So the business cycle is indeed still with us with economic upturns and downturns. With housing prices falling, home sales stagnating, and foreclosures on the rise, with lenders freezing up credit, shocking bank failures and too much debt, both corporate and individual, we are looking at some hard times and tough decisions. Businesses are beginning to lay off employees and close doors. It looks like a recession. These cycles have a strong impact on all our lives.

Governments are facing daunting budget deficits created by significant loss of revenues projected for 2009-2010—Washington State, $3.2 billion; King County, $90 million; and Seattle, $18 million. Where do they look to balance the budgets? Options being proposed include staff layoffs, wage cuts, and hiring freezes, as well as cuts in critical services including human services, public health, public safety and the courts. And not only are government budgets affected, but shortfalls are showing up in budgets for public schools, the arts and nonprofits. The League is actively testifying at the public hearings emphasizing that in times of economic crisis, human services for those most vulnerable are critical to the health and safety of our communities.

To help bring light to this important topic, we have assembled an excellent panel of speakers for our December forum. For the big picture we have Economist Fred DeKay from Seattle University, explaining the current national dynamics and the prognosis for the future. For local impact, we have Finance Director Dwight Dively from the City of Seattle, Budget Office Director Bob Cowan from King County, and Washington State Representative and Senator-elect Fred Jarrett to tell us how they are coping with the projected revenue losses and what they expect in the future for our region.

Understanding the current environment and the prognosis for the future will help League members better plan effective strategies for ACTION as they work on the priorities of the League.
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President’s Message

The 2008 general election is over. It has been a very busy and exciting election season for the League. We have all seen and experienced the overwhelming emotion connected with this historic national election. No matter what your political preference, I am sure you were as moved as I was with national commentator Donna Brazile’s reflection that on January 20 our first Black president would take the oath of office standing on stairs built by slaves. It has been moment of national connection as we all experience a significant moment in history. It was a memorable election season at all levels.

I would like to thank our League volunteers for their hard work this election season. We registered hundreds of voters, and although we did not reach the record number of registrations achieved by the legendary LWV Seattle 2004 Votemobile, we were able to reach a diverse audience of potential voters at community markets, college events, soup kitchens, TV and radio events, senior residences and the VA hospital.

I would also like to thank the ballot issue analysis team and ballot issues speakers who, aided by a clear and concise PowerPoint presentation developed by board member Chrystal Wood, reached out to over 25 community groups, senior residences, church groups and clubs with discussions on local ballot issues; the members of the Civics Education committee and Lucy Copass, who compiled and edited the Newspaper in Education series on electing the president that helped to inform students and their families across the state; and, once again, Chrystal Wood, who used her technology skills to develop a PowerPoint presentation for elementary aged students on the evolution of Voting Rights in the US, which she and I delivered to over 500 students at a local school assembly.

We could not accomplish the things we do without funding, and this year’s Political Party gave us a needed boost to our funds. Victoria Bennett and her team planned and executed a wonderful celebration. We were honored to have two guest speakers with long connections to the League. Mr. Ken Alhadeff used his considerable speaking skills to make the argument for funding the League. He was both impressive and persuasive. We owe Ken and his wife Marleen a huge thank you.

Our Political Party and Auction has a dual purpose. Not only is it the major fundraiser of the year, but it also replenishes our League soul. This year our keynote speaker did just that. Justice Bobbe Bridge has a long personal connection with the League, and she touched on that connection and the influence of League mentors in her life. She made the argument for our League work. Bobbe also made the connection between our work on issues for children and others facing discrimination and injustice and the personal growth of individual members. I believe she succeeded in recharging our shared League energy.

But with the election over and the 32nd Annual Political Party wrapping up, now it is time to get back to the hard work of making our government work for everyone. We will need the boost in our spirits to cope with the budget cuts ahead at the local, state and federal levels. Programs we have worked for will be among those affected by cuts. This month we will discuss budgeting and setting priorities. We invite you to join in this discussion. The League is needed during this time of cutbacks at all levels of government. As a group we have faced such issues before, and our League priorities are as sound now as they were in past budget crises.

Denise D. Smith
**December**

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- **Basic Education Task Force Presentation**: Monday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., John Stanford Center Auditorium, 2445 3rd Ave. South (at Lander), Seattle Voter deadline/International Relations Comm. 12:45 p.m.
- **Privatization Study**: Wednesday, December 3, 10:00 a.m., League Office
- **Drainage Committee**: Wednesday, December 3, 10, 17, 1:00-3:00 p.m., League Office
- **December Forum: Action**: Thursday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church
- **Board Meeting**: Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m., League Office
- **International Relations Committee**: Monday, December 8, 12:45-2:45 p.m., League Office
- **Civics Education Committee**: Tuesday, December 9, 4:00-6:00 p.m., League Office
- **Transportation Committee**: Tuesday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., League Office
- **Immigration Committee**: Wednesday, December 17, 9:00 a.m., League Office
- **Economics and Taxation Committee**: Saturday, December 27, 9:00 a.m., 909 E. Newton #D9, Seattle Voter deadline
- **Forum: Program Planning**: Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church
- **Board Meeting**: Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m., League Office
Forum Schedule

The League of Women Voters of Seattle hosts public forums the first Thursday of each month. Upcoming forums are listed below; check the Voter each month for detailed information on the next forum. To find the Voter on the Seattle League website go to www.seattlelwv.org. Click the League library tab on the top banner and you will find the link to the current Voter.

December 4 - Action
January 8 - Program Planning
February 5 - Water
March 5 - Women
April 2 - National Popular Vote
May 7 - Privatization

November Board Briefs By Karen Adair, Secretary

Appointments
The Board welcomed Christal Wood, who was appointed in October.

Membership
The League now has 853 members (823 in good standing). The election season always results in many new members.

Units
Both the First Hill (Horizon House) and the Issaquah units held ballot issues forums recently.

Program
The December forum will deal with the budget crisis, focusing on the impact of revenue shortfalls on local government budgets. The committee organizing the forum has also put together a packet of articles that will offer local, state and national overviews.

Voter Service
League volunteers were involved in 28 ballot issues presentations in the last few months. Training sessions and the issues briefing were valuable resources for volunteers. We received $1500 for monitoring the board elections for the National Indian Education Association’s Convention in October. Christal Wood created a PowerPoint presentation, “Carrie Chapman Catt’s Amazing Voting Machine,” summarizing the history of voting rights. Wood and Denise Smith presented this to an elementary school assembly in Redmond in October.

Action
President Smith presented testimony at Seattle City Council on October 27 and King County Council on October 28, stating that basic human needs should have top priority in local budgets. Since these areas are not mandated in the budgets, we believe they are cut disproportionately. Smith pointed out our historical support of these issues, citing our 1985 study on the same topic. The November 15 LWVWA Action Workshop will focus on the State League’s legislative priorities for the upcoming session. The LWVS Board recommends that the State League include funding health and human services as part of their legislative priorities.

Outreach
We supported the Trick or Vote get-out-the-vote event on Capitol Hill on October 31. Betty Sullivan made a presentation to the Junior League’s Action Workshop on how to advocate in Olympia.

Fundraising
The new venue for the auction was wonderful; many elected officials/candidates attended and stayed for the dinner and auction. The auction committee will give a report to the Board in December.
Committee Meetings

**Privatization Study**
Date: Wednesday, December 3  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: League Office

We will be talking about local examples of efforts to privatize government services, resources/assets, and deregulation. All are welcome to attend.

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**Drainage Committee**
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 10, & 17  
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Place: League Office

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**International Relations Committee**
Date: Monday, December 8  
Time: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.  
Place: League Office

We will be reading and discussing Fareed Zakaria’s Post-American World. Please join us. Email Ellen Berg or Peggy Saari for more information: ellenzberg@msn.com

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**Civics Education Committee**
Date: Tuesday, December 9  
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Place: League Office

League members are encouraged to join the Civics Education Committee as we explore possible projects that will excite and educate students as well as adults about government and good citizenship. This is a core part of the LWV mission, so please join us and bring your ideas. For more information, contact Jaclyn Wall at speakingstrategies@hotmail.com.

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**Social Justice Committee**
Date: Tuesday, December 9  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Place: League Office

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**Transportation Committee**
Date: Tuesday, December 16  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Place: League Office

The election is past. The Legislature will convene shortly. What happened? What’s next? Join us for a review of the current situation and some holiday cheer.

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**Immigration Committee**
Date: Wednesday, December 17  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: League Office

All are welcome. For information, call Annette Holcomb at (206) 329-4848.

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**Economics and Taxation Committee**
Date: Saturday, December 27  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: 909 E. Newton #D9

For more information, please call Nora Leech at (206) 329-4848.

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**Land Use Committee**
No meeting this month.

Announcements

**FOLLOW THE LEAGUE’S PROGRESS IN OLYMPIA.**

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER.**

You’ll receive information about pertinent committee hearings, status of bills and Action Alerts. **If you are willing to receive the newsletter via email it’s free!** If you prefer to have it mailed to you there is a $15 charge. Please specify which version you wish to receive - mail or email - and send your check in today.  

☐ $15 Mail  ☐ Free via Email

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Make your check payable to and return to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105  

PH: 206-622-8961, outside toll area, 1-800-419-2596, email: lwvwa@lwvwa.org, www.lwvwa.org
Beginning in mid February, the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) will offer three Great Decision discussion groups to members and friends. In Issaquah, call Denise Smith at (206) 329-4848; on Mercer Island, call Susie Anschell at (206) 329-4848 and in Seattle, call Carol Goldenberg at (206) 329-4848. The 2009 briefing book on which the discussions will be based is published by the Foreign Policy Association. The book provides historical background, current U.S. policy and alternative policy options, informative maps and graphs, and suggested readings and resources, as well as opinion ballots for each topic. Opinion ballots are tabulated and the results presented in the National Opinion Ballot Report, a representative survey of reader’s views on the eight Great Decision topics. The report is made available to members of Congress, the White House, the media, concerned citizens and readers.


The topics are listed below. The focus of the articles and the order may change.

**The U.S. and Rising Powers**

Since the end of the cold war, the U.S. has emerged as the world’s predominant power. However, in the 21st century some rapidly developing countries have become increasingly influential. Who are these “rising powers”? Will their emergence change the global balance of power? How will the U.S. react?

**Afghanistan and Pakistan**

New found hopes for stability in Iraq have shifted the U.S. military force back to Afghanistan and Pakistan, one of the most volatile border regions of the world. What impact will this renewed interest have on the two states as well as on U.S. defense strategy?

**Energy and the Global Economy**

Rising energy prices, driven up by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East and increasing demand from developing countries, are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil exporting states? Are there realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon?

**The Arctic Age**

Rising global temperatures have created new opportunities in the Arctic for resource extraction and intercontinental transport. How will sovereignty disputes among the five countries that border the Arctic affect its potential development? What impact will this race for the Arctic have on an environment already in serious flux?

**Egypt in the 21st Century**

Egypt has long played an important role in the Arab world while maintaining a strategic relationship with the U.S. With elections scheduled for 2009, how will Egypt deal with serious domestic issues, ranging from Islamic radicalism to food shortages? What factors will influence the path of this regional heavyweight?

**Global Food Supply**

Global prices for food staples have risen dramatically, resulting in protests and unrest around the world. What factors are driving prices up, and can they be tamed? What will the political fallout be for governments that fail to act, and what role can global institutions play?

**Cuba and Castro**

Since Fidel Castro handed over the presidency of Cuba to his brother Raul in early 2008, signs of greater economic openness have led to much speculation. Will Raul seek to reopen ties with the U.S? What role will Cuba’s American exiles play in shaping post-Castro Cuba?

**Universal Human Rights?**

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 60th anniversary, events in the Balkans, Sudan and Myanmar continue to challenge its idealism, while raising new questions about the prospects for humanitarian interventions. Do human rights transcend national borders and customs? Is the definition of human rights changing?
A VOTE FOR THE LEAGUE
BY VICTORIA BENNETT, AUCTION CHAIR

We did it! With a new venue, a changed format for the evening, a record turnout of local politicians, intriguing auction items, a compelling speech by Justice Bobbe Bridge, and an inspirational appeal by Ken Alhadeff, the 32nd Political Party and Auction was memorable. Even young guests who had not been exposed to the League before were inspired and dipped into their purses to make a donation.

