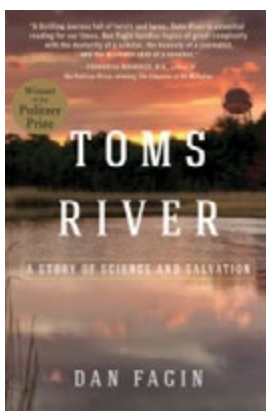
In the mid-1800's, a science student named William Perkin experimented with, "toluene, a toxic component of coal tar that would later play a major role in Toms River [a small town in New Jersey]." What Perkins created in his test tube was a reddish-purple hue he called "mauve."

Two European dye makers, Ciba and Geigy, used Perkins' discovery to make astonishing new synthetic colors, which were "stronger, more attractive and cheaper than what nature provided." By 1860, the new dyes were becoming big moneymakers, but "this astonishingly profitable new industry generated more toxic waste than useful product, and no one had any idea what was in that waste or how to get rid of it." In Europe, it was dumped into the Rhine River; later in the U.S. where the Ciba-Geigy joint company called itself the Cincinnati Chemical Works, they dumped their semi-treated waste into the Ohio River. In time, they moved to Toms River "where hierarchies were respected and authority trusted, a place where the [European company leaders] could [work] on a grand scale without interference from outsiders, [and] where the river was for the taking."

This book tells how Toms River was ravaged by industrial pollution, while industrial expansion provided well-paying jobs and economic growth for the town. The residents had welcomed the newly named "Toms River Chemical Company" and cheered its sophisticated European leaders, having little idea of how the organization dealt with waste or toxins.

Fagin's thriller includes a marvelous cast of characters, including Greenpeace activists, chemists who investigate newly-created chemicals, an independent truck driver desperate to make a living who doesn't care to ask what's in the met-

al barrels he rolls off the truck, terrified parents worried about their drinking water and teens who swim in a bad-smelling river. I identified with Linda Gillick, whose "perfect baby boy" soon developed cancer, as did other children in town. Gillick put a large map of the area on her wall and then used pins to mark each child who developed cancer. She also pushed everyone, including government officials, doctors, cancer specialists, journalists and families of cancer patients to find out what was causing the cancers.



As months turned into years of investigations, medical tests and appalling discoveries of waste-disposal practices, the beautiful baby boy whom doctors did not believe could reach his first birthday had grown up, though he would never be "normal." In 2001, a record legal settlement brought the victims what is, although the records are sealed, thought to be more than \$35 million.

I am grateful to the author for explaining complicated chemistry so that I could grasp the depth of issues involved. Sometimes the government tested only for particular well-known carcinogens; not knowing about newer and more devastating chemicals, the drinking water was declared "clean." But it wasn't. It took a mélange of advanced scholarship, determination, bravery, curiosity and luck to find the most devastating of the toxins.

This is not only a can't-put-it-down Pulitzer Prize winner, but also a powerful picture of extreme pollution, economic avarice, governmental neglect and a number of plucky individuals who were determined to do right by their children and their town.

The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.

January Program:



2015 - 2016 Local and State Program Planning

What are priority issues for study and emphasis for the coming one to two years?

In 2015, we will be participating in the program planning process at both local and state levels. You may prepare for the program planning forum and unit meetings by reviewing the state and local positions for completeness and relevance. Positions in brief for both state and local are included in this *Voter* beginning on page 28. The full state positions are on the LWVWA web site www.lwvwa.org or in the publication *Program In Action 2013-2015*. The Seattle-King County League positions are available from the office or online at www.seattlelwv.org.

Our State Convention will be held June 12 - 14, 2015 in Yakima. It is the responsibility of the state Board to propose programs based on the recommendations developed from the local League discussions. At convention the proposals will be put to the delegates for their consideration and vote.

The Annual Meeting for the Seattle-King County League will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2015, where members will vote to adopt local program items.

UNIT INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROGRAM PLANNING

At January unit meetings, plan discussion time to be evenly divided between local and state positions. Note that your planning material includes two forms to be completed, one for our local League issues and one for the state League issues. ***Forms need to be returned to the office by January 26.***

Consider the following questions in reference to our League positions:

- Do we need a new position on a matter on which we currently do not have a position? (This requires a study.)
- Do we need to update a position extensively? (This also would require a study.)
- Do we need to revise a position slightly?
- Do we need to sunset a position that is no longer relevant?

Local Program Discussion

1. Review the criteria for the selection of local study items:
 - a. The issue must fall within the principles of the League.
 - b. It must be one on which governmental action is needed.
 - c. It must be within the province of local government.
 - d. It must be one to which the League can make a significant contribution.
 - e. It must be timely.
 - f. Options must exist for citizen action.
 - g. There must be sufficient energy within League to carry out the work of a study committee.
2. Discuss possible new local studies, updates, or hot topics:
 - a. This is a consensus decision with agreement on major principles and the absence of major opposition. For full study proposals, be sure that suggested topics meet each of the criteria listed above. Suggestions that do not meet the criteria may take the form of an update, hot topic, or Voter article.
 - b. Prioritize your choices.
 - c. Please indicate on the reporting form the names of any members who wish to work on a specific topic/issue.
3. Review existing local positions. Identify any positions you feel should be updated.
4. As you review our positions, you may discover existing positions that would allow us to take action on an issue of concern. Suggest action you would like the League to take on a vital issue.

