

The Voter

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

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Units Unite Us: Every Unit Begins with *You*

by Roslyn Duffy, Unit Liaison

Over the past two years our units have been busy re-inventing themselves through a time of transition. An influx of new membership meant a wave of new energy, new ideas and — changes.

My name is Roslyn Duffy and since last spring, I have been visiting various units in a quest to find out what units actually do. As the new Unit Liaison on the Seattle-King County League Board, I am excited to share your ideas and work with all of you through this time of change, as we move into the League's second hundred years.

First, I'll share an overview that I think sums up where we have been, where we are now, and where we are headed.

In the Beginning . . .

The League was begun by (white) women fighting to earn their right to participate as voting citizens in America's democracy. They used ACTIONS to achieve that end.

And Then . . .

The League itself set as its goal, the EDUCATION of women to fulfill their new role as educated citizens. Over time, the emphasis changed. ACTION became tied to thoughtful and thorough EDUCATION through studies and non-partisan fact-finding based on League principles.

And Then . . .

In the turbulent 60's, League membership soared and ACTION once again overshadowed EDUCATION. During that time, the Voting Rights

Act of 1965 emerged as one of many League successes and the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment began its slow crawl.

And Not so Long Ago . . .

During the past many years, EDUCATION once more ascended, but with the extension of EDUCATION for all citizens, not only League members. Civics EDUCATION; community Forums and League Positions became our primary focus, and the Question and Answer format used by our local Leagues, reflected that.

And Now . . .

Now, we have shifted again. ACTION and EDUCATION have once more linked arms, for as our national League President Chris Carson said at the State Convention:

'Our democracy is under attack.'

How do we respond? Well, from what I can tell, our Units already are responding.

And Onward . . .

Units do unite us. As a League we have

Continued on page 14

Forum:

Thursday, September 5

Changes to Washington's Elections

Details on back cover.

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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 the Leadership

This past July, I officially took over the role of President from Stephanie Cirkovich, who during her tenure as a board member launched our incredibly successful Ballots & Baristas program, forged relationships with a myriad of influential organizations, hosted the likes of Sally Jewel and Hillary Franz at our Voices of Democracy Events, and ensured that everything we did as an organization lived up to the high caliber of excellence one can expect from the League. Needless to say, I've got a pretty high bar set for me.

For those of you who aren't familiar with me and my background, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm one of those "young people" that joined the League in 2016, and for the past two years I've been serving on the Board as the Program Chair. My grandmother, Mary Weed, was a force to be reckoned with in the Grays Harbor League. She spent her life educating her friends, family, and community about the importance of civic engagement and people-focused issues and was the most well-read (and well-informed) person that I have ever met. It's her spirit of action, education, and social justice that I hope to bring to my tenure as your President. And you can thank her many years of persistent prodding for my signing up to be a member of the League in the first place.

Outside of the League, I work in public affairs where I oversee local, national, and international media campaigns for clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to government agencies to issue coalitions. I like collecting vinyl and going to museums (I studied Art History in college), and sometimes on the weekends you can catch me at my side hustle selling fruit at the Broadway or U-District Farmers Markets. I live in Queen Anne with my boyfriend and our really, really cute dog. I might not be the

"typical" Leaguer that you recognize from your unit meetings, but I promise you that I'm just as committed to our goals and ready to do the work.

So now that we're all properly acquainted, let's jump in.

While the League typically enjoys a "summer break" between June and August, the LWVSKC Board has been busy continuing our mission of making democracy work. And as I write this the day after the August 6 Primary Election, I'm excited for what's still to come.

Over the past few weeks, the Board endorsed a Yes vote on King County Prop 1 — Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy (passed at 67.25% as I write this), endorsed a Yes vote on Seattle Prop 1 — Property Tax Levy Renewal for the Seattle Public Library (passed at 73% as I write this), signed on as an official supporter of the Seattle Green New Deal, and voted in our new secretary Janice Camp. Our Voter Services team hosted fantastic candidate forums across King County and is raring to go ahead of the General Election.

