



# VOTER

Volume 6 Issue 2

JANUARY 2012

**CALENDAR**

Thursday, Jan. 26

LWVTC General mtg.  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Tumwater Valley  
6:00 Social  
6:30 Speakers  
**Topic:**  
**Challenges to  
higher education**

Thursday, February 23

LWVTC General mtg.  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Tumwater Valley  
6:00 Social  
6:30 Speakers  
**Topic:**  
**Legislative update**

Thursday, March 22

LWVTC General mtg.  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Tumwater Valley  
6:00 Social  
6:30 Speakers  
**Topic:**  
**Capital Lake  
v. estuary**

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**Mark your calendar!**  
**LWVTC General meeting**  
**CHALLENGES TO  
HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**1/26/2012**  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Tumwater Valley  
6:00 Social  
6:30 Speaker  
**Speaker: Dr. William Lyne**

In January, Dr. William Lyne will present a program on "Challenges to Higher Education." Dr. Lyne is President of United Faculty of Washington State and Chair of the Four Year Institution Political Action Committee.

Here's what he had to say regarding a recent article on the rising *cost* of college tuition:

"state support to our public universities has been cut by 50% in the last three years. . . . the *price* of college (to students and their families) has been going up, but the *cost* of college has not. . . . adjusted for inflation, the cost of educating our students at public universities has remained constant for the last twenty years."

I sincerely hope you will join us on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at The River's Edge for an enlightening and engaging talk. Dr. Lyne's presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.

VOTER Editor:  
Dawn Brooks Gibbs  
dawn8152@msn.com

*Kathy Morris*

*President's Article* **DEMOCRACY IS A PRECIOUS GIFT**

Over the holidays, I reflected on how blessed we are to be citizens of a country that protects our freedoms and ensures that the next generation will experience a better quality of life than their ancestors.

And yet we are now living through a period in which the American dream may be unattainable for millions of citizens. So many Americans are angry and frustrated that our leaders cannot make progress on the big issues facing



the country. Our collective judgment that our politics are broken and that our government is dysfunctional has never been more widely held.

The country has faced enormous challenges in the past. Because of our shared values and our strengths as a people, we have been able to create a future that brings us closer to our aspirations as a nation.

Today, our people are better than our politics. It is essential that each and every one of us take a stand and together demand that our politics

rise above partisanship and solve the problems facing our country. When given a chance, Americans almost always rise to resolve the issues at hand. Democracy is a precious gift that must be lived everyday and the League of Women Voters of Thurston County is a key participant in this effort with its 50 years of great ideas, proclaimed and congratulated by Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Tenino, Port of Olympia, and Thurston County.

To the LWVTC members, I say keep up the good work in the New Year!

*Clydia Cuykendall  
President*

**U.S. Congress Votes Database: <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/>**

The U.S. Congress Votes Database documents every vote and member of the House and Senate since 1991. Data is pulled from several sources, including the House clerk, the U.S. Senate and the Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress. For the 112th Congress, users can analyze members and votes by various metrics, including caucus affiliations, 2010 margin of victory, and members endorsed by Tea Party Express or Freedom Works during the 2010 campaign.

**Explore the 112th Senate**

Democrats hold a majority, but the 60 seats they controlled two years ago has fallen to 53.



***Senate party leaders***

[Harry Reid \(D\)](#)  
[Voting history](#)

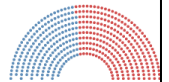


[Mitch McConnell \(R\)](#)  
[Voting history](#)



**Explore the 112th House**

After four years in the minority, Republicans took back the House in 2010.



***House party leaders***

[John Boehner \(R\)](#)  
[Voting history](#)



[Nancy Pelosi \(D\)](#)  
[Voting history](#)



**CAPTAIN MOORE IS COMING BACK!**

LWVTC will be a cosponsor of a special event organized by the South Sound Sierra Group featuring Captain Charles Moore, a powerful and effective activist for saving our oceans from degradation and pollution. The Captain's new book, *Plastic Ocean: How a Sea Captain's Chance Discovery*

*Launched a Determined Quest to Save the Oceans*, has just been released, and on this occasion we will feature a presentation by the author and book signing to follow.

**Date and Time:**  
Thursday, January 19th, 6:30pm to 9:00pm

**Where:** Olympia Community Center, located in downtown Olympia

Please visit Captain Moore's website at [www.algalita.org](http://www.algalita.org) for more information about the Algalita Marine Research Foundation.

*Peggy Bruton  
[gimleteye@comcast.net](mailto:gimleteye@comcast.net)*

# LET'S SHOW UP AT LEAGUE DAY ON FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>

Everywhere League members go in Olympia, we hear "Oh, the League of Women Voters---I love the League!" Our yearly League Day (formerly known as League Lobby Day) at the State Capital is fast approaching! So, we can capitalize on our excellent, well-earned reputation by coming to Olympia in force. This is an intense year for legislative action, with much early attention focused on the state budget and revenue options. At this writing, other policy issues are not well known, but may include:

- expanding voting registration options

- action on health care matters, children and family
- Attention paid to education issues, climate change and energy...
- And much more of interest to League members!

