



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

September 2007

***Can Your Government Really Work For YOU? Yes!
Find out how!***

Saturday, September 22, 2007

“Clean Elections 101”

A Public Forum, 10 a.m. – 12 noon
Social Time, 9:30 a.m.

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225
360-676-6860

Introduction to public financing of election campaigns
Featuring the video “Votes for Sale?”
edited with permission from the PBS Now Program, aired October 26th, 2006

- **The benefits to our democracy**
- **How candidates would qualify for public funding**
- **Benefits to candidates who are NOT in debt to special interests**
- **Answers to common concerns and objections to Public Financing**
- **How we can make this happen in Washington State?**

Panel: Craig Salins, Executive Director, Washington Public Campaigns
Dr. Todd Donovan, Department Chair, Political Science W.W.U
Craig Mayberry, Local WPC supporter, Sustainable Bellingham Board

Comments and insights by Senator Harriet Spanel and other local elected officials

Moderated by Roni Beall, Whatcom WPC Chapter Chair

Presentation by Washington Public Campaigns, with questions and answers

*****Members—If your last name begins with N through Z, please bring cookies or sweet breads.**

Sponsored by: League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County

Co-sponsor: American Association of University Women (AAUW)

For more info: Jo Morgan, 1-360-756-0730

Washington Public Campaigns is a non-partisan Statewide organization, dedicated to public financing of campaigns at all levels. Visit www.washclean.org to learn more, volunteer, or to donate. For Info: 206-784-9695. Events at WPC Calendar: my.calendars.net/wpcevents.

From Co-President, Judy Corliss

We hope everyone has had a great summer and is ready for a great League year.

Many members have been busy this summer with League activities. **Georgia MacGregor** and her committee put together a very successful Bellingham City Primary Candidates Forum. The City provided the building and had the forum taped for many telecasts on Channel 10. Hope you had an opportunity to watch it and to see **Tanya Baumgart** professionally moderate it. We also co-sponsored a primary candidates' forum with KGMI & The Independent Newspaper which was broadcasted on the radio. In addition, **Jo Morgan** wrote a column for the Herald on the 87th Anniversary of women getting the right to vote.

At our Board retreat in August at JoAnne Feringer's we set goals and made plans for the coming year. A major goal is to increase our visibility in the community and the above activities are certainly a big step in that direction. Following the success of the forums for the primary election, we will be sponsoring a candidates' forum on October 3rd for City Mayoral, City Council, County Council, and the County Executive and Treasurer races. In addition, we will again co-sponsor a candidates' forum with KGMI and the Indy which is set for October 16th.

Another goal for this year is to build our membership. You can help by inviting your friends and neighbors to our meetings.

The Immigration Committee has already started working on the State study. We will be reaching consensus on this controversial issue in January. If you would like to work on this committee, please let Tanya know. She can be reached by email at baumgarts@surfmk.com or phone 671-5172.

Our League is joining the LWV WA Education Fund with a generous donation from the **Jane Raney** family. Contributions to the Education Fund are tax-deductible and may be used by us for educational projects. It is a great way to give a tax-deductible contribution to the League.

Appointments to the Board include **JoAnne Feringer** who will continue with council watching, and we are very pleased that **Roni Beall** has agreed to join the Board and cover Clean Elections. This year **Jo Morgan** will not only be Public Relations Chair but also will be our Action Chair to coordinate the many ways our League can take action on issues. **Pam Went, Ruth Norman, Jo Pullen** were appointed to off-board positions to handle Southside issues, women issues, and health, respectively. If you have an issue that you would like to follow for the League, please let Tanya or me know. You can email me at judy-corl@comcast.net or phone 734-1992.

We have tentatively planned our program for the coming year. They cover a broad range of issues and we hope that they will be of great interest to all, so mark your calendars:

Sept 22	Clean Elections
Oct 20	Ballot Measures & School Board Candidates
Nov 17	Climate Change – Local and Beyond
Jan 19	Immigration – Consensus
Feb 23	Local Education and Libraries
Mar 15	World Water Resources
Apr 19	Early Childhood Development

And at our Annual Meeting on May 17 we hope to have our new Bellingham Mayor speak.

