

The Voter

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

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Carving Paths to Success after High School: What Will It Take to Keep the Promise?

by Joanna Cullen



The League's Education Committee

is hosting a forum on Thursday April 1 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. to explore the

vision and the challenges to providing free community college first to Seattle residents, and then expanding to King County and statewide. Our panelists will address the Seattle Promise, ST3 funding, the progress on what has been provided, and on Washington College Promise legislation. What is the experience of those working to bring this promise to fruition?

The forum reflects our interest in whether or not students are thriving as they graduate high school (or don't graduate) as a part of collecting information to assess the success of our public schools in serving the needs of K-12 students. The LWV positions and work at all levels clearly establish that League cares about issues of

education and equity, along with its history of promoting accessible early childhood education for all and supporting accessible, affordable higher education.

Our inquiries began about the same time that the various "promise programs" to improve access to postsecondary education were being discussed. The case being made for the various promise programs includes addressing the needs to increase equity and to close opportunity and achievement gaps. An examination of the progress of and challenges faced by these programs will reflect to some degree how well-prepared the students are for the post-secondary programs that interest them.

Recently, the idea of free tuition, especially at public universities and colleges, has gained momentum. Often the ambitious efforts to find the ways forward seem disconnected, with numerous levels of government and

other agencies involved. Building great programs will increase public trust, and failing to do so could do lasting damage to the efforts. Let's find out where we are in the planning and implementing phases.

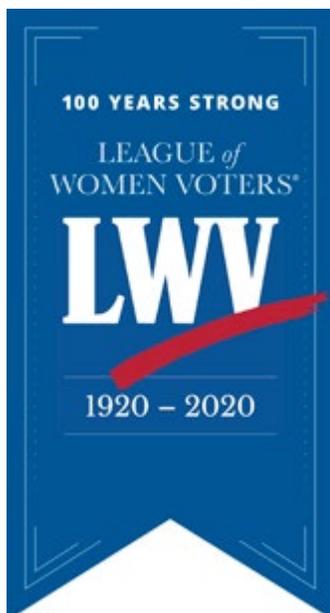


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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Connecting with LWV Leadership

by Adele Reynolds, Program Chair

Early April, what a lovely time of year in Seattle! Like gardeners we have season specific duties—or we prefer to say, “opportunities.” How can League contribute to our democracy, particularly at this time of year?

Within our League, this week we are finishing up our forums for the program year and will soon be preparing for our Annual Meeting to be held on May 22. That significant event will again be on zoom and include electing several new officers and determining our coming year’s “Program of Work,” among other items of business.

Few weeks remain in this legislative session before its scheduled adjournment on April 25 (unless another session is being prepared). What important bills need some last-minute effort to get passed this year? Thanks and appreciation go to the LWVWA Lobby Team members, who in addition to direct lobbying, have been leading us members in our advocacy efforts by providing issue pages and the Legislative Newsletter throughout the session. Here is your invitation to join the team—if not this year, perhaps next.

It is hard to realize that we are now beginning a whole new election cycle to take place during 2021. Last year was an even-numbered year, so we voted for national and state executive offices. This is an ODD numbered

year, so we vote on local elections: city and county councils, school districts, special districts, etc.

Candidates are thinking hard now about whether or not they really want to run for office. King County has produced an extensive Candidate Manual to guide candidates through the process. In both King County and the state, candidate Filing Week will be held from May 17 to May 21, 2021. Washington State elections are handled within the Secretary of State’s office and include candidates for all federal and state executive, legislative and judicial positions (Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Superior Court offices). The Secretary of State’s website is a good place for candidates to learn the election details for these various offices.

One of the League’s most important “opportunities” that we take very seriously is hosting election forums. By helping citizens make informed decisions as they prepare to vote for both candidates and ballot issues, we are defending democracy. This year, with many local elections, units will be preparing forums for their City Council and School Board elections.

There are good League guidelines to follow. Among the most challenging is preparing unbiased questions that help to distinguish

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STAY HEALTHY, STAY STRONG, STAY INFORMED!

