



# Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy  
President

October 2009  
VOLUME LXV/ NO 7

VOTER Team: Pam Behring, Mary Hughes,  
Joyce Jones, 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."*

## General Election Forums Available on CityCable 5 in October

The forums, which are organized and moderated by LWVSA, are part of an ongoing service offered by the City and the League to provide area voters with current information on candidates and ballot issues.

The first forum, titled the "Spokane Regional Election Forum," included candidates for Spokane Valley City Council, Spokane Public Schools board positions, City of Spokane Municipal Court judge, and Washington State Representative from Legislative District 9, along with information on statewide ballot issues—Initiative 1033 and Referendum 71. Replay times:

- Thursday, Oct. 1, at 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 3, at 9 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 4, at 1 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 12, at 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 24, at 12:30 p.m.

A second forum, titled "Spokane City Election Forum," will feature candidates for Spokane City Council as well as City of Spokane Propositions 1, 2, 3, and 4. This forum will be taped on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 5:30 p.m. Replay times:

- Saturday, Oct. 10, at 9 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, 12:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 17, at 12:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2:30 p.m.

The forums also will be available on-line about a week after each taping date in the CityCable 5 program archives at [www.spokanecity.org/services/citycable5/streamingmedia/](http://www.spokanecity.org/services/citycable5/streamingmedia/). Click on "Other Video Programs" and select the forums.

## October Unit Meetings on Ballot Issues

League unit meetings will gather for discussions on state and local ballot issues in various meetings in October (see box below). There are six different issues. Ballot titles are on page 3. You can get more information on line: [www.spokane-county.org/elections](http://www.spokane-county.org/elections) - where there is a Voter's Pamphlet. Bring newspaper clippings that you may have on any of the issues.

### Washington State Ballot Issues –

- Initiative 1033 - concerns state, county and city revenue.
- Referendum 71 - concerns rights and responsibilities of state-registered domestic partners

### Local Ballot Issues for City of Spokane

- Proposition 1 - Fire Bond
- Proposition 2 & 3 - Advisory vote regarding funding for a Community Bill of Rights
- Proposition 4 - Proposed Amendment to City Charter adding a Bill of Rights

## October Unit Meeting Schedule...

### October 8, Thursday

Unit 5 – 9:30 am - LWV Office, 2404 N. Howard

Contact: **Martha Preecs** (325-4725)

Unit 6 - 4 p.m. - Deer Park Library, 208 S. Forest, DP

Please -- Contact: **Chris Clark** (276-2006)

### October 12, Monday

Unit 7/9 – 12:30 pm - 221 E. Rockwood Blvd.

Contact: **Alice Stolz** (455-8944)

### October 13, Tuesday

Unit 4 - 5:30 pm - Europa, 125 S. Wall (no-host dinner)

Contact: **Ann Murphy** (838-4549 or 385-8910)

Remember, any member and visitors are welcome to attend any Unit meeting. *See you there!*

## President's Perspective...

Election season -- and especially forum time is an exciting time -- meeting candidates and learning more about them and about the issues -- all that will be on our General Election Ballot.

I have had the task -- and pleasure (although it does seem most stressful at times) -- to coordinate the Election Forums the the past (I can't even count 'em!) years. The partnership that League has created with CityCable 5 has been an extremely positive one that brings benefit to the election process.

The collaborative efforts of so many League members on this Forum Team help make it happen. Critical to process is gathering material and writing questions to pose to the candidates and issues speakers. Our primary question writer over the years has been **Alice Stolz**. This year she received great input from a variety of members to expand the ideas. Providing additional insights and questions were: **Jennie Willardson** for the City of Spokane Valley issues; **Kathy Kalich** for school board and 9th legislative district; **Diane Knutson** and **Joyce Jones**.

I prepare the script and organization of the flow of the event and moderated the September 29 forum. **Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter** moderates on October 6.

We have had many great timers over the years. In this last forum, **Ginger Kelsh** and **Pam Behring** actually came up with a new timing system that has gotten rid of that annoying beep-beep that we had with each reset of the clock.

Providing other support at the events have been **Suzi Hokonson** with the critical membership promotion; **Mary Hughes** for greeting and signing in, **Diane Knutson** and **Pam Behring** for managing the event flow, and those of you who have taken the time to come to the tapings to help provide an audience.

Thank you to all of you... together we make it happen!

*Ann Murphy*

### Dues are due!

With this VOTER is a dues slip that you can include with your regular bill payments and send your dues in for the next League year.

### Splinters From the Board 9/24/09

**Treasurer's Report** -- \$ \$3164.77 - General Fund. LWVUS Education Fund - \$157. LWVWA Education Fund - \$1080.

**Membership:** 91 current members with 14 members paid for the 2009-2010 year.

- Made final arrangements for Forums on Sept 29 and Oct 6
- Member Handbooks will be ready for October Unit meetings. The rest will be mailed to members not at the Unit meetings. Sorry electronic copy not available at this time. New directories will be distributed in February.
- Ombudsman: **Michael Dixon** agreed to monitor the police department ombudsman.
- Public Relations: **Loni Peters** is updating media lists and getting releases out.
- Washington Public Campsigns: **Ginger Kelsh** reported that the WPC has said that there is a good chance that the legislation to allow public financing of the State Supreme Court judicial election campaigns could pass in the 2010 legislative session.
- Finalized League sponsored Judicial Public Meeting - March 24 at the Gonzaga University Law School. The committee (**Suzi Hokonson**, **Diane Knutson** and **Loni Peters**) are working on the topic, title and purpose.
- Reviewed a copy of our Spokane LWV's website homepage.
- From State -- next Voter in mail end of Sept; on-line Voter in December. LWVWA Council will be in Bellingham May 22-23, 2010. State LWV's Action Workshop will be Saturday, November 7th in the Tri-Cities. \$25 registration. Registration form is on line at: [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org) or call Ann - 838-4549. Let's take a car load!

