

The Voter

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

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King County Veterans and Human Services Levy (VHSL)

by Deborah Carstens, James Rindfuss, Jo Evans, and Bridget Kruszka

Brief History

The King County Veterans and Human Services Levy (VHSL) was first approved by voters in 2005 for a six-year period, funding programs for veterans and vulnerable residents to combat homelessness, improve health, and increase self-sufficiency. The measure passed with a 57.92 percent approval, passing in 34 of 39 cities across the county. Voters renewed the levy in 2011 for another six years, to expire on December 31, 2017, with approximately two-thirds of the voters in favor, or 69 percent approval. There was no "Statement Against" submitted to the voter pamphlet. *The Seattle Times* reports that the VHSL "has faced almost no opposition since it was first approved by voters in 2005."

Provisions of the 2005 and 2011 Levies

Both the 2005 and 2011 measures were funded by a property tax of \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The tax increased annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index or 1 percent, whichever was greater, with a maximum increase of 3 percent. Fifty percent of the levy proceeds funded services for veterans and military personnel and their families, while the other 50 percent funded services for a wide range of citizens in need. The three key goals of the 2011 VHSL were (1) to prevent and reduce homelessness, (2) to

reduce unnecessary criminal justice and emergency medical system involvement, and (3) to increase self-sufficiency of veterans and vulnerable populations. In order to achieve those goals, funds from the VHSL went toward enhancing services and access for veterans; ending homelessness through outreach, prevention, permanent supportive housing, and employment; increasing access to behavioral health services; and strengthening families at risk.

Evaluation of Previous Levies (2005 and 2011)

According to a county analysis, since 2006 the levy has contributed capital to the creation of more than 2,000 units of affordable housing and has helped more than 8,000 chronically homeless veterans and others move into housing. County officials say the levy has saved at least \$7 million since 2012 in jail and emergency-

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Special Day and Location!
for the monthly forum

Wednesday, September 6

St. Andrews Church in Bellevue

King Countywide Races

See back cover for details

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Mission Statement

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

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Connecting with the Leadership

On a hot Saturday in early August, I spent the day on a retreat with our new board—many of them not just new to the board, but also completely new to the League of Women Voters. In addition to drawing funny self-portraits that will soon be hanging in the League's office on Capitol Hill, we talked about our goals and vision for coming year, and about ensuring the League's long-term health and prosperity.

The retreat was a continuation of a strategic planning process that I began with the outgoing board last March. I'm a firm believer that most organizations—and especially small, scrappy nonprofits like ours—should have a road map to guide their activities and make effective use of their limited resources. A good strategic plan will always be evolving, and it is very exciting and rewarding for me to see our plan take shape as it passes from one board to another.

While the plan is still a work in progress, I can tell you that we are developing an ambitious agenda centered on three major goals:

1. **Expand and diversify our membership, and keep our current membership engaged.** Our membership has grown by 25 percent since the presidential election, and in so many ways, our new members have breathed new life into our organization. Now we need to return the favor and nurture them—we must make sure the League is a rewarding, lifelong experience that they connect with and enjoy. And we need to make sure our membership reflects our diverse community. In addition to planning periodic new member orientations and workshops to welcome our growing ranks, we are also planning

ways to engage members at all levels of the organization so that everyone feels engaged and a part of this great organization.

2. **Strengthen and develop the quality of our programming.** With the addition of two very motivated and dynamic Voter Services Chairs this year, Barbra Chevalier and Bridget Kruszka, the League is exponentially expanding its voter education and outreach programming, including hosting candidate forums throughout King County and taking our award-winning Ballots & Baristas community conversations to Starbucks stores across the state of Washington. We're also undertaking an Internet Privacy study, hosting several free monthly forums, continuing to publish The Voter newsletter and TRY (They Represent You), and partnering with media outlets like KNKX to bring our message to a wider audience.
3. **Strengthen the League's infrastructure.** This third goal is not as glamorous as the first two, but it is equally as important. As a board, we have a fiduciary and moral responsibility to make sure that the League of Women Voters remains a strong, vibrant organization that can carry out its work for generations to come. To do that we have to have a robust infrastructure, which includes everything from the technology we use to communicate to the volunteers who help run the office.

