



The Voter

December 2018

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma—Pierce County

Making Democracy Work by Growing, Mobilizing, Educating and Protecting the Vote

Phone: (253) 272-1495 Email: lvvtacomapierce@gmail.com Web: www.tacomapiercelwv.org

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the connections between citizens and their government. We welcome all members of our community - both men and women - to join us as we work to create a more perfect democracy.

In this Issue

	Page
In the Units	2
President's Message	3
Thanks to our Volunteers	3
December League Calendar	4
December Bookshelf	4
Member Spotlight	5
Program Planning	6
November Board Highlights	8
Help Wanted	9
Observer Corps Reports	10
Community Partner Calendar	10
Community Vol. Opportunities	11
Editor's Voter Questionnaire	12

Don't forget to attend one of the most important League Meetings of the Year

Saturday December 1st

See full information on Page 6

And be sure to fill out the Voter Questionnaire on page 12

Many Thanks to our Members who Donated to us in October and November and to the Financial Supporters who make our League Work possible year round:

**Lucky 7 Foundation
Julie Offner**

**Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow
Jackie Skaugt**

**Aviva Lemburger
Colleen Waterhouse**



Rotary
Club of Tacoma North





In the Units

December: All-Member Program Planning Meeting: Saturday, Dec 1 This Program Planning meeting replaces the December Unit Meetings. It is your opportunity to share your thoughts about the study and actions our League will take on throughout 2019. Please be sure to join us. The meeting will be held in the downstairs Hall at the First United Methodist Church building. As always, it will be a **Pot Luck lunch/brunch**. Unit meetings will return to their regular times and places in January, 2019. See more complete information about preparing yourself for the meeting on Page 6.

January Unit Meetings:

On Saturday January 5, 10:00 am, there will be a Public Forum on *Immigration* at the First United Methodist Church, in Tacoma. We will hold additional follow-up discussions at our regular January Unit meetings with more intimate and in-depth discussions of immigration issues and how the League should move our concern into action. Unit Meetings will be at their regular times and locations.

News from the Units:

In February we are planning a second Public Forum on Saturday, Feb 2, 1:00 pm. The location remains to be determined. It will be a Panel Discussion on "Rising above the Political Divide" Look in the January Voter for more information.

When and Where do our Units Meet?

2nd Wednesday

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

<https://zoom.us>
Click on "Join Mtg"
Meeting code:
306-690-395

Contact:
Alison McCaffree
alison.mccaffree@stanfordalumni.org

2nd Thursday

1:00 - 3:00

Tacoma Meeting

N. Tacoma Police
Substation
5140 N. 26th St

Contact:
Wendes Jones
wendesj@yahoo.com

2nd Friday

10:00 - Noon

Southwest Pierce

Steilacoom
Community Ctr.
2301 Worthington

Contact:
Christie Perkins
edadvocate@me.com

2nd Saturday

10:00 - Noon

East Pierce

Puyallup Library
324 S. Meridian

Contact:
Paula Eismann
peismann60@comcast.net

3rd Saturday

10:30 - 12:30

Gig Harbor- Key Peninsula

Herons Key
4340 Borgen Blvd.
Gig Harbor North

Contact:
Julie Offner
offner.julie@gmail.com



Visit the League on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Tacoma-Pierce-County/31274775413

Message from our President

Cynthia Stewart



In just a few days, we will have one of our most important League meetings of the year – the Program Planning meeting at which we identify our priorities for the next year. I can't wait to find out what all of you want us to do!

We can study a new issue. We can take more action to address the policy positions we already have. We can just focus on unit meetings and how we function as a League. But whatever we do, it depends on the ideas and values you have and bring to the December 1 meeting.

Interestingly, we have begun to get inquiries from other organizations, asking if we can help them learn how to be more effective at advocacy. That's a compliment to all of you; but it also suggests that we should continue to be visible in Pierce County communities and with local governments. What do you think WE should advocate for in the year ahead?

This Voter comes out just after Thanksgiving and before the December holidays, so I also want to wish each of you the very best for this holiday season and the new year. Thank you for everything you have done this year. I hope to see you December 1.



Many thanks to our Volunteer Vote Processing Observers for the Mid-Term Elections:

Helen Carlson
Joe Conklin
Marcy Johnson
Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow
June Reilly
Kathy Sommers

Beth Carter
Susan Dahl
John Kennedy
Nan Peele
Nancy Slotnick
Sharon Wilhelm

June Coloff
Sue Inglis
Leanne Kennedy
Ginny Peterson
Audrey Smith
Jan Nichols

Apologies if we missed your name here. We deeply appreciate your help but our memories sometimes fail us....

League Calendar - December 2018-January 2019

DECEMBER 2018			
Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 12/1	9:30 - 2:00	2019-20 Program Planning Meeting With Pot Luck Brunch/Lunch There are no Unit Meetings in December	Church Hall First United Methodist Church 621 Tacoma Ave. South ***
Tue 12/6	2:30 - 4pm	Book Discussion Group	Wheelock Library, Tacoma
Sat 12/8	9:30 – 11:30 am	Mirrors of Privilege: Film Screening & discussion Free	Tacoma Public Library Downtown Branch, 1102 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma
Thu 12/20	2:00 - 5:00	LVWT-PC Board of Directors Meeting	League Office
JANUARY - 2019			
Tue Jan 3	2:30 - 4	Book Discussion Group	University Place Library
Sat Jan 5	10:00 am - Noon	Immigration - a Public Forum	First United Methodist Church 621 Tacoma Ave. South, Tacoma
Wed Jan 9	6:30-8:30	Virtual Unit Meeting	See In the Units, page 2
Thu Jan 10	1:00-3:00	Tacoma Unit Meeting	N. Tacoma Police Substation
Fri Jan 11	10:00 - noon	Steilacoom Unit Meeting	Steilacoom Community Center
Sat Jan 12	9:30 - 2	LWVWA Action Workshop on the Environment \$25 (\$10 under age 24) Info at mvonhoff@lwwva.org	Shoreline Community College
Sat Jan 12	10:00 - noon	Puyallup Unit meeting	Puyallup Library
Thu Jan 17	2:00	Board Meeting	League Office
Sat Jan 19	10:30-12:30	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting	Herons Key - Anchor Room
SAVE the DATE			
June 6-9th, 2019		Washington League of Women Voters State Convention	Hotel Murano Tacoma



December Book Shelf:

*Notes from Our new Book Discussion Group.
Come join in the discussion of our latest reads.....*

* Tuesday, December 6 2:30-4pm

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
Wheelock (Proctor) Library 3722 N. 26th St., Tacoma

* Tuesday, January 3 2:30 - 4 pm

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden side of Everything
by Steven B. Leavitt and Stephen J. Dubner
University Place Library, 3609 Market Pl. West, University Place

Have you read a Good Book Lately?

Please share it with the rest of your League friends through the Voter Book Shelf. Just write a short review, and send it to Nancy Dahl nancy.dahl@comcast.net

Meet your Fellow Members *this month*

Lydia Zepeda



Though **Lydia Zepeda** says she is "sort of" retired now, she is one very energetic lady. She is a professor emerita of consumer science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Professionally, she is an economist who conducts quantitative and qualitative research on consumer food choices, food production, food waste, food access and food policy. Her website is www.localandorganicfood.org

Lydia also has a wide range of interests and activities. She's been a volunteer Spanish language interpreter for family and immigration legal services at the University of Wisconsin and for the CARA pro bono project at the Family Detention Center in Dilley Texas. She is also a volunteer advocate at Tacoma Community House and volunteers for the Northwest Immigration Rights Project. She is the Treasurer of Wisconsin University Union, on the advisory board of Slow Food University of Wisconsin, a volunteer grant-writer for West Point School of Music, and volunteers for Hilltop Urban Garden.

Lydia enjoys hiking, horseback riding (she is currently looking for a mount), hip hop dance, and the Washington Regency Society. In her volunteer work for our Tacoma-Pierce County League of Women Voters, she is helping out in the office, is an Observer for the County Council and is also part of the Immigration Unit, which is organizing our January 5th Public Forum on Immigration at First United Methodist Church.

Welcome!

Say Hello to our New League Members

Keitha Bryson

Janet Luft Mobus

Nancy Hausauer

Wendi Pfennenstiel

Glad to have you with us!

Program Planning Meeting

Saturday, December 1

Coffee at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tacoma First United Methodist Church
Downstairs Fellowship Hall

What to Bring ?

