

The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County

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Getting Out the Vote

by Lisa Peterson, *The Voter* Editor

It's fall again--or as Leaguers identify it: voting season! Despite it being an 'off' election year (the term denotes no presidential election, not that there's nothing to vote on), we will have a very crowded ballot. The City of Seattle has four new funding propositions, including not one but two early learning measures. The state ballot has five initiatives: three are regular and two are advisory votes only, and multiple other King County cities have measures on the ballot as well.

We all remember the slogan, "Get out the vote!" and needed actions: reminding voters of dates, poll locations and hours open for voting, getting carpools organized for those unable to get to polling locations on their own, etc. In Washington, however, it's a brave new world--voting only by mail means that many of these are outdated. A listing of poll locations? Not necessary; vote in the comfort of your own home. Hours open for voting? Entirely flexible from when your ballot arrives until either the last mail pickup or when the King County ballot boxes close on voting day. Organizing carpools? Not necessary.

However, this doesn't mean that we are not needed to help get out the vote--just look at the recent abysmal voter turnout, which hovered around 30%. Even with flexibility in the amount of time to complete ballots, many voters appear to be unaware of how big a benefit this flexibility is.

Let's take a look at a few updated obstacles to

citizen participation in this important act of democracy:

- Lack of a postage stamp for the envelope. Yes, due to the proliferation of the internet and online activities, people conducting correspondence and bill-paying electronically only online may literally not have a stamp available to mail back their ballot when it's complete.
- Returning the ballot on time. When we used to need to get to a polling location to vote, as long as you knew which Tuesday it was, you knew the voting deadline. Now that ballots are mailed approximately three weeks before they're due back, we can complete them at our convenience. That can unfortunately make it easy to put off voting and also easier to miss the return deadline.
- Voter apathy. Sadly, this has not changed much. Many of us know how important it is to let our elected officials know our opinions, and approve or disapprove their actions and/or funding on issues put before us. With the numerous news outlets and negativity surrounding many issues, however, it can make people want to avoid the process altogether.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on November 8 for an evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation about election spending in the wake of *Citizens United*.

5:30 p.m. Downstairs at Town Hall

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Connecting with the Leadership

Hello, fellow members,

Isn't fall in the Pacific Northwest a wonderful time of year? The mornings are crisp, the apples are ripe and it's dark enough at night to get to sleep at a reasonable hour. I don't know about the rest of you, but I am looking forward to the rain. I'm so tired of watering my garden: this time of year, it's every plant for itself in my yard!

Fall means other things for League, of course. We had our first forum earlier this month, unfortunately starting off with 'technical difficulties', but we recovered, the speakers were wonderful and the audience seemed engaged. We apologize for the difficulties and promise it will go more smoothly next time. Our next forum will be about the upcoming November election. Elsewhere in this *Voter* is information on the October forum. The subject for that will be local ballot issues, of which there are many, including early childhood education, the Monorail (yes, again!) and a proposed Seattle transportation district to help fund Metro service in the city.

We, as a board, also took a long, hard look at our fundraising efforts this past year. The Toast event did not bring in as much revenue as we had hoped and planned for. We don't know if it was the early hour, the unfortunate postponement of the event, the concept, or a combination of those or something else. I know that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves, and I and other League members were the recipient of many positive comments. The program was lively and educational and the award recipients were appreciative. We think that it is worthwhile to plan something similar next spring. If you have any comments, suggestion or criticisms, please send them to me at [\[wv.org\]\(http://wv.org\). And, if you would like to participate in planning this event, let me know that, also!](mailto:president@seattlel-</p>
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Mark your calendars now for a fall fundraising event tentatively scheduled for November 8, which will focus on campaign finance issues. You will hear more details in upcoming emails and mailings. It should be fun and interesting--stay tuned!



The Board, for the past several years, has been considering and trying different fundraising ideas. These would provide greater stability and be in tune with our mission, yet not consume so much of our Board members' time and energy. Our recent past president, Judy Bevington, and our former development chair and current C3 treasurer, Ginna Owens, started the Leadership Circle in 2011. This program provides us with a steady source of funds to support our programs. Joining the Leadership Circle entails a three-year commitment of just \$20 per month, or \$240 per year. We realized recently that if each of our members pledged at just the minimum level, we could dispense with other fundraising altogether! Not only would this allow us to better plan for the future, it would also free up the Board to focus their time and energy on the things that League stands for - voter education, and action and advocacy. It would have the added benefit that we would no longer have to repeatedly ask our members for donations. I would appreciate it if every one of you would seriously consider becoming part of our Leadership Circle program.

