

The Voter

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The New LWVS-KC Programming

by Alyssa Weed, Program Chair

My least favorite part of December is how fleeting it is. January comes way too soon and with it the seemingly endless stretch of gray months. There seems little to look forward to as I'm not a New Year's Resolution person . . . and my old friend complacency starts to set in. But not this year. This year, I'll be busying myself with overhauling the League's Program arm. We've got a committee (email me if you'd like to join!), a goal, and some really exciting plans for 2019 and beyond.

First, the big change. In order to provide stronger, more comprehensive programming for our members, our forums will no longer appear monthly. We will aim to have a forum or an organized event for members at least every other month and will provide plenty of advance notice of when we anticipate hosting an event. While these bi-monthly events might not always be in-depth forums, we will aim to provide our members with quality programming that creates meaningful dialogue and a stronger League community, whether that be through discussion panels, film screenings, happy hours, or volunteer parties. Rather than tie ourselves to a schedule set months in advance, we'll be more agile with our programming. The reality is the issues we care about at our annual meeting in May aren't always relevant when it's time for us to organize a forum. Our political landscape seems to be changing every day. Shouldn't we be more responsive to that?

As a result, you'll see more robust programs that demonstrate the caliber of excellence

League members are known for. We'll be able to dive deeper into policy issues, hear more from experts, and provide programming that members are excited about. You can also expect more social events like our Post-Election Party in November where League members can mix and mingle in a more casual setting.

This also means units and committees will have more control over what they want to talk about, focus on, and learn more about at their monthly meetings. They will have the ability to shape mini-forums on topics that they are most interested in and meet in more casual and convenient locations. More unit control over programming will lead to an increased number of unit members who are engaged with the League, attract more community members, and raise the profile of units. The Program Committee is ready to help units transition to the new format by providing starting materials, contacts for experts, and discussion prompts.

Our Committee is also deeply committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all future programs. This means we'll be inviting speakers and perspectives that have been historically ignored, having hard conversations around privilege and power, and asking our members to do some much-needed self-reflection about what the League stands for. This initiative goes beyond the subject matter of our programs. We need to open our doors to newcomers, make events more accessible, and step out of our normal routine.

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Mission Statement

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

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Connecting with the Leadership

I am generally an optimistic, glass-is-half-full kind of person. I know how to make lemonade out of lemons, I like to think there is good in everyone, and even when the going gets rough I try to remember, “this too shall pass.” So those of you who attended our post-election party at Optimism Brewing Company probably heard me chirping about how the venue was an appropriately named place to be the day after the midterm elections. The election left us with a lot of things to be optimistic about, including a record voter turnout—73 percent in King County, 66 percent across the state, and approximately 49 percent nationwide—and more women elected to Congress than ever before, including 40 women of color.

For a moment, exercising the right to vote was a viral sensation, just like the ice bucket challenge or the “distracted boyfriend” meme. The week before the election, you couldn’t go anywhere without seeing a red, white, and blue “vote” sign or hearing the rallying cry of “Remember to vote!”

But can we keep this up, please? As the president of a nonpartisan organization, part of me hates to think that this sudden motivation to participate in the electoral process is solely a reactionary one. The optimist in me would like to think that this is the start of a trend reversal, and that people are beginning to see just how important it is to get out and vote in every election, not just the ones where they feel the need to equalize decisions made while they weren’t paying attention.

While exit polls are not always reliable, trends suggest that more young people voted, as did people in regions where unemployment was low and education levels are higher. But we will know more

about voter demographics after all the states have certified their elections. Presumably, with such record numbers and a bicameral split between Republicans and Democrats in Congress, people from all political stripes and colors made their voices heard in the midterms. As someone who comes from a family with wildly diverging political views, I look at this optimistically, of course—how people vote is their choice, but what’s more important is that they choose.

Now, even though my colleagues at the office have been known to call me Pollyanna on occasion, I’m not naïve. Another significant outcome of the midterm election is the ever-increasing polarization among Americans. More and more, we are becoming a nation of left and right, urban and rural, coastal and inland, haves and have-nots. Or at least our mainstream media is positioning us so, because it makes for a more interesting news story than “today everyone agreed on several fundamental principles.”

