

The Voter

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DECEMBER 2014

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Active League Election Season Wraps Up

by Julie Anne Kempf, Voter Service Co-Chair

The months of September and October are transitional months for many in the Pacific Northwest – whether the transition is back to school, back to the stadium for loyal Seahawks fans, or tending to annual pre-winter garden prep, these past two months are already busy. If your primary activities relate to election season, then you are super busy.

WRAP-UP

Thus it is with our Voter Service portfolio. Just as fall begins, our Voter Service volunteers move into their most intense time of the year. In September and October, we ran voter registration drives, wrote, edited, and published our local and state Simplified Ballot Summaries, organized and held several candidate forums, provided election monitoring services, provided moderators for other organizations' forums, drove all over the county for speaker's bureau engagements, published the General Election version of Vote411, and ensured that the CIS desk had information about hot election-related administration topics. Whew!

VOTER REGISTRATION

Two trainings for Speakers Bureau and Voter Registration were held in late August and two in September, and several new, enthusiastic volunteers were trained and engaged in our voter registration drives before the October 5 deadline. We did several voter registration events before the deadlines, and we also geared up for National Voter Registration Day on September 23. See the following article by

Voter Services Co-Chair Amelia Woolley about our food bank registration events and our tireless Horizon House unit's efforts.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

We had a steady stream of requests throughout the season, even some that came in the last week! Many were customary November Ballot Issues briefing requests, but our President, Ellen Barton, represented us as a luncheon speaker at a professional women's group on October 2. Also, Cyndi Goddard-Woods and I did our annual ballot briefing and endorsement briefing (two sections) for the Women's Faculty Club at the University of Washington. I also spoke at a meeting of the Washington Council for the Blind which covered not only ballot issues but accessibility as well.

MOD SQUAD

We provided co-sponsorship and moderators for six candidate forums this year and received more moderator requests than we could accommodate. We received some requests too late in the season to provide them, but if we had a larger group of moderators, we could do more. We need to add to our moderator ranks, as we have a dedicated, but small, and thinning, group. If there is enough interest, we would like to hold moderators training this winter, in anticipation of needing many moderators with all of the upcoming Seattle races. We also provide moderators to our own League forums for program and ballot issue forums.

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Connecting with the Leadership

Seattle League held a great event November 8 called “Buying the Ballot Box,” with Dave Ross of KIRO Radio and Alan Durning of Sightline Institute. We enjoyed wine and hors d’oeuvres along with conversations with members and guests; the program was a conversation between Dave and Alan about the problems of money in politics and possible solutions. Alan said he was there because of how much League meant to his mother, Jean (who was present)! We also heard a wonderful speech from Janet Winans, our 1st Vice President, on the subject; State Board member and lobbyist Kathy Sakahara also spoke about State and National Leagues’ activities on this issue. The event was recorded by Ed Mays of Pirate TV, who plans to post it on YouTube and send it to TVW. Links to these are posted on our website.

Last month I excerpted parts of my speech to the Eastside Professional Women’s Association about why women should vote. Here is more of my speech (it was a long one) on why more women should run for office and what good things happen when they do!

WHY WOMEN SHOULD RUN AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO RUN FOR OFFICE

Although we fought and won the right to vote, getting items of high priority to women on the legislative agenda requires more women in office, not just voting.

Women are not at parity to men in elected offices – not at local, state or national levels:

- Only 12 mayors of the 100 largest cities are women
- Women comprise only 18.3% of Congress, and
- Only 24.3% of state legislatures

The U.S. ranks 98th of countries in the world for the number of women in the lower houses of the respective governing body; some countries ahead of us are a surprise (examples: Rwanda, Sweden, S. Africa, Cuba, Iceland and Finland).

The lack of women at the table calls into question the democratic legitimacy of our government and its accountability to women – and we’ve seen some of that, i.e., the difficulty in passing the Violence Against Women Act and the defeat of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Women make a difference when they do seek and gain office:

- Female members of Congress secure more dollars from federal discretionary programs than do their male counterparts.
- Women state legislators hold more liberal preferences on welfare policy than men, even when controlling for constituency preferences and party ideology.
- Although both men and women are likely to vote in favor of bills dealing with women’s health policy, the number of women in leadership positions correlates with the adoption of specific women’s health policies, such as reconstructive breast surgery and extended maternity stays.
- Female legislators are more likely than men to vote for reproductive rights and role change legislation.
- In the 103rd Congress, the sex of the representative was most significant on votes addressing abortion and women’s health.
- Because they are more concerned with context and environmental factors when deliberating on crime and punishment, women state assembly members are more likely than men to advocate for rehabilitation programs and less likely than men to support punitive policies.
- A woman who replaces a man in the same U.S. House district sponsors relatively more legislation pertaining to women’s issues.
- Democratic and moderate Republican Congresswomen are more likely to pursue women-centered interests, such as childcare and domestic violence.
- Women of both major parties are more likely than men to bring up women or women’s issues in their floor speeches in the U.S. House,

December

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|--------|------------------------------|
| | 1 Int'l Relations Comm. 12:45 p.m. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Board Meeting 9 a.m. |
| 7 | 8 <i>The Voter Deadline</i> | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Transportation Comm. 10 a.m. | 17 | 18 Education Comm. 1 p.m. | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas Day | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 Board Meeting 9 a.m. |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Program Planning Forum 7:00 p.m. | 9 | 10 |

units meet during light shaded period; office closed during darker shaded period

DECEMBER

International Relations
Committee
Monday, December 1
12:45 p.m.
League Office

Board Meeting
Saturday, December 6
9:00 a.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, December 8

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, December 16
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, December 18
1:00 p.m.
League Office

JANUARY

Board Meeting
Saturday, January 3
9:00 a.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, January 5

Program Planning Forum
Thursday, January 8
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Winter Weather Reminder!

If Seattle Schools are delayed or closed, then the office will delay opening or be closed.

Call the office or check the website for the status of forums or other events.

Check with committee chairs and unit leaders to verify if those meetings will be cancelled.

Please stay safe!

Forum Schedule

| |
|---|
| <p>Dec - No Forum</p> <p>Jan 8 - Local & State Program Planning</p> <p>Feb 5 - Hospital Mergers</p> <p>Mar 5 - Human Trafficking</p> <p>Apr 2 - Reauthorization of the Columbia River Treaty</p> <p>May 21 - Annual Meeting</p> |
|---|

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. The tentative schedule of forums for 2014-15 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or our website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information.

Board Briefs by Amanda Clark, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on Saturday, November 1, 2014. This is a summary of their work.

Allison Feher reported on her office activity; she's been busy finishing up Voter Services work and getting ready for publication of the update to TRY.

She also reported that our Facebook page is getting a number of "Likes," and encourages everyone with a Facebook page to Like and Follow us. The Like and Follow buttons are right on the page; be sure to search for League of Women Voters Seattle-King County (spell it out) to get our current page.

Because of feedback on some of our recent endorsements, we plan to discuss the endorsement process at the January Board meeting, talking about the process generally, ideas on how to handle conflicting positions, and the role of committees in endorsements.

A highlight of the meeting was a fundraising presentation by Laura Ruderman, a former state representative from East King County, who is currently a consultant on fundraising and devel-

opment for political candidates and nonprofits. She noted that even though discussing money in our culture is taboo, we all get asked for—and give—money all the time, and mostly it's strictly business that no one shrinks from. We can treat donating to causes we believe in the same way: we are investing in the future, helping to create the kind of world we want to live in, without being embarrassed or intimidated about it.