As the League does its part to help slow the spread of COVID-19, this issue of **The Voter** will be distributed in digital format only—all print production and mailing of the newsletter is temporarily suspended. This is an interactive PDF, meaning you can click on hyperlinks (in **bold blue font**) and page numbers to navigate the document. The  symbol at the bottom of each page will take you to the top of the newsletter.

Announcements

Annual Meeting on May 22

Mark your calendars! The LWVSKC Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 22 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom. The Annual Meeting is where we will take care of important League business for the upcoming year, including voting on board positions, bylaws, and budgets. We'll also honor some of our dedicated volunteers and reflect on another year in the books. Keep an eye out for more details to come, including the Annual Meeting workbook and Zoom instructions.

Murder Mystery Fundraiser

Join the League on Wednesday, May 19 for an evening of mystery, old Hollywood glamour, and crime...all from the comforts of your own home! We're linking up with Foulplay, a women-owned and run game company to throw a virtual fundraising party on May 19. Stay tuned for information on ticket sales, event details, and more!

Board Briefs

President Alyssa Weed was out sick, so 2nd VP Heather Kelly chaired the March board meeting. Barbara Erickson joined as Secretary.

C4 Meeting: Program Chair Adele Reynolds reported that the units were most interested in the following hot topics for forums: homelessness, climate change, public education, and affordable housing. Heather Kelly and Action Co-Chair Lauren Pixley reported that the Observer Corps has resulted in 119 reports since June 2020.

C3 Meeting: Voter Services Chair Chelsea Jordan provided information on the March 8 King Conservation District candidate forum. The Board discussed their application for King County Elections' Voter Education Fund Grant. Lauren Pixley is working on a virtual member engagement event. DEI Learning Labs under Heather Kelly are going well under LWVUS agendas. The Board discussed changing the website over to Club Express.

Voter Seeking Dynamic Editor(s)!

Do you have copyediting and/or desktop publishing skills and want a fun, creative way to keep up with League activity? Consider editing **The Voter**, starting with the summer issue! Contact info@seattlelww.org for more information.

(Speak Up) School is in Session!

The time has come again for the Washington State Redistricting Commission to convene and redraw the legislative and congressional district boundaries. In the spirit of making sure our democracy works for everyone by ensuring that each voice can be heard, LWVWA is partnering with LWVSKC to host *Speak Up School!* Thank you to everyone who is helping with this event!

Speak Up School is a workshop that not only teaches attendees the basics of redistricting, but also trains them on how to write and present effective public testimony. There is no charge for this event. We hope you'll spread the word and join us!

Alison McCaffree is presenting Redistricting 101 on multiple occasions across the state. We encourage you to attend one of these sessions before attending our two-part *Speak Up School*. [Click here](#) to see the schedule of *Speak Up Schools* in order to determine when you may attend Redistricting 101.

Then please mark your calendar and join us for the following *Speak Up School* sessions:

- Part One: Introduction & overview, how to write testimony, and an exploration of WA district maps and data lenses with Alison McCaffree. **Saturday, April 17, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
- Part Two: How to deliver testimony, an exploration of the Dave's Redistricting App Map Drawing Tool, and an opportunity to practice giving testimony. **Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Click [here](#) to register for *Speak Up School!*

LWVSKC Public Comment Presented at the King County Council's Law & Justice Committee on March 2, 2021

Thank you, Chair Zahilay and Councilmembers for offering an opportunity to comment. My name is Heather Kelly and I live in Seattle. I am the 2nd Vice President and Action Co-Chair for the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVSKC). The League supports establishing an advisory committee to engage community stakeholders regarding the selection, appointment and confirmation of a new sheriff and the scope of duties and structure of the sheriff's department. Consideration of community stakeholder input during the selection process was a requirement of the Charter Amendments and key grounds for the League's endorsement of these reforms.

The League is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. We support a committee representing the geographic, ethnic and economic diversity in King County. Committee members from overpoliced communities, supporters of law enforcement reform, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, and other citizen stakeholders must have a meaningful voice in this process if the aim is to create systemic change.

