



# Voter

League of  
Women Voters of  
Bellingham/  
Whatcom County

October 2009

## Healing Healthcare Series

### “Healing Healthcare: Confrontation or Conversation?”

Noon, Oct. 8 at YWCA

Box lunch reservations for the Thursday Oct. 8 YWCA/League of Women Voters “Healing Healthcare” speaker series are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday Oct. 6.

“**Confrontation or Conversation?**” is the topic from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the YWCA ballroom, 1026 N. Forest, Bellingham. It’s free and brown-bag lunches are welcome but box lunches (at \$12) must be ordered in advance at 734-4820 or [janet@ywcabellingham.org](mailto:janet@ywcabellingham.org). Coffee, tea and dessert are provided.

**Carmen Werder**, of Western’s Communication Department faculty, is the speaker. She teaches courses on how to enter into dialogue where *deeper understanding*, not winning, is the main goal. She will illustrate how to have that kind of conversation about healthcare reform, an issue that has provoked heated exchanges.

Next in the series, at noon Thursday, Nov. 19, is “**Healing Healthcare: Where Do We Go from Here?**” **Sara Weir**, chair of Western’s Political Science Department, discusses how the political process impacts healthcare and *vice versa*.

A special evening program at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, features a panel of

## LWV/AAUW Joint Forum

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Senior Activity Center

315 Halleck Street,  
Bellingham, WA

9:30 a.m. Social Time  
(Refreshments will be served)

9:50 a.m. Program

### Ballot Measures

We will hear the pros and cons regarding:

Initiative 1033

Referendum 71

Whatcom County Public Library Levy

### Bellingham School Board Candidates

Candidates for the School Board will make presentations and answer questions posed by their opponents.

This forum is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County and the American Association of University Women.

local conventional and alternative medical practitioners discussing a wide range of health and wellness approaches. It is also free with coffee, tea and dessert provided; brown-bag dinners are welcome.

For additional information, see [www.ywcabellingham.org](http://www.ywcabellingham.org) or call (360) 734-4820.

## From Co-President Elsie Heinrick

The new League year is off to a great start! Our September 9 “Lunch with the League” brought 58 people to the YWCA for lunch, to learn about what the League does and for a discussion on Health Care issues. September 30 we held a successful televised Candidates’ forum at City Hall with good attendance and informative questions from the candidates to each other as well as from the audience. And October promises to be as busy with our October 17 meeting at the Library, cosponsored by AAUW, where we will learn about the ballot issues and hear from the School Board candidates. Elsewhere in the Voter you find information about the YWCA Speaker Series event on October 8 and Whatcom Fair Voting’s forum on the National Popular Vote on October 24. (The League is a cosponsor of both.) Thanks to all the League members who worked on all of these meetings, especially **Georgia MacGregor**, Voter Services Chair, and her team, who headed the efforts for both the Primary Election Forum and the Candidates’ Forum.

Welcome to the new members we have signed up from all of this activity. New Bellingham residents

from Seattle **Annette and Robin Holcomb**, and local residents **Catherine Chambers, Lisa McShane, Sheila Hardy, Alice Litton, Marsha Riek, Barbara Howard, Janice Keller, Bill Maden and Isabel VanDerSlice** have all joined the Bellingham/Whatcom County League this fall. We also have a new National member, **Kirk Brownell**.

Please mark your calendar for December 2 when we will host another Wine and Cheese with Elected Officials event. This is an opportunity to talk informally with elected officials and learn about the various levels of government. We would welcome anyone who would like to help with this evening – please contact **Jayne Freudenberger** 734-5283, **Kay Ingram** 927-2141 or **Kathy Gablehouse** 734-1813.

Your Board has been busy planning many programs for the coming year and we hope to see our long time members staying involved as well as helping our new members to the meetings.

November 3 is Election Day and ballots will be mailed October 14. Please vote!