Many people are responsible for the success of the evening. Justice Bobbe Bridge offered a tribute to Shirley Bridge, then emphasized one way voters can make a difference by advocating for those who have no voice in the political process—children. Her stirring remarks moved some of the audience to tears. Ken Alhadeff was passionate in his appeal to fund the League, citing many ways in which the League is instrumental in helping voters to confront the issues. His passion unleashed more funds for the League than any other part of the auction. We extend many thanks to our speakers for contributing their time and eloquence.

We were honored by the presence of so many officeholders and candidates from different jurisdictions and levels of government. U.S. Representative Jim McDermott; Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson; State Representative and candidate for State Treasurer Jim McIntire; State Senators Adam Kline and Jeanne Kohl-Welles; State Representatives Judy Clibborn, Roger Goodman, Fred Jarrett, Ruth Kagi, Phyllis Kenney and Sharon Tomiko Santos; candidates for State Representative Reuven Carlyle and Marcie Maxwell; Vice Chair Lloyd Hara of the Port of Seattle; Port of Seattle Commissioner Gael Tarleton; King County Councilmembers Dow Constantine and Larry Phillips; Superior Court Judge Laura Gene Middaugh; Superior Court candidates Julia Garratt, Holly Hill and Judge Jean Rietschel; City of Seattle Council President Richard Conlin; Councilmembers Sally Clark, Jan Drago, and Jean Godden; 2009 City of Seattle Council candidate Jessie Israel; City of Shoreline Mayor Cindy Ryu; Shoreline City Councilmembers Chris Eggen and Janet Way; Seattle School Board President Cheryl Chow; and Seattle School Board Director Steve Sundquist joined the festivities. Along with most of those present, several other politicians donated items to the auction. They included U.S. Senator Patty Murray; U.S. Representative Jay Inslee; candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives Darcy Burner; Governor Christine Gregoire; Secretary of State Sam Reed; State Attorney General Rob McKenna; State Senators Ken Jacobsen and Joe McDermott; State Representative Ross Hunter; King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg; and Seattle Councilmember Bruce Harrell. We thank our area’s politicians immensely for valuing the League.

Many businesses and institutions donated to our auction. We would like to acknowledge Adriatic Grill; Airial Hot Air Balloon Company; Argisy Cruises; Arts West; Avalon Glassworks; Bake’s Place at Providence Point; Ben Bridge Jeweler; Bulkeley Associates; Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture; Butch Blum; Café Javasti; Caruh Salon and Spa; Century Ballroom; Charlestown Street Cafe; Chico’s; Choppers and Company; Christo’s Restaurant; Circa Grill and Ale House; Clemente’s Shoes, Bags and Accessories; Click! Design That Fits; Creamery at the Market; Curious Kid Stuff; Dick’s Drive-In; Dmitriou’s Jazz Alley; Duke’s...
The sponsors listed at the end provided needed seed money to cover the expenses of the evening. By generously helping to underwrite our event, Carpenters Union Local 1797 and Local 131 are helping the League as it “encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.” We appreciate the Locals’ staunch support of our mission and their dedication to the community. Other financial contributors who deserve recognition include the Ballard/Queen Anne/Magnolia Day Unit, the Northend Afternoon Unit and the Past Presidents of The League of Women Voters of Seattle. Advance contributions were also received from Susan Adkins, Barrie and Margaret Austin, Nancy Bagley, Sandy and John Barney, Mary Bartholet, Marilyn Bierman, Luther Black and Christina Wright, Lisa Sable Brown, Patti Catalano, Mary Coltrane, Sharon Doman, Nancy Eitreim, Judith Hill, Annette Holcomb, Cris Kantor, Gail Katz, Gunbjorg Ladstein, Kathy Leinendecker, Candis Litsey, Myra Lupton, Jocelyn Marchisio, Sue Mecklenburg, Nancy Miller, Nan Moore, Kathie Moritis, Margaret Morrison, Betty Newell, Lois North, Jan O’Connor, Barbara Reid, Hazel Schiffer, Nancy Smith, Lucy Steers, Jaclyn Wall, Sherrie Willows, Mary Wolch and Shash and Bill Woods. A big thank you goes to all our financial contributors for giving us the means to fund the auction.

Another way people have supported the auction is through the gift of time. Members and supporters have helped with everything from stuffing...
envelopes to greeting politicians. They have glued bid sheets, made phone calls, tagged auction items, prepared registration packets, solicited or made auction items, baked desserts, served as table captains, brought guests to the auction, made certificates, and done a myriad of other tasks. With appreciation, we salute the following units for their participation: West Seattle Day, West Seattle Evening, View Ridge, Southend, Shoreline, Pioneer Square, North End Afternoon, North Central, Mercer Island, Magnolia/Queen Anne/Fremont/Ballard, Issaquah Evening, First Hill, Capitol Hill/Montlake, and Bellevue. The following individuals have taken on different auction tasks: Karen and David Adair, Ken and Marleen Alhadeff, Cathy Allen, Nancy Amidei, Jeannine Anderson, Margaret Austin, Nadine Baker, Virginia Barker, Mary Barton, Juliet Beard, Margaret Biggs, Elaine Birn, Becky Bogard, Robert Boundy, Ann Bowden, Shira Brewer, Linda Brown, Marcia and Bob Brown, Maria Brusher, Gia Bullard, Mary Burki, Kris Bushley, Jean Carlson, Lee Carpenter, Heidi Carpine, Maureen Carroll, Patti Catalano, Cheryl Chow, Pat Cleary, Lucy Copass, Jeanette Corkery, Beatrice and Peter Crane, William Crittenden, Betsy Darrah, Vicky and Ray Downs, Hilke Faber, Nancy Federici, Allison Feher, Lynn Felsinger, Jayne Freitag-Koontz, Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Deborah Gayle, Teddy Geokezas, Jean Godden, Carol and Sam Goldenberg, Bea Greenwald, Kip Grote, Dottie Guth, Carolyn Hale, Jeannie Hale, Anna Haman, Verda Hansberry, Linnea Hirst, Ellie Hoague, Robin Holcomb, Mickey Horwitz, Bettina Hosler, Cynthia Howe, Jean Hurrlurt, Susan Jones, Martha Jordan, Jeannette Kahlenberg, Barbara Kaiser, Cris Kantor, Sasha Kaufman, April Kauffman, Flora Belle Key, Jackie Kiser, Adam Kline, Marilyn Knight, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Jim Lahey, Lois Laughlin, Dan Laxdall, Eleanor Laxdall, Nora Leech, Karin Lent, Cantis Litsey, Viola Loeflin, Myra Lupton, Josephine and William Mahon, Michael Mahon, Lorraine McConaghy, Rose McCoo, JoAnne McGaw, Vivian McLean, Ian Moncaster, Chris Monck, Wendy Morgan, John Morton, Alice Moss, Betty Newell, Monya Noelke, Lois North, Barbara O’Steen, Judy Ostrow, Laura Parma-Veigel, Kelly Pelz, Janet Perry, Joan and Kim Peterson, Kerry and Lisa Peterson, Judy Pigott, Sue Pocock, Toni Potter, Kelly Powers, Alex Pye, Kathleen Randall, Alice Rasp, Lyn Reynolds, Bob and Ruthe Ridder, Angela Robinson, Mavis and Steve Roe, Peggy Saari, Dorothy and Roger Sale, Sam Scharff, Mary Anne Schmitt, Gail Shurgot, Mary Slotnick, Neil Slotnick, Bruce Smith, Linda Snider, Olive Spannaus, Deborah Spenser, Diane and Eugene Stein, Ellyn Swanson, Ann Thornton, Catherine Tlapak, Peggy Tlapak, Larry True, Dana Twig, Margaret Vance, JoAnne and Tom Way, Josh Weber, Laura Weese, Estelle Wertheimer, Ethel Williams, Peg Williams, Paul Williams, Constance Wilson, Gail Winberg, Boots Winterstein, Gail Wodzin, Mary Wolch, Marian Wolfe, Christal Wood, Melinda Young, Ted Young and Edith Younge.

A special nod goes to Seattle Lutheran High School Key Club, which pitched in to help at the auction. With Sacha Mann providing oversight, Mary Butler, Mary Griffen, Fred Lisko, Emma Mahboub, Emily Meyer, Jessica Mikler, Katherine Smith,
Kayla Stall, Ashley Stefanoff, Mindon Win, Allie Wulf and Black Wulf performed a variety of jobs at the auction from serving as runners to collecting bid sheets. We would have had a hard time without their assistance. Thank you to one and all! It definitely took a village to put on this auction, and we are extremely grateful to all those who have lent a hand. Thank you so much!

WORTH MORE THAN GOLD

One group of members particularly deserves our gratitude: those who served on the auction committee. Laurie Anderson, Doreen Cato, Richard Clark, Lindsay Cummings, Ruthie Dornfeld, Judi Jones, April Kauffman, Karen Lahey, Lee Kellogg, Jan Orlando, Hazel Schiffer, Denise Smith and Betty Sullivan put in many hours configuring database forms, developing approaches to funders, designing pamphlets, training table captains, formatting auction publications and forms, updating the Website, researching funders and other items, expanding our procurement base, entering donations, finding centerpieces and bringing in volunteers and coordinating them the day of the auction. This has been a stellar committee – many thanks to all!

With all that, there are four members who stand in a class of their own. Without them, this auction would never have been held. Working together since February, they masterminded the major auction functions, changing key segments and producing strong results. They contributed creativity, expertise, ideas, hard work, funds and huge dedication to ensure the fiscal soundness of the League. The auction stood on their shoulders. Please give a standing ovation to Annette Holcomb, Kitty Mahon, Harriett Morton and Jan O’Connor.

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“ELECTING THE PRESIDENT” SERIES CONCLUDES IN THE SEATTLE TIMES

BY DANA TWIGHT

We hope many of you have been following the Newspapers In Education series on electing the president, which began last spring, running for six weeks, and just concluded after running ten weeks this fall, appearing in the Seattle Times on Wednesdays as well as in the Yakima Valley Herald on Thursdays. Many teachers around the state were able to access and use the series for their middle and high school students.

Last fall, League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) member Dana Twight joined the LWVS Civics Education committee. In the National Voter, there was a brief mention that the League of Women Voters of the United States had prepared an election guide for use by Newspapers in Education programs across the country. The Civics Education committee, chaired by Jaclyn Wall, considered a proposal made by Dana and her Seattle Times colleague Elizabeth Cole Duffel to collaborate on publishing the Electing the President Guide content as 16 weekly chapters tailored to Washington State.

The proposal was taken to the Education Funds of LWVS and the League of Women Voters of Washington, and was approved. Last spring the first six chapters appeared, and this fall an additional 10 chapters were created, taking the educators, students and adult readers through the people, the process, the primaries (why we had two this year was a popular concern), the role of the media and the money, and Debate Watching 101, among other topics. Members of the Civics Education committee put in many hours creating and revising content, local sidebars and classroom activities. Lucy Copass, Victoria Bennett and Nancy Eitreim were among the many other helpful League members who made this happen. PDFs of all of the lessons are available on the Seattle and Washington State League websites for use by speakers and educators alike.

EDUCATION FUND PREPARES FOR TRY UPDATE

BY BETTY SULLIVAN

They Represent You is without doubt the best-known project of the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS). TRY, which is updated yearly, contains contact information for elected officials, legislative websites, voting information and other helpful facts. We print and distribute over 100,000 copies of TRY annually. TRYs are distributed through libraries, city halls, political parties, unions, other civic groups and individual citizens. This year’s TRY will also provide information about King County’s new all-mail voting, which begins in 2009.

The LWVS Education Fund is working now on the fundraising campaign to pay the costs of updating and printing They Represent You, 2009. Our members have always been the number-one supporters of this fundraising effort. We will send fundraising letters to all members, friends and contributors, as well as to other community groups and those who have received quantities of TRYs in the past. The Education Fund (a 501(c)(3) organization) also supports all education and outreach efforts of the League. About one-third of the office costs are also funded through the Ed Fund.

