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## The Agricultural Consensus-February Unit Meetings

by Ann Williams

The LWVUS has had a position on the role of the federal government in agriculture since 1988, after a two year study of the issues. The position has been used to influence policy and is still a relevant document. However there has been significant change in the agricultural sector since then, prompting an update on the League's position. February unit meetings will be devoted to responding to consensus questions as proposed by the Agricultural Update Committee of the LWVUS.

The LWVUS Agricultural Update Committee has amassed a trove of background reading to aid in the discussion of consensus questions. (<http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>) Your local committee has worked hard to digest and summarize this information for members. At a minimum we encourage members to read our summary document before the unit meetings, as well as the current position and the questions themselves—both of which are printed out in this Voter. We also encourage members to explore what is available on the above website. Even reviewing the titles will give you a hint regarding the complexity of these issues. Some of these articles are short, so don't be daunted. The following link

(<http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-summer-reading>) will take you to three articles suggested by the Update Committee as basic background reading.



The consensus questions are focused on two areas. The first is current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMO), pesticides, herbicides, water pollution antibiotics in livestock and food labeling. The second focus is on finance issues such as consolidation, crop subsidies and the regulatory process. The questions themselves are broken down into five categories, each supporting the two areas of focus.

Coming to consensus can be a challenging process. The success of the process will be greatly enhanced by preparation before the meeting.

In doing its work, your local committee has seen a possible need to explore the state of the agricultural sector in Pierce County. Please let us know if you have an interest in delving more deeply into this area at a later date.

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*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.*

## The League's Position on Agriculture

*Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policy, as Announced by National Board, October 1988:*

The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.** Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.** Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and addressing the needs of mid-size farms.

**AGRICULTURAL PRICES.** The LWVUS supports an increasing

reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

**AGRICULTURE AND TRADE.** U.S. efforts should be directed toward expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and/or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

**FARM CREDIT.** Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Of these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices.

## Agriculture Policy

07/05/2013 | by Gretchen Knell

### The League's History

In 1986, the League undertook a two-year study and member agreement process on the role of the federal government in U.S. agriculture policy, examining elements of federal farm policy, its contemporary setting and policy alternatives. The resulting 1988 position on agriculture policy supports policies for sustainable agriculture and action to reduce the use of toxic chemicals on the farm. The League also supports targeting research programs and technological assistance to mid-sized farms and to sustainable agriculture. While many of the programs the League supports—farm credit at reasonable terms and conditions and programs to enable farmers to use sustainable agriculture—may benefit family or mid-sized farms, the League supports these programs for all farms, regardless of size.

The position supports “decoupling” (moving away from direct payments based on production) as consistent with the strong League consensus in favor of greater reliance on the free market to determine prices. Reliance on the free market for price determination also can support a gradual reduction in loan rates. The League does not envision total reliance on the free market to determine agriculture prices. In assessing programs that move agriculture toward greater reliance on the free market, consideration would include problems peculiar to agriculture, such as severe climate or natural disasters. The League supports federally-provided farm credit, but

believes the federal government should be the lender of last resort. The League position does not address supply controls, capping payments to farmers, protecting farm income or any particular commodity program. It supports the conservation reserve program and opposes the removal of lands prematurely from the conservation reserve.

In 1989, the League opposed legislation that would have preempted stricter state laws on the regulation of pesticides. In 1990, it urged the House to pass a farm bill that would protect land and water resources, reduce the use of toxic chemicals, and target research and technical assistance to developing environmentally sound agriculture practices. The League called for measures to strengthen conservation provisions, continue the conservation reserve, and permit retention of base payments and deficiency payments when farmers file and implement an approved plan for farming with environmentally beneficial practices. The League also called for national standards of organic production and opposed the export of pesticides that are illegal in the United States. In 1988-1991, the LWVEF worked with Public Voice for Food and Health Policy and state and local Leagues on a citizen education project on agricultural issues, including pesticide residues in food and water, sustainable agriculture, and research and technology.