We also intend to reach out to corporate sponsors and other large donors. In addition, we are working on developing a robust planned giving program. If you would like information about any of these programs, or have ideas about or

Continued on page 6

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Forum: Ballot Measures 7 p.m.	3	4 Action Workshop in Bremerton 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
5	6 Int'l Relations Comm. 12:45 p.m. <i>The Voter Deadline</i>	7	8	9	10	11 Econ & Tax Comm. 9:30 a.m.*
12	13	14 Transportation Comm. 10 a.m.	15	16 Climate Change Comm. 10 a.m.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Education Comm. 10 a.m.	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	November 1 Board Meeting 9 a.m. Action Workshop in Everett 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Campaign Finance Event 5:30p.m. Town Hall

Units meet during shaded period

OCTOBER

Forum:
Selected Ballot Measures
Thursday, October 2
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Action Workshop
Saturday, October 4
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Kitsap Conference Center
Bremerton

The Voter Deadline
Monday, October 6

Economics and Taxation
Committee
Saturday, October 11*
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, October 14
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Climate Change Committee
Thursday, October 16
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, October 23
10:00 a.m.
League Office

* Date is tentative; call the office to confirm

NOVEMBER

Board Meeting
Saturday, November 1
9:00 a.m.
League Office

Action Workshop
Saturday, November 1
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Everett

Fall Campaign Finance Event
November 8
5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Seattle

Forum Schedule

Oct 2 - Ballot Measures
Nov 8* - Campaign Finance event
Dec - No Forum
Jan 8 - Program Planning
Feb 5 - Hospital Mergers
Mar 5 - Human Trafficking
Apr 2 - Reauthorization of the Columbia River Treaty

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

*In lieu of the November forum we are having an evening fundraiser with wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Board Briefs by Amanda Clark, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on September. This is a summary of their work.

President Ellen Barton discussed the decision of the Executive Committee (officers of the Board) to divide the duties of Action and Development. Janet Winans will oversee Action, including endorsements and action forums and Ellen will oversee Development, including fundraising events and outreach.

Endorsements Update: After lengthy discussion, the Board decided to take no position on Seattle Proposition 2, which would create the Century Transportation Authority. This authority would exist to raise money, through bonds and a car tab fee, to plan a 16-mile monorail to run between Ballard and West Seattle. A number of Board members were in favor of recommending a "no" vote, but others felt there was not enough information to take a position.

A decision whether to endorse Seattle Proposition 1 to raise money to save Metro Seattle-area bus routes by LWVS-KC was postponed until next month's Board meeting. Seattle City Councilmember and proposition spearheader Tom

Rasmussen will attend the September Transportation Committee, so more information will be available after that.

Forums: There was excellent turnout for the September Forum on early childhood learning, and the speakers were engaging and knowledgeable. The October Forum will be on ballot issues, which usually also has a good turnout. The November Forum, on campaign finance, will become our fall fundraising luncheon and be held at Town Hall November 8. Stay tuned for more information.

Committees: The Social Justice Committee is active again, and welcomes new members. Jayne Freitag attends meetings of the Seattle-King County Alliance for Human Services, which the League is a member of. League's Social Justice committee is concerned with issues of racial disparity, homelessness and housing, health and access to mental health care.

Continued on next page

Board Briefs continued:

Voter Services: These are the committee's busiest months, with the October Ballot Issues Forum, assisting with community voters' forums, registering voters, providing speakers, preparing summaries of ballot issues, and updating Vote411. Volunteers for these activities are encouraged!

Metropolitan Park District: City Councilmember Nick Licata is forming a Citizens' Committee for oversight of the newly-created MPD. Interested residents will need to apply to be on the committee, and at least two League members have already indicated their interest.

Leadership column continued:

would like to help with our fundraising efforts, please contact me or Allison at the office.

I am looking forward to this upcoming League year, and hope you are as well. We will have some exciting and educational forums and expect to be very much engaged in local politics, including the new Metropolitan Park District, funding of Metro transit and the Seattle Housing Authority rent increase proposal.



Ellen Barton
President

Cover article continued:

What can we do? Here are some things we can do for ourselves and other people to help increase voter participation:

1. Complete your ballot (using your October *Voter* for complete non-partisan information, of course!) soon after it arrives, sign it, stamp it and put it in the mail. Or, instead of stamping it, take it right to a King County Elections ballot drop box. It's easy to 'mean to' do it but then find the ballot in a pile of papers the day after the election.
2. Make a trip to the Post Office a 'two-fer'--take your completed ballot with you, start with a quick stop at the automated machine to buy a stamp (no need to wait in line), stick a stamp on it, drop it in the mailbox and...done!
3. Incorporate taking your ballot to the nearest drop box into another errand; you'll get two things done with minimal additional time! Or, decide to see another part of the area and head to a drop box farther from home. For a list of official King County ballot box locations, go to: <http://kingcounty.gov/elections/voting/ballotreturn/locationlist.aspx>

4. Remind friends and family in person or online to return their ballots. Email or post a note like, "Did you remember to complete and return your ballot?" or "only ___ days until the ballot return deadline".

Sometimes we need a refresher that voting is not just a right, it is a privilege! Think of how many people in how many countries around the world lack the ability to approve or deny, ensure accountability, or influence public policy. We have an opportunity to do all of these things when our ballots arrive shortly. Make your voice heard via your ballot. And remember: voting also shows our elected officials that it's not just special interests active and paying attention!

Committees

Climate Change Committee

DATE: Thursday, October 16

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Speaker: Yoram Bauman of CarbonWA will discuss the carbon tax.

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, October 11

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Date is tentative - call the office to confirm.

Speaker: Dwight Dively, Director of King County's Office of Management and Budget. He previously served as Director of Finance for the City of Seattle.

