Why Don’t More Women Run for Office?

by Maggie Humphreys, President, National Women’s Political Caucus

We are all too familiar with the tired headline, “Why Don’t More Women Run for Office?” In 2016, we saw numerous women across the state of Washington run for legislative and county office, in addition to women running for executive state offices. For the first time in our nation’s history, a woman ran as the official Democratic candidate for the office of President. And here in Washington, women got it done. We tripled the number of women elected to statewide office, re-elected a woman’s super-majority to the State Supreme Court, increased the number of women in the State Legislature by 4%, and elected the first-ever women’s majority to the State House Democratic Caucus.

While it is promising to see more women run and win, these candidates consistently face sexist, racist, and ageist attacks along the campaign trail that are too often overlooked or ignored. The most common line of attack we hear about from candidates is similar to what many women face in the workplace: people questioning how women expect to balance work, public service, and family. Not surprisingly, it’s a question that men almost never get asked. At the National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington’s Annual Meeting on January 8th, Representative Kristine Reeves, who was elected to the State Legislature this fall, shared that she was repeatedly asked how she would balance serving in office with raising a family.

Some women candidates must also manage overt and covert racism on the campaign trail. This year’s election also saw several women of color running for office: Pramila Jayapal for the 7th Congressional District, Erin Jones for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mary Yu for Washington State Supreme Court Justice, and several others at the legislative level. This is a hopeful change in a political system that often looks like an episode of the Brady Bunch, but, as Seattle City Councilwoman M. Lorena Gonzáles shared about her campaign in 2015, it is a change that has not come easy for candidates of color. “At the King County Democrats endorsement interview I was asked how I planned to get people who aren’t from my demographic to vote for me,” she said. The question came right after she, who is one of the first Latinas elected to the Seattle City Council, shared her story of coming from an immigrant family. On numerous occasions, she was confused with other women of color who were running for office.

Then there is age. In 2015, Seattle had several young women step up to run for Seattle City Council: Brianna Thomas in District 1, Morgan Beach in District 3, and Mercedes Elizalde and Halei Watkins in District 5. Each shared stories with us from the campaign trail about people laughing at them, questioning their qualifications, and commenting on their age. Beach recalled, “I had people laugh in my face and ask if I was old enough to run for office when doorbelling.”

At the National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington, (http://www.nwpcwa.org/) we work to recruit, train and elect qualified women to public office. Throughout 40+ years of primaries and general elections, we have heard these stories...
President’s Message ........................................ 3
Calendar...................................................... 4
Forum Schedule......................................... 5
Board Briefs................................................ 5
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 ................................. 12
Features
  Tips on Civic Engagement .......................... 13
  Book Review ............................................. 14

Program
  Underrepresented in the Legislature ........ 15

Unit Meetings ............................................. 25
Board and Committee Contacts .......... 27

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.

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Connecting with the Leadership

The League of Women Voters celebrated its 97th birthday on Valentine's Day. And now, March is Women's History Month. It's definitely worth celebrating the League and the women who persisted for so long to finally gain the vote. Maybe the month should be renamed Women Make History Month.

Although I’m happy to see the accomplishments of women honored, I got to wondering how many “history” months there are that honor groups of people. The answer is: lots! Black History Month, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, Older Americans Month, Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, Caribbean American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, National American Indian Heritage Month, for a few.

I have mixed feelings about these special history months. If they make people aware of the accomplishments of people different from themselves, and if this awareness leads to an understanding of the significance of different cultures and of diversity, they have real value. And if it's recognized that the history of these different peoples doesn't exist in parallel to American history, but are an integral part of American history, they have real value.

There is an organization, the National Women's History Project, whose website (http://www.nwhp.org/) cites the importance of learning about women's history. Learning about the achievements of women in the past can inspire young girls and women, and learning about the strengths and endurance of women can give us all confidence in our own abilities and nurture our own passions.

The theme this year is “Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business.” Honorees are American women through the ages, up until today. One is a young woman who organized in 1864 the first union for women, of laundry workers in Troy, New York. There are women in banking and government, women who started successful businesses, women who were active in the labor movement, and Lilly Ledbetter.

I am wondering how Women's History Month will be acknowledged. Government officials rightfully made proclamations and speeches for Black History Month, newspapers ran articles, and radio and TV also had stories. What can we do to bring attention to Women's History Month? We can write letters to the editor, suggest stories to local radio stations, write an op-ed. If you have children in school, ask their teachers if they can include something in the curriculum. On a personal level, give a book about a notable woman to a child. Suggest that your book club read something about women's history.

The worldwide success of the women's marches will probably also spark interest in women's issues. Our forum this month focusses on a major way women can make history—by running for office, and winning. Come to the forum and hear some first-hand accounts of what it takes to be a successful or unsuccessful woman candidate.

Even though we're thinking about women's history, and women's power, the business of the League goes on. You should have already received the 2017 edition of the TRY. There's been tremendous interest in it this year, a hopeful sign. Voters do seem motivated to let their representatives know what they're thinking.

The Social Justice Committee is off to a strong start, and I expect to see action coming out of that soon.

We're busy with events. We're planning a spring fundraiser that we hope will be both interesting and fun. Mark your calendars now for Friday, May 12. We’re also hosting the State Convention this year, June 1-4, in Seattle, and we need volunteers to work there.

I recently attended a virtual meeting with the State President, Ann Murphy, and other local League presidents. One area of interest is how to
# March

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Units meet during shaded period

**MARCH**

Forum: You Marched - Now Run Thursday, March 2
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Board Meeting
Saturday, March 4
10:00 a.m.
TBD

**The Voter Deadline**
Monday, March 6

International Relations Committee
Thursday, March 23
11:00 a.m.
League Office

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, March 25
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Social Justice Committee
Sunday, March 26
3:00 p.m.
League Office

**APRIL**

Forum: Should We Abolish Prisons?
Thursday, April 6
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Board Meeting
Saturday, April 1
10:00 a.m.
League Office
Forum Schedule

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<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Issues on Aging</td>
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<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Women’s Issues</td>
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<td>Apr 6</td>
<td>Prison Abolition</td>
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<td>Gun Control &amp; Mental Health</td>
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<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Ballot Issues</td>
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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 2017 appears at left; check the Voter each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

Board Briefs by Katie Dudley on behalf of Zara Kublin, Secretary

The Nominating Committee, headed by former Seattle League president Nancy Eitreim and joined by Paneen Davidson, Judy Love, and Abigail Doerr, asked the League for suggestions for new Board members. If you are interested in joining the board, feel free to email nancyeitreim@gmail.com!