# Agriculture Update Consensus Questions

## Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

<i>1. Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:</i>	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Subsidized agricultural credit (loans)			
b) Disaster assistance			
c) Crop insurance			
d) Farms that supply local and regional markets			
e) Subsidized implementation of best management practices			
f) Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat			
g) Commodity livestock program			
h) Commodity dairy program			
i) Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc.			
j) Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms			
Comments:			

<i>2. What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?</i> Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Eliminate direct payments to farm operators			
b) Update the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability			
c) Broaden the types of farms that are eligible			
d) Broaden the types of crops that are eligible			
e) Effectively enforce existing rules			
Comments:			

<i>3. What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?</i>	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Extend to more types of crops			
b) Link to the use of conservation practices			
c) Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land			
d) Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2)			
Comments:			

4. Should government act on any of the following?	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets			
b) Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture			
c) Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc.			
Comments:			

### Animal Management

5. Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations			
b) Apply and enforce existing clean air and clean water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities			
Comments:			

6. Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs			
b) Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities			
Comments:			

### Research and Development

7. Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?	Yes	No	No Consensus
<p><i>Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “developed using any new technology” or “new technologies” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.</i></p>			
a) Basic research			
b) Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products developed using any new technology			

c) Research to assess the impacts of new technologies on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption			
d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems			
e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity			
f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products and respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research			
g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes			
h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms			
Comments:			

### Food Safety

<i>8. Which of the following approaches to food safety should government perform or fund?</i>	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for new foods and food additives developed using any new technology (see note below question 7)			
b) Require developers to monitor all food products developed using any new technology after releasing to the market			
c) Withdraw marketing approval if products are shown to be unsafe			
d) Require post-market monitoring of approved pharmaceutical applications in animal production for human health and environmental impacts			
e) Require developers of new products to provide data and other materials to independent third-parties (such as academic institutions) for pre- and post-market safety assessment as appropriate			
f) Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to treat and control disease			
g) Fund independent third-party (such as academic institutions) risk assessment of long-term and multiple exposures from foods on human health and the environment			
h) Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers)			
i) Fund, train and add personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies			
Comments:			



**Food Labeling**

9. How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?	Insufficient	Sufficient	Too much	No Consensus
a) Nutrition Facts on food labels				
b) Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education				
c) Common allergen labeling				
d) Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand				
Comments:				

10. Which of the following should government achieve regarding marketing and ingredient claims on food labels?	Yes	No	No Consensus
a) Define (and approve for use) health and safety marketing terms (e.g. immunity support, humane, pasture-raised, natural, etc.)			
b) Regulate the use of images or other sensory advertising			
c) Require that ingredient marketing claims accurately represent what is in the required ingredient list			
Comments:			

11. Recognizing that each food developed using any new technology can be unique, and assuming that required food labeling should be useful to consumers, should the following generalized information relating to how products or components are developed be presented on food labels?

See note below question 7. All these questions also assume some percentage threshold of new technology ingredients, such as the 0.9% used in the European Union.

	Not Recommended	Voluntary	Mandatory	No Consensus
a) Contains ingredients developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved				
b) Does not contain ingredients developed using any new technology				
c) If meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products are from animals that have consumed feed developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved				
Comments:				

# From the Co-President

by Paula Eismann

**T**hanks to all the generosity of members who partook in our Christmas auction fund-raiser, and those donated to the end-of-the year financial drive. You brought in over \$3000 from our December campaign to support the League's operations. That's over a \$1000 increase from last year!

Looking forward to 2014, our January unit meetings on program planning led by Lyz Kurntiz-Thurlow, assures us of continued interesting and challenging issues. Suggestions flowed at all meetings and we thank Lyz for coordinating the issues and helping us determine our focus. Our February unit meetings will bring us up to date on the LWVVUS Agriculture position. Members of the LWVT-PC Agriculture Update Committee (Ann Williams, Liz Lathrop, Mary Kohle, Nancy Pearson and Susan Eidenschink) have prepared a summary and will lead discussion and consensus at your unit meeting.

Many thanks to the members who helped produce and distribute the TRY and especially to Jackie Jones-Hook who coordinated the effort. It takes hours of work in updating, proofreading, formatting and distributing the TRY. Since the Legislature is in session, now is the time to pick up your TRY and contact your representative on issues in which you believe.

Don't forget to vote February 11 on school levies in Pierce County. Many are similar to what Tacoma is requesting and which we endorsed. See article on page 13.