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, October 23

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Please plan to join us to help us set goals and prioritize action, while ensuring we remain informed on a broad set of educational issues.

International Relations Committee

DATE: Monday, October 6

TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, October 14

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Speaker: Rick Olson of the Puget Sound Regional Council. *Note earlier than usual date for the meeting.*

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, 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

Advocate for League!

Talk with Local Legislators
Learn the 2015 Legislative Priorities ★ Learn How to Lobby for the League
Meet the new LWV Lobbyist ★ Talk with members of the Lobby Team
\$25 Per Attendee | Lunch Included

Bremerton

Date: October 4th, 2014
Time: 9:15am -2:00pm
Hosted by LWV Kitsap County
Kitsap Conference Center
Bremerton Harborside
100 Washington Ave.
Bremerton, WA

Spokane

Date: October 11th, 2014
Time: 9:15am -2:30pm
Hosted by LWV Spokane Area
Waste to Energy Facility
Administration Building
2900 S. Geiger Blvd.
Spokane, WA

Everett

Date: November 1st, 2014
Time: 9:00am -2:00pm
Hosted by LWV Snohomish Co.
Community Resource Center
3900 Broadway
Everett, WA

The League requests that each individual submit an online or paper registration form.

If you wish to pay by **credit or debit card**, please register online at lwvwa.org.

Registration by Check

Full Name: _____ **League:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **City/State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Advocacy Interests

- Agriculture
- Budget & Revenue
- Children and Family
- Education
- Environmental Issues
- Government and Elections
- Gun Safety
- Health Care and Reproductive Rights
- Social and Economic Justice
- State Parks
- Transportation

Select each Workshop you want to attend and if you are an LWVWA Lobby Team member:

- Kitsap - October 4th \$ 25.00 USD
 - I am an LWVWA Lobby Team Member No charge
 - Spokane - October 11th \$ 25.00 USD
 - Snohomish - November 1st \$ 25.00 USD
- Total :** _____

Please mail this form & a check payable to LWVWA at 1402 Third Avenue, Suite 430, Seattle, WA 98101

Election season is a great time to recruit new members! Use this form to encourage friends, neighbors - even strangers - to sign up, particularly if they ask you: "What's the League's position on this issue?"

Join the League!

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

League membership is open to men and women.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dues and contributions:

- \$60 one year individual membership
- \$90 one year household membership
- \$35 low or fixed income
- \$25 student
- Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

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

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

Thank you for supporting the work of the LWV!

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



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

Updates from our State and National Leagues

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

Olympia and Our Washington

Lori Kessler, one of the two staff persons at our state office, moved to Florida so things are quite hectic at the moment while they hire a replacement. Please be patient if you are contacting the state office for assistance.

The first of the two action workshops in our area is Saturday, October 4 in Bremerton. These annual workshops provide informative speakers, great intra-League networking opportunities, and more. If you can't make this month's, there will be another on November 1 in Everett. For more details and to sign up, go online to www.lwvwa.org or use the form on page 8.

Hospital mergers are a big issue around the state and we have a state committee that has put together some resources for local Leagues. We will be holding a forum in February and need volunteers to help plan and put on the event. Please contact either of our program or action chairs (see inside back cover) if you are interested.

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.

National News

A recording of the conference call held with League members and Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is now available. Administrator McCarthy discussed the ongoing work being done to fight climate change at the national level, including the EPA's Clean Power Plan which limits its carbon emissions from power plants. To find it on the national website (lwv.org) type "Gina McCarthy" in the quick search box.

Over 400 Leagues participated in National Voter Registration Day along with over 1,700 other groups around the country. Locally we partnered with UniteWomen.org to register voters at food banks.

The League joined over a thousand organizations from across the country to show support for the fight against climate change with a People's Climate March and Rally on September 21 in New York City. The LWVS-KC joined in endorsing the March here in Seattle and we were out in force! See our stalwart team pictured below:



Action

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Washington has reviewed the statewide measures on the ballot this fall and made the following decisions:

Oppose	I-591	Would roll back the background checks currently in place in Washington State to those that are federally mandated. No additional checks could be required by any state or local government entity.
Support	I-594	Closes the loophole in Washington law that makes it easy to evade a background check. Applies the same background check used for decades at gun stores to all gun sales, including those sold by unlicensed sellers through the Internet and at gun shows. Research demonstrates that background checks reduce gun violence and deaths - especially among law enforcement and women.
No Position	I-1351	Would set maximum class sizes for K-12 and require increased support staff such as nurses and teacher assistants in schools.
No Position	Advisory Votes 8 & 9	Since these are advisory votes only the League board did not consider them.

There is extensive information about gun safety and the two measures available on the LWVWA website. Go to www.lwvwa.org, scroll down the page and click on the gun safety toolkit.

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County is reviewing the local measures on the ballot in Seattle this fall and will be making a decision at the September 27 Board meeting, after the print deadline for this edition. The online edition will be updated as soon as possible after the meeting.

Pending	Seattle Prop 1A & 1B	Two proposals for public funding of preschool. Voters will be able to vote whether or not to have either proposal <u>and</u> which of the proposals they prefer.
Pending	Seattle TBD Prop 1	A car tab fee and sales tax to restore recently cut and proposed cuts to Metro bus service in the city of Seattle.
No Position	Monorail Prop 1	Would create a new transportation authority for a monorail between Ballard and West Seattle.

