LWVS Hosts Primary Election Forum August 6  

by Beatrice Crane

After the excitement of a presidential election last year, how do we maintain the momentum in an off-year? How do we remind voters that voting is not a one-shot deal? One answer for the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) is to gear up early for the new election season. Our League year generally begins in earnest in September, when our committees begin their work afresh, units reconvene and the forum schedule for the year starts up. But with the primary now in August, our year needs to start sooner. Therefore, we have scheduled a forum to highlight some of the races in this year’s primary election.

Why is the primary election so important? 1) Every primary election is important, in that it serves to select the candidates who will appear on the ballot in the general election in November. With Washington State’s new “top two” system, the two candidates who receive the highest number of votes in partisan races, regardless of party affiliation, advance to the general election. Several cities in King County, including Seattle, will be electing city council members and/or mayors this year. 2) In King County, we are electing a new county executive this year. Since Mr. Sims went to Washington (Ron Sims, county executive for the last 12 years, has joined the Obama administration as deputy secretary of Housing and Urban Development), we have a race with eight declared candidates, none of them an incumbent. One county council position and three port commissioner positions will also be on the ballot. 3) Judicial races can be decided in the primary if one candidate receives a majority of the votes; this year, there are only two declared candidates for judge in division 1, district 1 of the Court of Appeals, so the winner in the primary will appear unopposed on the general election ballot. 4) Seattle’s disposable shopping bag ordinance, which was scheduled to go into effect last January, was instead referred to the voters as referendum 1, which will be decided in the primary by simple majority.

LWVS has invited all of the declared candidates for county executive to its August 6 forum. To date, all but two have agreed to come. In addition, the two candidates for the judicial position will make presentations. And we will present speakers on both sides of the disposable shopping bag issue.

Because of time constraints, LWVS cannot cover every race in its forum. But we do encourage voters to become informed on the other races. Look for other forums, such as the port commissioner candidates forum at Horizon House on Monday, August 10, and many others on the calendar on the LWVS website (www.seattlelwv.org). And do mark your calendar now for the LWVS general election ballot issues forum scheduled for October 1.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **August 6** - LWVS Primary Forum, 7:30 p.m., Seattle First Baptist Church
- **August 10** - Last day to register in person for primary
- **August 18** - Last day to mail or drop off primary election ballot
- **September 10** - LWVS Privatization Forum, 7:30 p.m., Seattle First Baptist Church - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE
Contents

President’s Message .................................................. 3
Calendar........................................................................ 4
June Board Briefs .................................................... 5
Announcements/League News
  Committees .............................................................. 6
  Help Wanted........................................................... 6
  Port Commission Candidates Forum.................. 6
  “Promote the Vote” Kickoff................................. 6
  Summer Outreach Events................................... 7
  Special Events Extravaganza.............................. 8
  Annual Meeting Draws 81 Members................... 9
  Carrie Chapman Catt Award 2009............... 11
  Annual Meeting-Reflections on Democracy..... 12
  Linnea Hirst Takes the Helm at State......... 13
  I May Not Be Uncle Sam, But I Want You!..... 13
  LWVWA 2009 Resolutions................................. 14

National Beat
  A Year at National.................................................. 18

Membership
  Membership Report ............................................ 19

Features
  Summer Reading.................................................... 20

Program: Primary Ballot Issue
  Referendum 1: Disposable Bags.......................... 23
  Local Positions 2009........................................... 25

Unit Leaders.............................................................. 48

Board and Committee Contacts............................. 49

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As I begin my term as president, I first want to thank all of you for the encouragement and support I have received in these first weeks in office. Despite having served on the Board for a number of years in a variety of roles, I still have so much to learn. Yet isn’t that what keeps us all coming back to League? The curiosity and the desire to understand and, where we can, make changes for the better.

As we approach our 90th birthday, in a world that has changed dramatically and continues to change at an ever increasing pace, I keep coming back to the same questions. What is the role of League? Who are we serving? Our members? Our community? How has that changed over time and how have we evolved? The Board will take this up in our annual retreat next week as we look at ways to implement our strategic plan. Still, one of the fundamentals for me is our reputation as a thoughtful group and a source for balanced and accurate information for voters. When there is an information overload out there and people struggle to find reliable and objective information, people turn to us as a resource. Whatever we choose to do, maintaining that reputation is critical if we are to see another 90 years.

Another fundamental of who we are as a League is our volunteers. We truly are a grass roots organization and without you we cannot survive. There are vital tasks and exciting opportunities that are going by the wayside due to a lack of people to take them on. Yet as the world has sped up, so have the lives of all of you and some of the heavy commitments we ask are becoming harder to meet. So we must find ways to change what we do and how we do it to fit this reality. One way is through better and more integrated use of technology and the internet, while another is to look for ways to share the load and perhaps change how the work is done. We have set aside leftover reserve funds to pay for upgrading and streamlining our computer systems, and that task is now underway. Next, we will need to look at all of our “job descriptions” and look for ways to break them apart into more manageable and discrete tasks. Finally, I look to you to ask yourselves: “what can I do?” Can you commit to three hours a month? Take on an ongoing task that you can do remotely on your own time? Help with an annual event for a couple of days? Our membership team will be in touch with more information, and I ask you to take the time to let them know your answer even if the answer is “no.” However, I hope you will take the opportunity to try something out, learn a new skill and have some fun while you’re at it.

I look forward to working with you through this exciting and challenging time.

Sincerely,

Allison

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Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Seattle, 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.
### August

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League Forums

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The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) presents a public forum each month between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. With the exception of the March forum, which takes place at St. Andrews Church in Bellevue, the forums are held at Seattle First Baptist Church. The tentative schedule of upcoming forums for 2009–2010 appears below; check your Voter or the LWVS website, seattlelwv.org, each month for up-to-date information.

Note that there is an extra forum planned for August this year, to cover the approaching primary election, and that the September forum is a week later than usual due to the Labor Day weekend.

June Board Briefs  By Brita Butler-Wall, Secretary

The incoming and outgoing Boards of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) met jointly on Saturday morning, June 5. This is a brief summary of their work.

Membership: LWVS currently has 804 members.

Strategic Planning: Jaclyn Wall distributed the strategic plan to new board members, to be used at the July retreat to set priorities and action plans.

Program: Allison Feher appointed Christal Wood and Beatrice Crane for the Reading Committee of the Port Study and Brita Butler-Wall to help compile unit responses to the privatization study questions. The Board will discuss future forum program ideas at the July retreat, in conjunction with goals of the strategic plan.

Voter Service: Christal Wood reported on training, updating of training materials, and tracking Voter Registration. Volunteers are needed for additional voter registration. The Board will ask King County records and elections for clarifications. Sarah Luthens is recruiting and scheduling members to research, analyze and write about upcoming ballot issues, and developing a speakers’ bureau on these topics. Trainings are scheduled for Sunday, September 13 – Sunday, September 27.

Forums: The LWVS Primary Ballot Issues Forum is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, featuring candidates for King County Executive. Feher also made some appointments for the Reading Committee for possible Fall Ballot Issues. The League Forum is Thursday, October 1.

Action: Jayne Freitag-Koontz reported that State League has voted to support Referendum 71. Seattle League has endorsed Initiative 100, to request a study regarding new jail. This is still gathering signatures; it is not yet on the ballot. League still needs to take a position on the Plastic Bag Initiative. Four bills on local funding have been signed by the Governor. It is now up to city and county councils to place them on the ballot. The 10-year plan to end homelessness, relating to the Seattle housing levy on the ballot in November and possibly a countywide health and services bill, was referred to the Social Justice committee. Jayne Freitag-Koontz’s resolution, requiring enforcement of building standards for safe and decent residential housing, passed at State Convention.

Outreach: Seattle League is tabling at a wide variety of summer events. Volunteers are needed to help staff tables for Hemp Fest (Saturday – Sunday, August 15 – 16) and Bumbershoot (Saturday – Monday, September 5 – 7).

Fundraising: The Board chose a theme for the annual Political Party theme: “Sister, Can You Spare a Dime? Let’s Party Like It’s 1929.” All interested in serving on the event committee should call Allison Feher.

Board work: The Board adopted an annual calendar of meetings; the board retreat is scheduled for Saturday, July 25. Christal Wood has set up a Facebook page for LWVS.
Committees

The League committees have worked diligently all year and most take a break in July and August. If you want information about the work of a committee, contact the chairperson or watch for announcements in future *Voters*. You can find contact information for committee chairs on the inside back page of every issue of the *Voter*.

Announcements/League News

**HELP WANTED**

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

Please join the fun and come out to register voters and promote the League of Women Voters.

Upcoming opportunities:

- Hempfest: August 15 & 16
- Bumbershoot: September 5–7
- Farmers markets: Various dates

If you are interested, please email or call Lindsay at lindsay@seattlelwv.org or (206) 329-4848.

**“PROMOTE THE VOTE” KICK-OFF**

Date: Monday, August 3  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Place: The Plaza at Seattle City Hall  
600 5th Avenue, between James & Cherry

This event is cosponsored by the League, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington, the Washington Bus, Representative Jeannie Darneille and Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles. It celebrates the recent changes in Washington state law making it easier for felons to regain their right to vote. The ACLU is launching a public education campaign about the new system. League members will be present to register voters and provide information. This is an issue the League has been working hard on for quite some time – so congratulations, and come join the fun! Details are available at www.aclu-wa.org.

**PORT COMMISSION CANDIDATES FORUM**

Date: Monday, August 10  
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
Place: Horizon House, Performance Hall, 900 University Street, Seattle

The First Hill unit of the League of Women Voters of Seattle and the Horizon House Residents’ Council will cosponsor a forum featuring the candidates for Port Commission.
LEAGUE NEWS

Summer Outreach Events
by Maria Brusher, VP, Outreach

The League of Women Voters of Seattle is working to ensure the League is cooperating with other organizations in the community on issues that are relevant to the League and to the greater Seattle community.

In May, a small team of runners associated with the League took the time early Saturday morning and participated in NARAL's Run for Your Rights 5k event at Green Lake.

Pictured left to right: Maria Brusher, Ayreen Calimquim, Carrie Mapes, Tanya Dickinson, Colleen Thomas and Erin McCoy.

On Sunday, June 28th, a modest contingent of "nouveau suffragists" from the League formed part of this decades-old tradition of flash and fun in solidarity with the GBLT community, coordinated by Seattle Out and Proud. We helped to promote this year's theme of "Peace, Love and Equality."

Pride Parade "09: Public transportation—yet another issue on which the League advocates. Featuring Lindsay Cummings, Office Manager, Christal Wood, Board member, and Maria Brusher, VP of Outreach.

Pride Parade, June 2009. Our contingent wore sashes reminiscent of the classic suffragist movement (also see “War of the Roses” where the white rose signified support, and red roses, opposition). The theme we came to rest on represented multiple eras of activism, including “Votes for Women,” “Equal pay for Equal Work,” and other messages.
SPECIAL EVENTS EXTRAVAGANZA!

We know you’re out there! It’s time for volunteers to come forward to plan the 33rd Political Party and Auction. Opportunities abound for helping to piece the auction together. You could play a pivotal role or just assume responsibility for a small task. From baking a dessert to hobnobbing with donors, you can help put on a great event.

Some possibilities for you include:

➢ Joining the treasure hunt for items;
➢ Upping the ante that people contribute;
➢ Hosting a table;
➢ Writing compelling descriptions of the items;
➢ Helping to get the invitations out;
➢ Producing the top selling dessert of the auction;
➢ Coordinating part of the auction.

The auction provides two thirds of our operating income for the year. Community members join our core group of supporters to make sure that the League stays on solid financial ground for another year. Local candidates and office holders attend a reception prior to the auction, giving members and guests a chance to buttonhole politicians to ask about their favorite issues. It’s a festive occasion!

The evening is the culmination of preparation on many levels by individual volunteers and units. At present, items, table captains and sponsors are in high demand. Some of the items that sell the best are getaways, visits to restaurants and cultural venues, meals in private homes, and delightful adventures such as hot air ballooning. Table captains are enthusiastic champions of the auction, inviting potential guests to pay their own way to an evening of fun. It’s a great way to introduce people to the League, and the small reservation amount helps cover the League’s expenses. Sponsors are the financial buttresses of the auction, contributing $1,000 or more to support the League. You may have the connections to introduce us to a new key player at the auction.

To volunteer, talk to Lindsay at (206) 329-4848 or email lindsay@seattlelwv.org. Everyone’s participation is needed to guarantee a great success!
President Denise Smith welcomed eighty-one members of the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) to the annual meeting held on May 21. She reminded attendees of the purposes of the annual meeting: to review and reaffirm our activities during the year; to establish the League program for the coming year; to adopt a budget; elect officers, directors, and a nominating committee; to consider new League positions; and to give direction to the Board.

League Positions: Members adopted new positions resulting from unit responses to consensus questions for this year’s Water Drainage and Immigration studies. They also readopted all other local positions, which they had reviewed at the program planning unit meetings in January.

Program for 2009-2010: Although the LWVS Board did not recommend a new study for the coming year, members discussed and passed the motion introduced by Vanessa Power of the Social Justice Committee to adopt a two-year study that would explore public funding in the Seattle and King County mental health systems. Program Chair Nora Leech reviewed next year’s program, reminding members that the Privatization Study and Port Study will be presented in the fall.

Resolution on Health Care Reform: Ann Brand proposed a resolution that asked LWVS to urge the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) to send a letter to the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) Board within one month urging that LWVUS actively support the principle of single-payer national health insurance by vigorously advocating that a single-payer legislative proposal be included in deliberations of health care reform by Congress and the Administration; and that side-by-side comparative analyses of single-payer proposals and other proposals for health reform be part of these deliberations. Members voted in favor of the resolution.