By the time you read this, it will already be September (if you can believe it!) which seems like the unofficial start of the year. So, if you tapped out of the League over the summer, I invite you to tap back into it. Come visit one of our board meetings — every first Saturday of the month, 10 AM at the League Office — and see what we're up to. Stopped going to unit meetings? Never been to a unit meeting? Let's fix that. More interested in committees? We've got a bunch. Wherever you are in the League, we've got dozens (and dozens) of ways to get you more involved, up to speed, and out there fighting for democracy.

— Alyssa Weed, President

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Gun Safety 7:30 <i>p.m.</i>	4	5 Forum: Voting Laws 7 p.m.	6	7 Board Meeting 10 a.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Voter Reg. Training 1 p.m.
15	16	17 Homelessness Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21 Education Committee Meeting 11 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Econ & Tax Comm. Mtg. 9:30 a.m. Voter Reg. Training 12 p.m.
29	30	October 1	2	3 Forum: Juvenile Justice 7 p.m.	4	5 Board Meeting 10 a.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Units meet during shaded period — see pages 17-18 for details.

September

Presentation
Gun Safety Advocacy
Tuesday, Sept. 3
7:30 p.m.
Horizon House
(see page 9)

Forum
Voting Laws Update
Thursday, Sept. 5
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist

Board Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 7
10:00 a.m.
League office

Voter Reg. Training
Saturday, Sept. 14
1:00 p.m.
Beacon Hill Library

Education Committee
Saturday, Sept. 21
11:00 a.m.
League Office

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, Sept. 28
9:30 a.m.
909 E Newton St.

Voter Reg. Training
Saturday, Sept. 28
12:00 p.m.
Mercer Island Library

October

Forum
Juvenile Justice
Thursday, Oct. 3
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist

Board Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 5
10:00 a.m.
League office

Forum Schedule

Sept. — Voting Laws Update

Oct. — Juvenile Justice

Nov. — Climate Change

Dec. — Homelessness

Jan. — Program Open House

Feb. — *League Centennial!*

Mar. — TBD

Apr. — Public Bank

The League frequently presents public forums on issues of public interest. 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.

Weather Update — Record Highs and Stormy Weather Ahead

Climate Change is here, so your local government is focused on adaptation as well as continuing mitigation of climate change. Our November Forum will focus on Climate Change in King County. Come hear how our cities, port and county are working on mitigation, like reducing fossil fuel use, and adaptation, dealing with higher temperatures and lower snowpack and river levels.

Thursday, November 7, 2019 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church — 1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle

Behavioral Health Legislative Forum

Presented by the King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division; we are one of many community co-sponsors.

Make your community a healthier, stronger place. Join our community conversation about mental health and substance abuse.

We're bringing together lawmakers, behavioral health professionals, people in recovery and other community members for a powerful event.

For details and to register go to Eventbrite.com. Registration is recommended but not required. The forum is free and open to the public.

Monday, November 18, 2019 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Seattle Center Exhibition Hall — 301 Mercer St, Seattle

Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, September 28

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

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.

Education Committee

DATE: Saturday, September 21

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Will be planning for school board candidate forums in King County. Understanding how the issues are being framed in each race will also be examined.

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.

Homelessness Study Committee

DATE: Tuesday, September 17

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Have a question? Contact information for committee chairs is listed on the inside back cover.

International Relations Committee

This committee is in hiatus. Check with the chair for more information.

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, gender identity and/or gender expression, 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.

Let's Put the FUN Back into Fundraising!

Join the LWV Seattle-King County Fundraising Committee

The Seattle-King County LWV is currently recruiting volunteers to serve on our Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising Committee is an ambassador-focused committee with members who are focused on making introductions to new donors in the community, helping to research funding opportunities, and planning events.



Responsibilities

- Work with the Development Chair to define the short-term and long-term fundraising needs of the Seattle-King County League of Women Voters.
- Set priorities for fundraising efforts; evaluate plans and strategies.
- Help nurture a culture of philanthropy throughout the organization and assure that all donors of time and money are respected and honored.
- Contribute to and review the fundraising plan to ensure progress toward annual and long-range funding goals.
- Work with the Development Chair to identify and research funding sources such as foundations, corporations, community organizations, and individuals.
- Support the organization through the planning and implementation of fundraising events and campaigns.
- Work with the Development Chair to execute a robust donor stewardship plan.

