



The Voter

September 2016

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma—Pierce County

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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

September Unit Meetings – Back to League

by Roxanne Miles

As we all know, the League offers a wealth of information on political topics that matter to us and our community. With so much going on all the time - forums to educate voters, in-depth studies and review of state and national positions - it may be overwhelming for someone new to find their place in the League.

With each year, the impact of the League grows. New positions are adopted and the organization shifts to respond to member interests. The annual meeting provides great insight into what matters most to League members, resulting in an agenda for the year to further advance our mission.

Given that growth always produces change, the Board thought September would be a timely opportunity to settle into a review and discussion on **Who** the League is and **What** we have to offer. If you've only been able to attend a few meetings over the last few years, this will bring you up to speed to start the year with us as we move forward together. If you're seeking more of a "big picture" understanding of the why, what and hows, we've got that too.

For long-time members, you'll hear about what's new in the coming year as we move into the 2016-2017 season. Our nation is on the verge of many changes in November, and the League is ready to respond. We'll share many opportunities to take action locally to inspire an educated and active citizenry.

So come ready to learn, ask questions and get involved...and bring a friend! We call this "Back to League" not only because we are officially starting out in our new program year, but because we want to move League "to the next grade" with even more powerful member engagement.

In the Fall, it's always fun to reconnect with faces last seen in June and meet new friends. In the spirit of welcoming in new faces, we are offering a "Back to League" promotion, a drawing for a \$25.00 Amazon gift card - one for a member and one for a guest.

See you (and a friend) at the September



President's Message



The summer has been busy. Many have taken advantage of trips or other summer activities. But many members have also been busy doing League work. Our Voter Services committee has scheduled forums and voter registration opportunities for the fall. A special thanks to Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow, Ann Williams, Marianne Seifert, Cynthia Stewart, Ginny Peterson and Susan Eidschink for their leadership.

This fall will be an "all hands on deck" time for us as we provide important opportunities for our community to prepare for the national election. Please join other League members as we host these events.

Recently, League members have been questioned about the League's nonpartisanship. Each of us is the best advocate in our community. When you hear friends, neighbors or family question the League's nonpartisanship, you can explain that the League doesn't support or oppose any political party or any candidate. AND, we only take a position on issues after careful study and consensus by our members, usually a two-year process.

I am looking forward to working with you in this important work.

Ruth Ann Hatchett

Check out our web site: www.tacomapiercelwv.org

Registering Voters Throughout the Fall

At the Washington State Fair – September 23-25

LWVT-PC members will be registering voters on September 23 -25 at our table at the Washington State Fair, and we hope to register voters on National Voter Registration Day, September 27, too. If you would like to help with this effort, contact Ruth Ann Hatchett at ruthann6257@msn.com or 253-961-3649. At the Fair table we will be providing League information and conducting a survey, giving participants an opportunity to tell us the issues that determine for whom they will vote.

And In Neighborhoods Between September 17 & October 6

League is partnering with NAACP Education Committee members, Franklin Pierce School Board member Melanie Morgan, and Pierce County Library on voter registration and education events in the Parkland Spanaway area. That area has the lowest voter participation in the county. Multiple voter registration and education events are planned between September 17 and October 6.

LWVT-PC 2016-2017 Handbooks and Membership Booklets

Handbooks and Membership Booklets for 2016-2017 will be distributed at the September Unit meetings. Electronic copies of the Handbook will be emailed to those for whom we have email addresses. If you are unable to attend a September Unit meeting, but need a printed copy, you may request a Handbook and/or a Membership Booklet be sent to you. Contact the League office by phone at 253-272-1495 or by e-mail at lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com.

Voter Production & Distribution Volunteers

Your Voter is brought to you by the following people:

Editorial Volunteers:

Cynthia Stewart, Susan Eidschink, Julie Offner

Distribution Volunteers:

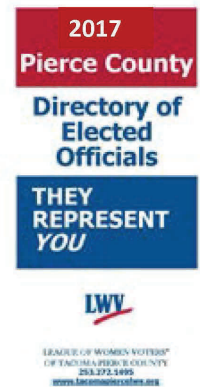
Susan Eidschink, Ingrid Curtis, Judy Payne

2017 TRY Project Begins

Work on the 2017 They Represent You (TRY) is beginning already. The Board decided to continue the basic design from the 2016 TRY, with e-mail addresses wherever they can be obtained, making all web and e-mail addresses as hyperlinks in the electronic copy, and publishing an easier to use web version.

We will be working over the next two months to re-confirm the distribution lists to ensure we order a sensible number; printed copies cost about 75-80 cents apiece. The fundraising committee has done a great job gaining donations to support TRY production.