There are six additional local measures in King County for the cities of Bothell, Carnation, Kent, and North Bend and the Highline School District and the East Pierce Fire and Rescue District. No member requested consideration of these measures and it was determined they did not meet the criteria for consideration for endorsement. Factors considered in the determination include number of voters affected, whether there are League members or an active unit in the area affected, number of measures on the ballot, time demands, and whether there are relevant League positions on the issue.

Call to Action from the Waterfront Committee
PLEASE ACT NOW!

Waterfront Park's wonderful views of the Sound and Olympic Mountains to the west continue to be threatened by the Seattle Aquarium's plan to expand to the south, directly in front of it.

There is a limited window of opportunity to affect this plan, and WE NEED EVERY LEAGUE MEMBER TO EMAIL OR WRITE TO THE MAYOR AND SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL ASKING THAT THIS SOUTH EXPANSION PLAN OPTION BE CANCELLED.

The Seattle Aquarium is a beautiful and treasured resource for Seattle, and we want to see it grow and thrive. But there are other areas that the Aquarium can expand into that are not in front of Waterfront Park. Our committee is working to show City and Aquarium officials that this is doable without blocking the public park views. We are reminding them that Seattle's own SEPA policies prohibit blockage of views from public spaces like this Park.

The Aquarium is owned by the City, and any new structures will be City property, giving it approval over new construction. In January 2010, the City leased Aquarium management to the Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS) for a 20-year period. Under the lease, the Mayor and City officials have overall control over any building. Plans are being drawn up by an architectural firm, with several building site options to be published in January 2015. These must be approved by the Mayor and City Council before work can begin. An expansion building to the south in front of the Park, has been assumed, but does not yet have City authorization.

The Aquarium sits on the north border of Waterfront Park, with the current expansion building slated for the Aquarium's south side, which is what will block the park views. But the building also could be built on the Aquarium's northwest side, not in front of the Park. We have made presentations to the City Council about this northwest area option, and will meet with individual councilmembers with the goal of ensuring that

City officials understand the problems with the currently-favored option.

A major breakthrough for our pro-view stance is that consultants hired by the Aquarium have reported that their expansion needs can be fully met by expanding northwest, with no south building at all! And the total plan cost and floor area added would be equal to going south.

NOW, BEFORE THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS ARE PUBLISHED, IS THE TIME FOR THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL TO INTERVENE AND ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SOUTH EXPANSION! Having them act now will save the extra design costs of a south building option design, plus avoid open discord over the Aquarium's long-planned enlargement.

Please write to Mayor Ed Murray and to Councilmember Jean Godden telling them that blocking waterfront park's view is unacceptable, and asking them to cancel the southward aquarium expansion option.

PLEASE WRITE NOW, AND IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN BEFORE, PLEASE WRITE AGAIN.

The Honorable Ed Murray
 Mayor of Seattle
 P.O. Box 94749
 Seattle, WA 98124-4749
 ed.murray@seattle.gov

Jean Godden
 Waterfront Committee Chair
 P.O. Box 34025
 Seattle, WA 98124-4025
 jean.godden@seattle.gov

And if you can, email the rest of the Council also: Sally Bagshaw, Tim Burgess, Sally Clark, Bruce Harrell, Nick Licata, Mike O'Brien, Tom Rasmussen, and Kshama Sawant. Councilmember email format: `firstname.lastname@seattle.gov`.

Thank you in advance for your help--this is a rare opportunity to impact the outcome early in the process, and for everyone to win!

Voter Service

Voter Registration Volunteers Wanted

In addition to the intense work getting the many issues on the November ballot ready and working on the upcoming Forum for October 2, we are ALSO doing lots of voter registration! Thank you to everyone who has been participating.

The deadline for online/mail-in registration for this November's election is **October 6** so we're calling on you for one last push! There are many dates and times available, as well as many places throughout King County to get involved, so please consider this opportunity.

The following local food banks have agreed to provide space during the following days and times for League volunteers to do registrations:

- **Des Moines** Area Food Bank - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
- **Issaquah** Food Bank - Mondays from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **Greenwood** Food Bank - Mondays from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Enumclaw** Kiwanis Food Bank - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
- **Federal Way** Food Bank - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- North Helpline in **Lake City** - Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We suggest a 2- to 3-hour shift; don't worry that you'll need to spend the entire time the food bank will allow us to be there, but of course any time is appreciated. There may also be flexibility if you have time available during other hours that the food banks are open. Please contact

Amelia Woolley, Voter Services co-chair, at voterservice@seattlelwv.org or call the office to sign up and get complete materials kits (conveniently pre-packaged in an easy-to-transport tote!) if you're interesting in helping.

