DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE PART OF AN ACTION COMMITTEE?

By Nan Moore, Action Chair

When Allison Feher testifies at a City Council meeting, she relies on current League positions and on an understanding of the issue she’s addressing. Of course, she herself has a good deal of knowledge and experience in many areas, but more importantly she has the knowledge and experience of scores of Leaguers to draw on as well. Much of that wisdom has come out of the work of the standing committees.

The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) has several standing committees which are our “official” action committees: Civics Education, Economics and Taxation, Education, Land Use, Port Watch, and Social Justice. We also have some larger or overlapping-jurisdiction action committees: Immigration, International Relations, and Transportation. In many ways, these are the backbone of the League. Some of the committee members have served for years and years, so committee expertise runs deep. Where committees grew out of study committees, developing the study provided the basis of knowledge on which those committees have since built. In other cases, sheer interest and perseverance have provided the depth and sophistication that committees have in their own particular provinces.

Expert as they are, however, committees have limited purview, within which they must—since their members are few—select priorities.

Complicating these limitations is the fact that there are 23 municipalities in the LWVS catchment area in addition to the government of King County itself. It is obvious that no committee and certainly no Board can have the depth or expertise needed for effective action in all of these locales.

But we have another arrow in our quiver.

If you think about it, you’ll realize that every League unit is a de facto action committee, although some units are more—well—active than others. Maybe yours is one of those. Or maybe yours is one of those who would be more active if they knew what to do and made some plans for doing it. Maybe all it takes is the realization that you have the power to make a difference and not only is it acceptable for your unit to wade right in, it is vital!

Later in the Voter you’ll find a brief discussion of what some units are doing in addition to monthly discussions. These units are acting as the eyes and ears of the League in their local areas. They are following the activities of councils or committees they care about and they are making it known in their communities that League is on the job.

Every unit has opinionated people (hooray!) who read, who are passionate, and who have their own areas of expertise. This month, unit discussions will consider ways in which each unit can shape some of its own activities, including ways in which each unit can—as much as it chooses—become a more active “action” committee. If you’ve stayed away from unit meetings because there was more talk than action, now’s your chance to help make a change and a real contribution.
President’s Message

It’s November and in a couple of days the election season will be over. Time to sit back and relax after a hectic summer and fall and just coast into the holidays – uh, not exactly.

While the flurry of ballot issue and candidate forums, to say nothing of our fabulous gala fundraiser, may be over, now it’s time to get revved up for the next phase. This month we are focusing on action and advocacy. The state league will be holding its annual action workshops and the lobby team is forming and getting prepared to hit the ground running when the legislative session starts in January. Here at the office we will move into production on TRY, our directory of elected officials, to have it ready as early in the session as we possibly can.

We are also looking for new ways to implement our goals for action and advocacy. With the continuing budget challenges at all levels of government, we will need to be vigilant about cuts in critical services and cuts that wind up costing more in the long term. In this issue you will read about the various ways we currently work to reach the goals we have adopted in our positions. Action chair Nan Moore has met with the committee chairs and some of the unit leaders to learn about what’s being done and to get suggestions for future activities. She has put the information together for your review, and now we need you to give us feedback. Remember, these are just some of the ideas and past history we’ve come up with – feel free to color outside the lines and let us know what you need or want. There are lots of options; look for what’s most appealing and works best for you and your group.

And since it’s thanksgiving time, I want to take a moment to say thank you to the many people who’ve been helping out this year:
- The candidates and speakers who took time to come to our events, often more than one!
- My fellow board members, who don’t just take care of their respective portfolios but roll up their sleeves and pitch in whenever help is needed.
- The CIS desk volunteers, who patiently answer a dizzying assortment of phone calls and take care of many of the day-to-day tasks that keep us going.
- Our sole staff person, Lindsay, who calmly juggles the many competing demands for her attention and assistance while going to night school!
- And all the volunteers who respond to calls for a moderator, speaker, envelope stuffer, election monitor, event setup assistant, phone bank participant and even a last minute lasagna!

Thank you all so much for your support. You are the League and we wouldn’t be here without you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
**November/December**

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**NOVEMBER**

- Reclaimed Water Committee
  - Monday, November 1
  - 1:00 p.m.
  - League Office
- Election Day
  - Tuesday, November 2
- Forum: Action & Advocacy
  - Thursday, November 4
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - Seattle First Baptist Church
- LWVWA Action Workshop
  - Saturday, November 6
  - 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
  - St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church
  - Bellevue
- UW Women’s Center Gala
  - Saturday, November 6
  - 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
  - Sheraton Seattle
- Voter Deadline
  - Monday, November 8
- International Relations Committee
  - Monday, November 8
  - 12:45-2:45 p.m.
  - League Office
- Social Justice Committee
  - Thursday, November 11
  - 7:00-8:30 p.m.
  - League Office
- Teacher Study Committee
  - Monday, November 15
  - 4:00-5:00 p.m.
  - League Office
- Immigration Committee Movie
  - Monday, November 15
  - 6:00 p.m.
  - 3525 Seola Lane, West Seattle
- Transportation Committee
  - Tuesday, November 16
  - 10:00 a.m.
  - League Office
- Economics and Taxation Committee
  - Saturday, November 27
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - 909 E Newton, #D-9

**DECEMBER**

- Forum: Nuclear Disarmament and the Future
  - Thursday, December 2
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - Seattle First Baptist Church
- Board Meeting
  - Saturday, December 4
- Voter Deadline
  - Monday, December 6
The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) presents a public forum each month between August and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled in other locations, including at least one on the eastside. The tentative schedule of upcoming forums for 2010-2011 appears below; check your Voter or the LWVS website, seattlelwv.org, each month for up-to-date information.

**Forum Schedule**

November 4 - Action and Advocacy  
December 2 - Arms Control  
January 6 - Program Planning  
February 3 - Reclaimed Water—tentative  
March 3 - Women’s Issues  
April 7 - TBA  
May 4 - Development of a Public School Teacher—tentative

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League of Women Voters of Washington  
ACTION WORKSHOP 2010  
REGISTRATION  
Cost: $25 per venue per person  
Lunch Provided  

Bellevue, November 6, 2010

Name ________________________________________________________________

Tel/email_____________________________________________________________

___VISA ___M/C

Card # _____________________________________________________________ Exp. Date _____

___Check made out to LWVWA enclosed

Mail to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way NE, Suite 720, Seattle WA 98105
The League of Women Voters of Seattle Board met for a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, September 23, and for a regular Board Meeting on Saturday, October 2.

The Special Board Meeting was scheduled to ensure that the positions we took on ballot issues for the November Election could be communicated to the public and to campaigns and published in the Seattle Voter in a timely enough manner to be useful. The Seattle Schools Levy is the only issue which appears on Seattle ballots only; positions on countywide issues cannot be published until they have been approved by the King County South League. Our positions on statewide ballot issues are determined by League of Women Voters of Washington.