While you may not owe a fiduciary duty to the League, I hope you feel the same moral responsibility to making democracy work that our board does. The fact is, the League really needs you right now. Our democratic institutions are being undermined. Civil

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY office closed	5	6 Forum: King Countywide Races 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
10	11 Voter Deadline	12 Transportation Comm. 10:00 a.m. Internat'l Rela- tions 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17	18 Candidate Forum 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23
24 Social Justice Comm. 3:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28 Education Comm. 11:00 a.m.	29	30 Econ. & Tax. Comm. 9:30 a.m.
October 1	2	3	4 Forum: Seattle School Board Races 7:00 p.m.	5 Forum: General Election Races 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.

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

SEPTEMBER

Forum: King Countywide Races
Wednesday, September 6
7:00 p.m.
St. Andrews Church, Bellevue

Board Meeting
Saturday, September 9
10:00 a.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, September 11

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, September 12
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Internat'l Relations Committee
Tuesday, September 12
7:00 p.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

45th & 48th LD candidates
Monday, September 18
7:00 p.m.
Old Redmond Schoolhouse

Social Justice Committee
Sunday, September 24
3:00 p.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, September 28
11:00 a.m.
League Office

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

OCTOBER

Forum: Seattle School Races
Wednesday, October 4
7:00 p.m.
Centilia Cultural Center

Forum: General Election Races
Thursday, October 5
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

The Voter Deadline
Monday, October 9

Forum Schedule

Sept 6 — Port and Sheriff Races

Sept 18 — 45th and 48th LD Senate Races

Oct 4 — Seattle School Board Races

Oct 5 — Seattle City Council Races

Nov 2 — Internet Privacy

Dec 7 — No forum. There will be a special event in December.

Nov 2 — Program Planning

an additional forum for Seattle Mayor is being planned for late September

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. Because of the current election season, there will be more forums than usual in September and October, focusing on ballot issues and candidate forums. The schedule through January is listed here. Check the Voter each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

For the January Planning Forum, the Program Chairs are looking for League members who are passionate about an issue and would like to give a “Pecha Kucha” Style Presentation to inspire content for the year’s upcoming program. Pecha Kucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and you talk along to the images. Contact the Program Chairs at abigail.doerr@gmail.com or afweed1@gmail.com if you are interested in presenting!

Board Briefs by Katie Dudley, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on August 5, 2017. This is a summary of their work.

An abbreviated board meeting occurred on Saturday, August 5th, at the home of Melissa Taylor, who graciously hosted the board for its annual retreat meeting.

Rather than holding the usual Saturday board meeting, the board discussed immediate business relating to the upcoming fall elections and the variety of candidate forums that the League will be assisting with.

The upcoming Leadership Tea was a topic of discussion. The plans for the Tea have been solidified, and the League hopes to see longtime members of the Leadership Circle as well as those who are giving thought to joining the Leadership Circle.

Upon completing the brief board meetings, the board then convened for the retreat and focused on strategic planning for the upcoming year.

Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, September 30
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.
 PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, September 28
 TIME: 11:00 a.m.
 PLACE: League Office

International Relations Committee

DATE: Tuesday, September 12
 TIME: 7:00 p.m.
 PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Social Justice Committee

DATE: Sunday, September 24
 TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 PLACE: League Office

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, September 12
 TIME: 10:00 a.m.
 PLACE: League Office

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

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

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

Diversity Policy

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

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

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

King County Connects — Announcements

New member orientation

Have questions about how League operates? What is a unit? What does it mean to be nonpartisan? Can I support candidates? What do committees do?

If you want answers to these questions, and more, please come to the fall new member orientation. You'll be able to meet our president, Stephanie Cirkovich, and other board members. Refreshments will be served.

October 14, 2017

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Kenmore Library

6531 NE 181st Street

Kenmore, WA 98028

Transportation Committee to Reconvene

If you are interested in regional traffic issues, from freight to pedestrians and everything in between, please plan to attend a Transportation Committee meeting at the League office on September 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

The agenda includes attempting to develop a plan for issues the committee would like to address, speakers they would like to hear from, or activities they would like to schedule for the upcoming year. Also, if you would like to attend but this meeting time doesn't work for you, please suggest other times that would.