Expectations

- Attend and participate in Fundraising Committee meetings, remote call-in options available.
- Prepare adequately for meetings in order to make informed decisions.
- Make a modest annual financial gift to Seattle-King County League of Women Voters.

Time Commitment

- Average 5 to 12 hours per month.
- All meetings will include a call-in option so that League members outside of metro Seattle can participate.

Desired Experience

- The only experience you need is determination and a sense of humor!

To Apply

If you are interested in being on the FUNdraising Committee, please contact Christy Wood, Development Chair, at 206-707-3845 or development@seattlelww.org.

King County Connects — Announcements

Observer Corps

It's back to school and our observers, Jerri Gordon and Rita Schulte, are back at the school board meetings. I want to thank Barbara Reid for all the work she did last year researching and attending the Seattle Community Police Commission meetings. This group is very strong in holding the Seattle Police accountable for their actions.

This coming year we want to focus on 3 themes: Education, Census, and Climate.

Education: Our schools are impressive. They look at the whole child and focus on bullying, inclusion and education. It always amazes me to read how diverse the agenda is for school board meetings.

Census: There are several local committees already in place and more in development. We get \$2300 in Federal funding for every person counted in the census. We'll observe what they do and report back.

Climate: For climate, many local plans that have been in place for a few years and we're now able to see how well we're doing. There is opportunity for public input on the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan and we'll get you the information to form your opinions and send in your input.

Check out our observer reports at seattlelwv.org/observer-corps

Questions? Want to be an Observer? Contact Cathy O'Shea at 425-753-4182 or coshea120@gmail.com.

Planning for Ballots & Baristas

The Voter Service Committee is already looking ahead to October 22 and Ballots & Baristas, our award-winning voter education program. Are you interested in helping us make B&B a success in 2019 by facilitating conversations with voters? Here's how it works:

- We make the arrangements with the coffee shop, hold a training on facilitation, provide both promotional and informational materials, and pair you with another facilitator for the evening.
- You arrive before the event, set up the table, and enjoy a couple hours chatting with voters about ballot measures over coffee (or cupcakes!).

If you are interested in facilitating, please reply to voterservice@seattlelwv.org with your name, transportation situation, preferred site, and any suggestions of coffee shops/cafes/bakeries that would make good locations for B&B.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

League in Action

In August, League member Kathy Sakahara presented the following testimony on our behalf in front of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission and the state Public Disclosure Commission in support of proposed campaign finance legislation:

As part of our mission to empower voters and defend democracy, the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County is proud to support Seattle's Defend Our Democracy Ordinance. The ordinance tackles two of the biggest issues plaguing our elections today — Super PACs and foreign-influenced corporate spending. The LWVSKC recognizes the often-invisible hand these two forces play in our democracy, and we look forward to continuing to work towards rooting them out of our local elections for good. We believe this ordinance is a pivotal step in ensuring that happens. Seattle has the opportunity to be a leader in promoting elections that are truly free, fair, and for the people. We hope the city rises to the call and supports the Defend Our Democracy Ordinance.

Those hearings can be seen online at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/ethics/?videoid=x106282> and <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/engage/commission-meetings/regular-commission-meeting-august-2019> respectively.

Seattle City Councilmember Lorena González is the primary sponsor of the ordinance. Per her website the proposed legislation would:

- Amend the Seattle Municipal Code to include the definition of “foreign-influenced corporations” to close the gap of foreign influence in our local elections and make sure that our local elections are funded by constituents and not foreign parties.
- Limit contributions for “independent expenditure committees” and set a \$5,000 cap on contributions by a person to independent expenditure committees for use in elections in the City of Seattle in any electoral cycle.
- Create a new definition for a “qualified public communication,” which would require independent expenditure committees to provide disclosures and maintain records in a manner that is consistent with regulations applicable to “paid advertisements.”

