



The Voter

October, 2015

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

Unit Meetings this Month—Ballot Issues

Unit meetings this month feature the wide range of ballot issues that will appear in the November election. There are ballot issues at the state, county and city levels. The following articles describe these, in preparation for discussion at unit meetings.

State Issues

By Ann Williams

The issues on the state level include both advisory votes and initiatives.

Advisory Votes have appeared on statewide ballots since 2012 as the result of an initiative to the people. This law requires that revenue-enhancing laws passed by the Legislature, including the removal of tax preferences, be submitted on the next general ballot for the people's approval or disapproval. The Legislature is not bound to repeal its enacted legislation in the face of public disapproval. Of the nine advisory votes submitted to the ballot so far, four have been disapproved by the voters. This author was unable to ascertain whether any of these measures were repealed as a result of these votes.

This year the ballot will contain four Advisory Votes, on measures that raise from 17 million to 3.7 billion dollars in state revenue over 10 years.

Advisory Vote 10 - The legislature added oil-spill response and administrative taxes to crude oil and other petroleum products transported by rail, raising 17 million dollars over 10 years. The revenue is directed to the Oil Spill Prevention Account, accessible to the Department of Ecology. This account and its associated tax base is already in existence, with revenue generated by a tax on petroleum products transported by ship. Rail transported oil is being added to what already exists. The measure passed both houses of the legislature nearly unanimously.

Advisory Vote 11 -The legislature made medical marijuana subject to the marijuana excise tax. The added revenue from this measure cannot be reliably estimated. The final vote in the Senate was 41 (yes) to 8 (no). In the House it was 60 (yes) to 36 (no).

Advisory Vote 12- The legislature added to the already existing gasoline and special fuels tax, raising 3.7 billion dollars in the first 10 years. In August 2015, the gasoline tax was increased by 7.4 cents/gallon and will further increase by 4.9 cents/gallon in July, 2016. This measure passed the Senate 37 (yes) to 7 (no) and the House 54 (yes) to 44 (no).

Continued, next page

Unit Meetings this Month—Ballot Issues, *Cont'd from page 1*

Advisory Vote 13- The legislature increased Business and Occupation (B & O) taxes, specifically by repealing the preferential tax rate for royalty income and excluding certain software manufacturers from retail sales tax exemption, raising 1.45 billion dollars in revenue over 10 years. The vote in the Senate was 35 (yes) to 10 (no) and in the House 60 (yes) to 38 (no).

Initiatives

Initiative 1366 calls for a reduction in the state sales tax rate unless the legislature puts a constitutional amendment on the next general ballot requiring a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature, or voter approval for tax increases, and legislative approval for fee increases.

The State Constitution states that a majority vote of the legislature is required to pass a law. Multiple past voter-approved initiatives have called for a two-thirds legislative majority or voter approval to implement tax increases. The State Supreme Court, however, has found the most recent of these unconstitutional and others have been suspended by the legislature.

The only way to amend the constitution is for two-thirds of both houses to vote to propose the amendment. Then, a majority of voters must approve the amendment at the next general election.

The current state sales tax is 6.5%. This would decrease to 5.5% if I-1366 passes and the legislature fails to act by April 15, 2016. Estimated revenue loss over six years is \$8 billion to the General fund and \$12.8 million to the Performance Audit Account. The Performance Audit Account receives 0.16% of state sales tax and is dedicated to funding comprehensive performance audits.

Current law already requires majority legislative approval for fee increases for state services.

If the legislature refers the above stated constitutional amendment for the next general election the sales tax decrease will not take place. Avoiding the sales tax decrease is not dependent on a majority vote of the people to support the constitutional amendment.

The Washington State LWV is officially opposed to this initiative as it would, if the called for amendment passed, perpetuate the current regressive

tax system. And if the legislature refuses to act, a significant decline in much needed state revenue would result.

Initiative 1401 would make selling, trading, buying, or distributing animal species that are threatened with extinction, or products of such animals, a gross misdemeanor or Class C felony.