While members enjoyed a break for dinner, the Civics Education Committee presented a shortened, but lively, version of their civics trivia event, then awarded prizes to the winning tables.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award: Also during the dinner break, Annette Holcomb presented the Carrie Chapman Catt award to Betty Sullivan. President Smith then surprised Holcomb by telling her that since she had also provided invaluable leadership for the League in many capacities over the years, the Board had decided to award her the Carrie Chapman Catt award as well.

Fifty Year Members Honored: Kitty Mahon introduced the following members and presented them with a certificate honoring fifty years of membership in the League: Janet Anderson, Elaine Birn, Olive Spannaus, Joan Thomas and Anne Widditsch.

Election of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee: Members elected the following slate of officers, directors and nominating committee members for 2009-2010:

President—Allison Feher
1st Vice President—Maria Brusher
4th Vice President—Beatrice Crane
Secretary—Brita Butler-Wall
Treasurer—Judy Bevington
Director—Jean Carlson
Director—Kelly Powers
Director—Christal Wood
Nominating Committee 2009-2010—Joan Thomas (chair), Paula Polet, Ruth Schroeder, and Denise Smith

Strategic Plan: Jaclyn Wall reviewed the Strategic Plan for LWVS, which has been worked on by many members during the past year. She explained that this plan now would be passed on to the new Board to consider the action items for 2009–2010.
so that the plan’s goals can be reached by 2012.

**Unit Leaders:** Patti Catalano, Unit Coordinator, introduced the current and incoming unit leaders. First she thanked those who have served during the past year or more and are now retiring: Patti Catalano, Vicky Downs, Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Gail Shurgot, Joan Peterson, Shirley Gerstenberger, Gerry Williams, Mary Slotnick, Marilyn Paulson, Martha Jordan, Kathleen Randall and Judy Bevington. Catalano also thanked those unit leaders who will serve for another year: Sam Scharff, Ann Thornton, Jeannette Kahlenberg, Jan O’Connor, Bonnie Rimawi, Helen St. John, Gail Winberg, Bettina Hosler, Jan Orlando, Juliet Beard, Margaret Austin, Jocelyn Marchisio and Barbara O’Steen. Finally, Catalano welcomed those who have agreed to join us as leaders next year: Sheila Hoff (Kirkland/Redmond), Ethel Williams and Ann Bowden (West Seattle Day), Peggy Saari (co-leader for View Ridge), Cynthia Howe and Lucy Copass (Mercer Island), Rejean Idzerda (North King County), Barbara Denis and Judy Coskey (University House) and Kerry Peterson and Kim Peterson (Ballard, Queen Anne, Magnolia Day). She extended to them the thanks of the entire membership for taking on this important grassroots responsibility.

**Budget:** Members examined and adopted the budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year presented by Treasurer Allison Feher.

**Expressions of Thanks:** President Smith introduced and recognized many members for their service, pointing out that it is not only elected and appointed members who do the work of the League. Mary Coltrane once again served in the vital role of parliamentarian for the annual meeting. Mary Burki took on the task of timing the evening’s speakers. Kathleen Randall and Martha Jordan reviewed the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting. Jeannette Kahlenberg and Janet Perry will review the minutes of the 2009 meeting. JoAnne McGaw, Jan Orlando and Cynthia Howe, as tellers for the meeting, made sure that votes were accurately counted and recorded. Members applauded and waved workbooks in appreciation for Alice Rasp, who provides cookies and makes coffee for every forum. Over the year, many voter registration volunteers have staffed tables at events throughout the area. Betty Sullivan and Victoria Bennett encouraged, trained and directed voter registrars. Sarah Luthens and Chirstal Wood trained ballot issues speakers. Cynthia Howe and CIS volunteers regularly staff the phones in the office and see that the voters’ questions are answered. Kitty Mahon kept membership records organized and presented a warm and caring face to our members. Lindsay Cummings serves as our office staff person, answering to 800 bosses. Nancy Eitreim serves on the LWVUS Board. Marilyn Knight represents the League on the King County Elections Oversight Committee. Gunbjorg Ladstein serves on the King County Ethics Committee. Victoria Bennett and several dedicated volunteers made last October’s Political Party and Auction incredibly successful and fun.

**Farewell and Thanks to President Smith:** Smith concluded the meeting by thanking members for allowing her to serve as president. At this point Kitty Mahon stepped forward to thank Smith, on behalf of the Board, for all of her hard work as president over the past two years, and presented her with a thank you gift from the Board. The audience responded with applause and book waving, a League tradition to indicate strong agreement.
CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD, 2009

Annette Holcomb was delighted to pay tribute to Betty Sullivan, designated recipient of the Carrie Chapman Catt award this year. Annette had shared the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) presidency with Betty from 2001–2003, and could testify to her many contributions beyond serving on the Board in various leadership positions. She noted that Betty

- truly believes in the mission of League—to inform and educate voters
- is always willing to pitch in and do the ordinary jobs, such as stuffing envelopes, registering voters, working late or coming in over the weekend to print the Voter and working at the CIS desk
- has represented the League by explaining ballot issues at many an event
- has attended community events in the Central District and listened carefully to the concerns of other neighborhood groups so that League could partner with them
- has worked tirelessly on the annual publication of They Represent You (TRY).

When Annette prepared to sit down, President Denise Smith asked her to remain at the podium. Since Annette and her husband Robin have recently moved to Bellingham, Annette expected a few words of farewell. But she was overwhelmed by being presented the Carrie Chapman Catt Award jointly with Betty. But why not? Not only did Annette share the presidency with Betty, but their records of service to the League are remarkably similar. Both have, in their time, worked on the budget and nominating committees, served as unit leaders, chaired the Spring Fling and held the position of Unit Coordinator. In addition, Annette has worked on the annual Auction (once as co-chair) and served three years as LWVS treasurer. Annette has been a member of LWVS for more than two decades and has been active both off and on the Board. Most recently, she has been co-chair of the Immigration Study Committee, which produced a study leading to new League positions last year.

We will miss Annette at LWVS, but we wish her all the best at her new home in Bellingham, where we expect she will continue to be active. Annette is also involved in the League of Women Voters of Washington; she was elected to the Board of its Education Fund in May. We look forward to seeing her when she comes to Seattle for meetings.

Congratulations to both of our Carrie Chapman Catt winners.
**State Convention: Reflections on Democracy**

by Beatrice Crane, Voter Editor

Every two years the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) holds a convention of its membership. The convention is similar to our annual meeting, but at the state level; it brings together delegates from throughout the state to elect the leadership, set the program and approve the budget for the next two years. This year, the convention took place in Tacoma May 29-31; the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County welcomed 83 delegates, representing 18 local Leagues. The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) sent 27 delegates: Denise Smith, Allison Feher, Karen Adair, Jaclyn Wall, Jayne-Freitag Koonz, Maria Brusher, Beatrice Crane, Nora Leech, Sarah Luthens, Christal Wood, Brita Butler-Wall, Judy Bevington, Kelly Powers, Nancy Eitreim, Ann Brand, Annette Holcomb, Bonnie Rimawi, Dorothy Swarts, Eleanor Laxdall, Jan O’Connor, Kathleen Randall, Laura Weese, Lois Laughlin, Margaret Austin, Peggy Tlapak, Stasha McBride, and Toni Potter. Also in attendance was LWVUS board member Norman Turrill, Washington State’s liaison to LWVUS.

Those delegates who were able to arrive early on Friday had the opportunity to visit Tacoma’s Museum of Glass and lunch at its Hot Shop. The rest of us could at least admire the glass art on display at the Hotel Murano, where the convention took place. LWVWA also held its annual Good in Government Awards Gala in Tacoma during the convention weekend this year, at the State History Museum. This year’s honorees were Senator Rosa Franklin, the Korean Women’s Association, and the News Tribune. Members who chose to attend the event could, as a bonus, view the exhibit on the struggle for suffrage in Washington State—Women’s Voices, Women’s Votes. Other treats for delegates included the opportunity to hear Senator Maria Cantwell, the keynote speaker at dinner Friday night, and an entertainment entitled “Soldiers in Petticoats,” also on the suffrage battle.

**Budget:** An important focus was the budget in this year of economic downturn. Although LWVWA usually presents a two-year budget at convention, this year the budget committee felt that the uncertainty was too great to plan for more than a single year. A panel presented the proposed budget and discussed its ramifications, with opportunity for questions and comments from members. One item that concerned many local Leagues is the increase in the per member payment (PMP) assessed by LWVWA. The budget includes a $2 increase for the coming year, with a further $3 per member proposed for the following year. Since this payment must come out of the dues that members pay to their local leagues, it has a direct effect on the local budgets. The panel identified spending reductions that have already taken place—for example, only two state Voters will be published in the coming year and travel reimbursements will be reduced—and suggested other possibilities for members to consider. The choices are hard. For instance, it will be more difficult to find members from the other side of the state willing to serve on the state board if travel expenses cannot be reimbursed. There was much discussion of the proposed budget throughout the convention, but in the end, members voted to approve it.

**Program:** The LWVWA board did not recommend any new studies; instead, they proposed a Civics Engagement Project on governmental budget and finance concerns to educate our communities about the need and options for reform and to encourage action on these issues. This was approved by the membership, as was a not-recommended water conservation district study, in which a state study committee will provide study materials and serve as a resource and coordinator for local Leagues, which will study their own conservation districts.

**Caucuses:** Caucuses at convention provide an opportunity for members from different areas to meet, learn about and discuss topics of interest. Three caucuses took place Friday evening. Members from Clallam and Jefferson County Leagues joined with Seattle to present a caucus on immigration and border patrol issues; they also joined forces to propose a resolution (see text on page 15). The two other caucuses were on the subjects of education and national health care.

**Information Sessions:** All delegates had the opportunity to attend sessions on subjects including public financing of campaigns, new communication tools, how a bill becomes a law and lobbying. Katy Sheehan demonstrated the use of Twitter and blogs, with suggestions about how to filter out unwanted information. Lonnie Johns-Brown, a professional lobbyist who works for LWVWA along with other nonprofits, offered examples of how citizen lobbying can make a difference in whether bills pass. She stressed that the power of the constituent is greater than that of a professional lobbyist and that it is important to work with allied organizations and to
communicate with the legislative leadership.

Honors and Awards: The Dorothy Roberts Award was presented posthumously to Seattle’s John Roberts for his tireless work on protecting children and others from environmental hazards. His wife and daughter accepted the award on his behalf.

New Leadership: Linnea Hirst of Seattle was elected LWVWA president for 2009–2011; she takes over from Barbara Seitle, who received a vote of thanks from the delegates for her service for the last four years. Other Seattle members elected to the new State Board include directors Judy Ostrow and Bonnie Rimawi.

Resolutions: Delegates approved all of the proposed resolutions: on Health Care, Immigration, Residential Housing Standards and support of Referendum 71. Full texts of resolutions can be found on pages 14-17.

Linnea Hirst Takes the Helm at State

Linnea Hirst of Seattle, who has served on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) since 2004, was elected president of LWVWA at the state convention in May. Linnea first joined the League when she was living in Texas in the 1960s. Over the years, she has interspersed active work for the League in various places with education and a career in accounting and teaching.

Linnea and her husband first spent time in Seattle in the mid-90s, and then settled here permanently in 2003. She has been active in the League here at many levels. At the local level, she has chaired the Auction Committee, worked on the Land Use Committee and the Drainage Study Committee, and participated in the annual review of the treasurer's books. She has worked with the Regional Transportation Committee. At the state level, as well as serving on the Board, she took part in the study of the Washington State Growth Management Act in 2005-2006. Not the least of Linnea’s contributions are the gorgeous quilted placements that many of us have competed for in the League of Women Voters of Seattle auctions. We hope that with her additional responsibilities she still finds some time for quilting.

I May Not Be Uncle Sam, But I Want You!

by Linnea Hirst, President, League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA)

If you’re interested in our state government and the issues affected by state finances, and especially if you’re passionate about those things—League has a project for you. It’s the project you’ve already read about in a recent LWVWA Voter and heard about at convention. But as a reminder…

The Civic Engagement Project—CEP—is a statewide League project. Our goals:

- to educate the public about the state budget and tax structure,
- to point to what the problem is,
- and to help our citizens get to the next step and figure out solutions.

The CEP steering committee is in the process of gathering information, putting together potential PowerPoint presentations, figuring out ways to get the public’s attention and making a list of other suggestions for League use in talking to people throughout the state.

Pundits and politicians keep telling us what a financial our state is in. They agonize about how the crisis could go on and on, with no end, no solution. This hand-wringing, no-action approach is what we need to overcome. We must engage people in discovering that there ARE solutions and in understanding how those solutions can bring a greater degree of financial stability to state government, benefiting their communities and their own lives.

We need to change the “Can’t Do It” attitude to a “CAN Do It.” But it will take the efforts of many of us. Will you help?

I look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like to participate in the Civic Engagement Project, please email Linnea Hirst at lwvwa@lwvwa.org.
League of Women Voters of Washington

Resolution 2009 – 1

Health Care

Whereas, the LWVUS Position on health care calls for a health care system that is universal, comprehensive, equitable, and affordable both to individuals and to the nation;

Whereas, the LWVUS Position, adopted in 1993, supports a national health plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums; and

Whereas, a single payer health care plan (publicly financed, privately delivered) can best fulfill these criteria; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the League of Women Voters of Washington meeting in Convention, May 2009, send a letter to the LWVUS board within one month, urging that

- the LWVUS actively support the principle of single-payer national health insurance by vigorously advocating that a single payer legislative proposal be included in deliberations of health care reform by Congress and the Administration; and

- side-by-side comparative analyses of single payer proposals with other proposals for health care reform be part of these deliberations

Susan Eidenschink (Tacoma/PC); Ann Brand (Seattle)
League of Women Voters of Washington

Resolution 2009 – 2

Immigration Issues

Whereas, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (specifically Border Patrol) continue to detain and deport undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal record, and

Whereas, random questioning by the Border Patrol in Jefferson County, WA, and the wider Olympic Peninsula, has resulted in taking into custody more undocumented immigrants with no criminal record than those with criminal records, and

Whereas, the League of Women Voters/US (LWVUS) opposes the harassment, detention, and deportation of undocumented immigrants with no criminal record,

Be it therefore resolved that the League of Women Voters of Washington State, meeting in Convention at Tacoma, WA, on May 31, 2009, urges the LWVUS to:

- Communicate to the Department of Homeland Security and to our Members of Congress our vigorous rejection of the policy of apprehending, detaining and deporting undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal record.
- Lobby Congress to investigate the policies and procedures being followed by Border Patrol and ICE and pursue legislation that conforms with civil rights.
- Lobby Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform that conforms with LWVUS immigration positions.

Annette Holcomb (Seattle), Jackie Aase (Jefferson Cty), Penny Van Vleet (Clallam)
League of Women Voters of Washington

Resolution 2009 - 3

Residential Housing Standards

Whereas, there is no legal basis in Washington State to hold contractors accountable for meeting building codes and minimal standards for residential housing construction, and

Whereas, some residents of the state have suffered irreversible damage to their health due to factors such as toxic mold, and

Whereas, state law does not provide mechanisms to enforce building codes at a city and county level, and

Whereas, the LWVWA positions state:
  • The state should set minimum standards for safe and decent housing and provide for their enforcement. (Housing, 1970)
  • LWVWA supports measures to reduce the exposure of the population to toxics in the home. (Toxics in the Home, 1991)

Be it resolved that LWVWA, meeting in Convention at Tacoma, WA, May 31, 2009, will:
  • Appoint a Task Force to study the State of Washington laws to determine that minimal standards for safe and decent residential housing construction and contracting exist and are enforced.

  • Consider the following as a priority for future Legislative sessions to work to ensure:
    o that the state sets and enforces minimal standards for safe and decent residential housing, including new and remodeled construction;
    o that residential housing toxics meet EPA or other acceptable government or health standards, including the toxic mold secondary to water incursion.

Jayne Freitag-Koontz, Seattle
League of Women Voters of Washington

Resolution 2009 – 4

Referendum 71

Whereas, the LWV-WA is committed to the principle of non-discrimination;

Whereas, the WA state legislature recently passed and the governor signed an “everything but marriage” law that provides additional responsibilities and protections for domestic partners who are registered with the state;

Whereas, the state allows couples to register as domestic partners- qualified same-sex couples and also opposite-sex couples where at least one partner is at least 62 years old;

Whereas, a campaign has started with the purpose of rescinding the “everything but marriage” expanded domestic partner law by placing Referendum 71 on the statewide ballot this fall;

Whereas, Referendum 71 would ask voters whether to retain the new law;

Whereas, a number of organizations have formed the coalition WA Families Standing Together” to support the new law;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters meeting in Convention at Tacoma, WA, May 31, 2009,

That if Referendum 71 is placed on the ballot, then the LWV-WA encourages voting “yes” to affirm the “‘everything but marriage’ expanded domestic partner law” that has passed the state legislature and was signed by the governor.

Sarah Luthens (Seattle), Ginger Vetrano (Benton Franklin)
A YEAR AT NATIONAL
By Nancy Eitreim, League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) member and League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) Board member

What’s the deal with the National Board?

This year it was all about protecting the voter. Since December it has been all about the budget and advocacy—getting more done with less money. For the first time in years the Board chose two major advocacy priorities—healthcare reform and climate change—which coincidently are high on the list of priorities for the President and the Congress.

Next year will be about the 90th Birthday of the League of Women Voters – 1920–2010. There will be LWVUS activities all year with special attention to state and local League celebrations. There will be many festivities at the June, 2010 LWVUS Convention in Atlanta. In the meantime there will be advocacy priorities and programs/projects on the agenda. The National Board and staff continue to dedicate a significant portion of our resources to support the network of 850 local and state leagues to promote and protect our brand and maintain some consistency nationwide on the program and advocacy issues of the League. We are doing more with less and hope to do it smartly.

To strengthen the organization, our major emphasis is member recruitment and leadership development at all levels of League.

A more personal view of life on the LWVUS Board

The National Board agenda consists of everything possible compressed into quarterly meetings, conference calls and email exchanges. The Board is a phenomenal group of smart people who represent all areas of the country, all sizes of Leagues and a wide variety of life experiences; enjoy a tolerance for process; and have patience for the long meetings. The first male member of the Board is adapting. Norman Turrill now divides his time between Portland and Providence, but originally joined LWVS, attending its Southend unit.

The results of last year’s election brought the League’s national priority issues front and center on the national agenda of the President, the Congress and the country as a whole. As an active member for over 30 years, I studied, discussed and educated others on national issues and answered the alerts religiously. Today, I am hopeful that comprehensive healthcare reform and climate change legislation will pass. The lead for lobbying in the name of the League on any national issues is the National Board. The Action Alerts to members and friends are critical to the overall strategy. We must push our representatives in Congress because hearing from their LWV constituents in every district is important.

The glamour of travel is debatable. I love flying into Washington DC for the three day board and committee meetings. The time difference makes a five hour flight into eight hours and requires all day Thursday to make the board dinner before the start of meetings. Friday is crammed with committee meetings, including the committee of the whole, to delve deeper into really heavy issues like the budget, finances, advocacy strategy and investments. There is no time for personal fun or exploration. In October, LWV sponsored a cultivation and education event at the National Press Club for an overflow crowd of LWV friends, donors and foundation representatives. At another evening event in October, OxFam rolled out the campaign for funding adaptation to climate change in poor countries facing the effects of climate change right now. LWV is a partner in this campaign.

More glamorous travel in April and May included Alaska, Oregon and Utah. I am the Board liaison to four states—Alaska, Utah, Oregon and Minnesota. Ask me about my trips.

But first...what do LWVS members Cathy Allen and Mary Slotnick have in common? They are former residents of Alaska who were active members of the League of Women Voters of Alaska. Not only that, but Mary Slotnick, LWVS Voter Editor Beatrice Crane’s mother, was the first president of the League in Fairbanks. Did I have fun? Time and distance make it necessary to hold board meetings in Alaska by conference call, so the annual convention is their face time with each other. Local speakers and Leaguers celebrated the LWV grassroots and a vision of the future for Alaska. I was impressed. The temperature hovered between +40 and -5, but the air was crystal clear and snowy clean. Yes, I had fun.
As I step into the role of Membership Chair, I want to say a special thank you to Kitty Mahon, who has been such a warm, welcoming Membership Chair. Kitty reminds us to keep the membership in mind in all aspects of the League. Kitty graciously continues to show me the ropes and to help us in the important job of increasing membership and activating the 800+ members we have. She remains very involved with the League and is a docent at the Bellevue Art Museum (BAM). I enjoy the updates on the BAM exhibitions and the life of a snowbird. Thank you for your dedication, Kitty!

**Know a potential Leaguer?**
Do you know someone who keeps up with the news? Loves to talk about politics? Wants to make a difference, but may not know where to start? Has special knowledge or skills? Or can you think of someone whose life is in transition — a parent with kids off to school or moving out on their own, or a recently retired person, for example— who consequently has more time for new pursuits?

I don’t need to tell you that members provide the volunteer power to do all the amazing things the League aspires to do. Consider inviting a couple of prospective members to one of the upcoming forums listed on our League calendar (see page 4). Be sure they have a ride to the event and then follow up with a suggestion for a way to get involved — another forum, registering voters, a unit meeting, a committee, a project. It’s fun to play matchmaker!

If you want a showcase event, invite them to the fall Get to Know the League Dinner, followed by the General Election Ballot Issues Forum, Thursday, October 1. What an opportunity to see the League in action, learn how the League works, and gear up for the upcoming election—all in one evening.

**Our Members**

*In Memoriam*

**HELEN LOUISE THWING**

Helen was a League member at the Horizon House when she passed away April 23 at the age of 95. A former air hostess for United Airlines, she gave up her job to marry. In those days, “women were obliged to give up their wings when they married or reached the ‘old’ age of 32.” Helen joined the Clipped Wings, a group of former and current United Airlines flight attendants who came together to work on the Special Olympics. At the age of 90 Helen is said to have been the oldest volunteer at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland.

**New Members**

A very warm welcome to these new and returning members of the League of Women Voters of Seattle.

**BRITA BUTLER-WALL**

You may recognize Brita’s name because she served on the Seattle School Board (2003-2007) and was president for two of those years. Brita has a PhD in applied linguistics from UCLA. She has been an educator for 30 years. She is currently serving on the League Board as the secretary (2009–11). In her new found time as an empty nester, she is researching and writing a book about her Swedish immigrant grandmother and enjoys the Skandia Folkdance Society. She joined the League to focus on developing a well-informed citizenry. She lives in North Seattle.

**PATRICIA (ANNA) DE LA FUENTE**

Patricia is a retired Registered Nurse and specialist in Alzheimer’s Disease and dementia, family counseling and psychiatric nursing. She coordinated an Alzheimer’s and Dementia Unit and was a discharge planner at a hospital. She earned her BA from the University of Washington in 1986. She has volunteered at her church and is involved in many advocacy issues including homelessness, racial equality and the environment. She is currently a member of the West Seattle unit and serves with the League’s Health and Education Committees. She is looking forward to advocating for education, health and an honest political process.

**ROBERTA GOODNOW**

Roberta has a keen interest in land use and zoning issues. After graduating with a BA in political science from Pacific Lutheran University, she earned a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning at the University of Washington and then a Masters of Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She put her study of land use and zoning issues to work at McCaw Cellular, acquiring cell tower permits before most cities even knew about them. Later she turned her attention to the nonprofit world and recruited donors to The Seattle Foundation. Currently she is semi-retired and works part-time at the Bellevue library. She enjoys Toastmasters and public speaking. Roberta is a returning member and she would like to join an Eastside unit.
Summer Reading...

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

*Outliers: The Story of Success* By Malcom Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell asks the question, “Why do some people succeed far more than others?” and then proceeds to fascinate us with his answers. We learn that becoming a great “success” is not just a simple question of ambition and hard work: it is both more complicated and much more interesting than that.

In a chapter showing us that famous experts almost invariably practice at least ten thousand hours before they do something extraordinary, he refers to young Mozart’s playing daily and for many hours under the his father’s authoritarian eye before writing his first exceptional piece. Likewise, he refers to the Beatles performing twelve hours a day, seven days a week in Hamburg before returning to Britain and fame. He also describes Bill Gates and Paul Allen finding a programmable computer at their private school: one that allowed them to work for hours on end. Later, the pair learned of a computer at the University of Washington that was “not scheduled” from three to six AM: they arrived daily, and again put in hours of work programming.

Luck is also involved in the case of the people whom we associate with the growth of computing. Most were born around 1954-55. That made them about twenty or twenty-one years of age in 1975, the “dawn of the personal computer age” and therefore in the “best position to take advantage of it.” Since “most colleges didn’t have the computer clubs” at that time, luck was evident at Lakeside School where “Bill Gates got to do real-time programming as an eighth grader.” In their twenties, Gates and Allen were uniquely placed to create Microsoft.

In contrast, culture is something that can either help or hinder a person on the way to achieving extraordinary success. I was interested to see that Korean Air Lines (KAL) had a woeful accident record until “a miracle happened,” and they turned around to become one of the very safest airlines in the world. The problem, according to Gladwell, was the fact that the “Korean language has no less than six different levels of conversational address,” depending on the social status of the people involved.

In the cockpit, this initially meant that lower status crew could not address the pilot emphatically in an emergency! This resulted in an astounding number of avoidable accidents.

The solution came when David Greenberg from Delta Airlines was hired to help solve the problem. He decided to upgrade the English language proficiency of KAL’s pilots. In effect, he gave them an alternative identity by requiring English when in the cockpit. This allowed the entire crew to converse at the same social level. As English speakers, they could call out problems and ask for help from anyone regardless of the social status in Korea. The result is an exemplary safety record!

Full of unusual perceptions, *Outliers* showed me why it is that virtually no top flight Canadian hockey players were born in October, November or December. I also learned the importance of emotional intelligence in dealing with the real world: raw intelligence is usually not enough. Though I lived for years in Japan, it took Gladwell to explain why societies based on a rice culture are likely to produce good students.

I found this a quick read, and a book full of insights into today’s world.

*The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.*
“We come from different places with different languages and different cultures, but here in this country we share one sobering and ultimately transforming experience: being outsiders, being made to feel inferior for having the wrong skin color, the wrong accent, the wrong clothes, for eating food with unpronounceable names, for celebrating holidays no one else has heard of. Being an outsider is the quintessential American experience. It is, in fact, our single common bond.” So writes Lauren Kessler in her preface to *Stubborn Twig*, referring to the immigrant experience in America.

*Stubborn Twig* focuses on the assimilation of three generations of the Yasui family, the first of whom, Masuo Yasui, arrived in the U.S. in 1903. Do not read this simply because one of our active League members, Barbara Yasui, is the granddaughter of this Japanese immigrant, and one of the informants for the author. Read it because it is a well-written, thoroughly researched tale of the universal immigrant experience, a glimpse into Japanese culture, and an insightful look at our own reactions to those “others” we perceive as threats.

Kessler gives us context for the push and pull that is present for all immigrants: the push from one’s own country because of war, famine, persecution, poverty and lack of educational opportunity, the pull to the United States because of the stories of a vast country with freedom and opportunity, and of jobs that go begging for cheap labor, whether they be building railroads, picking fruit, shucking oysters or sexing chickens. Whatever the wage, substandard or minimum, it is higher than that at home.

Among the “pushes” for the Yasui family was Japan’s attempt to industrialize and militarize as a result of being forcibly opened up to trade in 1854. Because the government heavily taxed the agricultural sector, over 300,000 farmers lost their land. The farmers in the southwest of Japan where the Yasuis farmed were particularly hard hit. In addition, strict conscription laws made military service mandatory for all males up to age forty. The context for the “pull” for Japanese males to immigrate to the U.S. was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the consequent need in the U.S. for railroad workers. Advertisements for these jobs and promises of wealth reached the Yasuis through pamphlets, letters home from America, even the encouragement of their Japanese teachers.

The story focuses first on Masuo Yasui, who, in 1903, arrives in Oregon at age 16 to join his father and brothers on the railroad. During the next two years, he works in a salmon cannery and as a houseboy, all the while intent on assimilating by acquiring English, converting to Christianity, and even temporarily changing his first name to Jack. As he aspires to a future better than that found in manual labor, he arrives in Hood River Valley, Oregon, where he becomes a successful store-owner, agriculturalist, and pillar of the Japanese community, acting as a liaison between Japanese and American communities.

During the next decades, after Masuo marries and has nine children, there are achievements, friendships, respectability, betrayals, persecution, tragedy, incarceration, internment (yes, all of these), and two Supreme Court cases brought by Masuo’s lawyer son. Through it all, Masuo Yasui remains steadfast in his belief that he can eventually achieve equality in this country of “freedom and opportunity.”

*Stubborn Twig* received the Oregon Book Award and has been chosen as the book for all Oregon to read in honor of the state’s 2009 sesquicentennial. Why should we in Washington read it? It’s about the Northwest, part of our past and part of our present, as we continue to assimilate to immigrant groups. Assimilation cannot be a one-way process, just as any meaningful human interaction cannot be one-way. *Stubborn Twig* gives a vivid and credible picture of the ease with which one culture can scapegoat another, the tense and frightening events (the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the destruction of the World Trade Center in 2001) that allow us to blame others whose cultures we experience as strange and unsettling. The book is instructive, perceptive and challenging, and may well be transformative for many of us.

The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.
Though several friends recommended this interesting novel about Nazi-occupied Guernsey, it was only after a former English teacher sent me her copy from Anchorage and ordered me to read it that I actually did. A long flight provided an opportunity to enjoy the book in one sitting.

The novel is written as a series of letters dated just after World War II, in 1946. It begins with a select group on Guernsey gathered secretly one night early in the war to feast on a pig that had not been confiscated by the Nazi occupiers. “With talking and eating, [the guests] forgot about clocks and curfews until [the hostess] heard the chimes ring nine o’clock.” They were an hour late, and breaking curfew was a crime.

On their way home, six of the guests were caught by Germans on patrol. Elizabeth McKenna quickly manufactured a story on the spot about a Guernsey Literary Society. The names of the guests were taken down, and Elizabeth was ordered to report to the Commandant the next morning. Fortunately the “Germans allowed—even encouraged—artistic pursuits” among the Channel Islanders. However, the commandant expressed an interest in visiting the Literary Society at its next meeting.

Within hours Elizabeth and two others bought armloads of books from Fox’s second-hand bookstore. The former guests, now members of the Guernsey Literary Society, each had to choose a book to read before their next meeting. As Guernsey people tended to be farmers or fishermen, most of the group had not read a book in years.

I found the titles society members chose fascinating. Amelia, whose own book collection was almost entirely about gardening, chose The Pickwick Papers, hoping it would lift her spirits. It did. Dawsey, who seldom spoke out loud, chose a book by Charles Lamb, which would eventually introduce him to the love of his life. Isola chose Wuthering Heights but didn’t like it until “the minute that specter, Cathy, scrabbled her bony fingers on the window glass [and I] was grasped by the throat and not let go.”

Eben was not a reading man, but he chose Selections from Shakespeare. He said “The best sentence in the book was, ‘The bright day is done, and we are for the dark,’” which he found described the arrival of the Nazis and somehow gave him comfort. Farmer Clovis didn’t want to read because he was too busy. However, he had started to court the Widow Hubert, and found that a book by the Roman Catullus included some “nice words,” though not ones for the widow. Finally he found the Oxford Book of Modern Verse: 1892-1935, and that did the trick. Before long he married his beloved.

Each month one of the members reported on the book he had read. When food was becoming scarce, one man created a potato peel pie out of scraps for them to enjoy. Literature, in many different ways, also helped the group survive. Life was difficult under the Nazis, and not all the society members survived. But by the end of the book, I had fallen in love with every member of the Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.

The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.
August Program: Primary Ballot Issue

REFERENDUM I - DISPOSABLE SHOPPING BAGS

City of Seattle Referendum Number 1
On August 18, the citizens of Seattle will decide to support or reject a 20-cent plastic and paper bag fee. In 2008, the Seattle City Council passed Ordinance Number 122752, requiring grocery, drug and convenience stores to collect the fee for every disposable shopping bag provided to customers. Stores with annual gross sales of under $1,000,000 could keep all the fees they collected, to cover their costs. Other stores could keep 25% of the fees they collected, and would send the remainder to the city to support garbage reduction and recycling programs. The stores would get a business-tax deduction for the fees they collected.

In 2009, a sufficient number of voters signed a petition to refer the ordinance to a public vote as Referendum No. 1.

The referendum asks: should the ordinance be
Approved? ("yes" vote)
Rejected? ("no" vote)

Background
The ordinance, which had been due to go into effect in January, 2009, was based on several studies completed by the Seattle Public Utilities to determine the facts and examine options (see website below). Subsequent to the enactment of the ordinance, the American Chemistry Council, a lobbying arm for the chemistry industry, contributed over $200,000 to conduct a signature-gathering campaign to put the ordinance to a vote of the people. A signature gathering business successfully gathered more than 20,000 signatures, enabling Referendum 1 to be placed on the ballot for the August 18 primary election.

How it Works
The goal of ordinance is to reduce the number of disposable bags used by individuals by requiring a fee of 20 cents for each disposable shopping bag a consumer uses at grocery, drug and convenience stores. Merchants will retain five cents per bag for administrative costs. Businesses that gross less than $1 million will keep the entire 20 cent fee. City revenue generated from the fee will be used to keep solid waste rates down, and to support waste prevention programs, recycling programs and environmental education. The fee would not apply to bags used inside stores to contain bulk items; bags for prepared food such as deli or bakery goods; newspaper bags; or dry cleaner bags. The program will require two new city positions for administration. If approved, the program will begin in January, 2010. Enforcement will be through a fine of $250; however, limited staff for policing will mean relying on self-regulation by businesses. The ordinance is expected to raise $10 million dollars annually.

Facts
- Seattleites use 360 million throwaway paper and plastic shipping bags every year
- That equals 8,500 tons of greenhouse gases.
- Almost 240 million bags end up in the garbage—almost 4% of all residential garbage, by volume.
- Compared to plastic, paper bags have four times the environmental impact—from logging, manufacture, distribution and disposal.
- Plastic bags are made from materials that do not compost.

The Debate
The debate centers around whether a fee-based program will accomplish the stated goal of reducing the number of disposable bags people use, whether the net effects of the program will reduce the negative environmental impacts and whether people will participate by using fewer disposable bags.

Arguments for APPROVING the Disposable Bag Ordinance include:
- A bag fee would reduce the 360 million bags used annually in the city of Seattle by 70% and generate $10 million annually for waste prevention, recycling programs and environmental education.
- Disposable plastic bags have significant negative energy, climate change, wastewater, litter and water quality impacts on Seattle's environment.
- Plastic bags are made from fossil fuels and remain as persistent environmental pollutants after their
useful life has expired.

• While paper bags are highly recyclable, the fact that they are heavier and thus a more carbon consumptive product than plastic makes them a poor choice to replace plastic bags. Disposable paper bags contribute to deforestation, do not last as long as plastic and tend to be reused fewer times.

Sierra Club, sierrachub.org/
Seattle Great City Initiative, www.greatcity.org
People for Puget Sound, pugetsound.org/

Arguments for REJECTING the disposable bag ordinance include:

• We don’t have a plastic bag litter problem in Seattle. 90% of Seattleites recycle.

• The fee will cause people to buy plastic bags that were formerly provided by the stores. People use the bags provided by the stores for garbage can liners, storage, camping and other practical uses. They will now have to buy these bags.

• The fee will not induce people to change their behavior or reduce the number of disposable bags used by consumers.

• The fee will place an unfair burden on consumers, particularly the poor, in these difficult economic times.

A repository of numerous articles, studies and information put together by economists.

Other Resources and Information
Executive Summary, Alternatives to Disposable Shopping Bags and Food Service: Prepared for Seattle Public Utilities, January 2008
City of Seattle Green Fee Ordinance (Ordinance 122752)
Ethics and Elections Commission Disclosure Reports on Referendum 1

SUPPORTING THE ORDINANCE
Sierra Club
WashPIRG
Earth Ministries
GreatCity.org
People for Puget Sound
Seattle City Councilmembers:
Tim Burgess, Sally Clark, Jean Godden,
Richard Conlin, Nick Licata
Seattle Mayor Greg Nichols
Green Bag Campaign
www.greenbagcampaign.org

OPPOSING THE ORDINANCE
American Chemistry Council
Northwest Economic Policy Seminar
7-Eleven, Inc.
Seattle City Councilmember Jan Drago

Coalition to Stop the Seattle Bag Tax
http://www.stoptheseattlebagtax.com/
Local Positions as Adopted at
the 2009 Annual Meeting

Principles of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote: that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solution to world problems and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

updated 7/22/09
## Contents

City Government .......................................................................................................................... 3
  Citizen Participation .................................................................................................................. 3
  Vision of the City ...................................................................................................................... 3
  Economic Development .......................................................................................................... 4
  Neighborhoods ......................................................................................................................... 4
  Planning and Zoning ............................................................................................................... 5
  Publicly Owned Property ........................................................................................................ 6
  Public-Private Partnerships .................................................................................................... 7
Government Structure .................................................................................................................. 7
  Budget and Finance .................................................................................................................. 8
  Capital Improvement Projects ................................................................................................. 9
  Law Enforcement/Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation ....................................................... 9
  Trade ....................................................................................................................................... 10
  Municipal Court ...................................................................................................................... 10
  Ethics in Government ............................................................................................................ 10
  Public Library .......................................................................................................................... 10
Human Resources/Social Policy .................................................................................................... 11
  Human Services ....................................................................................................................... 11
  Housing .................................................................................................................................. 11
  Health and Safety .................................................................................................................... 12
  Human Rights .......................................................................................................................... 12
  Microleinding ............................................................................................................................ 12
  Women ..................................................................................................................................... 13
  Teens ....................................................................................................................................... 14
  Children .................................................................................................................................... 14
  Drug Abuse and the Community ............................................................................................. 15
  Juvenile Justice ......................................................................................................................... 15
  Cultural Activities ...................................................................................................................... 15
  Historic Preservation .............................................................................................................. 15
Schools ....................................................................................................................................... 16
  Financing ................................................................................................................................. 16
  Policy-Making ......................................................................................................................... 16
  Governance ............................................................................................................................... 17
  Educational Reform ................................................................................................................ 17
  Administration .......................................................................................................................... 17
  Teacher Compensation .......................................................................................................... 17
  Citizen Participation in Budget Process .................................................................................... 17
  Children at Risk ....................................................................................................................... 17
Natural Resources ....................................................................................................................... 18
  Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenbelts ................................................................. 18
  Energy ..................................................................................................................................... 19
  Solid Waste Management .................................................................................................... 19
  Air Quality .............................................................................................................................. 20
  Litter ....................................................................................................................................... 20
King County ................................................................................................................................ 20
  Governance ............................................................................................................................. 20
  Ethics in Government ............................................................................................................. 21
  Courts ...................................................................................................................................... 21
  Special Districts ....................................................................................................................... 21
  Farmland ................................................................................................................................... 21
  Solid Waste Management .................................................................................................... 21
  Transportation and Growth Management .............................................................................. 22
Regional Water Supply/Washington State Water Rights & Groundwater Protection ............... 22
Port Districts ............................................................................................................................... 23
CITY GOVERNMENT

Citizen Participation


City officials and other local governmental entities should:

A. Involve citizens early in decision-making processes. City officials and local governmental entities should encourage participation by the diverse groups affected by local actions or decisions and seek to achieve decision-making processes that are perceived as fair. City officials and local governmental entities should make every effort to supply the public with information on new proposals and on existing city policies, programs and finances.

B. Coordinate procedures for handling individual inquiries and complaints.

C. Facilitate effective two-way communication, through such mechanisms as a formal community council structure, informal city council meetings in different areas, storefront city halls, convenient times and places for public meetings, regularized hearing procedures and the use of polls and surveys.

D. Use collaborative processes in appropriate circumstances, provided that government retains and exercises its responsibility to make final decisions.

E. Publicize opportunities for citizen participation by announcements in a regular place in the daily newspapers and electronic media and in the mailing of notices sufficiently in advance of the public hearings and informational meetings.

F. Support use of citizen advisory bodies in local government. City officials and local governmental entities should seek diversity and balance when making appointments to citizen advisory committees and task forces.

G. Provide feedback to citizens regarding their input and/or the resulting decision. The information to be provided should be tailored to the situation and distributed through relatively inexpensive means.

H. Encourage and support direct action on issues of a truly local nature, within the bounds of law and respecting individual rights. 2008

• Support legislation that links the granting and continuation of corporate subsidies, tax preferences, and incentives to specific criteria which ensure transparency and accountability. 2007

A. Criteria should include clear and measurable goals that serve an essential public purpose and:

• Offer clear cost/benefit value to the public
• Provide living wage jobs
• Protect the environment
• Sustain affordable housing

B. A citizen commission should be created to oversee the corporate subsidy process, ensure accountability, and establish consequences such as loss of subsidies if goals are not met.

Vision of the City

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

Our vision includes the following elements:

A. Diversity of people; of education, cultural, recreational activities, and of economic opportunities.

B. Institutions which are people-oriented, accessible to all and responsive to citizens’ needs.

C. Good schools.

D. Personal safety.

E. Quality health care facilities.

F. Noise levels within the limits recognized safe for human health.

G. Diversity of places, services and activities to encourage use of the downtown.

H. A sense of community with both the neighborhood and the city as a whole.

I. Facilities for living in the downtown area.

J. Variety of ages, backgrounds and income levels among neighborhood residents.


L. Comprehensive planning goals as stated in Planning and Zoning positions, Section A.
City Government

Economic Development

- **Support measures to achieve a healthy economy characterized by services that meet basic human needs, including:** 1995
  A. Affordable, accessible and quality health care.
  B. Quality jobs that pay a living wage.
  C. A wide spectrum of educational opportunities.
  D. A protected environment that includes open space.
  E. Adequate infrastructure that is well maintained.
  F. Availability of cultural and leisure activities.
  G. A diversified economy that provides a strong tax base.

- **Support measures to enhance the economy including:** 1995
  A. Improving the transportation and infrastructure systems.
  B. Enacting a more progressive tax structure for business and individuals.
  C. Improving decision making processes between citizens, government and business.
  D. Streamlining the regulatory processes.
  E. Cooperation between the public and private sectors to protect and improve the environment.
  F. Cleanup of contaminated areas to levels sufficiently safe for continued industrial uses.
  G. Strengthening the city as a regional center.
  H. Maintaining and encouraging both old and new businesses.
  K. Preserving industrial and commercially zoned areas.

- **Support the use of public funds for economic development that benefits the public, and that:** 2006
  A. Provides sustainable, living-wage jobs
  B. Supports the development goals and economic vitality of the community
  C. Encourages good business practices, fair and safe treatment of employees, and protection of the environment.

- **Support the evaluation of publicly-funded economic development activities to ensure that stated goals are achieved.** 2006

- **Support business regulation that is clear and consistent, and that protects public health, worker safety, and the environment.** 2006

Neighborhoods

- **Support communication and cooperation between the city, other local governmental entities and neighborhoods to plan for, create and maintain healthy neighborhoods.** 1992, 1993, 1994, 2002, 2003

- **Support a process that allows stakeholders to participate in the development and implementation of neighborhood plans:** 2002, 2003
  A. The city, as represented by an elected Mayor and Council, bears a major responsibility for planning.
  B. The communication process should include a clear structure, citizen participation, and coordination and cooperation among various interests.
  C. Cities and neighborhoods should cooperate to develop neighborhood plans with all parties establishing goals, identifying needs and options and selecting plan components. Major institutions, commercial interests, libraries, schools, city and county departments and others capable of having significant impacts on neighborhoods should be encouraged to work to maintain the livability and vitality of neighborhoods.
  D. The neighborhood planning process should be open to all stakeholders, interested citizens and institutions. Outreach efforts should be undertaken to ensure diversity of viewpoints and representation of all impacted communities and interests. Stakeholders should play a key role in establishing goals, identifying needs and options, and in plan development, implementation and oversight.
  E. Cities should provide adequate support staff to assist in development and implementation of neighborhood plans; staff should provide assistance in facilitating communication among stakeholders, city departments and other levels of government and should serve as a resource in securing funding to implement the plan.
  F. Cities should encourage and support neighborhood planning and implementation efforts and provide a sustained, stable and equitable source of funding.
G. Cities’ role in concurrency is critical to the success of neighborhood plan implementation to ensure adequate financing necessary to support new development and infrastructure and to accommodate growth.

H. Cities and neighborhoods should be involved in a process that ensures a balanced distribution of social services, facilities, and amenities.

I. Cities and other local governmental entities should support measures to create and maintain healthy neighborhoods. Characteristics of a healthy neighborhood should include:
   1. Diversity in population, land use, and housing;
   2. A focal point such as a school, business district, community center, religious center or library;
   3. Adequate parks, recreation facilities and open space;
   4. Convenient transportation; and
   5. A sense of community.

Planning and Zoning

A. Planning goals should include:
   1. Preservation and enhancement of our unique natural features, such as views and waterfront.
   2. Preservation and expansion of parks, open spaces and green belts.
   3. Conservation and development of water, air and land resources to ensure environmental quality.
   4. Attractive design of the urban landscape.
   5. A vital and attractive downtown with a pedestrian orientation and amenities for pedestrians.
   6. Encouragement of the individual character and identity of neighborhoods.
   7. Preservation of structures and places of historical significance.
   8. A convenient circulation system which is oriented toward public transit, pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths.
   9. A healthy economy whose strength does not come at the expense of the environment.
   10. Integration of social and physical planning.
   11. Equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing.
   12. Equal justice for all economic levels of society.
   13. Coordination of planning with all levels of government.
   14. Strict control of off-premise signs to enhance the aesthetic quality of our city and to eliminate visual pollution.

B. Planning and zoning laws should implement comprehensive planning.
   1. Plans and zoning laws should be reviewed and updated to consider changing needs.
   2. The administration of zoning should be coordinated to make it simpler, more convenient and more understandable for the citizens.
   3. Zoning for the downtown should:
      a. Provide for the preservation or replacement of low-income housing.
      b. Encourage or require public benefits which are included in the comprehensive plan.
      c. Control density of development by limits on size and height of buildings.
      d. Encourage marine uses and allow for public access on the central waterfront.
      e. Prohibit housing and hotels over water.
   4. Zoning laws should be enforced. LWE 2004
   5. Adequate notification should be given to the community and affected property owners should be notified individually. LWE 2004
   6. Inquiries or complaints should be answered within a reasonable amount of time. LWE 2004
   7. Successful social and physical planning can be effective only if there is widespread citizen understanding of and participation in formulating the plans. MI, 2004

- Support the interdisciplinary approach in

LWVS Full Positions 2009

City Government
comprehensive planning. 1969, 1972, 1984

A. Regulatory and acquisition decisions should be based on studies of public land's geophysical characteristics (for example, soil and water studies).

B. The environmental impact of development should be controlled by public land acquisition and more stringent zoning, subdivision and building regulations.

C. Transportation Planning should include:
   1. Support for a regional mass transit system that: considers employment patterns, population growth and land-use plans; minimizes impact on environment and neighborhoods; moves people in a secure, convenient and efficient manner; and is of reasonable cost to the taxpayer for construction, use and maintenance.

D. Building Code
   1. A strong, enforceable and enforced housing code is essential for healthy urban neighborhoods.
   2. Provisions for the effective control of noise between units in multi-family dwellings should be included in the building code.

E. An essential element of comprehensive planning is a long-range capital improvements program which includes ALL capital improvements for the city and which is updated annually. It should include funds for advance acquisition of lands to implement comprehensive planning. To be effective, it must be prepared in such a way that:
   1. Proposed projects are assigned priorities.
   2. Projects recommended but not scheduled are listed in the program.
   3. All financial resources available or needed for capital improvements are indicated.
   4. A concise, intelligible report of the proposed program is prepared and widely distributed to the public.

F. Planning Commission
   1. A planning commission is a desirable form of citizen participation in the planning process.
   2. The city planning commissions should be appointed citizen advisory groups representing a balance of interests and geographical areas.
   3. The planning commission should promote and be a focus for citizen participation in the planning process. The Mayor and the City Council should appoint its members.

- Support density that is well planned, respects neighborhoods, facilitates public transportation, is environmentally sensitive and complies with growth management open space goals. 1992, 1994

A. Suggested guidelines for density:
   1. Preserve, maintain and enhance the character of the greater Seattle area.
   2. Protect environmentally critical areas and other types of open space
   3. Support transportation goals
   4. Provide access to jobs
   5. Create desirable high density areas
   6. Ensure adequate infrastructure
   7. Preserve open spaces in both urban and rural areas
   8. Ensure neighborhood and community participation in the planning and design process

B. Support of the following concepts:
   1. Urban Villages
   2. Sustainability

Publicly Owned Property

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

A. Governments should have an inventory of their publicly owned property, projected long and short term needs for the property in a form readily accessible to the public, and periodically review public property needs.

B. When the property has been determined to be surplus, the following steps should be taken:
   1. Other governmental agencies in the area should be notified the property will be available for purchase.
   2. Public notifications should be made with the selling agency making every effort to inform the public: Mailing to interested groups and individuals, media coverage, public posting, and public hearings.
   3. When a broad segment of the community might be affected by the disposal of a public property, a citizens' advisory board should be formed. In all cases, the public should be kept advised from the earliest stages of the process.
Public-Private Partnerships

- Support measures to ensure accountability and adequate citizen participation/oversight in public-private partnerships. Our vision recognizes that public-private partnerships may serve as a mechanism for cities to work in concert with the private sector to achieve public objectives if the following elements are present: 2002
  
  A. Citizen involvement at the earliest possible point in the process: Prior to any city commitment or negotiation about a possible project, citizen involvement should be solicited and required to assess the benefits, if any, and risks, both tangible and intangible, of any proposed public/private partnership.

  B. Periodic public hearings should be held in which there is an opportunity for citizens to comment at the initiation of a project and at key stages of project development.

  C. Any proposed public-private partnership involving a substantial commitment of public funds should be reviewed by an advisory body that will provide advice and direction to the city council, the mayor and the public.

  D. Criteria should be developed to enable the public and any designated advisory body to weigh the public benefit and cost of public-private partnerships.

  E. Any advisory body should be empowered to develop additional criteria to ensure:
     1. Accountability to the citizenry;
     2. An adequate cost/benefit analysis; and
     3. An adequate return on the public investment.

  F. To ensure a successful public-private partnership, the cities should develop a set of standards prior to entering into a contractual agreement with a private partner that includes the following:
     1. A competitive selection process;
     2. Identification of financial exposure, public objectives and contract safeguards;
     3. Investment in the necessary expertise for negotiating the contract;
     4. Establishment of contractual performance standards, including exit provisions and methods to enforce the standards; and
     5. Development of methods to assure adequate oversight and accountability at every stage of the project.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

- Support home rule for the city of Seattle. 1963, 1975, 1984

- The city should have control over those matters which are of strictly local concern.

- Support measures to increase accountability, responsiveness and efficiency of city government.

- Support the separation of powers and an adequate system of checks and balances among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government (and these respective functions), with the responsibilities of each being clearly defined. 1963, 1969, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1990

  A. Executive Branch

     1. Administrative functions should be integrated under the control of the mayor, who should be given authority commensurate with this responsibility.

        a. Sound management practices should be applied to city operations in order to ensure maximum efficiency and economy. Authority should be commensurate with responsibility at all levels. Lines of authority and responsibility within the administrative organization should be clear and singular.

        b. The city personnel system should operate with efficiency, good quality and responsiveness to elected officials and the public. There should be adequate incentive and opportunity for those who choose public service as a career.

  B. Legislative Branch

     1. The primary role of the City Council should
Government Structure

be legislative.

a. The Council should give careful consideration to community needs, to the setting of community goals and to long-range planning to achieve desired ends.
b. The Council should have adequate staff for study and research.

2. The Council should approve specified executive appointments.

3. The Council should ratify the budget, appropriate all monies and perform the post-audit program.

4. The Council is responsible for review and adoption of the capital improvements program.

5. Citizen participation in the budget preparation process must begin early to be effective. A comprehensive policy plan which relates budget priorities to legislative goals should structure opportunities for citizen participation.

C. In specific and limited instances, Public Development Authorities (PDAs) may provide efficiency and flexibility in achieving a public purpose. They are appropriate where other means have been explored and no reasonable alternatives have been found.

PDAs should:
1. Have a narrow focus and clearly defined purpose;
2. Have assured source of funding;
3. Be subject to periodic charter review and termination;
4. Have boards which are carefully selected, qualified, adequately trained and operating under uniform city guidelines;
5. Be closely monitored by and held accountable to the city, especially in the areas of staffing, budget and audit;
6. Provide sufficient communication with their constituency and the general public, including notice of meetings and activities.


A. Where specialized training is of primary importance the position should be appointive.

Where representation is of primary importance the position should be elective. The chief legal officer should be appointed.

B. Council members should not be elected exclusively by district.

C. Procedures for filling council vacancies should include provision for citizen participation.

• Support the following election criteria to foster fair and effective representation: 1996

A. Participation in elections by the maximum number of citizens.

B. Focus on issues. Negative campaigning should be discouraged.

C. Accountability. Elected officials should be answerable to those who elect them.

D. Stability. A small change in voting percentages should not result in huge swings in representation.

E. Simplicity. The system and access to it should be easily understood by the electorate.

F. Diversity of candidates.

G. Equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

H. Representation of the broad political spectrum of the electorate.

I. Responsiveness to all voters. Legislative bodies must be able to reflect the views of the electorate.

J. Methods which maximize the effectiveness of the individual vote.

Budget and Finance

• Support adequate financial resources for city government.