Whether perceived or real, this deepening divide is exactly why the League of Women Voters is so important to our democracy right now. We go beyond partisanship to delve into issues. We don’t tell you how you should vote, only that you should. Even when we support or oppose an initiative – like we did with the Seattle Proposition 1 measure – we take great pains to keep our opinion out of our forums and events where we are objectively educating the public. The League’s unbiased, rational, respectful, 360-degree perspective is quickly disappearing from American politics. And we need it more than ever before.

A week after the election, I had the pleasure of meeting with a group of international visitors to discuss the League of Women Voters and its role in the U.S. electoral

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Board Meeting 10 a.m.
2	3	4 Int'l Relations Comm. Mtg. 7 p.m.	5	6	7 Voter Deadline	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Education Committee Meeting 11 a.m.	21	22
23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Econ & Tax Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m.
30	31 Office Closed	January 1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5 Board Meeting 10 a.m.

December

Board Meeting
Saturday, December 1
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Internat'l Relations Committee
Tuesday, December 4
7:00 p.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

The Voter Deadline
Friday, December 7

Education Committee
Thursday, December 20
11:00 a.m.
League Office

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, December 29
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

January

Board Meeting
Saturday, January 5
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Forum: Program Planning
Thursday, January 10
7:00 p.m.

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

December: No forum
January 10: Program Planning

The League frequently presents public forums on issues of public interest. Check the *Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

Board Briefs by Katie Dudley, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on November 3, 2018. This is a summary of their meeting.

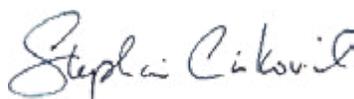
The theme of the November Board meeting was partnerships, as several different ones were discussed. The Board first met with Cindy Black, a League member and Executive Director of Fix Democracy First, to hear about her work on Seattle’s Defend Our Democracy Ordinance, a response to Citizens United. The local ordinance is being modeled after a successful ordinance passed in St. Petersburg, FL. Next the Board heard from Garrett Esperum, member of the Friends of Discovery Park and an environmental/community advocate who spoke on behalf of a partnership his group is forming with Forterra (formerly known as Cascade Land Conservancy). Stephanie proposed having the League support Dignity for Divas, a local nonprofit that collects toiletries, socks, and other goods and distributes them to women who are experiencing homelessness.

.....
Leadership continued from p. 3:

process; the group was sponsored by the U.S. State Department and reached out to the League through the World Affairs Council. Within the group was a young woman on track to become one of the first female political leaders in the Bahamas, a political science professor from Costa Rica, a member of the Catalanian Parliament in Spain, and an election official from Kyrgyzstan. They were very interested to know about the League’s processes for reaching consensus on a position, how we decide to endorse a ballot initiative, and what our focus will be after the election. One of the guests asked whether the post-election polarization of this country was going to make it harder or easier for the

League to do our job. I hope it will be easier—easier to hear our moderating voice over the hyperpartisan din, and easier to motivate and engage voters who are tired of having such a small percentage of people make decisions for the vast majority.

The February special elections are just around the corner. Will you be an optimist with me and help the League get out the vote? As Helen Keller said, “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.”



Stephanie Cirkovich
President

Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, December 29

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, December 20

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

One week earlier than usual due to the holidays.

International Relations Committee

DATE: Tuesday, December 4

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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.

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

Diversity Policy

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

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

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

King County Connects — Announcements

Two Great Decisions Groups Will Meet Next Year



“The League of Women Voters of the U.S. promotes peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.” *LWVUS position on International Relations.*

The Foreign Policy Association shares the goals of the League of Women Voters of informed citizen participation in our democracy

through an understanding of the daily news and influencing the foreign policy debate. The King County League has been sponsoring one or more of the Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions groups since 1993.