More information about the proposal can be found here:

<https://council.seattle.gov/2019/08/13/councilmember-gonzalez-sends-proposed-legislation-to-protect-the-integrity-of-seattles-democracy-to-seattle-ethics-elections-commission/>

League Works on Gun Safety

Come learn what our state leaders are doing to protect Washington State residents from gun injuries and deaths. Suicide accounts for 78% of Washington State gun deaths. Pat Griffith, member of the LWVWA Lobby Team, will describe her work to limit accessibility of firearms, including assault-style weapons and high capacity clips and to enact safe storage requirements for guns.

Tuesday, Sept 3, 7:30 pm
Anderson Hall, Horizon House
900 University St, Seattle

Voter Services

Updates to Voter Registration Laws and Practices

By Allison Feher

We were very excited to see the new laws go into effect this July since they remove a number of barriers to voting that earlier deadlines created. Still, that means some “re-learning” for those of us who have been doing this for a while!

Here are some key items to remember:

1. The new voter registration deadline for online and written forms is 8 days before election day (the Monday one week before election day). **Written forms must be received by the elections office by the deadline.** If doing a voter registration event in the week before the deadline, plan to hand-deliver the forms. This is the deadline for address updates as well as new registrations. Voters who meet this deadline will automatically be mailed a ballot.
2. **In-person** voter registration, address updates, *and voting* can be done at any time starting three weeks before and up to and including election day. In-person registration must be done in the county of residence.
3. **New “Vote Centers.”** To accommodate the new “same day” voter registration laws, King County is expanding the locations for in-person registration and voting. In addition to the Elections Office locations in downtown Seattle and Renton, there were centers in Bellevue, Kenmore, and Federal Way for the August primary election. Details on the locations for November are not yet available but will be on the KC elections website in early October. These centers are open on the Saturday before election day as well as week days and also serve as accessible voting locations for those who need assistive technology to vote independently.

Want to learn more? Come to one of our voter registration and outreach training sessions:

Saturday, September 14
1:00 p.m.
Beacon Hill Library
2821 Beacon Ave. S, Seattle
(2 blocks from the light rail station)

Saturday, September 28
12:00 p.m.
Mercer Island Library
4400 88th Ave SE
(Metro bus route 204)



Space is limited so please rsvp online at signup.com/go/TEHYQNV or via email to info@seattlelwv.org.

2020 Census: Complete Count

By Cathy O'Shea

The 2020 Census is just seven months away, in April 2020. It comes around every 10 years and has much impact on our government. It is expected that 80 percent of the people will respond online. The League of Women Voters is going to be focused on ensuring that we get a complete count. To that end, we'll keep you up-to-date on what is happening in King County to ensure a complete count here. Most of the information about the Census this month is from a LWVUS webinar to lay out the basics. Next month we'll focus on what's happening in Washington State and King County and keep you up-to-date from now until April. Mark your calendars for April 1, 2020, Census Day!

Let's talk through some Census basics and the action plans that LWVUS is putting together.

Census Basics

What Is the Census?

- The Census is a once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Island areas.
- Census results are used to determine the apportionment of Congressional districts and of state legislative districts.
- The federal government uses Census data to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually.

What About the Citizenship Question?

The federal administration proposed asking if the respondents to the census were citizens, a question that has not been on the census since the 1950s, using the rationale that it would help enforce the Voting Rights Act.

- On June 28, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling suspended the citizenship question from being used.
- The Administration attempted to re-open the issue and include the question, but the Census Bureau had already begun printing forms.
- Bottom line: No citizenship question will appear on the census, but some still fear that those in some communities will be afraid to participate.

Is Census Data Safe?

- Responses to the 2020 Census are protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies. Disclosure of information by a Census Bureau employee comes with a \$250,000 penalty and/or up to five years in prison. Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect the personal information of respondents.
- The law states that the information collected may only be used for statistical purposes and no other purpose.
- Census responses cannot be used against anyone by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The law requires the Census Bureau to keep information confidential and use responses only to produce statistics. There are no exceptions.
- In 2020, there are a variety of ways to respond to the Census, including

online, by mail, or by phone. Households that don't respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker or an enumerator to collect the information in person. Regardless of how you choose to respond to the questionnaire, your personal information is protected by law.