In conclusion, as we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and all that Dr. King stood for, let us remember one of his many powerful thoughts—"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Get the latest information about League by visiting our facebook page:



## ***Congratulations!***

*It's always a good sign when leaders in the League share their leadership within in the community as a whole. Terri Baker, recent past president of the LWV-TPC, has been selected to serve on the Tacoma City Charter Review Commission. The commission is charged with proposing changes to the charter, the city's sixty-year-old governing document, by May 2014. Congratulations, Terri, on your selection and your continued involvement in the improvement of city government.*

## Program Planning Results

Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow ([lyzkurnitz@harbournet.com](mailto:lyzkurnitz@harbournet.com))

The Program Planning meetings were great. Thanks to all who participated. Lots of lively discussion and great ideas. As approved by the Board at its January meeting, we will be sending our recommended priorities to LWVUS for national action on existing positions, a proposal for a resolution to amend an existing national position, and two recommended new national studies. One new local program is recommended for consideration by members at our Annual Meeting.

### SUGGESTED PRIORITIES FOR NATIONAL ACTION

We have recommended to LWVUS that they take action in the following areas, using existing League positions:

#### VOTING RIGHTS:

- 1--ACTION AGAINST CITIZENS UNITED -- Write a CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, since we support one.
- 2-- ACTION AGAINST VOTER SUPPRESSION, to include REAFFIRMING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT
- 3-- ACTION AGAINST GROUPS SUCH AS ALEC, which are taking over the political process and reducing our voting rights.
- 4--ACTION ON APPORTIONMENT DISPARITIES, which are also reducing our participation in the political process.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM to include

- 1--PASSING THE DREAM ACT and
- 2-- KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

#### RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Support and advocate for rules to establish more oversight of government activities relating to private information on citizens.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM

#### **PROPOSAL FOR A RESOLUTION TO AMEND WORDING OF LWVUS POSITION ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY:**

The position now reads: "equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability." The suggestion came from Terri Baker to amend this position to say: "equality of opportunity in all aspects of society for all persons in the United States, regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability."

The list of types of person is inclusive; the list of opportunities is not. The change makes it more inclusive. As it is a wording change, rather than a proposed study or update, we are recommending it to National Convention as a Resolution.

#### **PROPOSAL FOR A NEW NATIONAL STUDY ON HOSPITAL MERGERS**

This new study of hospital mergers would study the effects of faith-based hospitals merging with non-profit, private hospitals. Does this result in the imposition of rules limiting: reproductive freedom (which includes all birth control methods, as well as abortion), and end-of-life decisions (including not complying with Death with Dignity laws in states which have them), thus restricting access to health care?

These hospitals receive public funding, and yet might be denying health care. What is the effect? Should public funding be denied because services are not provided?

The study would look at the mergers which have already happened and the resulting effect on health care,



health care choices, and health care decisions. Mergers of private secular hospitals with religiously-based hospitals should be studied, as they may result in denials of complete health care.

We know that this is a big issue in Washington. It is also big in the rest of the country. LWVUS has good health care positions, but we feel that a study focusing on this growing problem would be timely, important, involve many people, and lead to great meetings. Therefore, we are recommending it as our top priority for a new study.

**PROPOSAL FOR NEW NATIONAL STUDY ON ALTERNATIVES TO PARTISAN PRIMARIES (APP):**

This would be a “national study to explore state, county or local primary election provisions to determine the kinds of primaries that have the best chance to increase voter participation and provide competitive general elections.” This proposal comes from three Leagues in Ohio. It was well received as being a good idea and very League-like, as well as being already proposed and well set up. There was much discussion at our unit meetings of redistricting and gerrymandering. The APP study claims “The need for such a study is grounded in recent election reporting and research which shows that most state and federal legislative district lines have been drawn in ways that exaggerate political homogeneity, resulting in non-representative, skewed legislatures and unaccountable ‘safe seats.’”

Therefore, we will ask that the scope of this study be expanded to include looking at redistricting as well as primaries. This is our second recommended study.

**LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING RESULTS**

**PROPOSED NEW STUDY ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN PIERCE COUNTY**

STUDY TITLE - Proposed study of Mental Health Issues in Pierce County, to include financing, privatization, sales tax, the relationship to homelessness and housing, the effect of returning war veterans, and the need for a mental health court, leading to consensus and action.

SCOPE – Research and study these issues, leading to consensus and action:

- Funding and distribution of mental health care in Washington State.
- .1% sales tax allowed for mental health, which Pierce County does not collect.
- Privatization of the mental health care operation in Pierce County.
- Effects on homelessness and housing of residents with mental health issues.
- Effects in Pierce County of our returning war veterans, many with P.T.S.D. or other issues.
- Need for a mental health court in Pierce County. We would gather information on the successes and failures in nearby counties which do have mental health courts.