Speakers Bureau Volunteers Needed

Now that we have the ballot issue summaries written, it's time to go out and share the information with the community. We have many requests from all over the county for speakers to come talk about the measures. These are usually short 30-40 minute presentations (that may sound like a lot but with 5 to 9 measures to cover, once you read the ballot title and explain what a yes or a no vote means you've already taken up about half the time!) Training is provided as are outlines, references and other resources. If you're uncertain, come observe a session to get a feel for what it's like. We can barely fill the requests we get each year - we need more help to take this valuable service to wider audiences. Call the office or email voterservice@seattlelwv.org to volunteer or to learn more.

1-2-3 Vote411.org

Getting to your personalized ballot on Vote411.org takes a few clicks, but it's worth the effort. Questions tailored to each race and current issues are asked of all the candidates. Try it out and see what you think. If you see a candidate hasn't responded - there's still time, encourage them to do so!

Here's how to navigate the site:

Put in your address, then on the next page select "get personalized info on candidates and issues" which will then pull up a map to confirm that the address/info being retrieved will be accurate. Click on "Find My Information", select the language you want then click "go to My Races." Now your personalized ballot is ready!

Getting Connected Membership News

GREETINGS FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, PANEEN DAVIDSON

Fall is often a time of new beginnings - certainly for those starting a new school year, but also for organizations such as the League of Women Voters.

I am a new Board member, assigned to the membership portfolio. I have been a member of one League or another for many years, but I joined Seattle-King County just three years ago. I hope I bring to the task of recruiting, involving, and retaining members two perspectives: that of a member who knew the lingo, the issues and the players in previous Leagues, but also that of a new member who walked into a unit meeting not knowing a soul but wanting to be involved.

I hope that each visitor or new member, whether attending a forum, a Hot Topics event, or a unit meeting, will receive a warm and inclusive greeting. A 'hello' at the door is a great start. This year, I have challenged myself to greet and visit with at least one person I do not know at each League event I attend. Please consider doing this yourself as well; look for the person standing or sitting alone, introduce yourself and ask about them and their interests. It is easy for me -- and maybe for you, too -- to chat with just those I know and not move away from my comfort zone to get to know a new person. But if that person feels welcome, he or she is more likely to return and become an active volunteer.

I intend to visit each unit over the course of this year to get to know more of you and to get your thoughts on what membership in LWVS-KC means to you, why you keep coming back.

In September, I visited the Horizon House unit, led by Joan Lawson, and the Mercer Island unit, led by Cynthia Howe. Both of these meetings reiterated for me why I am a member: it gives me the opportunity to be with and learn from informed and involved women (and men). It's

what League is known for. I'd like for us to be known for our welcomes as well.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Bernice Kastner was born in Montreal, Canada. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from McGill University, majoring in mathematics and physics. Bernice said her mother was upset when she chose this program, feeling "I would never marry if I did this. But, I had read a biography of Marie Curie the summer after high school graduation and I did not allow my mother's worries deter me. In fact, I met my husband who was a year ahead of me in the same program."

Bernice and her husband came to the United States in 1952 for him to pursue his Ph.D. They thought they would return to Canada after he graduated, but NASA was building the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, and he was offered an attractive job there. By the time he began work, they had two daughters, a son on the way and Bernice had earned a Master's Degree in mathematics education. Bernice taught junior high school math, returning to graduate school where she could teach part time and earned her Ph.D. in mathematics education at the University of Maryland. Coincidentally, her graduation was the same year her oldest daughter received her Bachelor's degree! Bernice continued to teach mathematics until 1982 when her husband retired. They moved to Vancouver, B.C., in part because of the area's excellent transportation system and she continued teaching mathematics at Simon Fraser University.

Bernice and her husband became U.S. citizens in 1961, thinking it was important to be able to vote. Their first voting experience overwhelmed them with the length and complexity of the ballot. Canada had separate elections at the federal, provincial and local levels and there were seldom more than two issues on the ballot at once.

They soon found that the best source of information to be the League of Women Voters.

Bernice now lives in Seattle because most of her family is here, and her oldest granddaughter and her husband have six-year-old twin girls.

Barbara Reskin is an “almost-retired” University of Washington sociology professor who grew up in Seattle, returning from the East Coast ten years ago. She taught classes and continues research on gender, race and economic inequality in the workplace.

Over the last 20 years, she also periodically served as an expert witness in employment discrimination cases. Barbara says that that experience, along with her work last year analyzing the City of Seattle’s personnel data as a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Gender Pay Equity indicate that Seattle still has a long way to go. One of her goals is to work toward greater sex and racial equality in the workplace.

In addition, she has been exploring and is interested in learning more about other important topics. Some of these are: the dominance of money in politics and the financial industry generally, the role of the United States in Middle East conflicts, and connections between carbon, energy production, and global warming.

For fun, she says, “I grow things, walk in the Arboretum, quilt, and play with my beloved 16-year-old dog”.