State Program Discussion

1. Review existing state positions. Identify any positions that you feel should be updated.
2. List and rank statewide issues you wish to see addressed.
3. Review the criteria for the selection of state study item (see list above).
4. Discuss possible new state studies:
 - a. This is a consensus decision with agreement on major principles and the absence of major opposition. To the extent possible, be sure that suggested topics meet each of the criteria listed above.
 - b. Prioritize your choices.
 - c. Please indicate on the reporting form the names of any members who wish to work on a specific topic/issue.

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING SUGGESTIONS REPORTING FORM: 2015-2016

List the top three topics or issues your unit suggests for new local studies, updates to positions, hot topics or action.

Topic 1:

Study? Update? Hot topic?

Describe scope and focus:

Unit members willing to work on this study, update, hot topic:

Topic 2:

Study? Update? Hot topic?

Describe scope and focus:

Unit members willing to work on this study, update, hot topic:

Topic 3:

Study? Update? Hot topic?

Describe scope and focus:

Unit members willing to work on this study, update, hot topic:

Identify local positions that should be updated:

Suggested action for LWVS-KC to take. On what current positions would this action be based?

For Unit Discussions please use the recording form that was emailed to the unit leaders and handed out at the discussion leaders' briefing. Individuals who are unable to attend any of the program planning meetings are invited to complete this form and submit their input by mail, fax, or email to the LWVS-KC no later than January 26. See inside front cover for addresses and phone numbers. Please write legibly and include additional sheets if needed.

STATE PROGRAM PLANNING SUGGESTIONS REPORTING FORM: 2015-2017

Review of Current LWVWA Positions

If you think a position needs to be revised, please explain:

If you propose concurrence with a previously adopted local position, please provide: 1. The position, 2. LWV source of position, 3. Contact information, 4. Reason for considering concurrence.

Listing and Ranking of Issues for State Program:

Please list in the table below the items you want to give attention to.

Specify what role the issue should play, e.g. study, update. After discussion, rank the top three items in order of importance: give it a 1 if it's the most important and 3 if it's your third choice.

Name of Issue	Study	Update	Action	Citizen Education	Rank

For items listed above, please provide an outlook for work. The outlook for work should help members determine whether the item is practical and manageable. Please include: the expected length of time needed for completion, possible sources of information, role of local Leagues, and members willing to work on the project and their contact information.

For Unit Discussions please use the recording form that was emailed to the unit leaders and handed out at the discussion leaders' briefing. Individuals who are unable to attend any of the program planning meetings are invited to complete this form and submit their input by mail, fax, or email to the LWVS-KC no later than January 26. See inside front cover for addresses and phone numbers. Please write legibly and include additional sheets if needed.

Principles of the League of Women Voters

- *The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.*
- *The League of Women Voters believes that good democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.*
- *The League of Women Voters believes that the right to vote must be protected for every citizen; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.*
- *The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.*
- *The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation; promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest; share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare; promote a sound economy; and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.*
- *The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of peace.*

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?

PROGRAM PLANNING: The way the League chooses its programs / issues.

As a grass roots organization, the League of Women Voters Program Planning Process begins at the local level. During this process, members all over our state consider what issues their own local league believes are important and need to be addressed.

The Seattle-King County program planning process is separate from but related to the process which culminates in positions taken at the state and local levels.

Any action the League of Women Voters takes is based on our positions. Each year in January we examine those positions to see if we need new positions on vital issues, or if we should update any current positions, or even if we should eliminate positions that are no longer relevant.

Members choose programs/issues (referred to as "issues" below) to place on our public policy agenda at the local level for the next year and at state level for the next two years. Identification of these issues is part of our Citizen Education program aimed at helping people understand the complexities of an issue and encouraging people to participate in reaching a solution, and can also lay the groundwork for successful advocacy. This is also the opportunity for our local League to consider what role it will play in addressing those issues at the local or state level.

If members see a need for new local positions, they may want to suggest a study. An appropriate issue for a study must:

- fall within the principles of the LWV;
- be one on which governmental action is needed;
- be within the province of local government;
- be one to which the League can make a significant contribution; and
- be timely.

In addition, options must exist for citizen action, and there must be sufficient energy within League to carry out the work of a study committee. Please

note that studies are adopted by the League at the Annual Meeting in May. However, there are many current issues on which our positions are up-to-date, but on which League action or citizen education is nevertheless desirable. Such issues are appropriate for "hot topic" forums. Unlike studies, hot topics need not be limited to local issues. However, the Seattle-King County League is requesting that the 2015 topics be in some way related to the King County budget and that the budget be referenced during the presentation. Some possible topics suggested by our members and committees are listed on page 28, but units are not limited to these. We are asking units to pick three topics and rank them. In addition, we are asking members to indicate which topics they might be willing to work on. This does not necessarily require a huge commitment of time; it means helping to find speakers and background readings for one month's program. But we do need such help; the topics that appear on the final schedule will be those on which people are willing to work.

A good way to determine an issue or study you want to suggest and would be willing to work on is to ask, "What is My Passion?" League members choose issues to place on our public policy agenda, and consider what role their local League will play in addressing those issues during the program planning process. You also decide which items to recommend as state program priorities. The process culminates when the program is adopted at the local annual meeting and the biennial state convention. At unit meetings, discussion time should be divided between state and local program planning. There is a form to be completed for each.

