

The Voter

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Opportunities for Action: Voter Services Update

by Barbra Chevalier

We here at the Voter Services Committee have been busy putting together opportunities for action this summer and fall, and we're excited to let you know about what's been brewing.

Voter Registration and Education

We have been asked to partner with many organizations to offer voter registration, education, and outreach:

Seattle Storm. We were invited by the Seattle Storm to work at all of their home games this season. The team owners are interested in piloting this opportunity here and potentially taking it to the WNBA League nationwide! There are only a few dates left this season, but if you are interested in helping out, please contact us.

Northwest Harvest. We have been asked to partner with Northwest Harvest at the Cherry Street food bank this summer for voter registration and outreach. Shifts are available throughout the summer, if you are interested in working with voters facing food (and often housing) insecurity.

Healthpoint Voter Registration and Engagement. We have an opportunity to register and educate voters at Healthpoint clinics around the county in mid-August. This is a great chance for us to connect to people we don't often have the opportunity to speak with, and we're hoping to maximize

new registrations, address updates, and voter education.

Summer Festivals. The Kent Black Action Commission has reserved booth space at a number of summer festivals and community events, and they have asked if we have volunteers to assist with these. So far, we have had members at the Northwest Folklife Festival and Fremont Fair. We have opportunities coming up at Umoja Fest (August 3-5), Seattle Hempfest (August 17-19) and Bumbershoot (Memorial Day weekend). Umoja Fest falls at a great time for a get-out-the-vote (GOTV) push, and Hempfest and Bumbershoot are both at good times to register voters for the General Election.

Outreach to Youth

We have also been busy reaching young people, helping to educate them about democracy and instilling the idea that everyone has a role in making democracy work.

Urban Games. On June 30th, we tabled at the Urban Games event at the Garfield Community Center. With hundreds of young people in attendance, we offered a mock presidential election, temporary tattoos, and information about what makes a healthy democracy.

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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

This month's column comes to you from O'Hare Airport Terminal 2, where I'm waiting for my flight to return to Seattle after the League's national conference. And what a conference it was! Held at the Chicago Hilton, the theme was "Creating a More Perfect Democracy," and I am simultaneously exhausted from all the excitement and inspired and re-energized after a long weekend of meeting women and men from around the country who are doing just that.

While I will spare you the details—like the sometimes tedious debates over points of order and procedure—I will share some of the highlights that were particularly interesting and/or meaningful to me and our local League:

As I have mentioned before, the national League is undergoing a transformation journey to better adapt to the League's changing membership and become a more nimble, action-oriented organization. As the League sees it, this journey has four components: focus, culture, building a healthier League network, and increasing capacity at all levels. What's especially exciting about this for our local League is that it means national will be putting some resources behind its technology infrastructure, particularly a unified member database that will connect all League members across the country. (If any of you have ever volunteered in our office and have used the clunky, outdated Access database, you realize that this is huge.)

At one of the breaks I was able to chat with Jason Johnson, LWVUS Director of IT, and made a pitch for our League to serve as a "guinea pig" for any new database or CRM (constituent response management) program that national implements. I explained to Jason that we have three things

going for us: 1), we're one of the largest local Leagues in the country; 2), we're in a tech mecca; and 3), our Board Technology Chair, Liz Bander, was just appointed to the national board. (Congratulations, Liz!) While Liz will unfortunately have to step down from her local League duties to serve on the national board, she will continue to be an outstanding ally and advocate for us, and we are very grateful that she will continue to be an active member with a national presence.

Another area of League focus is personally very important to me and to the Board, and it is written into our local League's strategic plan: The League is working very hard to bring in diverse voices and ideas, and to better reflect the communities it serves. Ashley Allison, former White House staffer and currently the executive vice president for campaigns and programs for The Leadership Conference, spoke about fighting for democracy in uncertain times. She talked about meeting people on their terms to foster diversity—in other words, finding out where they're at in their lives and connecting them to democracy where it matters for them, rather than deciding for them what democratic ideals are important.