Happy New Year! Yes, this is the start of another League year and it should be an exciting one.

-Judy Corliss, Co-President



Rain or shine, snow or wind, whatever the weather, come walk with fellow Leaguers. Friday afternoons, 2 P.M. Meet at Taylor Dock and walk to Boulevard Park and back. Then sip a drink and chat at Book Fare, 2nd Floor of Village Books in Fairhaven.

-Phyllis Haberstroh



Invite Your Friends and Neighbors

**Be A
Smart
Voter!!**

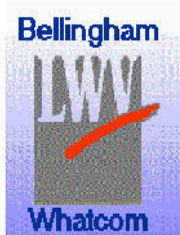
Know your Candidates

The Races covered:

- County Executive
- County Treasurer
- County Council
- Mayor
- City Council

Sponsored by:

**The League of Women
Voters of Bellingham/
Whatcom County**



Questions?
Contact
Georgia
734-2366

Candidates Forum

The League of Women
Voters of Bellingham/
Whatcom County
cordially invites you



to attend a Candidate
forum for the General
Election.

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd

6:30 PM—9:30 PM

@ the Bellingham

Municipal Court Building

2014 'C' Street

Immigration

No One Can Claim Ignorance re the Immigration Issue

No matter where you look—newspapers, magazines, internet, news shows—you will find that there is discussion about our country's Immigration problems. The challenge is to separate facts from myths, and to think through what we feel is in the best interest of our country.

Your National League has published 8 excellent articles, which can be found on its web page. They cover an overview of Federal Policy and Proposed Reforms, Enforcement Issues, What Motivates Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion, Economic Effects, and Effects of Globalization/NAFTA.

We now know that there is no major federal overhaul of the Immigration system with the Senate bill defeated in June. There are a few attempts to make small corrections which you can find in your newspaper.

Our own goals are to understand:

1. The ***process*** that is currently in place based on previous legislation.
 - Why has the system broken down?
 - What are the issues that are of most concern?
 - What level of importance do we attach to each?
2. How our ***region is affected*** by the presence of immigrants—documented and undocumented.

We'll share what we are learning in the Voter in the coming months.

-Elsie Heinrich

NOTE: The Background Information and Discussion Questions document for the Immigration Study is now available on the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org. Click on For Members and then click on the Consensus Kit (in red). The Background Information and Discussion Questions are listed as the last link under the Consensus Kit. The Background Information includes pertinent facts about the issue, as well as, for most questions, pros and cons. In addition, Discussion Questions have been included for all questions to facilitate focused discussion.

Excerpts - Jo Pullen's Health Care Report

On October 6, there will be a Health Rally at Maple and Railroad organized by a single payer group in Bellingham, United for National Health Care. This action is a follow up to the leafleting at all the performances of Michael Moores's film, "Sicko," which played at Sehome for two weeks. I've contacted Chris Lindberg, local UNHC coordinator for more info.

Nationally, the two SCHIP bills being considered by Congress will be on the table again for a joint approach when the session reconvenes. The Senate bill is "clean" according to Patty Murray's local office and addresses only SCHIP. The House version combines SCHIP with other issues, including some coverage for low income children. It is being looked at as a

test for Congress to edge toward universal health care coverage starting with increased funding for uninsured low income kids. Bush has vowed to veto whatever hits his desk regarding SCHIP.

The US Census Bureau has released data showing the number of uninsured Americans increased by 2.2 million. Sadly this group represents the middle class (2.07 million) earning over 50K per year. "Middle income Americans are now experiencing the human suffering that comes with being uninsured. It makes any illness a potential economic and social catastrophe," said Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, co-founder of Physicians for a National Health Program and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Women Engaging Globally

This is the first of a series of articles based on a collaborative project undertaken by the League of Women Voters (LWV), the Center for Women Policy Studies (CWPS), and the Women's Environmental Organization (WEDO). This project resulted in a dynamic conference in Seattle in 2005 with a variety of notable speakers on women's issues. In addition to the speakers, a collection of material related to women's issues, written by WEDO, and CWPS, was distributed. This article and others to come are based on that material. Each is an issue of great concern to women around the world reflecting the commitment of the League in the advancement and empowerment of women, all of which is fundamental to achieving peace and prosperity throughout the world.

