



LWVTC VOTER

Volume 4, Issue 8

SEPTEMBER 2010

CALENDAR

- Thursday, September 23
LWVTC General mtg.
TC Courthouse;
Rm 208
6:30 pm
Topic:
Immigration
- Thursday, October 7
County Government
Consensus mtg.
7 pm
Place TBA
- Wednesday, October 13
Public Candidate
Forum
3 pm -5 pm
TESC
- Saturday, November 6
LWVWA
Action Workshop
Bellevue
- Monday, November 8
SAVE THE DATE
"Day of Jubilation"
- Saturday, November 13
LWVTC Ed Fund
Luncheon
Oly Golf & Country Club

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Mark your calendar

Lwvtc General meeting

September 23, 2010

Topic:

IMMIGRATION

Learn about the
history of immigration in the US
and the
LWVUS position on
Arizona's new immigration law

A group of 38 public interest organizations, including the LWVUS and the LWVAZ, have filed an "amicus" (friend of court) brief in support of the challenge to Arizona's new immigration law. If you want to know more about the history of immigration in the US and the LWVUS positions on this controversial issue, plan to attend this LWVTC program .

PLEASE MAKE NOTE:

LWVTC GENERAL MEETING
TIME AND PLACE
HAS CHANGED TO:

Thurston County Courthouse
Bldg. 1; upstairs in room 280
6:30 social; 7:00 program

LWVTC ADDRESS
HAS CHANGED TO:

P.O. Box 2203
Olympia, WA 98507
The phone number remains
360-352-8220

President's Article

AMERICA SPEAKS

DISCUSSING this Nation's LONG-term fiscal challenges

On June 26, 2010, 3,500 Americans came together under the leadership of a non-partisan organization called America Speaks, across 57 sites around the country, to discuss the nation's long-term fiscal challenges.

Participants worked in small groups with skilled facilitators, to learn about the issues, weigh the trade offs, and express their preferences.

Face-to-face meetings at each of the sites took place simultaneously and were linked together by satellite and web cast to create a virtual National Town Meeting.

At 19 of the sites, participants used electronic voting keypads and groupware computers to identify their shared priorities

over the course of the day-long meeting. They were joined by participants at 38 volunteer-organized Community Conversations across the country, including the one organized for Thurston County by The Olympian, our local colleges, LWVTC, and others; which was attended by 58 people.

An Interim Report on the national findings was presented to Congress on July 27, 2010. Six of the seven tables at the Thurston County meeting found ways to reduce the federal deficit in the amount of \$1.2 trillion by 2025, a target that would stabilize the national debt.

One of the values identified at my table was that at least one future generation should live without having to fight in a foreign war. Other values were equitable taxes, equal opportunity, a sustainable environment in the Pacific Northwest and

restored prosperity, especially home ownership.

My table unanimously supported a carbon tax and felt that defense spending could be cut by 15% if we ended our involvement in foreign wars.

There was more support for raising existing taxes than for reforming the tax code. However, there was no support for reducing health care spending because it was thought that systematic reform could produce more savings than cuts, because other developed countries provide better health care for less.

Our October program will address the findings of the America Speaks virtual town hall meeting in more detail, so please consider attending!

Clydia Cuykental
President

SAVE THE DATE!
ACTION WORKSHOP
Kennewick; October 23, 2010 Bellevue; November 6, 2010
SAVE THE DATE!

PUBLIC CANDIDATE FORUM AT THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Thurston County's general election candidates for the state legislature have been invited to participate in a public forum at the TESC Recital Hall on October 13, 2010, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

The audience may submit written questions to the moderator who will edit and select them. The moderator for the forum is Jim This, the

Chair of Friends of the Evergreen Library. Each candidate will have the opportunity to respond to the questions posed.

The forum is an opportunity for candidates to share their perspective on funding and policy issues facing the region, with an eye toward the higher education institutions.

Co-sponsored by Friends of the Evergreen Library, League of Women Voters of Thurston County and The Evergreen State College Office of Government Relations.

Barb Theiss
Voter Services Chair

LWVTC EDUCATION FUND LUNCHEON

Table capTains needed

November 13, 2010

The League is well recognized for its ability to make complex and controversial issues accessible to the non-expert citizen in a balanced manner, for its ability to gather citizens with diverse views and for leaders and activists. Funds raised at the Education Fund Luncheon are used to pay for LWVTC educational projects.

Please consider being a table captain or sharing the responsibility with someone else. A table captains' responsibility is to fill all or one-half of a table of 8; this includes yourself.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is dedicated to strengthening the public's knowledge of government. The Education Fund sponsors and supports nonpartisan educational projects that help people better understand major public policy issues, and become active and informed participants in their communities and in their government.

The Education Fund operates separately from the League of Women Voters, with a separate board of directors. The Education Fund has no members, conducts educational activities, and contributions to it are tax deductible.

<http://www.lwvwa.org/studies.html>

Contact Valerie Hammett: valerie.hammett@gmail.com

COUNTY GOVERNANCE STUDY CONSENSUS MEETING

On June 24, the County governance study group reported out to the membership. The report discussed a variety of structural issues that prevent Thurston County government from being efficient or as effective as it could be.

After considerable research into previous studies and analysis of a variety of governance options, the group concluded that a home rule charter is necessary – and that the Legislature should remedy the financing structure, which local freeholders could not affect.

The discussion on June 24 focused on observations that charter proposals have failed in previous efforts over the last 30 years and the desire to quantify potential cost savings that could result from a charter. It was suggested that a crisis or scandal would be needed to get a charter passed. Also, public education will be needed to get sufficient awareness to approve a home rule charter.

