



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

September 2010
VOLUME LXVI/ NO 6

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."

Forums for General Election Scheduled for Late September

The Spokane League will host its General Election Forums on two evenings in late September. Forums on both nights will be in Spokane City Council Chambers and will be taped by CityCable 5 for later broadcast. The schedule for the Forums:

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010:

- **Candidate Forum I**, Congressional (5th District) and Legislative races (Dist 3, Representatives, Positions 1 & 2; Dist 6 Senator and Representative Position 2) – **5:00 p.m.**
- **Candidate Forum II**, Spokane County offices (County Commissioner, Dist 3; Assessor, Auditor, Prosecuting Attorney, Treasurer and District Court Judge, Position 6) – **6:30 p.m.**

Thursday Sept. 30, 2010

- **Forum III – Ballot Issues** – this will include both state and local issues, and there are ten of them. (see separate article for LWVSA's plan to share ballot information.

Plan to attend the forums in person. It is an opportunity to meet the candidates and see the action first hand!

A Voter Service Committee (**Pam Behring, Pete Duffy, Jet Tilley, Ann Murphy**) are currently working to format these forums.

Thank you to those that helped to make the Primary Forums a success: **Molly Hannan, Pete Duffy, Alice Stolz, Ginger Kelsh, Mary Hughes, Martha Lou Wheatley-Billiter, Ann Murphy, Martha Pomerleau.** There were other League members in the audience as well.

LWVSA -- www.lwvspokane.org

LWVSA Unit Kick-off ... Begin Talking about Ballot Issues

September Unit Meetings will meet according to the schedule below and will consider 5 of the 10 issues on the November ballot. Up for discussion are:

- I-1098 – concerning establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes
- I-1053 – concerning tax and fee increases imposed by state government
- SJR 8225 – concerns the limitation on state debt
- I-1107 - concerns reversing certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws
- Referendum 52 – concerning authorizing and funding bonds for energy efficiency projects in schools

Please refer to insert in this VOTER for a summary of ballot information. Complete information is available at www.sos.wa.gov/elections And will be in your Voters Pamphlet. The other 5 issues will be discussed in October meetings.

September Unit Meeting Schedule...

Sept. 9, Thursday

Unit 5 – 10:00 am - LWV Office, 2404 N. Howard
Contact: **Martha Preecs** (325-4725)

Sept. 13, Monday

Unit 7/9 – 12:30 pm - 221 E. Rockwood Blvd.
Contact: **Alice Stolz** (455-8944)

Sept. 14, Tuesday

Unit 4 - 5:30 pm - Europa, 125 S. Wall (no-host dinner)
Contact: **Linda Milsow** (838-9186)

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

President's Perspective...

During the end of August I spent a couple of days at home with no more energy than to watch some of the daytime TV fare. I took away a couple of lessons

– I am so glad to have an organization like League that will have my brain working on so many varied topics and projects. I have had the pleasure of facilitating work groups and moderating Election Forums (pulling together questions and moderating both candidates and issues). I have been able to explore some new arenas on women's history – and I am looking forward to a year of historical reflection. It has been continually challenging to balance and provide program organization and content on our League topics. It has been inspirational to learn from others relative to some successes – I am thinking in particular of the community work done on the City of Spokane ombudsman. And then knowing that the work is never done! There is no shortage of topics or projects to delve into....

– I am also taking a cue from Oprah (after my rare time of watching daytime TV) Just as she is displaying on the screen during her show: “start of farewell season...” I am “announcing” my farewell season! My third term as LWVSA president will end May 2011 – I will not continue. In fact, my plan this year is to work to be able to hand off the leadership of this organization. This is were someone like you could step up to become more involved and help carry this great organization in Spokane forward. It is time for me to step out ... and devote to work and home. So, please be ready to pick up some challenges!

Ann Murphy

Ballot Issues – Count ‘em – 10!

Voters this year will be faced with 6 state initiatives, 3 constitutional amendments, and 1 local proposition – some asking voters to approve diametrically opposed legislation.

In fact, there are so many complexities in this field of issues that the LWVSA Voter Service Team has the developed some different approaches.

- Ballot Issues will be discussed at both the September and October Unit meetings.
- The Ballot Issues forum will work to present issues that relate to the same topic at the same time.
- Context for questions will come from League's Civic Engagement Project materials (www.lwvwa.org)

Splinters From the Board 8/19/10

Treasurer's Report – \$5,172

Membership: 85 current members

- Ombudsman – **Ginger Kelsh** will provide follow-up activity re meetings and comment on reports
- Agreed to pursue a theme around diversion courts for judicial forum. **Pam Behring** will take lead.
- Housing Update Committee moving forward with **Joyce Jones** as lead
- Completed work on the League year calendar – knowing that it is never “final” as there can be reasons for change (see box below)

2010-11 LWVSA Program Calendar

- o September (unit meetings) – Ballot Issues
LWV Forums – Candidate 9/29; Issues 9/30
- o October (unit meetings) – Ballot Issues
10/29 – opening of Women's Voices,
Women's Votes exhibit at MAC
- o November (unit meetings) – Women's History
PNW History conference presentation (11/3-5)
KSPS documentary airing
- o December (general) – Elected Officials Luncheon
- o January (unit meetings) – Program Planning
- o February – (unit meetings) – Spokane County Conservation District
MAC Lecture Series presentation & LWV birthday (2/2)
- o March (general)– Judicial Forum
- o April (unit meetings) – Low Income Housing (local program item)
- o May (general) – Annual Meeting
- o June – LWVWA Convention (Tri Cities)

Reminders...