Linda Snider, Treasurer, provided the monthly review of the League’s accounts and noted that members were renewing their memberships and that new members are joining.

The Board discussed the idea of doing strategic planning, and doing it well before the annual Board retreat at summertime.

Also discussed was the idea of providing a scholarship to a group that hosts and trains politically active young people, as well as event planning for the Spring event in May and the State Convention in June.
Cover article continued:

ries and others from around the state about the challenges of running while female.

We have said it before, and we will say it again: the process of running and serving in office must be more inclusive of all women, including LGBTQ+ women and people, if we want public policy and process to represent the wide range of priorities and needs for women and families.

Every single day, millions of women go to work, manage their lives, and raise their children. Women of color “do it all” while navigating a system wrought by institutional racism. Rather than questioning women’s abilities to serve in public office, we should be asking ourselves how we can dismantle sexism, racism, and ageism in the electoral process.

Leadership continued:

have civil discourse, and one president suggested we have a workshop on it at the Convention. One of our own members, Mary Coltrane, is interested in starting facilitated town halls with elected officials and their staffs. She has a notice in this Voter asking those interested to join her efforts.

And we’ve gained almost 200 new members in the past few months! I hope this shows the power of the League and the respect it has from the public. We need to remember the women who made history and heed their words:

By far the most serious of our opponents is the colossal inertia of large numbers of people. . . . If we have the courage to try, we do not need genius of even extraordinary qualities to succeed. All that we shall require is steadfast faith in democracy, common sense, and persistence. [emphasis added]—Maude Wood Park, 1875-1955, Suffragist and First President of the League of Women Voters.

Amanda Clark
President
Committees

**Economics and Taxation Committee**  
DATE: Saturday, March 25  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

**Education Committee**  
DATE: Thursday, March 23  
TIME: 11:00 a.m.  
PLACE: League Office

**International Relations Committee**  
DATE: Monday, March 6  
TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.  
PLACE: League Office

**Social Justice Committee**  
DATE: Sunday, March 26  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
PLACE: League Office

**Transportation Committee**  
DATE: Tuesday, March 21  
TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
PLACE: League Office

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.

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**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.
King County Connects — Announcements

Spring Event

Save the Date!

“Voices of Democracy” Gala
Friday, May 12, 2017
6:00 PM
Herban Feast’s Sodo Park Event Space

Please join us for an exciting speaker (not confirmed yet so we don’t want to jinx it), a delicious dinner and an awards ceremony honoring some of our local community members who Make Democracy Work!

Revision of League Positions

By Beatrice Crane

At one time, there were several local Leagues of Women Voters in King County: in the Puget Sound Area, on the Eastside, on Mercer Island, and in south King County. Over the years, the Seattle League has expanded and gradually, the various other local leagues have merged with it. Since 2012, we have been the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC).

With every merger, work has been done to merge the positions as well. At this point, the LWVS-KC positions include several which were developed by other local Leagues. However, each revision left some inconsistencies and redundancies. Because the original document was created by the Seattle League, it focuses more on the city of Seattle than on King County as a whole.

A revision is now in progress to address some of these problems. It will attempt to reorganize the positions to reflect the fact that we are now a county league, make sure that all positions appear within a logical grouping, and eliminate redundancy. Changes may be made to the original language for clarity or consistency with other positions within a group; there will be no changes to meaning.

Two League members are working on a first draft of the revision, considering such questions as how best to organize the positions to make them more accessible, and how to clarify the current scope of positions. To what extent do positions developed by Seattle now have a wider application? If you would like to weigh in on such questions, or join the members who will be reviewing the draft, please get in touch with Beatrice Crane (bscrane48@gmail.com). We hope to have a new version ready to submit to the membership at Annual Meeting in May.

Talent Search!

Do you ever wonder how decisions about local League issues are made or how League works?
Do you want to be more involved with local League decisions or issues?
Do you have some free time to devote to increasing voter participation in our elective process?
Do you want to develop your leadership skills?
If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, consider serving on the Board of the LWVS-KC. Nominations are open and welcome. There are opportunities and challenges for interested members. Let us know about yourself or another member.

Please call or email Nancy Eitreim, Nominating Committee Chair. 206-722-2820, nancyeitreim@gmail.com.

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

The focus at our state office continues to be split between advocacy during the legislative session (see the weekly action emails) and preparations for our state convention in June. Volunteers for the latter would be welcome as we are hosting this year!

National News

National is calling on members to contact their congresspeople with the following message:

• Don’t repeal the Affordable Care Act without an effective plan that will assure we have affordable, quality health insurance.

• Now is not the time to take away health care protections and coverage without an effective plan that will assure we have affordable, quality health insurance.

• Stop rushing to make major changes that will harm millions of Americans while throwing the U.S. health care system into disarray.

The League also sent a memo opposing HR 634, the Election Assistance Commission Termination Act. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is the only federal entity devoted exclusively to improving election administration on a bipartisan basis. At this time the League does not believe terminating the EAC is warranted and urges the Committee on House Administration not to report this legislation. LWVUS also joined a coalition letter sent to the committee opposing the termination of the EAC and the Presidential Election Campaign Fund.

LWVUS joined LWVMD and 40 other national and local organizations supporting rescission of a resolution that calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention. Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, a convention can be called when two-thirds of the states (34) petition for a convention to enact amendments to the constitution. There are no safeguards or guidelines in the U.S. Constitution that limit a convention to one issue or govern the rules of a convention, which makes the threat of a runaway convention very real.

League action, like those mentioned above, are guided by Impact on Issues, the League’s guide to public policy positions. The 2016-18 edition is now available for download at http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues or print copies can be purchased from Amazon. Thanks to Joyce Corrington, president of the LWV of Louisiana, for driving this partnership with Amazon to make print copies available to those Leagues who desire them without large printing, shipping and storage costs to our organization.

A new Money in Politics Action Kit, developed by LWVUS Board member Amy Hjerstedt and MIP co-chair Barbara Zia is available at http://forum.lwv.org/document/money-politics-action-kit. The kit provides tools for both seasoned leaders and newcomers, League members and nonmembers alike, to take action related to reforming money in politics.

League members interested in keeping up to date with what Leagues around the country are doing to promote carbon pricing in their state are invited to join an informal LWV Price on Carbon coalition, led by LWV members from California, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Delaware. To join the group and participate in conference calls with educational talks and sharing of information and strategies, send an email to action@lwvbae.org. Include “LWV Price on Carbon” in the subject line.
Are We Headed Over the Levy Cliff?
By Pat Griffith, Action Chair

As we approach the first legislative cutoff, three interrelated issues are vital to resolve the McCleary demands. These proposals, SB 5607, HB 1843, and the governor’s proposal, would fundamentally revamp our state’s education funding and K-12 system. Only the governor’s proposal revenue solutions to fund basic education.