The concepts of empathy and inclusion permeated the entire conference. In addition to a fascinating panel discussion on making the League more inclusive, we attended an interactive training session about using a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens to strengthen social impact and collaboration. Rosie Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States, spoke about the importance of visibility and women seeing their image reflected in our institutions. We met the new CEO of the League, Virginia Kase, who has a background in advocating for immigrants' rights, and many of our contingent

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August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Econ. & Tax. Committee 9:30 a.m.
29	30	31 8th CD forum 6:30 p.m.	August 1	2	3 Voter Registration at Ujoma Fest	4 Voter Registration at Ujoma Fest
5 Voter Registration at Ujoma Fest	6	7 Primary Election Day	8	9	10 Voter Deadline	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Voter Registration at HempFest	18 Voter Registration at HempFest
19 Voter Registration at HempFest	20	21	22	23 Education Comm. 11:00 a.m.	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Sept. 1

July

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, July 28
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

8th CD Candidate Forum
Tuesday, July 31
6:30 p.m.
Auburn Senior Activities Center
808 Ninth Street SE

August

Voter Registration at
Ujoma Fest
August 3-5
Judkins Park

The Voter Deadline
Friday, August 10

Voter Registration at
Hemp Fest
August 17-19
Myrtle Edwards Park

Education Committee
Thursday, August 23
11:00 a.m.
League Office

September

Forum - Alternative Voting
Methods
Thursday, September 6
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Board Meeting
Saturday, September 8
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Forum Schedule

**Sept. 6 - Alternative Voting
Methods**

October 4 - Election Forum

November 1 - GOTV

**December 6 - Housing
Affordability**

January 3 - Program Planning

Feb 7 - TBA

Mar 7 - Women's History

Apr 4 - Environmental Issues

May 2 - TBA

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. Check the *Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

Program Committee Forming

Program Chair Alyssa Weed plans to form a Program Committee to help organize and guide the League's programming efforts.

The Committee would plan, facilitate, and execute League events and, as needed, assist with requests from outside organizations that request League sponsorship or presence.

Events that could fall under the scope of the Committee include, but are not limited to, monthly public forums, fundraisers or paid events, special events for members, and League-sponsored events that are open to the public. A Social Sub-Committee will also be formed to facilitate regular monthly meetings outside of the forum schedule and create a mentorship program within the League.

If you are interested in being part of the Program Committee, please contact Alyssa Weed at afweed1@gmail.com. She would like to launch the Committee in September. It will meet in the evenings in the Seattle area. Specific time and day are TBD.

Cover article continued:

High School Engagement. This spring we piloted a new model for outreach to high schools. We'd like to partner with people in schools (students, teachers, PTSA's or other organizations) and provide training and support for their efforts at voter registration and engagement. We are hoping to empower school community members who can tailor their approach to their particular school. If you are interested in "adopting" a high school—ideally one close to you or one with which you have some connection—and working to find a student, teacher, or organization within the school with whom we can partner, we'd be happy to provide you with introduction documents, helpful how-to's and best practices.

Candidate Forums

'Tis the season for candidate forums! By the time you read this, we will have already held two primary race forums, both in Bellevue, one for candidates for the State House in the 41st District, and one for the US House primary race in the 9th CD. We are collaborating with the Tacoma-Pierce LWV to offer a forum for the primary race in the 8th CD. At the time of writing, we are still working on confirming candidates for that event, which is tentatively scheduled for July 31 in Auburn.

The LWV in Snohomish County is putting on forums for the 1st CD and 32nd LD, as they also have contested primary races this year. Check their website for more information.

In the fall, we will turn our attention to General Election races throughout the county, as well as the US Senate race. Check out our Facebook page for the latest candidate forum information!

Fall Forums

September Forum. The Voter Services Committee is responsible for the September forum, and we'll be presenting information about Alternative Voting Methods. We anticipate that this will be structured similarly to the "We The Voters" forum held last March. We will select a series of videos that explain each of the alternative voting methods we've been looking at this summer, have space for discussion between each one, and conclude with a Q&A with a local elections expert. We hope that you can join us at the Seattle First Baptist Church for this event!