In response to Mayor Kelly's comment for additional city staff representation, we ask that the Council maintain the balance proposed by the ordinance or add additional advocates for reform. Part of the responsibilities of this group are to gather community input, and people working on reform already have already done the work to forget relationships with those directly policed by the King County Sheriff's Office.

The League appreciates the Council and the Executive's desire for the work of the advisory committee to be open, transparent and truly inclusive. To achieve those goals, the League requests that the Council reduce or eliminate barriers that might prevent people from serving on the Committee. People need sufficient notice of the opportunity to serve, compensation would impose a financial hardship, and access to adequate support staff and resources. The work of this committee will be challenging enough without any additional impediments.

If this committee is to lead our County into a new era in public safety, we must all lift them up in their work.

Leadership, cont'd from p. 3

the candidates. Do they understand the responsibilities of the position? How do their values show up? What commitments have they made? What are their positions on important issues of the day? As Voter Services Chair, Chelsea Jordan has had this responsibility. She will appreciate your volunteering. You may be surprised at what fun it is to get to know your most local electeds and see what differences they are able to make once they are in office.

Wherever you find your niche in League work, you will find it challenging, rewarding, and a great way to meet others who share your cares and work with you toward the same goals.

PS: Don't miss the new Observer Corps section on the League's website. It is in the top line—right in the middle of the page.

2021 Hot Topic Rankings and Totals

by Adele Reynolds, Program Chair

In January the League conducted its annual Program Planning forum, and members were asked to rank the topics they'd like the League to explore in future forums. Here are the results:

1. Homelessness (76)
2. Climate Change (73)
3. Public school equity issues (60)
4. Affordable housing (45)
5. Mental Health issues (45)
6. Criminal Justice issues (32)

Do the numbers in parentheses leave you wondering? Participants ranked their top three choices from the list on page 7 of the January **Voter**. To record each person's choices, I assigned Top Choice = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1. This gave a total of 405 points (6 points for each of 67.5* participants). Thanks to each of you for expressing your interests.

Now, I hope you will not hesitate to share your expertise & particular concerns. Each forum is designed by a fairly small committee—and they can always use extra help identifying challenges, solutions, or overlooked points of view or even appealing speakers. Would your unit like to take on a topic? Perhaps you'd rather meet some new friends who share your concern. Please let me know how you might want to be involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Who didn't choose three?

League Organizes Town Hall for Climate Resiliency

by Sarah Phillips



The League of Women Voters Environmental Committee has as a goal of public involvement in the efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change. This goal means engaging with people in their community to identify steps people can take to save energy and reduce their carbon footprint.

Across the county, cities are taking approaches and actions to reduce climate change. In Lake Forest Park, the League has coordinated a group of 15 local organizations in a Zoom Town Hall titled "Building Climate Resiliency: Listen, Ask, Learn."

The Town Hall consists of five parts: presentations, breakout rooms focused on how to take action, videos demonstrating successes around the county, a panel of people whose voices have been traditionally underrepresented, and action planning sessions.

You are invited to join us for all or part of the day. Please register for the event [here](#).

Promise, cont'd from p. 1

Seattle's Promise is Created

In 2018 Seattle voters approved an education levy that included giving the city's public high-school graduates two free years of community college, which launched Seattle Promise in 2018 with a mission to create more equitable higher education opportunities for Seattle Public School (SPS) graduates.

The **program is a promise** "to guide students on a direct path from high school to college to earn a degree or certificate and enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year college or university; boost career opportunities for all students, especially first-generation and under-served populations; and prepare students to participate in our region's vibrant workforce and economy without taking on overwhelming debt."

According to the **Seattle Colleges website**, the program "provides the first two years (or up to 90 credits) of tuition, additional financial support for books, transportation, housing, etc. to those with financial need, and personal guidance to succeed in college. All Seattle public high school graduates are eligible regardless of grade point average (GPA), income, ability or country of birth."