Please contact the office at (206) 329-4848 or lindsay@seattlelwv.org if you are interested in helping with the updating. We need people who have good computer and telephone skills to call jurisdictions and get current information. We also need people to help edit, check, and proofread entries. This is a great project for someone who wants a short-term project, as all the work will be done by the middle of January. We hope to have the completed TRYs ready for distribution by the beginning of February.
Community News

**Observer Corp Briefs: Recent Observer Corps Activities**

*By Anita Warmflash*

On October 14, Chuck Bagley, a participant in the League of Women Voters of Seattle Observer Corps, attended a meeting of the Port of Seattle Commission. He reported that the main focus of the commission meeting was the impact of the current adverse financial climate on the port’s bond selling plans. The port has experienced difficulties in the sale of both short- and long-term maturity bonds. This has in turn affected cash flow; as a result, several projects, such as a new rental car facility, may be delayed.

The commission expressed their intent to balance four major priorities: maintenance of port facilities; preservation of 3,000 jobs with contractors; maintenance of the port’s good bond rating; and keeping the port levy low. Projects involving environmental protection or remediation will be paid for by the levy. It is reported that the public favors this.

The port is also in the process of dredging out Terminal 30. Sediments which have low concentrations of PCB are currently being dumped into Elliot Bay, while those with high concentrations go into landfills. With extra funding from King County, however, the port will begin dumping all sediments into landfills. Environmental representatives at the port meeting expressed their appreciation for this change.

**King County Bar Association Drug Policy Group News**

*By Jan O’Connor*

The KCBA Drug Policy Group has launched a new initiative called Families and Children. Early meetings have been exploratory, with representatives from the courts, social service agencies and the schools describing their work and setting priorities for further discussion. The “Silo Syndrome” is apparent: indicated by many efforts, but lack of coordination and cooperation.

Shortly after a meeting, I met a retired fellow teacher, who told me that one of our former students was on trial for murder. I wondered how much of such help had been available to her when she was twelve.

The ACLU has published a very readable document titled *Caught in the Net: The Impact of Drug Policies on Women and Families*. I will try to keep a couple of copies in the League office which you may take. It is also available from the ACLU.

**The Future of K-12 Public Education: Expectations and Funding in 2009**

Members of the Basic Education Task force will give a presentation about opportunities to reform K-12 Education. Representative Ross Hunter will review the progress of the Basic Education Task Force, scheduled to release their recommendation in December 2008.

Date: Monday, December 1
Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Place: John Stanford Center Auditorium
2445 3rd Ave. South (at Lander), Seattle
SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT FACES TOUGH CHOICES
BY LUCY GASKILL-GADDIS, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON EDUCATION CHAIR

A perfect storm has hit the Seattle School District. Three major problems are coming together at the same time: a shortage of space for kindergarteners in the northern sectors of the city in 2009-10, a $24 million estimated shortfall for 2009-10 which could grow larger, and an excess capacity of roughly 9,000 seats district wide. The district is also planning to implement a new student assignment plan for the 2010-11 school year. The solutions to all these problems are interrelated and have to be dealt with concurrently.

First, the Queen Anne/ Magnolia and the North/ Northeast/Northwest areas need more seats for all the kindergarteners anticipated next year. At the October 29 special board meeting, the Seattle School Board discussed various options proposed by district staff. In the Queen Anne/ Magnolia area, it appears that extra capacity can be achieved through adding classrooms and realigning existing space. There may be some changes required to the student assignment plan of one school. The North/Northeast/Northwest options are more complicated and may require movement of some programs. The School Board will vote on the options on November 12. For more information on the capacity issues, go to www.seattleschools.org/area/strategicplan.

The estimated shortfall of $24 million, along with data showing excess capacity where it is not needed, has led the School Board to direct the Superintendent to begin consideration of closing schools, moving programs, or eliminating programs. Any actions taken will affect the budget for the school year 2009-2010. This would include the possibility of closing schools as soon as September 2009. The estimated shortfall will undoubtedly grow as the state faces its own financial troubles.

In June 2007, the School Board adopted a framework for student assignment. The district will develop the plan over the next 6-9 months. There have already been three community meetings seeking input from parents and the community at large. During the fall of the 2009-2010 school year, the assignment plan will be implemented, with the first actual assignments to begin in Sept 2010. For more information on the student assignment plan, go to the district website www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign.

While the focus of this article has been on the Seattle School District, all districts will face financial difficulties given the state of our economy. Washington State government is currently looking at a significant shortfall of revenues; 40% of its general revenues go to K-12 education. Stay tuned!

Action & Advocacy

LWVS CHAMPIONS HUMAN SERVICES

In the past month League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) President Denise Smith presented testimony to both the Seattle City Council and the King County Council, requesting that as they prepare their budgets for the coming year they put a high priority on human services. Her letter to the county is printed on the following page.

ARI KOHN SPEECH AT REAL CHANGE BREAKFAST

Ari Kohn, founder and director of the Post-Prison Education Program in Seattle, was honored as Change Agent of the Year at the Real Change breakfast on November 12. Many League of Women Voters of Seattle members were in attendance at the event; for those who were not, we have been given permission to reprint his talk, which appears on page 16.
Council members,

The League of Woman Voters is very aware of the enormous challenge before you with the review and approval of the 2009 King County Budget. Budgeting is always a difficult charge but in this economic environment the stakes are tremendously high.

The Seattle League has longstanding position on the budget process which identifies criteria for use in decision-making stating that:

- When prioritizing programs and projects, the highest priority should be given to those that meet basic human needs.

As you all know the League studies issues. A 1982 Seattle League study on “Local Delivery of Human Services” begins “Seattle, like other local governments throughout the country, is struggling to deliver expected human services to its residents at a time when high unemployment is creating more need, and federal and state governments are cutting their grants to the local government”. Sounds familiar!

This informative human service resource survey proceeds to discuss the expectations in 1982 of the Reagan administration that volunteer efforts should replace many government programs that have been eliminated or curtailed in the area of human services. *As you have heard from the many organizations testifying and writing to you we have done that and the need remains even with the commitment of many volunteers and County support. Our budget crisis in 2008 is not a new issue.*

The Seattle League has long established positions on Human Services. We believe that Human Services are a basic function of government. We:

- Support measures to provide basic food, shelter & health care for those unable to provide for themselves, & measures to provide training and opportunity for employment.
- 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 & labor markets that affect the cost of providing services.

We understand the severe funding limitations the county is experiencing, however, we find it distressing that key programs including child care health and important public health programs and clinics are relegated to the lifeboat strategy dependent on the priorities of the State legislature. Our League position is to:

- 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 preventative services; control of communicable diseases; emergency preparedness, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment.

Our positions on law enforcement and juvenile justice emphasize our values on alternatives to incarceration as a means of dealing with issues such as homelessness, mental health and drug dependency. We believe these alternatives are both fiscally responsible and the humane thing to do. We:

- Support measures to develop and provide family, child and youth development programs to prevent delinquency, crime and/or recidivism
- Support prevention and intervention programs to overcome the problems of violence, suicide, homelessness, and family dysfunction
- Support local government programs for crime prevention and rehabilitation.

As an organization that follows government process we appreciate your hard work and commitment to the welfare of the residents of the King County and the region. *But this recurring crisis must stop. We must rethink our ways of funding basic government functions especially Human Services!! We thank you for giving us your thoughtful consideration.*

Sincerely,
Denise D. Smith, President
The League of Women Voters of Seattle
 ACTION & ADVOCACY

SPEECH BY ARI Kohn, DELIVERED ON NOVEMBER 12 AT THE REAL CHANGE BREAKFAST.

“Yet why not say what really happened? Pray for the grace of accuracy.... We are poor passing facts, warned by that to give each figure in the photograph his living name”.

Epilogue - Robert Lowell

- HEADLINE: The system is at fault
- “The New York Times” quoting President-Elect Obama’s new chief of staff Rahm Emanuel: “You don’t ever want a crisis to go to waste; it’s an opportunity to do important things that you would otherwise avoid.”

We have a crisis. Let me share with you some numbers and percentages:

- Present day, the Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) controls 18,551 prisoners.
  - During the 12-month period beginning July, about 8,453 prisoners will be released from their index crimes (there will also be approximately 10,500 probation violations from which prisoners will be released).
  - About 46% of these prisoners will release to King County.
  - In Fiscal Year 2007, a total of 4,526 former prisoners were released from the DOC to King County.
  - 2,815 of the 4,526 were released from violations rather than their index crime(s).
  - In 2004, 61.5% of the Washington courts’ 28,076 adult felony sentences involved people who had a history of one or more prior offenses.
  - According to the U.S. DOJ, 67.5% of prisoners released have been rearrested within three years of release, an increase over the 62.5% found for the proceeding reporting period
  - According to the Department of Corrections, 29% of prisoners released in 2000 have been returned to a State facility within three years as a result of a new felony conviction; 37% of prisoners released in 2000 have been returned to a State facility within five years as a result of a new felony conviction.
  - Of the 18,551 total prisoners, 82% are parents and have on average 1.91 children.
  - Of the 28,671 former prisoners who are actively supervised on probation by the Department of Corrections, 3,867 are known to be homeless. If the same percentage (13.48%) is applied to the 14,790 who are not actively supervised then the total number of homeless former prisoners under the DOC’s Community Corrections Division is about 5,870 adults.

Washington is “straight out flunking” when it comes to reentry and transition programs and homelessness.

Listening to these facts, people tend to think it is the Department of Corrections that is failing horribly, but it is not the Department of Corrections. Instead, it is our governors and the Legislature, past and present, and “main stream” media and the electorate who are at fault for not making it possible with funding and legislation for the Department of Corrections to provide transitional housing, to provide mental health care, to help people overcome addictions, and to provide for so many other issues.

Last winter, on a bitterly cold night, I left my office at Columbia and Third at about 9:30 to walk up to my car at Key Tower. There was a woman sitting outside on the sidewalk freezing cold because she was being refused a bed in the shelter that used to be at the Methodist Church on the corner of Columbia and 5th. She told me she was being refused because she did not have $5.00 for a bed for the night. I told her I had no cash and walked on by, but once in the lobby of Key Tower I saw the ATM. By the time I got back to this young woman she clearly had given up hope of being admitted into the shelter and was sobbing to the extent she didn’t even hear me walk back up to her with the money she needed.

For the 18,550 people in Washington’s prisons, the 43,000 who are on probation, for their 96,600+ children, for the 2,300+ who were unsheltered in Seattle on a cold winter night last winter — and the 8,400 who frequently are homeless throughout King County on any given night — I beg each and every one of you to walk out of here today committed to never shut up, to never stop working, until everyone in Washington has equal rights, until everyone in Washington has had their needs met to the same degree we all want for our children, brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers.

I have a lot of favorite tee-shirts, for example, an old ACLU shirt that says, “It’s a Bill of Rights, not Suggestions,” but my favorite has a quote from Martin Luther King: “Our Lives Begin to End the Day We Become Silent About Things that Matter.” May we never become silent!!
THE HOLIDAY GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP
Are you overwhelmed as the flurry of advertising for holiday gift giving hits your mailbox, television and radio? Too many choices and uncertainty about just the right gift for that special someone can leave you bleary-eyed. A wonderful solution exists. It’s one-size fits all, meets all the requirements for suitability for nearly everyone on your gift list and will leave both you and the recipient feeling terrific. Go to www.seattlelwv.org or use the form on page 19 to purchase a gift membership. Haven’t you felt that your membership has been particularly useful and rewarding this year? Well, spread the cheer and have a wonderful and relaxing holiday.

MEMBER DONORS
Once again, hats off to the wonderful League members who donate to the League beyond their membership level—Betty Orians, Kathie Moritis, Ann Ormsby, Ruthe Ridder and Roberta Roberts—and to Candis Litsey and Joan Thomas who renewed at the contributing level. Thank you so very much!!

