

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.*

November, 2022
Vol.22, No 7

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.

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 Leadership Team 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.

CALENDAR

**NOVEMBER 28: Administration / Public Relations
Committee** Normally meets the 4th Monday of each month
at 4:30 PM at YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima.

NOVEMBER 29: Deadline to “Cure Your Ballot” See
article below.

DECEMBER 5: Leadership Team Normally meets the 1st
Monday of each month at 4:30 PM at YWCA.

**DECEMBER 6-17: Charity Holiday Lights Extrava-
ganza** At Yakima Valley Museum. Contact Janis Luvaas
at janis.luvaas2219@gmail.com to join in planning or
decorating our LWVYC tree.

**DECEMBER 10: LWVWA Action Workshop on
Legislature.** Virtual Event. See article on Page 4.

Voter Information...

TIME ALLOWED TO “CURE” (CORRECT) REJECTED BALLOTS

You have dropped off your ballot in the mail or in a
drop box. What next?

Trained election workers handle the ballots. Signatures
on the envelope are matched to the one on file for the voter.
If the signature is mismatched or missing, the voter is
notified at the address and phone number on the registration
record to provide a verifiable signature. The deadline to
cure (correct) a ballot is November 29, the date of election
certification.

Once signatures are matched, ballots are accepted,
removed from the security sleeve and reviewed for possible
scanning issues such as folds or tears. Ballots are scanned
on equipment separate from any internet or network access,
then securely stored.

Check at VoteWA, <https://voter.votewa.gov/>
[WhereToVote.aspx](#), for the status of your ballot and your
voting history, or to update your registration record.

Messages from LWVYC President...

PUBLIC FORUM INFORMS VOTERS

I want to begin by thanking everyone who participated in our 2022 County Commissioner Candidate's Forum for making it such a successful event with just under 100 people in attendance. Members of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County and audience members submitted great questions and all six candidates participated and provided valuable information for the voters of Yakima County.

I wish to thank our moderator, Executive Editor of the Yakima Herald Republic – Greg Halling for moderating the event, Juven Ruiz Garcia for providing interpretation, and the City of Yakima for both providing the venue and recording the forum for broadcast on the Yakima Public Affairs Channel. This year we had amazing co-sponsors including Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Yakima; Junior League of Yakima; Latino Community Fund; NAACP Yakima Branch; OIC of Washington; OneAmerica Votes; and Poder Latinx Community Fund. Co-sponsors provided interpretation equipment, refreshments for attendees, volunteers, information for voters, financial contributions, and more to make this a successful event.

I also would like to thank both our Voter Services Committee chair Karri Livingston and all the committee members who did a lot of hard work planning this event including Barbara Hersey, Cindy Olivas, Criss Bardill, Karen Pilon, Kitty Jubran, Mary Stephenson, and Natalie McClendon.

Ideally in the future we can hold more candidate forums for other races. We were disappointed that we were not able to hold forums for other races, but League rules state that both parties be present and we could not get a response from some candidates.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate in our election process. It will take all of us working together to achieve that.

- Lee Murdock

Civic Education...

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT LOCAL CIVIC EDUCATION

With the election behind us, our Yakima League has opportunities to shift our focus to some readily available Civic Education opportunities.

We've had contact with two different schoolteachers who expressed interest in using *The State We're In*, a civics textbook published by our LWVWA. Two versions are available – one for middle school and another for high school, college and adults. Teacher Guidelines are available, as well. Some of you may remember we were making efforts to develop presentations to our local education systems before Covid shut us down.

Are you interested in joining a Civic Education Committee to pursue this work and build a local effort to promote the use of *The State We're In*, as well as other opportunities for civic education endeavors? If so, please let our President Lee Murdock know at yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com.

And check out this link to *The State We're In*. <https://lwvwaef.myshopify.com/>. Consider adding a copy to your own home library. We promise that no matter how much you know about our state, you will be surprised at what more you can learn.

LWVYC Social Media Outreach...

YAKIMA LEAGUE LAUNCHES OWN WEBSITE



The official website of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County is now live at <https://lwvyakimacounty.org/>. Members of our Public Relations / Administration Committee have been working with Danielle Surkatty of Yakindo Web Designs, Inc. to make a large amount of information available.

The headings pictured above point the user to documents and articles of interest to members and the general public. For example, “About Us” identifies our vision, mission and value statements, explains our organization and what we do, and provides links to histories of our local League and the national League. Under “News & Events” users can find current and past issues of this newsletter, messages from Lee Murdoch, our local president, and quick links to recent Community Conversations. Click around the site to be reminded of – or learn anew – our rich past and present activities.

Members can contribute to the website by providing pictures of League members and League Activities; contact Criss Bardill at cbardill@gmail.com. Also, linking to this new website from other sites will increase the visibility of our website on search results.

With the able support of Danielle Surkatty, LWVYC member and web designer and consultant for Yakindo Web Designs, our website will evolve with added and updated content.



Opportunities for Local League Members...

LWVYC POSSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

There are a number of activities and programs that have been proposed or are underway at your local League, providing the opportunity to match your talent and interest to work with interesting people and our worthwhile organization! If you are interested or just have questions or want to know more, leave a message at our League number: 509-452-3419, or email: yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com.

