



The Voter

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Examining Outside Influences on Our Voting Patterns and Behaviors

by Alyssa Weed, Program Committee Co-Chair

What goes into your vote? If you live in King County, black ink is a good start—though I hear blue is supposedly fine as well. Do you vote with your moral compass on the day ballots drop in your neighborhood, staying true to your core values no matter what? Do you vote with your research skills, spending hours poring over pages and pages of the Public Disclosure Commission looking to see who's giving whom money? Or do you vote pragmatically, voting for the candidate you may not like even if you know that they'll do a good job anyway?

However you approach the ballot, it's a little more complicated than just filling in a bubble.

As Americans, we think of voting as a sacred right. We pride ourselves on living in a democratic society where we have government for the people, by the people. But is that true? For many people living in the US, voting isn't a given right—it's a hard fought struggle. Many of you reading this, myself included, were never intended by our nation's founders to hold that sacred right. And yet, here we are—driving through the night to find that one ballot drop box in the neighborhood, standing in the rain registering voters, running for (and winning!) elected office, casting deciding ballots in neck-and-neck races, and tirelessly working on behalf of the League to make democracy work.

In the United States, your access to the vote depends on factors that are often outside your control. Restrictive and inadequate polling hours, punitive and overreaching voter ID laws, and confusing ballot language are just some of the ways our voting behavior and attitude towards the institution can be negatively influenced. When these problems meet issues like gerrymandering, Citizens United, and our non-stop 24-hour news cycle, it can seem like voting doesn't really matter all that much after all.

So what do we do when we feel disenfranchised and forgotten about by our electoral system? For many of us, we take our anger and resentment and turn it into action and engagement in a different form: a good old-fashioned protest. The momentum we build when we gather with our fellow community members can translate to real results in our local, state, and federal governments. These demonstrations can also lead to higher civic engagement and a better involved voting population.

At the March forum, we'll be screening videos from *We the Voters* – a groundbreaking digital campaign designed to inspire and activate voters across the country. The League of Women Voters has partnered with *We the Voters* to bring you

Continued on page 5

Contents

President’s Message 3
 Calendar 4
 Forum Schedule..... 5
 Committees..... 6
 King County Connects
 Save the Date - May Event 7
 Civil Discourse 7
 Making Democracy Work Award..... 8
 Action 9
 Membership..... 10
 Features
 Cyberwars 12
 IR Committee 14
 Book Review 15
 Unit Meetings..... 16
 Board and Committee Contacts 19

 This Month’s Forum or Event back cover

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Mission Statement

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

Connecting with the Leadership

Let's talk tech! Technology isn't meant to be something scary or arcane—my philosophy is that it's just another tool that we can use to facilitate communication with one another. That includes those of us within the League and people outside the League, particularly to help them understand why we feel it's so critical to safeguard democracy and engage them in that process.

To understand where we're going, we need to know where we are right now. To that end, I would ask that anyone who is using Google Docs, Survey Monkey, has a Facebook group, Twitter account or any other service for League related purposes to go to <http://bit.ly/2Ed4ZJL> and let me know. This isn't so that I can come in and take over—the purpose here is to inventory what we have right now, to make sure information is backed up and shared with your peers, so that no one is in the dark if you decide to finally take that year-long round-the-world cruise!

One of the other goals of the inventory process is to learn about you and how you use technology. In a future member survey, you're going to see questions about your personal use of technology and your preferences. My goal is to meet you where you are, whether that's on Facebook, Instagram, email, or yes, even regular mail!

So, now that I've talked about where we are, let's talk about where we want to go! We have a few major changes on the horizon—the biggest by far that's visible to you will be a revamped website, modernized with the ability to connect you to volunteer opportunities you may not have been aware of and with improved payment technology. This is critical to making it simpler for donors to give and for you to maintain your membership. Behind the scenes, we're working to build a more robust membership

database that will make it easier for us to manage information updates and donation data. Look for this roll out in the coming months!