To ensure the meeting room will accommodate all who wish to attend, please confirm your attendance by letting Dianne Ramsey know, mzramzgayton@comcast.net or (206) 324-2098.

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

The work of the state Lobby Team never ends. They are reviewing the results of this year's very long legislative session, the upshot of the final budget, and getting ready for next year. Volunteers are always welcome.

In addition, they are organizing the fall action workshops. These are the place:

- to learn more about the League's issues in the state Legislature,
- to hear from Legislators, LWV contract lobbyists, and League Lobby Team members, and
- to learn lobbying strategies.

Currently scheduled in Olympia and Tacoma; there will also be one in Seattle.

The Vote411.org team is busy cleaning up the website, adding the races that were not on the primary ballot and taking down the information on the candidates who did not make it through. It should be good to go later this month.

National News

At our National Council meeting earlier this summer, League leaders held important conversations about where we are as an organization – and where we want to be when we reach our centennial in 2020.

From these conversations, we are excited to share the second video in our two-part series describing the League's journey to strengthen our role in creating a more perfect democracy. Please enjoy this new video celebrating our Transformational Journey and thank you for being part of this

exciting time for the League. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt9YsQaLvXg>

Nominations for the 2018-2020 LWVUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee are now being accepted! Follow the link below to find more information about these critical roles and to access the short online form to nominate a League leader or yourself. This is an incredible opportunity to take on a new leadership role as the organization approaches its 100th birthday! The deadline for applications is September 30. <http://forum.lwv.org/document/2018-2020-nominating-committee>.

Excerpt from LWVUS President Chris Carson's message on the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment:

Voting is what brings us together as Americans.

The vote of the poorest citizen is equal to the vote of the wealthiest citizen. Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and should be a moment at which we are all equal.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 – just six months before the 19th Amendment was passed and ratified. Our mission at the time was to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

Today, we are still committed to helping voters make informed decisions and fighting to make sure our elections remain as free, fair and transparent as possible.

Today, celebrate the 19th Amendment by registering to vote or helping an eligible voter get registered.

Action

LWVWA Endorses I-940, or “De-Escalate Washington”

By Heather Kelly

On June 18, 2017, 30-year-old Charleena Lyles called police to report a burglary at her apartment near Magnuson Park. Ms. Lyles, who was seven months pregnant, was at home with her three children. Two officers arrived to find her clutching a knife. Both officers fired their weapons, killing her.

Recordings released after the shooting reveal the responding officers knew Ms. Lyles struggled with mental illness. An investigation has also revealed that one of the responding officers left his uncharged taser in his locker on the day of the incident.

Ms. Lyles’ tragic death highlights the need for mandatory training for law enforcement in the areas of mental health and de-escalation techniques. Initiative 940, also known as De-Escalate Washington, aims to do precisely that. In addition to standardizing such training for law enforcement state wide, the initiative will also:

- Require that officers receive first aid training and administer first aid to any individual injured in a police encounter.
- Abolish the current law that an officer cannot be prosecuted for use of lethal force unless it is shown they acted with malice. (RCW 9A.16.040.) This is almost an impossible showing and Washington is the only state to require it. Between 2005 and 2014, 213 Washingtonians were killed by police. Only one officer was criminally charged, and he was

acquitted under the current law. (See *The Seattle Times* report, “Shielded by the Law,” available online at <http://projects.seattletimes.com/2015/killed-by-police/?fref=gc>.)

- Replace the malice requirement with a good faith standard to ensure officers applying deadly force have acted in accordance with their training.
- Bring diverse community stakeholders to the table for the development of training standards and curriculum.

(The entire text of the initiative can be found on the back of each petition and online at http://www.deescalatewa.org/full_text_of_initiative?fref=gc.)

This August, the League of Women Voters of Washington formally endorsed I-940. Members are **urgently** needed to join the LWVWA I-940 De-Escalate Washington Committee and begin a signature-gathering campaign. The De-Escalate Campaign has a goal of collecting **350,000** signatures before Thanksgiving. With our help, this goal can be achieved.