Ginna Owens, our esteemed Education Fund treasurer, is out for medical reasons. President Barton recommended Katie Dudley; she works with her and knows her capabilities. Katie, who is thisclose to her Master's Degree, is willing to help us out by filling in as our temporary Education Fund treasurer. The Board unanimously appointed her--thank you Katie, and welcome!

Our annual program planning meeting is coming up in January. The Board is looking at trying a new 'overarching theme' for programs during

Continued on next page

Board Briefs continued:

the year. For example, the King County budget would be the theme, and then committees focus on one aspect of that, such as transportation or early learning, during the year. Expect to give feedback on possible new program choices in January.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC), in both its values and practices, affirms its beliefs and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

LWVS-KC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS-KC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVS-KC affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.

Leadership continued:

and women spend more time than men speaking about other women's health issues.

- Women in the U.S. House sponsor more bills that pertain to women's rights.
- Electing more women substantially reduces the potential for politicians to overlook gender-salient issues.
- Female state legislators are more likely than men to say that bills relating to children, families, or women's issues are at the top of their legislative priorities.
- Female city managers are more likely than their male counterparts to incorporate citizen input into their decisions and to be more concerned with community involvement.
- Male and female state legislature committee chairs conduct hearings very differently: women are more likely to act as facilitators while men tend to use their power to control the direction of the hearings.
- Female mayors are more likely to adopt governing approach emphasizing congeniality and cooperation, whereas men tend to emphasize hierarchy.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the excerpts from my speech. Happy holidays and don't forget to make your year-end contribution to the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County Ed Fund!

Thank you,



Ellen Barton
President

Sources:

Lawless, Jennifer L. and Fos, Richard L., "Men Rule, The Continued Under-Representation of Women in U.S. Politics," Women & Politics Institute, School of Public Affairs, January 2012

"The State of Women's Representation 2013-2014, American Women in Elected Office & Prospects for Change," Representation 2020, January 2014

Committees

Climate Change Committee

No Meeting in December

Economics and Taxation Committee

No Meeting in December

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, December 18

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Welcome to all who are interested in helping set our agenda for the coming year.

International Relations Committee

DATE: Monday, December 1

TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Please join us as we begin planning for the March forum on human trafficking.

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, December 16

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Representative Judy Clibborn, Chair of the House Transportation Committee, will be our speaker.

We encourage participation in our committees by all interested members. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to community leaders, stakeholder organizations, and experts where you can have direct input on local issues that affect you.

Don't see a committee that covers your issue? Call the office and let us know. Sometimes people are working more informally without regularly scheduled meetings. If so, we may be able to help connect you with them or help you start your own.

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

King County Connects — Announcements

Great Decisions 2015 - Prepare to discuss the world!

Join with fellow League members and friends to explore eight of the most challenging foreign policy issues confronting us in our rapidly-changing world. The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) shares League's goal of informed citizen participation in our democracy. For more than 60 years, the FPA has published an annual briefing book, *Great Decisions*, written by scholars and experts in various fields, which serves as the basis for education and stimulating discussions. Participants discover a broader context for understanding the daily news and influencing the foreign policy debate.

To facilitate participation the FPA recommends the *Great Decisions 2015* briefing book, available in mid-December at a cost of \$22.00. Contact the FPA directly at 1-800-477-5836 or email sales@fpa.org for information and to order.

2015 Great Decisions Topics:

- Russia And The Near Abroad
- Privacy In The Digital Age
- Sectarianism In The Middle East
- India Changes Course

- U.S. Policy Toward Africa
- Syria's Refugee Crisis
- Human Trafficking In The 21st Century
- Brazil's Metamorphosis

Evening:

A Great Decisions group will meet in Seattle at the home of Vicky Downs beginning February 3, continuing on alternate Tuesdays through May 12. If you'd like to attend, please let Vicky know; call 206-328-3926 or email downsvdowns@aol.com.

Day:

In South King County, a group will meet from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in Des Moines on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, beginning February 11 at Club 48, on the south part of Wesley Homes campus, adjacent to the Wesley Gardens entrance at 815 S. 216th Street. Members may contact Mary Ehlers at 253-941-1930 or email maryehlers@comcast.net.

Members are also welcome to form additional discussion groups; Carol Goldenberg is happy to assist. Contact her at 206-527-8589 or email carolsamgo@q.com.

New Year's Resolutions: Plan Ahead for 2015 by Karen Adair with updates by Lisa Peterson

This *Voter* is published at a hectic time of year. Holiday celebrations end the old year and begin the new. In League, our new year begins with our annual January program planning forum and unit meetings, where we focus on which local issues need our attention over the next year, as well as state issues we would like to see LWVWA address.

So during December's festivities, help us get a head start on the League's 2015 program-planning efforts by thinking about issues that you are concerned about. Topics such as the King County budget, taxes, climate change, and funding education. Decide whether the issues you are concerned about need an extended study that leads to a published document, a forum, and the adoption of new positions. Or could they be "hot topics" around which an article or special event can be more quickly organized? Are these issues upon which the League can take action based on existing positions without the need of a new study and new positions?

Let's make an early resolution to attend January's forum and unit meetings prepared with program recommendations. This is one of the best ways we can remain a grassroots organization.

Updates from our State and National Leagues

All members of the LWV of Seattle-King County are also automatically members of the LWV of Washington and the LWV of the United States, whose work focuses on issues of state and national concern, respectively. Be sure to sign up for weekly email newsletters and/or visit their websites: www.lwvwa.org and www.lwv.org for the latest information.

Olympia and Our Washington

While the budget and addressing the *McCleary* education ruling will no doubt dominate the upcoming legislative session, our lobby team is gearing up to work on other League priorities as well. Interested in helping out? Contact Pat Griffith, our local league liaison to the lobby team (contact info on inside back cover.)

The Legislative Priorities for this year are:

PROTECT DEMOCRACY: Expand opportunities to meaningfully participate in elections. Minimize the influence of money in politics. Promote more representative elections systems.

RAISE REVENUE: Adopt balanced, fair, adequate and flexible state revenue policies to meet critical needs.

ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE: Implement best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to protect air and water quality. Incorporate environmental quality and public health impacts in transportation decisions, particularly regarding fossil fuels.

SUPPORT EDUCATION: Fully fund basic education as defined by the Legislature and required by the state Constitution.

In addition, LWVWA has issue papers on many topics from agriculture to water and rivers. Check them out at <http://lwvwa.org/positions>. These are a great resource to find out what the League's been doing in each area.

National News

Thank you, thank you, thank you! All of you worked so hard over the last year, and for the League of Women Voters this has been a fantastic election year. You are the heart and soul of the League and, without you, the tremendous work and impact of the League would not have been as successful! However we might personally feel about the outcome of this week's elections, as League members we put voters first and provided nonpartisan service and information reaching more voters than in years past. Just a few of the highlights: by the end of the business on Election Day, the number of voters accessing VOTE411.org had increased by over 50 percent compared to the 2010 midterms. Pop superstar Justin Timberlake, along with many other celebrities and organizations were tweeting about "VOTE411.org" and more than 7,000 different websites linked to VOTE411. On Election Day, over half a million viewers visited the site and since the start of the year, we have had nearly one and a half million users!

This success demonstrates the power of local, state and national working together through one platform to get voters the information they need. ... The League's efforts protecting the vote and Making Democracy Work® continue as it has for nearly a century. Over the next few weeks we will be assessing our efforts during this past election season and celebrating the tremendous work that we all did — local, state and national, together — to protect and inform voters in 2014.

Thanks again for everything you did in Making Democracy Work® this election cycle. We couldn't do what we do without each and every one of you.