October BallotFest. The October forum will focus on ballot measures. We also hope to offer more ballot measure discussion opportunities during Happy Hours around the county every Thursday in October to help educate voters and remind them to vote! We also want to make a concerted effort to get our ballot measure summaries in libraries, schools/colleges, and other community spaces.

Ballot Measure Summaries

We are already beginning work on ballot measure summaries in collaboration with the state League. At the time of writing, we don't yet know which initiatives will have collected enough signatures to be placed on the General Election ballot, but we are hoping to have write-ups ready by September so that we can use them in our voter outreach efforts this fall. We are also looking into the possibility of having them translated, especially into Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. If you are interested in helping us with this effort, please contact us!

Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, July 28

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, August 23

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

International Relations Committee

Not meeting over the summer.

Social Justice Committee

Not meeting over the summer.

Waterfront Committee

Next meeting 1:30 p.m. on September 27 at the 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.

Membership

Liz Bander Elected to National LWV Board

It's quite an honor to be elected to the national board, both for the individual and the local League. Here is Liz's statement about what she hopes to accomplish during her service:

I am thrilled to join the LWVUS board of directors. I became interested in serving after hearing Elisabeth McNamara speak regarding the Transformation Roadmap and realized two things: that there is work to be done to empower state and local leagues to be more effective in our mission and that I have skills that can help us with the transformation, from process analysis to communications. The League is at an inflection point, one where we have to both celebrate and reckon with our past, and do so in a way that serves as a bridge between the centuries and also between all the communities that we wish to serve. While I don't know precisely what my portfolio will be yet, I am most looking forward to helping us tell our story, both the one about where we've been and the one about where we're going.



Fifty Years of League Membership!

by Carol Goldenberg, Membership Committee

Smithsonian Magazine called 1968 "the year that shattered America." The war in Vietnam, the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy, riots at the Democratic Convention in Chicago—all led to unprecedented civic activism. We have 10 members who decided to get involved in their communities who joined the League in 1968 and are still with us today. That is 50 years of being a League member!

Juliet Beard, a new bride in 1968, was taken by her mother-in-law to a League meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. That was all it took. From there Juliet was hooked and became involved in several studies.

In time, she became Vice President of the Board of Directors. She attended statewide meetings but the best experience for Juliet was participation in a National Convention in Washington DC. In 1975 she moved with her then-husband to Seattle, where he had accepted a teaching position at the UW. Now with an 18-month-old son and another on the way, she knew she needed to get re-involved with the League. She joined the Shoreline unit, which she chaired for many years. Juliet is grateful for the education she received from the League, participating in discussions, forums, and meetings, which opened many doors in the community.

Edna Dam, who joined the League in 1968, was active in Seattle, serving two terms as Secretary on the Board before moving to Vashon Island in 1997. She and her husband built a house and garden on their five acres and, although Vashon activities have claimed her time and attention, she has remained a cheerleading member of the League. She has been promoting a three-year study to electrify the nation's railroads with renewable energy, called Solutionary Rail. A copy of the study is available from the King County Library.

Peggy Johnson came to the League through her friend Susanne Anderson, who was forming a new unit in the Montlake neighborhood. At the first meeting, the topic was taxes. As a parent active in PTA, Peggy was aware of the weakness in school funding, which depended on special levies. Thus began Peggy's leadership for League of Women Voters on state taxes with League member and former state legislator Nancy Rust as her mentor. Peggy served as unit leader and on the boards of Seattle and Washington State Leagues. On the Seattle board, she was VP for Public Relations, which included producing League programs for Channel 9 during election seasons. Peggy said that she was amazed that a former English teacher could become an expert on fiscal issues. She said League changed her life and eventually led to a Masters in Public Administration from the UW and a new career in management working with nonprofit organizations.