Great Decisions is America’s largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Group discussion centers on one of the topics at each meeting as presented in the Great Decisions Briefing Book. The topics for 2019 are:

- Refugees and Global Migration
- The Middle East: Regional Disorder
- Nuclear Regulations: Back to the Future
- The Rise of Populism in Europe
- Decoding US – China Trade
- India and its Neighbors
- Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
- The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested
- State of the State Department and Diplomacy

In 2019 the Seattle-King County League of Women Voters is sponsoring two groups, one on Capitol Hill and one in West Seattle.

The Capitol Hill group will meet at 909 E. Newton beginning February 12th and meet every other Tuesday at 7:15 PM for coffee and cookies, with the discussion beginning at 7:30 PM. For more information contact Rosalie McCreary, 206-687-7415, romccreary@gmail.com.

The West Seattle group meets starting in mid-January on early Friday afternoons and agrees at the first meeting on the location for the following meetings. For more information on this group, contact Adele Reynolds at 206-621-4867 or adelereynolds@netscape.net.

Briefing books can be ordered any time at fpa.org (or google Great Decisions 2019) and will ship in January.

A Tour With Some Women's History

If you are in Olympia this January, you should check out this special tour of the Governor's Mansion focused on the history of the women's suffrage movement in Washington!



"It was 110 years ago in January that the Governor's Mansion was completed. At that time women's suffrage also was before the State Legislature. At a Mansion housewarming in January 1909, Spokane Suffragist May Arkwright Hutton took the opportunity to address the right of women to vote as pivotal legislators were present.



*May Arkwright Hutton - Outspoken and articulate; she liked to shake things up!
source: www.inlander.com*

Now during this January, Mansion tour-goers will have the opportunity to "meet" Mrs. Hutton at the end of the tour in the ballroom and hear her story during special "Suffragist Trail Tours" on Wednesdays Jan. 2 and 9. Tours are held at 1, 1:20, 1:40 and 2 p.m."

For reservations, please visit the Department of Enterprise Services website at www.des.wa.gov to complete an online Mansion Tour request form.

Reservations **MUST** be made at least 24-hours in advance (reservations are on a first-come, first served basis so schedule early).

For questions or additional information, please contact the State Capitol Tour Office at (360) 902-8880 or email at tours@des.wa.gov.

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 everyone.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dues and contributions:

- \$75 one year individual membership
- \$115 one year household membership
- \$40 low or fixed income
- 10 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.

Thank you for supporting the work of the LWV!

Please return this form to:
League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1511 3rd Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101



**Celebrating 98 years of
empowering voters and
defending democracy!**

Action Workshop

hosted by League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Shoreline Community College

Calling YOU to ACTION

Saturday, January 12, 2019
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Keynote Speaker:
Commissioner of Public Lands
Hilary Franz

**Free
registration
for Shoreline
students!**

**First 30
students to
register get
free lunch!**

League of Women Voters is looking to create change on critical issues affecting our state next year in the 2019 Legislative Session. We need your voice to make it happen!

Join us for an in-depth look at the upcoming legislative session, a chance to hear from local lawmakers and keynote speakers, learn more about key issues in Washington State such as voting rights, social justice, education, gun safety, and climate change. Learn how you can advocate and gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to defend our democracy.

Registration for non-Shoreline students: \$25 Regular/\$10 Youth (24 and younger)

Includes lunch and all materials. A limited number of scholarships are available if the registration fee would be a barrier to participation.

Register online: <https://lwvwa.org/event-3092403>

Shoreline Community College ★ Main Dining Room of the PUB ★ Shoreline, WA 98133
Saturday, January 12, 2019 ★ 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF WASHINGTON

Response to Seattle Times Editorial

Editor's Note: A recent Seattle Times editorial criticized the League for its stance on Seattle Proposition No. 1, the Families, Education and Promise Plan Levy. This is our response, which to date has not been published.

The *Seattle Times*' November 12 editorial makes a big fuss over the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County's decision not to endorse the Seattle Families, Education, Preschool and Promise Plan (FEPP) Levy in the recent election. In doing so, it misrepresents both the League's position and also the recent opinion of the Washington State Supreme Court upholding the Charter School Act.

