



# The Voter

February 2016

**The League of Women Voters of Tacoma—Pierce County**

Phone: (253) 272-1495 Email: [lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com) Web: [www.tacomapiercelwv.org](http://www.tacomapiercelwv.org)

## In This Issue

	Page
Money & Civility in Politics	1
President's Message	2
Youth Voter Registration Project	2
Pierce County Responds	3
Money & Civility in Politics Flier	4
City Club Forum - Hate Won't Win Flier	5
Unit Meetings	6
Calendar	7
Board Roster	8
Membership Form	8

LWVWA: <http://www.lwvwa.org/>  
LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org/>

*The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy*

## Money & Civility in Politics—Join the Forum!

*By Cynthia Stewart*

Civility in politics – and money in politics – are looming issues as the 2016 campaign proceeds. Already we have seen a significant lack of civility, and we are hearing in the media of the millions of dollars being spent by each Presidential candidate – with more to come as the PACs and SuperPACs kick in over the summer.

These issues will be the focus of our general membership meeting and public forum on February 20. This event combines an open house at our new location (with refreshments), a celebration of League's 96th birthday (the actual date is February 14) and a forum entitled "Money & Civility in Politics: Are They Related?"

The forum will be an exchange among some very respected individuals who have extensive political experience and an opportunity for the audience to engage in discussion about what steps can be taken to convince people that their votes do matter; and what measures should be taken to protect democracy. Right on the heels of completing the consensus process for the LWVUS money in politics study, this is timely and important.

But League isn't the only organization with these questions. City Club Tacoma is hosting a forum on "Hate Won't Win" on February 3. Founded in Charleston, SC on June 17, 2015, the night that a white stranger in a predominantly black church killed nine people, the movement began with a statement by the granddaughter of one of the victims. She said, "It is my understanding that the purpose of this shooting was to initiate a race war. And although my grandfather and the other victims died at the hands of hate, they lived in love and they preached love, and their legacies will be love. This display of forgiveness by the families and their plea for mercy on your soul is a true testament to how they lived and so hate won't win." This started the Hate Won't Win movement. Tacoma was the first city to have a Hate Won't Win campaign.

Fliers on pages 4 and 5 of this Voter portray the programs and other details for each of these forums. We hope you will come to the February 20 League event but also consider City Club's on February 3.

Visit us on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Tacoma-Pierce-County/312747775413](http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Tacoma-Pierce-County/312747775413)





## President's Message

The 2016 election is in full force... Well, maybe it was in full force a year ago! Either way, it gives the League opportunities to serve our communities. There are two forums coming up, and candidate forums and voter registration activities are planned. I encourage all League members to find what you are passionate about and get involved.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our events.

*Ruth Ann Hatchett*

Check out our web site: [www.tacomapiercelwv.org](http://www.tacomapiercelwv.org)

## Youth Voter Registration Project

*By Ann Williams*

In 2015, the Millennial generation for the first time became slightly larger than the Boomer generation, but as yet, younger Americans have not achieved the voting habits of their elders. This lack of participation arguably already has had negative consequences for the young; and although their majority will continue to increase, without equivalent voter participation, their views will not be well represented.

At the program planning meeting in December, our membership agreed to support a voter registration project aimed at both high school and junior and technical college students. Our small committee has endorsed the model developed by the National League of Women Voters, who studied the effectiveness of various strategies to register eligible high school students over the last three election cycles. Among the many recommendations that came out of this effort, the most important was based on the observation that getting into the class room was the most effective and efficient way to proceed.

But getting into the class room also poses challenges. The demands placed on high school teachers in today's environment are significantly increased compared to a generation ago. Classroom time is extremely valuable and we therefore feel the need to proceed with a dose of humility. The most important thing that we can achieve early in this project is to establish good relationships with teachers and to be sure that our product meets their needs.

We have therefore chosen to keep our early effort modest. We have selected three small school districts in Pierce County (Bethel, Franklin Pierce and Chief Leschi), two schools in the Tacoma School District (Lincoln and Mt. Tahoma), and Bates and Clover Park Technical Colleges to receive invitations to join our project. So far, we have been well received at the technical colleges and at Franklin Pierce School District, although we are still waiting for actual teacher input. Based on conversations with Bates and Clover Park representatives, we are hopeful that we will have registration activities in these institutions during February and April, respectively. Other than schools, additional opportunities for voter registration may include youth focused community events.