Our Unit meetings last November gave us a great deal of information about mental health services, and left our members with a desire to know more, and perhaps be able to take action on some of these issues. Therefore, after discussion at Program Planning meetings, and great support from those in attendance, the Board has approved recommending this new study to the membership.

The wording of the scope will be tweaked as needed during the next couple of months before the full text of the recommended study appears in the Annual Meeting book. It will then be voted on by the membership. If you wish to be involved in working on the final wording AND/OR working on the committee, please contact Bobbie Fletcher, Sharon Peace-Doane, or AnnWilliams.

# Board of Directors

Voter Volunteers:  
 Connie Ozmer  
 Marie Cameron  
 Susan Eidenschink

Please send comments or suggestions for The Voter to lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com

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## 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 is \$60 (for two Members of a household - \$90). Student membership is \$30 but we are currently offering it at half-price, and even have scholarships available at this time! Membership dues are NOT tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund (by separate check, and they are tax deductible) and/or the General Fund are welcome.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County  
 702 Broadway, Suite #105 / Tacoma, WA 98402-3710

## March Unit Meetings to explore “Food Insecurity”— where and how families and individuals have difficulty meeting their nutritional needs

by Lucinda Wingard

Google “hunger in Pierce County Wa” and you’ll find a depressingly long list of Food Banks in the county. I say depressing because it means how many hungry people reside here. March Unit meetings will be taking a closer look at hunger issues. The meeting cannot encompass causes, effects, solutions, etc. but you’ll come away with new information.

This excerpted paragraph from a review of the 2013 movie “A Place at the Table” can get you started thinking:

[Education Week’s blogs](#) > Rules for Engagement

**“Poor People, Poor Food: Screening ‘A Place at the Table’** By Ross Brenneman on March 14, 2013 10:56 AM

### ABOUT THE FILM

Fifty million people in the United States—including one in five children—suffer from hunger and do not get enough to eat on a regular basis to be healthy and active. In *A Place at the Table*, directors Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush follow three families struggling with food insecurity: Barbie, a single mother who grew up in poverty and is trying to provide a better life for her two kids; Rosie, a fifth-grader who often depends on friends and neighbors to feed her and has trouble concentrating in school; and Tremonica, a second-grader who suffers from asthma, obesity and related health issues, which are exacerbated by the poor quality of the food her hard-working mother can

afford.

Ultimately, *A Place at the Table* shows us how hunger and obesity pose serious economic, social and cultural implications for our nation and how food access issues could be solved once and for all if the American public decides—as we have in the past—that making healthy food available and affordable is in all of our best interests.

### ....Why haven’t churches and charities solved these problems?

There are a number of groups that give greatly and freely across the United States, but the point of “*A Place at the Table*” is that charity is not a solution to hunger either in principle or in practice. Philosophically, the film says, it is the government’s duty to help the downtrodden.

And in execution, the work those charities and groups do is not enough. First, there’s the sheer amount of people that need feeding. But, second, think about the [prevalence of ramen noodles](#) among donated foods; it’s cheap and sodium-rich. A lot of food that gets donated isn’t freshly pulled from the earth; it’s canned or processed and nutritionally lacking. That’s not to say donated food isn’t helpful—an empty stomach is usually more distracting than empty calories—but there are limits.”

I encourage League members to read more at the Education Week link above.

## Nominating Committee asks for Referrals

Do you want to do more with Pierce County League of Women Voters? Are you interested in working on League issues? The Nominating Committee is seeking individuals who might be interested in the following positions: 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors for two year terms. If you are interested in nominating yourself and/or some one else, please send your referral(s) to [piercecolwvnominate@gmail.com](mailto:piercecolwvnominate@gmail.com). We would like all nominations in by the second week of March. Thank you for your support. The Nominating Committee.

## Early Childhood Education Survey

**W**e all discussed early childhood education a little bit at Program Planning meetings. The State League has a really good position, and this issue is definitely on the radar these days. But, we are wondering if members would be interested in seeing a report on Pierce County Schools – which districts and schools have all-day kindergarten? All classes or some classes? Which districts and schools have pre-kindergarten programs? Only for perceived ‘at-need’ children? For all? Enough spaces available to meet the need? Are there extra costs to the parent(s) involved?

What are your questions?

This would not be a major study. Much of the information is probably on school district websites, or through WA State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. If we design questions that are not there, all we have to do is ask for the answers. E-mail and phone can work well for this.

If you are interested in this and willing to give a few hours of your time to help, please contact Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow ([lyzkurnitz@harbornet.com](mailto:lyzkurnitz@harbornet.com)).