If you would like to work on the TRY, or want to know more about what's involved, please call or write Susan Eidenschink, 253-365-405, susaneiden@harbornet.com; or John Thurlow, 253-219-1617, johnthurlow@harbornet.com.



Board Meeting Highlights - April and May

By Paula Eismann

The LWVT-PC had much action during April and May. Here are a few of the highlights. In April, the Board approved of the LWVT-PC position on Mental Health Services in Pierce County and the proposed budget for the new year. Good reviews were reported on the community forum regarding the future of parks in University Place. Lyz Kurntiz-Thurlow moderated the forum, assisted by Ruth Ann Hatchett and Susan Eidenschink. The youth voter registration project was well received, and over 210 new voters were registered. Ann Williams and Marianne Seifert organized the effort with many other League members presenting in various classrooms. The slate of officers for the coming year was shared and supported by the Board.

Cynthia Stewart, our liaison from the State Board, reported the State's support of I-1464 (Washington Government Accountability Act) I-732 (Carbon Tax) I-1491 Extreme Risk Protection Act. and I-1433 (Minimum Wage Increase Statewide). The LWVUS Citizens United Tool kit is now available for use. Penney Van Vleet is the new MLD coordinator for the State League. At our May meeting, Cynthia reported that the State League is coordinating a forum for the state wide candidates of OSPI on July 14.

Our delegates to the National Convention, Cheryl Mann and Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow requested advice from the Board on supporting the National League's campaign to Make Democracy Work and the LWV of Colorado's the Mental Health Proposal. This was approved.

The May 19th Mental Health Services forum, where a panel of county officials, mental health professionals and a police officer, moderated by Terry Bergeson, presented information of an audience of over 70 people. It promoted thoughtful discussion which appeared to be well-received. Donations of \$137 were collected.

County Charter amendments were discussed. The Board agreed to support C-24 amendment which deals with section 915 and concerns the ethics commission.

With this being the last meeting of the year, time was spent planning for the new Board retreat in July which will include the topics of connecting with Women's organizations, ways to diversify the League to get a variety of voices, ideas for fund-raising efforts and much more.

Visit us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Tacoma-Pierce-County/312747775413



Upcoming Forums

Please plan to attend these and bring your friends and relatives.

Also, volunteers are needed at each one to greet the audience, take audience questions, register voters and help with loose ends. If you'll be attending any of them and would be willing to help, that would be most appreciated!

To volunteer, please contact the League office, lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com, and say which forum you'll be able to help with.

September 12 – Sound Transit ST3 Ballot Measure, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, UW Tacoma, Philips Hall, 1918 Pacific Ave, Tacoma. Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma Politics, Philosophy & Public Affairs Division; League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund; and League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

September 21 – Candidates for Pierce County Executive, 7:00 – 8:30 pm – UW Tacoma, Carwein Auditorium, Keystone Building, 1754 Commerce St. Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma Politics, Philosophy & Public Affairs Division; League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

September 28 – Candidates for Pierce County Council District 6, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – DuPont City Council Chambers, 1700 Civic Drive, DuPont. Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma Politics, Philosophy & Public Affairs Division; League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

October 4 – Candidates for Legislative District 25 and Pierce County Executive, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Mid-County Community Center, 10205 44th Ave East, Tacoma. Sponsored by Summit Waller Community Association.

October 5 – Candidates for Pierce County Council and Pierce County Executive, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – US Tacoma, Milgard Hall, 1918 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. Sponsored by Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

October 12 – State Minimum Wage – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – UW Tacoma, Carwein Auditorium, Keystone Building, 1754 Commerce St. Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma Politics, Philosophy & Public Affairs Division; League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

October 19 – Ballot Issues: State Initiatives, County Charter Amendments, Local Ballot Issues – 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Tacoma Public Library, Main Branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave South, Tacoma. Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma Politics, Philosophy & Public Affairs Division; League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

October 20 – Meet and Greet Legislative Candidates, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, La Quinta Inn, 1425 E 27th St, Tacoma, Lower Floor. Candidates will be introduced but no speeches will be given; retired teachers and LWVT-PC members will give an overview of Legislative goals. Light refreshments with \$5 fee. Co-Sponsored by Pierce County School Retirees' Association and the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

October 20 – Candidates for Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, UW Tacoma, Philip Hall, 1918 Pacific Ave, Tacoma. Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma, Tacoma-Pierce County Chapter of NAACP, Teachers United, League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County and League of Women Voters of Washington.