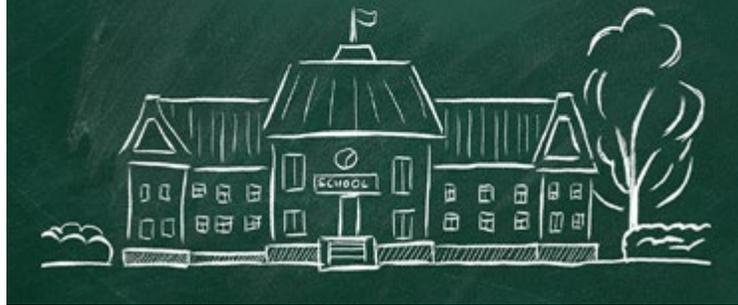
King County's Promise is Established as a Result of ST3

According to King County's website:

The Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA) was created as an amendment to the 2015 State Transportation Revenue Package by the Washington State Legislature, and directs that these Sound Transit-related funds be used for educational services to improve educational outcomes in early learning, K-12, and post-secondary education.

From The LVWVA's "Program in Action" Guide:

The purpose of higher education is to gain knowledge and skills that lead to enhancement of life, work and citizenship. Higher education should be available to all, at whatever point in life it can be beneficial." confirms that the League of Women of Washington position on Higher Ed is firm in its support of the need for excellent, accessible public higher education and training for the workforce, while at the same time stating that education, not business, should drive the curriculum. p. 15, *Higher Education (1996), HE-1.*



Approximately \$315 million of PSTAA funds are expected to become available to King County between 2019 and 2034, and within parameters set by the state, the county decides how to spend the funds. General goals and principles for the use of PSTAA funds in King County were approved by the King County Council on December 11, 2017. The Council's motion identified specific populations that PSTAA might support, and put forth other goals and objectives for the use of the funds, and subsequently the County identified nine potential education strategies to investigate further for funding.

In August 2019, the King County Council decided that \$122 million of the \$315 million should go to the King County Promise program to support K-12 students to and through college and in other opportunities after high school, including trade and apprenticeship programs. They set aside \$165 million for building new early-learning facilities across King County, and \$41 million for community-based organizations that work closely with historically marginalized youth.

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Promise, cont'd from p. 7

The County Council also voted in 2019 that before any organizations can apply for grants from the \$318 million, county staff must first draft an implementation plan and submit it for the full council's consideration within eight months.

The total pot of money, which lasts through 2034, comes from a fee on Sound Transit construction contracts that lawmakers included in the state's transportation budget back in 2015.

Puget Sound College & Career Network at PSESD Selected as the Supporting Organization

Recently the Puget Sound College & Career Network at PSESD was selected as the King County Promise System Supporting Organization (SSO) stating, "We know based on our local student surveys that while almost all of our local students want to attend college (96%!), numerous significant barriers prevent this from being possible today and especially during this past year. The visions that we have developed are even more relevant and necessary now as we work to rebuild and create much more equitable future systems."

The Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) is one of nine regional

educational agencies serving school districts, tribal compact schools, and state approved charter and private schools in Washington. Educational Service Districts, created by the legislature, are an essential regional delivery system for early learning and K-postsecondary services in the state.

Washington State Contributions

"Washington state doesn't have a problem finding educated people to work in its booming high-tech economy—it's just most of those people come from out of state."

This was the reason Washington legislators gave for enacting the landmark Workforce Education Investment Act **into law** in May 2019. It is the Washington State Promise and is not the only state supported financial aid available to students leaving high school.

The **Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)** is a nine-member council supported by a cabinet-level state agency. By statute, the Council provides strategic planning, oversight, advocacy, and program administration to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington and oversees the financial aid programs.

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Seattle Colleges District Office at Siegel Center

Promise, cont'd from p. 8

Need-Based Programs

- The Washington College Grant, one of the most generous financial aid programs in the country, provides need-based aid to Washingtonians pursuing college or career training after high school. It was created in April 2019 by the **Workforce Education Investment Act**.
- The College Bound Scholarship provides an early promise of financial aid to students from low-income families.
- State Work Study is financial aid for low- and middle-income students. Qualifying students get an approved job, on- or off-campus, to support their education.
- The Passport to Careers program helps students from foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth attend and succeed in college, apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship programs.
- The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) helps low- and middle-income Washington students earn degrees, certificates, or apprenticeships in high-demand trade, health care, or STEM fields and launch careers in Washington State created in 2011.