The other place we want to go, as you might have guessed, is social media. We have a great Facebook page, with many folks posting, and we're starting to create our forums as Facebook events so that it's easy for everyone to share with friends and neighbors. We love it when you share what we post, and we'd love content suggestions too! As mentioned, we'll use the survey to evaluate where else on social media we should be for our members, as well as looking at trends and how they align with our strategic plan. Part of this evaluation is evaluating what we want to do against what we can do, realistically.

The last piece to all of this is technology policy and finalizing a social media policy so that all members who have access to post under a League account understand the guidelines. This is to ensure that we are always seen in the right light. As many people know from the news, a single tweet can redefine a person or an organization, and not always for the better. We want to make sure that we engage members and the community at large, but we always do so from our nonpartisan stance, in close alignment with our positions.

So that's the state of technology! As always, I am open to feedback, suggestions, and any other tidbits you want to pass on regarding technology—feel free to email me at lizhill@outlook.com (preferred) or call me at (206) 478-7335.

Liz Bander
Boardmember, Technology Chair

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Forum: Voting Patterns 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
4	5 Voter Deadline	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 IR/Great Deci- sions 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16	17
18 Social Justice Comm. 3:00 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Education Comm. 11:00 a.m.	23	24 Econ. & Tax. Committee 9:30 a.m.
25	26	27 IR/Great Deci- sions 7:00 p.m.	28	29 Forum: Voting 7:00 p.m.	30	31
April 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Units meet during shaded period. See pages 17-18 for detailed unit meeting listings.

March

Forum: Voting Patterns
Thursday, March 1
7:00 p.m.
Mercer Island Comm. Ctr.

Board Meeting
Saturday, March 3
10:00 a.m.

The Voter Deadline
Monday, March 5

IR/Great Decisions
Thursday, March 13
7:00 p.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Social Justice Committee
Sunday, March 18
3:00 p.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, March 22
11:00 a.m.
League Office

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, March 24
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

IR/Great Decisions
Thursday, March 27
7:00 p.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

April

Forum: Get Smart About Taxes
Thursday, April 5
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Board Meeting
Saturday, April 7
10:00 a.m.

The Voter Deadline
Monday, April 9

Forum Schedule

Jan 4 - Program Planning
Feb 1 - Budgets as Moral Documents
Mar 1 - Voting Patterns and Behavior
Apr 5 - Get Smart About Taxes

There is no forum in May. Instead, there is a special event on May 10 (see page 7) and our annual meeting on May 24.

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. 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.

Cover article continued:

three videos that address issues that affect our voting patterns and behaviors: our media consumption habits, the historical struggle for voting rights, and the power of protest. We'll dive into discussion about what encourages and discourages us about voting and what influences we see in our own voting patterns and behaviors.

So, what goes into your vote?

Links to Supplemental Reading

Forbes. "New Study Finds Social Media Shapes Millennial Political Involvement and Engagement." www.forbes.com/sites/jefffromm/2016/06/22/new-study-finds-social-media-shapes-millennial-political-involvement-and-engagement/#76e806b72618.

Salon. "The surprising ways voter

suppression particularly hurts women." www.salon.com/2018/01/13/the-surprising-ways-voter-suppression-particularly-hurts-women_partner.

Journalist's Resource, Harvard's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy. "How the media's coverage of political polarization affects voter attitudes." www.journalistsresource.org/studies/politics/polarization/medias-coverage-political-polarization-affects-voter-attitude,

Teen Vogue. "How State Voting Laws Are Changing Ahead of the 2018 Midterm Elections." www.teenvogue.com/story/state-voting-laws.

The New York Times. "The Right to Vote is Never Safe." www.nytimes.com/2017/11/04/opinion/sunday/voting-rights-never-safe.html.

Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, March 24

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, March 22

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

At the February 22 meeting we continued the discussion on charter schools in Washington state. This meeting will feature guests for a discussion of planning for the upcoming Family and Education Levy. Contact Joanna Cullen if there are specific items within that topic that you like to see on the agenda.