A motion to take no position on the Seattle Public School Proposition I was approved. The League of Women Voters of Seattle endorsed the February 2010 Seattle Public Schools Levies but at the time expressed concerns about authentic engagement with the community and the continuing lack of adequate state funding. With the 2010 audit results this summer, we are additionally concerned about responsible, transparent use of the Seattle Public School’s resources for the benefit of children in the classroom and accountability to the voters. While our positions state that “all levels of government are responsible for schools” we also “oppose the use of special levies and private funding for basic services, operation and maintenance.” It is for these reasons that we are taking no position on the current levy.

Consideration of Shoreline Proposition I was delayed until the October 2 meeting in an effort to see if more information regarding the need for and impact of the levy could be gathered. The Board voted to take no position on Shoreline Proposition I.

Action Committee: The Action Committee invited Board members to forward names of possible speakers for the forum on action in November. The Chair noted that the presentations will be related to the action priorities set at the Annual Meeting in May and the need for strategies to reinvigorate the committees and local units. Board members were encouraged to help publicize the upcoming forums on ballot issues and the Get-to-Know-League dinner and to attend meetings of the local units.

October 17 Gala: The Early Bird deadline was noted and all were encouraged to publicize and invite others to the Gala. Allison reported that she will be promoting the Gala at the forums and extending the Early Bird special to those who attend the forums. The Board was also briefed on the upcoming activities in preparation for the Gala, along with day-of-event needs and activities. A successful event is essential to our ability to continue to support League activities.

Treasurer: The treasurer presented a Profit and Loss statement listing her understanding of the Board and Standing Committee members responsible for specific line items for review. She also presented, as recommended at the national convention, a list of the names of those with access to relevant files, to ensure the security and oversight of the League’s monies.

Nominating Committee: In the near future a Nominating Committee should be formed and members need to consider recruiting possible new Board members for election in 2012.

Membership: 686 of the 724 members are in good standing. The Membership chair is busy resolving lapsed members.

The Seattle Voter: Members who write reports were reminded that those are due in the first week of the month for the November issue.

The November Board Meeting date has been moved to November 13 in order to accommodate members who will be attending the November 6 League of Women Voters of Washington Action Workshop in Bellevue. Members are encouraged to attend.
Committees

Reclaimed Water Review Committee
Date: Monday, November 1
      Monday, November 15
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Place: League Office

International Relations Committee
Date: Monday, November 8
Time: 12:45 – 2:45 P.M.
Place: League Office

The I-R committee has responsibility for the December forum at which Ambassador Thomas Graham will give us an update on arms control; this is a critical meeting for planning that forum. We will also have discussion of other I-R issues. All are welcome. For more information, contact Ellen Berg at ellenzberg@msn.com or 329-4848.

Social Justice Committee
Date: Thursday, November 11
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.
Place: League Office

The Social Justice Committee is currently working on a study to explore the impact of funding and government policies on mental health service delivery in Seattle and King County. We welcome all League members to our meetings.

Education & Teacher Study Committee
Date: Monday, November 15
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.
Place: League Office

Contact Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis at (206) 329-4848 for more information.

Immigration Committee
Date: Monday, November 15
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Place: Eleanor Laxdall Residence, 3525 Seola Lane, West Seattle, (206) 329-4848

We will be showing and discussing the movie Invictus. This superb movie, with Morgan Freeman playing Nelson Mandela during the beginning of his term in office, offers much to discuss about Mandela’s skillful strategy in forging ties between former enemy groups. Please bring a sandwich if it’s supper time for you! We will provide drinks and dessert.

The Immigration Committee is writing a series of responses to six myths about immigration reform. Our aim is to publish these in the Voter in the course of the next several months, as well as in other papers and on Facebook. We have in mind distribution of the set in libraries and other public places in order to reach as much of the public as possible. As always, we welcome others, whether interested in discussion of immigration problems, advocacy, or research and writing. Co-chairs: Barbara Reid, (206) 329-4848, Barbara Yasui (206) 329-4848.

Transportation Committee
Date: Tuesday, November 16
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: League Office

Victor Obeso, service development manager for King County Metro, will be the speaker. He will focus on regional transit issues.

Economics and Taxation Committee
Date: Saturday, November 27
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: 909 E. Newton St., D-9

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

Civics Education Committee
Date: Wednesday, November 17
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Place: League Office

For more information, contact Dana Twight, chair — (206) 329-4848; dctwight@mac.com

Port Watch Committee
The Port Study Committee, in the May 2010 report, “The Seattle Port Commission: Challenges, Resolutions and Public Accountability,” identified a number of challenges facing the Port...
Commission and the Port of Seattle. One of the major challenges is becoming more transparent and accountable to the voters, who elect the Port Commissioners. The five people are responsible for governance and oversight to ensure that the Port of Seattle is managed in the public interest. While the commission is responsible for oversight of the Port District, we, the voters, are equally responsible for being informed about port issues and the work of the commission in order to hold them accountable for managing this major resource for the public good. We as voters are also responsible for making informed choices about the individuals we elect to represent us on the Port Commission.

Unit meeting discussions of the port study report identified a number of port issues of interest to League members, including transportation, environmental concerns and public transparency and accountability. To keep League members and the larger community informed about these issues, the decision was made to continue the Port Study Committee as a Port Watch Committee. The activities of the Port Watch Committee will include attending Port Commission meetings, tracking port issues, and developing educational programs and activities that will help members stay informed and ready to advocate for the public good in relation to the Port of Seattle.

The Port Watch Committee will meet monthly and members will share the responsibility of attending Port Commission meetings and other relevant activities of the Port District. The Port Watch Committee welcomes new members. For information, contact committee chair Linda Brown, (206) 329-4848.

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Announcements

**CELEBRATION OF WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL**

**DATE:** SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 225 NORTH 70TH STREET

Linda Allen, musician, educator, interfaith minister from Bellingham will present a one-woman show, “Here’s to the Women” in a celebration of the centennial of women’s suffrage in Washington State. Both the silencing of women’s experience and the empowering of women’s voices will be showcased in this multimedia presentation featuring songs, stories, readings and images.

The program is sponsored by the Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation. A potluck to which all are invited will precede the program at 5:00 P.M. No one will be turned away from the program, but a donation is requested.
HELP WANTED

HELP US IMPROVE OUR WEBSITE!

If you have visited the League of Women Voters of Seattle website (seattlelwv.org), you may have noticed that there are some issues with it. You will be happy to know that we are working on the site to make it more accessible to everyone. In order to do this we need your help! We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on improving the website. If you could visit the website in the next couple of weeks from the viewpoint of a voter trying to vote, a nonmember looking for information or a person looking for ways to get involved, and then give us feedback on your experiences, that would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you have any design experience and would like to help, that would be great as well. Please contact Kathy Sakahara at kathysakahara@gmail.com with your feedback. Thank you from the Technology Committee.