- Dues are due November 1
- Dues are now \$70 for Individual Membership (increase was approved at May 2010 Annual Meeting.)

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.

Dues Payment -- -- Clip this form and place with your bills for payment

YES, I want to join or renew my membership in The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area

Name: _____ \$ 70. Individual
Address: _____ Distribution
City: _____ Zip: _____ Local \$21.30
State \$19
Nat'l \$29.70
Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____ \$100. Household
\$100. Sustaining Member
\$150. Benefactor
Fax: _____ e-mail: _____ \$ 35. Scholarship(call for application)
\$ 35 Student

Please make check payable to & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane, WA 99205, www.lwvspokane.org

Voter Apathy by Mail?

August 20, 2010 - LWVSA supports LWVWA in the Washington News Service for Public Radio. Lucy Copass, LWVWA Community Relations, forwarded the following news story regarding the recent primary. 32 radio stations, statewide, aired the story. Some used it more than once.

SEATTLE - Washington's primary elections take place in mid-August, during the dog days of summer, which may or may not account for this week's low overall turnout. The ballot totals by county range from highs of more than 60 percent in Columbia, Lincoln, San Juan and Wahkiakum counties, to lows of 24 to 26 percent in King, Pierce, Snohomish and Stevens counties.

The statewide average is about 30 percent, which means more than two-thirds of registered voters did not mail in their ballots. Allison Feher, president of the League of Women Voters of Seattle, says some believe changing the primary date from September to August has had a negative effect on voting.

"A lot of people are busy; they're away on vacation. I don't know that moving it up made it better for people. It certainly has made it more challenging for us, in terms of getting the information together, getting in contact with people, organizing events."

The state Elections Division says the primary date was moved in 2007 to ensure that military and overseas voters got their ballots on time.

Mail-in ballots are supposed to be more convenient and less expensive for counties than having polling places, Feher says, adding that they also give people more time to study the issues...if they remember to do so.

"When you have the polling places, there's a lot of stuff going on that reminds people to get out and vote. But with the all-vote-by-mail process, the deadline can get a little fuzzier, and people can miss it. They say, 'Let's just toss it in the "I'll get to that later" pile,' and then they never do."

All Washington voters have had the option of voting by absentee ballot since 1993, but only in the past five years have most counties decided to conduct all elections by mail. Pierce County is the only one that still maintains polling places - and it also had the lowest voter turnout this week, at just under 24 percent.

Some of this year's ballots are still being counted. The election results must be certified within 15 days of the primary. The latest results by county can be found online at <http://vote.wa.gov/elections/wei/>.

Thank you for Contributions - "Courage in Corsets"

Thank you to League members who have made their contributions to the Spokane League's Education Fund for sponsorship of the new KSPS-produced documentary on women's suffrage in the Pacific Northwest. We are almost to our \$2000 goal with the help these League members: **Tressia Anderson, Pam**

Behring, Mike Dixon, Pete Duffy, J.H. Foote, Molly Hannan, Mary Hughes, Joyce Jones, Ginger Kelsh, Ann Murphy, Billie Pierce, Jet Tilley -- Thanks!

It's still not too late to be contribute to this exciting project. Please refer to the enclosed/attached letter.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF THE SPOKANE AREA
 2404 N. Howard
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 WWW.LWVSPokane.ORG

LWV/Spokane Area

President: **Ann Murphy**
 Vice President: **Pam Behring**
 Secretary:
 Treasurer: **Mary Hughes**
 Directors: **Pete Duffy**
 Molly Hannan
 Joyce Jones
 Ginger Kelsh
 Jet Tilley

Nominating Committee:
 Alice Stolz, Chair
 Martha Pomerleau

Calendar

September

- 6 Labor Day
- 9 Women's History Advisory Group @ MAC
3:30 p.m.
- 9, 13, 14 Unit Meetings
- 16 LWVSA Board Meeting
- 29,30 General Election Forums (see page 1)

October

- 11, 12, 14 Unit Meetings
- 21 LWVSA Board Meeting
- 23 Action Workshop – Kennewick
- 29 Women's Votes, Women's Voices opens - MAC

November

- 1 LWV Dues are Due
- 2 Election Day
- 3-5 PNW History Conference @ Davenport)
- 8, 9, 11 Unit Meetings
- 18 LWVSA Board Meeting

Dues are Due! Individual Member dues are now \$70. Please send check to office address as above.

Women's History Activities In This League year

As we reflect on the just passed Women's Equality Day (Aug 26), we look forward to more...

- Sept 9 – final meeting of the Women's History Advisory Committee. Calendar of Women's History and Issues events all during the 2010-2011 year
- Potential Tree planting project – Nancy MacKerrow proposal for a tree for Suzie's Forest
- Oct 30 – opening of Women's Votes, Women's Voices" at MAC
- Premiere of KSPS documentary *Courage in Corsets* - see attached letter for involvement opportunity.
- Pacific Northwest History Conference, Nov. 3-5 – **Ann Murphy** presents a paper on LWV – taking women from suffrage to civic engagement and League member **Kim Kreber** will present "Cooking for a Cause" -- more details next month
- "Wednesday Nights at the MAC" - February 2 – LWVSA will sponsor a lecture in this series with **Nancy Engle** presenting her paper "Debating Equal Rights in Eastern Washington." to be followed by a League birthday party (Feb 14 is the actual day and 2011 will be the 91st anniversary of the start of League.
- May 8 – close of MAC exhibit