

THE VOICE

"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMaui.org ♦ WMTA@maui.net

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association ♦ October, 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DONALD LEHMAN

With the Primary election behind us, all eyes are now focused on the November 2, 2010, election. WMTA does not endorse candidates, but we have a proud tradition of conducting forums to bring candidates and voters together to discuss issues and positions. WMTA and the Lahaina News co-sponsored an unprecedented pre-primary candidates' night on August 15, 2010, to give candidates for the West Maui Council seat an opportunity to introduce themselves to voters.

This year the WMTA Candidates' Night will be at the Lahaina Civic Center on Thursday, October 21, 2010. This is always a well attended and informative event, and all West Maui voters are urged to attend.

WMTA and the West Maui community are grateful we have had a respected and experienced Joanne Johnson in the West Maui Council seat for the past several years. Council Member Johnson and WMTA have enjoyed a working relationship that served West Maui very well. Whatever the results of the November election, the West Maui seat will be occupied by a less experienced Council Member who will need community and WMTA input to competently address all the serious issues in West Maui.

WMTA is ready and willing to work with the new council member to protect and preserve West Maui, but we will need your help to be ABLE to provide that help. The WMTA Board appreciates the support from the community over the years, but when many in our community are struggling financially, so is WMTA. A major source of funding historically has come from home owner associations, but with so many associations facing their own financial problems they can not find funding for WMTA.

This means WMTA must rely on individual member support, and we ask that associations and groups benefiting from WMTA's past efforts please forward this letter to all their individual members so those who are able have an opportunity to join and support WMTA. The need for a strong WMTA has never been greater. Please send your monetary donation to WMTA today so that we can continue to serve you.

Thank you,

Donald Lehman

YOU ARE INVITED – WMTA CANDIDATES' NIGHT



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010 ● LAHAINA CIVIC CENTER

IF NO VOTE, NO CAN GRUMBLE!

ONLY 34.8% of West Maui Registered Voters turned out for the 2008 General Election.

Please register and Please VOTE TOO!

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS ON CANDIDATES NIGHT

WMTA Candidates Night 2010

The West Maui Taxpayers Association Board of Directors invites you to attend the WMTA Candidates Night 2010.

Candidates Night is organized in order to educate voters on Maui County candidates for the campaign year.

Candidates from the Maui County Council Seat (all districts), Mayor, as well as Hawaii State Governor and Lieutenant Governor candidates are invited to participate in this Q & A format to address topics of interest in the community.

Questions are encouraged to be e-mailed early to jdp@maui.net. However, cards will be available at the entrance to write down questions to be given to candidates

This year's forum will be moderated by WMTA Executive Director Ezekiel Kalua.

Local restaurants in Lahaina will be providing food & beverages for Candidates Night. Serving starts at 5:00 PM.

WMTA Candidates Night 2010

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2010

Time: 5:00 PM – Dinner ♦ 5:30 PM – Program Begins

Location: Lahaina Civic Center

Please visit the website at www.WestMaui.org for changes and updates.

* * * * *

ATTEND CANDIDATES NIGHT TO LEARN ABOUT THESE CANDIDATES!*

GOVERNOR / LITUENANT GOVERNOR

Neil Abercrombie / Brian Schatz
Duke Aiona / Lynn Finnegan

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 10

Ramon Madden
Representative Angus McKelvey**

MAYOR

Alan Arakawa
Mayor Charmaine Tavares**

II SCHOOL BOARD 2ND DEPT/MAUI

Ray Hart
Leona Rocha-Wilson

MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL

WEST MAUI

Elle Cochran
Alan Fukuyama

EAST MAUI

Robert Carrol
Council Member Bill Medeiros**

MAKAWAO-HAIKU-PAIA

Kai Nishiki
Mike White

SOUTH MAUI

Don Couch
Council Member Wayne Nishiki**

WAILUKU-WAIHEE-WAIKAPU

Lisa Gapero
Council Member Michael Victorino**

LANAI

Riki Hokama
Matthew Mano

*Candidates have been invited, but confirmations have not been received by all yet. Check the website for confirmations.

**Incumbent



GENERAL ELECTION 2010 VOTING DATES TO REMEMBER

- GENERAL ELECTION VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MON, OCTOBER 4, 2010. Call County of Maui 808-270-7749 for visit <http://hawaii.gov/elections/voters/registration.htm> for more information
- ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR GENERAL ELECTION – JULY 20, 2010 – OCTOBER 26, 2010
- ABSENTEE VOTING WALK-IN FOR GENERAL ELECTION – OCTOBER 19 – 30, 2010
- GENERAL ELECTION DAY – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

*In the 2010 Primary Election, Maui County had 84,386 registered voters.
Only 28,839, or 34.2 percent, cast ballots in the primary election.*

WHY AREN'T PEOPLE VOTING?? VOTER APATHY IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS WAS MOST EVIDENT IN WEST MAUI THIS YEAR. BY JOSEPH PLUTA

The State Elections office web site presents statistical facts on the recent statewide primary elections. Please check out the alarming facts. Why aren't people voting! The 34.2% of registered voters who turned out to vote on the September 18th primary is pathetic. Worse yet, is the fact that of the 28,839 who did vote, 5,424 of them; almost 19%, did not even cast a single vote for any West Maui candidate. There is not any more evidence necessary to see that West Maui is an island unto itself. It seems it's not on the minds of voters who forget that the successful West Maui Candidate will be voting on all issues which come before the Maui County Council. That means where they live too in Central Maui and elsewhere. We may be in different life rafts in West Maui than East Maui, Central, Kihei and Upcountry, but we're all in the same boat.

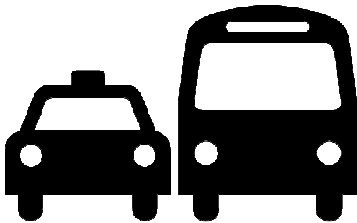
We have some great community and fair minded residents on Maui in all locations. However, it seems that some Voters who do not reside in West Maui; suffer from "tunnel vision." It seems that they lose sight about West Maui's importance at the Pali Tunnel. These voters need to be reminded to recognize the fact that nearly 45% of the entire County and State Economic Tax contributions are derived from West Maui. Who they select for the West side will be of vital importance and should not be ignored with blank votes.

The blank vote number of 5,424 for West Maui could have swung the election in the favor of every other candidate who was not successful to be selected to move to the general election. That means that the total votes for the two who did move on, Elle Cochran and Alan Fukuyama, are representative of just less than half of those who did vote and only 16% of the registered voters in Maui County.

That is a troubling statistic. We hope that the people who have investment interests in West Maui will recognize the importance of having the West Maui Taxpayers Association's assistance and guidance available to bring to the Council meetings next year. We will be urging both of these candidates to contract us and familiarize themselves with our short and long term goals which the community at large has expressed to the WMTA each year. The magnitude of importance is off the charts.

**Come to the West Maui Taxpayers Candidates Night,
Lahaina Civic Center, October 21st at 5:00 PM
Spread the word! This is an Open event for the entire community.
See what the candidates have to say.
Ask tough questions.
Please vote on November 2nd!**

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE BY BOB PURE



1. Keawe Street Intersection: The work has been completed. Exiting the Lahaina Gateway Shopping Center, there is now a dedicated left turn lane with a green arrow allowing motorists to make an unobstructed left turn towards Lahaina.
2. Highway Widening Project LahainaLuna Rd. to Aholo St: Work is ongoing and on schedule. When completed there will be a landscaped tree lined median going down the center of the road the entire length of the project. Coming into Lahaina will look a lot better than it does now.
3. Phase 1-A , Lahaina Bypass: Work is also ongoing and on schedule. The contractor is planning to have Lahainaluna Rd. revert to it's original traffic configuration by the end of October. Concrete has already been poured for the foundation of the bridge with major progress on bridge construction to take place in November.
4. Phase 1-B-1, Lahaina Bypass (from Lahainaluna south to Hokiokio Place): Ground broken to begin this project on Friday October 1st. A public information meeting (PIM) is planned to be held sometime in October.

In summary: in West Maui, we have one project completed with three under current construction. When all of these projects are completed, getting around and into and out of West Maui, will be much easier for visitors and residents alike.

DID YOU KNOW...

That of the 28,839 who did vote in the 2010 Primary Election, 5,424 of them (almost 19%) did not even cast a single vote for any West Maui candidate?

Join the WMTA E-Alerts!

Would you like to share your e-mail address with WMTA to receive special notices about:

- ✓ Legislation & Bills that may affect YOU – whether you live, work, or play in West Maui.
- ✓ Special events and meetings
- ✓ Fundraisers
- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities
- ✓ WMTA in the news

Please check the box on the membership form below to be included, and be sure to include your e-mail. Thank you!

West Maui Taxpayers Association Membership & Donation Form

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

- Please correct my information as noted above.
- Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
- Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMTA E-Alerts" List

\$ _____ **MEMBERSHIP**

- I am a member and renewing my dues
- I **am not** a member but would like to join

Membership Levels

- Individuals may join at \$50.00 per year.
- Families may join at \$100.00 per year
- Businesses may join at \$100.00 per year
- Associations, please contact us directly (808) 661-7990

\$ _____ **DONATION:** In addition to my membership, here is an ADDITIONAL DONATION
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Comments and Suggestions: _____

Memberships effective for one year upon receipt of membership dues payment.

Mail Checks, and Send Comments to:

West Maui Taxpayers Association • PO Box 10338 • Lahaina, HI 96761

Phone: 808-661-7990 • Fax: 808-661-7992 • E-mail: wmta@maui.net

(October 2010, E)

*Thank you for
your continued
support!*

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uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"*

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West Maui
Taxpayers
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(WMTA)



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"West Maui Taxpayers Association
(WMTA)"