• Support the following criteria for use in prioritizing programs and projects: 1988

A. When prioritizing programs/projects the highest priority should be given to those that meet basic human needs.

B. There should be a review of funding sources to determine appropriate participation of other governments.

C. There should be a comprehensive review of the economic impacts including revenue production, cost effectiveness and identification of all costs including maintenance.

• Support measures and procedures to ensure that the city’s budget and the budgets of other local governmental entities are prepared using sound financial management procedures and that citizens have ample opportunity to participate in the
development and review of the proposed annual budget.

A. City budget preparation and control should be the responsibility of the mayor.
B. The city should work toward adoption of the program-performance concept of budgeting based upon a reasonable plan of work costs and performance measurement.
C. All proposed program and personnel needs should be evaluated during a single budget preparation period. Amendments should be considered only as needs change or as necessity dictates.
D. The budget staff should be professionally trained and should be large enough to carry out a continuous program of budget research.
E. The printed budget should be considered a public information document and should include comprehensive explanations of the city’s scheduled programs.
F. The form of the budget should be clear and easily readable in order to facilitate decision-making. LWE 2004

Capital Improvement Projects

- Support the following methods for financing capital improvements: 1985, 1987
  A. Major maintenance and repairs should be funded from the Cumulative Reserve Fund.
  B. Revenue Bonds should be used for revenue producing projects.
  C. Special Levies should be used for short term projects and emergencies.
  D. General obligation bonds should be used for long term capital improvements.

- Support measures to evaluate the development and implementation of capital improvement projects. 1985
  A. The following criteria should be considered in evaluating proposals for funding of capital improvement projects.
     1. Process used in identifying and prioritizing needs.
     2. Specific project language.
     3. Terms for the redemption of bonds comparable with the life of the project.
     4. A plan for financing the operating and maintenance costs for the expected life of the project.
     5. Defined mechanisms to assure accountability.
  B. Appropriateness of the bond or levy issue as the source of funding.
  C. Consistency of the project with an overall plan.
  D. Jurisdictional coordination.

Law Enforcement/Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation

- Support a well-trained and adequate police force, responsive to public needs. 1969, 1979, 2002
  A. Police recruitment should be flexible and aggressive. Emphasis should be on attracting minority candidates and recruiting in high schools and colleges. Recruitment policies should provide for lateral entry, recognizing related experience or education. Salaries should be adequate to attract and keep qualified applicants. Pay incentives for advanced education should be part of the salary schedule.
  B. The police chief should be offered a contract for employment.

Training is a vital function of the police department. Police officers should be involved in on-going training which includes:
- Diversity training
- Multi-cultural experiences
- Crisis intervention
- Training in police procedures
- The use of less-lethal weapons
- Anger management
- Communication skills
- Mental health issues
- Other social issues

D. General police policies should be publicized.
E. Communication, mutual understanding and cooperation between police and public are needed. Community policing is a valuable resource. Positive police involvement with community groups and youth is valuable in building relationships with the community.
F. A system of police accountability is necessary with independent citizen review. The handling of complaints regarding police conduct should inspire public confidence and include citizens in a substantive role. The method of initiating complaints and the procedure for handling and disposing of complaints should be well
Government Structure

publicized.

G. Data should be collected to provide information about racial profiling with a focus on trends. Video cameras in police cars could be used for supplementary data collection.

- Support police policies based on adequate planning, staffing and training that protect the rights of free speech and assembly, while providing safety for all. 2002, 2008

- Support an emphasis in law enforcement on building trust in immigrant communities, to include the policy of asking about an individual’s immigration status only if he/she has been charged with a felony or misdemeanor. 2008

  A. Programs should emphasize youth programs, rehabilitation of misdemeanants, increased use of community-based services (e.g., probation, work release, group homes and half-way houses) and constant evaluation of the results of various programs.
  B. Positive citizen involvement is basic to crime prevention and should include individual responsibility for neighborhood and community welfare as well as participation in programs using volunteers.
  C. The government has a responsibility to provide equal justice for all economic segments of society.
  D. There should be education of the judiciary, attorneys, and the public on issues and effects of gender and sexual orientation stereotyping.

Trade

- Support the encouragement of more trade activity if this growth is well planned and sensitive to environmental concerns and to the needs of workers both in the U.S. and internationally. 1978, 1982
  A. The city should have an active liaison with the Port and participate in long-term planning and decision-making.
  B. The Port should attempt to become financially self-sufficient.
  C. An expansion of the Foreign Trade Zone is desirable.
  
- Support an international trade policy, set primarily at the national level. The State and City should be involved in formulating this policy.

Municipal Court

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

Ethics in Government

- Support ethics in government and measures to ensure that public officials and employees and members of boards, commissions, and advisory committees perform their responsibilities in the public interest in accordance with the highest ethical standards and measures to increase citizen confidence in government. 1994, 2003
  A. Cities and other local governmental entities should have a Code of Ethics which sets standards of conduct to ensure that public officials and employees perform their duties in the public interest.
  B. The Code of Ethics should include sections on conflict of interest, improper use of position and public resources, compensation, and disclosure of financial interests.
  C. Adequate support should be provided to ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics and to enhance public awareness of that code.

Public Library

- Support a public library system that provides the public with fundamental library services and access to information technology. 1993
  A. Fundamental services and material should be free of charge and should address the needs of diverse populations including children, the physically disadvantaged and new readers.
  B. Public funding should support library services. Private sources may supplement such funding.
  C. Trained staff is needed to provide special assistance to children and new readers, and to assist the public in using information technology. The level of fundamental services should be maintained.
  D. User fees should be allowed for extensive electronic data searches and other staff intensive
services.
E. The Public Library Board of Trustees should be appointed in a process that is open to the public. Selection criteria should be developed and appointees should represent diverse public interests.
F. Public Library Board meetings and agendas should be widely publicized. The Board should solicit public input and involvement.

HUMAN RESOURCES/SOCIAL POLICY

Human Services

- **Support measures to provide basic food, shelter and health care for those unable to provide for themselves, and measures to provide training and opportunity for employment. 1982, 1984, 1990, 2004**
  A. Human services should be delivered by federal, state and local governments according to which levels can provide services most effectively and efficiently.
  B. The federal government should tax for human services to provide a minimum base of revenue in order to ensure quality and equity among states and citizens. States and local governments can then tax according to their ability and desire to provide additional services.
  C. Federal, state and local governments should regulate the delivery of human services, with minimum standards set by the federal government to ensure equality among states and citizens.
  D. The role of volunteers is important in the delivery of human services, but should be considered supplemental to governmental provision of basic services.
  E. In siting community based residential facilities for individuals needing social services there should be: careful screening of clients, sufficient staff, agency accountability, early and continuous community/neighborhood involvement and adequate funding to meet these criteria.
  F. The role of local government in providing human services should include a process for assessing the needs and planning for those needs. Human services should be integrated in city budgets as part of the whole since they are as important as other city services. LWE 2004

- **Support funding for community mental health services that addresses factors such as the number of individuals needing services, complexity of client needs, and local factors such as housing and labor markets that affect the cost of providing services. 2004**

  - **Support removal of artificial barriers to advancement in employment. 1993, 1994**
    A. Encourage women to choose non-traditional career paths by providing role models and apprenticeships.
    B. Recognize the importance of providing family leave to all employees.
    C. Encourage the availability of family leave to include the employee who is a primary caregiver. Extend uses of family leave to include circumstances of death, including the death of a domestic partner.

  - **Support the involvement of local government in sponsoring ESL classes for all immigrants. 2008**

  - **Support measures to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, religion, age, gender, physical or mental disability, race, national origin, marital status or socio-economic status, and promote equal rights for all persons. 1994, 2000**

Housing

- **Support programs that promote individual choice of housing by enhancing the availability and affordability of alternatives throughout the city. 1992, 2000, 2004**
  A. Allow flexibility in single family zones to provide for accessory units, duplexes, cluster housing and row houses.
  B. Encourage the production of accessory dwelling units by simplifying the process and providing workshops and demonstrations which assist and inform.
  C. Encourage multi-unit buildings that are designed to accommodate families and that provide for health and safety and play areas.
  D. Encourage housing arrangements and zoning that support the needs of changing family patterns and aging population.
  E. Allow manufactured housing which meets local standards. LWE 2004
Human Resources/Social Policy

F. Support zoning variances for the establishment of mobile home courts. LWE 2004

- **Support low-income housing programs which meet the needs of low-income persons, are well located with respect to schools, jobs, medical care, shopping and transportation, and contribute to the diversity of the neighborhood.** 1978, 1982, 1994, 1995, 2000

A. Physical considerations
   1. Subsidized low-income housing should be designed and maintained to blend well with the neighborhood.
   2. Subsidized housing should not be identifiable as such.
   3. The housing should be well-constructed and designed for low maintenance.

B. Locational considerations
   1. Concentration of subsidized units must be avoided.
   2. Regional considerations should be a factor.
   3. The impact of housing patterns on the diversity of the neighborhood should be given serious consideration.
   4. Informed community participation in the planning process is essential to increase neighborhood acceptance.

- **Support programs to aid homeless families and single adults and to prevent homelessness.** 1995, 2004

A. Ensure accessibility of services for homeless people by providing and publicizing a central clearinghouse for referral to such services.

B. Increase outreach and engagement programs that serve homeless individuals with mental illness, chemical addictions or dual diagnoses.

C. Provide resources and support services to prevent homelessness.

- **Support efforts to limit the damaging environmental and social effects of sprawl.** 2000

- **Support the efforts of government at all levels to increase the supply of affordable housing through a variety of programs.** 2000

- **Support policies that increase the density and the supply of affordable housing and include:** 2000

A. Informed community participation in the planning process.

B. Support for tenant responsibility and participation in planning, management, and maintenance.

C. Projects which are small in scale, diverse in population, well-managed, and in keeping with the character of the neighborhood.

D. Neighborhood amenities which include parks and open space, schools, a good transportation plan, and access to services.

**Health and Safety**

- **Support provision of public health services to all without regard to their citizenship status.** 2008

- **Support measures to reduce the exposure of the population to toxics in the home such as:** educating the public and public officials, informing the media, developing advocacy groups, improving building standards. 1990, 2001

- **Support incentives to promote healthy homes.** 1994, 2001

- **Support research and education in the area of indoor toxics.** 1994, 2001

- **Support public health as a basic function of government that must receive adequate and sustained public funding. The activities that are critical in sustaining community health include:** community-based preventive services; control of communicable diseases; emergency preparedness, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment. 2005

**Human Rights**

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

A. Any advisory group to the agency should be broadly representative of the community.

B. The agency’s budget should provide for an adequate staff.

**Microlending**

- **Support the concept of microlending.** 2000

A. Encourage members and other Leagues to invest in, join or otherwise become involved with
supporting microlending groups (i.e., support industries that support microcredit).

B. Assist with publicizing microlending concept. Advertise diverse microlending programs. To help connect potential participants (borrowers, lenders, patrons and venues), encourage other community groups and institutions as well.

C. Encourage use of municipal venues as providers of space for microlending enterprises and act as clearing houses for local micro-enterprise products, services and information.

D. Educate legislators to support legislation supporting microlending efforts and favorable tax and licensing laws for microlending enterprises at all levels of government. Lobby for renewal of Community Reinvestment Act.

E. Spearhead study of requirements for small business startup and seek effective criteria to monitor microcredit programs for quality (e.g. programs should provide training, ongoing support and structure for repayment).

Women

- Support local government policies that enable women to make economic and personal decisions for themselves and their families. 1981, 1993, 1994

  A. Encourage availability and quality of child care programs by government and the private sector.
  B. Promote the economic worth of women’s jobs through equal pay for work of equal value.
  C. Ensure protection from sexual assault.
  D. Require school programs and training to reduce gender bias.
    1. Involve women and girls in education reform to reduce gender bias.
    2. Educate teachers, administrators and counselors on issues related to gender expectations.
    3. Reflect and value women and girls in the materials studied.
    4. Include mentoring, role models and apprenticeship programs to expose students to a variety of career choices, including non-traditional.
    5. Develop gender-neutral testing and assessment techniques.
  E. Ensure protection from domestic violence.
    1. Encourage the development of a legal definition for emotional abuse as part of the legal definition of domestic violence and make provision for legal remedies.

  2. Support public funding of programs to:
      a. reach out to victims of domestic violence
      b. provide protection and assistance
      c. assure access to the courts, and
      d. for rehabilitation.

  3. Advocate educational programs for all ages which identify domestic violence and teach rational methods for the resolution of disputes such as conflict resolution and anger management, for the prevention of violence.

  4. Support statewide, uniform data collection to define and communicate the issues and their scope and to document the need for funding.

- Support policies that promote gender equity in employment. 1993

  A. Address artificial barriers to advancement of women in employment through affirmative action.
  B. Mandate education for employers and employees on issues of age and gender discrimination and sexual harassment.
  C. Maintain public funding for regulation and enforcement programs.
  D. Develop programs to support and advocate for women who are victims of sexual harassment.
  E. Effectively penalize businesses for repeated, verified sexual harassment charges. Train/retrain offenders.

- Support policies that promote awards of spousal maintenance. 1994

In addition to statutory provisions, the following factors should be considered:

  A. The respective standard of living each party will experience after divorce.
  B. Compensation for contributions made by the dependent spouse, including support of the other spouse in preparation for career advancement and non-financial contributions to the family and home.
  C. Compensation for relinquished opportunities for further education and employment advancement.
  D. The constricted occupational opportunities for an older person without a current job resume.
  E. The prevailing lower rates of compensation for
women.