Excerpted from LWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara's November 6 email.

Voter Service

cover article continued:

VOTE 411.ORG

Vote411 continues to be driven by King County volunteers, with Linnea Hirst as the State Chair, and Becky Cox and myself supporting her for King County and also assisting with other counties around the state. We appreciated the help from ace copyeditor Beatrice Crane, who assisted with the proofing and copyediting of those measures we have to hand-enter (some electronic versions are unavailable to us).

For the general election this year, statewide we had 560 races and 959 candidates. Over 500 candidates responded to our request for information for Vote411. We also placed exactly 100 measures on it from across the state, including both state and local measures. We went live on September 8, and the guide was up and accessible 24 hours a day through Election Day.

We are still gathering statistics from the general election, but here are some interesting preliminary performance statistics from Linnea Hirst from the primary:

She looked at responders and found the following:

1. In most races (about 450) both (or at least one of the losing candidates and one of the two winning candidates) responded.
2. In only 10 races, neither responded
3. In 22 races, only the winner(s) responded
4. In 12 races, only the loser(s) responded

General use of Vote411.org: LWVUS has not yet provided our “hit” statistics and other metrics, but we will report them to you in the January Voter.

CANDIDATE AND BALLOT ISSUE FORUMS

Our annual Seattle Ballot Issues Forum was taped by King County TV to be re-broadcast throughout the election season, and was available on streaming video via the internet. We had a good discussion of I-1351 (class sizes) and the three Seattle ballot measures.

Typically we work with State league to sponsor and plan a KCTS-9 TV forum on State Ballot measures, but since our state action team was involved in the ‘Yes on I-594’ campaign, the ‘Yes on I-591’ and the ‘No on 594’ did not want to participate in a League-organized forum. Ultimately, Channel 9 put together a I-594 debate that was taped for television re-broadcast and the internet, for which the League provided the audience. Many thanks to Nancy Etriem and Barbara Seitle for audience coordination.

In October, we partnered with LeadingAge Living to produce legislative forums in the 37th, 45th, and 46th legislative districts. We were able to use public auditoriums, and had some delicious snacks and coffee for attendees gratis, in return for co-sponsorship.

We wanted to have even more forums, but lack of available locations and volunteers in specific areas of the county were obstacles this year. We hope to solve the locations issue by doing a survey of our farther-flung areas, looking for halls and rooms that will accommodate forums. If you think a site would work well in the future, please email us at voterservice@seattlelwv.org. As for volunteers – if you like forums and are willing to carpool with other League members to conduct forums outside Seattle, please let us know at the office at 206-329-4848. We would love to train you and have you help us out!

BALLOT SUMMARIES

Volunteers willing to work on the simplified ballot summaries were sadly scarce this year, but we did get writing committees in place for them. Ballot summaries can be worked on at home via e-mail and the internet if you prefer not to travel to volunteer. Please contact us; we could certainly put your good mind to work!

ELECTION MONITORS

We continue our many-year tradition of monitoring elections for the Seattle Housing Author-

ity and other groups. We participate as a third party to ensure ballots are fair and fairly collected, that each organization's rules are followed, and that the participants, win or lose, walk away from the balloting feeling it was fairly conducted. We could also use some additional volunteers for 2015 to come forward and be trained.

METRICS

We are planning to have some very interesting numbers and the effects of our outreach for the January Voter. If you have a specific Voter Service area that you'd like to read about, please email us at voterservice@seattlelwv.org.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Over the course of the year we need writers, readers (for reading-editing committees), copyeditors, speakers, moderators, forum staff, election monitors, voter registrars, booth staff for festivals, researchers, and civics education presenters for schools in order to carry out League's mission to inform.

Could you join our volunteer team? We have a job for everyone, of every mobility and introversion or extroversion! Please either call the office at 206-329-4848 or e-mail voterservice@seattlelwv.org to find out about specific opportunities.

Many thanks!

VOTER REGISTRATION

Amelia Woolley, Voter Service Co-Chair

Election season 2014 has ended, and with that comes the end of a busy time for our voter service volunteers. Our stalwart volunteers were out in full force this summer and fall registering as many people as they could.

We tried a new outreach effort to local food banks to serve a population that has been underrepresented in the past, and we had mixed results. While these locations did not yield overwhelming amounts of new registered voters, it was a good opportunity to raise our visibility and share with King County residents what our League does. I look forward to revisiting some of our more popular food bank locations next year to build on the relationships we started this year and to register more voters!

There were other voter registration drives in locations throughout King County, including Seattle Central College, the University of Washington, and Cornish College (where brand-new 18-year-olds were eager to get registered to vote!)

In total, Seattle-King County League volunteers registered over 260 members of our community this election season. We want to give an extra-special shout out to our First Hill unit, led by Connie Hellyer and Ingrid Lynch, who registered 165 people! Along with those they registered, members and volunteers from that unit also handed out 62 ballots with stamps attached so they could be mailed in when completed.

I would like to thank all of our incredible volunteers who took time to do this integral part of our League mission, including: Jean Carlson, Frank Little, Connie Hellyer, Connie Wentzel, Lou Templeton, Al and Ruth Eller, Joey Gray, Ingrid Lynch, Joan Lawson, Eleanor Fordyce, Miriam Helgeland, Jane Shafer, Babits Faires, Teri Kimmons-Struck, Kim Jones, Lee Carpenter, Glenda Carper, Heidi Wolfe, Ellen Phillips-Angeles, Duffy



Amelia Woolley and Teri Kimmons-Struck registering voters at the Central Area Block Party.

Clarke, Annie Yeung, Dianne Ramsey, Audrey Hansen and Care Maree Harper.

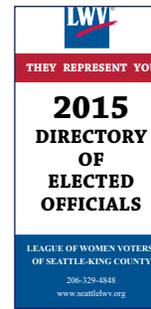
In addition to voter registrations, members spoke to various groups about ballot issues. We covered nine Speaker's Bureau requests in October, helping create more informed voters. Thank you to Julie Anne Kempf, Joanna Cullen, Cyndi Woods and Ellen Barton for taking the time to do these presentations!

I would also like to thank Allison Feher for all of the work she has done to make sure our voter registration suitcases are ready to go, and helping out wherever needed.

Although we are entering the off-season of election-related activities, we are always looking for more volunteers to join our voter service team. If you would like to learn more about what you can do, please contact me at voterservice@seattlelwv.org. I look forward to having another exciting year in Voter Service in 2015!

Volunteers Wanted!

Now that the election is over, it's time to update the TRY - our annual directory of elected officials. A valuable resource that's in high demand, especially during the legislative session, it takes lots of researchers, fact-checkers, and proof-readers to produce a quality product. Even if you only have a few hours sometime between now and mid-January we can use you. Please call the office to volunteer!



Thank You - for helping us buy back the ballot box with voter education and outreach!