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

A good way to determine a state issue or study you want to suggest and would be willing to work on is to ask, "What are my community's passions?" Here are some suggestions to consider as you select an issue for League work:

- Consider which issues hold such vital concern to our members, our communities and our state that they demand attention now.
- Consider issues where the League's special expertise or perspective would be valuable.

- Consider issues that can more likely result in positive changes when informed citizens work on them.
- Consider issues where the League has opportunities to collaborate with other individuals and groups.
- Consider that League members are motivated to work on an issue that has a measurable impact on our communities and/or our state; issues where there is a way to evaluate the results.

Once members have decided that an issue of public concern requires League attention, we must determine what role the League should play in addressing those issues, including:

1. Citizen Education: to help citizens understand the complexities of an issue and encourage people to participate in reaching a solution; can also lay the groundwork for successful advocacy.

- Does our community need help in understanding this issue and its possible solutions?
- Is there enough time to develop and implement our project before citizens must make a decision?
- Is it more important to help citizens understand this issue than to advocate our League position at this time?

2. Study: to reach member agreement through consensus on an issue so that the League can take action.

- Does the League already have a position?
- Is there a government solution to the problem?
- Is there enough time to do a study and then act to influence the resolution of the problem?

3. Update: to review a position

- Is the League position still useful?
- Is the position sufficiently general?
- Are there significant developments in

the position topic that are not reflected and are they important enough to warrant the time necessary for more study and an update?

- What is the proper scope of effort to update the position?

4. Concurrence: to agree with a position already held by another League of Women Voters

- Is their study available to us?
- Is their resulting consensus of sufficient use to us?
 - We would need to be sufficiently well informed on the issues.
 - We would need the statement and background materials, including pros and cons.
 - We cannot amplify, make subject to conditions, or alter the statement of position reached by the other League.

5. Action: always the goal of the League's study process. Member understanding and strong support are essential for successful action.

- Are the timing and the political realities right for success?
- Does the community expect or need the League to be a player on this issue?
- Will League action on this issue make a significant difference?
- Could a focused, targeted action campaign enhance LWV visibility and stature?
- Do our members understand our position and our action goals?

6. At the local level:

Suggest “**hot topics**” for future programs. Hot topics do not take the place of a full League study, but address timely, hot button issues of concern to members. These can be the topic of a special event, a luncheon, a series of *Voter* articles, or an informational forum. You are encouraged to bring your own ideas to the forum and unit discussions.

Examples of Possible Topics

The following ideas are suggestions to spur your thinking, but please don't limit yourself to the topics listed here. However, for local topics, we are asking for suggestions to be related in some way to the King County Budget.

- Aging Issues
- Charter Schools/Pre-Kindergarten
- Climate Change - Coal/Oil Trains
- Homelessness
- Law Enforcement Issues
- Mental Health Issues
- Public Banks
- Public Campaign Financing
- Transportation/Mass Transit In King County
- Voter Turnout - Elections



The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County Local Positions in Brief

as of May 15, 2014

Editor's Note: The positions that follow have been shortened due to space limitations. The subheadings and criteria listings have been removed. The years listed after the position are those in which it was adopted and/or revised. For a complete set of current positions, contact the League office or visit our website, www.seattlelwv.org/advocacy.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Citizen Participation

- Support measures to ensure communication between city officials, local governmental entities and the public so as to bring city government closer to the people and make it more responsive to their needs. 1963, 1972, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1994, 1995, 1999, 2003

Vision of the City

- Support measures to achieve our vision of the most livable city through cooperation by city government with individuals, community organizations and business. 1974, 1976, 1983, 1984, 1990, 1994

Economic Development

- Support measures to achieve a healthy economy characterized by services that meet basic human needs. 1995
- Support measures to enhance the economy. 1995
- Support the use of public funds for economic development that benefits the public. 2006
- Support the evaluation of publicly-funded economic development activities to ensure that stated goals are achieved. 2006
- Support business regulation that is clear and consistent, and that protects public health, worker safety, and the environment. 2006
- Support legislation that links the granting and continuation of corporate subsidies, tax preferences, and incentives to specific criteria which ensures transparency and accountability. 2006

Neighborhoods

- Support communication and cooperation between the city, other local governmental entities and neighborhoods to plan for, create and maintain healthy neighborhoods. 1992, 1993, 1994, 2002, 2003
- Support a process that allows stakeholders to participate in the development and implementation of neighborhood plans. 2002

Land Use Planning and Zoning

- Support measures to achieve comprehensive, coordinated, long and short-range planning for the city with provision for periodic revisions. 1972, 1976, 1983, 1984, 1994, 2004
- Support zoning processes that allow flexibility and diversity in the neighborhoods and which provide for early neighborhood involvement in proposed development. 1965, 1966, 1973, 1977, 1990, 1992, 1994
- Support the interdisciplinary approach in comprehensive planning. 1969, 1972, 1974, 1984
- Support density that is well planned, respects neighborhoods, facilitates public transportation, is environmentally sensitive and complies with growth management open space goals. 1992, 1994

Publicly Owned Property

- Support legally required procedures for determining when and what kinds of property are considered surplus. LWE 2004

Public-Private Partnerships

- Support measures to ensure accountability and adequate citizen participation/oversight in public-private partnerships. Our vision recognizes that public-private partnerships may serve as a mechanism for the City to work in concert with the private sector to achieve public objectives if specific elements are present. 2002

