



CALENDAR

Dec. 14
 Membership meeting
 Followed by **Holiday Darty** at Dorothy Marsh's
 5 pm

Jan. 19
 Lobby Day
 Columbia Room at Capitol
 8:00 am

Jan. 25
 Business Meeting at 2221 Water St.
 5:30

Feb. 21
 Membership meeting at Lacey Library
 5:30
State GMA Study Review/Update

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Post Election Update

The rains come down -- or maybe sideways, when the wind howls up the Sound -- but we party on, celebrating our victories on the ballot initiatives we worked so hard to defeat (933, 920) and pass (937).

Thurston County beat the statewide averages in all three cases. The "pay or waive" Initiative, 933, went down statewide 41% to 59%; here at home, our percentages were 38% to 62% (exceeded only in Jefferson, King, San Juan, Skagit and Island counties. The wonderful TV farmer ad may have accounted for the uniquely high showing in Skagit County, where more than 70% of voters said no.)

Initiative 937, for clean energy, won by about 51.5% to 48.5% statewide; here, 57% said yes, 43% no. Initiative 920, to repeal the inheritance tax, lost statewide 38% to 62%

and locally 35% to 65%. Thanks to all members of LWVTC -- and to activists statewide -- who worked hard for these outcomes.

Pleasing as these results are, they are hardly what we expected last spring and early summer. After the "Signature Gathering" campaign to put I-937 on the ballot, most of us believed it would sail through to approval by a huge margin, while "No on 933" would benefit from enthusiasm for Clean Energy and perhaps narrowly prevail. But Weyerhaeuser and other heavy hitters tried to persuade voters that approval would up their utility bills, and they nearly succeeded. While 937 squeaked through, 933 was roundly trounced.

As was the case with its precursor Ref. 48 in 1996, polls showed a majority of voters intending to vote "yes"

until very late in the election cycle. Clearly, our efforts to show the public that 933 was a wolf in sheep's clothing paid off, and much credit goes to the vigorous leadership of the "No on 933" campaign staff.

Such campaigns are costly in dollars and activists' energy, and we would rather not have to gear up for this battle again. In the wake of our victory, we need to press our advantage, working to find genuinely equitable ways to preserve farmland and open space, and helping the public understand that land speculation need not and should not be guaranteed at the expense of taxpayers -- and the environmental quality for future generations.

Peggy Bruton

Ideas? Think, discuss and share at LWVTC@yahoo.com

LOBBY DAY FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007

COLUMBIA ROOM, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

This year the LWV Thurston County is taking the primary responsibility to plan and coordinate the annual state wide Lobby day sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Washington. Please plan to attend!

Check-in and Coffee 8:00 a.m.

Program 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Cost: \$20 includes lunch and printed materials

The goal of this Lobby Day will be to have 3 primary presentations about legislative issues as relate to League's positions on Social Policy, Natural Resources and Government. The day will also include an opportunity to hear from our State League's Portfolio Chairs and our Lobbyist, Lonnie Johns Brown. All legislators will be invited to our luncheon where you will have an opportunity to talk with them about our issues.

- ⇒ Governor Christine Gregoire will present an overview of Washington Learns.
- ⇒ Jone Bosworth, Director, Early Learning Department, will discuss the goals and purposes of this new department.
- ⇒ Barbara Mertens, Assistant Executive Director, Gov. Relations, WA Association of School Administrators, will discuss K-12 aspects of Washington Learns.
- ⇒ Laurie Valeriano, Toxic Policy Director, will discuss Pollution in People
- ⇒ Representative Eileen Cody, Chair, House Committee on Health Care (invited) will review the findings and proposals of the Blue Ribbon Committee On Health Care

Make all checks for \$20.00 payable to LWVWA

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 12, 2006. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED
4710 University Way, Suite 214 Seattle, WA 98105

Education Fund Luncheon a Big Success!

Thanks to a very hard working and efficient committee, our annual fundraising luncheon to support our Education Fund was highly successful. Our guest speaker, Hugh Spitzer, Affiliate Professor, U of W School of Law, Attorney at Foster, Pepper PLLC was highly entertaining as well as informative about the influence of the Populist movement on our constitution. Lifetime citizen Award recipient: Sam Reed, Secretary of State was pleased to be honored and thanked the League for all their work to effect public policy across the state.