International Relations Committee

DATE: Tuesday, March 8

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: 3837 25th Ave W, Seattle

For more info see articles on pages 12-14

Social Justice Committee

DATE: Sunday, March 18

TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

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

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.

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



Save the Date

2nd Annual Voices of Democracy Gala

Thursday, May 10, 2018, at 6 PM
At the Palace Ballroom, 2100 5th Ave., Seattle

Speaker will be announced later

Making Democracy Work Awards
To honor those making democracy work
here in King County

Civil Discourse in Action: A Health Care Reform Dialogue

Do you live in the 8th Congressional District? Can you help spread the word about this event?

The Civil Discourse Working Group is pleased to say that this event is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, from 10:00 to 12:30 in downtown Issaquah. All the details are on the League's website: www.lwvskc.org.

This event has been a work in progress, and still is. Our task now is to find participants with diverse political views, who represent the age, gender, income, and ethnic and cultural diversity of the 8th Congressional District. If you live in the 8th, can you help spread the word by posting this event to your NextDoor group? We want to leave no stone unturned in getting enough participants to help us try out this public engagement model. So please post if you can, and help spread the word in any other way as well! E-mail Mary Coltrane, coltran_e@icloud.com, if you have questions.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK? NOMINATE SOMEONE

By Barbra Chevalier

Do you know a person or group working in King County to promote equality and democracy through civic engagement? Nominate them for the League of Women Voters’ Making Democracy Work Award!

This annual award recognizes two individuals and one organization who have helped King County residents find and raise their voices through civic and community engagement. The awards will be presented in May at the League’s “Voices of Democracy Gala” on May10th. The gala celebrates the League’s mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, increasing understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

Anyone who has made real contributions to King County’s civic life can be nominated. Ideally, we want to recognize one organization, one young person (an emerging voice) and one other individual in government or who is in some other way a “statesperson.” (Please note that we cannot accept nominations for anyone running for public office in 2018, as an award may be construed as an endorsement, and the League does not oppose or support any candidate.) The ideal nominee for any of the three awards has:

- 1. A strong commitment to democracy
- 2. Made a significant contribution to promoting equality in King County
- 3. Mobilized community members to raise their voices in civil discourse and civic participation toward that goal.

Anyone who has contributed to the King County community can be nominated. Individuals can nominate themselves or can be nominated by a friend, colleague, or organization. The nomination form can be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D3YT5TM>

Please reach out to your contacts and others to send in nominations for the League’s Making Democracy Work Awards by **midnight, March 6, 2018.**

For more information or if you have any questions, contact Barbra Chevalier at barbra.n.chevalier@gmail.com.

Action



February 26, 2018

Seattle City Council
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

Under Seattle Municipal Code 23.79.004, the Seattle School District may apply for building and construction departures for public school structures. The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection's 2017-2018 Omnibus Ordinance proposal would extend this same right to owners and operators of charter schools, replacing the Seattle School District representative on the Development Standard Advisory Committee with a charter school representative in cases where the departure concerns a charter school. Because owners and operators of charter schools are not held to the same standards of public accountability as are the Seattle Public Schools Board and Superintendent, the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County urges you to oppose this proposal.

Washington's founders adopted unique State Constitutional provisions governing public education in Washington. These provisions require a school system that is controlled by and accountable to the voters whose taxes support the schools, that is general and uniform among all Washington's children, and that is fully funded by revenue that was protected from diversion to other uses. This founding vision for the State's public schools was confirmed shortly after the State Constitution's adoption by the Washington Supreme Court, which held that a common school is open "to all children . . . free, and subject to and under the control of the qualified voters of the school district" in finding unconstitutional a publicly funded experimental school whose management was not controlled by and accountable to the voters. *School Dist. v. Bryan*, 51 Wash. 498, 504 (1909).