SB 5607, the Republican bill, has significant impact on schools and property taxes in Seattle and Eastside school districts. The bill changes funding schools to a per-pupil expenditure of $12,500 rather than the prototypical school model in HB 1843. It also funds McCleary through a statewide property tax levy of $1.80 per $1000 which would increase property taxes in Seattle, Mercer Island, and other high valuation districts while returning little to those districts. Other districts such as Federal Way and Kent would see a property tax cut as would other areas of the state. However, there would be no additional money to fund McCleary as this is what is known as the “levy swap.”

SB 5607 would also increase beginning teacher salaries, prohibit teacher strikes, eliminate I-1351 (the class size initiative), eliminate extra pay for advanced degrees and National Board Certification, and permit uncertified teachers in the classroom under the supervision of a certified teacher. The bill’s 120 pages contain much more detail. It is difficult to believe that legislators read or understood the bill considering it was rushed to a vote just four days after the bill was submitted and without public notice or participation.

The League opposes this bill.

The Democratic bill proposed – HB 1843 – also raises teacher salaries and revises the levy cliff by phasing down levies over four years. It holds districts harmless so that no district will receive less funding due to regionalization. SB 5607 would result in a loss of funding for some students and districts.

HB 1843 continues the prototypical school model and increases allocations for elementary school parent coordinators, guidance counselors in middle and high school, and funds professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals. It retains the lower class sizes required by I-1351. However, the bill does not specify funding sources to achieve these provisions.

The governor’s proposal does include revenue enhancements, including eliminating tax preferences, B&O tax changes, a capital gains excise tax, and a tax on carbon.

Now for the immediate concern: the levy cliff. The Courts have ruled that districts cannot rely on local levies to fund basic education, and the levy lid is to be reduced from 28% to 24% in 2018. This poses immediate problems for Seattle and districts throughout the state as the so-called lid will not allow the districts to spend money that has been approved by voters. For Seattle, this represents approximately $30 million. The House has passed a bill to postpone the levy cliff; however, the Senate has not addressed this and may not until the end of the session in April if a funding plan is reached. That is too late for school district planning for 2017-18.

If the levy cliff is not postponed, Seattle and several Eastside districts must prepare budgets with severe cuts. Budgets are being prepared now and layoff notices need to be sent out soon, well before the legislature agrees on funding and adjourns. The levy cliff needs to be addressed NOW so that students and teachers are not hurt by budget cuts.
Voter Service

Voter Service covers a lot of ground in League from candidate forums to speakers bureau to voter education and registration. A voter service committee is forming and we had the first meeting on a Thursday evening last month. We are looking to get more people involved to help with planning and implementation of these programs this year. We have set a tentative schedule for upcoming meetings and trainings. For the convenience of those running them, they are currently being held at the office. Please let us know if you are interested in some or all of these. We can add more or adjust the schedule and/or location as needed and as demand warrants.

March 8, 6 p.m. - Voting and Voter Registration Training
In addition to covering the basics of helping people register to vote, we will cover how voting works in Washington and King County. There have been significant changes in recent years that sometimes surprise longtime residents as well as newcomers.

March 21, 6 p.m. - Democracy Vouchers
Part of the Honest Elections Initiative passed in 2015, democracy vouchers are Seattle’s public campaign financing system. This training will cover how they work, where to get them, who is eligible to participate and more. For those interested in doing voter registration and outreach activities, this is important material as you will likely get questions about them when volunteering.

April - dates to be determined
Speakers Bureau Training. How to give a 15-30 minute presentation about League, Voting Rights, Civic Engagement and similar topics.
Candidate/Election Forums. Will cover how to contact candidates, tips on getting good questions, what is needed from a good moderator, and more.

Please RSVP so we can determine space needs and if additional trainings should be scheduled!

Uncivil Discourse: What to Do?
By Mary Coltrane

If you are concerned that political discourse has become too uncivil for the health of our democracy, I invite you to join a Voter Services committee that is looking at this problem. I believe the League, with its rock-solid reputation for nonpartisan voter education, is well-positioned to influence the tenor of political debate and to help build political consensus. If you have ideas and energy to put to the problem, please shoot me an e-mail to discuss possibilities. I want to know what time and day works for you so that we can put together a plan of action to help restore civil discourse in our political discussions. Thanks!

Mary Coltrane
coltran_e@icloud.com
Getting Connected  Membership News

by Becky Cox, Membership Chair

This is a happy welcome to the new members of LWV of Seattle-King County. Our end of the year report to the National LWV showed our membership at 697!

You have chosen a vibrant and active League to which to belong and we are eager to help you find activities that fit your interests.

In the past, we contacted new members for a brief biographical sketch. These were published in the monthly Voter. You will notice a few bios were submitted recently. However, with an influx of over 200 new members (yay!), we have chosen, for now, to list some of our new members since October 1 to Dec. 31st. Our January new members will be listed in the next Voter. We will be delighted to print new member bios and they may be submitted to membership@seattlelwv.org. In lieu of an interview or submitted bio, we would love it if you would fill out and return the “About You” form you received with your new member packet. Can’t find it? Call and we’ll send you a new one.

Members, if you see the name of someone you know on the list, please welcome them and invite them to your unit, the forums, committee meetings and other League activities.

Welcome to:
Michelle Acquavella, Tara Alvergue, Steve Balaski, Kittee Berfelz, Madeleine Betz, Leanna Birge, Meg Browning, Catherine Chase, Amy Chung, Martinele Cole, Cady Condyles, Matt Corwin, Peggy Crow, Aleksandra and Adrianna Culver, Jon Culver, Kyler Danielson (Bio in January Voter), Vicky de Monterery, Wright Dickinson, Nathan Florea, Marilee Fuller, Lea Galanter, Kerry Garbell, Leonard Gayton, Katherine Getts, Ann Good, Karl Hanson, Carol Hasegawa, Elizabeth Hayden, Joann Herbert, Eleanor, Jill and Julie Hollenbeck, Karen Israel, Jessica Kaminski, Janet Kime, Christina Koons, Christina Krashan, Julie Mc Cleery, Teegan McClung, Stanley McInnis, Eileen McPhee, Janet Merriam, Kathleen Miller, Kelly Morgan, Mary Mullen, Nan Nalder, Katie Niemer, Sara Palmer, Megan Pedersen, Melissa Purcell, Matthew Putnam, Rita Requa (Bio in December Voter), Lynn Rose, Ronit Sanders, Rachel Schriber (Bio in January Voter), Sandra and Bob Seidensticker, Karen Spalding, Lindsay Swarthout, Gillian Tarr (Bio in January Voter), Marianne Tatom, Emma Timmins-Schiffman, Jenn Vetter, Jennifer Walters, Seth Daniel Watson (Bio in January Voter), Alyssa Weed (Bio in November Voter), Samantha Welte, Lauren White, and Jennifer Womack.