Our *Buying the Ballot Box* event was a fun evening thanks to our speakers, Alan Durning and Dave Ross, and to organizers Amanda Clark and Janet Winans and their crack team of volunteers: Ellen Barton, Joanna Cullen, Paneen Davidson, Angela Henry, Julie Anne Kempf, Joan Lawson, Cindy Piennett, Dana Twight and Amelia Woolley. Contributing to the success of the event were all our attendees and donors: Ann Aagaard, Nancy Amidei, Anne Anderson, Margaret and Barrie Austin, David Bangs, Ellen Barton, Mary Barton, Kay Beck, Ann Berberian, Judy Bevington, Ann Brand, Lael Braymer, Marcia and son, Glenda Carper, Amanda Clark, and John Darrah, Paneen David-Nancy and Lowell Ericsson, Hilke Gold, Marcy and Hellmut Golde, Griffith, Nancy Grout, Constance and John Howe, Jeanette Johnson, Jeannette Kahlenberg, Phyllis Lam-mussen, Anne Lester, Ingrid Lynch, Wayne Martin, Vivian Montoya, Betty Newell, Judy Ostrow, Allan Panitch, Sue Papcun, Laura Parma-Veigel and Alan Veigel, Alice and Jack Peterson, Lisa Peterson, Cindy and Mark Piennett, Sue Pocock, Toni Potter, Andrew Price, Mike Ramey, Alice Rasp, Bonnie Rimawi, Kathy Sakahara, Elsie Simon, Denise and Bruce Smith, Jannie Spain, Lounette Templeton, Toyoko Tsukuda, Janet and Edgar Winans, Alice Woldt, Marian Wolfe, Amelia Woolley, and Marlis Worthington.



Proceeds from this event support all the amazing work reported on in the previous pages!

Getting Connected Membership News

This month, we profile a unit to help us get to know about other units. A reminder: members may attend any unit meeting, not just the one in your neighborhood.

Horizon House/First Hill

Horizon House residents have always been interested in civic affairs, and League has thrived here. After all, Myrtle Edwards, founding chair of the committee that established Horizon House, had been President of both the Seattle and Washington state Leagues. By 1987, a unit was meeting regularly at Horizon House; originally called the Washington Park unit, it is now the First Hill unit.

Member Janet Perry recalls that when she joined the unit in 2002, there were about 12 members and at least four of those did not live in Horizon House. Back then, only six to eight people attended meetings, but by 2008 the unit was up to 54 members.

League 50-year members Phyllis Lamphere, former City Councilmember, Audrey Gruger, former State Legislator, and Betty Sullivan, who worked in the elections department, all have added expertise to discussions; Phyllis also started the Horizon House Public Affairs Committee.

We co-sponsor candidate forums (non-partisan, of course!) and informational ballot issue meetings for residents, teaming up with the Horizon House Public Affairs Committee to present these. An audience of 150 is typical for these, and contributes to the widespread respect for the League among Horizon House residents. We also encourage new residents to update their voter registration and introduce them to their new legislators through meetings and forums.

The unit grew so large that at one point the League office called asking, "What are you doing? We are getting all these new members with '900 University Street' addresses".

The First Hill unit has about 100 members, most of them Horizon House residents. We are the largest of the Seattle units, and usually meet every month with speakers at most of the meetings. At last month's unit meeting, we had 79 attendees. Mary Margaret Pruitt consistently greets arrivals and runs the microphone and Dorothy Hopper leads the discussions.

Our unit members do phone banking, distribute TRYs (They Represent You, Seattle League's Directory of Elected Officials), and register voters moving into or within Horizon House and in the surrounding community.

Many people who participate in the League at Horizon House find that in retirement they have time and energy to devote to the organization they have admired in the past. Others have been previously active as League presidents or held other leadership roles, locally and/or at the state and national levels: Jeannette Kahlenberg, Ann Sandstrom, Dorothy Hopper, Joan Lawson, Ruth Eller, Pat Lein, Peggy Johnson, Laura Weese, Dorothy Sale, Lou Templeton, Jean Carlson, Nancy Rust, Ginna Owens, and Betty Sullivan are just a few of these talented individuals. There are also many 50-year members: Pat Lein, Nancy Rust, Dorothy Sale, Phyllis Lamphere, Elaine Birn, Angela Robinson, Monica Leigh, Eleanor Fordyce, and Ann Ormsby. Janet Perry, Betty Sullivan and Dorothy Sale have all received the Carrie Chapman Catt Award.

Special thanks to Dorothy Hopper, Mary Margaret Pruitt, Gussie Howe, Ann Dittmar, Anne Anderson and Nancy Robinson for their help in unit programs, and to voter registration coordinators Connie Hellyer and Ingrid Lynch. We know that there are many others who have helped strengthen League, and we appreciate our members immensely.

Contributed by Jeannette Kahlenberg, Janet Perry, and Joan Lawson.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Lorraine Obuchowski Hartmann was invited by Marcia Brown to her unit meeting. Marcia is a Northeast Seattle unit member and friend who knew Lorraine had recently retired from Seattle Children's Hospital. Lorraine attended in September and joined in October! She said, "I was impressed with the members' conscientiousness and passion to do the right thing. I knew this would be an excellent way for me to laser in on city, state and national issues. When women who educate themselves band together, look out world, change is a-comin'!"

Lorraine grew up in Connecticut and graduated from Wellesley College. She went on to graduate school at Princeton, where she met her husband Dennis. After earning their Ph.Ds, they lived in Montreal and Boulder, Colorado, coming to Seattle in 1977 and raising their son and daughter here. "I have had the privilege of working and volunteering with accomplished people exerting themselves for societal and environmental change and drawing joy from doing so," reports Lorraine. Most recently, she was in the field of patient safety at Children's after directing the volunteer program at Seattle Audubon for several years.

Lorraine chairs her church's homelessness, environment, and violence committee which is preparing to host the North Seattle Shelter. The committee also sponsors Meaningful Movie Nights, believing that citizens can effect social change through education, advocacy and organizing. Lorraine says, "We can use voice, pen, keyboard, feet and ballot, and must persist in reaching out and asking others to join us. Thank you, Marcia, for introducing me to League!"

Milly Lewendon joined the National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Club's in 1980, over time assuming positions of leadership at the local, district and state levels. To learn more about parliamentary procedure to enable her to run effective meetings, she became a member of the National Association of Par-

liamentarians. She and her husband continue to be active with local, state and national parliamentary activities. She continues to serve as president of multiple organizations, also having coordinated two national conventions held in Seattle.

In 1991, she attended an international BPW meeting in Kenya, Africa. While on a safari, she met Tony Lewendon from Britain, and they married less than a year later.

A cause close to her heart is being the area's Support Group Leader for those afflicted with spinocerebellar ataxia ("ataxia" means without coordination), after her husband was diagnosed in 1996. The condition affects over 150,000 people in the U.S., often young children, and it may be hereditary or sporadic. Currently there are no medications to slow the progression, nor a cure.

She is a native Washingtonian with four sons in the area, also active in her church in Kirkland, serving as a deaconess, and particularly enjoying mentoring. She and Tony are in the process of training for a service dog and they have been matched with a black Lab named London.

Milly says, "Attitude is the crayon color of your life".

At just five years old, **Sylvia Valine** came to Seattle with her family from a refugee camp in Germany. Just after the Berlin Wall went up her family escaped from East Germany, and after spending a year in the camp they found a sponsor in Seattle. Sylvia went on to graduate from the University of Washington with a degree in Marketing.

Before retiring recently, Sylvia was a technical publications manager, writing engineering specifications. She has been very active in the Business and Professional Women of Washington organization, serving as state president. She sees parallels between that organization and the League of Women Voters. She will be attending the Bellevue/Kirkland/Redmond unit.

Sylvia has two children: her daughter is a pilot for United Airlines, and her son, a recent graduate from Washington State University, is a purchasing agent for Windstar Cruises. Sylvia loves to travel, garden and make orchids bloom.