Lois Laughlin originally joined the LWV because of her interest in schools and housing. In the next 50 years she held nearly every position of responsibility in League, including terms as First and Second Vice President, as a unit leader, on the nominating committee, the Schools Committee, Land Use Committee, and Housing Committee. Because of her work in League, she found herself involved in many

civic issues, including committees to select the City Librarian, the Waterfront Redesign, original Light Rail Planning and Design, Redesign of Seattle Center, new school curriculum, and the Pedestrian Advisory board. She oversaw special elections for Seattle Central College and the Pioneer Square District. She is always a supportive and positive presence in the League office, where she also served at the Citizens Information Desk. Lois was honored with the League's Cary Chapman Catt Award.

Michele Meith joined the League in 1968, where she quickly discovered that it offered an opportunity to learn and to use that knowledge to work for improvements in her community. She says that in the beginning she attended two meetings a month (that offered babysitting) that encouraged women to read about the issues, listen closely to each other to form a consensus, and then put those agreed-upon opinions to work on various levels of government. Voter registration and moderating candidate meetings were especially fulfilling to her. She served as unit leader, joined the board, and worked on financial drives and various committees. She served as Vice President of the Puget Sound League while chairing an agricultural study. Because the community respected the nonpartisan work of the League of Women Voters, her membership led to her appointment to the Citizen Participation Board of the 1970s River Basin studies (RIBCO), which was responsible for the education and participation of local communities in the design of the environmental plans to preserve local water basins. She later became a Kirkland Planning Commission member, rewriting zoning codes to conform to Kirkland's land use plan. Michele says that her 50 years as a League member gave her opportunities that she would never have thought possible for a suburban homemaker with a high school education and some college study.

Charlene McKenzie, who joined the LWV of Lake Washington East in 1968 says, “it has been a stimulating and rewarding 50 years.” She carried many portfolios, including office manager and several terms as Treasurer and President. She organized trips to the State Legislature and one year led the local arrangements for the state convention in Bellevue. She served one year on the Seattle board after the Lake Washington East League joined the Seattle League. Charlene attended three National Conventions and was thrilled at one that announced that League would sponsor the first presidential debate. Her background in League led to her appointment to the Bellevue Board of Adjustment and the Planning Commission. Charlene says, “Along the way she met many remarkable and dedicated women and men.” She is glad that the work of these people will continue with new members who are inspiring with new topics and new ways of doing things.

Connie Reed, a longtime resident of the Hilltop Community high above Bellevue, served on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Lake Washington East before that League joined with the League of Women Voters of Seattle. Connie registered many voters over the years. She now lives at University House Retirement Community in Wallingford and chaired the unit there for many years.

Elizabeth Terrey was an active member of the LWV in Olympia, serving as Vice President. She helped with state legislative forums where she appreciated the special access they had to elected officials. Liz found the League’s work in educating its members and its communities very gratifying. She and her husband retired to Seattle especially to enjoy the music and art the city offers. Liz, a pianist, has a special love of music. For a number of years she volunteered with church groups in bringing music programs to assisted care groups.

Marian Wolfe was a member of the Granville, Ohio, League of Women Voters before coming to Seattle in 1968. Marian held positions as Secretary and Director (her portfolio was Observer Corps) with the Seattle board as well as Voter editor for several years. She also chaired the nominating committee. In more recent years, she has assisted several Treasurers with accounts payable. Marian served as an election monitor for the Seattle Housing Authority and has registered many voters. She has served as co-chair of South Seattle unit for many years.

Jean Worthen was an active member of the League of Women Voter of Lake Washington East from 1965 to 2000, serving on the local board and on the board of Puget Sound LWV. After a 15-year hiatus, she has returned, joining the Horizon House unit in Seattle. Her main interests are environment and local and state government issues. She has also worked for social justice, including membership in the American Civil Liberties Union.