WELCOME TO NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS
Fourteen people have joined the League just in the last month. As often occurs around election time, we’ve also had a steady stream of requests for information about the League. We’re very glad to introduce you to two of our newest members:

Phyllis Bernhoft, who is retired, is interested in choral music, ESL tutoring for Vietnamese immigrants and tutoring disadvantaged first to fifth graders in reading. She’s a member of Seattle First Baptist Church and the President of Park Shore Residents Association. Phyllis is new to the League and respects its opinions in electoral politics. She would be glad to have any material that would help young children learn about civics and government. Sounds like Phyllis would like a connection to our wonderful Civics Ed Committee.

Another recent recruit is Elizabeth Paynton, a resident of University House. Elizabeth is retired from Group Health Cooperative administration. She has heard a lot about the League from other members of University House and expects to learn more about government through the League. Elizabeth has been a volunteer at schools, at her church and in the community; her interests include health care, homelessness, housing and human services.

FROM THE PAST: VOLUME 30, NO.3, SEATTLE VOTER, NOVEMBER 1988
The topic for the month was the port study, based on a two-year study adopted at the 1987 League of Women Voters of Washington Convention. The King County and Seattle City Ballot Issues were also contained in this issue. See if you recognize the names of the following individuals, who served as unit leaders for the fourteen existing units (we now have eighteen): Mildred Daniel, Kay Cox, Bernice Wheatley, Pat Clark, Germaine Kryson, Eleanor Laxdall, Pat Cleary, Lucinda Clifton, Audrey Lewis, Gia Bullard, Susan Blanche Bannon, Juliet Beard, Dorothy Kauffman and Trisha Bennett.
In Memory...

**Helen Eisenberg, by Ruth Schroeder**

Both the League of Women Voters of Seattle and the League of Women Voters of Washington lost a true friend with the death of Helen Eisenberg in September. Helen transferred her League membership from New York City to Seattle in the early 70s to be with her two daughters who lived here. In 1977, she was nominated to the State Board, where she served for several terms. Her portfolio was Voter Service, but she found her real niche in fundraising. She used her skills in almost any setting and netted many dollars for League coffers.

Helen was generous to the League with both time and money. She served on a myriad of committees, volunteered faithfully in the State League office for many years and cheerfully offered her home for meetings and social affairs. She made an annual monetary contribution to the League and left a legacy upon her death.

Helen is missed by her many friends. She has set an example to us for stewardship, commitment and loyalty that we shall cherish.

**John Roberts (1924–2008), by Elizabeth Davis**

John Roberts, Seattle League member extraordinaire! How we will miss him: his zest for life, his twinkling eyes, his passion for bringing good health to children, an unforgettable flower gracing our lives.

The first time I met John (1996), I was in class awaiting the instructor for the Master Home Environmentalist (MHE) program. John walked in, greeted everyone with a smile, and then engaged us all with his knowledge, enthusiasm and positive attitude. He spelled out in cogent detail the adverse health effects of pollutants in indoor air on everyone, and especially children.

Another petal unfolded when I learned that John, working with the American Lung Association and Washington Toxics Coalition, was instrumental in establishing the MHE training program. That program had grown out of a 1988 League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) study of indoor air. John had proposed and chaired that study; it resulted in a LWVS position, and the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) Home Environment position.

The roots of that inspiring flower go back to 1964 when John joined the Seattle League (yes, he was a member for 44 years). He chaired its Natural Resources Committee for many years with increasing focus on children’s health and prevention of asthma through control and reduction of indoor dust and toxins.

Other petals included his tireless lobbying in Olympia, many articles (sometimes written alone, sometimes with others) for medical and scientific journals, public presentations about children and asthma, and his success in getting legislation that established asthma prevention programs.

A final petal bloomed in the last few weeks in his life. Responding to my email to a LWVWA committee about next year’s environmental priorities, John promptly replied that the priorities were fine as stated. He then spelled out in detail what more could be done to improve children’s health. He was so clear about what was needed that he worked right up until the end of his life on earth for that goal.

From the depths of our hearts, we thank you, John.
Jeanette Williams (1914–2008), by Jeannie Hale

Jeanette Williams, a longtime League member, died at age 94 on October 24, leaving a legacy of public service and community involvement. She worked so very hard on issues of interest to the League, and is best known for her work on civil rights and parks and transportation issues. The day before her death, Jeanette was in touch with the Seattle City Council expressing concerns about the commercialization of Magnuson Park and the proposed leasing to private interests. What an example for League members!

When Jeanette began her 20-year career on the Seattle City Council, it immediately became obvious that she was a force to be reckoned with. She was the first woman to wear trousers, something unheard of in the 70s for women public officials. She expressed dismay that the only restroom on the 11th floor of the old city hall was reserved for men and that women employees had to travel to another floor of the building. The restroom was changed to a unisex facility until a separate restroom for women was created. She worked tirelessly for comparable pay for women and equal rights for women and sexual minorities.

While on the City Council, Jeanette chaired the Parks Committee. Her efforts are the reason that our city is blessed with Warren G. Magnuson Park, instead of a landing strip for private pilots. She had a vision of a beautiful waterfront park and campaigned with neighbors to win a countywide referendum that laid the groundwork for this to happen. She worked amicably with Senator Magnuson, Congressmen Jim McDermott and Norm Dicks and other congressional leaders, state governors, Seattle mayors and members of the Seattle City Council, and is well-respected for her work. She is remembered for her respectfulness of others, but mostly for her subdued cackle, kind of a little laugh, and a twinkle in her eye in working with both supporters and opponents.

After leaving the City Council in 1979, Jeanette continued to work for almost 30 years to realize the vision she had created with others for Magnuson Park. Her grassroots efforts after leaving the council were a remarkable example of how citizen involvement makes a difference.

Hats off to Jeanette Williams—an extraordinary person

Give a League Membership!

The gift of membership to the League of Women Voters is an excellent way to introduce friends and family to issues that matter to everyone living in the Puget Sound area. Since the beginning, the League of Women Voters has believed that active and informed citizens are vital to the health of democracy. Help support the League’s mission by giving an annual membership to someone you care about.

Simply fill out the coupon below and return it to the League office with dues payment of $60. We will send a welcome letter and certificate to the new member(s).

Recipient Name:______________________________________________________________

Recipient Address:____________________________________________________________

City:________________________State:_________Zip Code:__________________________

Your Name:______________________________________________________________

Your Phone:________________________Email _________________________________:  
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life

By Barbara Kingsolver, with Steven Hopp and Camille King solver

Barbara Kingsolver writes that she and her family drove to Virginia, hoping to move away from industrial foods and towards a more thoughtful and holistic lifestyle. “This book tells the story of what we learned…and how our family was changed by one year of deliberately eating food produced in the same place where we worked, loved our neighbors, drank the water and breathed the air.”

It was a family decision to “step off the non-sustainable food grid,” and the whole family helped to work the farm and write the book. Steven, the in-house scientist, teaches environmental studies at a local college and writes sidebars on the downside of industrial farms and the upside of local produce. Camille, a student at Duke, provides a 19-year-old’s perspective, along with menus, recipes and nutritional information. Lily, in elementary school, was too young to sign a contract but contributed information about chickens and their eggs, among other delights.

Thanks to this book, I now know that if I care about the carbon footprint and the quality of the food I eat, it is more important to “buy local” than to just look for the “organic” label in my QFC. Even industrially raised foods often claim to be organic, as the laws are far from stringent. However, local farmers know the people to whom they sell food, and therefore tend to be much more responsible for their produce.

Who would have thought that although our ancestors, who were forced to eat “local” food, might die an early death from violence, accident or disease, they did not tend to die from “diet-related illnesses such as heart disease and Type II diabetes that are prevalent now.” The reason is that the plants and animals our forebears ate were “tougher” than the pesticide-protected plants grown on industrial farms today. As plants evolved, survivors were the ones with high levels of antioxidants, and “these fight disease and pests in the plant…and work similar magic in the human body.” When I talked with a woman at the Herbalist on 65th St. about this, she pointed out that they also try to use local herbs whenever possible, as they think local herbs are best for producing local health.

Though the family had not intended to save much money, Kingsolver shows that they did so. In addition, they helped local farmers rather than “the CEOs of vast farms who work in air conditioned offices in California.” Steven Hopp’s sidebar on the cost-effectiveness of local farms is fascinating. He explains how the cost of pesticides, government expenditures, and various laws help big business at the expense of local workers, and makes a convincing argument that buying locally grown food is a good idea for us individually and for our country.

Can a book on food be funny? Yes! Kingsolver wanted to grow heritage turkeys, and decided to try to raise Bourbon Reds. The little chicks she bought from a catalog came from artificially inseminated hens, and were “brooded” under industrial lights. Kingsolver wondered if her little fluffy babies could grow into a self-perpetuating flock of turkeys. One day, one of her adolescent turkey hens appeared droopy and sick, so Kingsolver put her in an isolation room, where she immediately perked up. Eyeing an open door, the author and her feathered friend walked outside and headed toward Steven, who was trimming trees. Minutes later the hen gave every indication that she wanted to mate with Kingsolver’s husband! The description of dealing with the little turkey Lolita, trying to get her to mate with an appropriate but equally adolescent and ignorant feathered Tom, made me laugh out loud…at six in the morning!!

For me, this is a life-changing type of book: I’ll probably be thinking and talking about it for a long time!

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

It was disturbing to read, in our October “Voter,” the page on “Alliance of People with Disabilities,” about voting with machines designed to enable the handicapped to vote without help from others.

The machines to which they refer do not meet the “SARA” tests adopted by our National Convention in 2004 and reinforced at the 2006 convention. Here is a quote: “The LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible.”

King County provides Diebold/Premier TSx DRE machines for use by handicapped voters.

In a long list of studies by independent groups - e.g., California’s “Top-to-Bottom Review” by the state’s leading computer specialists, by a group at Princeton, and by a number of others - have shown that these machines are blatantly deficient in a variety of respects.

Consider just a couple of instances focusing on the security of these systems.

The Princeton University study team found that the key for the lock on the Diebold TSx, which protected access to the machine’s workings, was a common key used in hotel room refrigerators and readily available in stores and on the Internet. Also, they actually were able to make a key, working from a picture on Diebold’s web site.

Much more serious were the results of a study done in Utah. Three separate “back doors” were found in the software. These make it possible for people to bypass the system’s protections and modify the software to suit the evildoer’s purposes. Further, these rogue codes cannot be removed by ordinary procedures but will persist through revisions...

Computer voting experts: “the most severe security flaw ever discovered in a voting system” (New York Times), “the worst-case scenario” (Associated Press) and “a major national security risk” ...

The Alliance’s efforts to encourage voting by the handicapped may be praiseworthy. But in my view it is undesirable for us to be associated with groups advocating for systems which do not meet the SARA criteria.

There is no room, or reason, to revisit here the painful tale of National’s advocacy of DRE systems and the Help America Vote Act. But election integrity is in danger everywhere, not least in King County. In adopting the SARA position we redeemed ourselves. We set forth a frame of reference for discussion and action in League’s tradition of serious contributions to the public discourse.

We need to stick with SARA!

Regards,

Sam Scharff
Southend
December 2008 Background
Readings

The action forum this month focuses on the economy. In preparation for the forum, we have assembled a packet of information on the budget process at the city, county and state levels. They include:

1. An economic update for the city of Seattle put out by the finance department
   seattle.gov/financedepartment/pdfs/June_2008_Economic_Update.pdf

2. A guide to the Seattle budget process put out by the finance department
   seattle.gov/financedepartment/pdfs/Basic_Budget_Process_FINAL_1.pdf

3. An excerpt from the Seattle finance department report on the proposed budget for 2009-2010

4. A report on the 2009 King County Budget
   kingcounty.gov/council/budget.aspx?print=1 (pp1-2)

5. A guide to King County budget basics
   kingcounty.gov/council/budget/budget_basics.aspx?print=1

6. A summary of the King County budget process

7. A description of the Washington State budget process
   ofm.wa.gov/reports/budgetprocess.pdf (pp3-10)
Economic Update

Update on economic issues affecting Seattle’s tax revenue performance

The newsletter of the City of Seattle’s Economics Team/June 2008

U.S. Economy

The economy, as measured by GDP, has continued to slow; suffering from turmoil in financial and housing markets. In response, the Federal Reserve has opened the credit flood gates, providing liquidity to a wide array of financial institutions that became reluctant to lend to each other as securities tied to mortgages plummeted in value. Financial markets are still dysfunctional however, as evidenced by the number of banks still lining up for emergency funding from the Fed. Recession is very much a possibility, and a number of leading forecasters consider it to already be reality.