These activities are already illegal according to federal law, based on treaty, since the 1970s. Animal species that would be covered include species of elephants, rhinoceroses, lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, pangolins (a form of anteater), marine turtles, sharks, and rays that are listed on one of two lists of endangered species maintained by international organizations.

Exceptions to the above prohibition include:

- ⇒ The animal part is a component of an antique. Documentation of the provenance and age must be available, the item must be at least 100 years old and the animal product must be less than 15% of the item.
- ⇒ Distribution of the animal part is for educational or scientific purposes.
- ⇒ The animal part makes up less than 15% of the volume of a musical instrument.
- ⇒ The animal part is conveyed by inheritance.
- ⇒ Distribution is authorized by federal law.

The prohibition does not apply to law enforcement agents engaged in enforcement activities.

Trafficking of an item with a value less than 250 dollars as a first offense would be considered a gross misdemeanor and carry a 2000 dollar fine.

Trafficking of an item with a value greater than 250 dollars or as a second offense would be considered a Class C felony and carry a 4000 dollar fine.

The increase in state revenue due to collection of fines cannot be estimated as there is no data on the expected number of convictions for these infractions.

Unit Meetings this Month—Ballot Issues, *Cont'd from page 2*

Initiative 1401, cont'd

The measure does not require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to request new funding to enforce this statute, should it be enacted. The Office of Fiscal Management estimates that the costs associated with the hire of one detective and five officers would be 850,000 dollars /year.

Major wildlife conservation groups are supporting this measure, noting that the US is the second largest market for the importation of animal parts from endangered species, Washington ports are used for importation, and that state involvement will increase the enforcement effort.

Opponents note that the definition of “antique” is too stringent, the documentation required onerous and that there is a huge reservoir of legally obtained ivory in the US, which they believe should remain legal and tradable.

Pierce County Issues

By Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow

In the August Primary Election, we were asked if Pierce County should proceed with financing and construction of the proposed new County General Services Building as authorized by the County Council. Forty-four percent of us voted YES. Fifty-six percent of us voted NO. This, however, was just an ADVISORY VOTE. It told the County, we're not happy with this, but didn't mean they had to DO anything about it.

On our November ballots, we get a **referendum, submitted by the voters of Pierce County, which says, “Shall Ordinance No. 2015-2s, which approves financing, construction and leasing of a new County general services building, be repealed?** THIS TIME, a Yes vote means NO, don't do it; repeal the ordinance. A NO vote, therefore, means, yes, you made a good decision: go ahead and do it. And. this time, it counts.

The YES side (those AGAINST IT) say that it's too expensive, it's a bad location with limited access to transportation, and is a flawed financing plan which will eliminate jobs. And, they point out that we DID vote against it in August.

The NO side (those saying to the County – Go ahead and build it!) say that the County is leasing a lot of

office space, and owns this piece, so it will save money. A lot of money. And, that the Count can build this without raising taxes.

They Yes side says that our County Treasurer says that there are better options, and nothing they're doing will save the 'millions' they claim it will.

The No side tells us that the landlords, from whom the County rents office space, want us to keep paying rent, and hired paid signature gatherers to get this on the ballot.

You decide. A basic question is – Do we trust our elected representatives to do the job we elected them to do?

City of Tacoma Issues

By Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow

Tacoma voters this year will have lots of extra stuff on their ballot. What follows is some information to, perhaps, help you. State, county, and local issues will be discussed at our October Unit meetings, and our Ballot Issues Forum on Wednesday evening, October 21, at Wheelock Library in Tacoma. This forum will have speakers representing the pro and con sides of these ballot issues.

Tacoma's issues are briefly discussed below. Please note, the LWVT-PC has only taken a position on Citizens' Initiative 2.

Tacoma Initiatives 1 and 1B. Tacoma Citizens' Initiative 1 would require larger businesses to immediately raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. City of Tacoma Initiative 1B would require the minimum wage to rise to \$12 per hour by January 2018 (with two incremental raises in 2016 and 2017.) 1B would increase the wage less – but would apply to ALL Tacoma businesses.