Mary Bolger's quote in the February **Voter** aptly summarizes the League's understanding of the meaning of equity in legislation: "Equity is an approach that ensures everyone access to the same opportunities. Equity recognizes that advantages and barriers exist, and that, as a result, we all don't all start from the same place. Equity is a process that begins by acknowledging that unequal starting place and makes a commitment to correct and address the imbalance."



Merit-Based Programs

- The American Indian Endowed Scholarship benefits eligible students who have close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe or community in Washington State.

Workforce Programs

- The Washington State Educator Workforce programs provide financial aid to attract and retain teachers to work in subjects or locations of high need known as shortage areas.

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Seattle Central College

Promise, cont'd from p. 9

- Washington Health Corps programs encourage licensed health professionals to provide primary care at approved sites in rural or underserved areas.
- The National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant helps eligible, actively participating members of the Washington National Guard get an undergraduate degree or certificate.
- The Aerospace Loan Program supports training for entry-level aerospace workers.

Our Forum

Our committee recognizes the needs of industry. At the same time, we know that programs that allow post-secondary student opportunities to explore and build on their interests and talents are important.



This program will focus on understanding the local city and King County “promise” efforts and better understanding how the various programs at the different levels of government support each other. Your questions, comments and participation will be important to our understanding of how “promise” programs should fit into future Seattle King County Education Committee conversations.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe that public college tuition should be free? Why or why not?
2. Do our higher ed institutions need more support from the state?
3. How well-informed are you regarding aid available to students for college?
4. Do you believe that these programs will contribute to equitable opportunities?
5. Is equity an important consideration in program planning?
6. How do you usually vote on local levies?
7. Do you support the idea of free public childcare? Or free or highly subsidized childcare?
8. Should early childhood education, childcare, and higher ed be a part of the LWVSKC Education Committee conversations? Why or why not?

DEI

DEI Learning Lab: Building a Common Vocabulary II

by Heather Kelly, 2nd Vice President

What makes an “ally” in racial justice? That was the main question we addressed at the last meeting of the DEI discussion group. We explored the difference between “performative” and authentic allyship and learned that performative allyship is self-serving, while authentic allyship begins with listening to the impacted group you’re seeking to support.

Analyzing allyship using the example of the land acknowledgment, we brainstormed how to maintain the meaning in our acknowledgments as they become more common at League meetings. Ideas for this practice included inviting meeting participants to pause and reflect, identifying an action step to support tribes, and educating meeting attendees about the tribes we are acknowledging.

This spring, we will continue to examine the terminology in the [League DEI Glossary](#) published in the March Voter. To help us distinguish between terms that are often conflated, we will study concepts that often overlap in order to understand their differences. This month, we will focus on the terms “culture,” “ethnicity,” and “race,” defined here:

Culture: A social system of meaning and custom that is developed by a group of people to assure its adaptation and survival. These groups are distinguished by a set of unspoken rules that shape values, beliefs, habits, patterns of thinking, behaviors and styles of communication. (Source: W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Institute for Democratic Renewal and Project Change Anti-Racism Initiative. A Community Builder’s Tool Kit.)

Ethnicity: A social construct that divides people into smaller social groups based on characteristics such as shared sense of group membership, values, behavioral patterns, language, political and economic interests, history and ancestral geographical base. (Source: W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Maurianne Adams, Lee Anne Bell and Pat Griffin, editors. Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice: A Sourcebook. New York: Routledge.)

Race: A social construct that artificially divides people into distinct groups based on characteristics such as physical appearance (particularly color), ancestral heritage, cultural affiliation, cultural history, ethnic classification, and the social, economic, and political needs of a society as a given period of time. (Source: W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Maurianne Adams, Lee Anne Bell and Pat Griffin, editors. Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice: A Sourcebook. New York: Routledge.)