Special thanks go to the many members that served as table captains. One goal is to have non-members join us at these events and his year approximately ½ of those attending were non-members. In addition, the Cushman Law Office sponsored a table for which we are very grateful to Clydia Cuykendall.

Our wonderful planning committee included: Dawn Brooks, Cherie Davidson, Sue Lean, and Dorothy Marsh. Thanks to each of them for some very fine and dedicated work.

Total income from reservations and donations were \$3973, with total expenses of \$1951, making a net gain of \$2027. -Thanks to all who helped make this a successful event.

Karen Verrill

President's Column

League of Women Voters Thurston County asked for information that led up to the contract between the Port and Weyerhaeuser. Voters are the owners of the Port and have the responsibility to see that all government agencies respect the purpose for which they were established. If the public is unaware of the actions taken by Port / Commissioners, how can they vote responsively? The Port of Olympia has been reluctant to give out the details of negotiations; what did the Port agree to do for the timber company, what is the price tag for the proposed log export facility? However, more important, at what cost to clean air, clean water, the viability of the Sound and the health and safety of Thurston County residents? We do not know.

Perhaps it would be better if the media were asking these questions.

Now the Port is entertaining

agreements with China. Josephine Jung, the St. Martins economic development specialist, told The Olympian, regarding the upcoming Chinese visit, "Coming to the U.S. for investment purposes is very new to them," and: "This is really the first wave of Chinese business entrepreneurs coming to the U.S."

The following is information a League member found with a little research.

- ⇒ Citifor, a corporation of the Peoples Republic of China, recently sold hundreds of acres of land near Maytown to the Port of Tacoma for the proposed Port of Olympia/ Port of Tacoma logistics center.
- ⇒ Citifor is a wholly owned subsidiary of CITIC. It was founded in 1984.
- ⇒ Citifor's business is primarily concentrated in the timber industry with

investments in timber and timberlands in Washington Oregon and Alaska States, Chile, and Russia.

- ⇒ Citifor has a mill and four tracts of land in Washington State, three of them totaling 3,442 acres in Thurston County. Purchases in 1993 and 1994 cost \$34 million (Washington Post, Mar. 26, 1997, p. A21).

Citizens have a right to know what is happening at the Port. Large investments like the California invasion and the King County spillover, use up resources and drive up prices. Since the Port is a public entity, perhaps we should be able to decide what is best for Thurston County.

Eve Johnson

Before the Holiday party there will be a brief Business meeting. Everyone is welcome. If there are issues you would like the Board to discuss, please contact Eve Johnson. The phone number is 754-1455 and e-mail is johnsonel@peoplepc.com.



Holiday Party

December 14th
Meeting at 5:30pm
Party at 6:00pm
at the home of
Dorothy Marsh and
Judy Barnes
6402 63rd Av NE
Olympia

From I-5 going North:
 Take exit 108B, Sleater-Kinney North, to blinking stop light, about 3 miles. Right on South Bay which turns left and becomes Johnson Point Road. Right on Puget Road to the end, right again on 63rd to 6402

From I-5 going South:
 Take exit 111
 Right on Marvin Road north to the end, left on 56th which turns and becomes Puget Beach Road, left on 63rd.
Holiday food will be provided by the LWV Board.

VOLUNTEERING FOR PERSONAL GROWTH

- ♣ **ENHANCE SOCIAL AWARENESS**
- ♣ **LEARN THROUGH SERVICE**
- ♣ **ENJOY BETTER HEALTH**
- ♣ **GAIN SELF-CONFIDENCE**
- ♣ **DISCOVER YOUR STRENGTHS AND TALENTS**
- ♣ **BUILD A SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE**
- ♣ **EXPAND YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLE**

LWV VOLUNTEER'S NEEDED!

A volunteer is a person who freely gives his or her time and talent to a worthwhile group or cause. It's someone who believes that **people can make a difference** -- and who is willing to prove it.

Historically, America has a long and proud tradition of relying on volunteers to help other people help themselves.

Today, America's volunteers are touching people's lives by solving problems, while exploring new chances for personal growth. They work to increase the ability of our communities to benefit many people; respond to human problems by doing what needs to be done; expand the delivery of human

services in ways that benefit the whole community; and direct human resources to provide help where it's needed most.

That being said, the League of Women Voters of Thurston County would like to put out a special request for volunteers. There are many areas of interest to choose from.

