



VOTER

Volume 1, Issue 5

MARCH 2007

CALENDAR

March 15

Board Meeting
2221 Water Street
5:30 pm

March 21

Membership meeting
Lacey Library
GMA Review/Update
5:30

April 26

Early Learning Forum
219 "B" Street Tumwater
6:30 pm

June 21-24

LWV State Convention at Heathman Lodge

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CLEAN ELECTIONS IN WASHINGTON

As political campaigns begin gearing up for the next election, does the specter of massive amounts of special interest money being poured into these campaigns. We all remember last year's judicial races. Washington Clean Elections believes that the only solution to this stream of money in our political process is to join Maine, Arizona, Massachusetts and Vermont in establishing a system of publicly funded elections.

candidate for office is required to get signatures and a \$5 donation from a required number of voters in his district. Once the candidate qualifies, he receives public funding for his campaign. In return, he must refuse contributions from all other sources. The cost to implement this system would be \$3.64, per resident, per year. Candidates will no longer have to spend time raising the money. Freedom from raising money allows the candidate the freedom to campaign on ideas without pressure from contributors. The public interest is further served because there will be more of a diversity of candidates coming forward.

The Washington State Legislature is at this moment considering several bills to allow public funding of judicial, statewide offices and local office elections. The Washington Clean Elections website at www.washclean.org will provide you with information about this legislation and suggest ways you can help in this important effort.

Carolyn St. Claire

Here's how this voluntary system works: A

LOBBY DAY EXHIBIT

The Thurston County League can be very proud of its contributions to the extraordinarily successful (and very first) Lobby Day held at the state capitol. With your help, it was possible

to bring some exciting moments in the history of woman suffrage in Washington to this appreciative audience. Many thanks for the exhibit support from the league education fund. Your generosity

made it possible to prepare exhibition materials and purchase fabric, frames and other supplies to make an attractive presentation.

Sue Lean

Childcare and Early Learning; Moving Forward

Come hear the latest legislation news! The session would have been completed and initiatives passed. We are all looking for great changes!

Thursday, April 26th. 6:00 pm light refreshments provided by A Child's Place Preschool, program begins at 6:30. A panel of legislators and early childhood education specialists will discuss what has been happening in the most current legislative session, what that means and what is next.

Olympia Friends Meeting House – also the home of A Child's Place Preschool
219 "B" Street (corner of B Street and 2nd Ave.) Tumwater, WA

For more information contact: Fran Williams, Margie Reeves or Pat

Dickason. Some of the issues we are starting to address this legislative session:

- ⇒ Kindergarten teachers reported that over 50% of Washington State children are not ready for school.
- ⇒ Development happens in the brain for a young child that cannot be fully made up at any age.
- ⇒ Caregivers, families, teachers need easy access to information and training on the education of the young child from birth.
- ⇒ Early Childhood Professionals need economic career wage ladders in par with early elementary teachers to stay in the field.
- ⇒ The time and money spent "catching these children up" is enormous

- ⇒ Many children who start out unprepared leave school unprepared for the work force and/or college
- ⇒ Early Childhood development is an economic investment which provides high public return.
- ⇒ Early Childhood care is not babysitting.
- ⇒ Parents cannot shoulder all the cost of Early Childhood education.
- ⇒ Special Education preschools within the elementary school system need support.

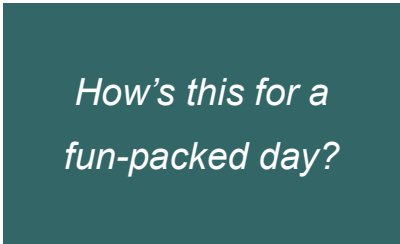
Fran Williams

LWVWA'S ANNUAL GOOD IN GOVERNMENT BRUNCH

How's this for a fun-packed day? Celebrate Earth Day by honoring William Ruckelshaus and his dedication to the environment; meet and greet Leaguers from around the state; enjoy a delicious brunch along with gorgeous views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains; visit the brand new Olympic Sculp-

ture Park, and Pike Place Market – both within a few blocks of our brunch site. All of this for \$50 which will help support the important work of the League of Women Voters of Washington!
LWVWA's annual Good In Government Brunch is set for Sun-

day, April 22, 11:00 A.M. at the Bell Harbor Conference Center in Seattle. Look for a personal invitation with details and directions soon, send in your reservation, and join in the fun!