THEN we have two questions. Question 1 is, “Should either of these measures be enacted into law?” You may vote yes or no. If you do not think this should be done by the city at all, and/or they're both bad ideas, you will likely vote no. If you support the idea of a minimum wage increase and either of the choices, you will vote yes. If more people vote no, then neither will be enacted. If more voters vote yes, the results of question 2 will determine the winner.

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President's Report



Ruth Ann Hatchett

The League is off to a fast start this year. Forums and voter registrations are continuing as elections approach. The Education Fund has received new funding and other grant applications are in process.

We have discovered that the office space we currently use is scheduled for remodeling, which means we need to move our office. As we prepare to make this move, we will be asking for help from members. It is a challenging time but an opportunity to go forward.

Don't forget to attend your unit meetings to get information on the races in your community.

Unit Meetings this Month—Ballot Issues, *Cont'd from page 3*

Tacoma Initiative 1 and 1B , cont'd

Question 2 asks WHICH one should be enacted. You will have a choice between 1 and 1B. Important: Vote, regardless of whether you voted yes or no on the first question. Even if you are against the whole thing, you still get to weigh in on which one it should be if it passes.

The 15Now minimum wage started in SeaTac and has spread to New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle among other places. New York's Gov. Cuomo is talking about extending it to the whole state. Then again, Tacoma isn't Seattle or the other big cities. We're surrounded by other small cities which are not increasing their minimum wage – businesses could move.

The hourly wage needed in Pierce County currently to allow living without assistance and constant worry is, however, over \$17 per hour. Just a couple of things to think about -and discuss - in October.

Tacoma Citizens' Charter Amendment Initiative 2 concerns changing legislative and executive powers, Council composition, and term limits. AND some other things. In the interests of full disclosure, I, Lyz, am writing this and am also one of those who wrote the NO statement for the Voters' Pamphlet.

It would change our form of government from Council-Manager to Strong Mayor. It would reduce the Council to seven members. It would change term limits for Council members to two UNDEFINED terms, and establish term limits for the Mayor of two UNDEFINED terms. It would also remove our mandatory 10-year

charter review, remove any reference to the Library and the Planning Commission, AND remove the rights of Tacomans to have the powers of Initiative and Referendum.

The League was instrumental in getting the form of government changed TO mayor-council in the 1950s because of corruption. Our view is that it politicizes government more, allows for undue influence from supporters (currently our City Manager is appointed, not elected and is therefore not politically responsible to the electorate.) Supporters say that we should be able to elect the person who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the city.

LWVT-PC consensus position on Tacoma City Government can be found on p.25 of our new Handbook. The first phrase is "The League of Women Voters of Tacoma -Pierce County supports the Council-Manager form of government for the City of Tacoma..."

On issues other than the proposed change in form of government: Who will define the UNDEFINED terms of office, and how long might they be? We currently get to vote for a majority of the Council members – the Mayor, 3 At-Large, and 1 District, of our 9 members; this would no longer be true. We're required by the state to have a Planning Commission. What happens to the Libraries? We like reviewing our charter, and every time a Charter Commission tries to bring up changing the form of government to Strong Mayor, it doesn't go anywhere.

Continued, next page

Unit Meetings this Month—Ballot Issues, *Cont'd from page 4*

Tacoma Citizens' Charter Amendment Initiative 2 , cont'd

AND, this is an Initiative. If it passes, it will be the last one we ever get to vote on, as this takes away our rights to have initiative and referendum. (The sponsors say this was a mistake, and they will introduce an Initiative to fix that. Anyone see the humor in this?)

LWVT-PC, at its August Board meeting took a stand AGAINST Citizens' Charter Amendment Initiative 2 because of our long-standing consensus position.

Proposition 3 and Proposition A (no, not a typo) are about taxes and street improvements. The City sees these two as a package. They would be joined by funding from our General Fund . These two measures would provide the funds needed to get state and federal matching fund grants to address projects in the Transportation Master Plan for arterial streets, freight access, walking, and biking.