HELP WITH TRY PRODUCTION

The annual They Represent You (TRY) update will begin production in the next few weeks. TRY is the directory of elected officials put out each year by the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS). We will need volunteers to assist our long time TRY team leader Betty Sullivan with this LWVS signature voter service project. There are volunteer opportunities for online computer research, compiling contact information on the newly elected officials and entering this information in Excel, as well as for verifying entries by phone and editing these entries. Please contact Lindsay at (206) 329-4848 or Betty Sullivan if you are interested in being part of this important service project.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON ACTION WORKSHOP

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6
TIME: 9:30 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M. (LUNCH WILL BE SERVED)
PLACE: ST. ANDREW’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2650 148TH AVE SE, BELLEVUE WA
COST: $25.00 PER PERSON
TOPIC: BUDGET ISSUES: HOW TO SAVE THE THINGS WE LOVE

Speakers:
Sen. Ed Murray D-43rd D - budget

This is the second of the two action workshops offered this fall by the lobby team of the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA). If you would like to attend and have not yet registered, please fill out the form on page 5 and return it with payment to the LWVWA office.
GREAT DECISIONS 2011

The following topics have been selected by the Foreign Policy Association for the 2011 Great Decisions Discussion Series, which will begin in February 2011.

➤ Rebuilding Haiti  ➤ Germany ascendant
➤ U.S. National Security  ➤ Sanctions and Nonproliferation
➤ Horn of Africa  ➤ The Caucasus
➤ Responding to Financial Crisis  ➤ Global Governance

The League of Women Voters of Seattle sponsors three discussion groups, using the Great Decisions Briefing Book published by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association each year. League members and friends are invited to join a group in Seattle, Mercer Island or Issaquah.

Watch for more details in next month’s Voter.

WOMEN UNBOUND: CELEBRATE THE LEGACY

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6
TIME: 6:00 – 10:00 P.M.
PLACE: SHERATON SEATTLE, 1400 6TH AVENUE
METROPOLITAN BALLROOM

The University of Washington Women’s Center will host a Gala celebrating the 100th anniversary of Washington women’s suffrage and honoring 100 women in our state who have been the first in their field. For more information, go to depts.washington.edu/womenctr/ or call (206) 685-1090.

LWV KING COUNTY SOUTH INVITES YOU TO TWO GREAT EVENTS

Book review of The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court, by Jeffrey Toobin

Discussion venues:
Mon., Nov 8, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at League office, 616 SW 152nd St., Burien.
Tues., Nov 9, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Highpoint Village in Enumclaw.
Tues., Nov 16, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. at the Valley View Library, 17850 Military Road, SeaTac
Wed., Nov 17, 7 to 9 p.m. at Foundation House, 32290 First Ave S., Federal Way
Thurs., Nov 18, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Vashon Library.

The author’s view of the selection, powers and responsibilities of the US Supreme Court and the role of personality and temperament in its deliberations and decisions should provide ample material for a lively exchange of ideas.

Holiday Luncheon with Barbara Madsen, Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2010, 11:15 Social, lunch and speaker following at noon
Location: Highline Community College
Cost: $12, includes lunch
For Tickets and Information: Call 206-243-7161 and leave a message or e-mail us at WALWVKCS@Junodom

Chief Justice Madsen will discuss the pros and cons of elected vs. appointed judges and the process of the Washington State Supreme Court decision-making as she sees it.
League News

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT: KNUTE BERGER’S PERSPECTIVE

BY JANET WINANS, TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Our September speaker was Knute Berger, author of *Pugetopolis* and longtime Seattle journalist. Berger found that the preparation he did to talk with us stimulated such good thinking and discussion that he used it as the basis for a column in Crosscut.com.

Berger began his discussion by calling our attention to the fact that one third of the population of Seattle has been living here for less than five years, and that there is a steady flow of these transient people. Only twenty percent of Seattle’s residents were born here. The city and the Puget Sound region are very young compared to most of the country’s large cities, and have grown very rapidly.

For some, Seattle’s history seems to be defined by buildings that are no longer “there.” “Process” is a word that seems to define a particular dysfunction that seems a part of Seattle’s culture. On the one hand there is a wish for strong leadership and on the other, a complete suspicion of power. The city, as well as the state, has been truly nonpartisan, using referenda and initiatives to design and inhibit actions of the legislature. We seem a community of “institutionalized second guessing.” Voters did stop the RH Thompson freeway, even after it was funded. Citizens glory in the parks created by the Olmstead brothers’ vision and design, even as some of the same citizens push for more development. The Arboretum still stands against the newest bridge designs. Bellevue and the East Side have bulldozed the expansion of Hwy 520, seemingly without complaint, while Seattle continues struggling with the aesthetic costs of planting the new bridge footings in its midst.

The rest of Berger’s discussion was based on a series of questions he had posed to himself as he prepared to talk with us. While the committee participated in the discussion, the questions should not be interpreted as opinions of the committee or any of its members. The goal for the committee was to gain a perspective about the processes that create the culture of Seattle, King County and the Puget Sound region.

1. Why so much emphasis on transportation?

Transportation does dominate civic discussion. It is where the money is, lots and lots of money. That money comes from legislatively mandated and dedicated funds and bonding authority. In the legislature, and other government bodies, it allows for lots of “horse-trading.” Once the deal making is done it results in large legislative majorities. The funds go to Big New Projects, rather than to the mundane requirements to maintain what is already built or to produce less physical solutions to problems. For instance, there is no constituency to fund the infrastructure to allow for actual telecommuting. It is labeled too expensive, in contrast to the billions directed toward road construction.

2. Why is the transportation discussion so rarely about Transportation?

Always the argument veers between pragmatism and utopia. Seattle, the county, the state aspire to do it better than ever before, to avoid the mistakes others have made. We will be “world class,” “green.”

The agendas are really about particular issues: real estate development at Lake Union; enough parking for all the customers who will come only if they can drive; how important, really, is a bridge in South Park? Then there are moral arguments: bikes versus cars, save versus destroy the planet, idealism versus self interest.
3. Why do we have a twentieth century appetite in a twenty-first century reality?

Berger compared Mayor McGinn to Jerry Brown when he was California’s governor in the 70s. He said that Brown was very progressive, but he always considered the financial constraints and tax issues involved in any projects. These days, it seems, we try to practice our progressive liberalism without confronting the fiscally prudent realities. Again he stressed the need to find a new mode of progress that focuses beyond just building the Next Great New Thing. He said, “We are not as rich as we think we are,” and then listed the cost estimates for current projects and reminded us that it isn’t just the tunnel/viaduct controversy that has funding shortfalls. None of the current projects are completely funded. And all this means that the financial demands and expectations for transportation come at the expense of many other community needs.

4. Why is Transportation the nexus of dysfunction?

That struggle for money and particular projects sets up contests between different municipalities and constituencies. The South Park bridge came down while the city won the federal funds for Mercer Street. Bellevue is focused on increasing the roads that network the Eastside and, while demanding its share of the forty percent of sales tax for transit, seems to value cars over any alternatives to solve congestion. Seattle wants to reduce the impact of cars on the city and encourage commuters to arrive by bus.

