



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

October 2008

From Co-President Tanya Baumgart



Greetings Leaguers,

Election season is in full swing! All kinds of fun & interesting opportunities are out there for those of you wanting to campaign for your favorite candidates. We encourage your involvement!

Welcome to our new members: **Kay Ingram, Barbara Craig, Sandra Woodfield, Kathy Webb, Pam Whalley, Debbie Middaugh, Kelly Lewis, and Mary Lu Eastham.** Thank you for joining the League! We look forward to seeing you all at our meetings – we will be working to get our new member handbooks out soon. Until we do, please refer to our website at www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org for calendar information.

A big thank you to all those that participated in our kick off event – a Voter Registration Drive at the grocery stores that certainly put action in our program. Comments shared ranged from, “THANK YOU so much for doing this great service – I’d been planning on registering, but just hadn’t done it yet!”, to “Cool, how great to provide a debate schedule – that’s awesome!” (This was in response to the handout we gave out.) And volunteers shared how uplifting it was to see young people enthused about an election. One woman said, “Omigosh, you people are at every store in town!” So apparently our presence was visible.

Are you watching the debates? Look for tips for debate watching on page 4 of this newsletter. Consider having a Debate Watching Party. More details about this fun idea can be found on the homepage of our website at: www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org.

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LWV General Meeting

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Downtown Public Library

(Lecture Room in Basement)

9:45 a.m. Social Time

(Refreshments will be served)

10:00 a.m. Ballot Measures Forum

Make sure you are a well educated voter this November. Attend this forum and hear arguments for and against our local amendments and state initiatives.

- **Should you vote for the Bellingham Charter Amendment 1 or the Whatcom County Charter Amendment 1, and what?**
- **Do you understand the ramifications of Transportation Issue I-985?**
- **Is supporting the initiative calling for training of home care workers viable?**
- **And how about Death with Dignity, I-1000?**

These are all important issues and how we vote matters. Mark your calendars now, and help decide how these matters will shape our local and state communities

**Co-Sponsored by
American Association of University Women
League of Women Voters of Bellingham/
Whatcom County**

From Tanya, cont'd

Coming up in our schedule is the Ballot Measure Forum at our next General Meeting, October 18th – please see details on page 1 in this newsletter. We'll be covering all of the statewide initiatives as well as our local measures on District Only Voting and the Term Length of the At-Large Position. To be in the know, come hear the juicy details and get your questions answered.

Another great opportunity to see your League in action will be at the YWCA Lunchbox Speaker Series on Oct. 21st from noon to 1 PM in their newly restored ballroom. The topic is on our Immigration position. We will be sharing the position and how League arrives at consensus. **Elsie Heinrick**, our co-president will lead the audience in addressing a sample immigration consensus question.

Speaking of consensus, our state League has produced a study of Early Childhood Education, and has recently notified us that our response to the consensus is due by December 8th. To accomplish this, the board has decided to modify our proposed meeting calendar. Our November 15th meeting will now be a consensus meeting. The study is posted on our website at www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/Studies. *Please read the study prior to the meeting to help be prepared for working on the consensus questions.*

The League of Women Voters of Washington is hosting an Action Workshop which is also November 15th in Bellevue. The details are on page 3 of this newsletter. Unfortunately the date coincides with our regularly scheduled meeting which, due to the busyness of the holiday season, we have chosen not to reschedule. We hope that some of our members will be interested in attending the workshop, and we do apologize for the double-booking of the day of the event.

The National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) study, as voted on at LWV National Convention in June, has now started and a discussion list is open to all League members. This listserv allows participants to share information about resources, ways to effectively educate League members on the NPV Compact, the consensus process and ideas about

preparing for and holding consensus meetings. The discussion list is NOT a venue for debating NPV issues. We are looking for at least one member to participate on the NPV discussion list to share ideas and/or ask questions about the study/consensus process. Click here for the NPV Study section at www.lwv.org to subscribe to the discussion list or click here to login. If you are able to participate, please contact Tanya at CoPres1@lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org to let us know you are involved.