Barbara learned about the League’s activities while perusing our web site looking for information to help her decide how to vote on then-Proposition 1. She says that she knew right away that she wanted to become a member, “so here I am”.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

We thank all our members who provide support and foster the League’s mission in so many ways. This month we want to acknowledge those members who renew at a higher dues level or provide a donation with their dues. In addition to supporting the work of the League, these donations allow us to offer low-income and scholarship memberships. Thank you to Nancy Bagley, Jean Carlson, Glenda Carper, Lynn Chun, Betty Colasurdo, Mary Coltrane, Charlotte Kanemori, Kristin Kennell, Michele Meith, Medora Moburg, Peg Morrow, Betty Newell and Sarah Lee Weems; Booster Members Paneen Davidson, Betsy Greene, Linnea Hirst, Luan-na Iverson, Kathy Jorgensen, Karen Lunder, Rosalie McCreary, Sue Mecklenburg, Mariette O’Donnell, Judy Ostrow, Connie Reed, Sari Schneider, Cathy Liu Scott, Jane Shafer, Elsie Simon, Helen West, Bobbie Westfall and Marian Wolfe; Contributing Members Anne Anderson and Dorothy Stimpson; and Sustaining Member Gail Winberg.

Features

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Let's Talk Pre-K Forum

League welcomed speakers Thrive by Five Washington's CEO Sam Whiting, Associate Superintendent for Early Learning at Puget Sound Educational Service District's Luba Bezborodnikova, and University of Washington Senior Researcher and Lecturer Dr. Tom Halverson. These presenters laid a great foundation for current and ongoing community conversations on early childhood learning, speaking on the following topics:

- What is the vision for publicly-supported pre-k in Washington state? What is the future and how can we get there? (Sam Whiting)
- What is the current state of publicly-funded pre-k in King County and the region? What programs are currently funded and how? (Luba Bezborodnikova)
- Becoming a more Sophisticated Consumer of (Educational) Policies (Dr. Tom Halverson)

We wish to also acknowledge Seattle School Board members Marty McLaren and Sue Peters for attending. There was a great turnout; thank you to all who participated and attended.

A special thank you to everyone who worked to help facilitate a great evening: League's Education Committee members Nancy Bagley, Kay Beck, Joanna Cullen (Chair), Karin Engstrom, Pat Griffith, and Zara Kublin, along with Joan Lawson (Program Chair), Allison Feher (LWVS-KC Staff) and Betty Sullivan (refreshments).

If you were unable to attend or would like to see the presenters' slides again, along with the State League's Study on Early Learning, we have posted them on our Seattle-King County League website: <http://www.seattlelwv.org/node/2128>

ECONOMICS & TAXATION COMMITTEE REPORT

For the upcoming League year, we will continue our study and discussion of economic inequality. Currently, committee members have decided to each read a book or books of our choosing relating to this topic, and bring the ideas presented back to the committee each month for discussion.

We usually meet at 9:30 a.m. on the 4th Saturday of each month. Since this can change due to scheduling conflicts, call the office or check the website for updates.

We welcome new members! A background in economics is by no means needed to join in our spirited discussions; all that's required is an interest in the topic.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Our agenda this year will be to continue exploring issues caused by the many separate "silos" to which transportation tax funds are allocated and then distributed to national, state and local agencies. Last year, much of our energy went to analyzing problems posed by the failure of the State Legislature to agree on a transportation budget. Now, we will look at the same issues but from the perspective of the various agencies, such as Sound Transit, Washington State Ferries and the upcoming Seattle method of addressing the challenges to mass transit post-failure of King County Proposition 1 last April.

In August, we addressed Seattle's funding proposal to fill this King County Metro funding gap, which is Proposition 1, the Transportation Benefit District or TBD. (Alert: the November transit funding measure AND the pre-kindergarten funding measure are BOTH called Proposition 1! This is because of how each entity uses its powers to ask for and collect taxes.) If

approved, this TBD would fund Metro Transit service benefiting Seattle-centric routes by preventing planned service cuts and, if funds allow, enhancing transit service. The idea is to provide a funding “bridge” at least until state or regional authorities can provide replacement revenue. The measure would authorize an annual vehicle license fee, up to an additional \$60 per registered vehicle (with a \$20 rebate for low-income individuals), plus authorize up to a 0.1% sales tax increase. These two funding mechanisms would expire no later than 12/31/2020.

Metro currently provides about 400,000 rides each day throughout King County, via 214 routes. After King County Proposition 1 failed, the County Council approved a first round cut of 151,000 hours of service, to take effect September 27. Due to Councilmember Rod Dembowski’s efforts and with the support of LWVS-KC and other groups, the Council agreed to “staggered” rounds of reductions from September 2014 through 2016 while new data is received for expected revenue. (Once a route has been cut it is very difficult to reinstate it. The hope is that service reduction can keep routes alive until better times.) The first cuts on September 27 will equal about 10 percent of Metro’s service, or approximately 320,000 hours of the transit agency’s 3.5 million annual hours.

A second round of cuts is currently slated for February 2015. If the TBD is approved, the Seattle’s February service cuts will be postponed until June, providing time for Seattle and other parties to submit Community Mobility Contracts to preserve service. The TBD is designed to be the funding mechanism that will prevent the need for a “Community Mobility Contract”.

Transportation Committee members discussed the TBD details, voting to recommend endorsement to the League Board. At the October meeting, the Board will determine whether to endorse the measure.

In addition to the TBD, a second transportation-related Benefit District will be on the slate

in November. This is a proposal to fund a Monorail Benefit District, and will be Proposition 2 on the ballot.