Seattle sees itself as the economic hub of the Puget Sound region, while all other municipalities from Tacoma to Everett see Seattle as a gobbling and whining competitor. Tacoma was enraged when Mayor Nichols lured their major accounting firm to Seattle. However, external competition, from the new Panama Canal and British Columbia, have caused the ports of Tacoma and Seattle to band together as they struggle to compete for the Pacific trade.

The dysfunction, if that is what it is, extends to the legislature, where particular legislators are seen as Seattle-centric, or the opposite. Legislation introduced last year, attempting to prohibit cities from questioning state decisions, was offensive to all cities and failed to pass.

5. Why is design so bad?

Had safety been the only issue with the Hwy 520 bridge, it could have been fixed and functioning now. However, the designs proposed rallied instant opposition. While there are examples of beautiful bridges in other cities and countries, the Alaskan Way Viaduct designs were so ugly that a tunnel became the only solution. The public has been left with the least objectionable option and huge costs.

However, the Link Light Rail design has proved quite remarkable. The Olmstead park system is, actually, a means of transportation through and to still beautiful areas of the city.

6. Why do we starve what works?

Metro Transit is one of the most successful transit systems in the country, and it is coping with crushing budget constraints. Street conditions are awful. The Bridging the Gap levy is providing necessary funding to fix years of failed maintenance, but now its priorities are being questioned. The South Park bridge was neglected until it was demolished. The new is always tempting and the old is boring, even when there are glaring examples like the snow debacle of 2008, which resulted from the choice not to spend money for SDOT drills to ensure that everyone knew what to do should it actually snow in Seattle.

7. Why do we believe in the myth of gridlock?

Seattle is the sixteenth largest city in the US and it has the sixteenth worst traffic congestion. But Seattle’s time in traffic is only five minutes more than that of Raleigh, N.C., which ranks forty-eighth in the time rankings.
RETURN OF THE BALLOT BOXES
By Beatrice Crane, Voter Editor

When King County went to all-mail voting in 2009, the King County Elections Department offered voters the alternative of dropping ballots off, postage-free, in ballot boxes placed throughout the county. However, because of budget constraints, it closed most of the drop box locations last year. Many voters were unhappy about the closures, not only because they appreciated the convenience of ballot drop boxes, but also because the change was not well publicized.

In September, King County Elections Director Sherril Huff participated in a League forum on voting rights at the Museum of History and Industry. She offered the hope that the elections department, which has found ways to save money which have less direct impact on the voter, would be able to reopen some of the boxes by the November election. The department has come through; there will be eleven drop boxes in King County for the upcoming election. The boxes will be open 24 hours a day from October 14 through November 1; they will close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 2. Voters may also mail their ballots (one first-class stamp required) as long as they are postmarked by the end of the day on Election Day.

Locations of Ballot Drop Boxes:

- Crossroads Shopping Center - South entrance
  15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue 98008
- Federal Way City Hall
  33325 8th Avenue South, Federal Way 98003
- Issaquah City Hall
  130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah 98027
- Regional Justice Center
  401 4th Avenue N, Kent 98032
  Near parking garage entrance
- Lake Forest Park City Hall
  17425 Ballinger Way NE, Lake Forest Park
  98155
- Redmond City Hall
  15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond 98052
- Earlington Business Center
  919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057
- King County Elections
  9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila 98108
  East side of building

Seattle locations:

- King County Administration Building
  500 4th Avenue, Seattle 98104
- University District
  Corner of NE 50th Street & University Way NE, Seattle
  University District Farmer’s Market lot
- Ballard Branch Library
  Corner of NW 57th Street & 22nd Avenue NW, Seattle

In addition, voters may drop off ballots at any of the three accessible voting sites which King County provides for voters with limited vision or physical disabilities. The sites are listed below, along with the dates and times that they are open.

- Tukwila, King County Elections, 9010 East Marginal Way S, 98108
  Weekdays, October 13 - November 1: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
  Tuesday, November 2: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, 98009
  Monday, November 1: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  Tuesday, November 2: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Seattle, Union Station, 401 S. Jackson St, Seattle, 98104
  Monday, November 1: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  Tuesday, November 2: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
League of Women Voters of Washington’s
Positions on the Statewide Ballot Measures for the November 2, 2010 General Election

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to support the following:

**Referendum Bill 52:** Engrossed House Bill 2561 passed the 2010 legislature and was signed by Governor Gregoire. The bill was named the Jobs Act. The bill provides for state general obligation bonds of up to $505 million to fund energy efficiency projects in the state’s K-12 schools and higher education facilities. The bonds would be funded by extending the current state tax on bottled water beyond its current expiration date of 2013. Because this bonding amount exceeds the state’s current debt limit, the bill must be submitted to the state’s voters.

The national League’s positions on Natural Resources, particularly those related to global climate change, together with the extensive work the national League has done in support of national climate change legislation, are the basis for League to support Referendum 52. LWVWA supported EHB 2561 in the 2010 legislative session.

**Initiative 1098:** concerns establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes. This measure would tax “adjusted gross income” above $200,000 (individuals) and $400,000 (joint-filers), reduce state property tax levies, reduce certain business and occupation taxes, and direct any increased revenues to education and health.

League of Women Voters of Washington position on tax structure states: Inequities in the distribution of the tax burden should be removed. Ability to pay is an important criterion. Flexibility and recognition of changing times and needs is important in tax policy. Income should be part of the tax base preferably through a graduated net income tax.

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to oppose the following:

**Initiative 1053:** concerns tax and fee increases imposed by state government. This measure would replace existing statutory requirements that legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds legislative majorities or receive voter approval, and that new or increased fees require majority legislative approval.

National League position includes that government must have the knowledge, resources and power to make decisions that meet citizens needs and reconcile conflicting interests and priorities, and it must be able to function in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time and duplication of effort.

**Initiative Measure No. 1100** concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits). This measure would close state liquor stores; authorize sale, distribution, and importation of spirits by private parties; and repeal certain requirements that govern the business operations of beer and wine distributors and producers.
According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1100 would lower state revenue approximately $25 million per year through the privatization of liquor.

**Initiative Measure No. 1105** concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits). This measure would close all state liquor stores and license private parties to sell or distribute spirits. It would revise laws concerning regulation, taxation and government revenues from distribution and sale of spirits.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1105 would lower state revenue approximately $100 million per year through the privatization of liquor.

**Initiative 1107** concerns reversing certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws. This measure would end sales tax on candy; end temporary sales tax on some bottled water; end temporary excise taxes on carbonated beverages; and reduce tax rates for certain food processors.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1107 would lower state tax revenue by $55 million in the current fiscal year and $218 million in the upcoming biennium by removing the tax on candy & gum, bottled water, soda and reinstating tax loopholes.