Privatization

- The following core services, functions and assets critical to the well-being of the people, should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector: Courts, police, public health, public schools, prisons, voter services, taxation, parks, lakes, water and mineral rights, beaches, streams, and forests. 2010
- Specific criteria should be the basis for decisions regarding whether core government services, functions and assets not listed in the preceding section should be transferred to the private for-profit sector. 2010

- Public agencies are required to make a documented finding of adequate return on investment for the public for any government contribution of funds or assets to the private sector. Periodic performance audits should be required and made public regarding whether stated public benefits were met. 2010
- Government employees and elected officials after leaving government service should be prohibited for two years from working for any private company for which they had oversight responsibilities or authority over awarding contracts. 2010

Governmental Structures

- Support home rule for the city of Seattle. 1963, 1975, 1984
- The city should have control over those matters which are of strictly local concern.
- Support measures to increase accountability, responsiveness and efficiency of city government.
- Support the separation of powers and an adequate system of checks and balances among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government (and these respective functions), with the responsibilities of each being clearly defined. 1963, 1969, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1990
- Support non-partisan municipal elections and the short ballot principle. 1963, 1969, 1973, 1975, 1996
- Support election criteria to foster fair and effective representation. 1996

Budget and Finance

- Support adequate financial resources for city government.
- Support criteria for use in prioritizing programs and projects. 1988
- Support measures and procedures to ensure that the city's budget and the budgets of other local governmental entities are prepared using sound financial management procedures and that citizens have ample opportunity to participate in the development and review of the proposed annual budget. 1983, 1988, 2003

Capital Improvement Projects

- Support specific methods for financing capital improvements. 1985, 1987
- Support measures to evaluate the development and implementation of capital improvement projects. 1985

Law Enforcement/Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation

- Support a well-trained and adequate police force, responsive to public needs. 1969, 1979, 2002
- Support police policies based on adequate planning, adequate staffing and adequate training, that protect the rights of free speech and assembly, while providing safety for all. 2002, 2008
- Support an emphasis in law enforcement on building trust in immigrant communities, to include the policy of asking about an individual's immigration status only if he/she has been charged with a felony or misdemeanor. 2008
- Support local governmental programs for crime prevention and rehabilitation. 1970, 1979, 1994

Trade

- Support the encouragement of more trade activity if this growth is well planned and sensitive to environmental concerns and to the needs of workers both in the U.S. and internationally. 1978, 1982
- Support an international trade policy set primarily at the national level. The State and City should be involved in formulating this policy.

Municipal Court

- Support a municipal court system organized to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of our urban community. 1986

Ethics in Government

- Support ethics in government and measures to ensure that public officials and employees and members of boards, commissions, and advisory committees perform their responsibilities in the public interest in accordance with the highest ethical standards and measures to increase citizen confidence in government. 1994, 2003

Public Library

- Support a public library system that provides the public with fundamental library services and access to information technology. 1993

HUMAN RESOURCES/SOCIAL POLICY

Human Services

- Support measures to provide basic food, shelter and health care for those unable to provide for themselves and to provide training and opportunity for employment. 1982, 1984, 1990, 2004
- Support funding for community mental health services that addresses factors such as the number of individuals needing services, complexity of client

needs, and local factors such as housing and labor markets that affect the cost of providing services. 2004

- Support removal of artificial barriers to advancement in employment. 1993
- Support the involvement of local government in sponsoring ESL classes for all immigrants. 2008
- Support measures to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, religion, age, gender, physical or mental disability, race, national origin, marital status or socio-economic status, and promote equal rights for all persons. 1994, 2000

Housing

- Support programs that promote individual choice of housing by enhancing the availability and affordability of alternatives throughout the city. 1992, 2000, 2004
- Support low-income housing programs which meet the needs of low-income persons, are well located with respect to schools, jobs, medical care, shopping and transportation, and contribute to the diversity of the neighborhood. 1978, 1982, 1994, 1995, 2000
- Support programs to aid homeless families and single adults and to prevent homelessness. 1995, 2004
- Support efforts to limit the damaging environmental and social effects of sprawl. 2000
- Support the efforts of government at all levels to increase the supply of affordable housing through a variety of programs. 2000
- Support policies which increase the density and the supply of affordable housing. 2000

Health and Safety

- Support provision of public health services to all residents without regard to their citizenship status. 2008
- Support measures to reduce the exposure of the population to toxics in the home such as: educating the public and public officials, informing the media, developing advocacy groups, improving building standards. 1990, 2001
- Support incentives to promote healthy homes. 1994, 2001
- Support research and education in the area of indoor toxics. 1994, 2001
- Support public health as a basic function of government that must receive adequate and sustained public funding. The activities that are critical in sustaining community health include: community-based preventive services; control of communicable diseases; emergency preparedness, and ensuring a safe and health environment. 2005

Human Rights

- Support a human rights agency as a necessary and useful local government function. 1966, 1969, 1976

Microlending

- Support the concept of microlending. 2000

Women

- Support local government policies that enable women to make economic and personal decisions for themselves and their families. 1981, 1993, 1994
- Support policies that promote gender equity in employment. 1993
- Support policies that promote awards of spousal maintenance. 1994
- Support a uniform system of legislation protecting a divorced spouse's rights to pension benefits obtained during a marriage. 1994
- Support policies that promote reproductive choice. 1994

