



# VOTER

Volume 2, Issue 9

OCTOBER 2008

### CALENDAR

- Nov. 1  
Ed Fund Luncheon  
Olympia Country Club
- Nov. 8  
Action Workshop  
Benton/Franklin County
- Nov. 15  
Action Workshop  
Bellevue
- Jan. 22  
LWVTC meeting  
6 pm  
Place Tradition's Cafe  
**Topic:**  
**Healthcare**

LWVTC,  
The Olympian  
And  
The City of Olympia  
Present:

## DEBATE WATCH 2008

Please join your friends, neighbors and community members as John McCain and Barack Obama debate U.S. Domestic Policy

**Where:** The Washington Center  
**When:** October 15<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 5:00 pm

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After the debate there will be a moderated community discussion.  
**Share your views on the debate with your friends, community members and neighbors.**

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## CANDIDATE FORUMS

LWVTC held its Candidates Forums for the general election on September 27th.

We want to thank all of the candidates who participated, the Leaguers who moder-

ated, timed the event, provided questions and food for lunch, the wonderful staff and volunteers at TCTV, and all others who supported this important endeavor in any way.

The forums will be aired repeatedly on TCTV before the election. After the taping, the TV schedule can be obtained by going to TCTV website, TCTV.net and click on "programming."

*Dorothy Marsh*

## Debate Watch 2008

The Thurston County League of Women Voters is hosting Debate Watch 08 on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

Debate Watch is a way for community members to gather together, watch one of the Presidential debates and then share their thoughts.

CBS has agreed to allow the Thurston County League of Women Voters to air the third Presidential debate, which is being held at Hofstra University in New York. The community event will be hosted and moderated by John Winn Miller of The Olympian. The Presidential Debate will be moderated by Bob Schieffer of CBS News.

This particular debate, between Barack Obama and John

McCain, will focus on domestic issues. By broadcasting the debate at the Washington Center, the League is meeting its mission of voter education by providing information needed to make an informed choice between the candidates.

Debates allow voters to differentiate between candidate's views and goals as well as gauge their response to many of our nation's pressing issues.

After the debate John Winn Miller will ask the community a series of questions designed to make the audience consider what they heard.

We will not be asking the attendees to tell us who they support. We will be asking audience members whether the debate provided information they needed on do-

mestic issues, whether the candidates gave specific information or seemed evasive, whether their proposals were realistic, etc. The League wants the Olympia community to come to Debate Watch with an open mind and a focus on learning.

In 2004, over 300 people attended the League's Debate Watch between George Bush and John Kerry. The Debate Watch committee is expecting this election will bring out the same number of people.

Doors open at the Washington Center for Performing Arts at 5:00 pm. The debate will start at 6:00 pm and last 90 minutes. Afterwards John Winn Miller will moderate a community discussion. Please join us for another exciting Debate Watch free community event!

## MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### **Allyson Brooks**

Allyson is an archaeologist with the State Department of Historical and Archaeological Preservation. She has lived and worked in Israel. She was introduced to the League by Sue Lean. She earned two masters degrees, in Archaeology and Public Administration, and a doctorate in Archaeology.

### **Nancy Murphy**

Nancy has lived in the area since 1972. She was an early Evergreen State College graduate, and works as a mental health therapist in a free clinic. She has served on other boards, an education group, Habitat for Humanity, Kokua, and Safeplace.

### **Zena Hartung**

Zena has returned from 5 years living in Italy. While there she was President of the International Archaeological Society. She is a retired nurse and also worked as the first Hospice Coordinator for St Peter's Hospital. Her careers spanned from healthcare to insurance to private business.

### **Mary Moore**

Mary is a retired librarian, and has lived in the area for more than twenty years. Sandra Romero invited her to join. She likes the intellectual challenges. She is also a Master Gardener and participates in the Saint Benedict's feeding program. She earned a degree in Political Science, and wrote a book about the operation of Library boards; she is currently researching for a second edition of the book.

## TOP FIVE TIPS FOR DEBATE WATCHERS

Think Ahead-Before the debate, ask yourself which issues are most important to you, and jot down what you'd like to learn from each of the candidates.