The League believes all initiatives proposed should “require how revenue losses or budget increases might be covered, either through program cuts or increases in revenue sources.”

(League position on Initiatives, IR-4)

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to take no position on the following:

**Initiative 1082** concerns industrial insurance. This measure would authorize employers to purchase private industrial insurance beginning July 1, 2012, direct the legislature to enact conforming legislation by March 1, 2012; and eliminate the worker-paid share of medical-benefit premiums.

**Engrossed Substitute House Joint Resolution 4220.** The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on denying bail for persons charged with certain criminal offenses. This amendment would authorize courts to deny bail for offenses punishable by the possibility of life in prison, on clear and convincing evidence of a propensity for violence that would likely endanger persons.

While League has no positions that directly address these issues, we do have concerns about both of them.

On 1-1082, if the federal government does not provide sufficient resources, then the state government must assume that responsibility. There is a question as to whether the state would have the resources if private insurance chose not to cover, and the federal government didn’t sufficiently cover.

On ESHJR 4220, we are concerned about modifying constitutional protection to bail without full voting. This constitutional amendment came about because of a very tragic incident rather than because over time, the legislature considered a problem and sought a solution.
Did you know that the Seattle League has 14 active committees? For last month’s Get to Know League Dinner we focused on League committees as one way for members to get involved with the League. Eight committee chairs gave brief explanations of their committee work, past and present, and talked to members and prospective members over dinner.

What an impressive body of work and inspiring group of movers and shakers! Those of us in the audience were struck with the depth of knowledge, the tireless pursuit of openness and transparency, and the League’s impact on the national, state and local issues. Each committee has its unique approach—some even incorporating salon-style discussions and another a book/film club format into the mix of their committee activities.

Thanks so much to the committee chairs that came to share the work of their committees:

- Ellen Berg, International Relations
- Vicky Downs, representing Economics and Taxation
- Lucy Gaskill-G addis, Education
- Cyndi Goddard-Woods, Voter Service committees
- Jayne Freitag and Kathleen Randall, Social Justice
- Nan Moore representing Port Watch and Land Use
- Barbara Reid, Immigration Reform
- Janet Winans, Transportation

In case you would like to learn more about these committees, we’ve printed a summary of their activities for the upcoming year.

There were 16 prospective members and three relatively new members in attendance.

Thank you to members Jean Carlson, Corky (Diane) Irvine, Kitty Mahon, Dorris Martin, Angela Robinson and Peg Williams for inviting prospective members to the dinner. A friend’s invitation is the best introduction to the League.

Many thanks to everyone who brought lasagna, salad, cookies, rolls or flowers, or helped with setup, serving and cleanup. Special thanks to those that were pressed into service at the event. Thanks for chipping in to make the event successful. It takes many hands to pull off a dinner for 50+ attendees.

A super big thank you to Denise Smith, who hand-addressed 100+ invitations and made that mailing happen when the Membership Chair was deep in the throes of serving on the reading committee for the ballot issues. Which, by the way, is a crash course on local and state politics. I don’t think I’ve ever felt more prepared as a voter. It’s definitely a short and sweet and high impact volunteer opportunity at the League. You will understand your ballot after participating in this process!

Also thank you to our President Allison Feher, who saved the day with an emergency print run. Our copy machine had decided to go on the fritz during the week of printing the October Voter and preparing for several upcoming events.

Leaguers, Let’s Get Out the Vote!

Even if you aren’t currently attending a committee, there is one thing every League
member can do this election season. **Help get out the vote!** Send an email to your friends, family and neighbors reminding them to mail in their ballots, and to go to seattlelwv.org and votingforjudges.org to research issues and judicial candidates respectively. As you go about your day, let people know that you’ve voted and ask them if they plan to vote. Share your views about why midterm elections are important.

**Ongoing Committees 2010-11**

**Civics Education**: Partners with local schools & community organizations, such as the Seattle Times Newspapers in Education project, to educate kids & adults about how government works and how to make their voices heard. Occasionally hosts Civics Trivia events for a playful and social way to learn civics.

**Education**: Monitors education issues in Seattle and surrounding school districts. Currently working on *The Development of a Public School Teacher* Study. How do we develop effective teachers? What are the factors that shape teacher success or mediocrity? The study will look at three different teacher preparation programs, different approaches to teacher certification and the district policies that directly affect the work of teachers. It will explore this hot national topic on a local level by focusing on Seattle, Mercer Island and Bellevue districts.

**Economics & Taxation**: Studies the macro-economic trends impacting our communities. Educates the public about the state, county and city budget and revenue issues. Reviews fiscal impact for ballot issues before voters on League-supported programs and positions.

**Fundraising & Development**: Plans and hosts the fundraising events needed to support the League’s broad range of programs and activities. Develops long-term financial stability through legacy giving and other programs.

**Immigration**: Prepares for the national debate on immigration reform. Advocates for immigration reform, educates the public and discusses films, books and exhibits that touch on immigration.

**International Relations**: Studies and discusses current topics on the world stage, including climate change and Afghanistan. Instrumental in updating the national League of Women Voters positions on Arms Control.

**Land Use**: Monitoring issues such as proposed changes to zoning regulations for low- and mid-rise construction in Seattle neighborhoods, the transition of Pike Place management from federal to city jurisdiction, the Seattle Center redevelopment including proposals for the Fun Forest replacement and other major development proposals.

**Membership & Outreach**: Expands the visibility of the League in the community, builds and retains membership, helps members get engaged in the League and connects the League with community organizations.

**Port Watch**: Tracks Port of Seattle issues, and develops educational programs and activities that will help members stay informed and ready to advocate for the public good in relation to the Port of Seattle.

**Social Justice**: Monitors King County, Seattle & suburban city Health & Human Services funding and the factors contributing to homelessness. Advocates for public policy to end homelessness. Working on *The Impact of Revenue on the Delivery of Mental Health Services in Seattle & King County* study.

**Technology**: Improves how the League uses technology. Evaluates and updates the League website. Develops a social media presence and strategy. Provides training as needed.

**Transportation**: A regional committee including members from Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties that will focus on Seattle transportation issues this year.

**Voter Services & Speakers Bureau**: Registers voters, provides services to new citizens, and speakers to community organizations to educate voters on upcoming ballot issues. Arranges
League candidate & ballot issue forums and supports community sponsored forums. Researches ballot issues and produces informative, nonpartisan pro-con summaries.

**Conservation Districts Concurrence:** What is the King County Conservation District? How is it funded? How do citizens vote? Is it open and transparent? Using Tacoma-Pierce County League study as a starting point, we will learn about this little-understood government jurisdiction.

**In Memoriam**

Esther Instebo, a long time Leaguer and wonderful activist at Horizon House, died in early July, at age 99. She was a wonder!

Her obituary can be seen at: [http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2012341097_insteboobit13m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2012341097_insteboobit13m.html).
Diversity Policy

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

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

LWVS affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.
Mortensen’s *Three Cups of Tea* inspired its readers to see bearded men and shrouded women as the wonderful and individual people they each were. That book demonstrated the stamina, flexibility of mind, and determination it takes to build one school in a remote, mountainside village that no trucks could reach.