New Member Orientation:
Feel like you need an overview of how League works, what we are doing and want some help getting connected?

Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 8 for coffee & pastries at the Ballard Library. Meet your Board Members and Committee Chairs and connect with other League members.
Tips on Civic Engagement

The following is a “repost” of information from Jennifer Waggoner, a Garfield High School graduate now living in the Bay Area and a past president of the League of Women Voters of California.

Advice I recently gave someone who is concerned about voting rights...

Pick something meaningful and rewarding for you. There really are a million things you can do to support voting rights, and people will be happy to argue about what is most effective. You should try to find things which suit your priorities, values and resources.

If you are most concerned about voter suppression of people in particular states, then we can look up which communities are being targeted, and find groups in those communities you can support. You might follow legislation, raise money, lobby politicians, collect signatures for ballot measures, encourage voter registration online or in person, learn to give talks about voting and what’s on the ballot, write pro/con articles for your local bloggers or journalists, volunteer as an election observer, work as a poll worker, or so much more!

Or you might be concerned about disinformation campaigns: making politics seem ugly, complicated and futile. So you’d support projects which make politics meaningful and fun, explain how to vote in simple ways, and demonstrate the value of voting. You could host a pre-election party yourself, making voting fun, easy, and rewarding for you and your friends.

Or perhaps you are concerned that who we can choose to vote for is discouraging (elite white men dominate elected office), so you’d support groups which help other demographics run and win campaigns. Have you considered running for office?

A great site for educating yourself about efforts to suppress voting rights is www.866ourvote.org — I highly recommend reading thru their site, because it’ll give you a sense of how varied the problem is.

You can engage at many levels. Efforts to protect the right to vote are coordinated nationally, involving many organizations with long histories, deep knowledge, and surprisingly varied strategic and tactical approaches. You’ve probably heard about the Voting Rights Act and Election Assistance Commission in the news lately. But a lot of work is done at the state level, because of how elections are overseen and administered. And at the local level, there are huge disparities. Often local work is the most rewarding for me, because I can really see tangible results.

You can engage geographically or demographically. You can work through political parties and politicians, or through offices like your local Department of Elections or Registrar, volunteer with a nonprofit, or work independently for voting rights. I chose the League of Women Voters of California because they have a justice agenda, have a very broad approach (so I get to do all the above things, and more), have teams of cool people with deep expertise I can work with, and have a track record of getting things done.

Interested in local efforts in this area? Email us at info@seattlelwv.org. Please put “Voting Rights” in the subject line.
BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

Notorious RBG  By Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik

The authors of Notorious RBG, Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik are young – in their thirties or younger. One, a recent law school graduate, “created the Notorious R.B.G. Tumblr [a social network] as a digital tribute to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and she sparked an international phenomenon.” The other author is a “journalist who interviewed R.B.G. for MSNBC.”

The book itself is full of delights. I was thrilled to see pictures of the lovely young woman who later became a Supreme Court Justice, and was fascinated to see her “dissent collar”, used only when she planned to read a dissent. It “glinted blue and yellow in reflected light.”

I had not known that “reading aloud in dissent is rare…It’s like pulling the fire alarm, a public shaming of the majority you want the world to hear.”

“The noble purpose of the Voting Rights Act,” R.G.B. said, “was to fight voter suppression that lingered.” Then, the Justice read, “Hubris is a fit word for today’s demolition of the VRA.” To kill a Voting Rights act because it actually worked, was like “throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.”

In a dissent against two workplace discrimination cases, she condemned “the court’s disregard for the realities of the workplaces” for which Justice Alito had written the majority opinion. We learn that Alito “had rolled his eyes and shook his head” as she read this, and that his “behavior was unheard of disrespect at the court.”

Ginsburg is known for her arguments for women’s equality. This book shows her working for both women’s and men’s liberties. For years, virtually all judges were male, so to convince judges, she needed to strike down laws that affected both sexes.

In 1972, one of her clients was “a single father whose wife had died in childbirth.” His wife “had worked as a teacher and paid into Social Security. But only widows could get ‘mother’s benefits.’” R.B.G. argued that this was discrimination. Among other things, the baby was a “victim of a law that ‘includes children with dead fathers, but excludes children with dead mothers.’”

Though he was “still a women’s rights skeptic,” Justice Rehnquist said, “He was voting to strike down the law because it harmed the baby.”

The authors write about abortion and were reminded by Ginsburg that before Roe v. Wade, “abortion was illegal in the United States but not on military bases.” Apparently there “were some places in which abortion was useful,” such as in the U.S. military, but was “morally disapproved in other contexts.”

What Ginsburg found lacking in Roe v. Wade was not abortion or no abortion. The point was “a woman’s right to decide the course of her life, including whether or not to bear a child.”

In 1973 she first argued a case before the Supreme Court in Frontiero v. Richards. A female officer in the Air Force claimed getting benefits for her husband was unfairly more difficult than for male officer’s wives. Ginsburg seemed to stun the Justices into silence by quoting abolitionist Sarah Grimke: “She said, ‘I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks.’” The court ruled in her favor.

This book brings Ruth Bader Ginsburg to life, and I couldn’t help but love her.
The images above and the articles in this section are reprinted from a four-part series: Unrepresentative: The Demographics of State Legislatures, produced by Stateline, an initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts. Due to space constraints we are only able to print three of the four, but we encourage you to read them online at http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/about/unrepresentative-the-demographics-of-state-legislatures where you can access the interactive features.
UNIT MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Announcements/Volunteer Sign Ups
- Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the positive impacts of having more elected officials who are female/minority/millenial?

2. What are barriers preventing women/minorities/millenials from running for office? What can we do to break down those barriers?

3. Some studies show that women are more effective legislators than men. Why do you think this is the case?

4. Who are some female/minority/millenial elected officials or candidates that inspire you? Why?

5. Have you ever considered running for office? Why or why not?

6. What can we do to elect more women/minorities/millenials to office? As the League? As individuals?
Stalled Progress for Women in State Legislatures
December 08, 2015
By Rebecca Beitsch

Colorado Democratic state Sen. Nancy Todd, left, talks with Republican state Sen. Ray Scott at the Capitol in Denver. Forty-one percent of Colorado’s state legislators are women, a higher percentage than in any other state except Vermont, which has the same percentage.

