



# Voter

League of  
Women Voters of  
Bellingham/  
Whatcom County

November 2008

## About Our Program

Could our state save \$\$ by adding early childhood education to our already under funded K-12 Basic Education fund? To explore the answer, go straight to your early childhood education consensus study inside your most recent state VOTER, which arrived a few weeks ago, and scan those provocative and information-packed pages. Find the consensus questions to be discussed on page 6--or note them here on page 3 in this VOTER. Then come prepared on **Saturday, November 15, at 9:45** for a fine panel presentation and lively discussion. We are to arrive at our League's position in consensus in the hour following the panel.

Can't find your state VOTER?? Go to our website [www.LWVbellinghamwhatcom.org](http://www.LWVbellinghamwhatcom.org) and click on "Calendar" on the left-hand side of the homepage to download a copy for the study and the questions.

We begin to invest in all our children's education when they enter school, and yet the experts are telling us that for many that is too late. Can we hope to provide the opportunity for all kids to have earlier education?

Our expert speakers on our informative panel from 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. will be Dr. **Frederic H Braun, M.D., P.S.**, local neurologist, who works with many of our schools' children; **Sally Holloway**, Whatcom Community College's Early Education Coordinator; and **Wilanne Olilla-Perry**, Child Care and Family Resources Program Director of the Opportunity Council. And because we depend on legislation to forge new directions, **Senator Harriet Spanel** will speak to questions of funding of basic education and collective bargaining. We know their ideas will help us greatly in our decision-making for consensus. We are so fortunate to have them!!

## LWV General Meeting

**Saturday, November 15, 2008**

**Downtown Public Library**

(Lecture Room in Basement)

**9:45 a.m. Social Time\***

(Refreshments will be served)

**10:00 a.m.—Program**

**“Early Care and Education  
of Young Children”**

**Speakers: Dr. Frederic H. Braun, M.D., P.S.,  
Sally Holloway, Wilanne Olilla-Perry, Senator  
Harriet Spanel**

**11:00 a.m. Consensus Meeting**

*Note: Consensus is member agreement reached after study and discussion. It is neither a simple majority nor is it necessarily unanimity. Rather, it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. It's not a vote or a poll, but a show of hands may be used to determine the sense of the group. Only members who actually participate in the consensus process may affect the results.*

**\* For Members Only—If your last name begins with A through M, please bring cookies, sweet breads, or fruits/nuts to be served at this meeting.**

**See you there**—and do bring interested parents and others. They can't vote on consensus (unless they want to join)—but they can listen to a very sharp panel.

**-Lorene Lewis**

## From Co-President Elsie Heinrick



Greetings to Bellingham/Whatcom County Leaguers

When you read this, the election will be over and results should be known. Many of you have been involved in candidate and issue campaigns and the hard work will be over whether or not it resulted in the outcome you desired. All of us will now move on to staying current on the issues that Congress and the State Legislature will have to deal with in 2009. With your help the League will continue to offer programs that keep us involved and informed.

To help us, we welcome more new (and returning) members. **Robbi Ferron and Judith Eagan** joined us in the summer and in October we added **Kelly Chaffee, Jo Collinge, Candy Fryer, Norm and Kay Witter and Kelly Krieger**. The Board is discussing ways to get our members involved and we are planning a luncheon potluck for new members as well as longtime members on February 14. The new member handbook is in the works.

We also extend a big thank you to **Eve Pryce** who has made a donation to the scholarship fund we have that enables us to cover dues payments for members whose finances are tight. Donations such as these are always welcome and appreciated.

The Ballot Measures Forum at our October meeting was very successful with a full house and many thoughtful questions. A big thank you to **Georgia, MacGregor**, Voter Service Chair, and **Roni Beall and Sherry Kew**, Program Committee co-chairs. Thank you also to the Bellingham Branch of the American Association of University Women who cosponsored the forum and provided the refreshments. And special thanks to the speakers who presented their side of the charter changes and initiatives very ably. The audience paid close attention to what was said and many stayed afterward to continue discussion.

In November we will meet to discuss the report on Early Care and Education of Young Children. **Lorene and Kelly Lewis** are spearheading this meeting with the help of **Jo Morgan and Jayne**

**Freudenberger**. The first part of the meeting will include speakers and the second part will be for members to discuss the consensus questions related to this subject. Elsewhere in this Voter you will find more details about this meeting and I urge all of you to read the report on our website at [www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/](http://www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/) or in the State Voter you received in the mail and attend the November 15 meeting.

Programs for 2009 are in the planning stages and include a January 3 wine and cheese event for our elected officials. **Please mark your calendars**. We have invited State elected officials from the 40<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Districts as well as Bellingham City and Whatcom County Council leaders and Port of Bellingham Commissioners.

A study about the advisability of using the **National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact** among the states as a method for electing the U.S. President will be the subject of our March meeting. The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and the District of Columbia). The National Popular Vote bill has been enacted by Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, and Maryland. These four states possess 50 electoral votes — 19% of the 270 necessary to bring the law into effect. The bill has passed 21 state legislative chambers, including one house in Arkansas, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina, and Washington, and both houses in California, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact Study is probably of interest to our members and more information and a discussion list can be found on the LWVUS website [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org). Background materials should have appeared about November 1. The deadline for this study and the resulting consensus is May 1.