*Stones Into Schools* demonstrates that in the process of developing the Central Asia Institute (CAI), Mortensen learned how to select good local talent to expand his program. Clearly he has a genius for understanding others. Sarfraz Khan, who became his “remote areas project manager,” is an example.

Sarfraz Khan described his life as “no much success”, but Mortensen saw a diamond in the rough. With only eight years of schooling in his native Pakistan, Khan traveled widely, and learned to speak seven languages. He also learned a great deal about the Wakhan Valley of Afghanistan. The Wakhan is the part of Afghanistan that looks like an apron string heading to the Northeast, for it is squeezed between the Pamir Mountains to the North and the Hindu Kush to the South. It was in the farthest reaches of this valley where Abdul Rashid Khan, the Amir (leader) of the Kirghiz tribe in the Wakhan, asked for a school for his people. Mortensen agreed to build one, and asked Sarfraz Khan to help.

The school took a decade to build. First, Mortensen needed to take an intensive “course” in Afghan intercultural studies from Sarfraz Khan. He learned where the “big men” of the valley lived, and which schools must be built first, in order to get their consent for more. Each tribal area had friends and enemies, and a man’s hat was the key to his tribal affiliation. Mortensen learned, both literally and figuratively, to change hats depending on his location.

Events that diverted Mortensen’s attention included the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005, which destroyed many schools and homes in Northwestern Pakistan. Thousands of CAI school children were affected and needed emergency help. Another “event” included invitations from U.S. military officers who had read *Three Cups of Tea*, and understood how important it was to learn how to work with Afghans and Pakistanis. Mortensen spoke to groups in the Pentagon, and considers Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chief of Staff, a friend. He invited Mullen to help open one of the girls’ schools in Pakistan.

Mortensen’s ability to use just the right person for each project appears in one particularly moving scene. When the promised school at the end of the Wakhan Valley was finally due to be constructed, timing was crucial, as it was just before the snows would close down all activity. He then learned it was impossible to bring in important supplies, which were waiting at the foot of the Pamir Mountains. Yaks could not be hired, as herdsmen wanted them to graze the rich plateau grasses in the final three weeks of summer. Unable to find help, Mortensen asked the U.S. military to supply helicopter assistance, but that too was reluctantly refused. When Mortensen asked the dying Amir to help, Abdul Rashid Khan sat up in his sick bed and called for all Kirghiz people to send their yaks toward the Pamir Mountains to carry supplies to the school site. They did.

As Mortensen writes: [The Kirghiz needed] “something infinitely more precious and indispensable than whatever assistance might have been rendered by the American military or anyone else... What they needed was the sense of empowerment that comes from knowing that they had done it on their own. And by God’s grace, they had achieved that in spades.”

I found this a positive and uplifting book about a part of the world I meet daily in the newspaper.

*I found this a positive and uplifting book about a part of the world I meet daily in the newspaper. The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.*
IMMIGRATION MYTH SERIES: INTRODUCTION
BY BARBARA YASUI, CO-CHAIR, IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) Immigration Committee has been meeting since 2007 to educate ourselves on the issue of immigration. We have continued to meet since issuing a 20-page report on our findings in August 2008. Most recently, we have turned our focus to researching and addressing common myths and misperceptions about immigration. We read and hear about these everyday in our newspapers, on TV, online, and in our conversations with friends and neighbors. “Immigrants take jobs away from Americans.” “Immigrants are a drain on society.” “Immigrants don’t assimilate.”

Underlying these myths is lack of information, sometimes tinged with covert racism and xenophobia. While it is beyond the scope of our committee to address the latter two issues, we have decided to address six common myths about immigration. What follows is the first in a series of articles on immigration myths. We hope that LWVS members will find this information useful and enlightening, not only in increasing their own knowledge, but also in educating others.

MYTH: AMNESTY BENEFITS ONLY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
BY BARBARA REID, CO-CHAIR, IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Amnesty (or, as proponents conceive it, an earned pathway to legalization) is a major issue in comprehensive immigration reform. Both sides of the immigration reform debate recognize that it is impractical to think that all ten to twelve million undocumented workers can be deported. Both sides also recognize that current immigration policy is ineffective and patchwork in terms of national security, the economy, and humanitarian considerations. Are there benefits to all of us if legalization is extended to undocumented persons?

Let us start with national security. Legalization would result in the immediate addition of the identities of the ten to twelve million undocumented immigrants to government data bases, thereby enhancing both national and local security. The current lack of complete records of names, addresses, and other identifying information of undocumented immigrants is an obvious detriment to law enforcement and national security.

As to the economy, both labor (e.g., AFL/CIO and SEIU) and management (e.g., U.S. Chamber of Congress), by their support of a pathway to legalization for undocumented workers, underscore the recognition that immigrant workers are a necessary part of our economy. The legalization of this group would lead to their inclusion in the tax rolls, resulting in payment into Social Security as well as payment of federal, state and local taxes. Undocumented immigrants, because they supply youthful labor, help to ensure that Social Security and Medicare will be secure for a number of years to come, offsetting some of the pressure of the retiring baby-boomer population.

Legalization would go far toward eliminating workplace abuses. Currently, given the fact that undocumented workers are rightfully fearful of deportation, unprincipled employers can and do exploit their vulnerabilities. This exploitation can take the form of substandard wages, abusive working conditions and failure to pay time-and-a-half for overtime. (Minimum wage, safe working conditions, and time-and-a-half for overtime are guaranteed to all workers by law, regardless of immigration status.) These conditions also affect American workers in the lowest sector of the economy, who are let go if they balk at conditions that others with no choice accept.

A third benefit to the economy would be the equalization of the playing field among businesses. Currently, unscrupulous companies benefit by hiring undocumented workers and paying...
them substandard wages, thus leaving companies that comply with hiring regulations at a marked 
disadvantage. If undocumented workers are legalized, they will choose to enter the formal sector of 
employment, thus closing down the informal sector.

Historically, the U.S. has prided itself in its humanitarian values such as those exemplified by the 
words on the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses…” There 
is a “Catch 22” in our immigration policy that denies these values. On the one hand, the U.S. 
economy’s need for these workers results in a tacit invitation for their illegal entry. On the other 
hand, our immigration policy denies these workers open participation in our society, relegating them 
to an underclass existence. Legalization of undocumented immigrants would reaffirm our nation’s 
commitment to humanitarian responses.