- Online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats. The Census Bureau takes strong precautions to keep online responses secure. All data submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy, and their cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information. Once the data is received, it is no longer online. From the moment the Census Bureau collects responses, their focus and legal obligation is to keep threat information safe.

When Does the Census Occur?

"Census Day" is the official kickoff of counting, which is April 1, 2020. However, the Census Bureau will begin to send mail to households in mid-March. Because of the ability to use online technology this year, it may be possible to enter your information mid-March! The online response form will be mobile responsive, so you can respond on your phones. The online and phone response system will be available in 13 languages.

- The Census Bureau will send multiple reminders to homes to complete the form. The Census will notify people through the USPS. Every household in the country will receive an invitation to respond by March 20, 2020. The Census will follow up with a reminder letter and a reminder postcard through the beginning of April. Paper forms will not be sent out until the fourth mailer, so not every household will receive a paper form. (It is estimated that only

20 percent of households will receive a paper form.) Paper forms will be distributed based on who has responded by the time that the fourth mailer goes out to households. Paper response forms are only available in Spanish and English. It is important for people to respond as soon as possible.

- Reminders will occur and enumerators (in-person counters) will be out starting as early as June 2020.

LWVUS PLAN

LWVUS has put together a three-phase action plan to support the census:

1. Education and Community Engagement,
2. Get Out the Count, and
3. Watchdog.

Phase 1: Education and Community Engagement

Join complete count committees

This is being researched to determine what is the most appropriate committee involvement for LWV Seattle-King County. If you are involved in any such committees or would like to be, contact Cathy O'Shea or Melissa Taylor.

Town hall style forums

There were several redistricting forums last year in Seattle and Bellevue to talk about the importance of the Census count and the impact on the redistricting process that follows the Census. This year, a forum would focus on the Census, how it will be done, what people need to do to be counted.

Here is what you can do today and every day. Start to talk about what is on the Census form, when people will be notified, and the impact the Census has on our communities. We're going to keep you updated on all this

over the next few months so you can share this with friends, family, and others.

Partnership building

Leagues cannot be in all communities at all times and partnerships will be important. If you have any connections with the hard-to-count communities (next topic), let us know.

Hard-to-count communities

You've probably heard "hard to count communities" a million times, but do we all know who these communities are?

- Black males between 18-35.
- Children.
- The homeless.
- Income vulnerable communities.
- English language learners.
- Undocumented immigrants.
- Racial/ethnic minorities.
- Individuals and communities with poor internet connections who will be hard to count because of the movement to a digital form.

Where are they?

There is a Hard-to-Count (HTC) map that shows those areas that are most likely to be undercounted due to low response rates. We'll focus on these more in our local article next month. You can check out local areas on this map: <https://www.censushardtocommunitymaps2020.us/>

Phase 2: Get Out the Count (GOTC)

The national coalition is hosting five regional summits across the country on this topic. The summits will cover best practices to encourage the public to GOTC and identify the hard-to-count populations by region.

LWVUS will attend these summits and share the information to sharpen our strategy around GOTC so that we are all doing unified work across the country. The summits will wrap by early October. And just a reminder that GOTC phases will launch on Census Day, April 1, 2020, so we hope that the guidance offered will give Leagues plenty of time (four to six months) to start planning for this phase.

Great news, we won't ask you to go door to door! If you really want to, you can sign up to be a paid Census Enumerator who does go out after April to follow up with households that have not responded.

Here are some activities you will see the League do and we need you to help us make it happen!

- Encourage participation through social media, traditional media, and alternate forms of communication.
- Support the count when it begins with technology partners.
- Help with language assistance and disability assistance.