In 2015, female candidates for state legislative seats are just as likely to win as their male competitors. The challenge is getting them to run.

A quarter of the nation’s state legislators are women, according to a new survey of the composition of the nation’s 50 state legislatures by Stateline and the National Conference of State Legislatures. That’s up dramatically from the 5 percent figure of the early 1970s. But the percentage hasn’t budged much in more than a decade, prompting many to question what can be done to encourage more women to seek state elective office.

Party leaders are less likely to recruit female candidates — and women are less likely than men to run without being asked. Many younger women worry about balancing a political career with family obligations. And because Republicans have been less successful in recruiting female candidates, their recent dominance at the state level has contributed to the stalled progress.

It may not take a woman to speak up on issues that are important to women, but state legislators and researchers who have studied the issue say regardless of party, women often bring a different working style and more varied life perspectives to the legislative arena, in addition to a stronger focus on women, children and family issues.

“Women bring different perspectives and considerations,” said Kira Sanbonmatsu, a Rutgers University professor who studies women in politics. Many political observers have credited women with helping to end the 2013 federal government shutdown, generally describing women as better at setting aside egos to get work done.

But even with the good qualities they may bring to politics, women tend to be more hesitant to seek office.

Recruited to Run

“Women just don’t wake up one day and look at themselves in the mirror the way men quite frankly do and say, ‘I should run for office,’ ” said Liz Berry, who recruits many candidates through her role as state president of the National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington.

Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women and Politics Institute at American University, agreed. “Women don’t assess themselves the same way when deciding if they’re qualified for office,” she said. “They perceive themselves as being less qualified.”

Many women agree to run after being recruited, but that requires parties and state legislators to reach out to them. Most party leaders and legislators are white men, and when they look for recruits, they turn first to people like them.

“Women are less likely to run unless they’re recruited, and they’re less likely to be recruited,”
said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Another challenge is that it takes more time to convince female recruits to take the plunge, which means recruiters have to be determined — and patient.

“When women first think about running up until the time that they actually run is about three years. For men, it’s about three weeks!” said Washington state Sen. Christine Rolfes, who helps recruit Democratic candidates in her state.

Many recruited women delay candidacies because they worry about how their families will be affected, especially if their children are young. Even as men take on a greater share of family responsibilities, research shows that in most households, women still bear the heavier load. Convincing them that they can balance their legislative, professional and family duties — not to mention addressing their concerns about unpleasant political realities like negative campaigning and constant fundraising — takes time.

Some state legislatures are full-time while others are part-time, but the structure of the legislature doesn’t have much impact on the percentage of female members. Either way, it’s a time commitment that many women are reluctant to make.

When she was first approached to run for office, Rolfes’ children were toddlers, and she said the thought of leaving them “made me sick to my stomach. But when they were a little older I was ready.”

Rolfes, whose children are now in high school, is one of the few female Washington state legislators with children at home. For women who want to rise through the political ranks, delaying a run until their children are older can be costly, because they don’t have as much time to earn the seniority that delivers real power — and often the chance to run for a higher office.

**State Variation**

The percentage of female state legislators varies widely from state to state—but in no state do women make up close to 50 percent.

Walsh said women tend to do better in states where recruiting is focused more at the local, rather than the state, level, but there are geographic and cultural differences as well.

The Northeast and the West have had more success in getting women to serve as lawmakers. The Northeast has more citizen legislatures, where legislators represent fewer people, and the role isn’t viewed as a profession, so people cycle in and out more, Walsh said. In the West, the relatively high percentage of female lawmakers may have its origins in a settlers’ culture in which women and men worked side by side. Western states also were among the first to grant voting rights to women.

States legislatures in the conservative South, where traditional gender roles hold greater sway, have the lowest percentages of women.

Until recently, Republican Sen. Katrina Shealy was the only woman in the South Carolina Senate. Shealy said most of her colleagues have been respectful — but not all of them. Shealy’s said her neighbor on the Senate
floor, Republican Sen. Tom Corbin, often made comments to her, once joking about her wearing shoes, saying women should be barefoot and pregnant. During a dinner where reporters were present, he referred to women as a "lesser cut of meat."

“I always told him to stop, and I didn't treat it like a joke, but I didn't say anything else because I didn't want to come off like I was whining because I was the only girl in the room, and I can't take care of myself,” she said. But once his comments became public, “I had to respond because you have to say something for all the women that will come behind you.”

Shealy later addressed the Senate, saying, “These type remarks are never acceptable in public or in private. ... [W]ether the person speaking them thinks they are in jest or not, these words are hurtful and disrespectful. We are all created equal and, as such, deserve respect.”

A second female senator, Democrat Margie Bright Matthews, recently joined Shealy. Matthews was elected to replace state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, who was killed in last June's mass shooting at a Charleston church. Shealy said she has reached out to Matthews to work on some of the children's issues Shealy is most passionate about, hopeful that partnering on legislation will help it get passed.

Cary Brown, director of Vermont’s Commission on Women, credits the small size of the state's districts for its relatively high percentage of female legislators. In tiny Vermont, women can campaign among their neighbors and don't have to travel far to get to the Capitol. Nevertheless, few women there have been elected to a statewide or federal office.

“We have over 40 percent women in the state Legislature, but we've never sent a woman to Washington, so we've still got work to do,” Brown said.

In Washington, the percentage of female legislators has dropped, from 40 percent in 2001 to 33 percent now. “We stopped putting so much effort into recruiting, and it was a big mistake,” said Berry, of the women's political caucus.

Kept on the Sidelines

In legislatures with few women, those who are elected say they are more likely to be kept on the sidelines.

While they may be present at committee meetings, women may not always be part of the socializing that takes place outside of the statehouse, where many informal decisions are made.

Just 13 percent of Wyoming's legislative seats are held by women, and Democratic state Rep. Cathy Connolly is the only woman on the House Appropriations Committee. Her male colleagues have discussed getting together to play basketball before the meetings.

“Do I either go stumping around complaining about boys, or do I do something different? So I say, 'Sure I'll play, but only if I can be quarterback,'” Connolly joked. Though she's not particularly interested in playing basketball, Connolly said she makes a point of accepting invitations for fear of missing out on important networking. “There are an awful lot of informal discussions and an awful lot of planning that happens in that environment.”

Her colleague, Democratic state Sen. Bernadine Craft, agreed.

