



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

March 2007

About the Program

At our January meeting, the mayors of Whatcom County's small cities shared with us information about each of their political entities – unique problems, common problems, future goals. Our March meeting will be a continuation of this information sharing with Bellingham Mayor Tim Douglas and County Executive Pete Kremen talking about their administration responsibilities, immediate and future issues and how the city and county interact to solve some common issues. It is suggested that they speak individually on such matters as Water Quality, affordable housing, emergency services, growth management and development rights, waterfront development, to name only a few. They will also spend some time talking about matters of mutual concern and how the county's largest city and county government work cooperatively to solve matters that affect both political entities, such as Lake Whatcom watershed, annexation issues, growth management, etc. There will be time for Questions and Answers at the end of the presentations.

Please attend, bring your friends and neighbors to learn from the leaders about "the happenings" in Bellingham and Whatcom County.

—Darlene McLeod

A New State Position on Voter Registration

The following consensus was adopted by the LWVWA Board at its January meeting.

- The Voter Registration state database matching is useful but should not be used to deny people the right to vote. No proof of citizenship other than the sworn signature on the

LWV General Meeting Saturday, March 17, 2007 Downtown Public Library

210 Lottie Street
(Lecture Room in Basement)

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

10:00 a.m. Program
"What's Happening in Bellingham and
Whatcom County"

Speakers: Mayor Tim Douglas
County Executive Pete Kremen

***For Members Only—If your last name begins with N through Z, please bring cookies or sweet breads to be served at this meeting.**

registration form should be required for Voter Registration.

- A national database may be desirable in the future.
- LWV Washington supports random audits of all ballots, with the percentage of ballots audited to be determined by a statistician.
- The mail-in ballot postmark deadline should be midnight Election Day.

From Co-President Rosemary Hostetler

It is difficult to state all the League stands for in just a few words. Here is my attempt at that .

The League is a non-partisan organization that studies and then supports IDEAS. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League helps shape better communities locally, state, nation and world wide.

Last month we had an inspiring program provided by Rosalinda Guillen, Executive Director of Community to Community (De Comunidad a Comunidad) and Aline Soundy, Project Director of the Mujeres Project. The story of migrant laundry workers and their families arrested here created a lot of interest in laws, anti-immigration movements and historical facts about immigration in America. The League is starting a study of Immigration in America and we look forward to participating in that study.

At the March board meeting almost an hour was spent discussing programming and how we can reach more Whatcom County residents. All local daily and weekly papers are notified about our meetings. Is there anything else we can do? Are Saturday mornings a bad time for meetings? Should meetings be held on a week night or at noon sometimes? Are the topics of interest? Should program planning be done for a series of meetings on a single topic? Or is our current mode of selecting a variety of local, state or national issues the right way to go?

There are so many topics that can focus on local, state or national aspects of the same issue. For example, there is global warming, water rights, planning programs, fair, clean elections, election financing, taxation, education, child care and early childhood learning., open government, civics education in the schools and you could add many more, no doubt.

The past month the League participated in two special events in cooperation with Whatcom Fair Voting and the County Planning Department. Both events were very well attended and very worthwhile. The Short Course on Planning will have the section on GMA (Growth Managements Act) law rescheduled. Snowy roads prevented the attorney from reaching Bellingham that night.

Our March program will be strictly local—featuring County Executive Pete Kremen and Bellingham Mayor Tim Douglas. A wonderful time to listen to and then ask questions of two knowledgeable people. In April, we'll go worldwide with the issue of nuclear proliferation. In May, we hope to have a program of state importance. Whatever it is will be interesting. We promise!!

Any comments you may have on programming/ places/times will be so welcomed by any board member.

Oh, yes, look for the new TRY (They Represent You) to be out later this month. In the meantime, you can find the updated copy on our website.



Will you spot this scene while we “walk and talk with LWV”?

We continue to meet at the Taylor Street Dock for our weekly walk at 2 p.m. on Fridays. Our route then will be to Boulevard Park and back, then on to Fairhaven and to Bookfair at Village Books for coffee or tea. Hope to see you then.

- Phyllis Haberstroh

League Asks Candidates Not To Be The First “Billion-Dollar President”

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters called on 2008 presidential candidates from both parties to commit now to using the presidential public financing system for the 2008 general election if they are their party’s nominee and their opponent pledges to do the same.

“We find ourselves at a make-or-break time for the presidential public financing system in this country,” said national League President Mary G. Wilson. “Presidential candidates can help save the system by agreeing now to use public funds for the 2008 general election and by committing to fix the system if they are elected.”

“For the past thirty years, every president has been elected based on a publicly-financed general election. The next president should come into office on the strength of public funds, not private donations primarily from wealthy donors and special interest bundlers,” Wilson stated. “American voters deserve an election system that is healthy – and public financing of the presidential campaign is an essential element of a fair election. Presidential candidates have a choice to help save the system or become the first billion-dollar president.”

The League was one of several organizations, including Americans for Campaign Reform, the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, Public Campaign Action Fund, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG that sent this letter to presidential candidates. In addition to asking candidates for a commitment to using the presidential public financing system for the general election, the groups also want the candidates to co-sponsor or publicly endorse legislation to fix the system and publicly commit to work for the enactment of legislation to fix the system if elected president.

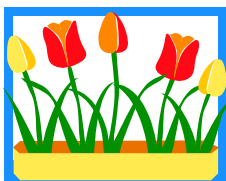
“Former Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Bush all participated in the presidential public financing system during their general elections and used it to win the presidency. This system should be good enough for the next president as well,” said Wilson. The following is a list of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates who received the letter from the reform groups:

Democratic Presidential Candidates

Senator Joseph Biden
 Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
 Senator Chris Dodd
 Former Senator John Edwards
 Former Senator Mike Gravel
 Representative Dennis Kucinich
 Senator Barack Obama
 Governor Bill Richardson

Republican Presidential Candidates

Senator Sam Brownback
 Former Governor James Gilmore
 Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
 Former Governor Mike Huckabee
 Representative Duncan Hunter
 Senator John McCain
 Former Governor Mitt Romney
 Representative Tom Tancredo
 Former Governor Tommy Thompson



Welcome to new members Janesta Ferguson and Morgan McCartor .

...and a “speedy healing” wish to our Co-President Jo Morgan who slipped on a piece of ice recently and broke her leg.



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

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**New Immigration Study
Background Paper Avail-
able**

[Diversity and Inclusion](#), the fifth in a series of background papers, is now available on the LWVUS Web site (www.lwwva.org/). The background papers are produced by the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee members to help educate members and the public on immigration issues. The new updated two-year study timeline, a basic resource list on immigration, guidelines for participating at the local level in a national study, the scope of the study, as well as guidelines for conducting a dialogue on values associated with immigration are also in the [immigration section of the LWVUS Web site](#)

**LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County
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