AFIS Levy to Be on August Ballot

By Anastasia Samuelson

The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) levy will be on the primary ballot on August 7, 2018. The AFIS program is funded through a property tax levy that began in 1986 in King County and has been renewed four times. The upcoming renewal would authorize an additional property tax for six years beginning with a rate of \$0.035 (3.5 cents) per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2019. If adopted, the levy is estimated to raise approximately \$21 million a year for the AFIS program.

The funds raised by the levy will be used to maintain current operations as well as cover annual costs of maintaining a new cloud-based system. Cloud-based storage of data has both advantages (access, amount of data able to be stored) and disadvantages (data breaches, lost data).

AFIS, which is managed by the King County Sheriff, provides services to all local and county jurisdictions, the Seattle Police Department and all suburban police departments. AFIS uses a computerized system to store fingerprints and palmprints that can be accessed by law enforcement. It allows all King County law enforcement agencies to match prints through regional, state, and national networks

On March 12, 2018, the Metropolitan King County Council approved sending the proposition to continue the levy to the voters this August. The retiring AFIS was approved for six years in November 2012 by 59.42 percent “for” to 40.58 percent “against.”

From the 2012 Voter’s Pamphlet, a portion of the “Statement For” the proposition:

“...Maintaining essential crime fighting tools is why we ask you to vote yes for AFIS. For 25 years, AFIS has been the preeminent crime-fighting tool for police in King County’s 39 cities and unincorporated areas. DNA may get more attention, but fingerprints remain key to the identification and apprehension of criminals. AFIS catches felons using false names and matches prints collected at crime scenes to unknown suspects. Links to national databases makes for a powerful forensic tool that has solved scores of violent crimes, cold cases, and prolific burglars and car thieves.”

From the 2012 Voter’s Pamphlet, a portion of the “Statement Against” the proposition:

“Voters were promised that automated fingerprint ID would be “up and running” when last approved but now are told it’s going to cost us even more...Seattle or King County residents now will have been taxed higher for an emergency response system, concert hall, playgrounds, youth offenders, veterans, public housing, sports stadiums, zoological gardens, education and libraries...If Seattle voters OK rebuilding the waterfront seawall, homeowners will be targeted for the biggest property tax increase yet and still more citizens will find home ownership impossible.”

The Seattle King-County League of Women Voters has not taken a position on this proposition.

Features

Council 2018: Engaging the Future

By Cathy O'Shea

Council 2018 weekend was a great time to see what other Leagues are doing around the state as well as the State League's activities. The weather was sunny, the company was interesting and fun, and the Columbia River rolled on right outside our hotel in Richland.

Key themes were redistricting, the US census, and civics education.

Redistricting is championed by Alison McCaffree, whose grandmother, Mary Ellen McCaffree, was in the Washington State Legislature focusing on redistricting and public school education. (See the review of Mary Ellen McCaffree's book on page 17.) Alison is heading up the LWVWA's redistricting efforts for the 2021 redistricting cycle. The plan will soon be on the State website, but for more information or to volunteer to help, you can reach Alison at Alison.mccaffree@stanfordalumni.org or 253-720-6813.

The census is critical to an accurate population count, which is used for redistricting.

Expanding civics education in public schools passed in this last state legislative session (HB 1896), supported by the League. To support civics education, *The State We're In: Washington* is a civics textbook produced

by the State League, now in its 8th printing. This book is recommended by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for civics education around the state. The printed book is particularly well done, but it is also available online using the link at <https://www.lwvwa.org/the-state-we-are-in>. Contact kcls.org to suggest it be purchased by King County Library System for the general public as well.

Local Leagues are busy too!

- On the second Monday of the month, at 6:00 PM, the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County produces a KSER 90.7 radio program about issues of importance to the voters of Snohomish County. Check it out at lwvsnoho.org/services/magazine-on-the-air/
- Kids Voting USA: A K-12 civics program sponsored by LWV of Clallam County teaches kids about voting and holding elections. <http://www.lwvcla.org/>
- Civil Discourse and Ballots and Baristas were other local league topics.