One area where race and ethnicity surface in the League’s work is in the U.S. Census. With redistricting right around the corner, this is the perfect opportunity to explore how race has shaped, and been shaped by, the Census. For example, over 10 million Americans checked a different box for “race” between the 2000 and 2010 censuses. Hispanics, Americans of mixed race, American Indians, and Pacific Islanders were most likely to check a different box. (Source:



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Voter Services

'Tis the Season for Candidates and Special Elections

by Chelsea Jordan

CANDIDATE WORKSHOPS

Thinking of running for office and not sure where to start?

King County Elections is hosting online workshops for potential candidates! Learn about public disclosure rules, voter lists, submitting voter's pamphlet information, and more.

Thursday, April 1 at 6-8 p.m.

Saturday, April 17 at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Thursday, April 29 at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Click here to see a list of King County offices subject to election in 2021. The candidate filing window for the King County August primary/November election is May 17-21.

[Learn more and register at this link.](#)

APRIL SPECIAL ELECTION

The April Special Election is upon us! Eligible voters will soon be receiving voter's pamphlets and ballots for the April Special Election. Ballots will be mailed out on April 7. Returned ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 27 or placed in a dropbox by 8 p.m. that same day.

As you well know, special elections have notoriously low turnout. Do your part to get out the vote and use our [pre-made social media images](#) to remind your friends and family to turn in their ballots!

Here's a peek at what will be on the April ballot:

City of Shoreline, Proposition No. 1

The City Council of the City of Shoreline adopted Ordinance No. 918 concerning



neighborhood park improvements. This proposition authorizes the City to improve and/or construct city parks, including playgrounds, an accessible play area, splash-pads, multi-sport courts, walking and sensory trails, picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas, sports fields and/or other park amenities; install public

art; acquire and improve new park land; issue up to \$38,500,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20 years to finance and refinance such projects; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay such bonds, as provided in Ordinance No.918.

Shoreline Fire Department, Proposition No. 1

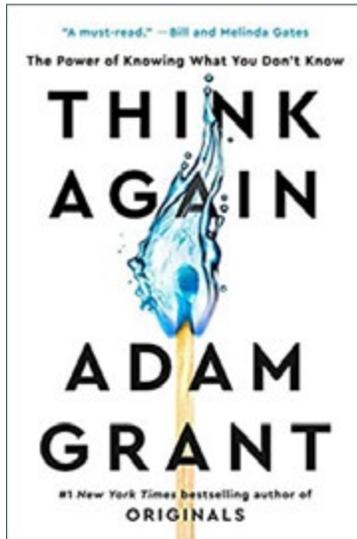
Shall Shoreline Fire Department be re-authorized to continue voter approved benefit charges each year for ten years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operation budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

King County Fire Protection District No. 16, Proposition No. 1

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protections District No. 16., King County, Washington, adopted a resolution concerning the merger of Fire Protection District 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department into Woodinville Fire & Rescue. This proposition would merge King County Fire Protection District No. 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department into Woodinville Fires & Rescue, creating one fire protection district to provide fire and emergency medical services for the areas currently served by two districts.

Need more information? Visit the [King County Elections website](#) for details.

Book Review by Vicky Downs



Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know by Adam Grant

This book urges us to doubt—and especially to question—ideas and beliefs we've held for years. Thinking again can lead to a more fact-filled and fulfilling life.

For example, in an argument or debate, many people believe they would do best by overwhelming the opposition with a huge number of good points. Grant tells us to stick with the two best ideas and show several ways they are terrific. If you offer many different ideas, your opposition will focus on your weaker points, while avoiding discussion of the better ones. You are more likely to win by enhancing your two best ideas.

I was interested to learn the power of “persuasive listening,” which can motivate people to change. Telling a mother about the many reasons she should allow doctors to vaccinate her fragile infant usually results in the mother feeling attacked and then determined to retain her beliefs.

What works? “Motivation through interviews.” Asking questions and listening to answers, and supporting when possible. For example, saying: “I can see that you would do anything to help your baby.”

One mother said a turning point for her occurred when the doctor told her “he respected my decisions as someone who wanted the best for my kids.” Feeling confident that she was a good mother, she felt open to the idea of doing what was most important and came to realize a vaccine would protect her baby, and her other children.