Teens

- Support government funding of programs to ensure health, safety, education and welfare of teens. 1995
- Support prevention and intervention programs to overcome problems of violence, suicide, homelessness, and family dysfunction. 1995

Children

- Support measures to assure that children have adequate food, clothing, education, medical care and a safe home environment free from abuse and neglect. While primary responsibility rests with the family, the community must provide the support if the family does not. 1985, 2003
- Support programs that provide parenting education and assist parents in problem resolution which is important in fostering positive child development and preventing delinquency. 2003

Early Childhood Programs

- Support the use of public funds for programs that meet the cognitive, physical and social needs of children from birth through age eight; that encourage parent education and involvement; and that provide health and human services to these children and their families. 1990, 2006

Drug Abuse and the Community

- Support measures to expand and fund drug abuse prevention education and drug abuse treatment programs as a means to reduce the demand for drugs. 1992, 2004

Juvenile Justice

- Support measures to develop and provide family, child and youth development programs to prevent delinquency, crime, and/or recidivism. 2002.

Cultural Activities

- Support city involvement in cultural activities. 1989, 1994

Historic Preservation

- Support the following criteria to be applied in designating an historic landmark: historical, architectural, and aesthetic values. 1986
- Support historic preservation policies which decide each designation on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration other public priorities, particularly human needs. 1986
- Support sharing the costs and benefits of historic preservation by the public and private sector 1986
- Support a process for determining landmark designation that includes a broad-based commission, public hearings, and final approval by the City Council, with provisions for appeal. 1986

SCHOOLS

- Support an educational system that provides quality staffing and citizen involvement and will permit each child to acquire basic skills, to develop the ability to reason, to develop self-esteem and social skills and that will challenge all children to achieve their full potential. A variety of educational approaches should be provided to achieve these goals. 1974, 1987, 2012

Financing

- Support adequate long-range financing for our public schools. 1962, 1968, 1970

Policy-Making

- Support a curriculum which includes academics, the arts, physical education and work skills. 2004
- Support an elected school board whose primary role is making policy, and who has final decision-making powers. 1962, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1994, 1997

Governance

- Support measures that clearly delineate authority and responsibility at the school building level and a governance structure that involves the community. 1997

Educational Reform

- Support educational reforms that address individ-

ual student needs and measures that allow innovation and flexibility in education. 1997

Administration

- Support the delegation of administrative functions to an appointed superintendent responsible to the board. 1962, 1970, 1971, 1987
- Support the school board and administration using all effective means of communicating with the public.
- The board must actively seek the counsel of parents, teachers, students and other citizens throughout all phases of the policy-making process. 1962, 1971
- Support the school board and administration establishing and implementing procedures for participation of school building staffs in district decision making.
- School building staff should be involved in the district decision making processes which affect them and their work with students. 1987

Teacher Compensation

- Support teacher compensation systems that reflect geographic cost of living variables and special demographic factors, and that reward teacher growth and excellence. 1992

Teachers

- Support an evaluation system for teachers that includes information from multiple measures of student growth. The measures should reflect the overall performance of the student. 2012
- The following criteria should be used in determining a reduction in force (RIF) caused by budget reductions: seniority based on years of experience, teacher evaluations, and the needs of the school. 2012
- Support funding for professional development and teacher collaboration time as a priority for improving teacher effectiveness. 2012

Citizen Participation in Budget Process

- Support citizen and school building staff involvement in the budget-making process for public schools. 1973, 1987

Children at Risk

- Support programs and staff to provide early identification of children at risk and appropriate counseling and/or referral. 1985

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Support measures which are precautionary in their

approach to the use of processes and materials which may have unintended harmful effects. 2004

Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenbelts

- Support comprehensive planning, acquisitions, development, preservation and use of parks, open spaces, unique areas, habitats, and green belts, both public and private, to provide a wide variety of facilities for all age groups. LWE 2004
- Support of the city's park and open space plan. MI 2004
- Support measures to achieve a well-maintained, adequately funded, diverse and safe system of parks, recreation and open space which is accessible to all, with emphasis on public service that is flexible and responsive to changing demographics and social needs. 1990.
- Support preservation, acquisition and enhancement of open spaces, selected ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas, and promotion of environmental awareness and sense of stewardship in the public. 1990, 1991
- Support Seattle Center as a unique urban park with a wide variety of activities and open space made available to residents and to non-residents of the city. 1981, 1989

Energy

- Support the formulation of clearly-defined governmental policies on energy. 1975
- Support the adjustment of the economy to zero energy growth, and the establishment of a definite target date. 1975, 1982
- Support governmental controls to accomplish energy conservation. 1975, 1994
- Support research and development on a wide variety of new energy sources such as solar, solid waste, wind, geothermal, tides and nuclear fusion. 1975
- Deregulation of the electric industry should be approached cautiously because of its possible impact on the environment and various stakeholders. 1998

Solid Waste Management

- Support measures to achieve waste reduction and recycling of solid waste as a first priority with environmentally safe disposal of the remainder. 1985

Air Quality

- Support reducing the amount of carbon dioxide produced to achieve a sustainable system. Incorporate the best available science to achieve best practices which may include mitigation. 2005

Litter

- Support measures to control litter as an environmental and aesthetic problem. 2005
- Support the role of individuals, business, volunteer groups and government in controlling litter. 2005
- Support the efforts of all individuals/groups to change attitudes so a litter-free environment is valued. 2005