That is all for this month - please continue to check our wonderful website for current news about the Bellingham/Whatcom County League. [www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/](http://www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/)

Regards, Elsie

Please bring to the meeting Saturday, November 15th.

**Consensus Questions**  
**LWVWA Early Care and Education Study**

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Brain research demonstrates the critical importance of the time from birth – three years in a child’s development. What should the state’s role be in providing services to this population? Please be specific.
  
- 2) Early care and education quality depends on quality child care workers. How can we provide living-wage salaries for child care workers without increasing the financial burden on parents? Comments, please.

**Consensus Questions:**

- 3) Which of the following should the State of Washington fund? Please rate individual programs, 0 = no funding; 1 = partial funding, 2 =full funding.

Type of Program	0	1	2
a) Birth through age 3 programs:			
1. Home visiting			
2. Special needs			
3. Family, friends, neighbors			
b) Pre-school for ages 3-5			
c) Child care programs.			
d) Programs for parents.			
e) Quality improvement initiatives			

- 4) Should Early Care and Education be included in Washington State’s basic education funding formula?
  
- 5) Should we support public-private partnerships such as *Thrive by Five Washington* as a means of expanding the early care system?
  
- 6) Collective bargaining between Service Employees International Union and the State of Washington over child care subsidy rates for family child care home providers and other in-home providers produced increased subsidies. Should child care centers collectively bargain with the State of Washington over subsidies?



Picture from LWV 's Early Care and Education of Young Children Report

## YWCA Programs of Interest

**Lisa Stone**, director of the Seattle-based Northwest Women's Law Center, previews issues of concern to women and families she expects to be on the State Legislature's agenda when it meets in January. **She speaks at noon Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the YWCA**, 1026 North Forest, Bellingham. Brown bags are welcome, beverages provided. Box lunch reservations (\$12) and program information: 734-4820 or [ywca@ywcabellingham.org](mailto:ywca@ywcabellingham.org).

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*Please join us for the launch of a significant new book*

**100 YEARS OF CHALLENGE AND CHANGE:  
Whatcom Women and the Bellingham YWCA  
By Lynne Masland**

This is a richly illustrated history about the impact on Whatcom women's lives today of such events as the suffrage movement, Great Depression, World Wars and the tumultuous '60s and the role of women's organizations from their beginnings until now.

It will be released at a reception and signing from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 13, in the newly renovated ballroom of our landmark building at 1026 North Forest. If you have any questions, call the YWCA at 734-4820 or e-mail [ywca@ywcabellingham.org](mailto:ywca@ywcabellingham.org).

Special parking is available courtesy of First Presbyterian Church (lot at North Garden and Laurel) and Maple-Forest Dental Center (lots on the East side of Forest at Maple and behind the dental center on the West side).

Underwriters of the book are ConocoPhillips Ferndale Refinery, which matched in full a Washington Women's History Consortium grant. Additional support comes from Whatcom Educational Credit Union and Bellingham Sunrise Rotary with in-kind support from designer Credo Graphics and printers LithtexNW.

Because of these donations, all proceeds from the book, priced at \$20, will support the YWCA transitional housing program for women in crisis that enables more than 100 women a year to achieve new lives.

Lynne researched and wrote this 124-page book, which is filled with illuminating personal stories, as volunteer YWCA centennial history chair. It emerged from her research as co-curator of the 2007-2008 Whatcom Museum photo exhibit in honor of the YWCA centennial.

She has written numerous scholarly papers, reviews and articles, and edited four books including *Folklore of the Northwest Corner: the Human Touch*. Her doctoral thesis in comparative literature focuses on the portrayal of older women in French and American novels.



## League of Women Voters of Bellingham/ Whatcom County

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### *Inside :*

#### *General/Consensus Meeting:*

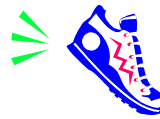
- *Saturday, November 15, 2008—"Early Care & Education of Young Children"*
- *Consensus Questions*
- *YWCA Fall Meetings of Interest*

## Kudos to Our Industrious Committee Members



A special thank you to our Membership Committee members **Bill and JoAn Agnew** and **Dorothy Davis** for preparing name tags for our newest members. The name tags, with their pretty red ribbons, helped us to welcome new members at our last meeting. Look for them at future meetings.

## Walkers and Talkers



Come join us every Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. to walk from Taylor Street dock to Boulevard Park and back, and then go to Book Fare in Village Books for refreshments and lively conversation.  
-Phyllis Haberstroh

## Open House Showcases Kulshan CLT Rehabilitated Home

How often does an older home get a new lease on life? Kulshan Community Land Trust (Kulshan CLT) will show the community how when it hosts an open house on Saturday, November 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 914 Newell Street in Bellingham's Sehome neighborhood. Over 25 people (so far) have helped preserve the 1920's bungalow with energy efficient updates, and soon it will be a permanently affordable home in the Kulshan Community Land Trust.