October 20 – Candidates for Congressional Districts, Legislative District 27, Pierce County Executive, Pierce County Council District 2, and Judges. 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Meeker Middle School, 4402 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma. Sponsored by Neighborhood Council of Northeast Tacoma.

Sound Transit 3

On the Ballot in November

Forums:



- **Hear the Proposal**
 - Ric Ilgenfritz, Exec. Dir., Planning, Environmental & Project Dev., Sound Transit
 - Chelsea Levy, Govt & Comm. Rel., Pierce & S. King Cos., Sound Transit
- **Hear Pros**
Shefali Ranganathan,
Transportation Choices Coalition
- **Hear Cons**
Maggie Fimia, People for Smarter Transit - No ST3 Campaign

**Ask Your Questions;
Get Answers**

Mon., Sept. 12 - 7:00 pm
Philip Hall, UW Tacoma
1918 Pacific Ave., Tacoma

Moderated by
Justin Beaudoin, Asst. Prof. of Economics,
UW Tacoma

Co-sponsored by:



Politics, Philosophy &
Public Affairs

LWV™ League of Women Voters®
of Washington Education Fund

LWV™ League of Women Voters®
of Tacoma-Pierce County

Empowering all Washingtonians to engage in a more responsible and responsive democracy

Candidate Forum

Pierce County Council & Executive

County Executive Candidates:

Rick Talbert
Bruce Dammeyer

Sept 21

7:00–8:30 pm

Carwein Auditorium, UW Tacoma
1754 Commerce St., Tacoma



Pierce County

County Council Dist. 6 Candidates:

Doug Richardson
Linda Farmer

Sept 28

7:00–8:30 pm

DuPont City Council Chambers
1700 Civic Drive, DuPont

Co-Sponsored by:



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY

www.tacomapiercelwv.org



Dept. of Politics,
Philosophy &
Public Affairs

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

Tacoma

2nd Thursday of the Month

1:00—3:00 pm

Tacoma Police Department, North Substation

5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma

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

Southwest Pierce

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

For more information, see
www.tacomapiercelwv.org or call
253-272-1495

This Month: September – Back to League

It's Back to League! The September Unit meetings will be a fun twist on the old school tradition of gathering everyone together to kick off the new year. In addition to receiving new editions of the League handbook and directory, Board members will share a look at where the League has been and where we are going in the next year. We are also challenging members to bring a guest to this kick-off session for the year, where folks can learn "all things League." Winners of a drawing, one guest and one member, will each receive a \$25.00 Amazon gift card.

Next Month: October – Ballot Issues

State Ballot Issues

- ⇒ Initiative 735 – Proposed Amendment to the Federal Constitution
- ⇒ Initiative 732 – Concerns Carbon Emission Tax
- ⇒ Initiative 1433 – Concerns Labor Standards
- ⇒ Initiative 1464 – Government Accountability Act, Elections & Lobbying
- ⇒ Initiative 1491 – Extreme Risk Protection Orders
- ⇒ Initiative 1501 – Concerns Seniors and Vulnerable Individuals Protection

Regional Ballot Issue

Sound Transit 3 – Expanding Bus and Light Rail Service
Pierce, King & Snohomish Counties

Pierce County Ballot Issues

- ⇒ Charter Amendment 3 – Referendum signature Requirement
- ⇒ Charter Amendment 4 – Initiative Signature Requirement
- ⇒ Charter Amendment 10 – Superior Court Review of Submitted Referenda
- ⇒ Charter Amendment 31 – Prohibition on Holding More than One Elected Office

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.