The *Times* is correct that the Court upheld charter schools as a constitutional means of educating students in *El Centro de la Raza v. Washington*¹; the League is not questioning the constitutionality of these institutions. What the League does take issue with—and what the El Centro decision explicitly did not address—is the narrower question of whether public levy dollars are an appropriate funding source for charter schools.

To reach its decision, the Court relied in part on the fact that charter schools do not receive public funding. Under Washington law, charter schools are distinguished from “common” (also known as “public”) schools, the former receiving lottery funds rather than the state's general funds, which are off-limits to charter schools. There is also language in the Charter School Act that may prevent Seattle charter schools from receiving local levy dollars. So while it is perhaps well-intentioned, it is misleading for the *Times* to admonish the League and suggest we are advocating that charter students be “excluded from the levy their parents are paying for.” They may already be excluded as a matter of law.

The League's opposition to the FEPP levy is consistent with this, and with our long-standing position that government must be transparent, accessible, and accountable to the public it serves. Charter schools are

governed by private boards selected by nonprofit corporations rather than publicly elected by citizens. As such, voters have no oversight as to how their public dollars are spent. Accountability concerns aside, the League also believes that levies are supposed to provide short-term funding solutions to emergent issues; they are not long-term funding sources to be renewed in perpetuity. Moreover, FEPP levy funds were not needed until 2020, which would have given the City of Seattle time to more thoroughly engage the community on these important issues.

To be clear, the League greatly appreciates and respects Mayor Durkan and the City of Seattle's efforts and advocacy of on behalf of our youth. Since many of our members are educators, elected officials, parents, administrators, and education advocates with decades of experience in the educational system, we understand the challenges and constraints they face. And at the end of the day, we all share the common goal of helping Seattle students succeed.

But as a strong proponent of informed, civil discourse, the League believes it is important not to mischaracterize a call for accountability, specificity, or compliance with the law as general “hostility” toward charter schools or their students. We are simply doing what we have been doing successfully for nearly a century—empowering voters and defending democracy.

Regards,
Stephanie Cirkovich, President

cc: Mayor Jenny Durkan
The Seattle City Council

¹*El Centro de la Raza v. Washington*, No. 94269-2, slip. op. at 27 (Wash. Oct. 25, 2018). Available at <http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/942692.pdf>

Tips for Advocacy

By Roslyn Duffy

I attended the Advocacy Workshop on November 17. These are some of the tips I came away with.

“If you can only get half a loaf – take the half loaf.” President Franklin D. Roosevelt

- Break down advocacy opportunities by time:
 - o Phone call: 5 minutes
 - o Letter or conference call: 30 minutes
 - o Lobby: half- to full day
- Use your natural skills: art, writing, and poetry
 - Example: For a call to mop up tax policy, a broomstick with strips of cloth that attendees wrote concerns on and tied to the broomstick. The resultant mop was brought to Olympia.
- To track legislation, use the bill number and bill tracker
- Look under Advocacy on the LWVWA website to see what the lobby team is doing
- Read the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter, delivered to your email inbox every Sunday during the session

The most effective ways to advocate, according to legislators:

- It helps them to hear from us
- Be specific about what you want or don't want
- Talk to their counterparts in Leagues in other areas so that they will contact their legislators. Emails from outside constituency are often not passed on to them.
- Build a relationship with your own members of the legislature
- Show up
- Let your legislators know when you are coming to Olympia to testify. They might try to show up if they know constituents will be there, even if the issue is not related to their committee
- If committee members did not seem to pay attention or left before everyone had a chance to testify, let the committee chair know about this behavior
- Write a personal letter: handwritten letters get attention
- Be the squeaky wheel
- Have evidence-based facts and documentation
- Share personal stories
- Meet members in their district offices
- Go to your legislator's "coffee chats"

Features

Report from National

By Liz Bander, National Board Member

What a time to be a member of the League! This has been an incredibly busy election season, and across the country the League of Women Voters has been there: from Ballots & Baristas here in Seattle and King County, going to court in Arizona, Pennsylvania, and other states to ensure voters' voices are heard, and everywhere, serving a record number of people who visited VOTE411 for election information.

