

THE VOTER



This Newsletter published by and for the
League of Women Voters of Yakima County
PO Box 723, Yakima, WA 98907 509-452-3419

*We respectfully acknowledge
that we are on the traditional
land of the Yakama People.*

Aug./Sept., 2022
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MISSION STATEMENT:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

VISION:

We envision a democracy
where every person has the desire,
the right, the knowledge, and the confidence
to participate.

VALUE STATEMENT:

The League believes in the power of women to
create a more perfect democracy.

CALENDAR

On-Going

Leadership Team Normally meets the 1st Monday of Each
Month 4:30 PM – *Next meeting on September 12 due to
Labor Day.*: at YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima.
Contact Lee Murdock if prefer to meet by Zoom.

Administration / Public Relations Committee Meets the
4th Monday of Each Month 4:30 PM at YWCA, 818 W
Yakima Ave, Yakima. *Next meeting on September 26.*

Save the Date

Candidate Forum October 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM. Location
and other information forthcoming. *Help needed; see brief
article on Page 3.*

Officers

President: Lee Murdock
Secretary: Betty Van Ryder
Treasurer and Membership:
Janis Luvaas

Leadership Team

Dori Baker-Peralta
Criss Bardill
Quinn Dalan
Steve Hill
Kitty Jubran
Susan Kaphammer
Cheri Kilty
Karri Livingston
Karen Pilon

Voter Editor: Susan Kaphammer
509-949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board currently meets at 4:30 PM,
usually the first Monday of the month at the
YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima.

All members are welcome.



Community Conversations

...provide information and discussion
on topics of community interest.

Conversations will resume this fall
on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Check our Facebook page for
topics and speakers.

Previous Community Conversations can be viewed
by selecting "Videos" on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVYC>

Message from LWVYC President...

LEAGUE HAS LONG HISTORY OF WOMEN CONNECTING

Hello members and friends of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County:

History is filled with women facing overwhelming odds and impacting change. This month we are celebrating Women's Equality Day which marks the anniversary of the certification of the 19th amendment in 1920. This work began on the national level with the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. There will be articles, blog posts, and more about this historic event in history and the impact of current decisions on women's equality – this note was originally going to be about that. While reading, I kept thinking about the five women who organized the Seneca Falls Convention: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Mary M'Clintock, Martha Coffin Wright, and Jane Hunt. None of these women lived to see the certification of the 19th amendment. They were tackling huge issues, but they met, they talked about what they could do and encouraged others to join, and it grew.

I have had multiple conversations with people while hosting our booth at the Downtown Yakima's Farmers Market. Some have voted and feel frustrated at the low voter turn-out, others said they were overwhelmed at the amount of research needed and ran out of time. Sadly, still more said their vote didn't count and they no longer participated.

For more than a century, the League of Women Voters has worked to empower voters and defend democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. Voting is one way to participate, but there are many others – being involved makes voting easier. Ways to participate include joining a political party, help with a campaign, join a civic or community group, give an elected official your opinion on an issue, call Senators and Representatives, publicly support or oppose an issue or policy, run for office, write to a newspaper and so much more. The Yakima County League of Women Voters is working diligently to assist those who feel disconnected from the process – connected.

Those five women who organized the Seneca Falls Convention felt disconnected – but they joined together and talked about how to get people involved and they changed the world. Come join us as we work to not just encourage people to vote – but participate and join their voice with their neighbors. Together we feel the power of their voice and be engaged in the process. Together we can change the world.

- Lee Murdock

LWVYC Organization...

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR WEBSITE BEING DEVELOPED

Danielle Surkatty, League member and professional web designer, has been working with our Public Relations Committee and Leadership Team to develop a website for our local League. The website joins our Facebook Page and *The Voter* newsletter in reaching out to inform members, friends and the larger community the LWVYC events and positions.

Do you have any photos that would showcase members and activities from the past couple of years? They don't have to be formal or "professional" pictures, they can be informal shots. Send photos or questions to Criss Bardill at cbardill@gmail.com.

Individuals pictured will be contacted for permission prior to being used on the webpage.

LWVYC Outreach...

PRESENCE AT FARMERS MARKET HAS IMPACT



Longtime active member Kitty Jubran stands ready at the LWVYC table at the Yakima Farmers Market.