**Jennie Willardson** reports that Unit 3 will not be meeting on a regular basis this year. She regrets that the stalwarts have not been able to "grow" the unit.

*The LWV VOTER is published monthly except in the summer by the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area, 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane WA 99205. Members of the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area subscribe through their annual dues. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen, 18 or older, may join the League of Women Voters.*

# Ballot Issues on your November Ballot

## City of Spokane

### **Proposition 1 - General Obligation Fire Bonds - \$33,000,000 (Fire Department Improvements)**

*The Mayor recommended and the Spokane City Council approved the ordinance concerning a proposition to finance Fire Department improvements.*

This proposition would authorize the City to acquire new and improved existing firefighting and lifesaving apparatus, vehicles and equipment, construct new and renovated existing fire stations and facilities, modernize Fire Department technology and data/communication systems and equipment, and acquire land for future fire stations and facilities.

- Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

### **Proposition 2 & 3 - Advisory votes regarding funding for a Community Bill of Rights.**

*The Spokane City Council approved two resolutions authorizing ballot propositions for an advisory vote regarding the identification of funding sources to implement the provisions of the Envision Spokane Community Bill of Rights proposition, if approved by the voters, either by pursuing additional funding sources or by reallocating funding in existing General Fund programs*

- Proposition 2 - Should the Spokane City Council pursue additional funding sources, as needed, in order to fund the implementation of the provisions of the Envision Spokane Community Bill of Rights ballot proposition, if the proposition is approved by the voters?
- Proposition 3 - Should the Spokane City Council reduce funding in existing General Fund programs, as needed, to reallocate funding in order to fund the implementation of the provisions of the Envision Spokane Community Bill of Rights ballot proposition, if the proposition is approved by the voters?

### **Proposition 4 - Community Bill of Rights**

*Following a successful signature gathering effort, petitions to place the Community Bill of Rights were submitted and the Spokane City Council approved placing the measure on the ballot.*

*This proposition will amend the City Charter, as set forth in Initiative No. 2009-2, to add a Community Bill of Rights which includes provisions related to a locally-based economy, affordable preventive healthcare, affordable housing, affordable and renewable energy,*

*protection of the natural environment, the right of neighborhood residents to decide certain land use issues, prevailing wages and apprenticeships for works on certain construction projects, and employer neutrality and constitutional rights in the workplace.*

- Shall the City Charter be amended to add a Community Bill of Rights which seeks to build a healthy, sustainable, and democratic Spokane by securing rights to a locally-based economy affordable and renewable energy, affordable preventive healthcare, affordable housing, a healthy environment, and constitutional rights in the workplace, as well as to apprenticeship training and a prevailing wage on certain construction projects; and by securing the right to determine the future of neighborhoods?

## Washington State

### **Initiative Measure No. 1033 concerns state, county and city revenue.**

This measure would limit growth of certain state, county and city revenue to annual inflation and population growth, not including voter-approved revenue increases. Revenue collected above the limit would reduce property tax levies.

### **Referendum 71 - concerning state-registered domestic partners.**

The 2009 legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5688 concerning rights and responsibilities of state-registered domestic partners. Washington voters gathered enough petition signatures to put this bill on the November ballot. *Voters are being asked to either approve the legislation as passed, or to reject the legislation.*

A vote to approve Referendum 71 would enact the previously passed legislation, E2SSB 5688 that would expand the rights, responsibilities, and obligations accorded state-registered same-sex and senior domestic partners to be equivalent to those of married spouses, except that a domestic partnership is not a marriage. *A vote to reject Referendum 71 would overturn the previously described rights.*

***For complete text, fiscal impacts and pro and con statements of state issues, go to the on-line voters pamphlet at [www.spokanecounty.org/elections](http://www.spokanecounty.org/elections).***

**LWV/Spokane Area**

President: **Ann Murphy**  
 Vice President: **Pam Behring**  
 Secretary: **Ginger Kelsh**  
 Treasurer: **Mary Hughes**  
 Directors: **Suzi Hokonson**  
               **Joyce Jones**  
               **Kathy Kalich**  
               **Diane Knutson**  
               **Lei Lani Peters**  
 Nominating Committee:  
               **Alice Stolz, Chair**  
               **Martha Pomerleau**

LWVWA has taken the following positions:  
 Initiative 1033 -- against  
 Referendum 71 -- support  
 For talking points -- come to your Unit Meeting or go on-line: [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)

*Calendar*

**October**

- 6 General Election Forum II (see page 1)
- 8, 12, 13 Unit Meetings – Ballot Issues
- 15 LWVSA Board Meeting (return to regular date)

**November**

- 3 Election Day
- 7 LWVWA Action Workshop – TriCities - Cost is \$25
- 9, 10, 12 Unit Meetings - GMA Issue - Streetscapes
- 19 LWVSA Board Meeting
- 26 Thanksgiving

**December**

- 10 Elected Officials Luncheon, Masonic Temple - sponsored by Avista
- 10 LWVSA Board Meeting (right after luncheon)
- 25 Christmas

**September General Meeting**

30 members and guests attended the September General Meeting.



City of Spokane Mayor Mary Verner spoke about the City of Spokane 2010 budget. The second hour featured a panel on the proposed charter amendment for a Community Bill of Rights. The pro speaker was Kai Huschke and the con was represented by Kate McCaslin.

League members Michael Dixon and Mary Hughes discuss an issue as the League year got started in September.

*Photos by Kent Holbrook*