Save the Date: Tacoma-Pierce County is hosting the 2019 Washington State League Convention at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma on June 6-9.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

*Congratulations to Adele Reynolds,
the 2018 winner of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award!*

The Carrie Chapman Catt award is presented each year at the Annual Meeting to League members who have exhibited an enduring commitment to their community and the betterment thereof. The award is generally reserved for off-board members who affect the community through their commitment to making democracy work.

Adele Reynolds has been a League member for over 20 years and the leader of the First Hill unit for the last three. That unit is as large as many of the local Leagues around the country and doesn't take the summer off! They regularly have speakers at their meetings and partner with the Horizon House resident legislative and public policy committee to put on candidate and ballot issue forums. If shepherding all that weren't enough, Adele is a frequent volunteer for election monitoring, mailing, voter registration and more. She is a true champion of informed and active participation!



What Has Been Happening in the Education Committee

By Joanna Cullen

Senator David Frockt, City Councilmember Lorena Gonzalez Legislative Aides Vy Nguyen and Roxana Gomez, and Seattle Education Association (SEA) President Phyllis Campano have been our guests during April, May, and June. These meetings presented opportunities for rich discussions and important connections with those who shape state and local budgets and ballot measures. This report includes only the briefest summary of the discussions.

I urge those who are interested to attend our meetings, which typically are scheduled on the fourth Thursday of the month from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Seattle-King County League office, now in downtown Seattle. The new office location presents parking challenges but is very accessible via transit; it is within a block of the light rail and of most buses. Two hours of free parking is available with a \$20.00 purchase at nearby Target. If you are finding the meetings difficult to attend please let me know why. How many are willing to give up a Saturday morning or afternoon or another day, or evening? We will resume meeting on August 23 at 11:00 AM.

Senator David Frockt joined us to help better understand the history of state funding for our state universities and the future of public funding for them, along with the impacts on students and faculty.

Years of cuts to higher education budgets across the nation have driven up costs to students and at the same time cut faculty, program and course choices, and sometimes even campus choices. This situation has also coincided with a time of rising debt for both students and their families. The good news for Washington State is that in the 2018 budget, it is the only state to have reduced

tuition after years of being in the top 10 states in amounts and percentages of tuition increases. Senator Frockt let us know that he supports Seattle Mayor Durkan's Promise plan.

The update on the current planning for the upcoming Family and Education Levy presented by Vy Nguyen and Roxana Gomez was prior to the finalization of the legislation passed by the Seattle City Council; therefore, we now have new materials for discussion. Much of our discussion centered on the balance of the proposal among the three categories of funding in the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning and the Promise Program and measurement of success, especially in the newer preschool programs. Concerns were expressed regarding the implication that Family Support Worker positions will no longer be funded. Questions and concerns were also expressed about which private entities, including charter schools, will have access to the grants. Nguyen was able to give us a general overview of thinking going on in these areas and promised that our comments would be taken back to the council. And, there were substantial changes made to those proposals. The changes are now reflected in the final proposal passed by the Seattle City Council for the November ballot. A property tax levy is the funding source. Work lies ahead in the next few months to understand this proposal.

SEA President Phyllis Campano and Washington Education Association lobbyist Lorrell Noahr led our conversation in June, which was intended to focus on the impact of the 2018 legislative session on schools and communities. However, we received a number of questions concerning a moratorium on the testing resolution passed by SEA. Campano responded that Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning at Seattle Public Schools Michael Tolley is

working with SEA. The next report for *The Voter* will include more details regarding the discussion of the impact of 2018 state legislation.

Please let us know of the kind of conversations that would interest you, along with contacts to lead them, especially education leaders in other King County school districts.

Waterfront Updates

By Nancy and Charles Bagley

The Aquarium Plans a Splendid New Tropical Pacific Pavilion

The Seattle Aquarium, a part of Seattle's Parks Department and managed under contract by the nonprofit Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS), is planning a major expansion. A multistory Ocean Pavilion, on land, will house exhibits of marine and reef environments typical of the tropical Indo-Pacific Ocean around Indonesia, including a huge tank with multiple viewing portals showing reefs, sharks, and other marine life. Funding for the Aquarium expansion, estimated at \$113 million, will be \$34 million from the City, with the rest to be raised by the Aquarium. The Master Plan for the Aquarium and this expansion was approved by the City Council August 7, 2015.

