



# VOTER

Volume 5 Issue 9

OCTOBER 2011

### CALENDAR

#### Thursday, October 6

LWVUS Education Study  
Child Care Action  
Council  
3729 Griffin St. SE; Lacey  
4-8 pm

#### Saturday, October 22

Education Study  
Consensus meeting  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Tumwater Valley  
10 am—2 pm

#### Thursday, Oct. 27

LWVTC General meeting  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Tumwater Valley  
6:00 Social; Speakers 6:30  
**Topic:**  
**Voter Accessibility**

#### Saturday, Nov. 5

Education Fund Luncheon  
Olympia Country Club  
11:30 am

#### Thursday, Nov. 10

Westside  
Action Workshop  
Bellevue, WA

#### Thursday, Nov. 17

#### **PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL DATE**

LWVTC General meeting  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Tumwater Valley  
6:00 Social; Speakers 6:30  
**Topic:**  
**Privatization**

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**Mark your calendar!**

**LWVTC General meeting**

**10/27/2011**

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**Topic:**  
VOTER ACCESSIBILITY

**Speaker:**  
Steve Breaux  
Washington Public Interest Research Group

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**River's Edge Restaurant**  
**Tumwater Valley**  
**6:00 social; speakers at 6:30**

## We thought we knew the answers, but alas things have changed.

Discussion: Who can vote? Who can't? Are felons eligible to vote? What about people with senility? What do we do to ensure access to voting for individuals with a disability?

We will also discuss campaign finances and disclosure. Speakers are Steve Breaux of WashPIRG and a representative from the Secretary of State's Office.

*Kathleen Downey*

*President's Article*

# Thurston County Redistricting

Thurston County is in the process of redistricting the three units used to elect Port Commissioners, County Commissioners and PUD Commissioners ("Commissioner Districts") based on the most recent federal census.

Thurston County gained nearly 50,000 residents from 2000 to 2010, a 21% increase from the previous count in 2000, for a new total population of 252,264.

Thurston County's fastest growing city was Yelm and all South Sound cities saw rapid growth, with the exception of Olympia. The total population in the unincorporated area is 135,123 or

- Under RCW 29A.76.010, the new Commissioner Districts must be consistent with the following criteria:
- ⇒ each district shall be as nearly equal in population as possible;
  - ⇒ target for each of the three districts is 84,088);
  - ⇒ each district shall be as compact as possible;
  - ⇒ each district shall be geographically contiguous;
  - ⇒ no racial group or political party may be favored or disfavored; and,
  - ⇒ existing communities of related and mutual interest shall be pre-

served to the extent feasible.

The County must hold at least one public hearing on the redistricting plan before adopting it and any registered voter can request view of the adopted plan by the superior court within 45 days of its adoption commencing on 1-1-2012).

The plan takes effect immediately, unless the superior court finds it inconsistent with the foregoing criteria.

I encourage League members to attend the County's redistricting hearing on November 3, 2011 at 5:30 pm in courthouse #1, room 280.

*Clydia Cuykendall  
LWVTC President*

## Does the federal government have a role in education? How and why?

These days the role of the federal government in almost everything is being debated. As the foundation of a democracy, education is of critical importance to our country – so there is scarcely any topic of more significance than what the role of the federal government should be in education.

This is the national League study topic for 2011. The Thurston County League will be discussing this vital topic and contributing to the national consensus in two meetings during October: October 6 and October 22 (see the calendar for exact times and locations). Among the many questions we have been asked to answer are:

- ◇ Should the federal government set standards for education?

- ◇ Should the federal government measure accountability of schools?
- ◇ Should federal funding be available for schools? If so, should these funding awards be made competitively or on some other basis?
- ◇ How should equity in education be assured?
- ◇ If early childhood education is funded, what should that funding include?

On October 6, participants will prepare by hearing presentations of the study material and discussing general opinions.

On October 22, participants will discuss the specific consensus questions and develop re-

sponses to submit to the national League. In both cases, a light meal will be included.

Participation in the first meeting is encouraged - but not required - to engage in the consensus discussion on October 22. However, League of Women Voters rules require that participants in the consensus discussion on October 22 **MUST** have read the materials. These are available on the Thurston County League web site, <http://www.lwvthurston.org/WorkingonNow.html>.

For more information, contact Margie Reeves at 866-7507 or Cynthia Stewart at 413-1210.

*Cynthia Stewart*

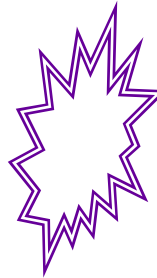
## 2011 Action Workshops Advocate for the League!

Learn How To:

- Find your legislators • Research & read a bill
  - Join legislative email lists • Download action agendas
- Engage • Empower • Motivate**

### EASTSIDE

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011  
9:30am – 3:00pm  
The Historic Ramsey House  
215 E. 9th Ave.  
Ellensburg, WA



### WESTSIDE

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011  
9:30am – 2:30pm  
St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
2650 148th Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA

Go to [www.lwwa.org](http://www.lwwa.org) for registration information

## LWVTC

### Education Fund luncheon

**When:** 11:30am, Saturday, November 5, 2011  
**Speaker:** Raj Manhas, Superintendent  
North Thurston Public School District  
**Lifetime Citizenship award:** Margie Reeves

**- Table Captains will be contacting you soon -**

### Raj Manhas

Raj Manhas has served as the Superintendent of North Thurston Public Schools since 2009. Raj and his wife Rana live in the North Thurston district and are the parents of two college-age children.