It is my pleasure to serve as Chair of the De-Escalate Committee with Nikki Hurley as my Vice Chair. Please contact us by phone or email to join! I can be reached at hejokelly@gmail.com or 415-516-1201 and Nikki Hurley can be contacted at nhurley1009@gmail.com or 410-300-6195.

Voter Service

2017 General Election Important Dates

Monday, October 9

- Last day via mail and online to register to vote
- Last day to update/change address for current Washington registrations

Wednesday, October 18

- Ballots mailed

Monday, October 30

- Last day for in-person registration (new to Washington only)

Tuesday, November 7

- **General Election** — ballots must be *postmarked* or placed in an elections drop box on or before this date

2017 General Election Ballot Measures

Statewide

- 3 Advisory tax measures (a few of these are referred from the legislature every year)

King County

- Prop 1 — Levy Lid Lift for Veterans, Seniors and Vulnerable Populations

Burien

- Initiative Measure No. 1 — Concerns sanctuary city status

In addition, the Federal Way School District has a measure on the general election ballot as do three of the fire districts and three of the special purpose districts.

Information about candidates and the issues will be available on the League's Vote411.org website later in September.



Candidate Forums this fall:

Check the back cover for the first two forums in September. In addition, we are scheduling a Seattle Mayoral candidates forum; date and time pending. There will also be a school board candidates forum the night before our October first Thursday forum, which will be back at our regular location.

Seattle School Board Candidates Forum

Wednesday, October 4

7:00 p.m.

Centilia Cultural Center at El Centro de la Raza
2524 16th Ave S, Seattle WA 98144

One block from the Beacon Hill light rail station.

Getting Connected Membership News

By Cathy O'Shea, Membership Chair

The morning of the first of September was crisp and golden as an apple. . . .

Hopefully, by the time you read this, there will be a slight chill in the air that reminds us of school days, fall color hikes, football, and fresh apples from Eastern Washington. There's an energy and a promise of new experiences in autumn. The calendar is going to start filling up as we leave summer behind, and I'm hoping you've got the League forums on your calendar.

And we're very pleased to **welcome new members**: Sandra Driscoll, Tristan Fields, Jane Hawkins, Kimberly Johnson, Patricia Petuchov, Katherine Sims.

We have a new member orientation on October 14 at the Kenmore library, 10:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. If you're new to the League and weren't able to come to the well-received orientation in the spring, please put this on your calendar. We'll talk about the League and ways to become involved.

You'll also see a survey in your email inbox this September. We are now 700+ members strong. We want to make sure we know your interests so we can reach out and get involved with you in making democracy work. Please take some time to fill it out when it comes.

Right now, Carla Chavez and Kiku Hayashi are getting started on development and would like some help supporting our donors, who make our work possible, and planning a fall event. If you're interested, please email me at membership@seattlelwv.org or reach out to Carla or Kiku directly.

To give credit where credit is due, the quotation at the beginning is from J.K. Rowling.

You can always get in touch with me at membership@seattlelwv.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Leadership continued from page 3

political discourse has been thrown out the window and replaced by hyperbole and hyperpartisanship. And more locally, King County is facing a number of complex challenges that have no easy solutions. It will literally take a league of us to sort through it all.

So here's my plea to you, and it goes back to our first goal above: Please get involved with the League this fall. These are going to be some of our busiest months, with candidate forums in September and October, Ballots & Baristas taking place across the

state, studies of ballot measures and other important issues, and our regular unit and committee meetings. Promoting good government and democracy takes a lot of work, and we need volunteers to help us in a variety of ways—event planning, facilitation, research, and more. If you want to join us on the front lines, please call our office at 206-329-4848 or send an email to info@seattlelwv.org.

Thank you for being part of this amazing organization and for everything you do to make democracy work in your community!

Stephanie Cirkovich, President

Features

How to Evaluate Candidates for the Port Commission

By Allison Feher

The Port of Seattle is something of a misnomer since the SeaTac airport was established and included in the port, and now even more so since the formation of the Northwest Seaport Alliance (a partnership with the Port of Tacoma). The Port generates over \$7 billion in annual revenue and supports more than 218,000 jobs. All registered voters in King County have a say in electing the Port Commissioners, but few know much about the complex public-private enterprise or the role of the Commissioners in overseeing it.