Tacoma's Proposition 3 - would authorize the City to increase the property tax levy by \$0.20 per \$1000 of

assessed value, and by adding an additional 1.5% earnings tax (thus raising \$130 million) on natural gas, electric, and phone companies for 10 years to fund street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements for streets, including resurfacing, pothole repair, pedestrian safety improvements, school crossing beacons, and sidewalk improvements.

We get to vote yes or no on approving this.

Tacoma Proposition A - Transportation Sales and Use Tax (We have no idea why it says A, rather than 4.) This was adopted by the City of Tacoma Transportation Benefit District, and concerns a sales and use tax of one tenth of one percent (0.1%) (to raise \$45 million) to fund street improvements, for ten years. This would fund maintenance, preservation, and improvements for streets, and bike and pedestrian mobility projects, as identified in the City's Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program.

Vote yes or no.

Visit us on Facebook at

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



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.

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League goes to the Fair

by Lucinda Wingard

League's two-day presence at in the Education Building at the Washington State Fair on September 14 and 15 evoked quite a few good conversations with fair-goers. This year we polled every passerby we could corral as to why and why not they vote. We started with some guesses and people placed dot stickers by their personal reasons to vote. Over 400 people voted in our survey.

According to our posters, the most popular response for why they vote was "It is my duty and privilege as a citizen." About half of those polled responded that they want to take part in democracy, and half chose "It is a way to make my opinion count." Peer pressure didn't seem to motivate many of those polled, but family expectations and education were mentioned as factors for voting.

Few passers-by 'fessed up to not being registered or not voting at all. However, when asked, the irregular voters were most likely not to vote because they felt their votes wouldn't count. Hostility toward government was expressed by some, particularly towards taxation.

Five voter registrations were completed on the spot and several other people took forms home. Thank you to the teams of women in the booth those two days, especially Ruth Ann Hatchett. Consider this League activity for next year—it's a great "bonding" event for us.



Ruth Ann Hatchett, Ann Williams and Judy Payne discuss the poll at the Fair.



Connie Brown, Affordable Housing Consortium, speaks to the Tacoma Unit meeting on the subjects of affordable housing and homelessness

Housing and Homelessness

By Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow

On 9 October, the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council sponsored a Homeless Encampment Forum at UW-T. It was very well attended and extremely well presented. There were five speakers, representing the Metropolitan Development Council, Tacoma's Community-Based Services manager, Tacoma's Homeless Service manager, Safe Streets, and Friends of McKinley Park. There was a tremendous amount of useful and moving information about what has been and is being done.

There are many fewer homeless people in our area than there were, but many more living on the street, which is why people are getting more concerned about it. It's not good that people are living on streets and in parks, but the awareness might help in finding solutions. From our ongoing mental health study, if from nowhere else, we know that mental health is often very closely correlated with homelessness. Luckily, there is now a lot of focus on services for the mentally ill. The speakers told us about lots of things that are being tried. Housing First, for example, is very successful and needs support.

The next day, I attended both our Tacoma Unit meeting on Housing and Homelessness, where we heard from representatives of Tent City Tacoma and Connie Brown of the Affordable Housing Consortium. After that, I was at AHS's Candidates Forum, which was attended by six Tacoma candidates (all but Ryan Mello), one from Puyallup (Tom Swanson), and, unfortunately, none from Lakewood. (All were invited.) All the candidates present said a lot of very good things about dealing with housing and homelessness.

The first forum was overwhelming. The other two just pushed that further. Today, I was reading Letters to the Editor in the New York Times about homelessness. One said, basically, don't call it the homeless problem. The homeless are that man and that woman and the person in the park and the woman in the doorway. It's a problem of homelessness, which reminded me of one of the most moving things said at the Candidates Forum, which was by Keith Blocker. "It's not us and them. It's us."

Participants at the Gig Harbor unit meeting listen attentively as Connie Brown, Affordable Housing Consortium, discusses the problems associated with affordable housing and homelessness.