LAST CALL: LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Seeking Members

The LWVUS is looking for new members to join the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF). The CCTF was established in 2007 to use the expertise of the membership to provide information and assistance to the LWVUS Board and staff on issues pertaining to climate change. If you have experience with climate change and/or energy issues, we are looking for you. Interested? Download the application form from the LWVUS Web site. The deadline is September 30, 2008.

Planning for the 2009 **TRY** is going on now! “**TRY**” = **They Represent You**, and is a comprehensive listing of all of our elected officials that we provide as a service to the community. We distribute 6000 copies. Can you help? We will be needing volunteers for number checking and distribution. If you have a business that you'd like to advertise on the **TRY**, please contact Margaret Woll – mhildeb408@aol.com for more information.

That's it for now! I look forward to seeing you all at the Ballot Measures Forum on October 18th!

Warm regards, Tanya



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

Phyllis Haberstroh

**League of Women Voters of Washington
ACTION WORKSHOP 2008
REGISTRATION**

Cost: \$20

Lunch Provided

NEW THIS YEAR – TWO VENUES!

Choose one or both:

☞☞ **Benton/Franklin Counties, November 8**

☞☞ **Bellevue, November 15**

Name _____

Tel/email _____

☞☞ VISA ☞☞ M/C

Card # _____ exp. date _____

☞☞ Check enclosed

Mail to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105

Summaries of State Ballot Issues

Summaries of the state ballot issues are posted on the League’s website at www.lwvwa.org. Included with these summaries are the pro’s and con’s and the organizations in support or opposition to the three statewide ballot issues on the General Election Ballot.

The League of Women Voters of Washington has taken positions on two of the initiatives. It opposes I-985 and supports I-1029.

Rather than duplicating the excellent work of both campaigns, please visit their websites for talking points, sample letters to the editor and other helpful resources.

These websites are: www.noon985.org and www.yeson1029.org.

Georgia MacGregor and Tanya Baumgart ready to register voters.

YWCA Fall Speaker Series

Tuesday, October 21, noon-1 p.m., Perspectives on Immigration.

Tanya Baumgart and **Elsie Heinrick**, Co-Presidents of our local League of Women Voters, which participated in a two-year national study of the Immigration issue, and immigration attorney **Hannah Stone** discuss the League’s consensus process and thoughtful and fair guidelines for reform.

Cost for a box lunch, is \$12; Brown bags are welcome without charge. And donations are always welcome. Seating is limited; reservations are strongly advised (734-4820 or ywca@ywcabellingham.org).





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- *Saturday, October 18th General Meeting
"Ballot Measures Forum"*
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TOP FIVE TIPS FOR DEBATE WATCHERS

1. **Think Ahead**-Before the debate, ask yourself which issues are most important to you, and jot down what you'd like to learn from each of the candidates.
2. **Are They Answering the Question?** *Pay attention to how the candidates answer the questions. Are they specific? Sincere? Knowledgeable?*
3. **Keep Track of Topics**-*Are the candidates being asked about your priority issues? Are the questions fair and pertinent?*
4. **Talk it out!** *–Afterwards, talk about the debate with your friends & family. Did the debate sway your decision? Did you learn something new about the candidates' positions?*
5. **VOTE on November 4th**. *It is your best opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the issues that affect all of us! VISIT VOTE411.org to prepare yourself.*

LWVUS GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS' GUIDE

League's Presidential General Election Voters' Guide Now Available—All Presidential candidates who met the League's specific criteria, including John McCain, Ralph Nader and Barack Obama, were invited to participate.

A complete pdf of this Voters' Guide can be found on VOTE411.org.

SAVE THE DATE

The Whatcom Literacy Council will hold their annual Literacy Breakfast fundraiser on Friday November 7 at 7:15 am at Bellingham Golf and Country Club. Nancy Pearl, author and NPR commentator will be returning as guest speaker for this year's breakfast. Nancy, a wonderful and witty speaker, captivated all who attended in 2006. A WLC student and tutor will also share their stories and this is always a highlight.