Are They Answering the Question? Pay attention to how the candidates answer the questions. Are they specific? Sincere? Knowledgeable?

Keep Track of Topics-Are the candidates being asked about your priority issues? Are the questions fair and pertinent? Talk it out! -Afterwards, talk about the debate with your friends & family. Did the debate sway your decision? Did you learn something new about the candidates' positions? VOTE on November 4th. It is

your best opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the issues that affect all of us! VISITVOTE411.org to prepare yourself.

\*\*Find much more on our "Debates 101" page; including fun tips for hosting debate-watching parties, all at [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org)\*\*

"Debates are the final chance for candidates to rise above the clamor of attack ads, endless punditry and analysis, and engage in thoughtful debate about the competing challenges of reforming our education, health-care, and environmental protection systems, strengthening our economy, and determining our place in the world," Wilson con-

cluded. "They are also the best opportunity for voters to see, first-hand, how each candidate responds to the tough issues facing the next tenant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

The League of Women Voters, 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. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

September 23, 2008  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Want to meet with and enjoy the company of other local League members?** Join us for a no-host lunch at Bayview on Wednesday, Oct 8 at 12:30 upstairs. Be prepared to talk about a book you're reading, a project in which you're involved, or an idea you have.

### *President's Column*

## FEELING THE IMPACT OF OUR REPUTATION

It is fall and we are already feeling the impact of our reputation. The League is well regarded and out of that comes requests for us to participate in community issues. Moreover, we attract members who have strong interests and want to work on issues that resonate for them. Thus the Board is regularly faced with this dilemma: how do we both respond to the needs of the community and to our members? How do we match the skills and abilities and strengths of individuals with the ever evolving issues? We know we can't do everything but that doesn't define what we should do and who we should ask to do it. We struggle with this issue, often taking on too many projects ourselves and, sadly, failing to inform our newer mem-

bers of the opportunities available to them. I would like to see this changed and I'm hoping to begin offering a list of our latest programs to you, our members. I expect that you'll be as excited as I am to become more involved, so let me tell you about our up coming opportunities.

For an example: we were recently asked to speak on the ballot initiatives at Jubilee, a retirement community in Lacey (Oct 17). We hope to find 3 - 4 members who'd like to study the initiatives together and become experts and be available for this program and, perhaps, others. Does this interest you?

There is also a local social studies teacher, Nate Levans, who is planning a candidate forum and mock election at his school, Black Hills High, on October 22. He wants

2 moderators to help in the process. Is that you?

There is Debate Watch at the Performing Arts Center on October 15, a community viewing of one Presidential Debate. There is also a committee forming to provide an educational forum on the problems of dioxin in Budd Inlet. Where would you put your energy?

The League has been drawn into these issues because of our reputation for action and for citizen participation. We are prepared to work together with you in learning new things.

We need your perspective, talents, energy and knowledge. Come do one project and then tell us what you think of the experience. We need your help!

*Marilyn Funk*

The "Death With Dignity" Initiative, I-1000, is a citizen-based effort to assist those who are suffering inordinately at the end of their lives. If the law is passed in the November 4<sup>th</sup> election, it will allow terminally ill patients to make a personal choice to end their lives through approved, self-administered medication.

The perceived need for this law stems from the lack of a clear end-of-life protocol applied by all medical doctors to all terminally ill patients in this state. Some doctors erroneously continue to try to cure dying patients. Though many M.D.'s carefully monitor and treat their patients' pain levels adequately, other doctors fail to order humane palliative care for those who have reached the end of their lives.



**I-1000**

"Death With Dignity" replicates an Oregon law passed more than a decade ago. During the last ten years, 341 people have utilized the prescriptions to terminate their lives. Another 204 qualified to receive the medications, but chose not to use them. Monitors of the program all agree that the Oregon law has been a success. No complaints have been filed with the Oregon Ethics Board, and the law recently withstood a U.S. Supreme Court challenge.

