



VOTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

NOVEMBER 2006

CALENDAR

- Nov. 4 Education Fund Fundraiser Luncheon Olympia Golf and Country Club-11:45am
- Nov. 7 Election Day
- Nov. 16 Membership meeting Lacey Library 5:30pm
Consensus Meeting State Election Reform Study
- Dec. 14 Membership meeting Holiday Party-5pm at Dorothy Marsh's

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State League Studies Big Changes

The League's state-wide ongoing study of Election Reform for Washington is now ready for us to study, discuss and come to consensus.

State League studies are no longer mailed to every member. However, this 14-page study is posted on the League website at www.lwwva.org once there click on **Publications** and then click on **Guides and Studies**.

The League is a grassroots organization. This is an opportunity to participate in a core League activity. By studying the report and participating in a discussion we can arrive at a consensus that will be submitted to the state League. They will compile all of the local League consensus and the League "position" from which we can lobby, will be formed. It is not possible to par-

ticipate in the consensus unless you have read the study.

The consensus questions are included in this issue.

If you do not have a computer we will print a copy for you.

Please call Karen Verrill at 866-6187 for a printed copy.

Karen Verrill

CONSENSUS MEETING—ELECTION REFORM

**November 16, 2006
6:00 Lacey Library**

The League's statewide ongoing study of **Election Reform** for Washington is now ready for us to study, discuss and come to consensus. This 14-page study is posted on the League website at

www.lwwva.org. (See above for further instructions)

By studying the report and participating in a discussion we can arrive at a consensus that will be submitted to the state League.

It is **not** possible to participate in the consensus unless

you have read the study.

Please avail yourself of a copy and join us for a lively discussion.

Karen Verrill

If you need a printed copy please call 866-6187.

The Clean Energy/Energy Security Initiative I-937

The Clean Energy/Energy Security Initiative, I-937, requires Washington's larger utilities to gradually increase the amount of new renewable resources in the electricity supply to 15 percent by 2020. Utilities will also be required to pursue all low cost energy conservation opportunities for their customers.

Clean, renewable energy is a long-standing priority of the League at the state and national levels. The League has supported numerous bills in the Washington State Legislature that encourage or require clean energy actions. This initiative gives the citizens of Washington the opportunity to make their voices heard on an issue that is overwhelmingly supported by most people. Energy conservation and energy efficiency are already the focus of state and city governments in Washington. Success with this initiative would give impetus to this effort. Benefits of the initiative include more rate stability for electricity consumers because of less dependence on the volatile costs of fossil fuels; new economic opportunities for rural communities, especially in Eastern Washington, through lease payments for wind turbines and growing environmentally sound crops for bio-fuels; and more skilled, family wage jobs through new industries and businesses. Renewable energy and energy efficiency industries have already added more than 4,000 jobs in Washington. Clean energy will contribute to conservation and add renewable resources to our current hydropower base for energy generation. It will also be a far better alternative than expansion of coal-fired plants. Twenty other states have enacted similar legislation.

This is an important step in the direction of improving our economy and health in Washington State. Please support the initiative and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.

Presidents Column

HELP MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS FOR THE LEAGUE.

You have probably all voted and made important decisions for the future of our state, now its time to make important decisions for the future of our League.

We have a good reputation in this community for active participation: Voter Services, the TCTV Forums, the excellent Education Fund Lunch, the growing speakers bureau, our participation in Sunshine Week, the strong showing of our members in this years ballot issue campaigns, the continuing information from our VOTER and much more.

Even though every member is needed, a few dozen people usually do most of the work. There may be an issue that is important to you; education, election reform, public relations or the environment. Some of these topics are scheduled for programs this coming year.

If you are interested in becoming a more active member of the League, join the committee for a project that interests you. If your particular issue is not scheduled, you may be able to make the subject more visible; perhaps an article in the VOTER or an essay on our web site.

Call Membership Chair, Marilyn Funk at 357-7967 or President Eve Johnson at 754-1455.

Eve Johnson

Consensus Questions

These questions will be discussed November 6, 2006 at the Lacey Library at 6pm. Read the study at www.lwvwa.org and participate in consensus.

1. The statewide Voter Registration Database (VRDB) is now up and running:
 - a) Should information matching be a new condition of eligibility to vote? Are the current standards required in this state too restrictive, not restrictive enough, or adequate? Explain.
 - b) What should the state's next step be?
 - c) Should provisions be made for interconnecting all states' systems? Discuss the pros and cons of a nationwide database.
2. Current law requires random audits of ballots from direct recording electronic voting machines (DREs):
 - a) Is current state law requiring random audits of up to four percent of DRE's adequate?
 - b) Should state law require random audits of all ballots cast in polling places? Suggestions for random audits have ranged from two to five percent of precincts (or batches) in a County? Is this adequate? What about absentee ballots?
3. Should registration of new voters require proof of citizenship? If yes, what should that proof be?
4. Should state law be changed to require that all mail-in ballots be received at election departments by the time the polls close on Election Day? Is there another alternative?

TECHNOLOGY AND A CALL FOR HELP

It is hard for some of us to grasp but we are now in the 21st Century.

With that comes coping with computers.