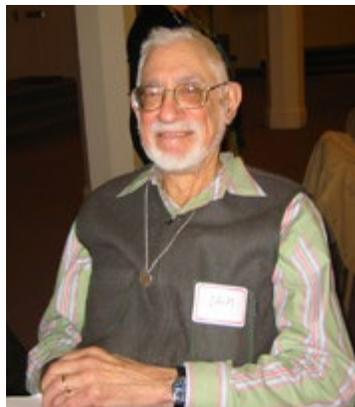
In Memoriam

Sam Scharff (1921 - 2014)

by Laura Weese

Sam and I, along with his wife Audrey, met while I was walking my dog in Mt. Baker. They had recently moved to Seattle from Englewood, NJ to be near their two daughters and four grandchildren. Sam was a retired electrical engineer with a degree from MIT. He was also a World War II veteran, having served with Air Force Intelligence in Australia and New Guinea. Audrey was a Hunter College graduate, raised in the Bronx, who attended law school after her two daughters started school. My partner, John Truman, also a World War II veteran and an artist, and I bonded with them. We went to the movies together (memorably, *Yellow Submarine*) and shared many meals and memories. Sadly, Audrey passed away in 2001, then their daughter, Beth, died four months later of ovarian cancer at just 39. Sam moved to Capitol Hill, where he entertained his friends at a great party, later living with his daughter Sue and grandson Jeremy in West Seattle.

Sam was very involved in League. He served as Unit Leader of the South End Unit for five years, leading with tremendous respect for participants, always working to find consensus among our strongly opinionated members. He was a generous art donor to League's annual



auction and Political Party, also volunteering at the event, where his height made him the perfect bid spotter!

His special concern was the perils of electronic voting, and he was active on a national League Listserve on that topic (I remember him lauding Canada, which still used paper ballots).

On a community front, Sam was active in Veterans Against the War. He spent Sundays on a West Seattle Junction corner protesting the U.S.'s continued involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. Shortly before his death, he starred in a silent video posted on YouTube protesting drone warfare for VAW (if interested, it's still viewable).

Farewell, Sam! You were one of a kind and will be greatly missed.

Janet Ward

by Carol Goldenberg

When members of the North East Seattle unit learned of the death of Janet, emails began circulating remembering our oldest member who had also become our valued in-house historian.

Janet was a native Seattleite who grew up in Ravenna, graduating from Roosevelt High School and the University of Washington.

She shared many first-hand stories with us from her long life: she was in Portland playing field hockey when the team heard the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On the ride home, she saw men walking in both directions on Highway 99: the ones heading south were going to Fort Lewis to join the Army and the ones headed north were going to Sand Point to join the Navy. In a photo of her graduating class most of the men were wearing uniforms.

After graduating in 1944, she joined the WAVES and traveled across the country to train at Smith College. In her class were the first two black women in the U.S. Navy; Eleanor Roosevelt had hand-selected them, and Janet said that she and a friend enjoyed their company. Janet's friend said she did an amazing imitation of her

southern roommate's accent when she said, "My daddy would snatch me home if he knew I was living with them".

She left active service a 1st Lieutenant, proud of her two years helping run the Naval Air Base in Pensacola, Florida. When she got home, Janet returned to the UW to earn another degree, this time in Business Administration. Around that time, she attended a meeting at Sand Point Air Base where the discussion was whether women should be allowed to continue in the military even though men were coming home. Happily for Janet, the decision was yes and she continued serving in the reserve for 20 more years, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander.

After working for the State Department of Health first in Seattle and then in Olympia, she retired in 1972, buying a house in Wedgwood for her mother and herself. Janet had no siblings, but built a close extended family with neighbors, friends and her church community.

Janet joined the League of Women Voters in 1982 and was a steadfast member of the Northeast Seattle (formerly View Ridge) unit. Before email became ubiquitous, Janet telephoned members each month to remind them of meetings. For many years, the first unit meeting in September was a potluck at Janet's. If the weather was fair, we sat in her back yard discussing the issues, then members would carry home a bag full of luscious homegrown plums. Her fun side came through also, as when she brought Halloween treats to the October meeting.

We valued Janet, outspoken and direct, for her wisdom and 92 years of experience, and will miss her.

Long-time League member **Mary Slotnick** died on November 3 at age 97. Our thoughts are with Beatrice Crane, her daughter, at this difficult time. An obituary will appear in next month's *Voter*.

Need a thoughtful holiday gift? How about a League membership!

You know how much you get from being a League member, why not share that with friends and family.

In addition to the TRY directory of elected officials, the monthly *Voter*, ongoing updates on current issues, invitations to units, forums, events and more - you and the recipient will each get a League mug, perfect for all the season's warm beverages!

The recipient doesn't live in King County? Not a problem. We can coordinate membership with other Leagues.

Use the form on the next page, purchase online on our website, or call the office for assistance.

Happy Holidays!

Join the League!

Take part in informed discussions of the issues facing our communities. Members automatically receive the VOTER, either in print or electronically, for the latest updates on current studies and action, monthly forums, committee activities, voter registration, and other volunteer opportunities. In addition, members receive action alerts about legislation in Olympia and Washington, D.C., as well as publications from the state League.

League membership is open to men and women.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dues and contributions:

- \$60 one year individual membership
- \$90 one year household membership
- \$25 student
- Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

Please make your check payable to LWVS-KC and return with this form or go online to www.seattlelwv.org/membership.

Membership dues and contributions are not tax deductible; however, eligible tax deductible contributions may be made to the LWVS-KC Education Fund.

This is a gift membership from: _____

Thank you for supporting the work of the LWV!

Please return this form to:
League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Avenue, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98122-7007



Celebrating 94 years of educating voters, improving elections, and making democracy work!

Features

ECONOMICS AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

By Laura Weese

At our October 25 meeting, Dwight Dively, Director of Performance, Strategy and Budget for King County, outlined state and local revenue challenges. Some key points:

Revenue context: ...Washington's tax structure is based in the 1930's (property, sales, excise taxes, etc.) ...state and local tax revenues have declined over the last two decades ...For most local governments, the 1% property tax revenue growth limit led to service and staffing reductions, unless voters approved levy lid lifts ...Sales tax revenues are volatile ...Other "volume-based" excise taxes (i.e., gas tax), don't grow because of technology changes ...Younger residents have different spending patterns (student loans, housing choices, transportation), limiting growth.

Specifics: ...State and local taxes per \$1,000 of personal income declined from 1990 to 2011, now below the U.S. average ...Initiative 747 (1% property tax revenue limit from 2001) restricted property tax revenue. Countywide, assessed values are forecasted to increase by 11.7% in 2015, but the 1% limit means that the King County General Fund revenue growth will be only 2.1% for 2015 and 2.2% for 2016; the only exception is new construction, which is greater in Seattle than the rest of the county ...The ratio of taxable sales to income is declining ...The sales tax base is forecasted to increase by about 5% for 2015 and 2016 ...Growth rates are below previous peaks (e.g., 8.5%+ annually between 2005 and 2007) ...Lack of tax base in unincorporated King County means that General Fund sales tax revenue growth will be 3.7% in 2015 and 4.1% in 2016.

General observations:

...State and local governments in Washington

have few revenue sources that grow with the economy (i.e., B & O taxes) ...Existing consumption-based taxes are not current (i.e., no sales tax on services, no fuel tax on electric vehicles, etc.) ...Widening income disparity means consumption-based taxes generate less now than previously (high-income households spend less proportionately on taxed consumption).

Some alternatives to the present system of state and local taxation:

- 1) An income tax like Tennessee has, on unearned income, e.g., capital gains, interest, dividends.
- 2) Extending the sales tax for certain services. Examples: legal, engineering, accounting, and architectural services.