Eve Johnson

PROGRAM PROPOSALS

The 2007 Washington State convention is a few months away. Recommendations by the State Board for topics to study, with a vote by the delegates, are done at the State Convention. The issue of full funding to provide health care for everyone in the State was one of two programs the LWVTC Board sent on to the state Board for consideration. ("SUPPORT—[HB 1886](#) and [SB 5756](#)—Creating the

Washington Health Security Trust,") The other topic recommended by LWVTC is an update of Early Childhood education. "The Seattle LWV produced a September 2005 Report, HIGH PRIORITY: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN: BIRTH TO FIVE." Legislative actions and changes in the scope of the topic

call for an updating/revision of this position. The Seattle LWV report could easily be updated to reflect these recent changes, and then adopted." Every member of the League is welcome to participate in the Convention. LWVTC will have about twelve voting delegates. If you would like to be part of this event, contact Marylyn Funk or Karen Verrill and become a delegate.

Eve Johnson

LWV THURSTON TO OPPOSE GRIFFIN "COMMUNITY CENTER"

Our Board has decided to join with the Griffin Neighborhood Association to oppose the proposal to build a Community Center/Convention Hall near the entrance to the Griffin Peninsula on Steamboat Island Rd.

It would be a 3 story building with a footprint larger than all the existing commercial buildings combined. And, it is outside the area zoned commercial and in a rural zone of one home per acre.

Our reasons to oppose include:

1. This area is totally dependent upon ground water and septic systems. The potential negative impact of such a development is enormous both in terms of water quantity and water quality.
2. The non-point pollution developed by the large impervious surfaces required for such a facility is very risky.
3. The infrastructure to support such a facility will place an undue financial burden upon our citizens in terms of roads, drainage, etc. The building is designed to seat 1800 people with parking for 150 cars. There are no traffic lights and the roads are narrow, etc.
4. If this facility is built other services will be required...such as restaurants---is this truly the best way to preserve the rural quality of the area?
5. There is no evidence that such a facility is needed or wanted by the citizens in the area.

Karen Verrill

TREASURE AND BAKE SALE

The sale will be held on Saturday July 28th and Sunday, July 29th. Help is also needed on Friday from 3:00 until done. There is a lot of sorting through, setting up and pricing to do. Keep those donations coming! I am so happy to hear of people stashing items away for our sale. So far mostly small items; though they do add up! When we get nearer to the date large donations usually come in.

The items that have sold the best, in the past, were quality household items, clothes, books, videos, gift items, plants, glassware, jewelry, furniture and collectibles.

Let's have fun as we raise money for our favorite organization – The League of Woman Voters Thurston County. Call Fran Williams, 357-3334 or email fran-wil@comast.net if you have any questions.

Fran Williams



HELP SUPPORT THE LEADERS OF TOMMOROW

Volunteer families are needed to host students during the 60th YMCA Youth Legislature. This year's session is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 2nd** through **Saturday, May 5th, 2007**. At this time over 400 young adults from around the state come together to experience a few days in the life of those who work in and around the State Capitol. In order to ensure that all students, regardless of their financial situation, are able to participate in the Youth Legislature Program, YMCA Youth & Government offers opportunities for local families to host students during their stay in Olympia. This eliminates the cost of expensive hotel stays and offers a unique experience for volunteers and participants alike.

Host families are asked to provide the following support:

- Sleeping accommodations for Wednesday, May 2, through Friday, May 4.
- (If necessary and requested, students can bring sleeping bags.)
- Greet students at your home on Wednesday, May 2 between 9:30 at 11p.m.
- Breakfast for students on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings prior to 8:00 a.m.
- Share dinner with your students on Friday, May 4, between 4:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Students' advisors will provide transportation to and from all events as well as all meals not specified above.

For more information please contact the YMCA Youth & Government program at: 360-357-3475 or youthandgovpdir@qwest.net

This legislation would amend the Growth Management Act, the Forest Practices Act, and other land use laws concerning annexations and scenic areas. It would also establish tax provisions and lease authority for a NASCAR speedway, and address other economic issues relating to building a public speedway. These are companion bills.

League Positions: Our opposition to this legislation is based on these positions:

§ Economic Diversification: "The quality of the environment should be a prime consideration when

**OPPOSE-SB 6040 / HB 2062-
Creating a Public Speedway
Authority**

making economic decisions. The environment should not be permitted to degrade."

§ Land Use: Uniqueness or scarcity... as well as the irreversibility of the decisions should be considered in resolving conflicts in each case. [Regional authorities] All governments and groups involved must cooperate to resolve conflicts and eliminate inconsistent policies . wasted resources and irrevocable decisions on a patchwork basis.