Phase 3: Watchdog Reporting

Because of the power of the Census, both politically and financially, there may be times when the process is not handled as it should be. Being informed about the Census, you may find times when there is inappropriate behavior, such as filling out forms on others' behalf. So, here is what you can do individually:

- Remain vigilant in your community.
- Look for opportunities to engage your community at every turn, and watch for groups that may be trying to undermine the process

- Report issues to LWVUS, partners, and the Census Bureau

Want to Get Involved?

Whether you've done statistical analysis, researched your family tree, or follow redistricting changes, the Census is a valuable resource for this country. As it transitions to a more digital process and with the concerns that have arisen out of the citizen question issue, it's important that we get the right information out to the general population to *Get Out the Count*.

If you want to be involved or are already involved, let us know. You may want to write

an article like this one or hold a forum. If you speak another language, you may want to support non-English speakers at a library setting. The plans are being made now and we would love for you to be a part it. Just contact Cathy O'Shea at coshea120@gmail.com or Melissa Taylor at melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com.

Establish concrete actions you can take in your communities to ensure a full and complete Census. To see what LWVUS is doing, check out their web site at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/voting-rights-tools/census-action-kit>

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Continued from front page:

developed political power through our non-partisan, solid reputation. Through their due diligence and thorough vetting of positions, units have exercised procedural power in building that reputation.

But we need more Units. We need to meet the needs of our diverse population and a changing-of-the-guard age demographic. We need newly minted voters — both young and new citizens; we need your friends and co-workers; we need parents and grandparents; and — we need YOU!

To make this growth work, we must firmly tether ourselves together — through communication, resource sharing and pooling our skills. My goal, with lots of help, is to develop a template, a sort of smorgasbord guide, of what Units already do, can do and how new ones can form. With a clear guide in place, we'll all feel prepared to change and grow.

The basic framework for all Units fits into four principles:

Focused. Friendly. Fired-Up. Fun.

We need to be FOCUSED on the Principles that guide the League of Women Voters.

We need to be FRIENDLY to one another and include friends of diverse backgrounds as well as make our meetings member-friendly through expanded meeting times and innovative ways to connect.

We need to be FIRED-UP! We must channel and honor the women who fought for our rights as we protect our democratic principles and preserve the health of democracy itself.

And it better be FUN! Whether we are meeting or marching — we know how to have FUN!

So, I guess- we have our marching orders!

Now let's do it — 'Unit'ed.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

THE ONCE AND FUTURE WORKER

By Oren Cass

The author disagrees with those who say the U.S. economy is in good shape and we should be content. He says, “while G.D.P. tripled from 1975 to 2015, the median worker’s wages have barely budged,” and “millions of people have dropped out of the labor force entirely.” Though spending on a safety net has quadrupled, the poverty rate is higher than in the 1990s. Meanwhile, “families and even entire communities have collapsed; addiction has surged; life expectancy is now falling.” In short, our economy helps the rich, but does not help most Americans to thrive.

Cass explains how we went off track and suggests how we might make the economy work better for all Americans. He emphasizes that “work matters,” and “a labor market in which workers can support strong families and communities is the central determinant of long-term prosperity.” His idea is that workers need a wage that will ensure they can thrive, so they can make good decisions for their families and reach for a better lifestyle as they gain expertise in their work.

To empower workers, he says, “Provide a subsidy for low-wage work.” We should also “repurpose unions by helping workers and employers to optimize workplace conditions.” We should “give workers standing” by making their productive employment an economic imperative. Prosperity is shown in how we create productive lives for ourselves, NOT in how much we consume. Expensive sneakers or cars might make someone feel proud for a short while, but worthwhile productive work makes people feel that they themselves are worthwhile.

This will not happen if we focus on finding “the cheapest possible workers anywhere

in the world.” In the past, our economy was “much less affluent, yet the typical worker could support a family.” Cass recommends a wage subsidy because it ties money to productive employment, rather “than to unemployment: it does more to increase work than welfare programs can do.” Why? Because a wage supplement is a work incentive, raising the amount of cash the worker is earning.