1. www.aflcio.org/aboutus/thisistheaflcio/ecouncil/
2. www.seiu.org/political/issues/immigration/
3. www.uschamber.com/issues/immigration/
4. www.tcf.org/list.asp?type=PB&pubid=491#8
5. www.tcf.org/list.asp?type=PB&pubid=491#8

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**Mission Statement**

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

The League of Women Voters of Seattle serves the greater Seattle area, including the cities of north King County as well as east King County from Bothell to Bellevue.
November Program: Action & Advocacy

November Unit Discussion Guide

Dear Unit and Discussion Leaders:
The following questions are designed to help you think about the many ways units can participate. Not all of them will be right for your unit. You may already do some of these things, or others we haven’t even included on this list. You may chose to answer the questions individually, or you can let us know what your plans are for the coming year or what you are considering, and any additional help or information you’d need to follow through on your plans.

Discussion questions:

1. Where are your unit’s passions? Environmental concerns? Homelessness? We all care about lots of thing; in what areas do you find the most overlap within your unit?
2. Where might you see government action on the issues you’ve identified? County-wide? Your local municipality? What other bodies deal with them?
3. What municipalities and government entities govern the area your unit covers? (Obviously not every single one, but the major ones that you might follow.)
4. How might folks within the unit follow the plans and activities of those government bodies? In person? On TV? On the web? From other news sources?
5. Who might take the lead on various issues? Is there someone with expertise to get the unit started?
6. Are there other organizations or neighborhood associations in your area interested in the same issues? How might you be involved with them to gather and exchange information and planning?
7. What activities might your unit plan in place of study-generated discussions? Invite speakers from other organizations or government bodies? Invite the chair or member of League standing committee to visit, talk in depth about work of that committee if it aligns with interest/passion of your unit? Hold a “work session” to merge the information folks have gathered; plan where to go next? Visit someplace related to your interests: attend a council meeting, tour a water facility, homeless shelter, etc.? Watch a short video on your topic and discuss?

These are all suggestions: The best plan for your unit will be the one you yourselves develop.

PLEASE RECORD THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR PLANS AND DISCUSSION AND RETURN TO THE LEAGUE OFFICE TO THE ATTENTION OF NAN MOORE, ACTION CHAIR.
League patterns are changing. Years of hard work have produced many strong and well-thought-out positions. And while there will certainly be calls, in the future, for more (or more refined) positions, currently there is no long backlog of studies at any level: local, state, or national.

That means that not every forum will be the end result of a study. Some forums are simply meant to educate us—one of our core missions—and other forums are calls to action. And while we hope they are all interesting and informative, they may not generate the sort of consensus building discussions members have come to expect.

Some League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) units have already taken steps off the forum-discussion path. What's your unit up to? I asked that question of a couple of units—one quite new and one of long standing—and got some great answers.

Judy Bevington sent me this brief note about our northernmost unit.

The King County North unit has been a unit for only two years. While we have been concentrating on consolidating ourselves as a unit, we are beginning to make forays into the community.

Some members were involved in earlier years (through the Shoreline Unit) in putting on local ballot issue and candidate forums. Ruth Kagi went on from these to become our state representative. This year we invited the mayor and a city administrator to our unit to talk about the proposed property tax levy. Another time we invited an involved citizen to talk about Lake Forest Park’s tree ordinance.

The property tax levy was a hot topic in Lake Forest Park so we decided that the League’s balanced approach to issues would provide value to the discussion. We held a well-attended forum on the issue. We consider it to be a valuable activity that also contributed to the reputation of the League.

Inviting former representatives and unit members Nancy Rust, Audrey Gruger, and Rep. Ruth Kagi to a Christmas party was a way to learn more about the legislative process and priorities.

I would be surprised if we don’t continue putting on election forums and being more connected, particularly with the City of Lake Forest Park.

The Mercer Island unit has long held forums for candidates for Mercer Island offices and for selected ballot issues. In addition, they have become closely involved in many Mercer Island school and community issues.

One of their most active members, Myra Lupton, sent me a delightful description of how her involvement began and how it grew.

[When I taught English at Sammamish High in Bellevue for over 30 years, I was active in BEA Rep Assembly and the WEA committees on negotiation legislation. …[W]hen I retired in January of 1992 I was able to attend school board and city meetings to become better informed and to speak and write about issues.

As a result of this participation, I was asked to participate in a number of local committees: what the Mercer Island School District would do with the Mercer View Elementary property it needed to sell, what to build when the 1957 high school was torn down, what to do when a citizen insisted on giving goodly sums … to one of our three grade schools and what to name the rooms of the new Community Center. (On the last one, we decided to name them after our landings on our shores—except that we omitted using Roanoke thinking many people would wind up at the tavern.)

As Myra makes clear, issues like these can be of interest to a League unit for a variety of reasons.

I … always saw these not just as specific city or school choices but also always issues of governance:
transparency, fiscal equity (private use of public property, for instance) and public decisions by votes. (When I was in BEA another member and I worked to defeat a constitution we thought cut members out of any meaningful decisions and we got one voted in that had initiative, referendum and recall sections.)

In Mercer Island both the school board and the city council had a bad habit: holding annual retreats away from MI. I worked for several years (with good help from our newspaper and LWVS) to convince them to meet where their voters lived. The effect of their going out of town was to get “closed sessions.” Several other citizens and I started going to the ones the city had in places such as Everett, Anacortes and Port of Seattle. The school directors met in private clubs in both Seattle and Bellevue! They even finally offered to pay the parking fees rather than meet in our city. Now both bodies meet here.

Myra advises that units look for public participation committees for unit members to join.

[On Mercer Island] we have an MISD District Advisory Committee with school staff, parents, PTA and community members where about 20 of us meet 4 times a year with the superintendent for about 2½ hours were at least one-half hour is absolutely open forum comments or questions. (The agenda item is known as “what is being said at the grocery store.”) Accurate notes are kept and then our member takes these to the unit meetings. (I have done this for several years but each year we name someone.) This kind of work is quite significant now that the newspapers are so “slim” on coverage!

If there is no opportunity for public participation such as this, units might consider requesting that an elected body establish a committee of this sort.

Not only is this sort of unit outreach important because traditional news media have shrunk, it is important because the scope of the Seattle League has grown. Remember those 23 municipalities mentioned on the front page? And remember how far King County stretches? Even with King County South taking responsibility for a big chunk of the county and for its “southern” municipalities, it is unrealistic for the Board of Directors and the standing committees to stay on top of developments in Shoreline and Sammamish, in Seattle, Kirkland, North Bend and all points in between. If League is to be responsive to all its members, we need those eyes and ears and advocates that are to be found in every unit.

In other words, it is important for units to be action committees.

A first step for any unit could be to determine what government entities serve it. Mercer Island’s city and school district boundaries are co-extensive. That isn’t true of other units. And there are more government bodies to consider than just the city or county council and the local school district. Utility districts? Public Development Authorities? Find out what the others are. Or it may be that unit members are most interested in a government body that serves a larger area—not just the unit’s locale—such as the Port of Seattle or the Puget Sound Regional Council. The best starting point for the unit may be where unit members have some interest and expertise. Just as writers are told to start writing about what they know, units may want to begin their “exploration of action” with what at least some of them already know.