LWVT-PC Calendar - September — November 2016

Sept 8 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Tacoma Unit Meeting, Back to League Tacoma Police Department, North Substation 5140 N 26th St, Tacoma	Oct 5 5:00 - 7:00 pm	Affordable Housing Pierce County Candidates Forum Milgard Hall, UW Tacoma 1918 Pacific Ave, Tacoma Co-sponsored by LWVT-PC, Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).
Sept 9 10:00 am – noon	Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting, Back to League Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St, Steilacoom		
Sept 10 10:00 am – noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting, Back to League Puyallup Library 324 S Meridian, Puyallup	Oct 6 5-7 pm	Voter Education and Registration with Secretary of State staff, NAACP Education Committee and LWV representatives. Bring questions you have about our election process. Parkland Spanaway Library 13718 Pacific Ave. S., Tacoma
Sept 10 2:00— 4:00 pm	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting, Back to League Harbor History Museum, 4121 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor		
Sept 12 7:00 - 8:30 pm	Sound Transit S3 Ballot Issue Forum Philip Hall, UW Tacoma 1918 Pacific Ave, Tacoma	Oct 8 10:00 am – noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting, Ballot Issues Puyallup Library, 324 S Meridian, Puyallup
Sept 20	Deadline for October Voter	Oct 8 2:00—4:00 pm	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting, Ballot Issues Harbor History Museum, 4121 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor
Sept 21 7:00—8:30 pm	Pierce County Executive Candidates Forum Carwein Auditorium, UW Tacoma 1754 Commerce St., Tacoma Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma	Oct 12 7:00—8:30 pm	State Minimum Wage/Labor Standards Forum Carwein Auditorium, UW Tacoma 1754 Commerce St., Tacoma Co-sponsored by LWVWA Ed Fund & UW Tacoma
Sept 27 10:00 am—Noon	LWVT-PC Board Meeting League Office, 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202 Tacoma		
Sept 28 7:00—8:30 pm	Pierce County Council District 6 Candidates Forum DuPont City Council Chambers 1700 Civic Drive, DuPont Co-sponsored by UW Tacoma	Oct 13 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Tacoma Unit Meeting, Ballot Issues Tacoma Police Department, North Substation 5140 N 26th St, Tacoma
Oct 4 7:00 - 8:30 pm	Candidates Forum LD 25, Summit Walker Community Mid-County Community Center 10205 44th Ave East, Tacoma	Oct 14 10:00 am—Noon	Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting Ballot Issues Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St, Steilacoom
		Oct 19 6:00 – 8:30 pm	Ballot Issues Forum Main Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Ave South, Tacoma

LWVT-PC Calendar - September — November 2016, *Cont'd*

Oct 20 3:00 – 6:00 pm	Meet and Greet Your Legislative Candidates LaQuinta Inn 1425 E 27th St, Tacoma \$5; RSVP required; more information in next Voter	Oct 26 10:00 am—2:00 pm	Project Homeless Connect Tacoma Armory, 715 S. 11th St, Tacoma
Oct 20 5:30—7:30 pm	Supt. of Public Instruction Candidates Forum Philip Hall, UW Tacoma 1918 Pacific Ave., Tacoma Co-sponsored by LWVWA Ed Fund, NAACP & UW Tacoma	Nov 10 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Tacoma Unit Meeting Topic TBD Tacoma Police Department, North Station 5140 N 26th St, Tacoma
Oct 20 6:30—8:30 pm	Candidates Forum Meeker Middle School 4402 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma	Nov 11 10:00 am – noon	Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting Topic TBD Steilacoom Community Center, 3201 Worthington St, Steilacoom
Oct 20	Deadline for November Voter	Nov 12 10:00 am – noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting Topic TBD Puyallup Library 324 S Meridian, Puyallup
Oct 25 10:00 am—Noon	LWVT-PC Board Meeting League Office 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma	Nov 12 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting Topic TBD Harbor History Museum 4121 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor
		Nov 20	Deadline for December Voter
		Nov 22 10:00 am—Noon	LWVT-PC Board Meeting League Office 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma



Back to School & Back to Court - Update on State Supreme Court McCleary Case

LWVT-PC unit meetings have been briefed in the past about the McCleary school funding case. This is an update.

Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) is one of the parties to the McCleary case that led to the Washington State Supreme Court's ruling in 2012 that the state was not amply funding education as the Constitution requires. LWVWA is a member of NEWS. The Court also held the State in contempt and fined it \$100,000 a day until a funding plan has been adopted.

Next week, on September 7, the State and the case plaintiffs return to the Temple of Justice to continue the case. NEWS has announced it will ask justices to reject the State's reasoning for failing to comply with the Court's mandates in the McCleary case.

In a brief filed with the Court this week, NEWS urged the Court to keep its contempt order against the State in place and to consider even stronger sanctions - including giving the Legislature the choice to either act on McCleary or to accept the sanctions of shutting down schools in September 2017 or invalidating all tax exemptions (except the voter-approved sales tax exemption on food) to pay for McCleary mandates. NEWS argued that the prompt and concrete action in 2013 responding to Boeing's tax break request illustrates that lawmakers respond swiftly when State tax exemption statutes are involved.

For more information, watch the NEWS web site, <http://waschoolexcellence.org/>, and the LWVWA Voter.

LWVTPC Board Members

President	Ruth Ann Hatchett	253-864-7556 ; ruthann6257@msn.com
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	Julio Quan	253-238-9161; julioquan1@gmail.com
	Cynthia Stewart	360-413-1210; stewdahl@comcast.net
	John Thurlow	253-219-1617; johnthurlow@harbornet.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