“There are a lot of networking and social situations where you get a lot of information and you can get a lot of support to get your bills passed,” said Craft, the only woman in the Wyoming Senate.

Craft said a female colleague in the House complained to her about returning to a committee meeting after a quick break, only to find her male colleagues had made some informal decisions on legislation.

“She joked, 'Have you guys moved these meetings to the men's room because if so maybe I should come too,'” she said.

Donna Boley, the only female state senator in West Virginia and a member of Republican leadership, said she feels respected by her male colleagues, though she passed up an invitation to discuss legislation at a bar one night. They promised not to have late night meetings at a bar again.
Party Gap
Sixty percent of female state legislators are Democrats, while 40 percent are Republicans. More than a third of Democratic state legislators are women, compared to less than a fifth of Republicans. Given those disparities, Republican gains at the state level over the past decade may be one reason the overall percentage of women in state legislatures has been stuck at 25 percent.

More women are registered as Democrats, but the GOP also has been less active in recruiting female candidates and has lagged behind the Democratic Party in providing trainings, PACs and support targeted to women, Walsh said.

Emerge America, created by Democrats to recruit like-minded women into office, has established campaign schools in 14 states. Emerge Maryland Director Diane Fink said she has seen women with all kinds of family situations go through the program and make sacrifices to serve — including one woman who interviewed for the program only to give birth later that night.

“If it means sitting there half in labor to get the training you want, that’s what you do,” Fink said.

American University, in Washington, D.C., runs a similar program, WeLead, for young women of both parties, but Lawless said promoting the campaign spirit early is no guarantee they’ll run.

“Some want to work on other campaigns, or be a lobbyist or be a campaign consultant,” she said of the participants. “Even in a politically active group of women, the desire to run is not universal.”

Legislative Boundaries, Lack of Connections Lead to Few Minority Lawmakers
December 09, 2015
By Teresa Wiltz

The mailer circulated in Roanoke, Virginia, just days before the election, with a message candidate Sam Rasoul had been dreading: It accused Rasoul, a practicing Muslim, of being funded by an al-Qaida sympathizer.

Rasoul, a Democrat who grew up in Roanoke, feared the worst. But he went on to win the election with 70 percent of the vote, becoming one of two Arab-Americans in the Virginia Legislature. He is convinced that he was able to overcome the smear campaign because of the time he had spent knocking on thousands of doors, introducing himself to potential voters.

“That 20-second interaction makes you a human being, even if they don’t like your politics,” Rasoul said. “By the time that mailer hit, people knew me. People said, ‘You can call him a tax-and-spend liberal, you can call him an Obama lover. But you can’t call him a terrorist.’ ”

Rasoul’s triumph in a majority-white district — it’s 60 percent white, with hardly any Arab-Americans — makes him unusual.

The nation’s growing diversity is not reflected in state legislatures. Nationwide, African-Americans, who make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, account for 9 percent of state legislators, according to a new survey of the composition of the nation’s 50 state legislatures by Stateline and the National Conference of State Legislatures. Latinos, who are 17 percent of the population, only account for 5 percent of state legislators. Asian-Americans account for 5 percent of the population but only 1 percent of state legislators. (The Census Bureau does not track people of Middle Eastern or North African descent as a separate ethnic group.)

Rasoul’s victory aside, research shows that in local elections, voters tend to vote for candidates who look like them. That is a problem when a large proportion of minority voters are lumped together in a handful of districts. Such clustering increases the chances of there being at least a few minority legislators, but makes it less likely there will be very many of them.

States draw their state legislative and congressional districts based on the latest census numbers. Each district is supposed to be compact and contiguous, and to contain roughly the same number of people.
But the rules are not precise, and often lead to odd geographic constructions designed to benefit one party or the other. A number of states have been sued for “racial gerrymandering,” accused of packing minority voters into a handful of districts to limit the number of representatives they can elect. Earlier this year, for example, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Alabama’s redistricting plans weakened the political power of African-Americans in the state.

In many states, political candidates belonging to racial or ethnic minorities often end up running against one another in a single, minority-packed district.

Another factor that depresses minorities’ strength in state legislatures is economics: Few first- and second-generation immigrants can afford to get by on a part-time legislator’s salary — or have the kind of careers that will afford them the flexibility to serve in office, according to Sayu Bhojwani, founder and president of the New American Leaders Project.

The same is true for native-born blacks and Latinos, said Chris Rabb, an African-American author and consultant who is running for Pennsylvania state representative. (Pennsylvania’s state Legislature is one of a handful in the country that is full time.)

“If you’re a black person trying to run for office and you’re in a densely populated district where it may require you to buy radio ads or put together a solid campaign team, where do you get that money?” Rabb said. Most new candidates either fund their campaigns with their own money or with family help, he said. “That is far less likely to happen in African-American households.”

Black, Latino and other minority candidates also often lack political connections, Bhojwani said. Finally, the lack of minority representation is self-perpetuating, because it’s harder for people to imagine running for the legislature if there aren’t any lawmakers like them.

“We’re not seeing ourselves represented in state legislatures. So a political career isn’t seen as a viable option, because we’re not seeing ourselves mirrored,” said Bhojwani, a naturalized citizen from Belize who served as New York City’s first commissioner of immigrant affairs. “And if we’re not at the table, our interests are not going to get entertained.”

Republican dominance at the state level hasn’t helped either, because minority lawmakers are much more likely to be Democrats. Thirty-three percent of Democratic state legislators are minorities, compared to only 5 percent of Republican state legislators.

Over the decades, research has shown, the relative lack of minority representation in statehouses has an impact on the legislation that is debated and approved, according to Rene Rocha, a political science professor at the University of Iowa who studies immigration, minorities and inequality.

“If you have more minorities in state government, you get policies that are a little more favorable toward minorities,” Rocha said. Legislatures with few minority lawmakers make “policies that are less responsive to minorities and can lower their political engagement.”
Slow Progress

Between 1971 and 2009, the percentage of African-American state legislators more than quadrupled, from 2 to 9 percent. But much of that growth came early. The share of African-American state legislators has increased by only a single percentage point since 1999.

Meanwhile, Hispanics make up only 5 percent of state legislators, up from 2 percent in 1991, the earliest year for which statistics are available.

Much of the progress at the state level can be traced to the rapid growth of the Latino electorate, or court-ordered mandates to accommodate minority districts, rather than efforts to recruit candidates from racial and ethnic minorities or white voters’ willingness to elect minorities, said Kerry Haynie, associate professor of political science and African and African-American studies at Duke University.

“Blacks are still elected from districts that are predominantly black,” Haynie said. “Until there’s a time that blacks can run and win in districts that are not majority-minority, you won’t see significant increases in their representation.”