Some Seattle monorail history: in 2002, during the first Monorail efforts, the legislature approved a statute specific to monorail funding, RCW 35.95A. Under its rules, monorail proposals need only 1% of registered voters’ signatures to qualify for the ballot, while other petitions require 10%.

Back to this proposal: this MBD would create the Century Transportation Authority (CTA), which would be able to “exercis[e] all the powers provided to city transportation authorities under RCW 35.95A”. If approved, the CTA would authorize an additional \$5 car tab fee, which would raise an estimated \$2 million per year. The money would be utilized to set up a planning committee, and write plans and environmental reports for an approximately 16-mile monorail line connecting Ballard, the downtown waterfront and West Seattle. Monies so raised do not provide for construction; that will need to be funded separately, at a current estimated cost of approximately \$2.4 billion.

Our committee recommended that the League take a ‘no’ position on this proposition. At the September 6 Board meeting, the vote was to take no position on the measure.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

A FIGHTING CHANCE By Elizabeth Warren

This is both an autobiography and a political narrative about bankruptcy. The information about the author's life helps us trust her, so that when she explains complicated economic issues in simple ways, we feel assured it is the truth. And for those needing more detailed economic information, she provides 56 pages of detailed notes!

Warren writes about her "Daddy" losing his job selling carpets at Montgomery Ward, and her mother tearfully struggling to squeeze into her best dress before going for an interview at Sears Roebuck, which she'd heard was hiring. Life was a struggle for the family.

In 1965, at age 16 and a senior in high school (she'd skipped a grade), she writes that she had, "One talent. I could fight – not with my fists, but with my words". She was anchor on the debate team, and a debate scholarship got her through college. She followed these up with law school and an early marriage.

A few years later, while caring for her two children, she received a call from Rutgers University asking her to immediately replace a judge who never showed up to teach a law class. That unlikely beginning led to a career researching bankruptcy while teaching at several universities before settling in at Harvard.

While researching bankruptcies to try to figure out why they occurred, she quickly realized that men and women in that position were mostly ordinary people who had become undone by unexpected problems, like losing their jobs or developing poor health. The people she saw who came before the bankruptcy court were usually stunned and mortified by what had happened.

By using stories of people she met during her research, she explains bankruptcy law clearly and powerfully. One example is Flora, who at age 80 trusted a lender who got her to sign a new mortgage by assuring her it would lower her pay-

ments. In fact, the interest rate went up and she lost her entire Social Security check. Another is Jason, who bought a car and arranged for payments he could handle, only to have the dealer tell him several days later that the interest rate was only "preliminary" and the true monthly payments were "\$105 more [per month]". Jason had no recourse, as it was all "legal".

Warren describes how previous public protections from high interest rates and predatory practices were destroyed over the years by both court and congressional decisions. Meanwhile, bankers' strategy became, she says, one of targeting, "families who were already in a little trouble". This was followed by lending them "more money, [to] get them entangled in high fees and astronomical interest rates," before blocking "the doors to the bankruptcy exit..."

She writes, "It seemed so unfair. Big businesses that fall on hard times were given lots of special protections by the bankruptcy courts so that they could restructure and keep going. Why shouldn't little businesses [often run by one or two people] have a chance to survive?"

Warren wanted to balance the amount of banking industry lobbying by developing "a regulatory agency, a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)" to help individuals. She believed the organization must have "the authority and accountability to make sure that consumer regulations are written fairly and enforced vigorously." The Bureau became fact when the Dodd-Frank Act passed in 2010.

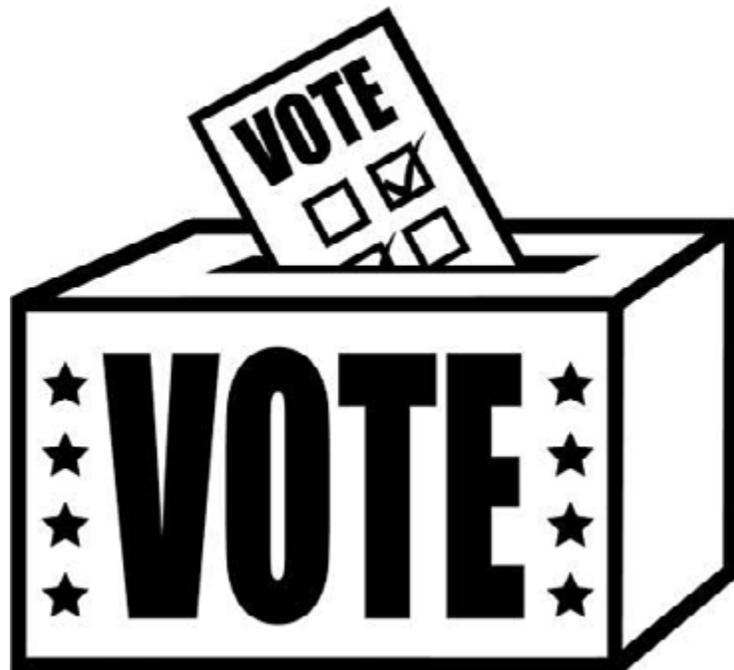
This book convinces us that one person can make a difference. Elizabeth Warren is passionate about providing a fair chance for everyone to succeed. She will not be silenced, and that should give us hope.