As with many projects, we are not as far along as we had hoped when we started. Still, we feel that we have enough information to host our first **workshop for interested volunteers**, which is planned for **February 1, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at the new League office**. If you are interested in this project, please join us.

## Pierce County Responds:

### To Keep a Clean, Healthy, Attractive Environment, Pierce County Responds Provides Great Service

by Lucinda Wingard

At the General Meeting in December, a question came up about environmental problems accompanying the spurt of population growth in some areas of Pierce County. (The Growth Management Act of Washington State requires that each county review its Comprehensive Plan policies and update protections for 'livability' if needed. Planning and Lands Services did just that 2014-2015, and I reported on that process in the December Voter.)

The questioner wondered about what to do when building/remodeling efforts we notice in our own neighborhoods seem to be doing damage, either environmentally or aesthetically. Is the activity properly permitted? Is it safe? How do we find out?

I have learned that the planning departments around the county have basically pulled back from the job of building code enforcement. Taxpayers and landowners get touchy when the government "looks over their back fence." On the other hand, residents want to keep the public benefits of a clean, healthy, attractive environment surrounding them.

I recommend to anyone who believes they observe 'bad acts' in their area to report them—otherwise, inspections for code violations will not happen. I have done this once myself in a brief, over-the-phone conversation. And, you can report your concerns anonymously if you are wary of retaliation. This is the website that directs you to appropriate links: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=1571>

Believe me, you are not being a 'rat.' Pierce County Responds is staffed by caring people who, rather than punish and fine, first try to work with landowners to come in compliance for the good of the neighborhood. Most damage is done in ignorance, not maliciously. If you are in an incorporated area not served by Pierce County Responds, call your city planning department and they will refer you to the proper agent.

## Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors:

Terri Baker  
Joan Benderson  
Paula and Donald Eismann  
Bea Elder

Rosa Franklin  
Aviva Lemberger  
Michael Lonergan  
Leonard Lukin

Cheryl Mann  
Ginny Peterson  
Rita Robison  
Ellen Zulauf

## Voter Production & Distribution Volunteers

Your Voter is brought to you by the following people:

### Editorial Volunteers:

Cynthia Stewart  
Susan Eidenschink  
Julie Offner

### Photos:

Julio Quan

### Publicity:

Lucinda Wingard

## Welcome to Our New Members!

Judith Kautz  
Aviva Lemberger  
Rita Robison



League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County

## Money & Civility in Politics: Are They Related?



1:30 p.m.

February 20, 2016

**PUBLIC FORUM**



**First United Methodist Church**  
**621 Tacoma Ave. South, Tacoma**

- Is there a relationship between civility and money in politics?
- Does money affect political behavior?
- Does lack of civility damage democracy? Can civility be restored?
- Should campaign contributions be limited in some way?
- Facilitated audience involvement in discussion:
  - What steps can be taken to convince people that their votes do matter?
  - What measures should be taken to protect democracy?
- Refreshments, and more.....

Hear diverse views from these respected speakers:

**Cathy Allen, Democratic Strategist**

**Bruce Boram, Republican Strategist**

Two political strategists, one from each major political party, will discuss the role of money in campaigns, how it is generated, how it is used, and the extent to which it influences campaign outcomes and elected officials' behavior.

**John Curley, Media Spokesperson**

**Sam Reed, Governance Expert**

With 27 years of experience in media, John Curley will discuss his perspective on media effects on campaigns and civility.

Former Secretary of State Sam Reed will discuss Washington State's unique transparency regulations and why this state is not like many others.