WEDO was co-founded in 1990 by Bella Absug and Kim Kelber, both of whom were feminist activists. It is an international non-governmental organization (INGO) advocating women's equality in global policy. WEDO became a leader among all non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both national and international, at the UN placing women and gender at the center of global policy making. CWPS, a national NGO founded in 1972, is the nation's first feminist policy analysis and research institution. The mission of both is to shape public policy to improve women's lives.

Included in these articles will be Trafficking of Women; Immigrant, Refugee and Internally Displaced Women; Peace and Security: (UN) Resolution 1325 (which recognizes women as active agents in building peace); Women and Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic. While the articles are based on the materials developed for the conference, it will be supplemented by information from UN sources, the NGOs committed to women's issues and other international groups active in the role of women in those resolutions stated by the League.

Your comments and questions related to any of these issues are welcome. Email them to our editor and they will be answered or integrated in future newsletters.

-Ruth Norman

Excerpts from Pam Went's Report on Southside Civic Activities

Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods: In July the CSN held a forum at the Fire House Performing Arts Center for City primary candidates that would appear on their ballots...They will be holding a second forum the evening of October 4th, same time, same place. All City candidates are invited along with candidates for County District 1, and plans are to give other County and school board candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves as well. In addition, the CSN intends to hold educational forums if and when the EIS for the Chuckanut Ridge property has completed its first phase. This will enable citizens to understand their part in the process and aspects of the draft they may wish to formally comment on to the COB.

Chuckanut Mountains Park District: Citizens in both Skagit and Whatcom Counties came together a couple of years ago to investigate ways to protect the unique Chuckanut Mountain Range from development and unmanaged tourism. The group began to investigate a "metropolitan park district" as defined by our RCW. After holding informational meetings throughout the proposed district for nearly a year, a petition campaign was successfully completed in order to place the concept on the ballot. For whatever reasons, the whole business only came to the attention of some folks in Skagit as the required Boundary Review process was under way. Fear of new taxes and of the power of eminent domain have now fueled organized opposition to this measure. The CMPD advisory group continues to forge ahead with a fundraiser at Larrabee State Park on the 8th and ongoing informational and educational presentations for both the public and the Boundary Review Boards.

Buzz: Two new FOUR-story buildings to include office, retail and 10 condos are in the permitting stage for 12th & Donovan, the present gas station site. The Southside News shop in Fairhaven has closed. The Fairhaven Laundry is slated to become a Banner Bank branch which will offer various amenities including meeting space for community organizations. And Fools Onion, on Harris Avenue, is now serving lunch!



**League of Women Voters of
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**Reminder:
Please renew your
League Membership**

Inside: September 22, 2007 - Clean Elections
101— A public forum . Sponsored by :
American Association of University Women
LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County

Upcoming General Election Forums

Do you have any questions you want covered during these forums? If so, please e-mail Georgia at rmac2@comcast.net or leave a message on the League phone, 734-2366.

**Wednesday, October 3, 2007
6:30 p.m.—Municipal Court Building**

Featuring Candidates for :

County Executive, Treasurer, and
Council Districts 1, 2, and 3.

City of Bellingham Mayor and
Wards 4, 5, 6, and At Large.

This forum is being taped by BTV10 and will be televised throughout the month before the November 6th election.

Save this Date, too!!

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

The League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County is partnering with Whatcom Independent and KGMI for a General Election Forum at the Whatcom County Courthouse.

This forum will be broadcast on KGMI a.m.

A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Jean Adams	Roni Beall
Irish Langton	Colette Millard
Deana Popple-Ottum	Sandra Robertson
Pat Woodke	