We've all heard that the “the unexamined life is not worth living,” and Grant shows us how to question world views we've grown up with. His ideas helped my friend, after scores of years, to forgive the Giants for leaving New York when she was eleven years old. Basically, she followed Grant's suggestion to look at what she liked about the Giants—their comradery—and realized that friendship and comradery existed in other teams as well.

Grant turns to Wilbur and Orville Wright for examples of “Constructive Conflict.” Their problem was how to make a machine that could fly. Their parents were not abusive, “but they didn't shy away from conflict either ... and they encouraged their children to stand up for themselves.” The brothers “learned to

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Book Review, cont'd from p. 13

dish it out and to take it.” Their arguments were strong, but they had a “good fight” that led them to scrap what didn’t work and search for better ideas.

I learned that always avoiding conflict doesn’t lead to improvements, and often less-agreeable people are the ones who “point out our blind spots and help us overcome our weaknesses.” This idea has changed my thoughts about who and how we might best appreciate others in group meetings.

Grant shows us how schools, businesses and government fall short by not encouraging us to rethink. He writes about firefighters in the wild who are using essential tools that come to be like parts of their bodies. In a crisis, they might need to drop their heavy tools and run toward escape, but without tools, who would they be? Tragically, many die. Those who dropped tools and ran had a better survival rate.

Sometimes it’s an assumption that needs to be dropped. Grant mentions such things as “assuming your marriage is fine despite your partner’s increasing emotional distance, or feeling secure in your job even though some of your colleagues have been laid off.”

In government, a recent example of “Think Again” might be the “senseless deaths of George Floyd [and others] that left millions of white people realizing [racism] is not only an issue for people of color.”

This is an important book.

DEI, cont'd from p. 11

(Source: Cohn, D’Vera. “Millions of Americans Changed their Racial or Ethnic Identity from One Census to the Next.” Pew Research Center. 5 May, 2014. Available online [here](#).) The boxes themselves have changed over the years as well, as [this timeline](#) illustrates.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is the difference between a social “system” and a social “construct”?
- Which of these categories (culture, ethnicity, and race) are inherited and which are learned?
- Can any of these categories change over one’s lifetime?
- Who has defined these groups over the years—the people within the group, the people outside the group, or both?
- What advantages or disadvantages do you see in dividing people into these categories?

Join us every third Wednesday for our DEI Discussion Group, which meets again on April 21 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. You can register for that meeting [here](#). Questions, comments, and ideas can be emailed to me at action@seattlelww.org.

Units Unite Us: League Links

by Roslyn Ann Duffy

In the fall LWVSKC units engaged in a pilot project called Cross Unit Connection Volunteers. The vision was to provide a means to connect members with all levels of League work, as well as with one another's units. Members in each unit were invited to become volunteers, choosing among a variety of topics.

This list includes: US League; WA League; Civic Ed; Post Office; Voter Services; Census/Redistricting; Environment. Healthcare was recently added and Observer Corps and Public Banking are being added, as well as topics chosen by unit members.

The task was to compile information on their chosen topic between meetings and give a report on the topic at the next unit meeting. Each volunteer would read pertinent League publications, such as newsletters and email announcements from local, state and national Leagues; attend or join committees or affinity groups on their chosen topic, such as environment or voter services; or seek information from public sources, such as updates on the post office or healthcare.

At each monthly meeting, volunteers relay their information in short 3–5-minute reports. By the end of the meeting, all members feel well-informed about multiple issues, but only have had to gather information about one.

This system allows units to use their time efficiently and make meaningful contributions to ongoing League work at multiple levels. Some have chosen to invite speakers on a particular topic after hearing about that topic in a member report; others are exploring ways to engage in advocacy or education-related activities, thanks to topics the group is following through its volunteers.

In March, volunteers from all units gathered to assess this project. First of all, many said

it has been transformative. As more and more members become volunteers (the goal is that all members take part) the feeling of engagement with all levels of League work, as well as increased understanding of current issues, is soaring. Members feel a renewed sense of belonging to the League and a new energy is evident at unit meetings.