This information and more can be seen in the slide presentation posted on our website: seatlelvw.org/committees.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

By Janet Winans

Rick Olson, Director of Government Relations and Communications for the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), spoke to us in mid-October (and tweeted the picture on the following page). The PSRC works under the auspices of the Growth Management Act (GMA), established in 1990 to confront the problems that uncoordinated and unplanned growth can present to the environment, to enhance sustainable economic development and the quality of life in the state. While the GMA is still unique to Washington state, there are 15 regional councils like the PSRC here that work to identify and protect critical areas and natural resources, designate urban growth areas, prepare comprehensive plans and implement them through capital investments and development regulations. Its

most important function is distributing federal funds to state transportation projects; their responsibilities extend from “walking” to “freight”. As Director of Government Relations, Rick works with local governments, businesses and citizens to build a common vision for the region’s future, expressed through three connected major activities: VISION 2040, the region’s growth strategy; Transportation 2040, the region’s long-range transportation plan; and the Prosperity Partnership, which develops and advances the region’s economic strategy. In the past year, he and the PSRC board president, Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy, have met with all 87 elected representatives of the Puget Sound Region’s local governments. Rick stated that if all of them agreed on legislative policy issues, they could carry the vote in the legislature; what is true instead is that every region and district has specific and different needs, and they are all in competition with each other even as they have a recognized need to cooperate.

One example of the competition/cooperation conundrum is designated Urban Growth Centers (UGC’s). These are planning districts intended to provide a mix of housing, employment, commercial, and cultural amenities in a compact form, qualifying for particularly designated funding. They support transit, walking and cycling, are focal points of vibrant city life and activity, as well as strategic locations for accommodating a significant share of future population and employment growth. Smaller cities may have one center, such as a downtown core, while larger cities may have multiple unique centers. The PSRC membership is responsible for authorizing new Urban Growth Centers. When a new center is

designated, it is in competition for those same particularly designated funds, etc., and begins competing with all other UGC’s for workers and citizens. That conundrum can be seen every day as we travel from where we live to where we work, driving on public roads. Cities strive to be attractive economic centers, providing mixes of residences and industrial and office parks; however, in spite of careful planning, employees may still choose to live somewhere else. No city can stand by itself.

Our elected legislature and Congress are “ex-officio” members of the PSRC. While they are non-voting members, they do, of course, have powerful votes through their legislation. Over the past two years, the PSRC, the LWVWA, and many other interested organizations and citizens



worked very hard to get the State legislature to agree to a transportation budget. Rick said that the House Transportation Budget would have done that, but the efforts were unsuccessful, with no budget passing. Things at the national level were just as critical and

just as dire. Nationally, federal funding provided by emergency legislation will expire by December, and the underlying legislation authorizing the National Transportation Fund will expire at the end of May 2015.

Seattle voters passed Proposition 1 in the recent election on November 4, providing supplemental funds for Metro transit inside the city.

In 2015 there will be a change in leadership in both houses of the State legislature and in the national Congress. We will be watching to see how the conundrum of competition and coop-

eration that fuel the energies of our economy will be met beginning next year.

Tuesday, December 16, our committee will meet to hear Judy Clibborn, former Chair of the State House Transportation Committee. We invite you to join us at 10:00 a.m. at the League office; it promises to be an interesting and informative talk.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Judy Bevington

September Meeting

The new Seattle-King County League Climate Change Committee held its first meeting on September 18. We were pleased to have 15 people with a wide range of experience and knowledge about climate change attend. There was agreement that cutting carbon emissions is our primary committee goal. Two issues stand out as important for this—a carbon tax and coal trains. We plan to stay informed about these and other climate change issues such as action plans at the local, state and national level, and limits on emissions from coal plants. Given the clear and present danger that climate change poses, we feel a need to focus on action more than study.

The committee agreed to learn more about carbon emissions pricing as a way to move from fossil fuels to conservation and renewable energy sources. Carbon taxes and ‘cap and trade’ are two methods we intend to learn more about. It is noteworthy that Henry Paulson and other economists now advocate pricing that reflects the externalities of carbon emissions.

September Action

More than a dozen Leaguers showed up for the Climate Change March in downtown Seattle on September 21. We were proud to be one of many local organizations that took part in this national event. If you would like to be part of the

action, respond online to National League’s call to action to regulate coal plants--it takes only a click. www.lwv.org.

October Meeting

We met again on October 16; our guest speaker was Yoram Bauman, a “standup economist”, who spoke to us about an initiative that the group CO2WA intends to put on the state ballot in 2016. The initiative would support a revenue-neutral carbon tax; while emissions would be taxed, other current taxes such as the B & O tax and the sales tax would be cut.

November Meeting

For our November 21 meeting, we invited Rob Brown, co-chair of the Governor’s Task Force on Carbon Emissions, which is expected to propose some form of carbon pricing. We will also be joined by Mary Moore, state League’s Lobby Team member who is working on energy and climate change as a legislative priority.

Many think that some form of carbon pricing can have the most impact on climate change. In addition to considering the economic and environmental effects of various proposals, the relative cost of both action and inaction will need to be considered. To quote Jon Talton, Seattle Times columnist, “The planet is quickly closing in on a nightmarish level of greenhouse gases pumped into the atmosphere. Although those costs aren’t yet a part of our conventional energy calculus, they should be. Even the Pentagon considers climate change an immediate risk to national security.” We urge you to follow this issue, and come and join us. We meet the third Thursday of each month (except December), in the League office.

On the following two pages you will find an informational article comparing carbon taxes and cap and trade programs. It was written by a member of our National League’s Task Force on Climate Change, and is a good primer comparing the two approaches.



CURBING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS — TWO APPROACHES

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

Facing the growing evidence that burning fossil fuels is contributing significantly to global climate change, policymakers are evaluating strategies for reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. They have two general approaches to consider.

Cap-and-Trade

With a cap-and-trade system, policymakers set a limit on the quantity of a pollutant (e.g., CO₂) that can be emitted in a given period. The total emissions allowed under this cap are divided into permits representing the right to emit a given amount (e.g., one ton of CO₂). The permits are then allocated to the sources covered by the program (e.g., power plants). At the end of the compliance period, each source must report all emissions and surrender an equivalent number of permits.

Since the number of permits is limited, they have financial value. Companies able to reduce their emissions at low cost can sell the permits they don't need to companies for whom the cost of reducing emissions is high. Each company has the flexibility to choose how to meet its emissions target, but market incentives encourage them to develop new, cleaner technologies. Over time, the cap is lowered to achieve more aggressive emissions-reduction goals.

Carbon Tax

A carbon tax is imposed on fossil fuel suppliers at a rate that reflects the amount of carbon that will be emitted when the fuel is combusted. The tax is included in the price of the coal, oil, and natural gas supplied to wholesale users and ultimately is passed on to consumers in the price of electricity,

gasoline and other energy-intensive products. By raising the price of carbon-based energy, the tax creates incentives to reduce energy use, stimulates demand for more energy-efficient products, and promotes a shift to cleaner fuels and renewable energy.

Emissions Certainty

The strength of the **cap-and-trade** approach is that it sets firm limits on emissions. The cap is set at a level designed to achieve a desired environmental outcome (e.g., a reduction of CO₂ emissions to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050).

A **carbon tax** allows the quantity of emissions to fluctuate as the demand for energy rises or falls. Allowing emissions to vary from year to year gives firms the flexibility to abate less and pay more in taxes when abatement costs are unusually high (and vice-versa when abatement costs are low). In order to achieve climatic goals, the tax rate can be adjusted over time to attain greater emissions reductions.

Price Predictability

The advantage of a **carbon tax** is that it fixes the price of carbon emissions. It creates a permanent incentive to reduce emissions, thereby encouraging investment in alternative fuels and energy-efficient technologies that have high up-front costs.

