September 28, Supreme Court Candidates Forum, was at GU Law School, Moot Court Room. Thank you for such great support to LWVWA – and Lunell Haught in particular – for the Supreme Court Justice Forum at GU. All of the volunteers were great! And we had a really nice crowd – we are calling at 150.

Watch the Supreme Court of Washington forum:

http://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2016091115


Left to right: Sally Phillips time keeper, and Bev Austin

Left to right: Lynette Vehrs and Mike Voltz
Candidates in the 6th Legislative District.

GENERAL ELECTION FORUMS— by Susan Gray

Our 2016 General Election Forums were held in the City Council Chambers on Thursday and Friday, September 22 and 23. The Thursday forum, featured contested state legislative races started at noon and was moderated by Bev Austin. We heard from District 3 candidates James Apker (L) and Andy Billig (D), running for State Senate; Randy McGlenn (L) and Marcus Riccelli (D), running for State Representative Position 1; and Laura Carder (R ) and Timm Ormbysby (D), running for State Representative, Position 2. Also participating were candidates for State Representative in District 6: Lynnette Vehrs (D) and Mike Volz (R ) in Position 1 and Jeff Holy (R ) and Shar Lichty (D) in Position 2.

Since both County Commissioners had regular commitments on Thursday, September 22, the County Commissioner races were presented the next day, Friday September 23 at 11:00 a.m. Participating in that forum were Josh Kerns (R ) and Candace Mumm (D) competing for Position 1 and Andrew Biviano (D) and Shelly O’Quinn (R ) competing for Position 2. Though selected in the Primary by voters in their respective districts, the candidates for District 1 and District 2 will run at-large in the General election.

After hearing from the Commissioner candidates, Spokane City Council member Amber Waldref and Liberty Lake Mayor Steve Peterson spoke to STA Proposition 1, with Ms Waldref speaking in favor and Mayor Peterson speaking against. Summaries of the remaining state ballot initiatives, advisory votes and proposed constitutional amendment were read by Susan Gray, who moderated the Friday forums.

Spokane County General Election is November 8th. Ballots will be mailed between October 19 and 21.
October 11 General Meeting – Ballot Issues – Be An Informed Voter!

Plan to attend our General Meeting on October 11 at 11:30 where we will be discussing the three state initiatives that have been endorsed by the League of Women Voters of Washington. We are inviting speakers from each of the PRO campaigns and will have either a speaker or a statement from the CON campaigns to consider. The following initiatives will be discussed in depth:

I-1433 Initiative Measure No. 1433 concerns labor standards.
This measure would increase the state minimum wage to $11.00 in 2017, $11.50 in 2018, $12.00 in 2019, and $13.50 in 2020, require employers to provide paid sick leave, and adopt related laws.  
http://sos.wa.gov/_assets/elections/initiatives/FinalText_954.pdf
Speaker:  TBD

I-1464 Initiative Measure No. 1464 concerns campaign finance laws and lobbyists.
This measure would create a campaign-finance system; allows residents to direct state funds to candidates; repeal the non-resident sales tax exemption; restrict lobbying employment by certain former public employees; and add enforcement requirements.  
Speaker:  Ben Stuckart

I-1491 Initiative Measure No. 1491 concerns court orders temporarily preventing access to firearms.
This measure would allow police, family, or household members to obtain court orders temporarily preventing access to firearms by persons who, because of mental illness or other factors, may harm themselves or others.  
Speaker:  TBD

Save the Date:  ‘Action Workshop’ - Oct. 29

This fall the first Action Workshop with our LWVWA Lobby Team workshop will be held in Spokane on Saturday, October 29, at Saint Andrew's Church, 2404 N. Howard St, Spokane.
This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the issues facing the 2017 legislature, including education funding, natural resource protection and enhancing voting rights, and how you can make an impact.
Watch your emails for more details. If you would like to help plan the workshop, please contact:  
Kathy Sakahara, ksakahara@lwvwa.org
or Lin McGinn, Linmcginn2@aol.com.

Saturday, October 8 - Last day to register to vote by mail, for the General Election in Washington State.
Educating Voters: New and Old

Spokane League Member: Jean Wells is organizing a Candidates and Initiatives Forum In Newport, WA and the League of Women Voters of Spokane is co-sponsoring with the Newport School District and the Newport Miner News.

It will be held on Monday, October 17, 2016, 5:30–8:30 P.M. in the Newport High School multi-purpose room, 1400 West 5th, Newport Washington. Dave Smith, Superintendent at Newport School District & Michelle Nedved (who will serve as Moderator of the Forum), publisher at The Newport Miner are working on the details. Teachers and students will be involved in the activities including a Mock Vote by participating in a Washington State 2016 Mock General Election.