Rhina Villatoro of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators called the lack of Hispanic representation in the legislatures “a key problem.” Latino legislators are, in many cases, “the voice … for a larger number of constituencies. They feel responsible for not just representing their district but serving the interests” of Latinos outside their district, Villatoro said.

But representation varies greatly by state. Southern states were once the home of Jim Crow and the poll tax. But now, they have some of the greatest diversity in their legislatures. Black legislators have the greatest presence in Alabama (24 percent), Georgia (25 percent) and Mississippi (28 percent).

One reason is the sheer size of the African-American population in those states: Mississippi, for example, is 37 percent black. Another reason is the “preclearance” provision of the Voting Rights Act. Under that provision, states with a history of racial discrimination needed to get permission from the federal government to enact any changes to their voting laws. As of 2013, nine states, mostly in the South, were subject to the law. But the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the provision in June of that year, and it’s unclear what effect the change will have on minority representation in those states.

Hispanic legislators have the greatest presence in the Southwest, where they make up a large share of the population: In Arizona, where 31 percent of the population is Latino, 21 percent of the state Legislature is Latino, while in New Mexico, where 48 percent of the population is Latino, 37 percent of state legislators are Latino.

In Hawaii, where 72 percent of the population is Asian, Pacific Islander or multiracial, 57 percent of the Legislature is Asian, and 18 percent is multiracial. (In Hawaii, the multiracial population is largely Asian-white.)

The largest numbers of American Indian legislators are found in Alaska (3 percent), Arizona (4 percent), Montana (5 percent) and New Mexico (4 percent).

New Americans

Immigrants have traditionally gained power in the U.S. through politics, starting on neighborhood councils and school boards, moving up to city halls and statehouses, and then on to the national stage.

Ana Sol Gutierrez, a native of El Salvador, exemplifies this phenomenon. As a single mother of three, she was worried about immigrants from Central America fleeing civil wars back home. So she joined Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Coalition and tried to help him get elected president. After the 1988 Democratic National Convention, she said, Jackson told his delegates, “We’re just getting started. Go back and get elected.”

“That was the first time anyone told me that public office was important,” Gutierrez, now 73, said. “I decided to jump in and run. And I won.”

In 1990, Gutierrez won a spot on the Montgomery County school board, becoming the first Hispanic elected to any office in Maryland. In 2002, she became the first Latina elected to the
state Legislature, where she is currently serving her fourth term.

She worries, though, that there aren’t enough minorities being groomed for political careers. “We don’t have a bench,” said Gutierrez, who is now running for Congress. Many first- and second-generation Hispanics have relatives who come from countries where getting involved in politics can get you imprisoned — or worse.

A handful of groups, like Bhojwani’s New American Leaders Project and Latinas Represent (an initiative of the Hispanic Caucus), are focused on mentoring new political talent.

“Latinos, Asian-Americans, African-Americans, Arab-Americans — they can represent all of America, not just one segment,” Bhojwani said. “We’re an increasingly multiracial society. Working in ethnic silos is a carry-over from an old period in our country’s history. And it’s outdated.”

In State Legislatures, Millennials Are Often Left Out
December 23, 2015
By Rebecca Beitsch

State lawmakers across the U.S. are older than their constituents, an imbalance that might be tilting policymaking toward the interests of seniors and away from the country’s largest living generation: millennials.

The average age of lawmakers in the 50 states is 56, putting a majority of them in the baby-boom generation, which started coming of age politically in the 1960s and ’70s, according to a new survey by Stateline and the National Conference of State Legislatures. It’s higher in some states, such as New Hampshire, where the average age is 66, and Idaho, where it’s 63. The average age of the U.S. voting population, meanwhile, is 47.

Millennials, those born after 1980 who entered adulthood at the turn of the century, hold just 5 percent of state legislative seats, while comprising 31 percent of the U.S. voting-age population. Millennials recently became the largest living generation.

Millennials in the early stages of their professional lives are less apt to run for office than older people who are more settled in their careers or are nearing retirement. The problem, some political scientists say, is that when younger legislators are left out, so are their viewpoints.

Older legislators — who also tend to be wealthier — may be less likely to focus on issues such as school spending and student loan debt. Too much gray hair in a legislative body also leaves some younger voters feeling disconnected from the political process.

The result may be a self-perpetuating cycle. Michael McDonald, an associate professor of political science at the University of Florida, said while there are few young faces in the legislatures, there are even fewer at the polls, where turnout among young voters is “abysmally low.” Census data shows 23 percent of millennials voted in the 2014 elections compared with 59 percent of those 65 and older.

“If state legislators don’t perceive young people to be engaged, they’re not going to be stan-
standard-bearers for the issues young people care about,” he said.

A legislator’s political outlook can be colored by his or her stage of life and by generational experiences. Millennials, for instance, are more likely to be single. They have higher levels of student loan debt, poverty and unemployment, and lower levels of wealth and personal income than their predecessor generations had at the same age.

Politically, they expect to get less from government programs such as Social Security. Those with young children are more interested in funding public education than older people whose children are grown, and who may be reluctant to pay higher taxes to support schools.

Millennials also are more racially diverse than older generations, and more socially liberal. Sixty-nine percent of millennials favor legalizing marijuana, for instance, while 52 percent of boomers do.

That diversity, however, may not show in the legislature. Ruth Mandel, director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, found there are far more young men serving as state legislators than women. The career and family concerns that keep young people from running for office tend to impact women more.

In Nebraska, where millennials make up 16 percent of the Legislature — higher than in any other state — younger lawmakers “know what’s going on with families,” said Republican state Sen. Beau McCoy, a 35-year-old father of four. “We have careers. We multitask. When you’ve been newly married, raising kids, have a small business — we understand very well the things we have worked on.”

In New Hampshire, state Rep. Travis Bennett, a 23-year-old college senior at Plymouth State University, thought it important to speak out on behalf of his fellow students against a bill instituting a 30-day residency requirement to register to vote. He said the measure would have dampened the political participation of college students. Members of the New Hampshire General Court, the oldest state legislators in the country, approved the bill, but Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan vetoed it. Bennett, who is slated to graduate this year, said he doesn’t plan to run again, in part because of the low pay — in New Hampshire legislators earn $100 a year — and the challenges of finding a flexible job that would allow him to be in the legislature.

But most issues that confront states cross generational boundaries. In Maine, for instance, many young people are leaving the state in search of greater economic opportunity elsewhere. It’s an issue that affects older Mainers as well as millennials, said state Rep. Ryan Fecteau, a 23-year-old Democrat.

