

# SEATAC MUNICIPAL COURT

Your City.  Your Court.

*“Law Week 2014”*

## The Right to Vote Timeline

- In 1789, The U.S. Constitution gives states the power to regulate elections and voting requirements. Many states establish voting requirements centered on property ownership.
- In 1869, Congress passes the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits denying citizens the right to vote “on the basis of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude.”
- In 1872, Susan B. Anthony is arrested, tried, and convicted for attempting to vote.
- In 1920, Congress passes the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits denying citizens the right to vote based on the sex of the individual.
- In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act declares all Native Americans in the United States to be citizens and gives them the right to vote.

The American Bar Association declared the theme for this year’s National Law Day Celebration as “American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters.” This year, Law Week provides us an opportunity to highlight the importance of voting rights and participatory government.

The theme of voting rights is timely as the nation prepares to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of two landmark pieces of legislation: the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. At the heart of both the statutes is the guiding principle that equality of opportunity to participate in the Nation’s civic and economic life is a fundamental right of all Americans and ought to be protected as such. While there is still much work to do, these laws have been crucial in the progress towards this goal.



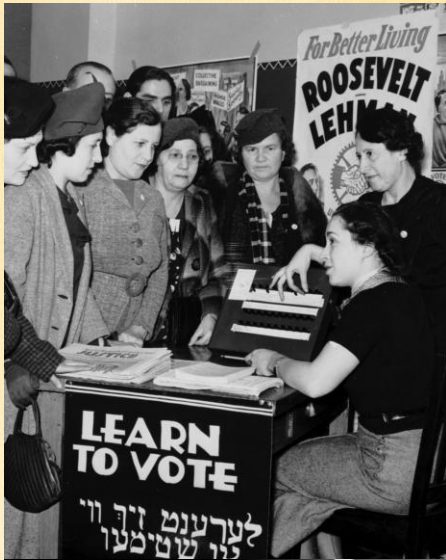
AMERICAN  
DEMOCRACY  
AND THE  
RULE OF  
LAW

WHY EVERY  
**VOTE**  
MATTERS

LAW DAY 2014

**ROCK THE VOTE**





## The Right to Vote Timeline *(cont'd)*

- In 1943, in the case of *Smith v. Allwright*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that denying African Americans the right to vote in a Democratic primary in Texas violates the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- In 1964, Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1964, making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, and gender in voting, public places, the workplace, and schools. Poll taxes are also outlawed with the ratification of the 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act, barring direct barriers to political participation by racial and ethnic minorities, prohibiting any election practice that denies the right to vote on account of race, and requiring jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting to get federal approval of changes in their election laws before they can take effect.
- In 1971, the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment lowers the voting age to 18. The change was largely in response to the Vietnam War and the feeling that if people were old enough to serve in the military, they were old enough to vote.
- In 2002, Congress passes the Help America Vote Act, which mandates modernization of outdated punch card and lever voting systems, and sets minimum election administration standards.



“Voting is the most precious right of every citizen, and we have a moral obligation to ensure the integrity of our voting process.”  
- Hillary Clinton



## 2014 SeaTac Municipal Court Law Week Celebration Schedule

### Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

11:00 am -12:00 pm Mock Election; Highline Community College, Building 7

### Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Free Movie Screening, “Swing Vote,” starring Kevin Costner; Council Chambers, City of SeaTac, 4800 S. 188<sup>th</sup> Street



### Wednesday, April 30, 2014

11:00 am- 1:00 pm Free Movie Screening, “Swing Vote,” starring Kevin Costner; Highline Community College, Building 7

### Thursday, May 1, 2014 National Law Day

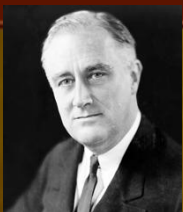
2:15 pm – 5:00 pm Non-Partisan Voter Registration Rally, Highline Community College, Building 8 (Join us as we welcome local dignitaries, celebrities and the folks from King County elections who will be there to help you register to vote. This is sure to be a fun, memorable event! Hope to see you there!)



### Friday, May 2, 2014

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Mock Election, SeaTac Municipal Court

For more details and the full schedule of events, go to the Law Week link at [www.cityofseatac.com/court](http://www.cityofseatac.com/court)



“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.” – *Franklin D. Roosevelt*





“Impress upon children the truth that the exercise of the elective franchise is a social duty of as solemn a nature as man can be called to perform; that a man may not innocently trifle with his vote; that every elector is a trustee as well for others as himself and that every measure he supports has an important bearing on the interests of others as well as on his own.” – *Daniel Webster*

MARCH, 2014

VOL #3 ISSUE #1

## Have you ever wondered why elections are held on Tuesdays?

In 1845, Congress set Tuesday as the day for federal elections to bring some uniformity because of widely inconsistent state practices. Voters often traveled over great distances on horseback, or by horse and buggy, to the county seat to cast a ballot. Many of these voters had to travel the day before election to be on time to vote. Congress ruled out Monday as a voting day because it would require many voters to travel on Sunday. Moreover, by holding elections on Tuesday, farmers could get back in time for market day, often held on Wednesday.

*-American Bar Association*



Any websites, web pages, links, or other internet content referred to or contained within this newsletter are for reference purposes only and neither the SeaTac Municipal Court nor the City of SeaTac endorse, support, or recommend any advertisement contained within a referenced website, web page, or link that is external to the SeaTac Municipal Court webpage.

*The SeaTac Municipal Court Newsletter is written by Judge Elizabeth Cordi-Bejarano. Any copying, reproduction or distribution of this document, in whole or in part, without the author's explicit written permission is strictly prohibited.*

*To subscribe to this quarterly newsletter via email, or to cancel your subscription, please click the following [link](#).*

### **SEATAC MUNICIPAL COURT**

4800 S. 188<sup>th</sup> Street

SeaTac, Washington 98188

206-973-4610

<http://www.cityofseatac.com/court>