Unit Meetings: Last Month: September – Affordable Housing and Homelessness

At each of the September Unit meetings, Connie Brown, who is chair of the Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium, spoke to us about affordable housing in Pierce County and Washington State. The existence of affordable housing in Pierce County is one of the lowest of any county in Washington State. Ways to provide more affordable housing for those in Pierce County are being investigated.

In addition to the Affordable Housing presentations, each Unit meeting included a presentation on homelessness. At the Tacoma Unit meeting, Neal Rogers and Bud Nye told us about the history and objectives of Tent City Tacoma, a project to find space in or near at least four church facilities for up to 100 tents. The City of Tacoma has regulations for such encampments. At the Lakewood and Neighbors Unit meeting and at the Gig Harbor Unit meeting, Jill Severn and Tim Ransom, who are associated with the Thurston County's Quixote Village, told us about the history of Camp Quixote and the current Quixote Village. At the East Pierce Unit meeting, Jill Snider, who works with Open Hearth Ministries in Puyallup, spoke to us about the beginnings of this service group and its work in providing resources for those in need of shelter, food, clothing, and a person with whom to connect.



Tim Ransom, Thurston County resident, describes Quixote Village, a self-governed permanent housing area developed for the formerly homeless

Invitation: Be a Part of Improving Health in Pierce County

By Rosa Franklin & Laurie Jenkins

Join with partners such as United Way, Emergency Food Network, YMCA, Pierce County Medical Society and more to learn about the population and health in Pierce County and hear multiple perspectives on the challenges facing community health and our opportunities for transformation. Join in conversations with diverse sectors on how we can collectively improve the health of Pierce County residents through innovative efforts. Learn how to be a part of continued conversation and action, whether that be for individual organizations, sectors, related to issues of health equity or with the emerging Accountable Community of Health.

October 7, 7:30 a.m. to Noon, Clover Park Technical College, McGavick Conference Center

To register please follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pierce-county-community-action-summit-on-health-transformation-disparities-determinants-and-registration-18544727780>



Opportunities for Action & Participation



October 15 – 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm – Candidates Forum – NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council, Meeker Middle School, 4402 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma – all candidates on local ballot (Council-at-Large, Port of Tacoma, Metro Parks, Tacoma School Board, Civil Service Board, and Pierce County Charter Review Commission) - sponsored by NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council. If you have questions, contact Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow at lyzkurnitz@harbornet.com.

October 15 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – Edgewood Candidates Forum, Edgewood City Hall, 2224 104th Ave E, Edgewood – sponsored by LWVT-PC. If you have questions, contact Diane Kerlin at drkerlin@comcast.net.

October 20—6:00—8:00 pm—Pierce County Community Health Alliance Community Action, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, 4851 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma 98409. An opportunity to work with others on improving access and equity in healthcare, good jobs with safe and fair working conditions, and mobilizing and empowering our community to lead the way for positive change. For more information, contact Susan Eidschink, 253-365-4005, susaneiden@harbornet.com.

October 21 – 6:00 pm – 7:45 pm – Ballot Issues Forum at Wheelock Library, 3722 North 26th St, Tacoma – sponsored by LWVT-PC. If you have questions, contact Ann Williams at wilar12000@yahoo.com.

October 22 – 7:00 pm – 9:15 pm – Puyallup Candidates Forum, Puyallup United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall, 1919 W Pioneer – candidates on local ballot (Puyallup City Council and Puyallup School Board) – sponsored by LWVT-PC. If you have questions, contact Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow at lyzkurnitz@harbornet.com.

October 22 – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – 2015 Excellence in Affordable Housing Awards, Foss Waterway Seaport, 702 Dock Street, Tacoma. See <http://www.affordablehousingconsortium.org/>

October 28 – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Project Homeless Connect, Tacoma Dome – Register Voters. If you want to help register Voters, contact Susan Eidschink, 253-365-4005 or susaneiden@harbornet.com

Help collect information for the 2016 They Represent You (TRY) – If you would like to work on the TRY, or want to know more about what's involved, contact John Thurlow at 253-219-1627 or johnthurlow@harbornet.com or lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com.