The LWVTC is in need of a webmaster to take responsibility for our technological needs. We have a Listserve which requires maintenance, keeping membership contact information current; and a webpage that needs building.

Someone who likes this sort of thing and looks upon it as a simple task is the idea candidate. Is that you?

We would like to have our TRY, our Directory and our VOTER available to anyone who may be interested. We need someone who will work consistently with Claudia in the Seattle State office to keep everything current and interesting. Perhaps you are that person.

If these technology opportunities appeal to you, call Eve Johnson at 754-1455 and volunteer.

Eve Johnson

Last Minute Thoughts on Defeating I-933

If you're reading this before "election day," as it's still called (though in reality it's the last day of our mail-in election weeks) there's probably still something you can do to enhance the probabilities that I-933 Will Lose.

Sign waving is now happening on a daily basis, at several prime locations in and around Olympia. Phone banking will continue down to the wire.

Check with Sandra Romero for details (sromero360@comcast.net or 357-8131). In the meantime, keep talking. Make sure everyone you know, throughout the state, understands what's at stake. The excellent series of articles by Keri Bremmer and John Dodge in the Olympian's October 22 edition are well worth sharing with friends and family and all your email lists. It's also

useful to tell folks how many Washington cities have passed resolutions opposing it.

42 Washington Cities Have Passed Resolutions or Motions Opposing Initiative 933

In any event, we need to keep up the drumbeat until the very last minute. Win or lose, we'll feel better knowing we've done all we can.

Peggy Bruton

LUNCHEON REMINDER - DON'T FORGET

Don't miss our wonderful our annual luncheon that benefits our Education Fund.

**Saturday, November 4, 2006
Olympia Golf and Country Club
11:45 am**

Hugh Spitzer, Attorney and Associate Professor the U. of W. School of

Law will talk about *Populism and the Washington State Constitution*.

Secretary of State Sam Reed will receive our annual Lifetime Citizen Award.

Tickets are \$40--\$25 of which is a tax deductible donation to the Ed Fund. We have a few tickets left.

*Education Fund
Luncheon at Olympia
Golf & Country Club*

Please call Cherie Davidson at 866-4420 for a reservation. See you there!

Karen Verrill

ARCHIVIST NEEDED

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County needs a new archivist with computer skills.



KEEPER

This volunteer job entails collecting news about and by our League, keeping a record on the computer and filing the hard copy in boxes.

You can do it all from home.

If you are interested, please contact Mary Murphy at 943-3382, or by e-mail at Daisy14496@AOL.com.

Mary Murphy

ELECTION FORUMS

League members Dorothy Marsh, Mary Murphy, Virginia Mattson and Mary Walton Cameron spent all day Saturday, Oct. 7, at the TCTV studio taping the Candidates Forum for the general election. The Thurston County candidates were questioned by senior students in the Advanced Placement Government class of Kristina Wilkinson at Timberline High School. The students researched their subjects, wrote the questions and interviewed the candidates to be shown on Channel 22. The schedule for the remaining showings (with thanks to Debra Vinsel and staff at TCTV) is as follows:

20th, 22nd, 35th Districts legislature

Fri 10/27 1:00 PM
 Sat 10/28 6:00 AM
 Fri 11/03 1:00 AM
 Tue 11/07 8:30 AM

Thurston Co. PUD and Superior Court

Mon 10/30 7:30 AM
 Thu 11/02 10:00 PM
 Sat 11/04 12:00 AM

Thurston Co. Sheriff and Coroner

Sat 10/28 3:30 PM
 Tue 10/31 9:00 AM
 Fri 11/03 11:00 PM

Thurston Co. Commissioner and Assessor

Sat 10:28 12:00 AM
 Sun 10:29 12:00 PM
 Wed 11:01 10:30 AM
 Mon 11/06 7:00 AM

Mary Murphy

LWCWA

Action Workshop

Saturday, November 18, 2006
St. Andrews Lutheran Church
2650 – 148th Ave SE, Bellevue

Registration begins at 9:30am with coffee and rolls

PROGRAM

10:00 - 11:30
 Public Financing of Campaigns
 11:30 - 12:30
 Forecasting the 2007 Legislative Session
 12:30 - 1:30
 Lunch with the portfolio chairs
 1:30 - 3:00
 Maintaining an Independent Judiciary.
 Selecting Judges: Is There a Better Way?

Send a check for \$20 (includes a salad lunch) to LWWWA, 4710 University Way NE, #214, Seattle, WA 98105 or [download a registration form at www.lwwwa.org](http://www.lwwwa.org)

GUEST WRITERS

The VOTER is about what the League is doing, keeping our membership and the state League informed. But it's also about what we could do. From time to time, we have had people write about subjects of interest to them or in which they are heavily involved. This is an opportunity for any member of League of Women Voters to communicate with others.

Next month our guest writer will be Fran Williams. She will write about early childhood education. She runs a preschool. Yesterday she and I joined about a hundred other people at a luncheon where this important topic was presented. In the audience were firefighters, city councilmen, teachers, business owners and community workers like us. In the months ahead, if the luncheon was a success, we will hear a lot more about the advantages of little children learning about their world even before they get to the public schools.

If you have a topic you would like to write about and share, contact the VOTER editor at dawn8152@msn.com

Eve Johnson

**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

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