The Seattle School District is governed by an elected school board and coordinates its enrollment forecasts and projections to identify capacity and program needs and suitable school sites within Seattle. It works through a public process to identify locations and school costs. Charter schools are not governed or overseen by the Seattle School Board, nor do their operators or owners have any responsibility to coordinate with community needs and vision. The legal standing of charter schools is still being decided by the courts—and so far as they exist now, they are exempt from state statutes and rules applicable to school districts and boards, creating a separate and unequal school system.

Recently the Seattle School Board adopted Resolution No. 2017/18-9, opposing changes to the City of Seattle Municipal Code SMC 23.79 that would allow charter schools to apply for departures from building development standards. The League of Women Voters finds it reasonable that Seattle city government – managed by those who are accountable to the electorate – maintain its special consideration for requests of the similarly situated Seattle School District. Both are elected by Seattle voters to oversee and ensure the appropriate use of our precious public resources and to act in the public interest. The same special consideration should not be extended to charter school owners and operators who have no such mandate.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter and for all of your hard work on behalf of the residents of the City of Seattle.

Very truly yours,



Stephanie Cirkovich, Esq.
President

cc The Honorable Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor, City of Seattle
The Honorable Leslie Harris, President, Seattle School Board
Dwane Chappelle, Director, City of Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning
Nathan Torgelson, Director, City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection

David Domke Starts New Civic Engagement Project

By Pat Griffith, Action Chair

David Domke, UW Professor of Communication, is spearheading a new volunteer effort called the Common Purpose Project. The goal is to provide an on-ramp to citizen education, voting, and elections, especially in swing districts, locations where citizen engagement can have a great impact. In Washington State the project will focus on the 5th and 8th Congressional Districts. The 8th Congressional District includes much of eastern King County and is an area where League needs to increase its presence.

Common Purpose Project is a nonpartisan 501(c)4 organization. Volunteer recruitment is starting now with four training sessions scheduled, starting Saturday, March 3, at Washington Hall.

The program will work in two waves in each of the next three years. Each year participants will commit to at least one week of hands-on action in (a) a late spring period focused on voter registration and/or (b) an autumn period focused on distribution of election materials, phone calls, or get-out-the-vote support. Volunteers may work from their homes or travel to state/regional locations.

If you are interested in participating, details of the program and how you can sign up can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/commonpurposespring2018.

Getting Connected Membership News

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I will learn.

—Ben Franklin

Judy Diero, Sarah Phillips, Becky Cox, and I were preparing for the New Member Orientation. I made the unpopular suggestion that we should call people (a list of 90 or so) since it's so easy to ignore emails, articles, etc. Not leaving a stone unturned, as Becky remarked, us "reluctant dragons" got to work. Later, we got together for a final planning meeting and each of us remarked that we had some great conversations and were really glad to connect with members we hadn't already met.

It's really fascinating how much we grow and learn through our community involvements. I particularly love watching the twenty-somethings growing into their talents. Alyssa Weed is fairly quiet at Board meetings, yet she really shone at the January Forum where she planned and facilitated the entire event with such poise. At last year's Spring event Carla Chavez managed the entire dinner operations with such

confidence and attention to detail, it looked effortless.

And sometimes we teach. When I started my career, I was talking to a peer of my Dad's (yes, we both worked for GTE at the time) and he told me at that at this point in his career, it was his job to mentor the next generation. There are many Leaguers who have taught me, not only how to manage the membership files, but also how to maintain a constructive conversation when there are opposing views, how the political network works, who's who in our local and state governments. And some spur me on, saying, "OK, now go do it!"

Many of the people we talked to on our calls said they loved getting the Legislative update and the *Voter* to stay informed. It was very rewarding to see how valuable our collective work is to the community and ourselves.

So, whether you're learning or teaching, we're so glad to have you in the League!