Status: Public hearing held February 20 in Senate policy committee on SB 6040. Work session held same day in House Finance Committee on House bill.

Action: Contact your representative on [House Finance Committee](#) or committee chair Ross Hunter and urge a **no** vote on HB 2062. Also, contact your senator on [Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development](#) or committee chair Marilyn Rasmussen and urge a **no** vote on SB6040.

Contact:
Ann Agaard, 425-488-8418,
agaarda@nwlinc.com

"My view is that public funds should be spent solely for public purposes."

My position is based on financial considerations - whether the proposed public-private partnership "pencils out" as a good deal for the State. In the case of NASCAR and previous public-private partnerships, I don't think the numbers work in favor of the general public. I certainly agree that there may be peripheral benefits derived from projects such as these, but I think those benefits are too speculative to reliably use as a basis for a decision - and very often these calculations tend to ignore the speculative negatives. We should be focusing our tax dollars toward education, health care and transportation.

At this point, the public reaction is running about 12 to 1 in favor of my position. Whether a person agrees or disagrees with me, the decision of whether or not to build projects such as these rests with the legislature and the local government wherever the facility will be located.

As your State Treasurer, I am always concerned about how we pay for projects and what effect it has on the State's financial condition.
Murph'



**JUNE 21-24, 2007
LWVWA STATE CONVENTION
HEATHMAN LODGE
VANCOUVER, WA**



President's Column

PORT/COURT UPDATE

Open Government process is becoming an ever-greater issue in this State.

Since LWVTC asked for information leading up to the decision to work with Weyerhaeuser on a logging yard on Port of Olympia property, other questions about government activity have been in the news.

- ◆ In King County, a case asking for documents relating to the cost of a sports facility was remanded to a lower court for a second time.
- ◆ Citizens in Snohomish County asked for information on the operations of their school Board.
- ◆ The Olympian has asked Thurston County for information on the cost of the harassment case brought against the prosecutor's office.
- ◆ LWVTC's petition for documents from the Port of Olympia is at the Supreme Court, awaiting an opportunity to be heard. On February 3, another letter was

sent asking for the documents regarding the Weyerhaeuser contract since the original request a year ago. The response from the Port was:

"Please know that the Port is committed to open access to its public records. Given the breadth of your request, and to ensure our records search, disclosure and any explanation for non-disclosure of exempt documents is as thorough as possible, it will require time to respond to your request. At the time of March 7, 2007, I will notify you if all records have been located and arrange for a time for you to inspect the documents at the Port office."

Meanwhile, State Senate Bill 5435 was requested by Republican Attorney Gen. Rob McKenna and sponsored by Democratic Sen. Claudia Kauffman of Kent. It creates a public records exemption accountability committee that would have meetings to review the more than 300 records exemptions in state law. There is also lobbying effort being done to limit the time and scope of this review.

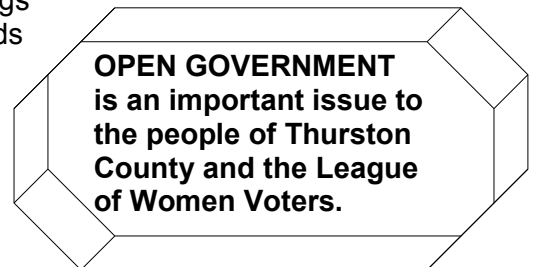
Washington State Statute

RCW 42.30.010 the says:

The legislature finds and declares that all public commissions, boards, councils, committees, subcommittees, departments, divisions, offices, and all other public agencies of this state and subdivisions thereof exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of this chapter that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.

The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.

Eve Johnson



Last month we announced that League members could donate materials about women's activities in Washington State to the State League Education Fund. Our League was the first to make such a contribution to this **Education Collection**. We donated all records of the activities of LWV Thurston County from it's founding in 1964 through the year 2000.



Minutes of meetings, membership lists, newsletters, studies, programs from forums and other public meetings, photos and newspaper articles are included. These materials were organized by a committee of our members led by Marie Cameron who served as our president 1969-1971.

We understand that the LWVWA League Education Fund will donate these items to, and sign a Deed of Gift prepared by the Washington State Archives, where they will be owned, inventoried, stored and made available for public use. Credit for any media use will be given to League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund **Education Collection**, Washington State Archives.

Karen Verrill

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.

◇ Please send my copy of the VOTER by postal mail to the above noted address.

◇ Please send my copy of the VOTER to _____

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.

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