The Candidate and Initiative Forum will include: Pend Oreille County Commission 1 & 3; Ferry, Pend Oreille, Stevens Superior Ct Position 1 & 2 State Representative Position 2, Legislative District 7 & US Representative, District 5 Initiatives for the People Forum.

Call Jean Wells if you want to help with this: 509 879 1935

Spokane Woman’s Club Renovation

Celebration: Thursday October 13th

Drop in 4:30—6:30 P.M.

1428 West 9th Ave, Spokane

Celebrate the new accessible entry ramp at the front door, the new accessible restroom, the new AC, the new community kitchen, and many more improvements at the Woman’s Club. Held at GFWC Woman’s Club of Spokane, 1428 West 9th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99204. There will be a Ribbon-Cutting at 4:30, with State and local legislators present, followed by a tour of the entire building, with interactive displays, refreshments, and demonstrations. Event is free.

LWVSA Dues Are Due!

Thank you to all who have already renewed their LWV membership! If you haven’t already done so, you can mail your dues using the form at the end of the Voter. To make it even easier, you can pay by credit card, using PayPal from our website: http://www.lwvspokane.org/join.html. If you have any questions, please contact our Treasurer Jan Carrington at 509-844-1795 or jancarrington7@gmail.com.
Book Review, By Lin McGinn: **BROAD INFLUENCE, HOW WOMEN ARE CHANGING THE WAY AMERICA WORKS** - BY JAY NEWTON-SMALL

I have recently read the book: **Broad Influence: How Women Are Changing the Way America Works**, by Jay Newton Small. I think it is a book worth reading and can shed some light on what could be done to really address the use of force by our Spokane Police officers. I have also, for about the past year been following the Spokane Police Accountability Council for the Spokane League of Women Voters. I have my doubts as to whether the appointment of the Police Ombudsman will actually “fix” the issues, we as concerned citizens are seeing in the Spokane Police Department. However, I do support the appointment of an Ombudsman or Ombudswoman to investigate the complaints made by the citizens in Spokane about our Spokane Police and the public’s interactions with the Spokane Police Department.

I want to share some of the information in the book **Broad Influence**, about law enforcement and the use of force, with you.

Jay starts with an explanation of ‘critical mass’, from science: “when a reaction reaches an inflection point and cannot be stopped, like a nuclear explosion. In Sociology, it has come to mean the point at which a minority begins to change the tone and policies of the institution it has begun to integrate.” An example she describes is when schools were desegregated in the South, the US Government mandated a minimum “critical mass” of 20 percent of the student body to be female. When girls became at least a third of the student body, the education of the girls was no longer an experiment, an afterthought, or exception. Girls were no longer considered outsiders or second class. Girls began to assert themselves, to be heard and became part of the leadership. In her own experience “if women reached more than 20 percent of a group, life improved dramatically for us.”

Studies have shown women to be more collaborative, more empathetic and less interested in grandstanding than men. “Having more women on police forces improves community outreach; women are also less confrontational, which helps to curb police violence…”

The National Center for Women Policing reports: “women rely less on physical force and more on communication skills to defuse potentially violent situations.” Many municipal agencies have found that having more female officers is saving money. There are less lawsuits alleging the use of excessive force, even though there are more male police officers then female police officers. “There is no difference in the amount of routine force reported by gender, only use of excessive force.” The public has fewer complaints against female officers, has been shown in a study on rudeness and other bad behaviors. Women are more aware that they have to be flexible and inventive in their interactions with the public because they are generally smaller in stature and that puts them at a disadvantage. Women trust their gut instinct of healthy fear when they have to make a split decision to engage or not engage, more than male officers do. Women officers use words and listen more than male officers. Women communicate to de-escalate situations better than males.

Women are not well represented in law enforcement because of “widespread discriminatory hiring and selection practices,” according to the National Center for Women and Policing. Nationally in the U.S. nothing is being done to change hiring policies, develop training programs or launch recruitment drives.

Australian studies have found that attaining a critical mass of women on the force may promote a general cultural change in policing organizations.

There is also evidence that an increase in female officers will lead to better response to female victims. Domestic abuse it was found to account for the greatest number of calls to police departments according to The National Center for Women Policing. In 1985 a study found that policewomen placed greater importance on domestic violence calls and responding to family fights than did male policemen. Case studies show that women officers handled cases with more tact and believed more in the need to show sympathy and understanding for victims. *(Continued on page 6)*
Continued from page 5

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**Broad Influence** has shed light into the dark corner of Police oversite, and the change of culture that must take place in Police departments to curb the use of excessive force on our citizens. Could it be that increasing the ranks of women in the Spokane Police Force could curb the use of force we would all so welcome.