Cathy O'Shea, Membership Chair

A big welcome to our newest members of the League:

Bruce Butterfield, Carol Butterfield, Holly Butterfield, Emily Carmichael, Julie Conklin, Charles Davis, April DeNonno, Corinne Fligner, Jessica Forsythe, Zita Gustin, Judy Heinrich, Ann Irish, Mary Mellott, Lisa Nelson, Joe Norman, Sue Silverman, Madalyn Vonhoff, Nancy Wick, Judy Wolf, Martin Ziontz

And farewell to the following members who passed away in recent months:

Phyllis Allport, Nancy Alvord, Kay Chelemedos, Betty Turner, Bobbie Westfall

Features

Cyberwars

By Rosalie McCreary and Kim Peterson, International Relations Committee

The wonderful invention of the internet has shown its downside. Beyond cybercrimes that challenge our laws and law enforcement agencies, there are attacks on businesses and governments perpetrated by another government and call for a governmental response, possibly offensive and maybe defensive, both in the cyberworld and in the physical world. No shots have been fired and no bombs have been dropped, but we are under attack. It has been called a cyberwar, but is this really war? If not, could it become one? These are questions our governments on all levels have been grappling with. These are questions we voters should be informed about.

The most notorious cyberattacks on the US have been:

- China stealing industrial plans from businesses and governments to further its industrial progress
- China attacking the US Office of Personnel Management
- North Korea attacking Sony Pictures to block US freedom of speech
- NASA being attacked which put US satellite networks at risk
- US power utilities across the nation being searched for vulnerabilities which put transmission lines, smart meters, substations, and utility master control centers at risk
- Russia stealing internal emails and deploying cyberbots to manipulate elections of the U.S and its allies

The Russian meddling in our election is what is in the news currently, and is

currently being handled as a crime. To quote from the February 16, 2018, *New York Times*, "In a 37-page indictment filed in United States District Court, Mr. Mueller said that the 13 [Russian] individuals have conspired since 2014 to violate laws that prohibit foreigners from spending money to influence federal elections in the United States." It is important to note that no one has been convicted, but even more important is what policy should guide the US governmental response to this cyberattack.

We can be affected not only by direct cyberattacks, but cyberattacks on North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members. NATO constitutes a system of collective defense whereby its member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party. In 2007, by which time Estonia was a member of NATO, Russia launched a cyberattack on Estonia so damaging that it nearly paralyzed the government. Estonia relies extensively on the e-commerce and online transactions that were the targets of the attack, and consequently the attack almost forced a complete shutdown of governmental services as the country. At the time, NATO had no policy in place for cyberwar, and could not respond in a timely manner. But the attack caused NATO's member countries to form a working group to study what response might be possible, consistent with NATO policies.

The NATO working group, known as the Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence, published the Tallinn Manual (updated to Tallinn Manual 2.0). The language is dense with discussion of NATO

rules for actual physical attacks versus cyberattacks, including the question of whether cyberattacks that did not cause death or injury, damage or destruction, could be considered armed attacks and thus trigger a NATO response. It found that a cyberattack that triggered physical damage falls under existing policies that guide NATO response based upon the physical damage.

Those policies are based on Article 5 of the NATO agreement, which states: "The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all..." The only time Article 5 was invoked was after 9/11, which, after all, was a scenario that had never been contemplated by the founding partners but still was deemed to cover NATO countries responding militarily to al-Qaeda. By extension, Article 5 covers the use of cyberweapons that are used to crash a jetliner into an office building, with the important proviso that the response is proportional to the attack.

However, all is not clear. Is a cyberattack that merely gathered intelligence information an act of war or espionage? What if the cyberattack left a back door that could be used to disable defense infrastructure? Is the electric grid defense infrastructure? What if ...? Should there be defined rules or is it better to leave many situations ambiguous? Besides creating policy, NATO formulated its own mission and dedicated resources to protect its networks, enhance the capabilities of the member states, and cooperate and engage member nations, industry, and academia. And not just NATO. The US military has created Cyber Command with 13 teams of programmers and computer experts who could carry out offensive cyberattacks on foreign nations.

NATO, along with nearly every other nation on this planet, has had great difficulty in dealing with the problem of cyberattacks.