**Also hear about the League of Women Voters work on Money in Politics**

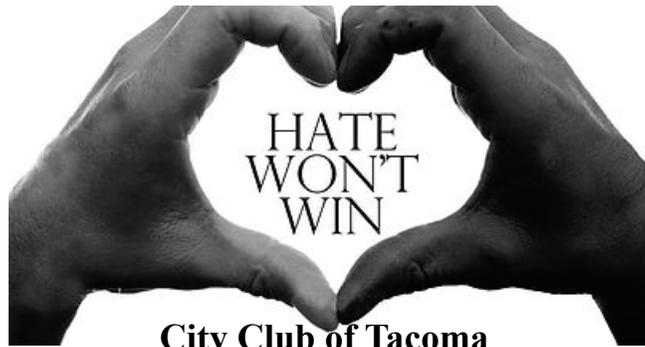
**Facilitated by Terry Bergeson,**

**League member and former Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County

621 Tacoma Way South, Tacoma, WA • [www.tacomapiercelwv.org](http://www.tacomapiercelwv.org) • (253) 272-1495



**City Club of Tacoma**

**February 3, 2016**

University of Puget Sound-Upper Marshall Hall

Open minds embracing the future...

Wheelock Student Center-above the Rotunda

6pm-Wine Social

6:30pm-Dinner buffet

7:00pm-Announcements

7:05pm-Program Begins

8:00pm-Q&A from the audience

8:30pm-Adjourn

**Panelists:**



**Melannie Cunningham**-moderator and panelist

The woman, who in twenty days, produced the first Hate Won't Win program in the our great city, Tacoma.

**UWT Prof. Chris Demaske, PhD**

An associate professor of communication in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington Tacoma, .



**Prof. Turan Kayaoglu, PhD**

Professor UWT Chair of Culture, Arts and Communication

**Also:**

**Pastor Anthony Steele**, Pastor at Allen AME-Hilltop

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets



## Get Involved! Attend a Unit Meeting and Bring a Friend (or two)

### Tacoma

#### 2nd Thursday of the Month

1:00—3:00 pm

North Tacoma Police Station  
5140 N. 26th St.

Tacoma

Contact: Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow,  
lyzkurnitz@harboret.com

### Southwest Pierce (formerly Lakewood & Neighbors)

#### 2nd Friday of the Month

10:00 am to noon

Steilacoom Community Center  
2301 Worthington St.

Steilacoom

Contact: Ann Elliston, 253-564-4102

### East Pierce

#### 2nd Saturday of the Month

10:00 am to Noon

Puyallup Library  
324 S. Meridian

Puyallup

Contact: Ellen Zulauf,  
eazul@comcast.net

### Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula

#### 2nd Saturday of the Month

2:00—4:00 pm

Harbor History Museum  
4121 Harborview Dr.

Gig Harbor

Contact: Sharon Peace-Doane, 253-  
265-0841

### This Month: February—No Unit Meetings

#### General Membership Meeting, Forum & Open House

On Saturday, February 20, the general membership meeting will be a forum on Money and Civility in Politics, at the First United Methodist Church, 621 Tacoma Ave So., Tacoma. This will be open to the public, and you are encouraged to invite your friends. Following the forum there will be an open house at our new office space. See the flier on page 4.

### Next Month: March—Consensus on Mental Health in Pierce County Study

At the March Unit meetings, you will be able to participate in discussion dealing with the mental health study and attempt to come to consensus on aspects of this issue in Pierce County. Currently there is no position on mental health in Pierce County, so this is an opportunity to work toward a position upon which we will be able to act.

### Last Month: January – Money in Politics – LWVUS Consensus

At the January Unit meetings, participants discussed guidelines for evaluating LWVUS consensus questions on Money in Politics. These discussions and voting may lead to an updating of the current position on Campaign Finance, which was written using consensus in 1974 and updated in 1982. Much has happened in campaign financing of elections since that time.

### Keeping up with League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County

For those of you who are not on Facebook, look for LWVT-PC online posts at The Suburban Times, thesubtimes.com, and Patch, patch.com. Both of these news sites have become easy to use. For Patch, select your desired community (Find your Patch) and scroll among the latest Bulletin Board posts.

