



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

June 2010
VOLUME LXVI/ NO 5

VOTER Team: Pam Behring, Mary Hughes,
Joyce Jones, Kim Kreber,
Ann Murphy, Alice Stolz

"The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy."

League Supports ...

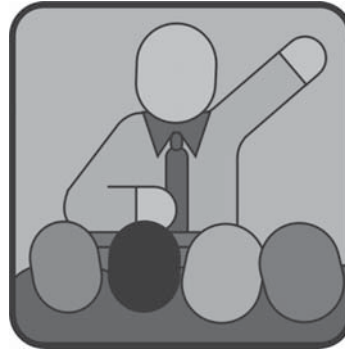
The Spokane League --

At its June meeting, the LWVSA Board voted to endorse the Police Ombudsman ordinance that is currently before Spokane City Council. The recrafted ordinance is a step forward and will give the Police Ombudsman more investigation and will require a closing report on each incident that will include the PO's conclusions and recommendations. City Council is due to vote on the ordinance on June 21.

In April, the Board endorsed the Children's Investment Fund Initiative (#2010-01). The organizing group did not meet its first deadline to gather signatures to put this initiative on the ballot. In order to be on the November ballot, all signed petitions must be turned in to Spokane Alliance (1526 E. 11th) by June 18. If you have petitions, please get them turned in. We'll know more about the campaign once the measure is on the ballot. Learn more at: www.ourchildrenfirstspokane.com

LWVWA supports Init-1098 and is involved in gathering signatures. You can go to the campaign website: yeson1098.com to get more info and talking points.

If you would like to help gather signatures from family, friends and neighbors, please contact board member Jet Tilley – 747-4456. She has petitions at her office at the Unitarian Church and petitions with signatures can be turned into Jet at the same place by June 24 so that they can be sent to campaign headquarters to be turned into the Attorney General in Olympia on July 2.



Primary Forum is July 13

The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area will present its Primary Election Candidates Forum to be held at the City of Spokane Council Chambers (W. 808 Spokane Falls Blvd) on Tuesday, July 13, 2010. The public is invited, however, the primary purpose is to tape the forum for several later broadcasts on CityCable 5 prior to the Primary Election (August 17). 36 candidates will present themselves in a variety of offices – US Congress, State Legislature, and County offices. Taping will follow the schedule:
5:00 p.m. – US Representative, 5th District
5:30 p.m. – 3rd and 6th Washington state Legislative District
7:00 p.m. – Spokane Count: District #3 Commissioner, Assessor, Prosecuting Attorney, District Judge Position #6, and Court of Appeals

Side bar: League Member Mike Dixon sat in on the board discussion about I-1098. After the meeting he sent me the following: "after reading the full wording of "1098", my concerns are covered in the wording: There is no need for the average state citizen to file a tax return unless their US income shows more than the minimum, and the taxable limits cannot be changed without a vote by the Legislature "and" the state voters. The cancellation of the B & O taxes for 80% of the small businesses and the 20% reduction in property taxes would be benefits for all of us in the middle class."

Just emphasizes the importance of reading the original document! Thanks Mike.

Ann Murphy

President's Perspective...

As I write this I am also preparing and packing for a long overdue "total" vacation – am headed to Hawaii for relaxation and reflective time on the beach! Hope to enjoy some underwater time as well (snorkel and SCUBA). I head off realizing that we actually have had a rather busy year, have elected new members to the board who are ready to go with a variety of tasks, and have plans for activities starting in July – there really is no rest for Leaguers. I am really going to work at resisting checking email too often – so Vice President Pam Behring will be in charge during my absence.

As June winds down, there are signatures to gather for state and local initiatives (see page 1), testimony to provide on the City of Spokane Police Ombudsman ordinance, and a primary candidates forum to finalize (see page 1 – and hope to see you there!). We are also asking your help to sponsor an exciting documentary on women's suffrage in the Northwest (see below and the attached letter). Please support as you are able. Your Board will meet in July to plan out the next League year based on direction from our Annual meeting and information from state Council and National Convention. So it is wonderful to know that others will carry on... and I look forward returning refreshed, and ready to go!

Ann Murphy

Washington Public Campaigns held a "Meet and Greet" event for organizations dedicated to environmental issues on May 27 at Northern Lights Brewery with about 50 people attending. The object was to discuss how public financing of campaigns could make a difference in their legislative issues. Pam Behring spoke on behalf of the LWVSA and the State Director, Craig Salins was the featured speaker. Senator Maria Cantwell will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Awards Banquet, June 19th in Seattle. Ginger Kelsh plans to attend along with 7 others from the Spokane Chapter.

Ginger Kelsh

KSPS -- Please give special consideration to the attached appeal letter for a great project for the Spokane League to support. Attendees at Annual Meeting had the pleasure of Mary DeCesare describe the project – "A Land for Women."

Splinters From the Board 6/10/10

Treasurer's Report – \$6,190

Membership: 85 current members

At the **May 20 Annual Meeting**, members elected:

- Mary Hughes, Treasurer; Ginger Kelsh, Pete Duffy, and Molly Hannan as 2-year Directors; and Jet Tilley as 1-year Director to fill an unexpired term. Elected to Nominating Committee – Alice Stolz, Chair, and Ann Souza, member. The position of Secretary is vacant.
- Approved a \$5 increase in dues to \$70 to make up for the past and current increase in State and National PMPs

At the **June 10 Board Meeting**, the board

- Approved KSPS Special Project letter (attached with this VOTER)
- Approved support of the Police Ombudsman ordinance
- Acknowledged documentation of the Letter to the Spokesman Review Editor regarding the DISCLOSE Act (Editorial was 6/2; letter published 6/12)
- Set July 15 as the Board Retreat Date

Have you got the "Write" Stuff?

Needed: Board Secretary

Duties: Attend board meetings and take minutes

Privileges: To participate in board discussions and decisions

Contact: Alice Stolz, Nominating Committee Chair

Alice Stolz

The Spokane Office of the Police Ombuds-

man has launched a new web site to provide citizens with information and easy access to ombudsman services. The web site is found at: SpokaneOmbudsman.org.

The site includes:

- Forms for citizen use.
- The ombudsman's reports.
- Recommendations for changes at the Spokane Police Department.
- Contact information, frequently asked questions, and background information on the office and the ombudsman.