With the intent of carefully monitoring the option for a peaceful, dignified death, the Washington initiative lists sixteen required safeguards a patient must meet

to qualify for the program. For example, s/he must not be clinically depressed, as verified by two doctors who have known the patient for a specified length of time. In addition, the patient must be judged, also by those doctors, to be mentally competent enough to make a critical personal decision.

While people who argue against "Death With Dignity" have various personal reasons for opposing it, those who speak for the terminally ill, such as hospice social workers, state that dying patients may have no control over some of their worst symptoms. Hence, the need for a legal process which allows the terminally ill to choose to die.

I-1000 would provide this option.

*Sharon Moore*

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS CONTINUE AT TRADITIONS CAFÉ**

Starting in January, monthly meetings will continue to be held at Traditions café, at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Water Street, downtown Olympia.

We are fortunate to have this location, where Jody has agreed to provide space for the League in the hours after their usual closing.

To remind our members: 6 pm for social, 6:30 for speaker on the 4th Thursday of each month. We try to end promptly by 8 pm.

Let me encourage you also to visit the website for Traditions:  
[www.traditionsfairtrade.com](http://www.traditionsfairtrade.com).

It is an excellent site, with information about the café and the shop, the philosophy of fair trade and community, and where some of their products are made. Please remember that this meeting place is provided free as a public service and to support them we ask that you purchase something: food, drink or products.

Zena Hartung

## **NO ON I-985!**

**The League of Women Voters  
of Washington**

**Opposes I-985**

**Go to [www.noon985.com](http://www.noon985.com) for talking points  
and sample letters to the editor**

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## **YES ON I-1029!**

**The League of Women Voters  
of Washington**

**Supports I-1029**

**Go to [Yes on Initiative 1029](#) for more information**

## Friends of the Waterfront

Where do we go from here?

More than 300 people turned out September 16, including many League members, for the City Council hearing on the proposal to raise building heights on the isthmus between downtown and the west side from 35 feet to 65 and 90. Where do we go from here? More than 300 people turned out September 16, including many League members, for the City Council hearing on the proposal to raise building heights on the isthmus between downtown and the west side from 35 feet to 65 and 90 feet. The hearing was extended to the following Sunday so that those who didn't get a chance to testify on the 16th could speak on the 21st (including our president Marilyn Funk).

Judging from the crowds that turned out in opposition to the re-zone, the public does not want high-rises on the isthmus. Agreeing that more downtown housing is needed, we believe that there are many more suitable lots available. The City Council was due to vote on the proposed re-zone September 30th.

Meanwhile, another new group, the Olympia Capitol Park Foundation, submitted to City Hall an initiative asking the city to study a proposal to turn most of the isthmus into a park. The feasibility study requires Olympia to determine if the state could partner in acquiring and developing a public park, as well as the possibility of obtaining private and federal funds. If the City Council does not accept the initiative, it will go to the people for

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY ANNUAL EDUCATION FUND LUNCHEON

*When:* 11:30am, Saturday, November 1, 2008

*Where:* Olympia Country and Golf Club  
3636 Country Club Dr. NW; Olympia

*Keynote:* GMA: Thurston County in the crosshairs

*Serving:* Vegetarian Lasagna

*Price:* \$45

### **RSVP to:**

LWVTC

C/O Dawn Brooks

3521 17<sup>th</sup> Way SE; Olympia, WA 98501

or dawn8152@msn.com

**OR TO YOUR TABLE CAPTAINS**

## **ATTENTION PLEASE**

**Our regular meetings that are held at  
Tradition's Café**

**Have been postponed  
Due to the holidays**

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**Our regular schedule of the  
4th Thursday of each month  
Will resume in January**

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

For more information about the League's activities or membership call Marilyn Funk, 360-259-4424, or mail in the membership form below.

DATE:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

◇ **\$60 for my membership**

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

*For Lifetime Membership and Scholarships contact Marilyn Funk, 360-259-4424.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

***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. Anyone of voting age may become a League member.***

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THURSTON COUNTY**

1063 Capitol Way South #212  
Olympia WA 98501  
Phone (360) 352-8220