Mr. Manhas has a Master's in Engineering from the University of Washington, a successful banking career history, and was the Director of Operations for Seattle Public Utilities before being recruited by Seattle Public Schools where he was the Chief Operations Officer and Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools.

## Corporations are people too?

Universal suffrage for U.S. citizens was Ground Zero for the founders of the League of Women Voters. They were early crusaders for fair elections, recognizing that the phrase “all men are created equal” meant all people, regardless of race, religion or gender. But does the U.S. Constitution protect the rights of inanimate economic structures known as corporations to participate in elections?

According to the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Roberts, it does. On Jan. 21, 2010, with its ruling in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*, the Court ruled that corporations are persons, entitled by the U.S. Constitution to all the rights and privileges [short of actually casting a ballot?] of living, breathing human beings. This decision has drastically limited the ability of Congress to curtail the influence of corporate money on elections. Money is seen to equal speech, and if corporations are people, their rights of free speech are protected.

Many public interest groups who see this decision as an outrage against the very foundations of democracy have organized to fight it, and the League is engaged at the national and state levels. At the local level, members of the LWVTC have responded to an informal on-line survey on actions that could limit or change the court decision, and the twenty members who responded overwhelmingly supported all such actions.

One of the organizations most actively working to change the law is the group called “Move to Amend”. They have stated, “The Supreme Court is misguided in principle and is wrong on the law. In a democracy, the people rule. We Move to Amend”. So their efforts are toward an amendment to the Constitution. The League has not yet chosen to coordinate efforts with this or other groups combating the Court’s decision. The position taken by the LWVUS (according to its website) is : *To mitigate the corruption that will inevitably increase following the Court's tragic mistake, the League strongly supports legislation that will enhance disclosure, fix the public financing system for presidential candidates and establish congressional public financing.*

Members of our local League are urged to learn more about the background and ramifications of this hugely significant decision. There are study groups for League members at the State and National levels.

No doubt the 2012 elections will be reflective of the corporate influences across our nation.

Zena Hartung

### **PLEASE NOTE THIS VENUE CHANGE:**

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

LWVTC GENERAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT

**RIVER’S EDGE RESTAURANT  
TUMWATER VALLEY**

6 pm social — speakers at 6:30 pm

## Using LWVTC List-Serve as a forum - Etiquette -

**Refrain from using ALL CAPS.** Typing in all capital letters is frowned upon; it's the equivalent of screaming. It's considered an aggressive way to post and it doesn't come off as being very friendly. It also makes your message more difficult to read. Moderators often delete topics or posts that use ALL CAPS.

**Correction and Retraction.** If you realize that you made a mistake in a previous message, please add a new message acknowledging the mistake and correcting it promptly. You will find most people are understanding of mistakes if they are dealt with immediately.

**Be Respectful, Kind and Honest.** Don't issue personal attacks, use profanity, or post threatening, abusive, harassing, or otherwise offensive language or images. Keep your messages appropriate and courteous at all times. Please disagree with other opinions respectfully. If you are unsure if something is inappropriate, ask yourself these questions: Would you say it to the person if she were standing right in front of you? Would you say it to your best friend or loved one? Are you calling someone names? How would you feel and react if faced with the same message from someone else? If it would anger or upset you, you might consider re-framing your thoughts in a less objectionable tone.

**Personal Communication.** Personal messages, and especially critical comments, are more appropriate when sent directly and privately. Many forums have a private messaging feature that can be utilized for this purpose. If not, an e-mail to the individual is also an acceptable option.

**Problems with Another Poster.** If you find yourself having a problem with another poster, it is poor form to voice your concerns on the forum. It is much better to contact the moderator or webmaster privately through email or private-message.

**Be Careful When Posting Personal Information.** Be careful about including private information about yourself, such as phone numbers and street addresses. It's not only a personal risk to you, but can also make other members of a community feel uncomfortable or wary. If you must share information of that nature, it should be sent by e-mail or private message.

**Be Kind to Newcomers aka Noobs.** Writing a first topic on a forum can be daunting, so please be friendly and welcoming. Also, while trolls are a reality, and sometimes members may feel apprehensive about opening up to those they don't know, remember that everyone was a "newbie" at one time or another. It is best to extend the benefit of the doubt to guests and new members.

**Respecting the Forums.** Most Message Boards and Forums are provided as a service to the internet community. As a result, posting on forums should be viewed as a privilege, not a right. You would not consider acting hostile or inappropriately in a restaurant or other "public" location, and therefore you should not expect the right to do so on a forum.

**Respecting the Moderators and Owners.** Just as the world needs law enforcement to help keep the peace, Message Boards often employ moderators to help enforce the rules and keep things running smoothly. Most do so on a voluntary basis. While you may not agree with them, moderators are there for the general better of the community, and should be afforded respect and courtesy. If you have a problem with a moderator, you should contact the webmaster privately through email or private-message.

**Remember the Golden Rule.** It is very easy to misinterpret a person's word when you cannot see them and/or hear their tone, so please keep in mind the Golden Rule of Message Board Etiquette: It's not just what you say, it's *how* you say it.

*Article by: Michelle Lehmann*

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

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THURSTON COUNTY**

**PO Box 2203**

**Olympia, WA 98507**

**Phone (360) 352-8220**