The departure of young residents shrinks the state’s tax base, which creates a greater property tax burden on elderly homeowners. It also makes it harder for retirees to sell their homes. In response, Fecteau introduced a bill to help those with student loan debt get into their first home by reducing some of their debt, though it did not pass the Senate.

“Having young people at the table is just as important on issues that are straining seniors,” he said.
# Unit Meetings

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

Meetings are open to all.

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<tr>
<th>Unit Leader email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hedgwolfe@aol.com">hedgwolfe@aol.com</a></td>
<td>206-763-9430</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:montoyaviv@gmail.com">montoyaviv@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-695-2620</td>
<td>5041 Wilson Ave. S, Seattle</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 8</td>
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<td>NORTHEAST SEATTLE (formerly View Ridge) – Gail Winberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:winbergeng@Q.com">winbergeng@Q.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-7801</td>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Kathy Pugh and Marlis Worthington</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ckp1966@comcast.net">ckp1966@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>503-580-1240</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:marliswrt@hotmail.com">marliswrt@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-283-7147</td>
<td>3555 W McGraw St, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERCER ISLAND – Paneen Davidson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:panenie@gmail.com">panenie@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-466-2023</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSAQUAH – Margaret Austin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret.austin@comcast.net">margaret.austin@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>425-392-5760</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clcathy@skynetbb.com">clcathy@skynetbb.com</a></td>
<td>360-802-6799</td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH CENTRAL – Jan Orlando</td>
<td><a href="mailto:orlanre@aol.com">orlanre@aol.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-0936</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE –</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hostess: Linnea Hirst</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1602 E McGraw St., Seattle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>206-322-3076</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Leader email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, March 14</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY</strong> – Kathy Jorgensen</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kjorgensen@juno.com">kjorgensen@juno.com</a></td>
<td>253-859-8349</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Foundation House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32290 1st Ave S, Federal Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, March 16</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD</strong></td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>University House, Auditorium</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4400 Stone Way N, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DOWNTOWN/PIONEER SQUARE</strong> – Carla Chavez</td>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:carla.chavez@icloud.com">carla.chavez@icloud.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flatstick Pub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>240 2nd Ave S, Seattle</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, March 18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY</strong> – Alice Peterson</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:peterson-alice-jack@msn.com">peterson-alice-jack@msn.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-5530</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hostess: Rosalie McCreary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>3837 25th Ave W, Seattle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>206-687-7415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, March 20</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST HILL</strong> – Adele Reynolds</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:adelereynolds@netscape.net">adelereynolds@netscape.net</a></td>
<td>206-621-4867</td>
<td></td>
<td>Horizon House, Forum &amp; Social Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>900 University St., Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH KING COUNTY</strong> – Judy Deiro</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:judy.deiro@gmail.com">judy.deiro@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>425-774-1492</td>
<td></td>
<td>Third Place Commons, Stadler Mtg Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, March 21</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND</strong> – Bonnie Rimawi</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnierim@aol.com">bonnierim@aol.com</a></td>
<td>425-820-7127</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bellevue Library, Room 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEST SEATTLE</strong> – Ethel Williams/Pat Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:etheljw@comcast.net">etheljw@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>206-932-7887</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daystar Retirement Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:pgblain11@gmail.com">pgblain11@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-932-1578</td>
<td></td>
<td>2615 SW Barton, Seattle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Board & Committee Contacts

Term | Executive Committee
---|---
2015-17 | President Amanda Clark 206-329-4848 president@seattlelwv.org
2016-18 | 1st VP Pat Griffith 206-285-2452 pgseattle@q.com
2015-17 | 2nd VP Janet Winans 206-550-6483 janetwinans@earthlink.net
2016-17 | Secretary Zara Kublin 206-329-4848 zkublin@hotmail.com
2016-17 | Treasurer Linda Snider 206-329-4848 treasurer@seattlelwv.org

Directors

2016-18 | Action Robin Brown 206-329-4848 bvlbrown@gmail.com
2016-18 | Public Relations Stephanie Cirkovich 206-329-4848 cirkovich@gmail.com
2016-18 | Membership Becky Cox 206-329-4848 cgcox@nwlink.com
2016-18 | Program Abigail Doerr 206-329-4848 abigail.doerr@gmail.com
2015-17 | Voter Editor Katie Dudley 206-329-4848 votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2016-17 | Development Kiku Hayashi 206-329-4848 kikuhayashi1@gmail.com
2016-18 | Asst. Treasurer Gaby Metzger 206-329-4848 gabymetz@comcast.net

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

Education Fund Officers

2015-17 | President Amanda Clark 206-329-4848 president@seattlelwv.org
2016-18 | 1st VP Pat Griffith 206-285-2452 pgseattle@q.com
2015-17 | 2nd VP Janet Winans 206-550-6483 janetwinans@earthlink.net
2016-17 | Secretary Zara Kublin 206-329-4848 zkublin@hotmail.com
2016-17 | Treasurer Joanna Cullen 206-329-4848 eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org

Nominating Committee

2016-17 | Chair Nancy Eitreim 206-329-4848 nancyeitreim@gmail.com
2016-17 | Paneen Davidson 206-329-4848 paneenie@gmail.com
2016-17 | Judy Love 206-329-4848 judystevel@gmail.com

Boardmembers Joanna Cullen and Abigail Doerr (listed above) have been appointed to the nominating committee.

Off Board Positions

CIS Coordinator Cynthia Howe 206-236-0593 howe.john@comcast.net

Committees

Economics & Taxation Nora Leech nleech2002@yahoo.com
Education Joanna Cullen 206-329-8514 jfoxcullen@gmail.com
International Relations Carol Goldenberg carolsamgo1@gmail.com
Transportation Abigail Doerr abigail.doerr@gmail.com
Social Justice Nikki Hurley nhurley1009@gmail.com
Social Justice Melissa Taylor mewingard@yahoo.com
Waterfront Nancy & Charles Bagley 206-282-1578 candnbagley@comcast.net
LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

Forum: You Marched — Now Run!

Thursday, March 2
6:30 p.m. - Doors open
7:00 p.m. - Forum begins

Fellowship Hall
Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave (enter at Seneca)
Seattle, WA

Accessible entrance on Harvard
This forum is free and open to the public.

Panelists:
➢ **Danni Askini**, Trans Activist and Former Candidate for the Washington House of Representatives
➢ **Claudia Balducci**, King County Councilmember for District 6
➢ **Lisa Herbold**, Seattle City Councilmember for District 1

Moderator:
➢ **Maggie Humphreys**, President of the National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington