



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

November 2010

From Co-President Jayne Freudenberger



Whew!! The election is over. Now comes the hard part. Governing!! No matter how you felt about who won or which party had the right idea, I think there is one thing we can all agree on. There are no easy answers. And we all need to take a breath, step back from partisan rhetoric and learn to work together.

There are just too many urgent problems we are facing. Can we stipulate that we all love our country? Can we recognize that many of us are fearful of whether we will leave the country in better shape for our kids and grandkids? And whether your person won or not can we stay engaged? Can we study the issues and the proposed solutions and ask our representatives to do the same, even if we didn't vote for them? They are now all our representatives. Hold them accountable and vote them out if they can't perform.

As angry as this election seemed, poll after poll came back saying a majority of us want good ideas, less partisan bickering, and more compromise between the parties. Gridlock is not an option.

In our own small world we will be starting a new league program in January. It's called Conversations and we will be inviting you to come and share your ideas on various topics. Our new member Joan Casey suggested that it wasn't enough for leaguers to meet at a general meeting once a month and hold public events. We need to talk about our community's and nation's challenges—not just

Conversations with Elected Officials

YWCA Ballroom 1026 N. Forest St.

December 1, 2010 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Meet and greet your elected officials and
**Celebrate 100 years of Woman Suffrage
in Washington State**

**We will be honoring 4 suffragists of the
21st. century**

Reservations required

734-2366 or email

Parking: Only on-street and limited parking at both of the Dental Clinic Parking lots, corner of Maple/Forest and behind the clinic between State/Forest.

among our like-thinking cohorts but with our friends and neighbors who have different ideas. Look for details of this new series in the December voter. No more yelling—let's talk.

Kudos to Bellingham voters for passing the Transportation Benefit Sales Tax-- Prop 1 to restore some transportation funding and especially Sunday bus service in the city.

And Kudos go to the Bellingham School District voters for supporting the supplemental levy which will help offset the budget cuts from Olympia.

Especially in these challenging economic times the League commends voters for raising their own taxes to support public transportation and public education.

League Talks About Suffrage History

As part of our celebration of Jubilation Day, the 100th year of Washington women's suffrage, League Co -Presidents **Jayne Freudenberger** and **Kay Ingram** and Treasurer **Elsie Heinrick** have given several presentations about the history of women's struggle to get the vote.

In August, we went to the Blaine Border Guards and gave a half hour suffrage presentation and also included some history and accomplishments of the League. September, our Lunch With League workshop was preceded by the woman's suffrage presentation and on Oct. 28th, we took our displays and presentation to the Whatcom Women's Professional Network.

For the week of November 8th, our materials were on display at Village Books in Fairhaven.

The bookstore added books on the suffrage struggle.

Many of the participants at these functions had never heard of, or had forgotten what a long hard struggle was fought to give women the vote.

For over seventy years, women marched, cajoled, made speeches and went to jail for the cause that finally came to fruition when Tennessee became the final state to ratify the 19th amendment.

A pamphlet with the history of the suffragist movement will be available at our Conversations with Elected Officials. December 1, 2010.

We would like to thank all these groups and Village Books for helping us to tell our story.

21st Century Suffragist Awards

At the "Conversations with Elected Officials" event on December first, we will honor local residents as 21st Century Suffragists. Those selected are:

Lyn McClure, volunteer director of Tax Aide, a non-profit that runs free tax clinics to aid people in preparing and filing their taxes.

Shirley Forslof, Whatcom County Auditor, who helped establish the Citizens' Election Advisory Committee (CEAC) to review election procedures and proposed election-related legislation.

Craig Hersman, owner of the Print Stop in Lynden and printer of the TRY (They Represent You) brochure that the League publishes and distributes annually. For many years Mr. Hersman's generous support has enabled the League to use its limited resources to carry on other voter education projects.

Mary Dumas, mediator, facilitator and trainer with Dumas and Associates, who assisted the League in our Civic Engagement Project by conducting several workshops on Productive Public Conversations.

We hope all of you at the December 1 event to help us honor these 21st Century Suffragists. Details are elsewhere in this Voter.

A Perfect 10: WA Still in Line for New District

By DAVID AMMONS – September 27, 2010

Washington apparently is still in line for a new 10th congressional district, according to analysts at Election Data Services.

The analysis, reflecting fresh population estimates from the Census Bureau, says if the numbers hold up in the 2010 Census data that comes out in less than three months, Washington will take the 434th of the 435 House seats as a net gain. The EDS survey, however, points out that a number other states, including Oregon, are on the bubble, fairly close to winning a new seat.

The report says six states, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington, are in line to pick up a single seat, Florida two seats and Texas would gain four. Eight states would lose single seats – Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. New York and Ohio are projected to lose two seats.

The analysis says Washington gains a 10th seat by a fairly narrow advantage of 12,923 people. The last seat would go to Texas by a margin of about 38k. Washington has grown about over 92,000 people in the past year and now stands at 6,756,150.

So bottom line, it's not official and could change in the final Census numbers, but for now, it looks like Washington will pick up a new congressional district. We got the new 8th District after the 1980 Census and the new 9th District after the 1990 Census.

“We continue to be guardedly optimistic that we'll pick up another seat in Congress, which will give us a greater voice in Washington, D.C.,” said Secretary of State Sam Reed. “Our state has grown steadily in the past decade, and we're on the map as a great place to live, raise our families and do productive work and provide the products that are the envy of the world.”

The re-jiggering of the 435 districts among the states, to make representation more equitable, is called “reapportionment.”

Once we know for sure how many districts we have, the U.S. and state constitutions require us to “redistrict,” meaning to redraw our districts (both congressional and legislative) so that they are of equal population.

In Washington, a voter-approved constitutional amendment assigns that duty to a bipartisan citizen commission. Two Rs and two Ds are the voting members and they appoint a fifth person to serve as non-voting chair. Maps must be agreed to by at least three commissioners, and the Legislature's vote is basically up-or-down. This process already is under way at the staff level, and commissioners will be picked in January. New districts take effect in 2012.

Please go to <http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/redistricting/> for an in-depth look at this process in our state.



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LWV/Bellingham Whatcom County is 109 Members Strong!

Thanks to all of our renewing and new members we have increased our membership to over 100. This is a significant number of men and women in Whatcom County who have committed their support, their talents and their energies to supporting our goal of making our Democracy work better for all.

This is exciting for two reasons. Not only do we have over 100 members but, in addition, beginning in 2011, it gives us two representatives to represent our League at state and national meetings. This means our voice is even stronger at those levels.

Here are the members, new and renewing, who helped us reach this milestone. New members: **Maggie Hanson, Pamela Kiesner, Angela Murray, Sharon Kingsley** - Welcome; renewing members: **Catherine Chambers, Kelli Linville, Barbara and Mike Ryan, Isabel Vanderslice, and Judith Wiseman** and former

National members **Jo Anne Lowe, Joseph McClain and Bruce Radke.**

Our membership is the heart of our League. Thanks to each and everyone of you.

Walkin' and Talkin'

We continue to meet at the top of Taylor Street Dock at 2 p.m. on Fridays, where we decide what route to take for walking.

At 3 pm. we end up at Book Fare (upstairs at Village Books in Fairhaven) for refreshments and further chit chat. So, if you can't make the walking portion, please feel free to join us at Book Fare.