In addition, as part of the City's Waterfront Improvement Project, a large Overlook Walk of stairs and viewpoints will descend from the Pike Place Market to the roof of the new Aquarium pavilion, making a large viewing area, then on downward to the waterfront level. Funding for the Walk and other waterfront amenities (pedestrian walkways, bike lanes, trees and planters, art), estimated to be \$688 million, will be provided by: the City, \$195 million; the State, \$193 million; philanthropic fundraising, \$100 million; and from a Local

Improvement District (LID), \$200 million.

On June 27 the Waterfront Committee met with Aquarium staff Susan Bullerdick, Director of Capital Projects, and Derek Baker, Communications Manager, and consultant Ben Franz-Knight, former Executive Director of the Pike Place Market, for an update on the Aquarium Plans.

Designs for the Tropical Pacific Pavilion are 30 percent complete. Construction is planned to start in 2021. The City-owned land under the Pavilion is located east of Pier 60, the location of the marine mammal exhibits. Exhibits are to include coral reefs and a section on the ecology of mangrove swamps bordering the ocean. But coral and mangroves grow slowly. Thus, to have exhibits ready on time, an off-site building is being used to start growing coral and mangroves now!

A draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project is in preparation and should be available in late September. After comments are received, the final EIS may be done by December. The Pavilion is scheduled to be completed in 2022. It is important to note that designs for the Pavilion will include provision for attachment to the Overlook Walk, but the Ocean Pavilion will be structurally independent, and the Pavilion will function perfectly whether the Walkway is built or not. Funding for the Ocean Pavilion is separate from the City's Waterfront Program. Thus, decisions on the LID would not delay construction.

Waterfront Project LID Funding Plan Proceeds

A Local Improvement District in downtown Seattle to fund \$200 million of the costs of the City's Waterfront Project has been in public view for six years. The City Council approved the funding plan on August 13, 2012. VOTER readers may recall our article in October 2017 that discussed the LID. The May 22, 2018, Seattle Times covered the LID in detail: the total money to be raised,

\$200 million, will be assessed as a one-time property tax surcharge, the amount in proportion to the propinquity of each property to the Waterfront, as determined by a contractor that specializes in this work. The \$200 million raised is estimated to be about 50 percent of the total increase in property value acquired by owners as a result of the Waterfront Project. Fee payments may be amortized over 20 years, if an owner wishes. In addition to an increased property value, property owners will enjoy easier access to the waterfront than other City residents.

The Waterfront Committee will meet September 27th at 1:30 PM in the League office. Marshall Foster, Director of the City Office of the Waterfront will provide an update on the progress of the entire Waterfront Improvement Project. All interested League members are welcome to attend.

Leadership article continued:

participated in the Families Belong Together march in downtown Chicago.

Aside from the serious work of the convention, we were able to have some fun, too. Chicago's renowned Second City improv troupe entertained convention-goers, and author Elaine Weiss gave us some perspective on the League's history within the larger suffrage movement at the convention's awards banquet. (Note: She will be coming to Seattle to promote her book, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, so stay tuned for more about this!)

Overall, it was a banner weekend for inclusiveness and understanding, and it made me really proud to be part of this amazing organization.

If you'd like to read more about the national convention, see what resolutions and bylaws were passed, and read about some of the dynamic speakers, visit the national League site at www.lwv.org and click on the "League Management" button. From there you can

select "national convention" and get a day-by-day summary of events.

The next national convention is scheduled from June 25-28 in Washington, DC, where the League will also be celebrating its centennial year.