We anticipate that Nancy Amedei will join us for her ever-energizing take on advocacy and legislative matters. The Lobby Team is working to develop the rest of the program along with ways to simplify your in-person advocacy.

We hope many of you will register for this event---this is, even more than usual, a critical time for League members to be in touch with our legislators about our concerns and positions. The Lobby Team appreciates your steadfast support, and we hope to see many of you in Olympia on February 17<sup>th</sup>. And, let us know of your concerns, interests, and questions.

**Pat Dickason**  
**Action Chair**  
**360-753-7647**

[p.dickason@comcast.net](mailto:p.dickason@comcast.net)




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## League of Women Voters of Washington **LEAGUE DAY**

February 17, 2012

### REGISTRATION

**Cost: \$25 per person**  
**Lunch Provided**

Columbia Room, State Capitol, Olympia

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/email \_\_\_\_\_

VISA     M/C

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

Register with the LWVWA state office by phone, e-mail, or mail:

(206) 622-8961

[lwwa@lwwa.org](mailto:lwwa@lwwa.org)

4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105



## MEET ALEC

### HE WANTS TO TAKE AWAY YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

ALEC isn't a guy. ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, is a factory for anti-voter legislation, [funded by power barons](#) like Kraft Foods, McDonalds, Pfizer and the Koch brothers.

They are the driving force behind the recent flood of discriminatory voter ID laws, like the one in Texas, where a state-issued concealed handgun permit is an acceptable form of identification...but a state-issued student ID from a university is not.

The League is working tirelessly to fight back against these voter suppression schemes that could [disenfranchise up to 5 million Americans](#) in next year's elections.

Voter impersonation is not the epidemic that these special interest groups would have you believe. Here are the facts:

## 5 Myths About Voter Impersonation

- ⇒ **MYTH:** Voter impersonation is a widespread problem.  
**FACT:** Between 2002 and 2007, after undertaking a massive investigation into voting irregularities, the [U.S. Justice Department did not prosecute a single individual for impersonating another voter at the polls.](#)
- ⇒ **MYTH:** Third party registration drives contribute to voter impersonation.  
**FACT:** [Since 2008, only 31 cases of suspected voter impersonation have been reported](#) to Florida authorities. But due to a restrictive new law there, the League has been forced to suspend its Florida voter registration activities for the first time in 72 years.
- ⇒ **MYTH:** Everyone either has an ID or can easily obtain one.  
**FACT:** 11 percent of eligible voters or about 21 million people, don't have updated, state-issued photo IDs. Furthermore, most states require producing a passport or birth certificate to get one. This presents a tremendous burden for people who work multiple jobs, lack transportation, have disabilities, live outside the state they were born, are poor or elderly.
- ⇒ **MYTH:** Election Day registration invites voter impersonation.  
**FACT:** An investigation by the Secretary of State in Maine – which was the first state to adopt Election Day registration – [did not find evidence of voting irregularities due to same day registration.](#)
- ⇒ **MYTH:** Early voting increases voter impersonation.  
**FACT:** Incidents of impersonation in early voting are just as rare as they are in Election Day balloting. A CBS News report on 17 early voting states [revealed no widespread signs of irregularities in the 2008 election.](#)

# 50 Years of a Great Idea 1961-2011

Among others, the city councils of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater and the Board of Thurston County Commissioners issue proclamations recognizing the LWVTC 50th anniversary; congratulating us for our work over the last 50 years.



**Olympia 11/22/2011**



**Lacey 12/1/2011**

**Photos  
courtesy  
of  
Rita  
Robison**



**Thurston County 12/6/2011**



**Tumwater 12/20/2011**

Founding President Miggs Gaudette-or Mrs. Volney Gaudette as she would be listed in the membership roster in those days-gathered together a group of civic minded women interested in state government in1961.

The idea was that the capital city of Washington should have a local League of Women Voters. Members spent 18 months studying Thurston County government and published the booklet, "Know Your County -- Thurston."

With membership requirements completed in 1962, the Thurston County League was accepted in the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please refer to [www.lwvthurston.org](http://www.lwvthurston.org) for more information about the League's activities or membership, or mail in the membership form below.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

DATE:

◇ \$60 for my membership

◇ \$\_\_\_\_\_ for an Educational Fund Donation

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

LWVTC Newsletter:

The VOTER will be distributed by e-mail.

Check this box to specifically request a paper copy by regular mail and consider making a donation to cover the League's extra costs of such mail.

**LWV 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. Any one of voting age may become a League member.***

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THURSTON COUNTY**

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