The threat to the economy is two-pronged as credit markets remain jittery and housing continues to sag. The housing boom this decade fueled widespread economic gains. Cheap financing enticed many into homeownership. Abundant credit and new demand caused house prices to rise very fast. Homeowners used increased equity to borrow extensively for home improvements, college educations, vacations, etc. fueling growth in GDP.

Stress on the economy isn’t just coming from financial and housing market disorder. The specter of inflation has arrived by way of increased energy and food prices. Crude oil has recently peaked above $139 a barrel and the average price of a gallon of gas is now $4. Food prices have surged as supplies of corn, wheat, rice, and other staples are outstripped by global demand. Global Insight, an economics firm, has forecast the consumer price index to reach 3.8% in 2008 with risk on the upside.

Currently prices are rising faster for producers than for consumers. The decline in household consumption from the housing bust is dampening pressure on domestic producers and retailers to increase prices, but if energy remains expensive that pressure will become impossible to ignore. There is some positive news however. The dollar has fallen significantly against a broad range of currencies; down some 40% against the Euro from its 2002 highs. This has led to a modest boom in exports which rose 8.1% in 2007 and are expected to do likewise in 2008, propping up GDP.

The threat of a recession caused the Federal Government to quickly put in place a stimulus package worth around $152 billion. The bulk of this, $107 billion, is going out to households in the form of tax rebates and represents over 4% of quarterly consumer spending. The rebates started to go out to taxpayers in late April and will continue into July. Global Insight believes that some 50% of the consumer stimulus will be spent within a year providing a significant boost to spending in the third quarter of this year. They believe that the boost provided by the stimulus in 2008 comes at the expense of growth in 2009 and therefore they expect to see another dip in GDP growth next year.

Puget Sound Region Economy

The Puget Sound region remains somewhat insulated from the national upheaval. Job growth remains positive but the rate of growth is slowing. The Puget Sound Economic Forecaster (PSEF), published by Dick Conway and Doug Pederson, predicts non-farm employment growth will be 1.6% and 0.6% in 2008 and 2009 respectively, down from 2.8% in 2007. Boeing and Microsoft have provided a lot of this growth,

Year-over-Year Housing Price Change: Case-Shiller Index

Source: Standard & Poors.

Boom turned to bust when too many debtors couldn’t afford their mortgages, banks tightened credit and house prices popped. The first quarter numbers for the Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller home price index show that national home prices declined 14.1% from a year earlier. Home prices are now down 17% from their peak in 2006. The consensus among analysts and economists is that there is at least another 10% decline to come as a result of more stringent loan standards and an increase in the number of homes on the market due to foreclosures.
but the growth in their payrolls is slowing. Boeing’s employment in the State of Washington now stands around 75,000. The Puget Sound’s role as a global shipping center is continuing to benefit from increased U.S. exports. The Seattle area unemployment rate for non-farm payrolls was 3.5% in April, down from 3.7% a month earlier.

Puget Sound retail sales growth was a strong 7.5% in 2007 led by auto and gasoline sales. PSEF expects that growth to slow to 3.9% this year and settle around 5% by 2010. Taxable retail sales are expected to follow a similar pattern, but with only 2.2% growth in 2008. Personal income growth has been flying high in recent years, 9% and 8% in 2006 and 2007 respectively. PSEF is forecasting some moderation in income growth to 5.7% and 4.7% in the next two years, but still above inflation.

The Puget Sound region and the Northwest are still staying above water in the housing market compared to the national scene. Global Insight however sees the Pacific Northwest as one of the last areas of home price overvaluation and expects a correction of some form to come. Seattle median home prices have come off their summer 2007 highs, both in single-family and condominium homes. Sales have also seen year-over-year declines and Seattle inventories have grown by 60% in April 2008 over April 2007. PSEF has forecast a 33% reduction in the number of Puget Sound housing permits issued in 2008.

Seattle revenues from excise taxes on real estate transactions reached an all time high in 2007, $71.8 million, a 36% increase over 2006. Commercial sales comprised 48% of those revenues. Construction activity in both commercial and residential markets has been high in recent years. The commercial office market, particularly in downtown Seattle, has been very active and has a healthy vacancy rate of 9%. As a result, office space construction has been busy, especially in the fast developing South Lake Union neighborhood. It is difficult to believe though that the reduction in credit availability and stricter lending terms will not make an impact in the region’s construction and real estate activity. Without cheap financing we do expect commercial and residential construction to moderate.

Special Topics: Recession

Recession is a word being mentioned more and more these days as the housing market collapses and the credit crunch continues.

Some economists now claim the economy is in one. If we are in a period of recession, natural questions are what does this mean for the economy and how does it affect Seattle.

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) collects monthly data on a wide array of statistics including employment, personal income, industrial output, and so on. They use these data to determine the state of the national economy; whether it is in expansion or in recession. When NBER’s analysis shows that economic activity has peaked and is diminishing, the economy is considered to be in recession. Because this is determined on a broad range of economic factors, periods of recession have real consequences on Seattle’s financial health.

The most recent recession, in 2001, was particularly bruising to Seattle as the busted technology asset bubble closed a number of local businesses and Boeing let go some 30,000 workers peak to trough. Seattle area employment suffered severely and just regained its pre-2001 level. Sales, B&O, and REET taxes are particularly sensitive to recessions (see table) as they are good representations of economic activity. Inflation adjusted sales tax receipts declined on average 6.5% in the first year of the last four recessions. B&O receipts suffered similar fates. If we are in recession the NBER likely won’t identify it until late summer. By then Seattle’s tax receipts should provide some guidance as to where we are and where we’re going.
City Government

The City of Seattle provides many services, including police protection, fire fighting, emergency medical services, parks, libraries, and some human service programs. The City also supplies and charges for electricity, water, sewer, recycling, and trash collection services. The City of Seattle does not operate schools, colleges, or the bus system. The Seattle School District is a separate government that operates public schools. King County Metro is another government that is responsible for the bus system, sewage treatment, and most courts. Washington State government provides money for universities, community colleges, and most health and human service programs.

The City gets money from taxes, including taxes on property, retail sales, and businesses. The City also charges fees for some programs and activities, such as utilities, swimming pools, and building permits.

The City’s Budget Process at a Glance

The Mayor of Seattle is responsible for managing City government. Every year the Mayor proposes a budget to the City Council. The nine members of the City Council establish policy for the City government. The City Council reviews the Mayor’s proposed budget, makes changes, and approves the final budget. Before it votes, the City Council holds public meetings to hear directly from residents about how they think the City’s money should be spent. Most people focus on the “General Fund” portion of the City budget because this provides traditional city government services, such as police, fire, parks and libraries.

Washington state law requires Seattle adopt a budget by December 2 each year for the upcoming year. The budget must be balanced, with revenues at least equal to spending. Spending amounts, known as “appropriations,” are established when the budget is adopted by the City Council, and cannot be changed without further votes by the City Council.

Budget Preparation

Work on the Mayor’s proposed budget generally starts in February and finishes when it is given to the City Council, usually on the last Monday in September. Two documents are submitted: a “budget” and a “capital improvement program” (CIP).

The budget covers all City operations. The budget is the document that legally allows City spending once it is adopted by the City Council.

The CIP is a companion to the budget and provides information about all the City’s capital projects. Capital projects are those that fix, improve or add to the City’s facilities. New libraries, street repairs, sidewalks, water pipes, park improvements, and fire stations are all examples of CIP projects. The CIP plans six years ahead and is updated each year. The CIP is a planning tool, supporting the actual appropriations made through the budget.

To prepare the budget, the City’s Department of Finance (DOF) starts with a “baseline” budget, which is based on what it is expected to cost to continue “current services.” Current services include programs and services the City provided in the previous year, as well as commitments that will affect costs in the next year, such as voter-approved taxes for transportation improvements, as well as labor agreements and changes in health care and other costs.

DOF makes two revenue forecasts, one in April and one in August, which are used to decide whether the City will have enough money to cover the expected costs of the “current services” budget. The revenue estimates are based on the prior 12 months of experience. Once the Mayor knows how much money is expected to be available, he or she can decide if something needs to be cut from the budget, or can be added, or if a new revenue source, such as a fee increase, needs to be proposed to cover services the Mayor wants to offer.

In May, departments provide DOF with a preview of requested changes to their current budgets. These requests are called “Budget Issue Papers” “or BIPs.” BIPs provide brief descriptions of specific suggested budget cuts or increases. DOF and the Mayor review these requests and provide guidance to departments in June.
In early July, DOF receives budgets from all departments and receives CIP proposals from departments with capital projects.

During August, DOF and the Mayor review and evaluate department budget proposals, and balance these with available revenue. Once the Mayor has made decisions, DOF works with the departments to prepare the proposed budget and CIP.

Seattle’s budget and CIP also describe how grant funds will be spent. The City receives grants and other money from the federal and state governments. Most grants go for specified human services programs or transportation projects.

In late September, the Mayor submits the proposed budget and CIP to the City Council.

**Budget Adoption**

After the Mayor submits the proposed budget and CIP, the City Council conducts public hearings to hear directly from residents. City Councilmembers then recommend specific budget actions for consideration by their colleagues. After hearing from residents, and reviewing and evaluating the proposed budget, the Council decides what changes it wants to make to the proposed budget. The City Council usually adopts the budget in late November. The budget must be passed by majority vote – at least five of the nine Councilmembers. The Mayor can choose to approve the Council’s budget, veto it, or let it become law without his or her signature. Copies of budget documents are available for public inspection in branches of the Seattle Public Library and on the Internet at [http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment](http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment).

**Making Your Voice Heard**

Seattle residents have several opportunities during Seattle’s budget process each year to tell the Mayor and City Council how they want their dollars spent. In addition to the special public meetings the Council holds each fall, residents can call and/or write the Mayor and City Council throughout the year. To have an impact on the Mayor’s proposal, residents are urged to contact the Mayor as early in the year as possible.

The City Neighborhood Council (CNC) also offers another way for residents to provide input on the City’s budget. The CNC is a resident-led advisory group and its members are elected from each of the City’s 13 neighborhood districts. The CNC holds its annual budget meeting in February. The CNC then sends a letter to the Mayor and City Council outlining its budget priorities for the year. In March and April, the neighborhood councils meet. The councils, as well as individuals, can make recommendations directly to departments and/or the Mayor on their budget priorities.
City of Seattle

Budget Process
Washington state law requires cities with populations greater than 300,000, such as Seattle, to adopt balanced budgets by December 2 of each year for the fiscal year beginning January 1. The adopted budget appropriates funds and establishes legal expenditure limits for the upcoming fiscal year.

Washington state law also allows cities to adopt biennial budgets. In 1993, the City ran a pilot test on the concept of biennial budgeting for six selected departments. In 1995, the City moved from an annual to a modified biennial budget. Under this approach, the City Council formally adopts the budget for the first year of the biennium and endorses, but does not appropriate, the budget for the second year. The second year budget is based on the City Council endorsement and is formally adopted by the City Council after a midbiennial review.

Budgetary Basis
The City budgets on a modified accrual basis. Property taxes, sales taxes, business and occupation taxes, and other taxpayer-assessed revenues due for the current year are considered measurable and available and, therefore, as revenues, even though a portion of the taxes may be collected in the subsequent year. Licenses, fines, penalties, and miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenues when they are received in cash since this is when they can be accurately measured. Investment earnings are accrued as earned.

Expenditures are considered a liability when they are incurred. Interest on long-term debt, judgments and claims, workers' compensation, and compensated absences are considered a liability when they are paid.