Help organize materials for November Consensus Unit meetings on Constitutional Amendments or January Consensus Unit meetings on Money in Politics. Contact Susan Eidschink at 253-365-4005 or susaneiden@harbornet.com or lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com.

Help the State League on one of two projects – Voter Turnout or Climate Change

The Voter Turnout team will identify barriers to voting and explore and analyze the reasons registered voters do not vote. If you are interested, contact Maurie Louis at maurie.louis@comcast.net for Voter Turnout by October 5, 2015.

The Climate Change Team will educate League members, the public, and elected officials concerning the present and future effects of global climate change with a focus on the Pacific Northwest. If you are interested, contact Michelle Valentine at emvalentin@aol.com for Climate Change by October 5, 2015.

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

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

**See Last Month's
Unit Meetings
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This Month: October – Ballot Issues

This month's Unit meetings focus on Washington State, Pierce County, and City of Tacoma ballot issues.

State Ballot Issues

- **Initiative 1366** deals with restrictions for raising taxes
- **Initiative 1401** deals with selling, trading, buying of distributing animal species
- **Advisory Votes** – Four advisory votes dealing with legislation passed in 2015 that raise \$17 million to \$3.7 billion dollars in state revenue over ten years

Pierce County Ballot Issue

- Referendum on the Pierce County Council decision to approve financing, construction, and leasing of a **new County general services building**

Tacoma Ballot Issues

- **Initiative 1 and 1B** – Both initiatives deal with raising the minimum wage for workers in Tacoma
- **Initiative 2** – Concerns changing legislative and executive powers the Tacoma, and several other important issues
- **Proposition 3 and Proposition A** – Deal with taxes and street improvements

Next Month: November – Constitutional Amendment : LWVUS Consensus

At the November Unit meetings you will be able to participate in discussion on guidelines for evaluating proposed amendments to the U. S. Constitution. There are two methods of proposing amendments to the Constitution. The first is for Congress (both houses), by a two-thirds vote to propose an amendment to the states. If three-fourths of the states (38 at present) vote to ratify the amendment, it becomes part of the constitution. The second method (Article V Convention) is for the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) to request that Congress call a convention to consider an amendment. Congress must call a Constitutional Convention to propose and consider the amendment. If the amendment is approved at the convention, three-fourths of the states must ratify the amendment before it becomes a part of the Constitution. Both methods are difficult, as changing the U.S. Constitution is an action not to be taken lightly.

LWVT-PC Calendar October 2015—January 2016

October 7 7:30 am—Noon (breakfast included)	Pierce County Community Action Summit Clover Park Technical College McGavick Conference Center 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW Lakewood	October 22 5:00—7:00 pm	2015 Excellence in Affordable Housing Awards Foss Waterway Seaport 705 Dock Street, Tacoma
October 8 1:00—3:00 pm	Tacoma Unit Meeting Ballot Issues North Tacoma Police Station 5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma	October 22 7:00—9:15 pm	Puyallup Candidates Forum Puyallup United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall 1919 W Pioneer, Puyallup
October 9 10:00 am—Noon	Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting Ballot Issues Steilacoom Community Center 2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom	October 27 10:00 a.m.—Noon	LWVT-PC Board Meeting 702 Broadway, Suite 105, Tacoma
October 10 10:00 am—Noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting Ballot Issues Puyallup Library 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup	October 28 9:00 am—4:00 pm	Project Homeless Connect at Tacoma Dome
October 10 2:00—4:00 pm	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting Ballot Issues Harbor History Museum 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor	November 12 1:00—3:00 pm	Tacoma Unit Meeting Constitutional Amendments LWVUS Consensus Study North Tacoma Police Station 5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma
October 15 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Candidates Forum NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeker Middle School 4402 Nassau Ave. NE, Tacoma	November 13 10:00 am—Noon	Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting Constitutional Amendments LWVUS Consensus Study Steilacoom Community Center 2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom
October 15 7:00—8:30 pm	Edgewood Candidates Forum Edgewood City Hall, 2224 104th Ave E., Edgewood	November 14 10:00 am—Noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting Constitutional Amendments LWVUS Consensus Study Puyallup Library 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup
October 20	Deadline for November Voter articles	November 14 2:00—4:00 pm	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting Constitutional Amendments LWVUS Consensus Study Harbor History Museum 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor
October 20 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Pierce County Community Health Alliance Community Action Asia Pacific Cultural Center, 4851 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma	November 20	Deadline for December Voter articles
October 21 6:00—7:45 pm	Ballot Issues Forum Wheelock Library 3722 N. 26th St., Tacoma	November 24 10:00 am—Noon	LWVT-PC Board Meeting 702 Broadway, Suite 105, Tacoma
		December 5 10:00 am—2:00 pm	Program Planning General Membership Meeting Merrill Gardens 7290 Rosemount Circle, Tacoma