Opportunities for involvement abound. To be sure, LWVS develops its priorities for programs at the January program meeting and at the annual meeting. But as individuals, as members, as voters, we all have our own priorities. It is up to each unit to determine where the passions of its members lie and what part of local government deals with the activities that matter most to folks in that unit.

What happens when your unit does follow an issue? What about when you see the need for action? Can you go right down to your Lake Washington School Board meeting or to the Redmond City Council to give them the benefit of your insights and advocate for the step you believe
they should take? Of course you can—AS AN INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN! What you CAN’T do, as a League member, is to represent that your view is the view of the League of Women Voters of Seattle.

According to the League of Women Voters of Seattle Policies,

“[League] acts only on those issues chosen by the membership for study and action” and “Only the President or the President’s designee shall speak officially for the League.” The policies go on: “When speaking publicly, members shall use caution to avoid giving the impression they speak for the League when they do not.” That caution applied to members of the Board, members of the standing committees, and to unit members.

So what happens to all your hard work?

Well—that depends on you. Myra Lupton urged, in her letter to me:

Any unit working on very local issues should be informed and keep copies handy of LWV positions so that, to get help, they can relate their concern to what we have positions on.

Remember, “the League acts only on those issues chosen by the membership … for action,” that is, those issues on which we’ve taken a position.

Since the President speaks for the League, you’ll want to ask the President to address your cause. But the President needs information in order to act.

To get to that final outcome, your next step will be to enlist the Board member assigned to “Action.” The Action chair will ask you to make your case: lay out the background information, the action that the government entity is contemplating (or should contemplate) and what the President of LWVS should urge that entity to do. Mention the positions you think are important, explain what you think the outcome of a particular choice will be, why you think that does (or does not) accord with League positions, etc. Sound like a lot of work? Well, it really isn’t, because you will have done all this in order to arrive at the conclusion that “we oughta’ do something about this.” So by all means, “do something.” Your fellow Leaguers will be proud that you did.

League principles say “democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.” The entity your unit finds of interest may be as large as the Port or as small as a local PDA. The issue you tackle may be settled in a month or two or it may take years to resolve. But as Myra pointed out, “issues of governance”—perhaps open meetings, or coordination (or the lack thereof) among different agencies and levels of government, or conservation of natural resources, (the list goes on and on)—can be encountered at any level of government, involving any issue, great or small.

In the end, it comes down to this. Our wonderful standing committees are essential to the work of the League; we all rely on them for their expertise and their leadership in advocacy. The Board of Directors work hard to implement the programs members ask for and to support the standing committees. But on a month-to-month basis, for many of us, the League experience is to be found in the units. And the quality of that experience is up to the units themselves. It’s your League. Make the most of it.
## Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

### 1. Publication Title
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### 2. Publication Number
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### 3. Filing Date
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### 4. Issue Frequency
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1620 18th Ave. Ste. 101
Seattle, WA 98122

### 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printed)

### 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>League of Women Voters of Seattle</td>
<td>1620 18th Ave. Ste. 101 Seattle, WA 98122</td>
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### 10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

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### 12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
- [ ] Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
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16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☑ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the November issue of this publication.
☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Lindsay Cummings, Staff

Date: 10/13/10

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

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 2)
### NOVEMBER UNIT INFORMATION

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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Nov. 4th</td>
<td>ISSAQUAH DAY — Margaret Austin</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Margaret.Austin@comcast.net">Margaret.Austin@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>130 E. Sunset Way, Coho Room (Upstairs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Nov. 8</td>
<td>FIRST HILL — Jeannette Kahlenberg</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kahlenb@gmail.com">kahlenb@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Horizon House, 900 University St., Sky Lounge, Mary Margaret Pruitt, hostess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Nov. 9</td>
<td>BELLEVUE — Bonnie Rimawi</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnierim@aol.com">bonnierim@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Bellevue Public Library, Rm. 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 10</td>
<td>WEST SEATTLE DAY — Ethel Williams/Hazel Schiffer</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Hazelms@drizzle.com">Hazelms@drizzle.com</a></td>
<td>Kenney Presbyterian Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
<td>715 Fauntleroy Way SW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WEST SEATTLE EVE — Barbara O’Steen</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbarajosteen@yahoo.com">barbarajosteen@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Pat Lane, 2414 Prescott Ave SW,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov. 10</td>
<td>VIEW RIDGE — Gail Winberg</td>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:winbergeng@q.com">winbergeng@q.com</a></td>
<td>Gail Winberg, 6004 NE 60th St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVE. — Karen Adair</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Nancy Debaste, Merrill Gardens Queen Anne, 805 4th Ave. N.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHEND — Marian Wolfe/Susan Jones</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lila Bulen, 3716 Cascadia Ave. S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Nov. 11</td>
<td>MERCER ISLAND — Lucy Copass/Cynthia Howe</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lucyco@speakeasy.org">lucyco@speakeasy.org</a></td>
<td>Mercer Island Presbyterian Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>3605 84th Ave. SE, Mercer Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY HOUSE — Charles and Nancy Perkins</td>
<td>(206) 329-4848 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>University House, 4400 Stone Way North, Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Contact Name</td>
<td>Email</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHORELINE — Juliet Beard</td>
<td>Juliet Beard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:juliet@windermere.com">juliet@windermere.com</a></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<td>KIRKLAND/REDMOND — Sheila Hoff</td>
<td>Sheila Hoff</td>
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<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<td>NORTHEAST — Jan Orlando</td>
<td>Jan Orlando</td>
<td><a href="mailto:orlanre@aol.com">orlanre@aol.com</a></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<td>Friday, Nov. 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. KING COUNTY — Marjorie Hawkes/Raelene Gold</td>
<td>Marjorie Hawkes/Raelene Gold</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mshawkesis@gmail.com">mshawkesis@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:raelene@seanet.com">raelene@seanet.com</a></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTHEAST AFTERNOON — Helen St. John</td>
<td>Helen St. John</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hbstjohn@gmail.com">hbstjohn@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY — Kerry Peterson</td>
<td>Kerry Peterson</td>
<td></td>
<td>(206) 329-4848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Term Executive Committee
2009–2011 President Allison Feher (206) 329-4848 president@seattlelwv.org
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2009–2011 Secretary Kris Bushley (206) 329-4848 abushley@earthlink.net
2010-2012 Director Ruth Schroeder (206) 329-4848 schrdrcrl@comcast.net

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Reclaimed Water Study Committee Denise Smith (206) 329-4848 issaquahsmith@msn.com
Transportation Janet Winans (206) 329-4848 janetwinans@earthlink.net
LWV SEATTLE: NOVEMBER FORUM

Action & Advocacy

Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave. (Harvard & Seneca)
Seattle

Thursday, November 4
7:30 p.m.

All forums are open to the public.

Speakers include

Tim Harris, Real Change

Rebecca Roe, former prosecuting attorney and community activist

Doug Howell, Sierra Club

Moving? Let us know!
Call the League office at (206) 329-4848 or email info@seattlelwv.org

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