Under a **cap-and-trade** system, the price of emissions permits may vary considerably from year to year. An especially cold winter, for example, could increase the demand for energy and cause a spike in the price of permits. This volatility could weaken incentives to invest in cleaner technologies.

For illustrative purposes, this paper focuses on a cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide (CO₂).

To address volatility, most cap-and-trade proposals include cost-control mechanisms.

- **Safety valve**—establishes a ceiling on the price of permits. If the price reaches this level, the government can sell additional permits at this price to the capped entities.
- **Circuit breaker**—freezes a gradually declining emissions cap if the permit price rises above a predetermined level.
- **Banking**—allows companies to save unused allowances for future years.
- **Borrowing**—allows companies to borrow permits from future years and pay them back, with interest, later.
- **Offsets**—allow companies to cover some of their emissions by purchasing credits created by carbon mitigation projects (e.g., tree planting) from sources outside the cap-and-trade system.

These mechanisms (with the exception of banking) could delay emissions reductions and undermine the integrity of the cap.

Environmental Effectiveness

The impact of a **cap-and-trade** system depends on a number of factors. How stringent is the emissions target? How will baseline emissions be measured and a corresponding and appropriate number of emissions permits be determined and distributed? Will the cap be applied economy-wide or only to certain sectors? Does it include cost-control measures that are likely to break the emissions cap?

The impact of a **carbon tax** depends in large part on whether the tax rate is set high enough to create real market incentives to develop and adopt climate-friendly technologies. Although a carbon tax does not establish a firm limit on emissions, it

applies economy-wide and provides a constant incentive for companies to make carbon-saving investments. The tax rate can be increased over time to provide stronger incentives to reduce emissions.

Equity

Under many **cap-and-trade** proposals, a substantial portion of the emissions permits are to be distributed free to the capped entities. Research indicates that only a modest portion of the permit value is needed to offset the costs of the cap, but the full amount is passed along in increased prices to consumers. This would disproportionately affect lower-income households because they tend to spend a larger fraction of their income than do higher-income households and because energy products make up a bigger share of their spending.

A **carbon tax** directly raises substantial revenues. These could be used in part to fund "progressive" tax-shifting policies that would reduce the burden of higher energy costs on lower-income groups.

Simplicity and Transparency

A **cap-and-trade** system requires new institutions (e.g., a system to allocate permits, markets where firms can buy and sell permits, a means of monitoring emissions and trades). Auctioning permits rather than distributing them free could help promote simplicity and transparency.

A **carbon tax** can be levied and collected via existing institutions with experience in enforcing compliance. It is simpler and less expensive to administer and enforce than a cap-and-trade system. Its underlying premise—the price of energy should include the environmental costs associated with its production—is transparent and readily understood.

The League continues to monitor and advocate regarding charter schools in Washington. We are participating in the litigation over Initiative 1240 and present the following for your information.

Washington's Charter School Law Debated In Front Of The State Supreme Court

By Christina Salerno | October 28, 2014 |

The Washington Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday about the constitutionality of the state's new charter school law.

A lawyer for the coalition that is suing to stop the charter school law argued that charter schools are "fundamentally different" than traditional "common schools" and should not be funded with certain taxpayer money.

"There is a requirement, in our view, in the state constitution that says when you appropriate money for common schools, it's got to be used for common schools," said Paul Lawrence, who represents a coalition that includes the Washington Education Association, El Centro De La Raza and the League of Women Voters of Washington.

The tax revenue collected from various sources to fund common schools is constitutionally protected, Lawrence argued, and can't be used for charter schools.

State attorney Rebecca Glasgow told the justices the state's public school system must adapt to the changing needs of students.

"When the voters approved Initiative 1240, they added charter schools to a long list of existing non-traditional, public education programs — many of which are run by school districts, but some of which are not," Glasgow said.

"This court should hold that charter schools are common schools," she said. "But even if they weren't, they can be operated with unrestricted

general fund education money."

Approved by voters in 2012, the charter school law allows up to 40 charter schools to open over the next five years. So far, ten charter schools have been authorized.

The first charter school opened this fall in Seattle, eight schools are enrolling students for next year and one school is slated to open its doors in 2016, according to the Washington State Charter Schools Association. The association's CEO Thomas Franta issued a statement saying he was "confident" the court will uphold the law, which he described as one of the strongest in the country.

The Supreme Court will issue a decision at a later date.

About Capitol Record

The Capitol Record is TVW's blog about state government and the Legislature. TVW is a non-profit television network modeled after C-SPAN, airing gavel-to-gavel coverage of the state Legislature as well as independently produced news shows.

The blog is primarily written by Christina Salerno, the host and executive producer of TVW's Legislative Review show. Christina previously worked as a reporter for McClatchy newspapers and as a web editor at CBS and MSN. She has a degree in Political Science from CSU Sacramento, and studied television and documentary film production at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.

By Christina Salerno, TVW's The Capitol Record. Reprinted with permission.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

UNCERTAIN JUSTICE: THE ROBERTS COURT AND THE CONSTITUTION

By Laurence Tribe and Joshua Matz

Uncertain Justice is a welcome and generally reassuring book by Harvard Law School professor Laurence Tribe, and Joshua Matz, a recent graduate of the same school who is now a clerk for Justice Anthony Kennedy. Rather than the usual liberals vs. conservatives approach, these authors provide a nuanced look at how the justices arrive at monumental decisions.

It is a treat to escape from sound-bite journalism, which too easily portrays conservatives on the bench as being utterly out of touch with changing attitudes, for example, toward same-sex marriage. Instead, the authors paint each of the nine justices as thoughtful and conscientious, each with his or her particular but reasonable understanding of the Constitution and how it affects cases that come before them. They say that all justices, “inevitably have agendas: beliefs about what law is, what it should be, and how to move it that way.” They opine that “[Justice] Breyer celebrates pragmatic rulings that make democracy work” while “[Justice] Kennedy works hard to safeguard a particular vision of human liberty.”

Nonetheless, we learn that the conservative majority is “moving us ever closer to a world in which government is stripped of nearly all power over money in politics.” Additionally, “in a series of rulings...this Court has [taken] a bolder role in [other] economic matters.” In *Sorrell vs. IMS*, for example, the “Court struck down a Vermont law designed to lower prescription drug prices”.

The authors write that a crude favoritism for big business, “is not what drives [the majority].” Rather, the right-leaning justices seem, “especially skeptical of the whole concept of representative litigation, in which plaintiffs [such as Lilly Ledbetter] sue on behalf of larger groups.” Instead, they generally favor “the traditional

model of one-on-one litigation between two parties.”

In contrast, the left-leaning justices “see victims of corporate wrong-doing denied any remedy, possessed of a right without any way to enforce it. They see an invitation to further corporate abuses in the absence of an enforcement mechanism.”

“This deep split in the Roberts Court, rooted in incompatible views of economic regulation and access to judicial justice, is fast transforming American legal practice.”

It is helpful to know that Justice Ginsberg comes across as an intellectual bulldog, capable of writing strong dissents that provide precise arguments. These can be used in the future when the majority is less conservative and may decide to change the law. The authors say she is “a savvy, respected leader...and has written a number of celebrated dissents on health care, affirmative action, and voting rights cases.”

Particularly in an era when Congress seems ineffectual, it is good to read about nine profoundly intelligent, thoughtful and interesting people who are “engaged in a dialogue not just [within the Supreme Court] and its future incarnations but also with lower courts, the other branches of our federal government, the sovereign states, and the American people.” This conversation provides “greater insight into what the Roberts Court is doing...and how it is moving – at times haltingly and uncertainly – along the moral arc of history, the long arc that bends toward justice”.