Welfare in the form of food stamps helps people to buy food, but “it does nothing to help [people] gain a foothold in the economy and provide for themselves.” Cass implies that welfare tends to see people only as consumers, not as people with fulfilling work who can grow strong relationships.

He takes issue with the idea that college entry should be everyone’s goal, as so many fail to graduate. Instead, the “goal should be to ensure that every person, no matter her starting circumstances, can find a vocation that allows her to support a family, live in a community where she can live a good life, and then give to her children an even greater opportunity than she had herself.”

Cass points out that “no law of economics promises that the labor market” can achieve this. Rather, we voters need to push for workers. He believes that the welfare state has an unhelpful effect on markets and on low-income citizens who receive it. His idea of wage subsidy and education to enhance the value of work and to make ones own decisions about how to use the increase in pay dignifies the worker and will “help bring about the nation’s long term prosperity.”

I found this a thought-provoking and uplifting book.

Opinions in this review are personal and do not necessarily represent those of the League.

“Did Segregation Cause Your Traffic Jam?”

What’s THAT all about?? Well, read on.

Welcome to fall, a new League year, and the revitalized Capitol Hill/Montlake unit.

Some things are the same:

1. We’ll meet the 3rd Monday of each month.
2. We’ll begin to gather at 7:15, meeting to start at 7:30 p.m.

—but it’s going to be different:

3. We’ll meet at Vicky Downs’ condo overlooking Lake Union.*
4. Each month a Leaguer will begin by reading aloud about a topic of interest.
5. Then we’ll all snack and discuss that topic.

September 16th we’ll hear from Marilee Fuller about the Sightline article “Did Segregation Cause Your Traffic Jam? Sprawl: Among other things, a deliberate attempt to enforce racial segregation with physical space.”** We’ll all listen, perhaps take notes. Then we’ll all discuss.

It promises to be a very satisfactory evening—interesting people discussing interesting subjects.

We hope you’ll be able to be a part of it!

*See unit meeting location info on page 18

**<https://www.sightline.org/2019/08/21/did-segregation-cause-your-traffic-jam/>



Unit Leaders hard at work at the League office!

“Two things that she felt were vital to being a good citizen, voting and reading the newspaper, which she did from cover to cover, including the ads. To her, both were her civic duty. If you wish to honor her memory, then be sure to vote, be as informed as possible and support the free press.”

—from the obituary of former League member Edith Lipson

Unit Meetings

We invite you to check out our neighborhood discussion groups, called unit meetings, to meet people passionate about League and our community. Units meetings are a great way for new members to learn about League. Discussion usually focuses on the topic which is discussed at the monthly forum. In addition, background materials are generally included in our newsletter, *The Voter*.

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

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
Tuesday, September 10			
BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND Day – Cathy O’Shea			
coshea120@gmail.com	425-753-4182	12:00 p.m.	Kirkland Library 308 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland
BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND Evening – Rita Schulte and Cathy O’Shea			
rita.schulte@comcast.net	425-445-4371	6:00 p.m.	Host: contact unit leader
Wednesday, September 11			
NORTHEAST SEATTLE – Jeanette Johnson			
jeanettejohnson10@msn.com	206-724-3392	12:45 p.m.	Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle
<i>Directions: Go into the Park through North entrance at 74th and drive EAST toward water. At the STOP sign, turn LEFT to park in front of the Brig, or RIGHT, for more parking.</i>			
QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD Evening – Kathy Pugh and Marlis Worthington			
ckp1966@comcast.net	503-580-1240	7:30 p.m.	Magnolia Church of Christ 3555 W McGraw St, Seattle
marliswrt@hotmail.com	206-283-7147		
Thursday, September 12			
MERCER ISLAND – Toni Okada and Julie Sarkissian			
td.okada@yahoo.com	206-232-1418	9:30 a.m.	Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island
juliesarkissian@hotmail.com	206-236-2953		
ISSAQUAH – Judy Love			
judysteveL@gmail.com	425-417-8600	10:00 a.m.	Issaquah City Hall, Coho Rm. 2 nd Flr. 130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah
SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW – Cathy Dormaier			
clcathy@skynetbb.com	360-802-6799	12:00 p.m.	Location: <i>contact unit leader</i>