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

## Mental Health and Drug Treatment Legislation

**D**uring the 2014 Legislative Session, there is a good possibility that mental health and drug treatment legislation will be passed. Even though we have parity laws for mental health treatment and the Affordable Care Act supporting mental health and drug treatment parity, the services are lacking because funding is not adequate. See article in The News Tribune, <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/01/20/3003347/gov-jay-inslee-waiting-for-feds.html>, for

information that Governor Inslee supports. See National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Washington legislative priorities, <http://www.namiwa.org/content/nami-washington-2014-legislative-agenda>.

## V-Day 2014 – Help End Violence Against Women and Girls

On February 14 at noon at the Good Karma Center for Joy, 711 St Helens Ave, you are invited to join women and men around the globe rise to end violence against women and girls. This gathering will include an hour of dance, sharing stories, and lighting candles for justice and the need to end violence. Come to show joyful solidarity in this important cause. This event in Tacoma is sponsored by Catherine Place, 923 South 8th Street, Tacoma. Catherine Place is many things to many women – a gathering place, a safe haven, an urban center for personal and spiritual growth, a home for healing arts, and a growing movement of hospitality and hope. With one in three women being raped or beaten in their lifetime, we need a movement to change this behavior and hope that organizing will help to accomplish this. For more information, go to: [vday.org/our-work/college-community-campaigns](http://vday.org/our-work/college-community-campaigns).

## Pierce Conservation District Election – March 12, 2014

The Pierce Conservation District conducts a “by-mail” election each year to elect one of the three District Supervisors on the Board of Supervisors for the district. The election on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, will elect a supervisor to hold office from 2014 to 2017. Currently David Seago of Tacoma serves in this position. If you wish to be a candidate for this position, you must file by February 12, 2014, using Form 2 and Form 3 found at <http://www.wa.gov/elections/> in Election Resources.

To vote in this election, you must be a registered voter, living within Pierce Conservation District

boundaries. If you wish to vote in this election, you may vote in person at the STAR Center, 3873 S 66th St, Tacoma, between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. To vote by mail, you can request a ballot by sending a letter to Selena Corwin, District Elections Officer, Pierce Conservation District, P.O. Box 1057, Puyallup, WA 98371. Provide your name, mailing address, residential address, and legal signature. If you have questions you may call Selena at 253-845-9770 Ext 101 or email [pccdadmin@piercecountydc.org](mailto:pccdadmin@piercecountydc.org).

## Remember to vote February 11 in the Special Election to support our public schools

Tacoma Public Schools Propositions 1 and 2 are replacement levies that will enable the District to continue to improve the educational opportunities for their students. If both propositions are approved, the overall rates for school funding will remain the same. The passing of both propositions is imperative to maintain the continued improvement and success of the students in the Tacoma School District.

- Prop 1 is a replacement levy for educational programs and operations. It includes the funding of teachers, support staff, textbooks, and tech support. It also helps maintain small classrooms and education programs in all schools including supplemental programs to bring students up to grade level, arts, music, athletics and Special Ed programs.
- Prop 2 is a 4-year replacement levy for classroom technology, and upgrades professional development to integrate technology into the use of teaching tools. It also expands student access to technology, and on-line monitoring of student programs for parents,

teachers, and students.

Most Pierce County public schools have similar items on the ballot. Check out the levies in your school district and be sure to vote on February 11.





## LWVT-PC Calendar 2013 – 2014

**February 5** – 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm – Health Priorities – UW-T Philips Hall, 1918 Pacific Ave, Tacoma

**February 8** – 10:00 pm – noon – East Pierce Unit Meeting (Subject: LWVUS Agriculture Study Consensus)

**February 8** – 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Gig Harbor Unit Meeting (Subject: LWVUS Agriculture Study Consensus)

**February 11**– Election for new and renewal levies in the School Districts of Auburn, Bethel, Dieringer, Eatonville, Fife, Franklin Pierce, Orting, Puyallup, Steilacoom, Sumner, Tacoma, University Place, White River

**February 13** – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Tacoma Unit Meeting (Subject: LWVUS Agriculture Study Consensus)

**February 14** – 10:00 pm – noon – Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting (Subject: LWVUS Agriculture Study Consensus)

**February 14** – noon – V-Day 2014 Dance - Good Karma Center for Joy, 711 St Helens Ave, Tacoma. See article in this Voter