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

Unit Meetings

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

Meetings are open to all.

| Unit Leader email | Phone | Time | Location |
|-------------------|-------|------|----------|
|-------------------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Thursday, December 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|

ISSAQUAH – Margaret Austin

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|---|
| margaret.austin@comcast.net | 425-392-5760 | 11:30 a.m. | Eastside Holiday Part at St. Michael and All Saints Episcopal Church 325 SE Darst St, Issaquah |
| | 425-746-9960 | | |

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Bonnie Rimawi

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| bonnierim@aol.com | 425-820-7127 | 11:30 a.m. | <i>Will be meeting with the Issaquah unit!</i> |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|--|

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Monday, December 8 | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|

FIRST HILL – Joan Lawson

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| joanvlawson@gmail.com | 206-382-3147 | 10:00 a.m. | Horizon House, Forum & Social Room 900 University St, Seattle |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|--|

SOUTH SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| hedgwolfe@aol.com | 206-763-9430 | 7:00 p.m. | Hostess: Vivian Montoya 4932 42nd Ave S, Seattle |
| montoyaviv@yahoo.com | 206-695-2620 | | <i>Note earlier start time</i> |

CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE –

| | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|--|
| | 206-329-4848 | 7:15 p.m. | Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw St, Seattle 206-322-3076 |
|--|--------------|-----------|--|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Wednesday, December 10 | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|

NORTHEAST SEATTLE (formerly View Ridge) – Kay Beck

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| kbeck25@comcast.net | 206-523-3127 | 12:45 p.m. | Hostess: Kay Beck 5024 Nicklas Pl NE, Seattle |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|--|

QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Teddy Geokezas and Elsie Simon

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| tgeokezas@msn.com | 206-782-5036 | 7:30 p.m. | Chocolat Vitale Shop 6257 3rd Ave NW 206-297-0863 |
| elsiesimon@comcast.net | 206-283-6297 | | |

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

| Unit Leader email | Phone | Time | Location |
|-------------------|-------|------|----------|
|-------------------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Thursday, December 11 | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|

MERCER ISLAND – Cynthia Howe

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| howe.john@comcast.net | 206-236-0593 | 9:30 a.m. | Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Saturday, December 13 | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Alice Peterson

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| peterson-alice-jack@msn.com | 206-524-5530 | 10:00 a.m. | Hostess: Wendie Berge 3100 W Commodore Way, #306, Seattle 206-283-1190 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|--|

NORTH KING COUNTY – Toni Potter/Marjorie Hawkes

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| antoniapotter@comcast.net | 206-365-8949 | 9:15 a.m. | <i>Contact Toni Potter for meeting info.</i> |
| mshawkesis@gmail.com | 425-582-2481 | | |

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| maryehlers@comcast.net | 253-941-1930 | 7:00 p.m. | <i>Will be showing documentary film.</i> |
| kjorgensen@juno.com | 253-859-8349 | | <i>Call Mary Ehlers for details.</i> |

NORTH CENTRAL – Jan Orlando

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| orlanre@aol.com | 206-524-0936 | 2:00 p.m. | <i>No meeting this month.</i> |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|

SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| clcathy@skynetbb.com | 360-802-6799 | 11:30 a.m. | <i>No meeting this month.</i> |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| | 206-329-4848 | 10:00 a.m. | <i>No meeting this month.</i> |
|--|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| etheljw1@q.com | 206-932-7887 | 1:00 p.m. | <i>No meeting this month.</i> |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 2013-15 | <i>President</i> | Ellen Barton | 206-329-4848 | president@seattlelwv.org |
| 2013-15 | <i>1st VP-Action</i> | Janet Winans | 206-323-4825 | janetwinans@earthlink.net |
| 2014-15 | <i>2nd VP</i> | Mary Jo Vigil | 206-783-8485 | mjvigil@starbucks.com |
| 2013-15 | <i>Secretary</i> | Amanda Clark | 206-236-0517 | amandac5@comcast.net |
| 2014-16 | <i>Treasurer</i> | Cindy Piennett | 206-329-4848 | cindypiennett@gmail.com |

Directors

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 2013-15 | <i>Program/Outreach</i> | Joanna Cullen | 206-329-8514 | jfoxcullen@gmail.com |
| 2014-16 | <i>Membership</i> | Paneen Davidson | 206-329-4848 | membership@seattlelwv.org |
| 2013-15 | <i>Social Justice</i> | Jayne Freitag | 425-223-5827 | mjafreitag@comcast.net |
| 2014-16 | <i>Action</i> | Pat Griffith | 206-285-2452 | pgseattle@q.com |
| 2014-16 | <i>Voter Services</i> | Julie Anne Kempf | 206-329-4848 | julie@kempf.com |
| 2014-16 | <i>Program</i> | Joan Lawson | 206-329-4848 | joanvlawson@gmail.com |
| 2014-15 | <i>Voter Editor</i> | Lisa Peterson | 206-329-4848 | votereditor@seattlelwv.org |
| 2014-16 | <i>Voter Services</i> | Amelia Woolley | 206-329-4848 | voterservice@seattlelwv.org |

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

Education Fund Officers

| | | | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 2013-15 | <i>President</i> | Ellen Barton | 206-329-4848 | president@seattlelwv.org |
| 2014-15 | <i>1st VP</i> | Janet Winans | 206-323-4825 | janetwinans@earthlink.net |
| 2014-15 | <i>2nd VP</i> | Julie Anne Kempf | 206-329-4848 | julie@kempf.com |
| 2013-15 | <i>Secretary</i> | Amanda Clark | 206-236-0517 | amandac5@comcast.net |
| 2014-15 | <i>Treasurer</i> | Katie Dudley | 206-329-4848 | eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org |

Nominating Committee

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 2014-15 | <i>Co-chair</i> | Susan Jones | 206-329-4848 | susan@monckjones.com |
| 2014-15 | <i>Co-chair</i> | Jeannette Kahlenberg | 206-329-4848 | kahlenb@gmail.com |
| 2014-15 | | Carol Goldenberg | 206-329-4848 | carolsamgo@q.com |

Note: Two board members will be appointed to serve on the nominating committee in January.

Off Board Positions

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Campaign Finance | Jean Carlson | 206-774-6649 | carlson.jean@gmail.com |
| KC South Liaison | Mary Ehlers | 253-941-1930 | maryehlers@comcast.net |
| CIS Coordinator | Cynthia Howe | 206-236-0593 | howe.john@comcast.net |

Committees

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Climate Change</i> | Judy Bevington | | gbeving@eskimo.com |
| <i>Climate Change</i> | Raelene Gold | | raelene@seanet.com |
| <i>Economics & Taxation</i> | see page 7 | | |
| <i>Education</i> | Joanna Cullen | 206-329-8514 | jfoxcullen@gmail.com |
| <i>International Relations</i> | see page 7 | | |
| <i>Social Justice</i> | Jayne Freitag | 425-223-5827 | mjafreitag@comcast.net |
| <i>Transportation</i> | Janet Winans | 206-323-4825 | janetwinans@earthlink.net |
| <i>Waterfront</i> | Nancy & Charles Bagley | 206-282-1578 | candnbagley@comcast.net |

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Ave, Suite 101
Seattle WA 98122

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Moving? Let us know!

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

No Forum This Month

Wishing You and Yours the Very
Best This Holiday Season and a
Happy New Year!

The League Office will be closed from
December 24 through January 2.