## Kudos



Our Budget Director **Judy Corliss** is volunteering her financial and computer skills to help the Whatcom Community Symphony as they struggle through a tough financial situation. Despite the many hours she is devoting to the symphony, Judy is always available to our League Board to fill in when needed. Thanks, Judy

If you haven’t checked out our new Facebook page, you are in for a treat. **Tanya Baumgart** spent many hours creating this informative site which is providing a valuable link to the community. Tanya maintains our web page and as PR chair she gets LWV news and events publicized throughout the community. She has also done a terrific job moderating our recent candidate forms. Thank you, Tanya

## Free Public Forum

### Presidential Electoral College Vs National Popular Vote

“What’s good for you and Washington State”

Saturday, October 24, 2009  
10:00 am—12:00 noon

Bellingham Public Library -Basement Meeting Room

*Free Refreshments*

Panel Members:

Todd Donovan—Western Washington University

Trent England—Evergreen Freedom Foundation

Sara Weir—Western Washington University

Moderator: Marian Beddill

Sponsored jointly by: Whatcom County Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, and the LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County

## League of Women Voters of Washington's Positions on R-71 and I-1033

### Referendum 71

At the biennial State Convention, League members voted to take a YES position on the referendum because of our position opposing discrimination. R-71 asks voters to ratify a bill that was passed in the 2009 Legislature and signed by the Governor. The bill provides equal rights equivalent to those of married couples to couples of the same sex and all unmarried senior couples in many areas including:

- Death benefits for partners of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty.
- Right to use sick leave to care for a seriously ill partner.
- Pension benefits for partners of teachers and other public employees.
- Right to workers compensation benefits if a partner is killed in the course of employment.
- Victim's rights.

The League has joined with a coalition to do voter education, voter pamphlet statements and action. For more information, please go to the Yes on R-71 website: [www.approverefereendum71.org](http://www.approverefereendum71.org).

LWV Positions:

League of Women Voters of the United States: "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice..."

League of Women Voters of Washington: "...no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination."  
Position in Brief: Action to achieve equal rights for all.

Websites for more information:

- Approve = [www.approverefereendum71.org](http://www.approverefereendum71.org)
- Disapprove = [www.protectmarriagewa.com](http://www.protectmarriagewa.com)

### Initiative 1033

At our August 7, 2009 board meeting, the LWVWA Board agreed to join the No on 1033 coalition. To clarify our position opposing the initiative, the Board made an August email board decision to oppose I-1033. At our regular board meeting on September 11th, we affirmed our opposition to Initiative 1033.

Based on our position regarding fair, open and flexible taxes, the Board believes this initiative is none of these. I-1033 is misleading and complicated. Limiting expenses through a rigid and arbitrary formula based on population growth and inflation, this initiative falls far short of being able to fund even our current levels of health care, education and other basic services. While I-1033 may sound good on the surface, limiting spending in this way will have many unintended consequences. More information is available at: [www.no1033.com](http://www.no1033.com)

LWV Positions:

From LWVWA Principles: "...government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation..."

Position in Brief: Action to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect.

The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that flexibility and recognition of changing times and needs is important in tax policy.

Websites for more information:

- Pro = [www.permanent\\_offense.org](http://www.permanent_offense.org)
- Con = [www.no1033.org](http://www.no1033.org)

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For spirited conversation, join the weekly "Walk and Talk" group every Friday at 2 PM. The group meets just south of the Chrysalis at the top of Taylor Street Pier. Following the walk, those that wish to meet at the Book Fare, upstairs in Village Books for coffee and more conversation.



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

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## November General Meeting

For our general meeting in November we are encouraging our members to attend an Action Workshop in Bellevue on Saturday 21, 2009. The workshops will be provided by our lobby team in Olympia to give us a better idea of the issues and how to lobby for the reforms we support.

The three priority topics this year are Public Campaign Financing for Judicial Positions, Early Learning/Education and Washington State Budget Issues.

We will be forming carpools to drive down for the all day sessions. The registration cost of \$25 includes lunch—see the following coupon. We will have more information in the November Voter.

**League of Women Voters of Washington**

**ACTION WORKSHOP 2009**

**REGISTRATION**

**Cost: \$25 per venue per person  
Lunch Provided**

Choose one or both venues:

- Benton/Franklin Counties, November 7, 2009**
- Bellevue, November 21, 2009**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/email \_\_\_\_\_

VISA    M/C  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

**Mail to:**

**LWVWA, 4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105**