Budget Preparation
Executive preparation of the budget generally begins in February and concludes no later than October 2 with the Mayor’s submittal to the City Council of proposed operating and capital improvement program (CIP) budgets. Operating budget preparation is based on the establishment of a Current Services or “baseline” budget. Current Services is defined as continuing programs and services the City provided in the previous year, in addition to previous commitments that will affect costs in the next year or two (when developing the two-year biennial budgets), such as voter-approved levy and bond issues for new library and park facilities, as well as labor agreements and changes in health care, insurance, and cost-of-living-adjustments for City employees. At the outset of a new biennium, Current Services budgets are established for both the first and second years. For the midbiennium budget process, the Executive may define the Current Services budget as the second year budget endorsed by the City Council the previous November, or re-determine current service levels. For example, the 2008 Endorsed Budget was used as the basis for the 2008 Proposed Budget.

During the budget preparation period, the Department of Finance (DOF) makes two General Fund revenue forecasts, one in April and one in August. Both are used to determine whether the City’s projected revenues are sufficient to meet the projected costs of the Current Services budget. The revenue estimates must be based on the prior 12 months of experience. Proposed expenditures cannot exceed the reasonably anticipated and legally authorized revenues for the year unless the Mayor proposes new revenues. In that case, proposed legislation to authorize the new revenues must be submitted to the City Council with the proposed budget.

In May, departments prepared and submitted Budget Issue Papers (BIPs) to DOF for mayoral consideration. The Mayor’s Office reviewed and provided direction to departments on the BIPs to be included in the department’s budget submittal in early June. In early July, DOF received departmental operating budget and CIP submittals, including all position changes. Mayoral review and evaluation of department submittals took place during the month of August. DOF, in conjunction with individual departments, then finalized the operation and CIP budgets.

The process culminates in the proposed operating budget and CIP. Seattle’s budget and CIP also allocate Community Development Block Grant funding. Although this federally funded program has unique timetables and requirements, Seattle coordinates it with the annual budget and CIP processes to improve preparation and budget allocation decisions, and streamline budget execution.
In late September, the Mayor submits the proposed budget and CIP to the City Council. In addition to the budget documents, DOF prepares supporting legislation and other related documents.

**Budget Adoption**
After the Mayor submits the proposed budget and CIP, the City Council conducts public hearings. The City Council also holds committee meetings in open session to discuss budget requests with department representatives and DOF staff. Councilmembers then recommend specific budget actions for consideration by their colleagues. After completing the public hearing and deliberative processes, and after making changes to the Mayor's proposed budget, the City Council adopts the budget in late November through an ordinance passed by majority vote. The Mayor can choose to approve the Council's budget, veto it, or let it become law without mayoral signature. The Mayor must veto the entire budget or none of it. There is no line-item veto in Seattle. Copies of budget documents are available for public inspection at the DOF offices, in branches of the Seattle Public Library, and on the Internet at http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment.

During the budget review process, the City Council may choose to explain its budget actions further by developing statements of legislative intent and budget guidance statements for future budget action. Intent statements state the Council's expectations in making budget decisions and generally require affected departments to report back to the City Council on results. A chart summarizing the City's budget process schedule is provided at the end of this section.

**Legal Budget Control**
The adopted budget generally makes appropriations for operating expenses at the budget control level within departments, unless the expenditure is from one of the General Fund reserve accounts, or is for a specific project or activity budgeted in the General Subfund category called Finance General. These projects and activities are budgeted individually. Capital projects programmed in the CIP are appropriated in the budget at the program or project level. Grant-funded activities are controlled as prescribed by law and federal or state regulations.

**Budget Execution**
Within the legally adopted budget authorizations, more detailed allocations, as approved by DOF, are recorded in the City's accounting system, called SUMMIT, at the lowest levels of each department's organizational structure and in detailed expenditure accounts. Throughout the budget year, DOF monitors revenue and spending performance against the budget to protect the financial stability of the City.

**Budget Amendment**
A majority of the City Council may, by ordinance, eliminate, decrease, or re-appropriate any unexpended appropriations during the year. The City Council, generally with a three-fourths vote, may also increase appropriations from available money to meet necessary expenditures that were not foreseeable earlier. Additional unforeseeable appropriations related to settlement of claims, emergency conditions, or laws enacted since passage of the annual operating budget ordinance require approval by a two-thirds vote of the City Council.

The Finance Director may approve, without ordinance, appropriation transfers within a department or agency of up to 10%, and with no more than $500,000 of the appropriation authority for the particular budget control level or, where appropriate, line item, being increased. In addition, no transfers can reduce the appropriation authority of a budget control level by more than 25%.

In accordance with Washington state law, any unexpended appropriations for operating or ordinary maintenance expenditures automatically lapse at the close of the fiscal year, except for any appropriation continued by ordinance. Unexpended appropriations for capital outlays remaining at the close of the fiscal year are carried forward to the following year, except for any appropriation abandoned by ordinance.
## BUDGET PROCESS DIAGRAM – 2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE I – Budget Submission Preparation</th>
<th>PHASE II – Proposed Budget Preparation</th>
<th>PHASE III – Adopted Budget Preparation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY-MARCH</strong>&lt;br&gt;DOF provides departments with the general structure, conventions and schedule for the 2009-2010 Budget&lt;br&gt;Departments participate in the Functional Priorities exercise</td>
<td><strong>MAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Departments submit Budget Issue Papers (BIPs) to describe how they will arrive at their budget targets</td>
<td><strong>MAY-JUNE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mayor’s Office and DOF review the BIPs and provide feedback to departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARCH - APRIL</strong>&lt;br&gt;DOF prepares revenue projections for 2009-2010</td>
<td><strong>JULY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Departments submit budget and CIP proposals to DOF based on Mayoral direction&lt;br&gt;DOF reviews departmental proposals for organizational changes</td>
<td><strong>AUGUST-SEPTEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mayor’s Office makes final decisions on the Proposed Budget and CIP&lt;br&gt;Proposed Budget and CIP documents are produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL</strong>&lt;br&gt;DOF issues budget and CIP development instructions to departments</td>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mayor presents the Proposed Budget and CIP to City Council</td>
<td><strong>OCTOBER-NOVEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Council reviews Proposed Budget and CIP in detail&lt;br&gt;Budget and CIP revisions developed, as are Statements of Legislative Intent and Budget Provisos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JULY-AUGUST</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Mayor’s Office and DOF review department budget and CIP proposals</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOVEMBER-DECEMBER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Council adopts operating budget and CIP&lt;br&gt;Note: Budget and CIP must be adopted no later than December 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2009 King County Budget

Citizens expect fiscal integrity and accountability in the use of their tax dollars. The Metropolitan King County Council meets that demand by setting priorities, funding programs consistent with those priorities, and measuring results.

As the legislative branch of county government, the annual budget is the single most important document through which the Council sets policy for King County and oversees delivery of the services you need and expect. For 2008, the Council adopted a $4.9 billion budget, with a general fund of $662 million.

With a projected $93.4 million shortfall in the County general fund for 2009, the Council has declared public safety, health and quality of life as its first priorities for funding in the 2009 budget, and established its intent through its budget deliberations to:

- Declare the protection of public safety, health and enhancement of quality of life to be its top priority, and that before reducing funding in those areas it would look first to reduce or eliminate services deemed non-essential and use a prudent portion of existing reserves to preserve essential services in the short term,

- Encourage County government to become more entrepreneurial and seek partnerships with both public and private sector partners that allow the county to leverage additional resources for funding essential services, and

- Develop a sustainable budget in the long term by looking beyond departmental cuts and focusing on policy and programmatic changes that would make a difference in the County's overall costs of doing business.

The Council is calling upon the Governor and state Legislature to permanently address the structural funding gap facing all counties in Washington state by authorizing expanded types of revenues for local jurisdictions that provide for sufficient growth to meet rising annual costs and have the flexibility of helping to fund basic public services.

Upon receipt of the 2009 Executive Proposed Budget on Oct. 13, all nine members of the Council have convened as the Budget Review and Adoption Committee to hold public hearings and adopt the 2009 King County Budget.

As a King County resident you have many opportunities to contact the Council to provide your input on budget priorities and specific funding issues. See the Budget Timeline to track the process of budget development. Six public hearings have been set for October and November.
Budget Basics

Understanding the King County Budget

Citizens expect fiscal integrity and accountability in the use of their tax dollars. The Metropolitan King County Council meets that demand by setting priorities, funding programs consistent with those priorities, and measuring results. The annual budget is the single most important document through which the Council sets policy for King County and oversees delivery of the services you need and expect. The Council’s Budget Leadership Team is committed to meeting its goals of fiscal integrity, accountability and transparency.

This “big picture” look will help you understand how the King County budget is built. The County Executive is scheduled to submit his 2009 Executive Proposed Budget in mid-October. The County Council will hold several public hearings and panel meetings to scrutinize the proposal and develop its own. The Council is expected to adopt the final 2009 King County Budget shortly before Thanksgiving.

Where your property tax dollar goes

Although your property tax check is paid to “King County,” only about 15 cents or 1/6th of every property tax dollar goes to County government. The County only collects the money as a function of the County Treasury. The greater portion is disbursed to schools, cities, and special taxing districts for fire service, libraries, and hospitals.

SCHOOLS
52¢
Local school levies and state school fund

LOCAL SERVICES
31¢
City and local services, including unincorporated roads, fire, libraries, parks & hospital districts

KING COUNTY
15¢
King County General Fund & Regional Services

PORT
2¢
Port of Seattle
Dedicated funds

More than four-fifths of the County budget is by law dedicated to specific programs. These “dedicated funds” cannot be used for any other purpose: bus fares can only be used to help pay for transit, sewer fees can only be used to pay for wastewater treatment.

2008 Adopted King County Budget
$4.92 Billion

- Physical environment, 35%
- Health & human services, 12%
- Law, safety, and justice, 11%
- Debt, 8%
- Capital improvement program, 24%

- Enterprise funds: operating budgets for Solid Waste, Metro Transit, Wastewater, King County Airport.
- Capital improvements: acquisition of open space, expanding the Metro bus fleet.
- Special revenue: state and federal programs, such as veterans’ services, mental health, and special levies for county roads and Emergency Medical Services.
- Debt service: payments for voter-approved and other bonds.
- Internal service: information technology, facilities, finance, employee benefits, and workers’ compensation.

The General Fund

2008 Adopted General Fund Expenditures
$662.2 Million

- Law, safety, and justice, 71%
- General government, 16%
- Parks/land use, 1%
- Health & human services, 8%
- Other, 2%
- Capital improvement, 2%

The County general fund pays for the day-to-day operations of critical services that the public expects but which are not supported by any other revenues. The general fund represents only 14 percent of the total budget.
71 percent of the County general fund pays for law, safety and criminal justice services, such as jail operations, the Sheriff’s office, Superior Court, District Court, the Prosecuting Attorney and Public Defense.

The remainder of the general fund supports health and human services, parks and general government services.

**Fiscal Challenges**

**Revenues**

The State of Washington receives revenue from 36 separate taxing sources. Cities like Seattle have 6 separate taxing sources.

Counties have only two principal sources of tax revenue to support public services – the property tax and the sales tax – a structure that dates back to the farm-based economy of the 1850’s. This explains why the State and Seattle are able to increase programs and build revenues while the Executive’s budget proposes drawing down reserves for 2008.

King County is now the 13th most populous county in the nation, with nearly 1.8 million residents, and is the second largest provider of government services in Washington State.

By voter initiative, the amount of property taxes levied by counties can only grow 1 percent per year, plus the revenues from new construction. As a result, revenues for counties are only growing 2 to 3 percent a year, while expenses for the same level of services are rising 4 to 5 percent a year. This gap is what’s often referred to as the “structural gap” in King County’s budgeting.

Annexations and incorporations also reduce the County’s tax base, as previously unincorporated areas send their tax revenues to cities.

Federal and state governments have also made significant reductions to their support of vital human services and left other critical needs unfunded, leaving it to counties to fill the gap.

**Expenditures**

Providing urban-level services to unincorporated areas of the county carries high costs, yet the County’s tax structure is not designed to support those costs.

Rising costs for such things as fuel and employee health insurance hurt the County budget the same as it does for private businesses and personal households.

**Policies to meet the challenge**

As the policy-setting body of government, the King County Council develops and adopts long-range strategies to contain costs while funding those services the public expects. The Council is committed to meeting the goals of fiscal integrity, accountability and transparency in the use of tax dollars, as evidenced by its 2007 adopted budget that called for $24 million less in spending than proposed, while increasing general fund reserves by $3.6 million.