F. Awards should not be automatically terminated upon the remarriage of the party receiving maintenance.

G. The enforcement of spousal maintenance awards.

- **Support a uniform system of legislation protecting a divorced spouse’s rights to pension benefits obtained during a marriage. 1994**

- **Support policies that promote reproductive choice. 1994**
  
  A. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. Restrictions impose undue burdens on the right to an abortion.
  
  B. Government should provide public funds for family planning, prenatal care, childbirth, abortion education and assistance, and contraceptive research, development and usage.
  
  C. School sex education programs should include information about family planning and about abortion.

**Teens**

- **Support government funding of programs to ensure health, safety, education and welfare of teens. 1995**

- **Support prevention and intervention programs to overcome problems of violence, suicide, homelessness, and family dysfunction. 1995**
  
  A. There should be increased public involvement and attention to teens and their needs, increased advertisement of teen programs to the teen population and to the public, and increased communication between all levels of the community and teenagers.
  
  B. There should be greater involvement of parents and teens in development and management of teen programs.
  
  C. There should be increased and continuing parenting skills training for parents.
  
  D. Criteria for support of public funding for teen programs should include:
    1. Promotion of equality of opportunity and diversity.
    2. Serving a prevention and/or intervention purpose.

  4. Reflecting the needs of the neighborhood and/or specific special population.

E. There should be cooperation and collaboration between public and private agencies to provide services for teens. Government agencies should be encouraged to contract with private agencies to provide services for teens.

F. Criteria for contracting with private agencies should include:
   1. Oversight and periodic evaluation by the appropriate government agency.
   2. Non-discrimination policies consistent with those required of government agencies.

G. There should be stable funding for teen programs.

**Children**

- **Support measures to assure that children have adequate food, clothing, education, medical care and a safe home environment free from abuse and neglect. While primary responsibility rests with the family, the community must provide the support if the family does not. 1985, 2003**
  
  A. There should be adequate funding of programs which meet the needs of children, youth and families.
  
  B. Priority should be given to increased resources for programs which support children and families, more residential care facilities serving youth, and early intervention and prevention programs in the schools.

- **Support programs that provide parenting education and assist parents in problem resolution which is important in fostering positive child development and preventing delinquency. 2003**

- **Support the use of public funds for programs that meet the cognitive, physical and social needs of children from birth to eight; that encourage parent education and involvement; and that provide health and human services to these children and their families. 1990, 2006**
  
  A. The goal of early childhood programs is to provide all children in our community with quality programs, using sliding scale fees, where appropriate. An interim goal is to increase
funding and expand programs to serve more children in greatest need of these programs and services.

B. Responsibility for meeting the developmental and educational needs of children is shared between the family and society. Federal, state, and local governments and school districts should bear varying degrees of responsibility for ensuring the availability, accessibility and quality of early childhood programs. Local governments and school districts should take the lead in improving coordination of these programs in the community.

C. The elements which are most critical in improving the quality of early childhood programs are adequate, stable, and dependable funding; education of the public regarding the social and economic benefits of early learning; family involvement; and community and corporate support for doing this.

D. A quality early childhood program includes the following:
- An appropriate adult-child ratio.
- A staff well trained in child development, adequately compensated, and focused on meeting the individual needs of each child.
- A safe, secure, and nurturing environment with developmentally appropriate curriculum.
- Encouragement of parental involvement in the care of children.
- Available and accessible hours and location.

Drug Abuse and the Community

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

A. Expansion and funding for school programs to prevent drug abuse and establishment of programs to reach school drop-outs.

B. Public education in family management, parenting, job skills, and evaluation of commercial media which enhance drug use.

C. Provide integrated services as appropriate, including long-term treatment, counseling and mental health services, to all drug abusers and to meet the needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders.

D. Support community involvement to provide alternative behavior opportunities for potential drug abusers. Provide citizen block watch assistance for neighborhood police in crime prevention.

E. Strictly enforce penalties for drug traffickers.

F. Periodically evaluate drug programs and interagency coordination and cooperation.

Juvenile Justice

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

A. Youth services and programs at all levels of government and the private sector should be coordinated and the entities should work cooperatively.

B. Programs should include education and support for the family, not just the youth.

C. Funding for these programs should be long-term, stable, and should include funds for ongoing evaluation and coordination.

D. Treatment programs in the community for at-risk youth should be used in lieu of incarceration.

Cultural Activities

- Support city involvement in cultural activities. 1989, 1994

A. Cities should contribute financially to the support of cultural activities.

B. Acceptable means of giving support to cultural activities are: appropriations distributed through Arts Commissions; 1% for Art; admission tax relief; levies and bond issues; indirect subsidies such as low rent; and direct appropriation.

C. Those organizations which receive support from the city should be fiscally responsible and should encourage public involvement, for example (but not limited to) providing that performances and visual arts be accessible to the public, and facilitating public input to budget issues.

Historic Preservation

- Support the following criteria to be applied in designating an historic landmark: historical, architectural, and aesthetic values.

- Support historic preservation policies which decide each designation on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration other public priorities, particularly human
Human Resources/Social Policy

needs.

- Support sharing the costs and benefits of historic preservation by the public and private sector.

- Support a process for determining landmark designation that includes a broad based commission, public hearings, and final approval by the City Council, with provisions for appeal. 1986

SCHOOLS

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

Financing

- Support adequate long-range financing for our public schools. 1962, 1968, 1970
  A. All levels of government are responsible for schools.
  B. Local control should be maintained over use of monies raised from the local property tax.
  C. Support increasing the level of school funding.
  D. Support equitable and dependable state taxes for school funding, particularly a state income tax.
  E. Support the use of local special levies and private funding for special needs, such as enhancement beyond the level mandated by the Basic Education Act; oppose the use of special levies and private funding for basic services, operation and maintenance.
  F. Support the use of private funds to augment public funding under guidelines which promote equity and maintain school district's control.

Policy-Making

- Support a curriculum which includes academics, the arts, physical education and work skills. LWE 2004

  A. School board policies should be clearly written, flexible and subject to periodic revision.
  B. The school board has a responsibility to lead in seeking solutions to the problems of de facto segregation and to promote public understanding of the entire situation.
  C. Issues of gender and power should be integrated into the K-12 curriculum. Evaded issues such as sexuality and healthy development, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, incest, rape and domestic violence should be part of the curriculum.
  D. The school board has a responsibility to establish discipline policies that are consistent and fair to all regardless of race, national origin, socioeconomic status, health status, gender or sexual orientation.
  E. Support measures to ensure that curriculum and library materials adequately depict the broad range of family structures.
  F. Support measures to provide appropriate training to school personnel, to students, and to parents so that they can create an environment free of prejudice, hate and harassment.
  G. Prepaid transportation should be provided to all public school students residing within the district as provided by law.
  H. Integration should be maintained as an important goal balanced with the primary goal of academic achievement.
  I. The weighted-student formula is a reasonable approach to school funding which needs to be monitored for its effectiveness.
  J. A school assignment plan should provide parents with a variety of options. However, in order for parents to evaluate the options adequately, the School District must provide good information and assistance to parents.
  K. A Citizen Advisory Group should be established to monitor the implementation of the School District's Comprehensive Plan for Improving Academic Performance.

Governance

- Support measures that clearly delineate authority and responsibility at the school building level and a governance structure that involves the community. 1997
  A. Support a school board policy which makes the principal the responsible authority at the school
building level, within a structure that assures the principal’s accountability.

B. Support an advisory school governance structure at the building level. A governance structure at the building level should be broadly representative and include the principal, staff, students, parents and the community.

C. Support community involvement in the schools through such activities as tutoring, volunteering, sharing expertise, fundraising and community support.

Educational Reform

- Support educational reforms that address individual student needs and measures that allow innovation and flexibility in education. 1997
  A. Support the establishment of alternative schools which meet the diverse needs of students and parents.
  B. Support teacher training for the inclusion of special education children in the regular classroom.
  C. Support an assessment and promotion policy which includes early identification and remediation for those not meeting established standards.

Administration

- Support the delegation of administrative functions to an appointed superintendent responsible to the board. 1962, 1970, 1971, 1987
  A. Administrative organization should clarify lines of authority and promote efficiency of operation.
  B. Support structures which encourage local and site-based decision-making and innovation within state guidelines.

- Support the school board and administration using all effective means of communicating with the public.

- The board must actively seek the counsel of parents, teachers, students and other citizens throughout all phases of the policy-making process.

- Support the school board and administration establishing and implementing procedures for participation of school building staffs in district decision making.

- School building staff should be involved in the district decision making processes that affect them and their work with students.

Teacher Compensation

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

Citizen Participation in Budget Process

  A. Citizens and school building staff should have easy access to all fiscal information. The budget should be easily understood with breakdowns by program and individual school. Summaries of budget information should be widely disseminated. Complete budgets should be available in local schools, the district offices, and public libraries.
  B. Citizens and school building staff should be informed and involved early in the budget-making process. Spending priorities should be determined on the basis of needs of students, district goals, program evaluation and availability of funds. The school board is responsible for final decisions.
  C. Support local special levies for maintenance and operation only until the state adequately finances local school districts.

Children at Risk

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

NATURAL RESOURCES

Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenbelts

- Support comprehensive planning, acquisition, development, preservation and use of parks, open spaces, and greenbelts, both public and private, to provide a wide variety of facilities for all age groups. LWE 2004
  A. Increased coordination among departments and units of government involved is essential for economy, efficiency and effective implementation.
of open space programs.

B. Citizen information, education and participation in city, county and regional park and open space programs are necessary in order to meet present and future needs.

C. Priorities for open space should be based upon the character and needs of the population. Land should be acquired now in developed areas and reserved in undeveloped areas.

D. Natural topography should be utilized whenever possible in zones and between developments, i.e. river valleys, flood plains, slide and steep slopes.

- **Support of the city's park and open space plan. MI 2004**
  A. There is need for more neighborhood parks, particularly in densely populated areas.
  B. There is need for waterfront property for parks. Emphasis should be placed on maximum utilization of publicly-owned street ends.
  C. The city should assume responsibility for developing a trails and walkways system, providing access to parks, schools and residential districts. Safety must be a prime consideration.
  D. The city should acquire more natural open space areas to preserve its wooded environment and to prevent development in potential slide areas. Donation of land by private owners should be encouraged and tax advantages to donors be publicized.

- **Support of measures to achieve a well-maintained, adequately funded, diverse and safe system of parks, recreation and open space which is accessible to all, with emphasis on public service that is flexible and responsive to changing demographics and social needs. 1990.**
  A. A local park should be within walking distance of each residential neighborhood and major parks should be served by convenient, easily identifiable and well publicized public transit.
  B. Where user fees are charged, means should be provided to assure that no person is prevented from enjoyment of the parks and recreation system because of economic status.
  C. Security measures should be adequate to protect the general public, and supervision, where appropriate, should be available for children.
  D. Involvement of the public in an advisory role and as volunteers in the parks and recreation system is vital to its success.
  E. The Department should be responsible for planning, administering and maintaining its facilities and programs, and should seek maximum cooperation of other agencies and organizations.
  F. The Department should develop and periodically update a long-range comprehensive parks plan in which the city's goals for its parks and recreation system are explicitly stated.
  G. The Department should maximize its use of volunteers in carrying out its programs through increased coordination, training and supervision.
  H. Concessions may be used to help the Department meet clearly-defined objectives, but the quality of their services should be regularly reviewed, with public input, and revenue from these concessions should not be greater than necessary to offset the cost of the administration, maintenance and operation of the program or the facility.

- **Support preservation, acquisition and enhancement of open spaces, selected ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas, and promotion of environmental awareness and sense of stewardship in the public. 1990, 1991**
  A. Cities should develop policies, enact legislation, and establish a process for the identification and preservation of open space.
  B. All levels of government, in cooperation with private organizations, should provide citizens with information and education on preservation of open space on private and public land.
  C. Open spaces should be funded from sources such as general obligation bonds and other public funds, development and mitigation fees, and other public and private sources.

- **Support Seattle Center as a unique urban park with a wide variety of activities and open space made available to residents and to non-residents of the city. 1981, 1989**
  A. Seattle Center should be a regional cultural center, a regional entertainment center, and a visitor destination for all ages and groups; and should continue to serve the needs of the city as a place for meetings, conventions, trade shows and private functions.
  B. Management of the Center should be separate from the Parks and Recreation Department.
C. The Center should generate as much revenue as is reasonable toward its operating budget and routine maintenance. The Center’s revenue should be augmented by tax monies. The level and source of tax support should be consistent with the benefits the Center provides to the citizens of the city, region and state.

Energy

• Support the formulation of clearly-defined governmental policies on energy. 1975

• Support the adjustment of the economy to zero energy growth, and the establishment of a definite target date. 1975, 1982

  A. The means of accomplishing zero energy growth should include energy conservation, a shift toward economic activities that require less energy, and the use of technology to develop energy-saving techniques.

  B. Lower income groups should be protected from an inequitable share of hardships resulting from a shift to zero energy growth.

  C. Standards protecting the environment should not be relaxed.

• Support governmental controls to accomplish energy conservation. Government should encourage such measures as: 1975, 1994

  A. Mass transit and fuel-conserving cars.

  B. Establishment of reverse rate structures in utilities.

  C. Dissemination of information on the necessity for and means of saving energy by industry and individuals.

  D. Subsidization of research and development on methods of conserving.

  E. Establishment and enforcement of building standards with the object of conserving energy and maintaining indoor air quality.

  F. Promote the availability of home energy surveys to all energy consumers.

• Support research and development on a wide variety of new energy sources such as solar, solid waste, wind, geothermal, tides and nuclear fusion. 1975

• Deregulation of the electric industry should be approached cautiously because of the possible impact on the environment and various stakeholders. 1998

  A. All consumers, including the low-income, should have access to an affordable, reliable source of electricity and all providers should bear a fair share of the cost of the system including cost to the environment and society.