For more information, see [www.tacomapiercelwv.org](http://www.tacomapiercelwv.org) or call 253-272-1495

LWVT-PC Calendar February—May 2016

<b>February 1</b> 4:30—6:30 pm	<b>Workshop for Youth Voter Registration Project volunteers</b> League office 621 Tacoma Way So., Ste. 202 Tacoma	<b>April 9</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>East Pierce Unit Meeting</b> Legislative Session Update Puyallup Library 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup
<b>February 20</b> 1:30—3:30 pm	<b>General Membership Forum and Open House at New LWVT-PC Office</b> Civility and Democracy Forum 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Tacoma	<b>April 9</b> 2:00—4:00 pm	<b>Gig Harbor Unit Meeting</b> Legislative Session Update Harbor History Museum 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor
<b>February 20</b>	<b>Deadline for March Voter articles</b>	<b>April 14</b> 1:00—3:00 pm	<b>Tacoma Unit Meeting</b> Legislative Session Update North Tacoma Police Station 5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma
<b>February 23</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>LWVT-PC Board Meeting,</b> 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Ste. 202 Tacoma		
		<b>April 20</b>	<b>Deadline for May Voter articles</b>
<b>March 10</b> 1:00—3:00 pm	<b>Tacoma Unit Meeting</b> Mental Health Study Part II & Consensus North Tacoma Police Station 5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma	<b>April 26</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>LWVT-PC Board Meeting,</b> 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Ste. 202 Tacoma
		<b>May 11</b> 9:00 am-3:00 pm	<b>Project Homeless Connect</b> Help register voters Location to be announced
<b>March 11</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting</b> Mental Health Study Part II & Consensus Steilacoom Community Center 2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom	<b>May 12</b> 1:00—3:00 pm	<b>Tacoma Unit Meeting</b> Topic of Choice North Tacoma Police Station 5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma
<b>March 12</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>East Pierce Unit Meeting</b> Mental Health Study Part II & Consensus Puyallup Library 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup	<b>May 13</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting</b> Topic of Choice Steilacoom Community Center 2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom
<b>March 12</b> 2:00—4:00 pm	<b>Gig Harbor Unit Meeting</b> Mental Health Study Part II & Consensus Harbor History Museum 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor	<b>May 14</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>East Pierce Unit Meeting</b> Topic of Choice Puyallup Library 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Deadline for April Voter articles</b>	<b>May 14</b> 2:00—4:00 pm	<b>Gig Harbor Unit Meeting</b> Topic of Choice Harbor History Museum 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor
<b>March 22</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>LWVT-PC Board Meeting,</b> 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Ste. 202 Tacoma		
<b>April 8</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting</b> Legislative Session Update Steilacoom Community Center 2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom	<b>May 24</b> 10:00 am—Noon	<b>LWVT-PC Board Meeting,</b> 621 S. Tacoma Ave, #202 Tacoma

**LWVTPC Board Members**

President	Ruth Ann Hatchett	253-864-7556 ; ruthann6257@msn.com
1st Vice President	Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow	253-924-0288; lyzkurnitz@harbornet.com
2nd Vice President	Julie Offner	253-432-4407; offner.julie@gmail.com
Secretary	Paula Eismann	253-863-8845, peismann60@comcast.net
Treasurer	Susan Eidenschink	253-365-4005; susaneiden@harbornet.com
Directors:	Ingrid Curtis	253-862-7865; Ltcolrwc@comcast.net
	Cheryl Mann	252-851-6266; Larch@gci.net
	Sharon Peace-Doane	253-265-0841; hrdoanes@comcast.net
	Julio Quan	253-238-9161; julioquan1@gmail.com
	Cynthia Stewart	360-413-1210; stewdahl@comcast.net
	John Thurlow	253-219-1617; johnthurlow@harbornet.com
	Ann Williams	253-759-3355; willar12000@yahoo.com

**Join the Tacoma—Pierce County League of Women Voters !**

**The League of Women Voters of Tacoma – Pierce County invites you to join us!**

Any citizen of voting age, male or female may become a member.

**Yes, I'd like to become a Member of the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.**

This application also entitles me to full membership in and mailings of the Washington State and National League of Women Voters (LWVWA and LWVUS)

Membership for one year for an individual is \$75 (for two members of a household - \$112.50). Student membership is \$37.50. If you are not a citizen and/or 18 years of age, you may become an Associate Member for \$37.50.

There are also special memberships that will help League even more and will be given special recognition: LWV Suffragist, \$500.00; LWV Advocate, \$250.00; and LWV Supporter, \$150.00.

Please indicate the type of membership you desire. We have scholarship memberships available at this time. Membership dues are NOT tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund (*by separate check made out to the Education Fund of LWVT-PC, and they are tax deductible*) and/or the General Fund are welcome.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County, 621 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98402-2301