Since then the Council has launched several initiatives to ensure fiscal integrity and accountability:

Improving the financial and debt policies of King County – The Council appointed a four-member
Financial Policies Advisory Task Force to review the financial and debt policies previously adopted by the King County Council as well as informal policies put into practice by executive agencies.

Independent oversight of major capital projects – Aimed at controlling project overruns and unforeseen expansion of project scopes, schedules and budgets on capital projects, the Council created the Office of Capital Project Oversight in the Auditor’s Office. This office issued a report and a series of recommendations to the Council’s Capital Budget Committee earlier this year.

Official economic and revenue forecasts – The Council created an Office of Economic and Financial Analysis to ensure accountability to the public through the advancement of sound financial policies based on objective and transparent financial analysis and reporting. An outside consultant is developing options for establishing a new process for producing official economic and revenue forecasts for King County to ensure sound fiscal practices.

Prudent investing of public funds – The Council created a three-member advisory panel to conduct a comprehensive review of the $4 billion King County Investment Pool. The pool invests the cash reserves of all King County agencies and nearly 100 other public entities in the county, including school, fire, sewer and water districts, and is one of the largest investment pools in the State of Washington.

King County Budget Process

Development and Adoption of the King County Budget

As a government that sets priorities and funds programs consistent with those priorities, the King County Council works year-round to develop the annual King County Budget.

After the council receives the Executive Proposed Budget in Mid-October, all nine council members begin meeting as the Annual Budget Committee and hold four public hearings on the executive’s proposal. For six intensive weeks, council members and staff scrutinize the details in the budget proposal to find the greatest efficiencies and ensure that the public’s priorities are met.

The final council spending plan, frequently referred to as the “budget striker,” strikes out the language of the executive’s proposal and replaces it with the final ordinance the council intends to adopt. Final council adoption usually occurs on the last Monday before Thanksgiving.

Budget Timeline

July  Budget Proposal: County departments and general fund agencies submit their budget proposals to the County Executive’s Budget Office.
Aug  Issue Resolution Process: The County Executive and staff members meet with agencies to resolve outstanding budget issues.
Sept Budget Preparation: The executive makes the final decision on budget proposals for departments and general fund agencies.
Oct  Budget Presentation: The executive presents the proposed budget in County Council public hearings.
Nov  Deliberations and reconciliations
Dec  Adoption
A DESCRIPTION OF
Washington State’s Budget Process

The Biennial Budget Cycle

Washington enacts budgets for a two-year cycle, beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The budget approved for the 2007-09 Biennium remains in effect from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. By law, the Governor must propose a biennial budget in December, the month before the Legislature convenes in regular session. The biennial budget enacted by the Legislature can be modified in any legislative session through changes to the original appropriations. Since the inception of annual legislative sessions in 1979, it has become common for the Legislature to enact annual revisions to the state’s biennial budget. These revisions are referred to as supplemental budgets.

Roles and Responsibilities in the Budget Process

State agencies are responsible for developing budget estimates and submitting budget proposals to the Governor. Once the budget is enacted by the Legislature, agencies implement approved policies and programs within the budgetary limits imposed by legislation. Under Washington’s budget and accounting statutes, individual agency directors are accountable for carrying out the legal intent of appropriations.

The Governor recommends a budget to the Legislature consistent with executive policy priorities. Appropriation bills, like other legislation, are subject to gubernatorial veto authority and may be rejected in part or in their entirety within a defined number of days after legislative passage. After a budget is enacted, the Governor’s general administrative duties include monitoring agency expenditures and helping to achieve legislative policy directives.
Washington State’s Budget Process

The **Office of Financial Management** (OFM) coordinates the submittal of agency budget requests and prepares the Governor’s budget recommendation to the Legislature. Budget staff from OFM work closely with state agencies to explain and justify planned expenditures. Analysts evaluate all budget requests for consistency with executive policy priorities and to ensure that proposed expenditures match fiscal constraints. OFM is also responsible for maintaining the state’s central accounting system and developing certain population and demographic forecasts.

Through appropriations bills, the **Washington State Legislature** mandates the amount of money each state agency can spend and, in varying degrees of detail, directs agencies where and how to spend it. Washington’s bicameral legislature consists of 49 senators in the Senate and 98 representatives in the House. Specific fiscal committees have primary responsibility for preparation of the legislative budget. These include the Appropriations, Capital, Finance, and Transportation committees in the House; the Ways and Means, and Highways and Transportation committees in the Senate; and the Legislative Transportation Committee.

The House and Senate employ staff analysts to help review and evaluate the state budget, and to prepare appropriation bills. As with other legislation, if the two houses cannot agree on a budget or revenue proposal to implement the budget, a conference committee of legislative representatives may be convened to reconcile the differences.

The **Economic and Revenue Forecast Council** is composed of representatives from both the legislative and executive branches. Each fiscal quarter, the Council adopts an official forecast of General Fund-State (GF-S) revenues for the current and (at some point) the ensuing biennia. These forecasts, together with any reserves left over from previous biennia, determine the financial resources available to support estimated expenditures.

The **Caseload Forecast Council** was created by the 1997 Legislature and began operations in the 1997-99 Biennium. The Council consists of two members appointed by the Governor and four appointed by the legislative political caucuses. The Council prepares official caseload forecasts for state entitlement programs, including public schools, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, adoption support, adult and juvenile offender institutions, and others.

The **State Expenditure Limit Committee**, consisting of legislators and representatives of the Governor and Attorney General, was established in 2000 to determine the state General Fund expenditure limit created by Initiative 601.

**Budget Development Approach**

In general, Washington State’s budget process cannot be characterized by any single budget decision model. Elements of program, target, and the traditional line item budgeting associated with objects of expenditure (e.g., salaries, equipment) are all used with performance budgeting in budget decision-making.

For the 2003-05 Biennium budget proposal, Washington adopted a statewide results-based approach called “Priorities of
Washington State’s Budget Process

Government” that complements the traditional focus on incremental changes. This process starts by identifying the key results that citizens expect from government and the most effective strategies for achieving those results. Agency activities were reviewed in this statewide context and prioritized in terms of their contribution to achieving these statewide results.


Budget and Accounting Structure

State government is organized into 124 agencies, boards, and commissions representing a wide range of services. While many state agencies report directly to the Governor, others are managed by statewide elected officials or independent boards appointed by the Governor. Most agencies receive their expenditure authority from legislative appropriations that impose a legal limit on operating and capital expenditures. Appropriations are authorized for a single account, although individual agencies frequently receive appropriations from more than one account.

A few agencies are "nonappropriated," meaning that they operate from an account that is legally exempt from appropriation. Expenditures by these agencies are usually monitored through a biennial allotment plan. There is no dollar limit as long as expenditures remain within available revenues and are consistent with the statutory purpose of the agency.

The state’s budget and accounting system includes more than 400 discrete accounts, which operate much like individual bank accounts with specific sources of revenue. The largest single account is the state General Fund. State collections of retail sales, business, property, and other taxes are deposited into this account. Expenditures from the state General Fund can be made for any authorized state activity subject to legislative appropriation limits.

Other accounts are less flexible. Certain revenues (for example, the motor vehicle fuel tax or hunting license fees) are deposited into accounts that can only be spent for the purpose established in state law. In budget terms, these are referred to as "dedicated accounts."

Sources of State Revenues

Washington receives most of its revenue from taxes, licenses, permits and fees, and federal grants. Each individual revenue source is designated by law for deposit into specific accounts used to support state operating or capital expenditures.
Washington State’s Budget Process

**Sources of State Revenues – All Governmental Funds**  
2007-09 Biennium Estimates (including 2008 Supplemental Budget)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars in Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$33,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>16,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses, Permits, Fees</td>
<td>1,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges and Miscellaneous Revenues</td>
<td>16,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$68,298</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
**MAY 2008**

The chart below displays the major revenue sources for General Fund-State expenditures in the current biennium. The Department of Revenue collects most of these revenues.

**Sources of General Fund-State Revenues**  
2007-09 Biennium Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars in Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales and Use Tax</td>
<td>$16,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Occupation Tax</td>
<td>5,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax</td>
<td>2,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate Excise Tax</td>
<td>1,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>2,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,463</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* “Other” includes revenue from liquor sales, tobacco taxes, lottery proceeds, insurance premiums, etc.*

Note: This chart reflects forecasted revenues only. Additional resources, such as prior biennium balances or transfers from other funds, may be included in the budget balance sheet.

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
**MAY 2008**
Washington State’s Budget Process

Size and Distribution of the State Budget

The state’s current operating budget for the 2007-09 Biennium (from all fund sources) is $59.5 billion, as amended by the 2008 Supplemental Budget. A separate capital budget finances major building, renovation, and land acquisition projects. The 2007-09 (non-transportation) capital budget for new projects is $4.4 billion. An additional $2.3 billion is available in reappropriated funds to allow the completion of capital construction projects authorized in previous biennia. Roads, bridges, and other transportation capital projects are budgeted at $4.8 billion. (Total Operating/Capital Budget = $71.5 billion).

Operating expenditures are supported by general state tax revenues, federal funds, dedicated tax and fee revenues, and other miscellaneous sources, such as earned interest and lottery receipts. The capital budget is primarily funded through general obligation bonds ($2.1 billion in 2007-09) and cash revenues from dedicated accounts. The debt service on non-transportation general obligation bonds is paid by General Fund-State resources in the operating budget.

State operating expenditures can be grouped into seven broad categories of services:

- **Human Services**, such as mental health and other institutions, public assistance, health care, and correctional facilities.
- **Public Schools**, which represents state support for Kindergarten-Grade 12 (K-12) education.
- **Higher Education** in public universities, community colleges, and technical schools.
- **Natural Resources** expenditures for environmental protection and recreation.
- **Transportation**, which includes highway maintenance, state ferry operations, and the Washington State Patrol.
- **General Government**, including the administrative, judicial, and legislative agencies.
- **Other** (miscellaneous) expenses, such as the payment of debt service and pension contributions for local law enforcement, firefighters, and judges.

The following chart shows the distribution of operating expenditures from all funds for the 2007-09 Biennium.

### Distribution of 2007-09 State Operating Expenditures – All Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars in Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>$24,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Schools</td>
<td>15,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>9,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>4,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>2,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>1,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>3,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$59,951</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Other includes debt service, pension contributions to Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters (LEOFF) and Judges, other education agencies, and special appropriations.

Source: 2007-09 Operating Budget database.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
MAY 2008
The General Fund-State Operating Budget

Approximately $29.8 billion of the state operating budget for 2007-09 is supported by General Fund-State (GF-S) tax revenues and reserves. Because the Governor and Legislature have the greatest discretion over how these state revenues are spent, programs supported by GF-S receive substantial attention during budget deliberations.

The following chart shows the distribution of estimated General Fund-State expenditures for the 2007-09 operating budget. The majority of the state General Fund is spent on education, which includes the state share of funding for public schools (K-12), four-year colleges and universities, and two-year community and technical colleges.

### Distribution of 2007-09 State Operating Expenditures – State General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars in Millions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Schools</td>
<td>$12,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>11,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>3,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>454</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>2,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,838</strong></td>
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</table>

* Other includes debt service, pension contributions to Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters (LEOFF) and Judges, other education agencies, transportation, and special appropriations.

Source: 2007-09 Operating Budget database.

### General Fund-State Expenditure Trends 1989-91 to 2007-09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biennium</th>
<th>Dollars in Millions</th>
<th>Change in Millions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989-91</td>
<td>12,822.3</td>
<td>2,481.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991-93</td>
<td>15,179.9</td>
<td>2,357.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993-95</td>
<td>16,315.1</td>
<td>1,135.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-97</td>
<td>17,732.4</td>
<td>1,417.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997-99</td>
<td>19,157.8</td>
<td>1,425.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999-01</td>
<td>21,046.4</td>
<td>1,888.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-03</td>
<td>22,548.8</td>
<td>1,502.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-05</td>
<td>23,671.7</td>
<td>1,122.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-07</td>
<td>27,766.1</td>
<td>4,094.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-09*</td>
<td>29,838.2</td>
<td>2,072.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The 2007-09 biennial figure is based on appropriations as of March 2008. Previous biennia represent actual expenditures. Dollars have not been adjusted for inflation.
State Staffing Levels

The current state budget assumes approximately 112,880 FTEs (Fiscal Year 2009) on an annual basis, with the largest number of people employed in higher education institutions, correctional facilities, state social service and health agencies, and transportation agencies. For budget purposes, the number of state employees is measured in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff years; i.e., one person working 40 hours a week for a full year is counted as one FTE staff year. Two people working half time also count as one FTE. Although the state provides funding for compensation for local school teachers, this support is in the form of grants. Therefore, K-12 teachers are not considered state employees in statewide FTE statistics.