Civic Education Committee: Continuing efforts - head up or assist contacts and supports to educate adults and students. *See article on Page 2.*

Guide to Judicial Elections: Possible new project - head up or help find and articulate information for a citizens’ guide to our court system and elections.

League Tree for Museum Charity Holiday Lights Extravaganza: Short-term special project – help design and/or decorated our League-themed tree. *See contact info under “Calendar” on Page 1.*



News and Views from National and State Leagues...

ACTION WORKSHOP FOR LEGISLATIVE SESSION OFFERED

December 10, 2022, is the date for the virtual LWVWA Action Workshop focusing on the 2023 State Legislative Session. Panels and speakers will address what's expected with the League's key issues as well as how to work effectively with your state legislators.

Further information, including a detailed agenda and link for registration is available at <https://lwvwa.org/events>; click on the Action Workshop link on December 10.

CONTACT SENATORS TO SUPPORT ERA

The Equal Rights Amendment was first passed by Congress in 1972 but has thus far failed to become part of the Constitution. The last of 38 states, the required number for ratification, approved the amendment in 2020, long past the deadline first established as 1979 then extended to 1982. However, Congress can act now to remove the ratification timeline so the ERA can pass once and for all.

Both our National League and the LWV of Washington State posted the following plea to members with an easy form to add your voice:

This country has waited too long for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to become a part of the Constitution. Over 100 years after (some) women gained the right to vote, women and nonbinary people are still not guaranteed equality under the law. The League has been committed to the ratification of the ERA since it was first passed by Congress in 1972 because we believe that inequality hurts everyone.

On March 17, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to remove the ratification timeline attached to the ERA. Now, the fight for the ERA is in the Senate. S.J. Res 1 is the companion bill in the Senate that would remove the timeline. We need 60 votes to pass the resolution. Contact your senators and ask them to cosponsor this resolution and ensure that the ERA is a part of our Constitution.

Inequality weakens us as a nation. The ERA is for every American, regardless of gender identity or sex.

Call or write our Senators. Even if we believe they will already support this effort, a groundswell of messages will help them argue for the resolution. You can also send your message through LWVWA at <https://www.lwv.org/take-action/support-ERA>.

Urge your senators to support legislation to remove the ERA's ratification timeline today!

WASHINGTON COMPANIES CONTRIBUTE TO BOTH PARTIES

Fix Democracy First (FDF), <https://www.fixdemocracyfirst.org/>, is an advocacy organization focused on achieving fair elections and government policies that reflect the will of the people, not the power of money. As a coalition partner of the LWVWA, attention has been drawn to the FDF's analysis of corporate campaign contributions as reported in a *Spokesman Review* article.

This article identifies Amazon, Microsoft, T-Mobile and Boeing as having contributed a combined \$823,075 for the midterm elections, not including superPAC money that is harder to track. Both Republican and Democratic candidates as well as a number of PACS supporting local ballot propositions received money. Corporations, according to the article, prefer appearing nonpartisan to maintain good will and access with whomever gets elected. The full article, titled "Four Big Companies Pour Money Into Washington's Elections" is available at: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2022/nov/07/>.

Continued News and Views from National and State Leagues...

LEAGUES FILE SUPREME COURT BRIEF TO LIMIT STATE LEGISLATURE DISCRETION IN ELECTIONS

States and League chapters from all 50 states and the District of Columbia filed an amicus brief in the *Moore v. Harper* case before the Supreme Court. The case concerns the so-called “independent state legislature theory” (ISLT), which, if adopted, would have far-reaching implications for the future of American democracy.

A ruling adopting ISLT would give state legislatures nearly unrestricted authority to set the rules for federal elections, prioritizing the ambitions of politicians over the American voter. Furthermore, if the Supreme Court condones this theory, it will undermine the role of state courts to protect voters when politicians create unconstitutional barriers to voting, draw unlawful voting maps, and invalidate direct democracy efforts like ballot initiatives.

Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the US explained, “Giving states unchecked power to set rules for federal elections is an assault on the American voter. Historically, state legislatures have enacted the most harmful and suppressive anti-voter laws, and pro-voter groups like the League have relied on the ability to fight them in state courts. The Independent State Legislature Theory is a dangerous, fringe ideology that leaves voters effectively defenseless from harmful election laws.”

Lunell Haught, President of the LWV of Washington State added, “Washington voters saw how the redistricting process was manipulated after the last census to advantage incumbents. We do not need politicians to decide the outcome of elections at any stage of the process. The Independent State Legislature Theory would allow that to happen. The League of Women Voters of Washington works tirelessly to refine and develop systems that work for Washington voters; ISLT is not a system that we need.”

See the full October 26, 2022, press release from LWVUS at <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases>. Additional information on ISLT and the Supreme Court case is available at <https://www.lwv.org/blog/state-legislature-seeks-unchecked-power-over-elections-moore-v-harper>.

Tidbits from Local and National League Histories...

OUR LWVYC BEGINNINGS

On March 14, 1950, a group of women met at the Y.W.C.A for an organizational meeting to form a Provisional League of Women Voters of Yakima. A constitution and by-laws committee was formed, and at a meeting in April the constitution was adopted.

LWV FOUNDED

The League was officially founded in Chicago on February 14, 1920, just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women won the vote. Formed by the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

750+ Leagues across the US
Over 6 million voters reached



500k+ members & supporters
100s of voting rights victories

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