**February 18** – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm – LWVT-PC Board Meeting

**February 20** – 8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Urban Studies Forum, UW-T Phillips Hall, 1918 Pacific Ave, Tacoma

**February 20** – Deadline for March Voter articles

**March 8** – 10:00 am – noon – East Pierce Unit Meeting (Subject: Food Insecurity)

**March 8** – 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Gig Harbor Unit Meeting (Subject: Food Insecurity)

**March 12** – Pierce Conservation District Election – See article in this Voter

**March 13** – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Tacoma Unit Meeting (Subject: Food Insecurity)

**March 14** – 10:00 am – noon – Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting (Subject: Food Insecurity)

**March 18** – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm – LWVT-PC Board Meeting

**March 20** – General Meeting – Sunshine Forum

**March 20** – Deadline for April Voter Articles

**April 10** – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Tacoma Unit Meeting (Subject: Gun Safety and Responsibility)

**April 11** – 10:00 am – noon – Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting (Subject: Gun Safety and Responsibility)

**April 12** – 10:00 am – noon – East Pierce Unit Meeting (Subject: Gun Safety and Responsibility)

**April 12** – 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Gig Harbor Unit Meeting (Subject: Gun Safety and Responsibility)

**April 15** – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm – LWVT-PC Board Meeting

**April 20** – Deadline for May Voter articles

**May 7** – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm – Project Homeless Connect, Puyallup Fair Grounds

**May 8** – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Tacoma Unit Meeting (Subject: Undocumented – Economic Impact & Proposed Solutions)

**May 9** – 10:00 am – noon – Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting (Subject: Undocumented – Economic Impact & Proposed Solutions)

**May 10** – 10:00 am – noon – East Pierce Unit Meeting (Subject: Undocumented – Economic Impact & Proposed Solutions)

**May 10** – 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Gig Harbor Unit Meeting (Subject: Undocumented – Economic Impact & Proposed Solutions)

**May 20** – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm – LWVT-PC Board Meeting

**June 14** – Annual Meeting

**June 20** – Deadline for June/July Voter articles

## Welcome New Members!

Frances McLaughlin

## Thank you Donors!

Terri Backer  
 Louise Bollman  
 Marie and Jack Cameron  
 Judy Payne

## LWVT-PC Board Meeting Summary: January 21, 2014

by John Thurlow

A quorum of the Board discussed the following topics:

- **December fundraising** efforts were successful: the finance drive among members and the auctions and raffles at the holiday meeting brought in much-needed funds.
- **Program planning:** The Board reviewed the results of the January planning meetings, which will be summarized in the February Voter. The Board voted to recommend the Hospital Merger topic to LWVUS in first priority, and Alternatives to Partisan Primaries as second (believing that it will be chosen by LWVUS in any case). A committee was initiated to prepare a proposal for the Mental Health Issues in P.C. topic for the June Annual Meeting; a chair is sought. LWVT-PC will prepare a survey for P.C. school districts on Pre-K and all-day Kindergarten programs. A recommendation on at-large vs. district municipal council members to the Tacoma Charter Review Committee will depend on initial results from the committee's deliberations (Terri Baker is a member).
- **Fundraising:** The next steps in the Community Fundraising Program of the overall fundraising effort include developing a "case" for donations, and having members at the March unit meetings discuss opportunities for engaging with area businesses. John Thurlow is the Community Fundraising sub-committee chair, and is being helped by Nancy Pearson and Ingrid Curtis. The overall fundraising committee still needs a Chair to coordinate all

the different efforts being considered to bolster LWVT-PC's finances.

- **TRY publication:** Content update is almost complete, and is destined for the selected printer (a union shop) by January 27th. Susan Eidenschink is organizing volunteers to bundle the printed copies at the office. Jackie Jones-Hook and Terri Baker are organizing the actual distribution. John Thurlow will work with Connie Ozmer to make it easier to use on-line.
- **Web presence:** We will eventually consider the re-implementation of LWVT-PC's web pages in the context of the LWVWA's new site; the Board is satisfied that the current site is working well.
- **Sunshine Week:** Our public meeting is scheduled for March 20th. The program is being developed, although finding viewpoints "opposed" to open government is difficult.
- **Unit meetings:** The Board reviewed plans for the February LWVUS Agriculture study consensus discussions. Preparatory material will be distributed with the February Voter. The public is welcome to the discussions, but cannot vote on the consensus. The Food Insecurity topic for March is still being developed. Community Fundraising among area businesses will be introduced to members in the March Units.
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