While cyberattacks are hard to stop for many reasons, the biggest obstacle is the difficulty in tracing a cyberattack back to the culprit in a timely manner. The internet offers a realm for cybercriminals, hacktivists, hackers, and government agencies to operate anonymously. How does an organization, such as NATO, deal with a massive cyberattack on an alliance member if it is unable to identify the attacker?

As stated in *Cyber War, The Next Frontier for NATO*, "NATO's number one role is to protect their member states, with the hope of remaining peaceful, but being unafraid to intervene militarily if need be. There is no predetermined threshold...there was a conscious decision by the allies in this policy that there is benefit in keeping flexibility and ambiguity...Article 5 was by design something that should be invoked politically by member nations in a specific context, on a case by case basis. Article 5 was never designed to be triggered by a certain threshold."

No LWV position about cyberattacks exists on any level, but policy that affects us exists, as demonstrated by a New York Times January 16, 2018, news article by David E. Sanger and William J Broad: "A newly drafted United States nuclear strategy that has been sent to President Trump for approval would permit the use of nuclear weapons to respond to a wide range of devastating but non-nuclear attacks on American infrastructure, including what current and former government officials described as the most crippling kind of cyberattacks."

Members of the League of Women Voters have worked hard for 98 years to protect the integrity and promote participation in our most fundamental right, voting. Studying issues and arriving at consensus for positions on the issues of cyberwar generally, and cyberattacks on elections

specifically, is crucial, and it is time to take on cyberwars. The International Relations Committee of LWVS-KC will make a start on the meeting on March 8th, 7:00 PM, at 3837 25th Ave W., Seattle. If you wish to join us, call Kim Peterson at 206-789-7447 or Rosalie McCreary at 206-687-7415.

Resources

Lieutenant Ken M. Jones, *Cyber War, The Next Frontier for NATO*, US Navy, US Department of Defense, 2015

NATO- Official Text: The North Atlantic Treaty, 04-April -1949

Mark Mazzetti and David Sanger, "Security Leader Says US Would Retaliate Against Cyberattacks," *New York Times*, March 12, 2013

Susan Hennessey, "Deterring Cyberattacks," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2017

David E. Sanger and William J. Broad, "Pentagon Suggests Countering Devastating Cyberattacks with Nuclear Arms," *New York Times*, January 16, 2018

Matt Hongoltz-Hetling, "Hack the Grid," *Popular Science*, January/February 2018

"13 Russians Indicted by Special Counsel in First Charges on 2016 Election," *New York Times*, February 16, 2018

International Relations Committee Has a New Chair

By Carol Goldenberg

Kim Peterson, the new chair of the League's International Relations Committee, is well prepared to lead in a study of cyber security. Looking at the useful positions on international issues developed over many years of study, one timely topic is missing: cyber security. With the preceding article Kim and co-author Rosalie McCreary hope to persuade our local membership to adopt a study of the topic at the annual meeting in May.

Kim is the son, husband, and father of LWV Seattle-King County members. His first League membership came as a birthday present. He has been a continuous member ever since. He was born, raised, schooled, wed, worked, and retired in Seattle. He was exposed to foreign affairs through his Peace Corps experience and through travel in Europe, Asia, and Australia as well as through his interests in economics and diplomatic and military history and his participation in the Great Decision Program. He was a philosophy major with an education certificate from Princeton, and has a Masters degree in computer science from the University of Washington. Kim worked in the computer industry in Seattle all of his professional career. Like so many others, Kim wonders where our world of computers will lead.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

The Permanent Tax Revolt: How the Property Tax Transformed American Politics

By Isaac William Martin

Our League's Economics and Taxation Committee has read this book and thought other Leaguers would find it interesting. As the author points out, "Taxes and tax cuts in particular are the central domestic issue of our time," though "our politicians' current obsession with tax cuts is something new."

Martin reminds us of the anti-tax tide of the 1970s when Americans rebelled against the local property tax. "This wave of tax protest was a defining moment for many politicians who lived through it." It was political entrepreneurs, mostly Republicans, who focused on this issue and used it to "lead the charge for the largest income tax cut in US History: the Economic Recovery Act of 1981."