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

Program



The League of Women Voters
of Seattle-King County



November 4, 2014
General Election

Note to Unit Leaders:

Discussion of the ballot measures is encouraged at the unit meetings but there are no prepared questions and no consensus or recording is needed. Please do submit the usual attendance form with guest sign-in. The form will be sent separately to the unit leaders.

Ballot Issue Summaries will be mailed or emailed separately.

In the meantime, there are a number of online tools that you may want to try to learn about both the ballot measures and the candidates.



Vote411.org: This site has both candidate and ballot measures for all of Washington State. Candidates are asked to respond to a series of questions specifically related to the office they are running for. Information about the role/responsibilities of the office is also included. If one of the candidates on your ballot hasn't responded - invite them to do so. If they need help, they should email vote411@lwvwa.org.

The **Secretary of State's** website (sos.wa.gov/elections) also has a voter guide for state-wide races and, in collaboration with TVW, has a video voter guide (tvw.org/2014-vid-eo-voters-guide).

LivingVotersGuide.org: This is an online discussion platform where anyone can come and discuss the pros and cons of a selection of Washington ballot measures and candidates. Sponsored and moderated for civility by City Club (hostile/defamatory posts are not permitted) the site allows people to pick and choose from previously posted pro's and con's, post their own arguments, request fact-checking (done by the Seattle Public Library) and discuss the specific arguments. This is the third year that this new modality for civil discourse is being used and has been upgraded to add new features. Take a look and give it a try.

VotingforJudges.org: This unique website is a clearinghouse of information about all the judicial candidates in Washington. Ratings, donor information, news stories and more are available.

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
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Monday, October 6

SOUTH SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya

hedgwolfe@aol.com	206-763-9430	7:30 p.m.	Mt. Baker Community Club
montoyaviv@yahoo.com	206-695-2620		2811 Mt. Rainier Dr. S, Seattle

This is a Ballot Issues Forum instead of a regular unit meeting.

Wednesday, October 8

NORTHEAST SEATTLE (formerly View Ridge) – Kay Beck

kbeck25@comcast.net	206-523-3127	12:45 p.m.	Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle
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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. There will be a speaker.

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

tgeokezas@msn.com	206-782-5036	7:30 p.m.	Hostess: Nancy Debaste
elsiesimon@comcast.net	206-283-6297		<i>call one of the unit leaders for directions</i>

Thursday, October 9

MERCER ISLAND – Cynthia Howe

howe.john@comcast.net	206-236-0593	9:30 a.m.	Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island
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ISSAQUAH – Margaret Austin (Dorris Martin is the contact this month)

margaret.austin@comcast.net	425-392-5760	10:00 a.m.	Coho room, Issaquah City Hall
dorrismrtn@aol.com	425-746-9960		130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD

	206-329-4848	10:00 a.m.	University House, Auditorium 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle
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NORTH CENTRAL – Jan Orlando

orlanre@aol.com	206-524-0936	2:00 p.m.	Hostess: Jan Orlando 5026 36th Ave NE 206-524-0936
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SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier

clcathy@skynetbb.com	360-802-6799	11:30 a.m.	Kelly's Mercantile 1444 Cole St., Enumclaw
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(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)

Unit Leader email Phone Time Location

Monday, October 13

FIRST HILL – Joan Lawson

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

CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE

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

Tuesday, October 14

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Bonnie Rimawi

bonnierim@aol.com 425-820-7127 12:00 p.m. Bellevue Library, Room 6
1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams

etheljw1@q.com 206-932-7887 1:00 p.m. Daystar Retirement Village
2615 SW Barton, Seattle

Wednesday, October 15

NORTH KING COUNTY – Toni Potter/Marjorie Hawkes

antoniapotter@comcast.net 206-365-8949 9:15 a.m. Third Place Commons Mtg Room
mshawkesis@gmail.com 425-582-2481 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk.

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen

maryehlers@comcast.net 253-941-1930 7:00 p.m. Foundation House
kjorgensen@juno.com 253-859-8349 32290 1st Ave S, Federal Way

Saturday, October 18

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Alice Peterson

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

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

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

Directors

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

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

Education Fund Officers

2013-15	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2014-15	<i>1st VP</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2014-15	<i>2nd VP</i>	Julie Anne Kempf	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2013-15	<i>Treasurer</i>	Ginna Owens	206-215-1408	ginnao@earthlink.net

Nominating Committee

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

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

Off Board Positions

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

Committees

<i>Climate Change</i>	Judy Bevington		judybevington@q.com
<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	see page 7		
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	see page 7		
<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-223-5827	mjafreitag@comcast.net
<i>Transportation</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net

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

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Moving? Let us know!

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

Selected Ballot Measures for the November Election

Thursday, October 2

6:30 p.m. - Doors open
(no discussion leader briefing)

7:00 p.m. - Forum begins

Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca)
Seattle, WA
Accessible entrance on Harvard

This forum is free and open to the public.

Forum Info:

Pro and Con speakers will present
information on the following measures:

Initiative 1351 - K-12 class size and staffing
Prop IA and IB - Public preschool in Seattle
Prop I - Metro bus funding in Seattle
Prop I - Monorail proposal in Seattle