This election, like others in recent memory, we have seen just how critical it is to deliver on our mission to empower voters and defend democracy.

To better serve our mission, LWVUS is making work on diversity, equity, and inclusion a priority, because we believe that in doing so, we will foster more informed and active public participation in democracy, especially for those within underrepresented communities. We have made Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training (see link below) available to

everyone to explore unconscious bias, communicate across differences, and build self-awareness in other ways. We have also revised the Shur Fellow program to focus on DEI engagement with states—thanks and congratulations go out to Kathy Sakahara, who will be serving as one of the 2018-2020 coaches.

Last, but certainly not least, we are also asking League leaders to spend some time reflecting on the current state of their League, what success looks like, and how they can apply a DEI lens to our work. Every League member I have met so far is a leader in some fashion, and as such, I'd encourage everyone to participate in the training and to reflect on these questions.

For more information, go to <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/lwv-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-training>. If you have other questions, please contact me at 206-478-7335 or lizhill@outlook.com.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Defined



International Relations Committee Report

By Kim Peterson, Committee Chair

The International Relations Committee met November 6 at 7:00 PM and achieved our primary goal of discussing cyber issues (and not the election). We discussed a recent New York Times Op Ed by Ro Khanna (D-CA), "Internet Bill of Rights." It featured 10 principles, ranging from individual control of personal data, to net neutrality, to fostering competition.

We also had a presentation on cyber vulnerabilities in the US electric grid. There is a wealth of studies and articles on the subject, from "Power Grid Cyber Attacks Keep the Pentagon up at Night" from *Scientific American*, to "Cyber Threat and Vulnerability Analysis of the U.S. Electric Sector" by the Department of Energy. The articles point out that the grid is getting more complicated, and each complication adds another way in for cyber attacks. The articles also agree with 90 percent of Americans, who believe the government is not doing enough to protect the electric grid from cyber attack.

Washington State is at least doing something: since 2012 the state has done planning for a cyber attack as part of its Emergency Management Division. Its cyber security program has created a "Cybersecurity Guide for Critical Infrastructure for the State of Washington," which involved the state's Utilities and Transportation Commission, National Guard, and Office of the Chief Information Officer, as well as Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Snohomish County Public

Utility District, and Seattle City Light, among others. It provides an overview of cyber risk, related state, federal or other national resources, as well as steps for utilities to improve their security posture. In addition,



Seattle City Light is "continuing to upgrade our operational technology infrastructure and energy grid to protect against cybersecurity risks ..." in its latest strategic plan.

The next meeting of the committee is on Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 PM, at 909 E. Newton, #D-9, Seattle. All are welcome.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

By Matthew Desmond

Desmond, a professor of sociology at Harvard University, wrote this Pulitzer Prize winning study of tenants and landlords of low-income housing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He follows the lives of eight families, including Arlene Belle, a black mother.

In January 2008, when the city experienced the snowiest winter on record, nine-year-old Jori made a snowball and let it fly toward a car. “The car jerked to a stop, and a man jumped out. [Jori] ran inside and locked the door to the apartment where he lived with his mother, Arlene, and his younger brother.” The lock was cheap, and the man broke down the door with a few hard-heeled kicks. He left before anything else happened, but when the landlord found out about the door, she evicted Arlene and her boys. They had lived there eight months.”

Why would a landlord evict a poor mother with young children? Sherrena Tarver, a former elementary teacher, realized she could make much more money out of other people’s poverty. As one of the very few black female landlords, she makes enough to holiday in Jamaica and occasionally to buy more properties for rent. Another landlord makes \$400,000 annually out of his 131 mostly squalid trailers.

When Arlene had trouble paying her rent, Sherrena looked for an opportunity to evict her. A broken lock was a good enough reason, and she already had a list of people eager to move into Arlene’s apartment. In truth any kind of trouble that brings the police can lead to eviction. Women are

frequently evicted if they call 911 when their child has an asthma attack or their man beats them.