In May of 2010, the League published a comprehensive study of the Port Commission, describing its role as such:

The commission establishes broad policies for the overall direction and long-term objectives of the Port. Ideally, the policies reflect the values, priorities and needs of the community as well as providing the direction the Port needs to be as competitive as possible. It hires a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to implement Port policies and objectives, and to administer and operate the Port.

The commission determines the type of business activity in which the Port engages; identifies short and long-term business strategies and sets financial policies; and approves labor agreements, adopts positions on legislation, and establishes the extent of use of powers of taxation and eminent domain.

The League also described the relationship of the Commission and the Port:

While the commission is responsible for setting policy and providing oversight to ensure that the policies are implemented throughout the Port, the working relationship of the commission and the

Port is through the CEO. Commissioners describe their relationship as, for the most part, that of a Board of Directors to the CEO of a large corporation. However, as elected officials charged with protecting the public interests and resources, commissioners are accountable to the public in ways a typical corporate board member is not. Corporate boards are responsible to the stockholders for the profitability of the company, while the commission's responsibility is to ensure public benefit and the careful use of public dollars.

The study included the following regarding the election of commissioners:

Making well-informed voting decisions is complicated by the fact that there are neither formal qualifications for the position nor any well-articulated, commonly accepted criteria for candidate evaluation—which leaves voters vulnerable to campaign rhetoric. Given these challenges, how then should voters evaluate commission candidates? Arguably, the best criteria available are the characteristics and skills identified as important by Commissioners holding office. Those include:

- Understanding and experience with public service;
- Understanding the role of the commission and the Port District;
- Ability to work as a team player;
- Experience with corporate finance and an understanding of fiduciary responsibility and corporate governance;
- Commitment to represent the diversity of King County.

Current issues before the commission include hiring a new CEO and addressing competition with Vancouver and other ports, and the ability to handle larger cargo vessels.

To learn more about the port, the complete 2010 study can be found online at http://www.seattlewv.org/files/2010port_%20study.pdf.

Also, the Port hosts an informational series of lectures and tours for the public called "Port 101." The series for 2017 is over and the 2018 series has not yet been posted, but some information is available on the Ports' website at <https://www.portseattle.org/Supporting-Our-Community/Trade-Education/Pages/Port-101.aspx>.

Levy continued from cover

room costs by providing housing, health care and substance-abuse treatment through a levy-funded database and housing-placement program. Other notable services include counseling for veterans and their families with post-traumatic stress disorder, sexual trauma, and other issues; job training and career placement for veterans; the creation of King County's Mobile Medical Van; and screening for maternal depression. In total, approximately 150,000 King County residents and 25,000 veterans have been served by VHSL since 2011.

The King County Veterans Program (KCVP) benefits directly from VHSL funds, allowing the program to cover a broader and richer array of services to support veterans and their families, including case management services through an individualized service model that responds to the needs of each veteran and their family.

Proposed Levy

King County Executive Dow Constantine originally asked for a tax of \$.12 per \$1,000 assessed property value for the VHSL renewal. However, members of the Council rejected that request. The Council agreed to submit a proposal with a tax of \$.10 per \$1,000 assessed property value.

The proposed six-year Veterans and Health

Services Levy will start on January 1, 2018 at \$0.10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation in the first year with annual increases limited for the following five years at 3.5 percent. The new tax is double the rate of the previous one and will raise about \$51 million per year and \$343 million over six years. In practice, this means the owner of a \$450,000 median-priced home will pay \$45 per year.

How will the VHSL funds be used?

Fifty percent of levy proceeds fund services for veterans and military personnel and their families, 33 percent for human services, and 17 percent for seniors. A principal goal of the levy is to address homelessness among veterans, who make up about 10 percent of the county's homeless population. This will also be the first time services for the county's growing population of seniors is included. By 2030, their numbers are expected to double to 400,000, or about 18 percent of the county's population. Money from the senior portion of the levy will be used to house homeless senior veterans until a goal of 75 percent housed is reached, or \$24 million dollars spent. At that point, the levy revenue may be used for all senior services, not just senior veterans.