What did not work were attempts to engage in inter-unit meetings. Going forward, volunteers will initiate and decide to what degree they wish to work with other unit volunteers who have chosen the same topic. Most simply could not add another meeting to their lives.

Given this change, a name change seemed needed, too. The new name for these volunteers is now League Links.

League Links is a model we anticipate that units in other Leagues across the state and country can benefit from, too. It is a proven and contemporary means for members to connect and focus work, while building community through unit participation.

If you are not yet a unit member and would like to attend one of our current unit meetings, (all on Zoom, for now) please see the end of The Voter for times and dates.

If you would like to join one of two newly forming units, please contact roslyn@lww.org. The dates / times for these proposed new (virtual) units are:

2nd Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.
3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Unit membership for all League members is an effective tool for engagement. The Seattle-King County units have successfully launched and are evolving League Links as a new means for that engagement. And the great news is that it is working—very, very well.

Unit & Committee Meetings

Much of our world is going virtual these days, and League meetings are no exception. While it's not quite the same as meeting in person, the upside is that it's now more possible than ever to attend meetings, since they're only a click away!

Visit the League's website for the most up-to-date meeting information. You can also check with committee chairs and unit leaders directly. Their contact info is included on the [last page of The Voter](#).

Committee Meetings

The League has several standing committees that focus on specific issues. They include:

- Economics & Taxation
- Education
- Environment
- International Relations (currently on hiatus and investigating remote meeting topics)

Unit Meetings

In addition to its general membership, the League is comprised of more than a dozen units (small discussion groups) that generally meet once a month from September to May. Units typically discuss the current monthly forum or other topical issues, and they help organize and connect members to League outreach activities.

Members have historically attended unit meetings that were geographically convenient to their home or workplace, but all LWV members are encouraged to attend any unit meeting(s) that best fits their schedule!

Check the League's website for the latest information on unit meeting times and to connect with units through Zoom. Typically units meet on the following days and times each month:

- **First Hill Seattle Unit:** Third Monday at 10:30 a.m.
- **Issaquah Unit:** Third Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- **Northeast Seattle Unit:** Second Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
- **North King County Unit:** Fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Queen Anne/Magnolia/Ballard (Day Unit):** Third Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
- **Queen Anne/Magnolia/Ballard (Evening Unit):** Second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Mercer Island Unit:** Second Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- **South Seattle Unit:** Third Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Southeast King County/Enumclaw Unit:** Second Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Board & Committee Contacts

All contacts can be reached at 206-329-4848 unless otherwise noted

Term Executive Committee

2019-21	President	Alyssa Weed	president@seattlelww.org
2020-22	1st VP		
2019-21	2nd VP - Action	Heather Kelly	action@seattlelww.org
2019-21	Secretary	Barbara Erickson	
2020-22	Treasurer	Marilee Fuller	treasurer@seattlelww.org

Term Directors

2019-21	Unit Liaison	Roslyn Duffy	roslyn@seattlelww.org
2019-21	Voter Service	Chelsea Jordan	voterservice@seattlelww.org
2020-22	Volunteer Coordinator	Lauren Pixley	lauren@seattlelww.org
2020-22	Program	Adele Reynolds	adelereynolds@aim.com
2019-21	Outreach & Events	Melissa Taylor	melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com

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

Term Education Fund Officers — same as above except Treasurer

2020-22	Treasurer	Katie Dudley	eftreasurer@seattlelww.org
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Term Nominating Committee

2020-21	Chair	Linnea Hirst	lwwquilter@comcast.net
2020-21		Judy Deiro	judy.deiro@gmail.com
2020-21		Julie Sarkissian	juliesarkissian@hotmail.com

Off-Board Positions

The Voter Editor	Stephanie Cirkovich	votereditor@seattlelww.org
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Committee Chairs

Communications			communications@seattlelww.org
Economics & Taxation	Nora Leech		nleech2002@yahoo.com
Education	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
Environment	MAK Mitchell	917-865-8423	mak@armak.us
International Relations	Kim Peterson	206-789-7447	
Investment Committee	Cindy Piennett	253-777-9864	cindypiennett@gmail.com
Observer Corps	Heather Kelly		action@seattlelww.org