  B. Protection of the environment should be a major focus of any deregulation plan. The plan should include the following:

    1. Strict standards for suppliers including public disclosure of costs, sources and environmental impact.

    2. A mechanism to ensure adequate funding for the conservation of energy and research and development of renewable energy.

  C. The use of clean fuels should be a goal. The pricing structure of energy should reflect the overall cost to the environment.

Solid Waste Management

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

Dependence on landfills for disposal of solid waste should be greatly reduced through:

A. Education to increase public awareness and participation in waste reduction and recycling programs.

B. Solid waste utility rates which include financial support for waste reduction and recycling programs.

C. Incineration of solid waste, provided public health and environmental safeguards are adequate, substantial waste reduction and recycling efforts are not adversely affected, and energy is recovered as practical.

Air Quality

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

Litter

• Support measures to control litter as an environmental and aesthetic problem. 2005

• Support the role of individuals, business,
Natural Resources

volunteer groups, and government in controlling litter. 2005

- Support the efforts of all individuals/groups to change attitudes so a litter-free environment is valued. 2005

Drainage and Wastewater Management

- Support the development of governmental policies, legislation and processes for storm water management that protect and maintain habitats as part of a sustainable ecosystem. 2009

- Support emerging scientifically based practices that encourage best management practices, low impact development and natural drainage systems. 2009

KING COUNTY

The Leagues of Women Voters of King County use the following criteria to evaluate King County governmental structures and operations:

- Separation of powers
- A system of checks and balances
- A system of clearly fixed responsibilities
- Sound management practices
- Responsiveness to the electorate and to changing conditions
- Intergovernmental cooperation.

Governance

- Support a county-wide policy-making body with legal authority to establish policy for functions which require area-wide solutions. 1997, 2000

A. Support the continuation of the Regional Committees as defined in the 1993 Charter Amendments, pending further evaluation.

1. Encourage County Council members to take their roles on the regional committees more seriously and to value committee recommendations. There should be little duplication of effort between council committees and regional committees.

2. Encourage establishment of a clear definition of the role of the Regional Policy Committee.

B. A Home Rule Charter free of statutory law.

- Support a form of county government that is representative of the areas governed. 1997, 2000

A. Strengthen unincorporated area councils as a way to provide representation for those areas. Encourage greater public visibility for these councils.

B. The King County Metropolitan Government should have public involvement as a core value.

1. Provide all citizens meaningful opportunities for effective involvement and recognition of their responsibility to participate.

2. Identify barriers to public involvement and take steps to reduce and overcome them.

3. Take steps to foster trust between citizens and their government.

4. Focus on providing timely and useful public information including using new technologies.

5. Incorporate the common threads of demonstrated successful models for public involvement into its programs.

C. Make full use of the media and technology to provide information about the Metropolitan King County Council deliberations, meetings and hearings. These meeting places, times and agendas should be publicized well in advance and meetings should be convenient and accessible.

D. Give the voters the opportunity to decide whether King County elections should be partisan or non-partisan.

E. Provide ways for citizens to amend the charter. Charter Review Commission recommendations to the Council should be placed automatically on the ballot.

- Support a form of county government that would have the power and resources to carry out its functions, including adequate financial resources. 1997, 2000, 2005

A. Support maintaining discretionary county services, especially in the areas of health and human services.

B. Support cost containment through efficient administration of county systems; consolidation of special services, where appropriate; coordination between the cities and the county, particularly in the area of criminal justice; and preventive services, including alternatives to incarceration.
• Support increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness as follows:
  A. Area-wide administration of those functions that require it.
  B. Local administration of local functions.
  C. Integration of services.
  D. A merit system.
  E. A shortened ballot.
    1. Jobs requiring technical skills should be appointive.
    2. Jobs requiring representation should be elective.
    3. Candidates appearing unopposed on the primary ballot should not appear on the final ballot.

• Support coordination and cooperation among all local governments, including ports, schools and special districts.

• Support establishment of long-range goals, plans to attain them, and a performance budget in an understandable form, including a long-range capital improvement program.

• Support the use of tools that would promote the annexation of unincorporated urban areas to an adjacent city.

Ethics in Government

• Support ethics in government and measures to ensure that public officials and employees perform their responsibilities in the public interest in accordance with the highest ethical standards and measures to increase citizen confidence in government. 1994, 2000, 2003
  A. A Code of Ethics should include sections on conflict of interest, improper use of position and public resources, compensation, gifts and disclosure of financial interests.
  B. Adequate support should be provided to ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics and to enhance public awareness of that code.
  C. The local government should have a Code of Ethics which sets standards of conduct to ensure that public officials and employees perform their duties in the public interest.

Courts

• Support implementing a strong court administration responsible for unified customer service, efficient management systems and coordinated technology. 1999

• Support reducing jurisdictional overlap except to provide flexibility in dealing with case overloads. 1999

• Support changes to the judicial selection system that would ensure qualified judges, increase public awareness of judicial elections and provide the public the information needed to make informed decisions. 1999

Special Districts

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

Farmland

• Support a flexible combination of governmental programs to prevent a nonreversible alteration to lands with prime or productive soils. The principal use of those lands should ultimately be food production. Governmental policies and programs including taxation and zoning should support King County agriculture (land and industry). The policies and programs should be guided by two goals:
  A. Highest consideration should be the preservation of the most productive soils.
  B. Second consideration should be the preservation of agriculture as an industry. Policies and programs should recognize the value of private land ownership.

Solid Waste Management

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

• Dependence on landfills for disposal of solid waste should be greatly reduced through:
  A. Education to increase public awareness and participation in waste reduction and recycling programs.
Natural Resources

B. Solid waste utility rates which include financial support for waste reduction and recycling programs.

C. Incineration of solid waste, provided public health and environmental safeguards are adequate, substantial waste reduction and recycling efforts are not adversely affected and energy is recovered as practical.

Transportation and Growth Management

- Support the concentration of population growth by coordinating growth management plans in order to support a mass transit system and to reduce sprawl. 2004

- Support a diverse, seamless, balanced transportation system that includes such features as regional and commuter rail, passenger-only and auto ferries, maximum development of high-occupancy vehicle lanes, express, local and feeder buses, transportation for special-needs, promotion of bicycle use, and adequate, safe pedestrian access to all transit and community services. 2004

- Support growth management/transportation planning and funding that includes cooperation and coordination among transportation systems to implement effective regional multi-modal transportation choices. 2004

- Support the use of public transportation systems through incentives such as convenient, affordable, secure transit services and pricing disincentives such as user-based taxes. 2004

- Support incentives for additional employer auto-trip reduction programs. 2004

- Support adequate and secure park-and-ride lots, community transportation centers and transit-oriented development where appropriate. 2004

- Support an increase in the amount of state, regional and local transportation funds to implement the most appropriate high priority transportation improvements consistent with adopted growth management and transportation plans. 2004

REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

- Support water conservation efforts by all users including education programs, voluntary and mandatory conservation requirements that take into account previous conservation efforts and alternative types of water reuse. 1996, 1999

- Support a regional approach to water resources, water sheds, basins, aquifers and to the accountability of any decision-making bodies to citizens. 1999

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

WASHINGTON STATE WATER RIGHTS & GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

- Support the principle of maximum net benefits including human health and safety, riparian habitat, concurrency of supply with permitted demand, Indian treaty rights, protection of in-stream flow, and hydraulic continuity. 1996, 1999

- “Allocation of waters among potential uses and users shall be based on the securing of the maximum net benefits for the people of the state. Maximum net benefits shall constitute total benefits less cost including opportunities lost.” (Water Resources Act, 1971)

A. Quality should be maintained and enforced.

B. Quantity should be determined and allocation adjudicated as necessary.

C. Water resource management should be funded through water use fees, development permit application fees, and the state general fund.

D. The Department of Ecology should regulate both water quantity and water quality. There should be coordination, integration and cooperation between the Department of Ecology and the Department of Public Health and other regulating agencies at all levels of government including meaningful public input.
• Support federal and state standards and guidelines on a watershed basis. Other governments should meet or exceed federal and state regulations. County government should be the most restrictive.

1996

A. The state Wellhead Protection Program should be enforced to protect aquifers and recharge areas. The Management Plan should include effective citizen education elements and citizen participation.

B. Zoning regulations should limit development in order to protect aquifer recharge areas.

• All wells (Class A, B, and single family residential wells) should be measured and the data regarding water withdrawal, use and claims be reported to King County and the Department of Ecology.

PORT DISTRICTS


• Support public port districts as authorized by R.C.W. Title 53.04.01 (as of 1985) with emphasis on coordinated planning, public accountability, purposes of the port and environmental sensitivity.

A. Cooperation and coordinated comprehensive planning with a regional, state or international agency to facilitate orderly planning and public accountability.

B. Enforcement of the Shoreline Management Act and other environmental regulations.

C. Attention to community recreational needs.

D. Improved relations between public port districts and citizens by:
   1. Better publicity of port activities and plans
   2. Increased citizen involvement and input, and
   3. Responsiveness to citizen concerns.
Unit Leaders 2009-2010

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<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit leader</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ballard/Queen Anne/Magnolia Day</td>
<td>Kim Peterson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kerry Peterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>Bonnie Rimawi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnierim@aol.com">bonnierim@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Hill/Montlake</td>
<td>Jan O’Connor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oconnor.js@gmail.com">oconnor.js@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Hill</td>
<td>Jeannette Kahlenberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kahlenb@gmail.com">kahlenb@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Issaquah Day</td>
<td>Margaret Austin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issaquah Evening</td>
<td>Ann Thornton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirkland/Redmond</td>
<td>Sheila Hoff</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shoff123@yahoo.com">shoff123@yahoo.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia/Queen Anne/Ballard Eve</td>
<td>Bettina Hosler</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer Island</td>
<td>Lucy Copass</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lucyc0@speakeasy.com">lucyc0@speakeasy.com</a></td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Cynthia Howe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Jan Orlando</td>
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<tr>
<td>North End Afternoon</td>
<td>Helen St. John</td>
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<tr>
<td>North King County</td>
<td>Rejean Idzerda</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idzerda@comcast.net">idzerda@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoreline</td>
<td>Juliet Beard</td>
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<td>Southend</td>
<td>Sam Scharff</td>
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<tr>
<td>University House - Wallingford</td>
<td>Barbara Denis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bdenis@att.net">bdenis@att.net</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judy Coskey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ticoskey@msn.com">ticoskey@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>View Ridge</td>
<td>Gail Winberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:winbergeng@comcast.net">winbergeng@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peggy Saari</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peggysaari@comcast.net">peggysaari@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>West Seattle Day</td>
<td>Ethel Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:etheljw1@q.com">etheljw1@q.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Bowden</td>
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Unit meetings begin in September. Check the September Voter, which will come out in late August, or contact local unit leader for date, time and topic of the next meeting. The League of Women Voters of Seattle unit meetings are free and open to the public. Each month, units discuss a topic which corresponds to the monthly forum or study.

**Diversity Policy**

The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS), 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 recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS 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 affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.
## Board & Committee Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Allison Feher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@seattlelwv.org">president@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008–2010</td>
<td>1st V.P. Outreach</td>
<td>Maria Brusher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mariabrusher@yahoo.com">mariabrusher@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2008–2010</td>
<td>2nd V.P. Program</td>
<td>Nora Leech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:nleech2002@yahoo.com">nleech2002@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008–2010</td>
<td>3rd V.P. Voter Service</td>
<td>Sarah Luthens</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:luthens.seattlelwv@gmail.com">luthens.seattlelwv@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2011</td>
<td>4th V.P. Voter Editor</td>
<td>Beatrice Crane</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:votereditor@seattlelwv.org">votereditor@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Brita Butler-Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@seattlelwv.org">secretary@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Judy Bevington</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Kelly Powers</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:membership@seattlelwv.org">membership@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Christal Wood</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gimme_steam@hotmail.com">gimme_steam@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Jean Carlson</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jean.carlson@att.net">jean.carlson@att.net</a></td>
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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Denise Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:issaquahsmith@msn.com">issaquahsmith@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Laura Weese</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:laura899@earthlink.net">laura899@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:terrylucy2u@comcast.net">terrylucy2u@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2008–2010</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Kris Bushley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:abushley@earthlink.net">abushley@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Off-Board Positions

| CIS Coordinator | Cynthia Howe | howe.john@comcast.net |

### Committees

- **Civics Education**: Dana Twight, dctwight@u.washington.edu
- **Economics & Taxation**: Nora Leech, nleech2002@yahoo.com
- **Education**: Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, terrylucy2u@comcast.net
- **Social Justice Committee**: Vanessa Power, vanessa.power@gmail.com
- **Immigration Study**: Barbara Reid, barbereid@yahoo.com
- **International Relations**: Ellen Berg, ellenzberg@msn.com
- **Land Use**: Karen Kane, kanek@iopener.net
- **Transportation**: Janet Winans, janetwinans@earthlink.net
- **Port Study**: Linda Brown, brownlj@comcast.net
- **Privatization Study**: Nora Leech, nleech2002@yahoo.com
August Forum
Primary Election Forum

Featuring

➤ King County Executive Candidates
➤ Court of Appeals, Division No. 1, District No. 1, Judge Position No. 3 Candidates
➤ Referendum No. 1 (Disposable Shopping Bags Ordinance)-Pro and Con Speakers

Thursday, August 6, 2009
7:30-9:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church - 1111 Harvard Avenue (Harvard & Seneca)

All forums are free and open to the public.

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