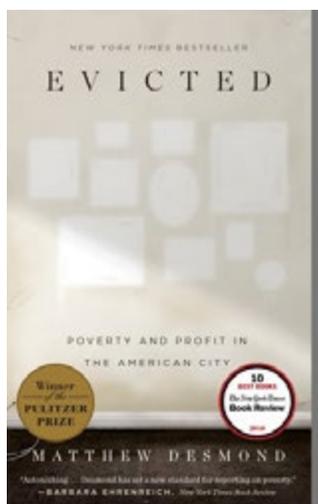
What is the cost of eviction? Arlene lost her possessions because she couldn’t pay the storage facility. She lost welfare help because she missed appointments when notices were sent to an old address. She lost her child to Child Protection Services when he no longer appeared at school.

“Losing a home sends families to shelters, abandoned houses and the street.” In addition, “it invites depression, illness, compels families to move into degrading housing in dangerous neighborhoods, uproots communities, and harms children. Eviction reveals people’s vulnerability and desperation, as well as their ingenuity and guts.”

Rent is what holds back most of the poor Desmond interviewed. They routinely pay more than 70 percent of their income.

This puts them in an endless cycle of “making rent, delaying eviction or finding another place to live when homeless.” He says “Our cities have become unaffordable to our poorest families and this problem is leaving a deep and jagged scar on the next generation.”

He writes, “The home is the center of life. It is the refuge from the grind of work, the pressures of school, and the menace of the streets.” In Arlene’s case, if she “didn’t have to dedicate 70-80 percent of her income to rent, she could keep her kids fed and clothed and off the streets. She could settle down in the neighborhood and



enroll her children in one school, providing them the opportunity to form long-lasting relationships with friends, role-models and teachers.”

Unfortunately, “We have failed to fully appreciate how deeply housing is implicated in the creation of poverty. Eviction is

commonplace in poor neighborhoods and it exacts a heavy toll on families, communities and children.”

This book provides a keen sense of what it is like to be really poor.

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

Cover article continued:

We also all need to address the elephant in the room: STUDIES. As an organization that prides ourselves on rigorous research, fact-checking, and analysis, we are sorely lacking in any enthusiasm around studies. Studies are how we are able to form new positions. We cannot expand our responses to the pressing issues of the times if we do not study them. There’s no shortage of issues our region is facing, from homelessness to education to gentrification to mass transit.

The League should play a part in how our communities respond to these problems, and we can only do that if we engage in in-depth studies. So I’m asking the curious among us to get even curiouser. We have the resources and the reputation to create lasting policy impacts. And we want to help you do that.

Not sure how to form a study committee? Not sure what all this new programming means for you? Interested in joining a committee but not sure how? Interested in forming a committee? While some things change, others will stay the same. As usual, our January forum will focus on Program Planning. You can expect this to serve as a League “job fair” of sorts. We’ll have committees and units share what they’re doing and how you can get involved, open the door for new committees to form, share

volunteer opportunities, vote on upcoming programming, and get people excited about studies.

So if you want to propose a study on election systems, plan a League cocktail party, meet other Leaguers with similar interests, or just learn more about how we’ll be operating going forward, come to the January Forum. Your voice will surely be missed if you don’t.

Here are some questions to think about in the meantime:

- What are the top three issues you think the League should study?
- What type of League programming do you find most valuable in helping you understand the complex issues our region faces? Unit meetings, forums, volunteer opportunities, studies, special events, etc.?
- If you could dedicate a forum to one issue, what would you pick? Why?
- What is one local issue that has impacted you or your community in the last year that you think more people should know about?
- What issues are important to your community/unit that others in the county might not be aware of?

Save the Date!

Wednesday, March 27, 2019



The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County presents its third annual VOICES OF DEMOCRACY dinner and awards ceremony.