The levy addresses homelessness, with half

of the first year's revenue, and a quarter of subsequent years' revenue directed to housing stability and construction of affordable units across the county. County leaders say the levy's investment in affordable housing would also help reduce the number of seniors who may be priced out of their homes by rising rents and taxes. The levy would also add programs to help seniors remain active and healthy, and avoid social isolation.

Additionally, the new levy aims to provide support for survivors of traumatic experiences, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking; support for refugees and immigrants; support for low-income residents of rural communities; support for civil legal services for low-income residents; and support for people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Pros

- VHSL has prevented and alleviated homelessness by providing affordable housing for veterans and seniors facing rising rents and taxes.
- The levy has previously saved money incurred by emergency health care, criminal activity, and crisis services by providing stable access to social and medical programs.
- King County is currently facing an intense housing and homelessness crisis and a rapidly growing elderly population. Approximately 9.6 percent of the homeless population is made up of veterans. The current levy proposal focuses investments on programs that were successful in helping veterans and seniors and adds a few new ones to further help with the growing elderly population.
- The levy funds programs to keep seniors active and engaged in the community.
- The levy will provide support for survivors of traumatic experiences, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking; support for refugees and immigrants; support for low-income residents of rural communities; support for civil legal services for low-income residents; and support for people with disabilities and their caregivers.
- The levy works by filling gaps and connecting efforts of others in the health and human services system working on same issue.
- Passing this levy guarantee funding for the next five years.

Cons

- Although the final ballot proposal passed the King County Council unanimously, it was the result of compromises with some council members that reduced the scope of the request. According to the *Seattle Times*, a council member called the levy "a huge tax increase" and questioned whether it would further increase the costs of home ownership and renting.
- The taxes used to fund the levy could disproportionately affect working and low-income families. However, under Washington law, residents with a disposable income of \$40,000 or less who are seniors (61+), disabled, or veterans, are entitled to a reduction or exemption of property taxes based on income, value of the residence, and local levy rates.
- There is a continual increasing reliance on property tax levies in the Seattle-King County area, which can result in potential taxpayer fatigue.

Sources

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/initiatives/levy.aspx>

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/king-county-exec-wants-to-more-than-double-levy-for-veterans-seniors-homeless/>

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/veterans-and-human-services-levy-sent-to-november-ballot-twice-as-big-more-money-for-affordable-housing/>

<http://www.housingconsortium.org/vshsl/>

<https://soundgenerations.org/join-sound-generations-advocating-veterans-human-services-levy/>

<http://www.kcba.org/For-Lawyers/News-Bar-Bulletin/News/PostId/170/kcba-urges-county-council-to-approve-veterans-seniors-human-services-levy2>

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattlepolitics/2015/09/24/league-of-women-voters-urges-no-vote-on-930-million-move-seattle-property-tax-levy/>

<http://dor.wa.gov/Content/FindTaxesAndRates/>

[PropertyTax/IncentivePrograms.aspx](#)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/veterans-and-human-services-levy-sent-to-november-ballot-twice-as-big-more-money-for-affordable-housing/>

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/king-county-exec-wants-to-more-than-double-levy-for-veterans-seniors-homeless/>

http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/operations/DCHS/Reports/HFCTaskForce/D_AnalysisOFLevy.ashx?la=en

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/elections/results/2011/201108.ashx?la=en>

<http://aqua.kingcounty.gov/elections2/contests/measureinfo.aspx?cid=38652&eid=1248>

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

Thank You for Being Late:

An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Acceleration

By Thomas L. Friedman

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman tells us there are three enormous forces working in and on our planet: “technology, globalization and climate change; [and] all are accelerating at once.”

The result is that “many aspects of our societies, workplaces, and geopolitics are being reshaped and need to be reimagined.” This has happened throughout history as our ancestors adapted to change. However, the rate of change is now accelerating so fast, many of us feel we can no longer keep pace.