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LWVT-PC Calendar October 2015—January 2016

Continued

December 29 **LWVT-PC Board Meeting**
10:00 am—Noon 702 Broadway, Suite 105, Tacoma

January 8 **Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting**
10:00 am—Noon Money in Politics
 LWVUS Consensus Study
 Steilacoom Community Center
 2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom

January 9 **East Pierce Unit Meeting**
10:00 am—Noon Money in Politics
 LWVUS Consensus Study
 Puyallup Library
 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup

January 9 **Gig Harbor Unit Meeting**
2:00—4:00 pm Money in Politics
 LWVUS Consensus Study
 Harbor History Museum
 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor

January 14 **Tacoma Unit Meeting**
1:00—3:00 pm Money in Politics
 LWVUS Consensus Study
 North Tacoma Police Station
 5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma

January 20 **Deadline for February Voter Articles**

January 26 **LWVT-PC Board Meeting**
10:00 am—Noon 702 Broadway, Suite 105, Tacoma

Your Board at Work

By Paula Eismann

Two applications received for partial membership scholarships were approved. Renewals are still being received. As of August 31, there were 112 members in the LWVT-PC.

Cynthia Stewart reported the Puget Sound Regional Council has an opening for a LWV representative and she is seeking a replacement. The State Board will be doing some Strategic Planning, and one of the issues is the role of the State Board relative to local Leagues. Action workshops will be held in Bellingham, Shelton, King County and Spokane.

Paula Eismann reported that the membership committee was looking at ways to recruit new members. One way that's been successful in Gig Harbor has been to place posters advertising our unit meetings in many places; this will be tried in the other units as well.

Having recently received notice that our office lease will not be renewed after December 31, several officers looked at three possible office locations. The options were discussed with the Board and after much discussion, the selection was made. Our new office will be in the First United Methodist Church Tower at 621 Tacoma Ave. Plans are being made for moving. Members wishing to help, please call the office.

It was noted that Voter Services has a full schedule in the coming weeks, with many local candidate forums scheduled and more requests coming in. A quick review of up-coming unit topics included ballot issues with speakers in October, LWVUS Consensus on a constitutional amendment (we need more help on this) and Program Planning in December.

John Thurlow announced that the TRY will include emails of elected officials and the committee will soon be updating addresses. He'd shared the timeline previously and is in the process of checking out possible printers.

The Holiday meeting will be at Merrill Gardens on December 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cheryl Mann and Julio Quan are helping Lyz Kurntiz -Thurlow with the program, which will be Program Planning. All members are urged to notify Lyz with ideas of programs for next year.

An update on the Education Fund Board is as follows:

Following the June 20, 2015 Annual meeting, the Board held a brief meeting at which the Board was elected to also serve as the LWVT-PC Educational Board. The following members were approved to be the officers: Ruth Ann Hatchett- Chair; Cynthia Stewart-Treasurer; and Donald Eismann will serve as Investment Manager.

Following the September 22, 2015 Board meeting the Education Fund Board held another brief meeting where the following was approved: The Educational Fund Board would meet after every regular Board meeting as needed; Paula Eismann will be the Secretary .

Cynthia Stewart shared proposed a budget for the Education Fund, which will be discussed and adopted at the next meeting.

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: _____