Drainage and Wastewater Management

- Support the development of governmental policies, legislation and processes for storm water management that protect and maintain habitats as part of a sustainable ecosystem. 2009
- Support emerging scientifically-based practices that encourage best management practices, low impact development and natural drainage systems. 2009

KING COUNTY**Governance**

- Support a county-wide policy-making body with legal authority to establish policy for functions which require area-wide solutions. 1997, 2000
- Support a form of county government that is representative of the areas governed. 1997, 2000
- Support a form of county government that would have the power and resources to carry out its functions including adequate financial resources. 1997, 2000, 2005
- Support increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness. 2000
- Support coordination and cooperation among all local governments, including ports, schools and special districts. 1997, 2000
- Support establishment of long-range goals, plans to attain them, and a performance budget in an understandable form, including a long-range capital improvement program. 1997, 2000
- Support maintaining discretionary county services, especially in the areas of health and human services. 2005
- Support cost containment through:
 - efficient administration of county systems
 - consolidation of special services, where appropriate
 - coordination between the cities and the county, particularly in the area of criminal justice
 - preventive services, including alternatives to incarceration. 2005

- Support the use of tools that would promote the annexation of urban areas, e.g. education, state mandates, and financial incentives. 2005

Ethics in Government

- Support ethics in government and measures to ensure that public officials and employees perform their responsibilities in the public interest in accordance with the highest ethical standards and measures to increase citizen confidence in government. 1994, 2000, 2003

Courts

- Support implementing a strong court administration responsible for unified customer service, efficient management systems and coordinated technology. 1999
- Support reducing jurisdictional overlap except to provide flexibility in dealing with case overloads. 1999
- Support changes to the judicial selection system that would ensure qualified judges, increase public awareness of judicial elections and provide the public the information needed to make informed decisions. 1999

Special Districts

- Support consolidation of like special districts and setting of minimum, enforceable, county-wide standards for special districts.

Farmland

- Support a flexible combination of governmental programs to prevent a nonreversible alteration to lands with prime or productive soils. The principal use of those lands should ultimately be food production. Governmental policies and programs including taxation and zoning should support King County agriculture (land and industry).

Solid Waste Management

- Support measures to achieve waste reduction and recycling of solid waste as a first priority with environmentally safe disposal of the remainder. 1985.
- Dependence on landfills for disposal of solid waste should be greatly reduced.

Transportation and Growth Management

- Support the concentration of population growth by coordinating growth management plans in order to support a mass transit system and to reduce sprawl. 2004
- Support a diverse, seamless, balanced transportation system that includes such features as regional and commuter rail, passenger-only and auto ferries, maximum development of high-occupan-

cy vehicle lanes, express, local and feeder buses, transportation for special-needs, promotion of bicycle use, and adequate, safe pedestrian access to all transit and community services. 2004

- Support growth management/transportation planning and funding that includes cooperation and coordination among transportation systems to implement effective regional multi-modal transportation choices. 2004
- Support the use of public transportation systems through incentives such as convenient, affordable, secure transit services and pricing disincentives such as user-based taxes. 2004
- Support incentives for additional employer auto-trip reduction programs. 2004
- Support adequate and secure park-and-ride lots, community transportation centers and transit-oriented development where appropriate. 2004
- Support an increase in the amount of state, regional and local transportation funds to implement the most appropriate high priority transportation improvements consistent with adopted growth management and transportation plans. 2004
- Support coordination among all levels of government and industry in order to (1) share equipment, money and expertise and (2) form regulations to control transportation of hazardous material. The response procedure should be simplified, allowing for a distinct chain of command and easy access to resource information. The importance of adequate training, for both the personnel responsible for transporting the hazardous material and the personnel handling the incidents, should be stressed. The funding for enforcement of regulations and training of personnel should be provided by the private sector and government. The state must provide adequate inspection and enforcement regulations. 2004

REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

- Support water conservation efforts by all users including education programs, voluntary and mandatory conservation requirements that take into account previous conservation efforts and alternative types of water reuse. 1996, 1999
- Support a regional approach to water resources, watersheds, basins, and aquifers and to the accountability of any decision-making bodies to citizens. 1999

- Support a legal framework to create a regional water entity to manage regional water development. 1996

WASHINGTON STATE WATER RIGHTS AND GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

- Support the principle of maximum net benefits including human health and safety, riparian habitat, concurrency of supply with permitted demand, Indian treaty rights, protection of in-stream flow, and hydraulic continuity. 1996, 1999
- “Allocation of waters among potential uses and users shall be based on the securing of the maximum net benefits for the people of the state. Maximum net benefits shall constitute total benefits less cost including opportunities lost.” (Water Resources Act, 1971)
- Support federal and state standards and guidelines on a watershed basis. Other governments should meet or exceed federal and state regulations. County government should be the most restrictive. 1996
- All wells (Class A, B, and single family residential wells) should be measured and the data regarding water withdrawal, use and claims be reported to King County and the Department of Ecology.

PORT DISTRICTS

- Support public port districts as authorized by R.C.W. Title 53.04.01 (as of 1985) with emphasis on coordinated planning, public accountability, purposes of the port and environmental sensitivity. Puget Sound Leagues of Women Voters’ position adopted by LWV Seattle in 1982; amended in 1989.