The anti-tax movement started with an anti-property tax. Why? Until the 1960s, tax officials "in charge of estimating property values had dispensed informal tax privileges, rewarding favored constituencies by assessing their property at a fraction of its true value. In exchange they received votes," as well as campaign contributions and occasionally bribes. Favored constituents were homeowners: "a big stable and potentially loyal voting bloc."

Many homeowners "paid tax on a small fraction of the market value of their homes." Such fractional assessments proved to be a "valuable form of protection against the risk of income shocks," whether due to unemployment, sickness, or retirement. After WWII, home ownership provided income security in retirement. Most homes were a family's greatest investment, and tended to increase in value. However, these homeowners often paid greatly reduced property taxes. In effect, these informal

assessments proved to be a kind of welfare for many.

In the 1960s, tax reforms increased the fairness of the property tax by modernizing and standardizing how property was to be assessed and by whom. But, "reforms that issued fairness also exposed tax payers to new and higher taxes, thereby making their homes less useful as 'insurance' in old age."

At first, voters and politicians "embraced tax limitations as a way to restore tax privilege for homeowners." By doing so they soon locked in a privilege for anyone who held onto real estate for a long time. This gave big breaks to those with more valuable properties: business owners and the affluent.

Many of us will remember when California's Proposition 13 passed, followed by other states voting for similar property tax limits. Tax limitation "ultimately changed American politics," because politicians saw that "big tax cuts were good politics."

This book shows that tax rebels "were not opposed to government action...they wanted government to redistribute income to protect them from income shocks [i.e., high taxes] that resulted from the rising price of housing." In effect, they wanted the government to protect them from the market.

Property tax limitation is here to stay, until there is a substitute way to provide its benefits with long-term security of income and housing.

This is a short and lucid book for anyone interested in taxation.

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

UNIT MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Announcements/Volunteer Sign Ups
- Discussion Questions

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you attended a protest, march, or demonstration in the last two years? How has that affected your perception of the issues facing your community? Do you think protests lead to real political change and impact voting behavior?
2. Have you voted in every single election in the past two years, including special elections and primaries? Why or why not? What influenced your decision to vote? What prevented you from voting?
3. What is your main source of news and information? Do you believe the media is biased? How has your news source impacted your voting behavior?
4. Have you noticed any patterns in the outcomes of your local, state, or federal elections in the last two years?
5. What do you think the biggest impact on voting behavior is today?
6. What systems do you think we should put in place to ensure every eligible voter in the US has the ability to vote? Do you see opportunities to improve the way we hold elections in King County and Washington state?
7. What does universal suffrage in the US look like to you?

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
Monday, March 5			
SOUTH SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya			
hedgwolfe@aol.com	206-763-9430	5:30 p.m.	Third Place Books - downstairs
montoyaviv@gmail.com	206-695-2620		5041 Wilson Ave. S, Seattle
Wednesday, March 7			
NORTH CENTRAL SEATTLE – Jan Orlando			
orlanre@aol.com	206-524-0936	12:30 p.m.	Hostess: Jan Orlando 5026 36th Ave NE, Seattle
Thursday, March 8			
MERCER ISLAND – Paneen Davidson			
paneenie@gmail.com	206-466-2023	9:30 a.m.	Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island
ISSAQUAH – Margaret Austin			
margaret.austin@comcast.net	425-392-5760	10:00 a.m.	Echo Room, Issaquah City Hall 130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah
SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier			
clcathy@skynetbb.com	360-802-6799	12:00 p.m.	Location: contact unit leader
Monday, March 12			
CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE –			
	206-329-4848	7:15 p.m.	Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw St., Seattle 206-322-3076
Wednesday, March 14			
NORTHEAST SEATTLE (formerly View Ridge) – Gail Winberg			
winbergeng@Q.com	206-524-7801	12:45 p.m.	Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle
<i>Directions: Go into the Park through North entrance at 74th and drive EAST toward water. At the STOP sign, turn LEFT to park in front of the Brig, or RIGHT, for more parking.</i>			
QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Kathy Pugh and Marlis Worthington			
ckp1966@comcast.net	503-580-1240	7:30 p.m.	Magnolia Church of Christ
marliswrt@hotmail.com	206-283-7147		3555 W McGraw St, Seattle