Could the Spokane Police Department become a workplace with one third or greater of its officers as women, that we could be proud to have our mothers, daughters and sisters in the Spokane Community work for? Could the Spokane Police Force not be a work place where they are sexually exploited and sexually harassed by their male colleges and Chief Officers? Can increasing the women on the Spokane Police force bring about the culture inside the Spokane Police Department and outside in our Spokane Community? I think there is a reasonable chance it could.

I have also heard on the international news that some police forces in India have created special women forces that go out to calls on women, like rape and domestic violence. There is now a greater rate of charges made for rape and other crimes toward women because of how the women officers take charge of the victim. Male officers tended to worsen the victim’s situation victimizing the women again and not charging the responsible party. This has come a long way in cultural change in India.

There is a great deal more in **Broad Influence** of how the “critical mass” of women in Congress, the Senate, the White House Staff, the military, and private business, is changing our world. I hope you too will read it.

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**The Presidential Debates** are coming up. The National League has come up with a [Debate Watching Kit](#) with useful tips and tools whether you are watching on your own or with a group.

- **Sunday Oct 9** - Presidential Debate #2
- **Wednesday Oct 19** - Presidential Debate #3

![Vote411.org](#)

Vote411.org is now live for the general election
League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area

Membership Form

___ Yes, I want to join/renew membership in LWV/Spokane Area

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Address:___________________________________________________________
City:__________________________________________ Zip:_______________
Phone: H ___________________________ W ___________________________
Fax: _______________________________ e-mail _______________________
I would like to receive the newsletter by ___ mail or ___ email (please check one)
Please indicate amount enclosed: ___________________________
Please make check payable to & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane WA 99205
Pay by Credit Card through Pay Pal at www.lwvspokane.org/join.html

$75 Individual Dues: Local $24 - State $19 - Nat’l $32
$105 Household; $110 Sustaining Member; $150 Benefactor

Calendar

October 11  League General Meeting, “Money & Politics and Ballot Issues.” 11:30 AM  2404 N. Howard St., Spokane (Basement in Community Rm)
October 19  Board Meeting, 9 AM in League Office, 2404 N. Howard St.
October 25  League Drinks, 5:30 @Saranac Public House, 21 West Main, Spokane
October 29  “Action Workshop,” 9:00 A. M., 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane (Presented by LWVWA, and Kathy Sakahara and “The Lobby Team”)
November 8  Election Day—“Vote”
November 8  League General Meeting, 11:30 A.M., 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane (Basement in Community Rm)
November 11 - Veterans Day Holiday & Washington Statehood Anniversary
November 16  Board Meeting, 9 AM in League Office 2404 N. Howard St.
November 30  “The Elected Officials Luncheon,” 11:30 A.M. til 1:00 P.M., (to be arranged)

“The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy.”
GOTV and Vote411 posters & Newspapers in Education Election tabloids still available while supplies last!

Contact Jennifer @ 206-622-8961 to make a request (by October 7).
Civility Conference at NIC
Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations
One Day conference “Returning Civility to America’s Democracy”
October 13, 2016

The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations with co-hosts the North Idaho College Vice President of Student Services Office, the Associated Students of North Idaho College (ASNIC) and the NIC Diversity Council announced the upcoming one-day conference addressing the issue of civility in America to be held on Thursday, October 13 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the North Idaho College Schuler Performing Arts Center in Boswell Hall. Contact: Tony Stewart 208 765 3932 or Christie Wood 208 819 9813

Professor Clayton will distribute free copies of the book “Civility and Democracy in America: A Reasonable Understanding” edited by Cornell W. Clayton and Richard Elgar.

LWVSA September - General Meeting

Dr Kevin Henrickson spoke to the League of Women Voters September 13th about the effect that “top two” candidates have on elections in the state of Washington. He also talked about the effect of mail-in voting on election outcomes. Dr. Henrickson is a professor of Economics in the Gonzaga University School of Business.

He had several charts and graphs to illustrate the trends he has studied. Vicky Dalton, Spokane Auditor, who was in the audience, answered several questions during our discussions. Questions discussed by members and guests were how to increase voter turnout and how to get young people to vote.
From KPBX
We got a fine recording and will be broadcasting it.
We’re choosing the next 4 Thursday evenings at
8:00 P.M. on KSFC.
Oct 6  McMorris – Pakootus.
Oct 13  Supreme Court
Oct 20  Wa Gov or Senate
Oct 27  Wa Senate or Gov