Budget Drivers

In addition to new policies adopted by the Governor, Legislature, or federal government, the state budget can also be significantly influenced by demographic and economic factors. Differences in these "budget drivers" affect the cost of services or the number of persons requiring services. An example of the demographic connection appears in K-12 education, where expenditures for the state’s constitutionally mandated responsibilities for basic education are closely tied to the number of school-age children in the state. Higher-than-average inflationary costs – such as those for medical expenses – also affect expenditures in the state budget.

Spending Limits in the State Budget


Fiscal Growth Factors and General Fund-State Expenditure Limit

- Establishes a "fiscal growth factor" based on a ten-year average growth in personal income.
- Mandates an annual expenditure limit on the aggregate of the General Fund-State and six related accounts (Public Safety and Education Account, Equal Justice Account, Water Quality Account, Violence Reduction and Drug Enforcement Account, Student Achievement Account, and Health Services Account) to be calculated by the State Expenditure Limit Committee each November, based on the fiscal growth factors applied to previous year’s limit.
- Requires the Governor’s budget to be consistent with the expenditure limit, and restricts annual expenditures from General Fund-State and related accounts to the limit.
- Allows temporary expenditures above the limit after declaration of an emergency and a 2/3 vote of the Legislature for a law signed by the Governor.
- The Emergency Reserve Account, created by Initiative 601, is repealed as of July 1, 2008, and replaced by the
Washington State’s Budget Process

Budget Stabilization Account. Any fund balance remaining in the Emergency Reserve Fund is transferred to the Budget Stabilization Account.

**Taxes and Fees**
- Requires a majority vote of the Legislature to raise state revenues or make a revenue-neutral tax shift. (2005 legislation)
- Additionally requires voter approval if the state revenue measure results in expenditures above the expenditure limit.
- Limits state fee increases to the fiscal growth factor unless legislative approval is received.

**The Debt Limit**
There are two debt limits imposed on the state’s ability to borrow funds to finance government programs in the capital budget: the constitutional limit of 9 percent of general state revenues; and a more restrictive statutory limit of 7 percent of general state revenues. The state cannot sell general obligation bonds if the debt service from that sale will cause total debt service to exceed 7 percent of the average of general state revenues for the preceding three fiscal years.

The size of bonded capital programs affordable under the debt limit can change depending on:
- The amount of new projects in the capital budget,
- Changes in revenue forecasts that increase or decrease state revenues,
- Changes in the structure of borrowing (e.g., length of term on bonds), and/or
- Changes in the interest rates at which bonds are sold.

**The Budget Stabilization Account**
ESSJR 8206, “Rainy Day Fund,” passed by the voters in November 2007, established the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA), also known as the Rainy Day Fund.

- 1% of general state revenues must be transferred annually to the BSA.
- 3/5 vote required to appropriate from BSA.
- Exceptions (constitutional majority vote):
  - Employment growth < 1%
  - State of emergency due to catastrophic event.
- Takes effect July 1, 2008 (FY 09).
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Seattle, WA 98122

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1620 18th Ave. Ste. 101
Seattle, WA 98122

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Bonnie Cunane
1620 18th Ave. Ste. 101
Seattle, WA 98122

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Denise P. Smith
1620 18th Ave. Ste. 101
Seattle, WA 98122

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Complete Mailing Address:

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The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:

[ ] Has Not Changed During Previous 12 Months

[ ] Has Changed During Previous 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

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<td>15. Extent and Nature of Circulation</td>
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<td>Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months</td>
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<td>f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)</td>
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<td>93.13</td>
<td>92.57</td>
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<td>16. Publication of Statement of Ownership</td>
<td>✅ If the publication is a general publication, publication of the statement is required. Will be printed in the December issue of this publication.</td>
<td>□ Publication not required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner</td>
<td>Lindsay Cummins, Staff Associate</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>9/24/08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) as well as civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Form 3028, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)
UNIT CHOICE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR DECEMBER

December is the month in which League of Women Voters Units are free to choose their own programs. Some are planning social events; some have invited local or state legislators to their meetings; some are simply taking a break.

Here is what some of the units will be doing:

The Capitol Hill /Montlake Unit invites you to join them at their Monday, Dec. 8th meeting where Seattle City Councilmember Sally Clark will discuss Neighborhood Planning and some of the issues associated with it. It is time to reassess those neighborhood plans on which the city and its residents spent so much time. If you follow the activities of the Seattle City Council, you know that Councilmember Clark is a knowledgeable and articulate spokesperson on these issues. Holiday refreshments included at the home of Jan O’Connor, 2344 McGilvra Blvd. E. in Madison Park, (206) 329-4848.

The North End Afternoon unit is planning a holiday lunch on Tuesday, December 9 at Cristwood in Shoreline, hosted by Virginia Nielsen.

The West Seattle Day and Evening units invite members to meet their legislators Tuesday evening, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. at Fauntleroy Church in West Seattle.

The Eastside Day and Evening units will get together for a Christmas luncheon at the home of Susan Cotterell, 580 East Sunset Way, Issaquah on Thursday, December 11, at 11:30. Please RSVP if you plan to attend to Connie Reed or Jocelyn Marchisio, (206) 329-4848.

The Issaquah Evening Unit will be welcoming Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger to its meeting on Monday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the King County Library System Service Center, 960 Newport Way NW, Issaquah. All members are welcome.
# Unit Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit leaders</th>
<th>email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Host Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southend</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Scharff</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webcats@speakeasy.net">webcats@speakeasy.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lila Bulen</td>
<td>3716 Cascadia Ave S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issaquah Evening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Thornton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:apheaann@aol.com">apheaann@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>King County Library System Service Center, 960 Newport Way NW, Issaquah</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeannette Kahlenberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kahlenb@gmail.com">kahlenb@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Mary Margaret Pruitt</td>
<td>Horizon House, 900 University St. Sky Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Hill/Montlake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan O’Connor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oconnor.js@gmail.com">oconnor.js@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Jan O’Connor</td>
<td>2344 McGilvra Blvd E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicky Downs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DownsVdowns@aol.com">DownsVdowns@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday, December 8, 2008**

**Southend**
- **Sam Scharff**
  - Email: webcats@speakeasy.net
  - Phone: 7:30 p.m.
  - Host: Lila Bulen
  - Phone: 3716 Cascadia Ave S

**Issaquah Evening**
- **Ann Thornton**
  - Email: apheaann@aol.com
  - Phone: 6:30 p.m.
  - Host: King County Library System Service Center, 960 Newport Way NW, Issaquah

**First Hill**
- **Jeannette Kahlenberg**
  - Email: kahlenb@gmail.com
  - Phone: 10:00 a.m.
  - Host: Mary Margaret Pruitt
  - Phone: Horizon House, 900 University St. Sky Lounge

**Capitol Hill/Montlake**
- **Jan O’Connor**
  - Email: oconnor.js@gmail.com
  - Phone: 7:15 p.m.
  - Host: Jan O’Connor
  - Phone: 2344 McGilvra Blvd E

**Tuesday, December 9, 2008**

**West Seattle Day & Evening – Combined Meeting – Meet Your Legislators!**
- **Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis**
  - Email: terrylucy2u@comcast.net
  - Phone: 7:00 p.m.
  - Host: Fauntleroy Church UCC
  - Phone: 9140 California SW
- **Barbara O’Steen**
  - Email: barbarajosteen@yahoo.com
  - Phone: (Lucy – contact)

**North End Aft. Holiday Lunch**
- **Helen St. John**
  - Email: hbaker@uwashington.edu
  - Phone: 12:30 p.m.
  - Host: Virginia Nielsen
  - Phone: Cristwood, Shoreline

**Wednesday, December 10, 2008**

**View Ridge**
- **Gail Winberg**
  - Email: winbergeng@comcast.net
  - Phone: 12:45 p.m.
  - Host: Gail Winberg
  - Phone: 6004 NE 60th St.

**Magnolia/Queen Anne/Ballard Eve**
- **Bettina Hosler**
  - Email: glencoe1985@aol.com
  - Phone: 7:30 p.m.
  - Host: Teddy Goekezas
  - Phone: 4500 Palatine Ave N

**Thursday, December 11, 2008**

**Eastside Day & Eve Units (Issaquah Day & Eve & Bellevue) Christmas Luncheon, at the home of Susan Cotterell. See page 45 for more details.**

**North Central**
- **Jan Orlando**
  - Email: orlanre@aol.com
  - Phone: 7:30 p.m.
  - Host: Jan Orlando
  - Phone: 5026 36th Ave. NE
- **Gail Shurgot**
  - Email: gailshurgot@earthlink.net
  - Phone: 5026 36th Ave. NE
- **Mercer Island**
  - **Martha Jordan**
    - Email: marty4lwv@yahoo.com
    - Phone: 9:15 a.m.
    - Host: Mercer Island Presbyterian Church
    - Phone: 3605 84th Ave SE Mercer Island 98040

**Shoreline**
- **Juliet Beard**
  - Email: juliet@windermere.com
  - Phone: 4:30 p.m.
  - Host: Richmond Beach Congregational Church, NW 195th St and 15th Ave NW

**University House – Wallingford**
- **Mary Slotnick**
  - Email: mhslotnick@comcast.net
  - Phone: 10:30 a.m.
  - Host: University House
  - Phone: 4400 Stone Way N

**No December Meetings**

Ballard/Queen Anne/Magnolia Day (Joan Peterson & Shirley Gerstenberger)
Pioneer Square (Kathleen Randall)
Kirkland/Redmond (Gerry Williams & Patti Catalano)
## Board & Committee Contacts

### Term Executive Committee

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007–2009</td>
<td>* President</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Denise D. Smith</td>
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<td>2008–2009</td>
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<td>Kitty Mahon</td>
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<td>Nora Leech</td>
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<td>*3rd V.P. Voter Service</td>
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<td>Sarah Luthens</td>
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<td>4th V.P. Action</td>
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<td>Karen Adair</td>
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<td>2008–2010</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Allison Feher</td>
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### Term Directors

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<td>Patri Catalano</td>
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<td>Voter Editor</td>
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<td>Beatrice Crane</td>
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<td>Anita Warmflash</td>
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### Term Education Fund Board

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<td>Betty Sullivan</td>
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<td>2007–2009</td>
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<td>Lisa Peterson</td>
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<td>Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis</td>
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### Off-Board Positions

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<td>CIS Coordinator</td>
<td>Cynthia Howe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Development</td>
<td>Victoria Bennet</td>
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<td>Technology Oversight</td>
<td>Karen Lahey</td>
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### Committees

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<td>Economics &amp; Taxation</td>
<td>Nora Leech</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Vanessa Soriano Power</td>
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<td>Immigration Study Co-chair</td>
<td>Barbara Reid</td>
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<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Ellen Berg</td>
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<td>Land Use</td>
<td>Karen Kane</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Linnea Hirst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Study</td>
<td>Linda Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Privatization Study</td>
<td>Nora Leech</td>
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* Indicates LWVS Board Representative on the Education Fund Board
DECEMBER FORUM
Action: Economic Crises

Thursday, December 4, 2008
7:30 p.m.

Speakers:
Finance Director Dwight Dively, City of Seattle
Budget Office Director Bob Cowan, King County
Washington State Rep. and Senator-elect Fred Jarrett
Associate Professor Fred DeKay, Albers School of Economics at Seattle University

Location:
Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Avenue (Harvard & Seneca)
Seattle, WA 98122

All forums are free and open to the public.

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