A summary of our current state positions follows. You can find detailed information on each of them in Program in Action on the on the LWVWA website www.lwvwa.org. (Hard copies are available for \$3.00 upon request from the state League office.)

2013 – 2015 State Program: Positions in Brief

– Government –

Education Action to support in principle the Basic Education Act (1977) and the Levy Lid Act. Action to obtain a balanced tax structure and to maintain uniform assessment practices to ensure equitable and sufficient financing. Action to support adequate and stable state funding of common schools in Washington including the costs of in-service training. Action to increase visibility, accessibility and accountability of the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Action to support closer links between schools and social services, so that every child is ready to learn. Action to support greater involvement of parents, an increased role in decision making for teachers, and more flexible state education requirements. Action to provide greater access to public higher education to all, at whatever point in life it can be beneficial. Action to expand the definition of Basic Education to include the birth to five years.

Port Districts Action to encourage cooperation among port districts, but with local options for voter control over major policy and expenditure decisions.

Privatization Core services, functions and assets critical to the well-being of the people, should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector. Public agencies are required to make a documented finding of adequate return on investment for the public for any government contribution of funds or assets to the private sector. Government employees and elected officials after leaving government service should be prohibited for two years from working for any private company for which they had oversight responsibilities or authority over awarding contracts.

Representative Government Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to promote an informed electorate. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the election process. Action to support the initiative and referendum process, adopt improvements to the process and require additional information for voters. Action to protect the interests of all affected parties in considering the formation of new counties. Action to clarify in legislation the processes in county formation and to require that the entire county have the ability to vote on separation. Action to support election methods that promote "representative-ness," citizen participation and accountability and that produce proportional representation. Action to support a majority vote requirement if achieved through a mechanism such as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Action to support a primary that is "open" and encourages minor party participation if a primary continues to be used.

State Tax Policy Action to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect.

Washington State and Indian Treaty Rights Action to enhance salmon resources, establish a procedure for retrocession of jurisdiction to the tribes and support tribal land use planning of trust lands.

– Transportation –

Transportation The League supports a balanced state transportation policy that defines the role of the state and supports increases in funding to provide adequate revenue, flexibility, energy efficiency and safety in a multi-modal system of transportation.

– Natural Resources –

Energy Action to support an energy policy within Washington State. Action to educate the public on energy conservation. Action to establish incentives for efficient use of current energy sources and the greater use of alternative energy sources.

Global Climate Change See LWVUS *Impact on Issues*.

Resource Management Action to obtain coordinated planning and ensure environmental quality in the use of water, air and land resources. Action to insure that forest management is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats.

Waste Management Action for coordinated control and reduction of solid waste. Action to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in Washington and action to promote safe management of that waste which is produced, including toxics in the home.

– Social Policy –

Administration of Justice Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel. Action to maintain a separate court system and facilities for youths that will balance the procedural rights of the adversary system with the protection of youth's basic rights. Action to realize equity in sentencing standards. Action to obtain alternatives to incarceration is of prime importance.

Children's Programs

Child Support and Custody: The League of Women Voters supports vigorous, efficient and innovative child support enforcement methods and broad education regarding the responsibilities and consequences of parenthood. The best interest of the child should be the overriding consideration in determining custody, visitation and an appropriate level of child support. The physical and emotional security of the child should be paramount. Children are entitled to support adequate to meet basic needs commensurate with the parents' income, resources, and standard of living. Courts should have the discretion to order post secondary educational support in appropriate circumstances.

Children's Services: Action to support stable and adequate funding for children at risk, with priority given to prevention, early identification and intervention services, community based treatment programs, day treatment programs and residential care.

Day Care for Children: Action to provide for the general welfare of children in day care centers. Action to ensure that the state enforce minimum standards that include provision for a safe, healthy, clean environment. Action to support sufficient staff with emphasis on competence and ability to provide a creative, challenging and caring environment.

Early Care and Education of Children: Action to support the quality of early care and education, birth – 5, to maximize the child's future development. Action to support parents so all children develop to their full potential. Action to support improvements to child care programs, quality child care programs for children birth to five, increased access to preschool programs, programs for special needs children, home visiting and encouraging public-private partnerships.

Economic Diversification Action to ensure a balanced state economy with a strong mixture of large and small businesses. Measures to contribute to long-range planning and cooperation between all levels of government with local initiatives wherever possible.

Gun Control Action to provide governmental regulation of ownership and possession of firearms, and measures to limit their accessibility.

Health Care Action to provide universal access to affordable health services for all residents of the state of Washington and to control total system expenditures with seamless coverage regardless of ones health status.

Human Resources Action to achieve equal rights for all. Action to achieve equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Action to obtain measures that provide basic human needs for those unable to provide for themselves. Action to ensure that there are emergency support services for those involved in physical and/or mental violence.

Unit Meetings

(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)

Meetings are open to all.