Local League members are enjoying meeting people and promoting participation in democracy at the Yakima Farmers Market. In just the first four events, a total of 99 individuals were engaged, with 20 picking up materials and 12 requesting applications for League membership. In addition, four organizations expressed interest in partnering for civic education and voter services.

Opportunities to help staff the table remain on Sundays through October 9. You can volunteer for an hour or for the whole event from set-up at 8:30 AM through break-down at 1:00 PM. Contact Lee Murdock by email at yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com to join fellow members in this fun effort.

LWVYC Voter Services...

CANDIDATE FORUM SET FOR OCTOBER 20

Our Voter Services Committee set Thursday, October 20, at 6:30 PM for an in-person forum for County Commission candidates. Greg Halling, Managing Editor of *Yakima Herald Republic* will serve as moderator. The location is yet to be determined.

Members are asked to send in potential questions pertaining to the County Commission or to volunteer to help out with the event. Contact our Voter Services by email at yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com.

LWV Activism...

WOMEN'S INEQUALITY NOTED ON EQUALITY DAY

Susan Martin, President of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans, penned a guest column published on August 26, for *The Journal of the San Juans* under the title. "Women's (In)equality Day." Presented below is the bulk of her column. The entire document is available at <https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/letters/womens-inequality-day-guest-column/>.

August 26, the anniversary of the certification of the 19th amendment, is Women's Equality Day. On that day in 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th amendment, granting women in the United States the right to vote, making the amendment formally part of the U.S. Constitution....

The Anniversary of the 19th amendment is an event to celebrate. Yet today women's voting and reproductive rights are under attack, and women are not equal in our democracy. The League of Women Voters of the San Juans (LWVSJ), given this major infringement on liberty for all, is observing Women's Inequality Day on August 26.

The LWV is demanding three actions to begin to make women truly equal.

First, pass voting rights legislation. Voting is a fundamental right, and all Americans must have an equal opportunity to make their voices heard in our democracy. We seek passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA) to ensure renewed oversight, accountability, and justice in our democracy. Every voter must be treated fairly at the ballot box and have full access to vote.

Second, add the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution. The League has been committed to the ratification of the ERA since it was first passed by Congress in 1972 because inequality hurts everyone. In January 2020, enough states had voted to ratify the ERA to make it part of the Constitution. Congress had placed a deadline on ratification, however, nullifying the will of the people. Now Congress must remove its ratification timeline so the ERA becomes part of the Constitution.

Third, restore reproductive freedom to women and those who can become pregnant. At its national conference in June, Leagues from around the country approved a resolution written by LWVSJ and introduced by the Washington State League. The resolution decried the Supreme Court's far-reaching decision to end the federal right to an abortion and to undermine the right to privacy: "Be it resolved that the LWVUS supports the rights of women and those who can become pregnant to self-determination related to, and including, but not limited to bodily autonomy, privacy, reproductive health, and lifestyle choice." This summer the U.S. Senate failed to pass the "Women's Health and Protection Act," which would protect women throughout the country. The League asserts such legislation is vital to equality and well-being of all Americans.

...Women's equality is long overdue. We may not yet be equal, but we will not be ignored.



No More Excuses Action in Washington, D.C. 11/17/21. Image from LWVUS Flickr site.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. We will actively work to remove barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA COUNTY

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Cordially invites you to: **JOIN US!**

New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____

Membership Categories:

Address: _____

_____ \$10 Student

_____ \$60 Basic

Phone: _____

_____ \$40 Each added
family member at the same
residence

E-Mail: _____

Scholarships are available for potential members who cannot afford dues. Please contact us at yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com

Additional Sustaining Gift: \$60 _____ \$40 _____ \$25 _____ Other: _____

Your Sustaining Gift will help support our local activities.

Make checks payable to: LWVYC And mail to: LWVYC, PO Box 723, YAKIMA WA 98907

Please note: Our fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. Initial dues received before December 31 will be subject to renewal on June 30 of the following year. Initial dues received after January 1 will be subject to renewal on June 30 of the year following that year.

Examples: a) Initial dues paid October 10, 2022, renewal date June 30, 2023
b) Initial dues paid February 24, 2023, renewal date June 30, 2024