- *Your List of Program Ideas*
- *Your League Handbook*
- *Food to share at Brunch/ Lunch*
- *This Voter*
- *\$\$\$ for Raffle Tickets*
- *Raffle Basket if you or your Unit made one*

Be there! It won't be the same without your Input

Local Leagues like ours use Program Planning meetings to develop ideas for the work they want to do in the year ahead. They also develop and pass along recommendations for state and national programs. (This year the focus is on the State League.) For the last few years our League has used all-member meetings to get input for our programs. The meeting on December 1st is your chance to voice your thoughts and share your ideas for 2019. We'll focus on local program ideas plus ideas for the state League.

Planning - a Multi- Level Process

Step 1: You can start the planning process right now. Think about (and jot down) the problems and challenges your family, your friends or your community have encountered recently.

Step 2: Evaluate your challenges using the questions in the box at the top of the next page. Are your problems ones that the League might be able to address and resolve?

Step 3: Join us on Saturday, December 1, at First United Methodist Church, on the lower level of the building where we have our office. Bring your ideas. Listen to the ideas other members bring to the table. Engage with the group to create a short-list of possibilities.

Step 4: We'll send the Short-List ideas to the Board of Directors for more specific research. They will go deeper, analyze our suggestions and report to our members *through* the Voter. And they will pass along our suggestions for State League programs as well.

Please do your best to attend and be a part of this vital League activity. You'll learn more about League and what we stand for. And we'll all have a chance to socialize and enjoy food and discussion with friends, both old and new.

Parking for Program Planning Meeting – December 1

Parking can be a bit difficult near the First United Methodist Church because it does not have a dedicated Parking Lot. But you can use the parking lot adjacent to the School Administration Bldg. It is south of the corner of South 7th Street and South G Street. Although this is normally occupied on weekdays, it is available on weekends. Also there is free 90 minute parking on Tacoma Avenue and unlimited parking for those who have a handicapped permit.

Criteria for Recommending an Issue for Study or Action by the State League or LWVT-PC?

- Is this a question, problem or issue that the state or local government can resolve?
- Does the League already have a Position on this issue?
(Look at the State League Program in Action 2017-19 and our local League Positions at the Links below.)
- Is the Position still useful?
- Is it sufficiently broad?
- Are there significant new developments in the issue area not yet taken into consideration by the existing Position?
- Is there a deadline for Action? Would a Committee have time to do a study (or adapt an existing one) and then act to influence how the issue is resolved ?
- Does League have the resources (volunteers/\$/partners) to carry through on this project?

See LWVT-PC Positions at
http://tacomapiercelwv.org/about_action.html#s02

See State League Positions at
<https://www.lwwa.org/resources/Documents/Program%20in%20Action%2017-19%20for%20pdf%20to%20print.pdf>

See National League Positions at
<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/other-issues-tools/impact-issues-2016-2018-online-edition>



And the League's Special Vocabulary



Program Planning Vocabulary

Program planning is the work done by a local League to recommend Program to the state or national League and to prepare for adoption of the local League's own Program at its annual meeting. The following terms are used in Program Planning.

Program of Work	The governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and/or action . It includes adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.
Action	Work that the League does to develop public support for League goals and to influence governmental decisions by supporting policies, budgets, comprehensive plans and initiatives or referenda that implement League positions.
Study	A subject that League members choose to research as part of the Program. Once adopted, the study item becomes the responsibility of a resource committee. Through the process of study and discussion, members reach consensus upon which future League action is based.
Position	A statement of governmental policy supported by the League on the basis of member consensus. Positions form the basis for League action.
Consensus	The technique most often used in League for reaching member agreement. Neither unanimity nor a simple majority, it is the overall "sense of the group" as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. Consensus is always based upon study and leads to action.
Scope	A description of the dimensions of a study item.
Outlook for Work	An estimate of the work to be undertaken, based upon the combined scopes of the study and action program items that are approved.

Highlights of the November 15 Board Meeting

Julie Offner, Secretary

Finances: There are three new members and one renewal: our total membership is now 186. The most significant expenditure was the second quarter Per Member Payment to the State League.

MELD (Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development) Guidance and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion): Our League has been assigned to a MELD “pod” with Yakima, Clark and Cowlitz County Leagues. This month’s phone conference focused on the work we need to do in League to increase diversity.