Stephanie Cirkovich
President



Delegates from our Washington State Leagues having fun and getting inspired at convention.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

Politics of the Possible: The Decade Our American Democracy Worked

By Mary Ellen McCaffree and Anne McNamee Corbett

Mary Ellen McCaffree was born in Kansas in 1918 to a farming family active in civil issues. She graduated from Kansas State University, married her high school sweetheart, and eventually settled in Seattle near the University of Washington, where her husband taught. She raised five children and found it natural to participate in community issues in Seattle.

She joined her local PTA and the League of Women Voters of Seattle and quickly focused on the school system, which didn't have enough money to function well. Some teachers had over 40 students in a class! How could such a teacher help those with problems?

Eventually she became vice-president for legislation in the King County PTA as well as president of the LWV-S. As she puts it, "If you don't take part in your government, it's not going to work." In 1962 she was asked to run for a position in the State House of Representatives for the 32nd District. With much help from her family, she won!

She went on to serve four terms. Her goal was to put public education on a firm financial base, but she was held back because votes for legislators on her side of the aisle didn't carry as much weight as those from the other side. Ideally, there should be "one man, one vote," with each person having the same power as any other. However, that requires that each voting district include approximately the same number of people. When she was elected, the districts were set up in the 19th Century, when most voters lived east of the Cascades, and had never been changed. The result: "rural districts were over represented relative to their scanty population while our urban centers...were astonishingly under represented."

Politicians want to keep their jobs, so it is understandable that those representing fewer

voters in the eastern part of the state liked the status quo. Schools there averaged only 20 students to a class, and voters enjoyed more representation in the legislature than did the citizens in the western, more urban side of the state.

Therefore, to change the status quo in the classrooms, it was important to redistrict the entire state to make the districts more equal. This is the story of that struggle to redistrict. It took over a decade of work before a photographer snapped a picture of the bipartisan redistricting commission surrounding Governor Evans as he signed this historical bill. McCaffree was the sole woman in the photo.

Thanks to McCaffree and Corbett, this book provides a clear, interesting picture of government at work. As a reader, I felt right there in the legislature with McCaffree, seeing it from her point of view. I learned it was important for her to get to know her fellow legislators so she could quickly turn to the right person when she needed more information about a particular issue. I learned several parliamentary technicalities such as to "Demand the Previous Question" that would immediately require a vote on the legislation then on the floor. McCaffree also shows readers when it is necessary to work in secret and when to reach across the aisle.

I found this to be an important and wonderfully engaging book that feels amazingly relevant regarding today's issues.

I've bought a copy of this book for a granddaughter who will soon graduate from college and plans to live in Seattle. You can buy your copy by going to the Washington State League website: www.lwww.org/ptop or you can buy one at the League office.

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

Unit Meetings

Most units do not meet during the summer, however, the First Hill and North King County units will meet as follows:

First Hill
Monday, August 20 at 10:30 a.m.
Horizon House Forum & Social Room
900 University St, Seattle

North King County
Monday, August 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Stadler Mtg. Room
17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park

If you have any questions about your unit, please contact the unit leader.

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More information about the units, including where and when they generally meet, can be found online at www.seattlelwv.org/units.

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

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

Directors

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

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

Education Fund Officers - same as above except Treasurer

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

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

Vacant seat

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

Off Board Positions

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

<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Nora Leech		nleech2002@yahoo.com
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	Kim Peterson	206-789-7447	
<i>Social Justice</i>	Nikki Hurley		nhurley1009@gmail.com
<i>Social Justice</i>	Melissa Taylor		melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com
<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

9th Congressional District
Candidates Forum

Saturday, July 21

9:30 a.m. — Doors open

10:00 a.m. — Program begins

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
14230 SE Newport Way
Bellevue, WA 98006

Free and open to the public.

8th Congressional District
Candidates Forum

Tuesday, July 31

6:00 p.m. — Doors open

6:30 p.m. — Program begins

Auburn Senior Activities Center
808 Ninth Street SE
Auburn, WA 98002

Free and open to the public. Co-
presented with the LWV of Tacoma-
Pierce County and UW Tacoma.