On October 7, LWV members will meet to discuss consensus questions based on the study. The issues presented in this study have

huge importance for the residents of Thurston County. You are encouraged to attend this Consensus Meeting on October 7 and contribute your own views.

To prepare for this discussion, review the full study or excerpts from it, and the consensus questions, on-line at www.lwvthurston.org (on the "What We're Working On" page).

**Thursday, October 7, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

Location to be Announced

Cynthia Stewart

LWVTC PLANNING RETREAT

retreat highlights

Over a dozen dedicated League members spent the better part of Saturday, August 21, at a planning retreat hosted by President Clydia Cuykendall. Some of the retreat highlights included:

- Programs for 2010-2011. Please see the calendar.
- Monthly meeting time and venue have changed to 6:30 pm at the Thurston County Courthouse.
- Consensus Meeting for the County Governance Study will be held on October 7.
- Thurston County League volunteers are needed for consensus projects. See the related article on page 3.
- The Annual League Education Fund Luncheon Fundraiser will be November 13. To support this and serve as a table captain, contact Valerie Hammett, valerie.hammett@gmail.com.
- This year's State League goals are development of an on-line data base, increasing membership, organizing regional workshops, and blogging.
- The Day of Jubilation, honoring the 90th and 100th anniversaries of the federal and state, respectively, women's right to vote will be celebrated on November 7 and 8.
- The 2006 Port of Olympia lawsuit for non-disclosure of documents about the Weyerhaeuser Company's log facility on Port property is in the penalty phase.

Cynthia Stewart

consensus project volunteers needed

Conservation Districts: How are the Conservation Districts funded; how are the Directors elected; what are they achieving and should there be changes? This project was initiated by the Tacoma-Pierce County League and selected by the State League for a statewide study and potential consensus position. The Thurston County contribution to this effort will need to be completed by September 10. Contact Cynthia Stewart, stewdahl@comcast.net, if you would like to support this effort.

Privatization of Government Functions: Begun by the Seattle League in 2009, this topic was selected by the LWVUS Board as a national study topic. Volunteers will be provided with web sites giving background on this topic and may apply to be considered for the formal study committee. For more information, contact Eve Johnson, johnsonel@peoplepc.com.

Role of the Federal Government in Education: This two-year study is just beginning and will include analysis of the federal role in education policy, funding, standards, and intergovernmental relationships affecting education. Scoping has not yet been completed and will depend somewhat on the available resources. LWVTC members, Nancy Scott and Kathy Morris, will be following this issue.

Cynthia Stewart

2010-2011 GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM CALENDAR

2010

SEPTEMBER 23—Immigration

OCTOBER 28—America Speaks: What 3500 citizens said about the federal budget

NOVEMBER—No general meeting - Holiday

DECEMBER—No general meeting - Holiday

2011

JANUARY 27—Thurston County General Fund-4-yr. outlook

FEBRUARY 10—Community Supported Agriculture

MARCH 24—State Budget Legislative Report

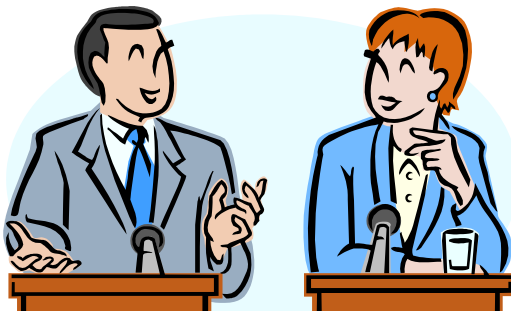
APRIL 28—LOTT: What's new (Please note this program will be held at the LOTT offices)

MAY 26—Annual meeting (Place TBA)

2010 League/TCTV Political Forums

As part of the League's services to inform voters, we tape political forums with TCTV for Thurston County candidates that are up for election.

TCTV broadcasts the forums several times prior to the election.



TCTV has set the dates for our 2010 forums: July 10 for primary election candidates and Septem-

ber 11 for general election candidates.

The League develops the questions to be asked of the candidates, moderates and times the forums.

There are many Thurston County positions open for 2010 elec-

tion, including: State Legislators from the 2nd, 20th, 22nd and 35th districts; one County Commis-

sioner and the County offices of Auditor, Assessor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Treasurer, Sheriff, Coroner; and all District Judges.

We will have a very full and interesting day of forums for these positions and are looking for additional volunteers to be moderators and timers. Please contact Barb Theiss, at 360-357-8934 or jetteh-iss@aol.com to volunteer or for further information.

*Barb Theiss
Voter Services Chair*

FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION

www.votingforjudges.org

CO-SPONSORED BY THE LWVWA

Women's equality Day



August 26 marked the 90th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted U.S. women the right to vote.

LWVTC celebrated Women's Equality Day, remembering this historic achievement, by presenting a free screening of the suffrage movie "Iron Jawed Angels," to the community.

This remarkable story was about a group of passionate and dynamic young women, led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and her friend Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) who put their lives on the line to fight for American women's right to vote.

The movie was held at the historic Capital Theater. A short discussion with WA State Senator Karen Fraser, WA State Supreme Court Justice Gerry Alexander, former National Organization for Women Regional Director Linda Malanchuck-Finnan, and Women's History Consortium Coordinator Shanna Stevenson, followed the movie. An estimated 300 people attended.

A banner, commemorating this historical day, also hung over Capitol Blvd. all week.

*Dawn Brooks Gibbs
PR Chair*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY

MeMbership Appl icAtion

For more information about the League's activities or membership call 352-8220, 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**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ FAX NUMBER _____

LWVTC Newsletter:

The VOTER will be distributed by e-mail.

Check this box to specifically request a paper copy by regular 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

P.O. Box 2203

Olympia WA 98507

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