If you are interested in making a difference, please contact Marilyn Funk, LWV Membership Committee chair, at 360-357-7967 or by e-mail at bfmz@comcast.net, and—**GET INVOLVED!**

Dawn Brooks

SPSCC MENTORING PROGRAM

South Puget Sound Community College has offered the League of Women Voters of Thurston County an opportunity to participate in a new program designed to connect students with the community.

"Student Success Mentoring Program: Provides a formal opportunity for students to learn from community members. This includes workshops and seminars on scholarship writing, study skills, and other important aspects that contribute to student success."

Community members willing to be mentors in our Stu-

dent Success Mentoring Program will be paired with students based on common interests or career goals.

As a mentor, you would be committing to a 6-12 month mentoring partnership with a student.

You will be provided materials to help you create and maintain a successful mentoring relationship. The time commitment is minimal but must include at least one face-to-face meeting with the student per quarter and then weekly communication either

by phone, email, or in person. At the end of the academic year there will be a recognition reception for all participants who have completed the program."

Student Success Mentoring Program: Provides a formal opportunity for students to learn from community members

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Membership chair, Marilyn Funk at 357-7967.

Eve Johnson

- Between 1960 and 1990 the state population increases 41%, and 21% since 1990 (to 6 million). Thurston County grew over 28%, Snohomish County over 30% and Clark County 45% between 1990 and 2000.
- Environmental protection laws begin in 1970 (SMA, SEPA)
- GMA passed in July 1990 to designate and protect critical areas, designate resource lands, establish urban growth boundaries and develop comprehensive plans.
- GMA amended in 1991 to establish GMHB, enact financial sanctions, require county-wide planning, require siting of essential public facilities, expand coverage from the original 12 counties to include 3 eastern counties and

GMA HISTORY

- GMA amended in 1991 to establish GMHB, enact financial sanctions, require county-wide planning, require siting of essential public facilities, expand coverage from the original 12 counties to include 3 eastern counties and others that chose to plan under GMA
- GMA amended in 1995 to streamline local permit process, consolidate state's separate environment and land use laws, add best available science requirement for critical area ordinances, require local governments to consider fisheries, and add SMA as a GMA goal
- GMA amended in 1997 to offer guidance and tools to counties for rural development and require coun-

- GMA update deadlines extended in 2002
- GMS update deadlines for CAO's extended for some local governments in 2005 and GMA amended to add biking and pedestrian element to "transportation"
- GMA amended in 2006 to give small cities a ten year update cycle, give counties authority to allow or limit accessory activities on agricultural lands, allow fully planning jurisdictions to enact or expand affordable housing incentives, fund Best Management Practices and Transfer of Development Rights pilot programs to protect critical areas on agricultural lands, and to deal with regional transportation governance.

Clydia Cuykendall

All counties or cities with a population of 50,000 or more or a 17% increase in population over the last ten years are required to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans for 20 years of growth
Plans must be submitted to the Washington Department of Community Development for comments. There are three regional hearing boards which hear and rule on petitions of

GMA REQUIREMENTS AND PLANNING PROCESS

non-compliance.

Each plan must:

- Designate agricultural, forest, and mineral resource land
- Designate critical areas and protect them using BAS
- Review and update critical area plans every 7 years.

- Determine if all new subdivisions have adequate services for public health, safety and welfare
- Determine that adequate potable water is available before issuing new building permits
- Include these elements: land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, transportation, economic development, parks and recreation and rural (for counties only).

Clydia Cuykendall

- Encourage development in urban areas and reduce sprawl.
- Affordable housing; variety and preservation.
- Encourage economic growth within natural resource and public capacities.

GMA GOALS AND ISSUES

- Protect Property Rights.
- Takings Initiatives.
- Protect Natural Resource based Industries.
- Environmental Protection.

- Citizen Involvement.
- Adequate public facilities and services.
- Shorelines.

Clydia Cuykendall

For entire GMA Report and Summary go to www.lwvwa.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For more information about the League's activities or membership call Marilyn Funk,
360-491-3376, or mail in the membership form below.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____

- ◇ \$60 for my membership
- ◇ \$_____ for an Educational Fund Donation

For Lifetime Membership and Scholarships contact Membership Chair.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ FAX NUMBER _____

LWVTC Newsletter, the VOTER will be distributed by e-mail unless you specifically request a hard copy in regular mail.

Remember Our Purpose

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone of voting age may become a League member.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY
1063 Capitol Way South #212
Olympia WA 98501
Phone (360) 352-8220**