Unit Meeting Updates and Plans: The video, “Mirrors of Privilege,” part of which was shown at November Unit meetings, will be shown in its entirety and discussed on December 8 at the Tacoma Public Library. The topic for our February forum (February 2) and unit meetings has been changed to “*Rising above the Political Divide*”. The Board approved \$600 to include the Refugee Choir in the Immigration Forum on January 5.

Program Planning Meeting: At the December 1 Program Planning meeting, we will examine local positions and discuss which issues to focus on in 2019. We will also raffle Baskets from each of the Units. Pot Luck breakfast and lunch will be served.

Create a Healthier LWV Network: Susan Eidenschink presented her group's report on how we are meeting goals to create a healthier LWV network and increase LWVT-PC capacity. That included doing a good job of recognizing our Units as an important base for our League and creating a career path from Unit Leader to Board Member (She noted that two Unit Leaders serve on the Board.) We could improve our process for connecting with other Leagues for ideas and information exchange although reading their monthly Voters, an easy way of doing that.

Select Printer for 2019 TRY: The Team obtained multiple bids from three local printers for printing 7,000 copies of the new TRY. After discussing pros and cons of paper weights and cover stock, the Board voted to award the contract for 7,000 copies to Johnson-Cox, a union shop.

New Office Computer: Nancy Dahl reported on her fact finding re the purchase of a new office computer. The Board approved a motion directing Nancy to work with Tech Soup to select a computer, software and peripherals. (Tech Soup is a non-profit organization that supports other non-profits in selecting and purchasing IT equipment and software.) Roxanne will work on obtaining a grant to underwrite our purchase.

Help Wanted!! for Up-Coming League Events

Convention 2019 is coming sooner than you think

Looking Back, Moving Forward



As most of you are aware from announcements over the last couple of months, we (LWVT-PC) are hosting the LWVWA state convention in June - June 6-9, 2019 to be specific.

Although the Convention is still nearly 6 months away, there is some organizing work that must be done early – and we need your help to do it. Here are some of the things that must be done in advance:

- Planning the Suffragist Pink Tea
- Organizing the decorations throughout the Convention venue
- Procuring and packing items for the swag bags
- Helping to organize the Kickoff Reception on Thursday, June 6, at the WA State Historic Museum

This work is going to be fun and social as well as helpful. You will get to know other League members and deepen your existing friendships. During the month of December, please Email Charlene Franz,

csffranz@yahoo.com to let us know which activities you want to help with. We'll be organizing these committees formally in January. If you already signed up at a one of the Unit Meetings, please email Charlene again, to make sure no-one is missed. And also consider making a donation to your League to make this convention a success.

THANKS for helping with kick-off to our Centennial and the 2019 LWVWA state convention.

January 5th Public Forum on Immigration

As we move into 2019, our first event is a public Forum on Immigration. We will need volunteers for on-site Registration, table set-up, Scribes, microphone runners, and volunteers for jobs not-yet-defined. This forum is Part 1 of our January Unit Meeting process. It would be great if you could help while you are attending the meeting. Contact Ruth Ann Hatchett ruthann6257@msn.com

Observer Corps Report Highlights October - November 2018

Click on Any Title to See the Full Report on our Website

- [Pierce County Council Meeting, October 30](#) by **Joanne Mansfield-Gales**
Five ordinances and three proposals presented to the Pierce County Council were approved unanimously.
 - [Pierce County Council Meeting, November 13](#) by **Lydia Zepeda**
Council considered Pierce County's \$1 billion budget plus the 6-year Capital Facilities Plan. Voted to raise the wages of non-represented county employees making them comparable to wages of represented employees.
-
- [Puyallup City Council, November 6](#) by **Nancy Dahl**
This meeting was less straightforward than usual. Two contentious items were added to the agenda at the last minute in a month when discussion time is typically focused on the annual budget. Item 1: to require sponsors of non-profit community events (e.g. Farmer's Markets, etc) to submit competitive RFP's to the City itself in order to obtain LTAC funding and licenses to use city owned facilities. Item 2: a proposal to change the performance criteria on which the City Manager is evaluated. This motion was later withdrawn.

To follow the activities of our local governments, check out the new Observer Corps reports [here](#) regularly

Our Community Partners' December Events

Our League works cooperatively throughout the year with other non-partisan organizations who share our goals and action to benefit the Community. We are pleased to bring our members information about their events.