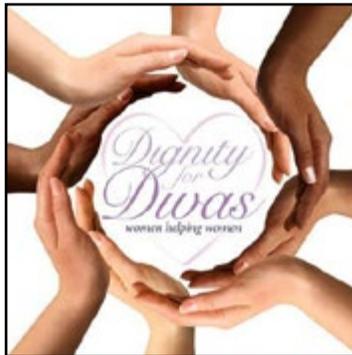
Featuring special guest Sally Jewell, former Secretary of the Interior and CEO of REI.

March 27, 2019 at the Palace Ballroom in Seattle.

League Joins Forces with Dignity for Divas to Help Women Experiencing Homelessness

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County recently voted to join forces with Dignity for Divas, a local nonprofit organization that aims to “restore hope and dignity to women experiencing homelessness by reminding them they matter and reconnecting them with their ‘Inner Diva,’ as well as to support and encourage women who are in transition from being homeless as they walk the path toward a self-sustaining life.” (*From the Dignity for Divas website at www.dignityfordivas.org.*)

Founded by Nikki Gane—who has herself experienced homelessness—Dignity for Divas has distributed over 25,000 Diva Survival Kits since its first year of existence in 2012. Survival kits include everything



from basic toiletries like soap, combs, toothbrushes, and sanitary napkins to other essentials like makeup and earrings.

In addition, Dignity for Divas puts together “Welcome Home” kits for women who are getting their lives back together after experiencing homelessness. Those kits include things like dishwashing detergent, towels, cookware, utensils, etc.

Starting with the January 10 forum on Program Planning, the League will be collecting items for Dignity for Divas at its forums and other events. Please stay tuned to our website, social media, and *The Voter* for more information on how to get involved with this great organization and make a difference for women who are experiencing homelessness.

Unit Meetings

Some units do not meet in December, others have a special holiday event. The three that will be meeting are listed here:

First Hill
Monday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m.
Horizon House Forum & Social Room
900 University St, Seattle

North King County
Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Redeemer
6210 181st St, Kenmore

Northeast Seattle
Wednesday, December 12 at 12:45 p.m.
5024 Nicklas Pl NE, Seattle

South Seattle
Monday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m.
Raconteur at Third Place Books
5041 Wilson Ave S, Seattle

If you have any questions about your unit, please contact the unit leader(s) listed below.

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janetranderson@msn.com, 206-285-2460

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BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND
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QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVE.
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Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

2017-19	<i>President</i>	Stephanie Cirkovich	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2018-20	<i>1st VP - Development</i>	Christy Wood	206-707-3845	christywood@hotmail.com
2017-19	<i>2nd VP - Program</i>	Alyssa Weed	206-329-4848	afweed1@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Secretary</i>	Katie Dudley	206-329-4848	kate.c.dudley@gmail.com
2018-20	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cathy O'Shea	425-753-4182	coshea120@gmail.com

Directors

2018-20	<i>Voter Service</i>	Barbra Chevalier	425-445-2281	barbra.n.chevalier@gmail.com
2018-20	<i>Development</i>	Kiku Hayashi	206-329-4848	kikuhayashi1@gmail.com
2018-20	<i>Action</i>	Heather Kelly	206-329-4848	hejokelly@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Committees & Units</i>	Zara Kublin	206-276-2831	zkublin@hotmail.com
2017-19	<i>Outreach & Events</i>	Melissa Taylor	206-329-4848	melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com

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

Education Fund Officers - same as above except Treasurer

2018-19	<i>Treasurer</i>	Jessica Forsythe	206-329-4848	eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org
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Nominating Committee

2018-19	<i>Chair</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2018-19		Julie Sarkissian	206-329-4848	juliesarkissian@hotmail.com

Vacant seat

Two boardmembers will be appointed to the committee later in the year.

Off Board Positions

	<i>Voter Editor</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
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Committee Chairs

	<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Nora Leech		nleech2002@yahoo.com
	<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
	<i>International Relations</i>	Kim Peterson	206-789-7447	
	<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

No Forum This Month - Happy Holidays!

Next Forum will be Program Planning

January 10, 2019
7:00 p.m.