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
Monday, January 12			
FIRST HILL – Joan Lawson			
joanvlawson@gmail.com	206-382-3147	10:00 a.m.	Horizon House, Forum & Social Room 900 University St., Seattle
SOUTH SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya			
hedgwolfe@aol.com	206-763-9430	7:00 p.m.	Hostess: Susan Jones
montoyaviv@yahoo.com	206-695-2620		5804 52nd Ave S, Seattle 206-725-2902
CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE –			
	206-329-4848	7:15 p.m.	Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw St., Seattle 206-322-3076
Tuesday, January 13			
BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Bonnie Rimawi			
bonnierim@aol.com	425-820-7127	12:00 p.m.	Bellevue Library, Room 6 1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue
WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams			
etheljw1@q.com	206-932-7887	1:00 p.m.	Daystar Retirement Village 2615 SW Barton, Seattle
Wednesday, January 14			
NORTHEAST SEATTLE (formerly View Ridge) – Kay Beck			
kbeck25@comcast.net	206-523-3127	12:45 p.m.	Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle
<i>Directions: Go into the Park through North entrance at 74th and drive EAST toward water. At the STOP sign, turn LEFT to park in front of the Brig, or RIGHT, for more parking. There will be a speaker.</i>			
QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Teddy Geokezas and Elsie Simon			
tgeokezas@msn.com	206-782-5036	7:30 p.m.	Hostess: Marilyn Klepper
elsiesimon@comcast.net	206-283-6297		Contact unit leaders for details

(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
-------------------	-------	------	----------

Thursday, January 15

MERCER ISLAND – Cynthia Howe

howe.john@comcast.net	206-236-0593	9:30 a.m.	Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island
-----------------------	--------------	-----------	--

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD

	206-329-4848	10:00 a.m.	University House, Auditorium 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle
--	--------------	------------	---

NORTH CENTRAL – Jan Orlando

orlanre@aol.com	206-524-0936	2:00 p.m.	Hostess: Carol Long 3059 38th Ave SW, Seattle 206-932-1547
-----------------	--------------	-----------	--

Wednesday, January 21

NORTH KING COUNTY – Toni Potter/Marjorie Hawkes

antoniapotter@comcast.net	206-365-8949	9:15 a.m.	Third Place Commons Mtg Room
mshawkesis@gmail.com	425-582-2481		17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk.

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen

maryehlers@comcast.net	253-941-1930	7:00 p.m.	Foundation House
kjorgensen@juno.com	253-859-8349		32290 1st Ave S, Federal Way

Saturday, January 17

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Alice Peterson

peterson-alice-jack@msn.com	206-524-5530	10:00 a.m.	Hosts: Kerry & Lisa Peterson 3932 Midvale Ave N 206-547-3029
-----------------------------	--------------	------------	--

Thursday, January 22

ISSAQUAH – Dorris Martin

dorrismrtn@aol.com	425-746-9960	10:00 a.m.	Echo Room, Issaquah City Hall 130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah
--------------------	--------------	------------	--

SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier

clcathy@skynetbb.com	360-802-6799	11:30 a.m.	Frankie's 117 Roosevelt Ave (Hwy 410), Enumclaw
----------------------	--------------	------------	--

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

2013-15	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>1st VP-Action</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2014-15	<i>2nd VP</i>	Mary Jo Vigil	206-783-8485	mjvigil@starbucks.com
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2014-16	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Piennett	206-329-4848	cindypiennett@gmail.com

Directors

2013-15	<i>Program/Outreach</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
2014-16	<i>Membership</i>	Paneen Davidson	206-329-4848	membership@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-223-5827	mjafreitag@comcast.net
2014-16	<i>Action</i>	Pat Griffith	206-285-2452	pgseattle@q.com
2014-16	<i>Voter Services</i>	Julie Anne Kempf	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2014-16	<i>Program</i>	Joan Lawson	206-329-4848	joanvlawson@gmail.com
2014-15	<i>Voter Editor</i>	Lisa Peterson	206-329-4848	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2014-16	<i>Voter Services</i>	Amelia Woolley	206-329-4848	voterservice@seattlelwv.org

Note: All board members listed above are also members of the Education Fund Board

Education Fund Officers

2013-15	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2014-15	<i>1st VP</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2014-15	<i>2nd VP</i>	Julie Anne Kempf	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2014-15	<i>Treasurer</i>	Katie Dudley	206-329-4848	eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org

Nominating Committee

2014-15	<i>Co-chair</i>	Susan Jones	206-329-4848	susan@monckjones.com
2014-15	<i>Co-chair</i>	Jeannette Kahlenberg	206-329-4848	kahlenb@gmail.com
2014-15		Carol Goldenberg	206-329-4848	carolsamgo@q.com

Note: Two board members will be appointed to serve on the nominating committee in January.

Off Board Positions

Campaign Finance	Jean Carlson	206-774-6649	carlson.jean@gmail.com
KC South Liaison	Mary Ehlers	253-941-1930	maryehlers@comcast.net
CIS Coordinator	Cynthia Howe	206-236-0593	howe.john@comcast.net

Committees

<i>Climate Change</i>	Judy Bevington		gbeving@eskimo.com
<i>Climate Change</i>	Raelene Gold		raelene@seanet.com
<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	see page 7		
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	Carol Goldenberg		carolsamgo@q.com
<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-223-5827	mjafreitag@comcast.net
<i>Transportation</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Ave, Suite 101
Seattle WA 98122

Periodicals Postage
Paid at Seattle, WA

Moving? Let us know!

Call the League office at (206) 329-4848 or
email info@seattlelwv.org

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY FORUM:

Program Planning for 2015-16

January 8

6:30 p.m. Doors Open

7:00 p.m. Program

Discussion leader briefing to follow program.

Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca)

Seattle, WA

Accessible entrance on Harvard

This forum is free and open to the public.

Forum Info:

Speaker from King County on the King
County Budget and Funding Options.

Roundtable discussions on a variety of
issues.