Continued on next page

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

Unit Leader email Phone Time Location

Saturday, March 17

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Janet Anderson

janetranderson@msn.com 206-285-2460 10:00 a.m. Hostess: Alice Peterson
5245 Pullman NE, Seattle
206-524-5530

Monday, March 19

FIRST HILL – Adele Reynolds

adelereynolds@netscape.net 206-621-4867 10:30 a.m. Horizon House, Forum & Social Room
900 University St., Seattle

NORTH KING COUNTY – Judy Deiro/Lea Galanter

judy.deiro@gmail.com 425-774-1492 7:00 p.m. Third Place Commons, Stadler Mtg Room
leagal99@hotmail.com 425-820-9096 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk.

Tuesday, March 20

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Cathy O'Shea

coshea120@gmail.com 425-753-4182 12:30 p.m. Kirkland Public Library
308 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams/Pat Lane

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

Friday, March 23

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD – Janet Kime

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

Board & Committee Contacts

Term	Executive Committee			
2017-19	<i>President</i>	Stephanie Cirkovich	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2016-18	<i>1st VP - Action</i>	Pat Griffith	206-285-2452	pgseattle@q.com
2017-19	<i>2nd VP - Program</i>	Abigail Doerr	206-329-4848	abigail.doerr@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Secretary</i>	Katie Dudley	206-329-4848	kate.c.dudley@gmail.com
2016-18	<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Snider	206-329-4848	treasurer@seattlelwv.org
Directors				
2017-19	<i>Technology</i>	Liz Bander	206-478-7335	lizhill@outlook.com
2017-19	<i>Development</i>	Carla Chavez	206-329-4848	carla.chavez.board@gmail.com
2017-18	<i>Voter Service</i>	Barbra Chevalier	425-445-2281	barbra.n.chevalier@gmail.com
2016-18	<i>Development</i>	Kiku Hayashi	206-329-4848	kikuhayashi1@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Committees & Units</i>	Zara Kublin	206-276-2831	zkublin@hotmail.com
2017-19	<i>Voter Service</i>	Bridget Kruszka	716-783-2407	bkruszka3@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Membership</i>	Cathy O'Shea	425-753-4182	coshea120@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Action</i>	Anastasia Samuelsen	206-329-4848	anastasia606@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Outreach & Events</i>	Melissa Taylor	206-329-4848	melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Program</i>	Alyssa Weed	206-329-4848	afweed1@gmail.com

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

Education Fund Officers - same as above except Treasurer

2017-19	<i>Treasurer</i>	Christy Wood	206-707-3845	eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org
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Nominating Committee

2017-18	<i>Chair</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2017-18		Amelia Woolley	206-329-4848	woolleyamelia@gmail.com
2017-18		Judy Love	206-329-4848	judysteveL@gmail.com

Boardmembers Carla Chavez and Alyssa Weed have been appointed to the committee.

Off Board Positions

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

	<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>Social Justice</i>	Nikki Hurley		nhurley1009@gmail.com
	<i>Social Justice</i>	Melissa Taylor		melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com
	<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
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Seattle WA 98122

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

**We the Voters: Examining Outside Influences on Our
Voting Patterns and Behaviors**

Thursday, March 1

6:30 p.m. — Doors open

7:00 p.m. — Program begins

Mercer Island Community Center
2040 84th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

This program is free and open to the
public.

A screening of videos from We the Voters, a digital campaign that the League of Women Voters has partnered with to inspire and activate voters across the country. The focus is on three issues that impact our voting patterns, attitudes, and behaviors: our media consumption habits, the historical struggle for voting rights, and the power of protest. Post screening discussion: what encourages and discourages us about voting, what influences we see in our own voting behaviors.