Date	Time	Event/Sponsor	Location
Now thru 1/20/19		Jacob Lawrence: "George Bush" Pioneer Paintings Exhibit : Paid Admission; Free on 3rd Thursday each month or with passes available at Tacoma, Pierce County and King County Library Branches.	Washington State History Museum 1911 Pacific Ave. Tacoma
Tue 12/11	2:30- 4	Library Discussion: The Gift of Memory - Free	University Place Library
Wed 12/12	2 - 3:30	Library Discussion: Wisdom Cafe - Free	Gig Harbor Pub. Library
Thur 12/13	5-7 pm	Associated Ministries Quarterly Community Mtg; An Update on Homelessness	Shiloh Baptist Church 1211 South "I" St. Tacoma
Thur 12/13	6:30 pm	<i>Meaningful Movies: The Genius of Marion</i> Free - Snacks start at 6 pm	Agnus Dei Church 11051 Peacock Hill Rd Gig Harbor
Thur 12/27	6:30 pm	<i>Meaningful Movies : The Brainwashing of my Dad</i> Free Info: mdtilstra@aol.com	Grand Cinema 606 Fawcett St.- Tacoma
Wed 1/9/18	6:00 pm	<i>City Club: Austin Jenkins & Friends</i> ; buy tickets here (League members may use the early bird rate)	UPS, Upper Marshall Hall

Here are Two Community Volunteering Opportunities for you this January

1. Project Homeless Connect

Homeless Service Day
January 25th 10-2
Oasis of Hope Center -
1937 G Street - Tacoma
To Volunteer:



wendy@associatedministries.org 253-426-1501

Everyone **counts**, no matter where they live.

Volunteers Needed

Homeless Point In Time Count
January 25, 2019



WHAT IS THE HOMELESS PIT COUNT?

The Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an unduplicated count on a single night of people in the community experiencing homelessness. These counts help communities plan services and programs to address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in the current homeless crisis response system.



HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER?

Volunteers may participate by organizing donations or surveying individuals experiencing homelessness. Volunteers must be 18 years of age, have access to a smart phone or tablet, and attend a PIT count training. Volunteers may sign up online by visiting www.piercecountywa.gov/PIT



WHAT DONATIONS ARE NEEDED?

Donations are given out during the PIT count. We need socks, hats, gloves, hand/foot warmers, warm blankets, packaged food, and hygiene kits including shampoo, conditioner, soap, razor, deodorant, and feminine products. For drop off locations, email [PCpointintimecount@PierceCountyWA.gov](mailto:PCpointintimecount@ PierceCountyWA.gov)

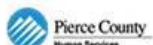
Want more information about homelessness and the PIT count?



PCpointintimecount@PierceCountyWA.gov
www.piercecountywa.gov/PIT



The Road Home
A partnership with Pierce County, Human Services



2. Point in Time Count of Pierce County's Homeless Citizens

Questionnaire about the Voter

In September, we changed to a new format for the Voter. Now that you've had a chance to read several issues, we want to know how you like what we've done and what we can do better.....

Please let us know how you use the Voter

1. How much of the Voter do you read each month?

- I only read the first few pages
- I only look at the Calendar
- I read the whole thing from start to finish
- I read about half

2. How do you like the Voter's "new look"?

- I like it
- I didn't realize the Voter had changed
- The changes don't feel good to me
- I'd like to see more of _____
- I'd like to see less of _____

3. What parts of the Voter are most important to you? Please mark your Top 5, marking the most important as 1, the next as 2, etc.

- League Calendar
- President's Message
- Major Articles on what our League Does
- Unit Reports
- Member Biographies
- Book Reviews
- Community Partners' Calendar
- Board Meeting Highlights
- Observer Corps Reports

4. What would you like to see more of in the Voter? _____

5. What would you like left out of the Voter? _____

6. Your name (so we can follow up on your responses) _____

3 Ways to Reply to this Questionnaire:

1. Copy this page and Paste it into a new email message. Fill out your responses and send the message to mailto:Ginnypete_1897@msn.com
2. Print this page. Fill out the questionnaire and mail it to Ginny Peterson, Editor, League of Women Voters, 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Tacoma WA 98402
3. Print this page and answer the survey questions. Bring it to the Program Planning meeting on Saturday, December 1, and put it into the container provided. You'll be entered into a prize drawing.