We seem to be in a constant state of destabilization, so we need to find a new kind of stability. Friedman quotes Eric Teller, who explains, “There are some ways of being, like riding a bicycle, where you cannot stand still, but once you are moving it is actually easier.” This metaphor suggests what we must learn to do in our everyday life.

In 1965, Gordon Moore of Intel noticed that the number of transistors per square inch on integrated circuits had doubled every year since their invention. Moore’s Law predicts that this trend will continue for at least a decade. Years later, Moore reported he was amazed “that [essentially, this has been] going on for fifty years.”

“When an industry becomes computable, it goes through a series of predictable changes”: being digitized, then disrupted and then democratized. For example, with Uber, hailing a cab was digitized, then the taxi business was disrupted, and now the industry is democratized: anyone can hail a cab or become a cab driver anywhere.

Globalization, says Friedman, has to do with connecting globally in various ways. Instead of staying in a reliable hotel, many travelers find an Airbnb that will be cheaper and more likely to suit each person’s special desires: a homey room near one’s expected

business meeting, a motor home, or an apartment near tourist attractions.

“Airbnb is so popular, it is now bigger than all major hotel chains combined.” Clearly this is disruptive of the ordinary way of doing things, but millions find it introduces them to nice people in strange cities who want them to be happy. They are mostly pleased with the cost as well.

Climate change is clearly affecting everyone. Sometimes it is simply “weird weather,” such as an unusual amount of snow one winter. However, in 2015 a middle-sized Iranian city reached a devastating 165 degrees Fahrenheit: too high for human survival.

Friedman reports on many instances of a combination of climate change and unhelpful human activity. In Africa, 16 percent of the living species, including “forests, grasslands, wetlands, coral reefs and all the plants and animals residing within them” are already gone. Worldwide, we have lost much forestland, which is needed to absorb carbon.

How do we deal with all the changes without becoming overwhelmed?

He suggests that a small group of people focus on one problem they all care about. He describes one “community/economy building project minted in the Twin Cities [Minnesota].” It is the Itasca Project, a coalition of “local business leaders, Fortune 500 executives, educators, local officials and philanthropists who came together in 2003.” At that time there was much less sense of collaboration than before. Political talent could not solve many problems that demanded attention. This group tried to hold politicians to the jobs that needed to be dealt with: compromising on infrastructure, education, transportation and more.

In time it made big changes locally, such as launching “Real Time Talent.” This is an innovative workforce development initiative, linking “the curriculum and training for more than [400,000] post secondary students with skill requirements of employers in the state.”

Friedman shows that learning to live with constant change is not easy, but it can be done, and getting together in a small focus group such as an LWV committee is quite possibly the only way to start.

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

A message for unit/discussion leaders:

There is no formal agenda or discussion questions for the units this month. We encourage you to talk about the upcoming election and share information.

If you have ideas for questions you'd like asked at the upcoming forums, please send them by email to voterservice@seattlelwv.org.

Welcome back — it's going to be a busy couple of months!

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, September 11

SOUTH SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya

hedgwolfe@aol.com	206-763-9430	5:30 p.m.	Horizon House - Dining Room
montoyaviv@gmail.com	206-695-2620		900 University St, Seattle

RSVP to Laura Weese, 206-382-3773 by September 7 Carpooling recommended

Tuesday, September 12

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers/Cindy Piennett

maryehlers@comcast.net	253-941-1930	2:00 p.m.	Contact unit leader for details
cindypiennett@gmail.com	253-777-9864		

Wednesday, September 13

NORTHEAST SEATTLE (formerly View Ridge) – Gail Winberg

winbergeng@Q.com	206-524-7801	12:45 p.m.	Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle
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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.

QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Kathy Pugh and Marlis Worthington

ckp1966@comcast.net	503-580-1240	7:30 p.m.	Magnolia Church of Christ
marliswrt@hotmail.com	206-283-7147		3555 W McGraw St, Seattle

Thursday, September 14

MERCER ISLAND – Paneen Davidson

paneenie@gmail.com	206-466-2023	9:30 a.m.	Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island
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ISSAQUAH – Margaret Austin

margaret.austin@comcast.net	425-392-5760	10:00 a.m.	Echo Room, Issaquah City Hall 130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah
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SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier

clcathy@foxinternet.com	360-802-6799	11:45 a.m.	Location: contact unit leader
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NORTH CENTRAL SEATTLE – Jan Orlando

orlanre@aol.com	206-524-0936	1:00 p.m.	Hostess: contact unit leader
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Continued on next page

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

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
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Saturday, September 16

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Janet Anderson

janetranderson@msn.com	206-285-2460	10:00 a.m.	Hostess: contact unit leader
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Monday, September 18

FIRST HILL – Adele Reynolds

adelereynolds@netscape.net	206-621-4867	10:30 a.m.	Horizon House, Forum & Social Room 900 University St., Seattle
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NORTH KING COUNTY – Judy Deiro/Thessalonika “T” Benny

judy.deiro@gmail.com	425-774-1492	7:00 p.m.	Third Place Commons, Stadler Mtg Room 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk.
thessalonika.benny@gmail.com	206-353-7070		

CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE –

	206-329-4848	7:15 p.m.	Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw St., Seattle 206-322-3076
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Tuesday, September 19

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Cathy O’Shea

cathy_oshea@yahoo.com	425-753-4182	12:00 p.m.	Bellevue Library, Room 6 1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue
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WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams/Pat Lane

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

Thursday, September 21

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD – Janet Kime

kraftyanet@comcast.net	206-588-0988	10:30 a.m.	University House, Auditorium 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle
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DOWNTOWN/PIONEER SQUARE – Carla Chavez

carla.chavez@icloud.com		5:30 p.m.	Cherry Street Public House 210 Occidental Ave S, Seattle
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Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

2017-19	<i>President</i>	Stephanie Cirkovich	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2016-18	<i>1st VP - Action</i>	Pat Griffith	206-285-2452	pgseattle@q.com
2017-19	<i>2nd VP - Program</i>	Abigail Doerr	206-329-4848	abigail.doerr@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Secretary</i>	Katie Dudley	206-329-4848	kate.c.dudley@gmail.com
2016-18	<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Snider	206-329-4848	treasurer@seattlelwv.org

Directors

2017-19	<i>Technology</i>	Liz Bander	206-478-7335	lizhill@outlook.com
2017-19	<i>Development</i>	Carla Chavez	206-329-4848	carla.chavez.board@gmail.com
2017-18	<i>Voter Service</i>	Barbra Chevalier	425-445-2281	barbra.n.chevalier@gmail.com
2016-18	<i>Development</i>	Kiku Hayashi	206-329-4848	kikuhayashi1@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Committees</i>	Zara Kublin	206-276-2831	zkublin@hotmail.com
2017-19	<i>Voter Service</i>	Bridget Kruszka	716-783-2407	bkruszka3@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Membership</i>	Cathy O'Shea	425-753-4182	coshea120@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Outreach & Events</i>	Janna Rinker	206-329-4848	janna.rinker@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Action</i>	Anastasia Samuelson	206-329-4848	anastasia606@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Outreach & Events</i>	Melissa Taylor	206-329-4848	melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Program</i>	Alyssa Weed	206-329-4848	afweed1@gmail.com

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

Education Fund Officers - same as above except Treasurer

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

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

Off Board Positions

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

<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Nora Leech		nleech2002@yahoo.com
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	Carol Goldenberg		carolsamgo1@gmail.com
<i>Transportation</i>	Abigail Doerr		abigail.doerr@gmail.com
<i>Social Justice</i>	Nikki Hurley		nhurley1009@gmail.com
<i>Social Justice</i>	Melissa Taylor		melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com
<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

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

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Moving? Prefer the online edition? Let us know!

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

General Election Forums

*More forums are listed
on our website!
www.seattlelww.org*

Wednesday, Sept. 6

6:30 p.m. — Doors open
7:00 p.m. — Program begins

St. Andrews Lutheran Church
2650 148th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98134

- Sheriff and Port Commissioners Races
- Veterans and Human Services Levy

Monday, Sept. 18

6:30 p.m. — Doors open
7:00 p.m. — Program begins

Old Redmond Schoolhouse
16600 NE 80th St
Redmond, WA 98052

- Senate Races for the 45th and 48th
Legislative Districts