



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

November 2007

Project Vote Smart

Is there a place you can turn for information you trust about candidates & issues? Information that is non-partisan, not for profit, independent, objective, reputable, and thorough? Where one can find candidate information like biographies, campaign finance disclosures, interest group ratings, issue positions, voting records, and public statements? And information that covers a broad array of offices like President, congressional, Governor, legislative, and state officials. The short answer is yes... !!!

Steve Schuck will be our speaker. He is actively involved in Vote Smart and heads up the local Democracy for America Group. As an active political election observer, he is also a proponent of public financing of elections.

Vote Smart has been a program endorsed and used by the Leagues throughout the U.S. since its inception. This year every person will be able to access extensive nonpartisan information on elected officials' voting records and candidates' positions. If you are a voter, check out *The Voter's Self-Defense Manual* (available at the library) If you are a political reporter, check out the *Reporter's Source Book*.

For a preview, check out www.vote-smart.org or phone 1-888-Vote-Smart

Climate Change and Peak Everything

All across the world people are recognizing the problem of global warming and calling for solutions. Climate Change is everyone's issue.

Our speaker is **John Rawlins**, PhD, faculty member at Whatcom Community College. He teaches physics, astronomy as well as a course titled, "Energy: Its Use and Consequences", which incorporates the concept of peak oil.

LWV General Meeting

Saturday, November 17, 2007

Fairhaven Public Library

Fireplace Room

(Lower Level—enter off 12th Street)

9:30 a.m. Social Time

(Refreshments will be served)*

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. "Project Vote Smart"

Speaker: Steve Schuck

11:00 -12:00 noon "Climate Change and Peak Everything"

Speaker: John Rawlins, PhD.

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

He will give us an overview of the world oil, gas and coal consumption, reserves and future projections. Then he will focus on the intimate connection of industrialized world food production to fossil fuel use and describe the implications for future world population. The upshot of this discussion will be recognition of the powerful need to sever the food/fossil fuel connections in our food supply; i.e., the need to develop sustainable food production close to home during the next few decades.

What are the predictions of the International Panel on Climate Change for a realistic fuel scenario? What measures do we need to consider for the combination of dangerous climate change avoidance as well as adapting to near-term fossil fuel restrictions? What are the implications for the northwest and Whatcom County?

Climate Change and Peak Everything is a powerful subject, but one we need to understand as we contemplate our future.

From Co-President Judy Corliss

Greetings,

It has been a busy election season for our League. We sponsored or co-sponsored two forums for City and County candidates and one in October covering the ballot measures & Bellingham school board candidates. **Georgia MacGregor, Phyllis Haberstroh,** and **Rosemary Hostetler** did an excellent job of arranging the programs.

The ballots are now in and some local races are still too close to call. This brings home the importance of each and every vote.

“Come and bring your friends!”

We have a double-header meeting planned for November 17 with 2 excellent speakers. This two-part program on Climate Change & Project Vote Smart promises to be stimulating and provocative. Please come and bring your friends. Hope to see you there.

For our January meeting, the Immigration Committee has been hard at work researching the subject, arranging speakers, and figuring out how to cover

the consensus questions. Be sure to keep this Voter as well as the October one so that you come prepared to discuss this very complex subject. Also, the information can be found on our new, very easy to use, website at www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org which **Tanya Baumgart** got up and running. If you would like to volunteer to help keep the website up-dated, please let Tanya know by email at

CoPres1@LWVbellinghamwhatcom.org.

After our November 17th meeting, League takes a break. Since our next Voter will not be until January, we want to take this opportunity to wish you, although a bit early, a very wonderful holiday season.

Judy Corliss
Co President

A Warm Welcome to New Members
Jayne Freudenberger
Sheri Lambert

Prepare for the Consensus Meeting January 19, 2008 The LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Questions

The questions we will be asked to discuss and reach consensus on follow in an abbreviated form. Please go to www.lwv.org to get the complete wording. In the meantime, use this list to start thinking about and researching what each of us would like to see in our National League Immigration Position.

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as:

(Please rank your priority on each factor of immigration laws from high priority to low priority, or disagree)

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b. Economic, Business and Service Employment
- c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability
- d. Family Reunification with Spouses and Minor Children
- e. History of Criminal Activity
- f. Humanitarian Crises/ Political Persecution in Home Countries
- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Livable Wage
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together
- j. Rights of all Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment under the Law
- k. Education and Training

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Prepare for the Consensus Meeting, cont'd

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as:

(Please rank your priority on each factor regarding unauthorized immigrants from high priority to low priority, or disagree)

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants
- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of US Employers
- d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines before Possible Re-Entry
- f. Assess Fines Before Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status

Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are: (Please rank your priority on each factor on legal immigration from high priority to low priority, or disagree)

- a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S
- b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs
- c. Entering the U.S. as Students
- d. Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country

Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include: (high or low priority)

Social Security Card or Other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for All Persons Residing in the U.S.

Question 4b: Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including: (Please rank your priority on each factor of enforcement of immigration law from high priority to low priority, or disagree)

- i. Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders
- ii. Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points
- iii. More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country
- iv. Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers.
- v. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status
- vi. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- vii. A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs
- viii. Significant Fines Proportionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees

Question 5: Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations. Yes or No, & explain your response.

Question 6: Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations. Yes or No, & explain your response.



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Inside :

— *General Meeting, November 17th
In the Fireplace Room at the Fairhaven
Public Library*

— *LWVUS Immigration Consensus Study
Questions*

Excerpts from a Report on Southside Civic Activities

Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods:

Neighbors from all five coalition neighborhoods, Edgemoor, Fairhaven, Happy Valley, South and South Hill attended a public meeting at Fairhaven Middle School, Wednesday November 7th, to provide the requisite public comment on the Working Documents of the Fairhaven Neighborhood Plan Update. The draft is the result of months of difficult collaborative work between citizens who live in the neighborhood and commercial property owners who own land there. Business owners have chosen to not participate in the work although their input is continually solicited. It also reflects vital feedback from a questionnaire sent to all residents, businesses and landowners early last year. The neighborhood is seeking consensus from the community in order for the plan to go forward for further consideration by city planners and ultimately the City Council.

Buzz: A new incarnation of the “Fairhaven Harbor” development proposal for the site in front of the tennis club is under review. Our Planning and Commu-

nity Development Director Tim Stewart is inviting comments on the proposal by November 16th. More info at www.cob.org. “Nostalgia”, a new and used women’s vintage/retro clothing and accessories store has opened on 11th Street in the new Young Building. The Bellingham Bay Community Boating Center recently opened on the Fairhaven Waterfront at 501 Harris; it’s a non-profit organization that will offer classes, instruction & rentals for kayaks. And finally, visitors to Fairhaven’s business district will find a Grinch will be dropping by and posing for photos starting after Thanksgiving and on every Saturday till Christmas! It’s the 50th anniversary of the publication of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas!* **-Pam Went**

LWV Friday Walking Group Now Meets at

New Spot— We park in Boulevard Park, walk to Taylor St. Dock and back, and then have coffee at the new Woods Cafe there. It all begins at 2 p.m. Hope you can join us. **-Phyllis Haberstroh**