Continued on next page

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

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
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Monday, September 16

FIRST HILL – Adele Reynolds

adelereynolds@netscape.net	206-621-4867	10:30 a.m.	Horizon House, Forum & Social Room 900 University St, Seattle
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SOUTH SEATTLE – Kay Kite and Sarah Miller

mkk45@icloud.com	206-295-6104	5:30 p.m.	Horizon House, Dining Room 900 University St, Seattle
sarahbethmiller410@gmail.com	206-799-2061		

Special dinner at Horizon House - contact unit leader for details.

CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE – no current unit leader

7:15 p.m.	Host: Vicky Downs 909 E Newton St, Seattle
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Tuesday, September 17

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams and Pat Lane

etheljw@comcast.net	206-932-7887	1:00 p.m.	Daystar Retirement Village 2615 SW Barton, Seattle
pgblain11@gmail.com	206-932-1578		

Friday, September

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD – Janet Kime

kraftyanet@comcast.net	206-588-0988	2:00 p.m.	University House, San Juan Room 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle
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Saturday, September 21

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Kerry Peterson

bmqaday@seattlelww.org	206-619-0867	10:00 a.m.	Host: contact unit leader
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Thursday, September 26

NORTH KING COUNTY – Judy Deiro and Sally Corbett

judy.deiro@gmail.com	425-820-9096	7:00 p.m.	Third Place Commons 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park
sallycorbett@comcast.net	206-356-3459		

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

2019-21	<i>President</i>	Alyssa Weed	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2018-20	<i>1st VP - Development</i>	Christy Wood	206-707-3845	development@seattlelwv.org
2019-21	<i>2nd VP - Action</i>	Heather Kelly	206-329-4848	action@seattlelwv.org
2017-19	<i>Secretary</i>	Janice Camp	206-329-4848	janice@seattlelwv.org
2018-20	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cathy O'Shea	425-753-4182	treasurer@seattlelwv.org

Directors

2018-20	<i>Development</i>	Kiku Hayashi	206-329-4848	kikuhayashi1@gmail.com
2019-21	<i>Communications</i>	Kristen Johnson	206-329-4848	communications@seattlelwv.org
2019-21	<i>Voter Service</i>	Chelsea Jordan	206-329-4848	voterservice@seattlelwv.org
2019-21	<i>Units</i>	Roslyn Duffy	206-329-4848	roslyn@seattlelwv.org
2019-21	<i>Outreach & Events</i>	Melissa Taylor	206-329-4848	melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com

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

Education Fund Officers — same as above except Treasurer

<i>Treasurer</i>	open		206-329-4848	eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org
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Nominating Committee

2019-20	<i>Chair</i>	Stephanie Cirkovich	206-329-4848	
2019-20		Linnea Hirst	206-329-4848	lwvquilter@comcast.net
2019-20		Kathy Pugh	206-329-4848	ckp1966@comcast.net

Off Board Positions

<i>Voter Editor</i>	open		206-329-4848	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
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Committee Chairs

<i>Communications</i>	Kristen Johnson		communications@seattlelwv.org
<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Nora Leech		nleech2002@yahoo.com
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>Homelessness Study</i>	Lauren Pixley		lpixley@uw.edu
<i>International Relations</i>	Kim Peterson	206-789-7447	
<i>Observer Corps</i>	Cathy O'Shea	425-753-4182	coshea120@gmail.com
<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1511 3rd Ave, Suite 900
Seattle WA 98101

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

Latest Election and Voting Laws

Thursday, Sept. 5

7:00 p.m.

Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca)
Seattle, WA 98122

Free and open to the public

Curious or confused about all those new election & voting reforms you've been seeing in the news? **Kendall LeVan Hodson, Chief of Staff for King County Elections**, will be here to tell you all about them and answer your questions! We'll talk about everything from the new Vote Centers, same day registration, and prepaid postage, to the Native American Voting Rights Act, to the changes to Washington State's Presidential Primary.