

THE VOTER



This Newsletter is published by and for the
League of Women Voters of Yakima County
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On the Web at:
<https://lwvyakimacounty.org>
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We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional lands of the fourteen Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

Core Principles

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.

Leadership Team

- Betty Van Ryder, Secretary
- Cindy Olivas
- Criss Bardill
- Dori Baker-Peralta
- Janis Luvaas, Treasurer and Membership
- Karri Livingston
- Kitty Jubran
- Lee Murdock, President
- Steve Hill
- Susan Kaphammer

Meeting the first Monday of the month at 4:30 pm at the YWCA located at 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima, WA 98901 in the second-floor conference room.
All members are welcome!

Calendar

- **7-14-24 Downtown Yakima Farmer's Market** – Come see us at the Farmers Market at the Farmer's Market Pavilion from 9am to 1pm.
- **7-16-24 4th Congressional District Primary Candidate Forum** – Hosted by League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties and Northwest Public Broadcasting. Go to <http://www.lwv-bf.org> at 4:30pm for links and recordings.
- **7-17-24 14th Legislative District Positions 1 & 2 Primary Candidate Forum** – Hosted by League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties and Northwest Public Broadcasting. Go to <http://www.lwv-bf.org> at 4:30pm for links and recordings.
- **7-18-24 OIC School is Out, Summer is Here** - OIC of Washington is hosting the *School is Out, Summer is Here* event. All are welcome to join in on the fun at this free event, where there will be music, delicious food, and much more to enjoy.
- **8-5-24 Leadership Team** – Meets the first Monday of the month at 4:30pm at the YWCA – All members are welcome!
- **8-9-24 Voter Services Committee** – Meets at noon at C&S Coffee shop in Terrace Heights.
- **8-14-24 Membership Meeting** –Join us for our first quarterly Membership meeting. Details below.

Announcement

We invite all members to our first quarterly meeting to learn about current projects and discuss the future direction of the League. We will be meeting at 4:30pm on 8-14 at Yakima Neighborhood Health Services in the 3rd Floor Paddock Room. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Message from the LWVYC President

From Apathy to Action: Inspiring Voter Engagement Through the League



Over the past few months, while registering voters at community events, I've encountered a recurring sentiment among many community members: apathy and a belief that their vote won't make a difference. This anecdote underscores a critical challenge we face - low voter turnout driven by feelings of disconnection and disillusionment.

As members of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County, we are uniquely positioned to address this issue through our mission, "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.". This mission compels us not only to empower ourselves but also to inspire and support others in our communities to participate actively in elections, despite prevailing doubts.

Our vision of a democracy where every person desires, has the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to vote is directly undermined by these perceptions of futility. However, our core values, rooted in the power of women to shape a more perfect democracy, drive us to overcome these challenges with proactive engagement and leadership.

As League members, we can play a pivotal role in encouraging friends and family members to overcome apathy and engage in civic participation:

- **Educate and Inform:** Share unbiased information about candidates, ballot measures, and the importance of voting using credible sources. Host informational sessions or distribute voter guides to help clarify misconceptions and highlight the impact of local elections.
- **Lead by Example:** Participate actively in voter registration drives, attend community forums, and volunteer for campaigns to demonstrate the tangible impact of civic engagement. Showing personal commitment and enthusiasm can inspire others to take action.
- **Facilitate Discussions:** Create opportunities for open dialogue about civic responsibility and the role of informed voting in shaping community outcomes. Host discussions or virtual meetings where individuals can ask questions, voice concerns, and exchange ideas in a respectful environment.
- **Empower Through Support:** Offer practical assistance with voter registration and navigating the voting process. Providing guidance and resources can help overcome logistical barriers and make voting more accessible for all.

By leveraging our knowledge, commitment, and passion for democracy, we can inspire those around us to overcome feelings of apathy and realize the significance of their vote. Together, let's reaffirm that every voice matters, and every vote counts in building a stronger, more inclusive democracy where all voices are heard and valued.

Lee Murdock

Member's Corner

Welcome New Members!

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to **Maria Jett**, our newest member of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County! Your commitment to advancing democracy and civic participation is truly inspiring, and we are thrilled to have you join us in our efforts to empower voters and effect positive change in our community.

Around Town



Deborah-Severtson Coffin and Mike Murdock at Juneteenth

The Yakima County NAACP hosted its annual Juneteenth celebration for more than 30 years. This was the second year we have been at this event and the windiest!



Deborah-Severtson Coffin braving the heat for 4th of July

This was the first year we were invited to the Yakima 4th of July Celebration at the State Fair Park and Event Center. A great day of engagement, good entertainment, and family fun followed by some stunning fireworks.

In Memoriam: Vicky Whiteman

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Vicky Whiteman, a past member of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County and a lifelong supporter of our work. Vicky's unwavering commitment to community service and social justice left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her.



Vicky was a tireless advocate for the underserved and vulnerable populations in our community. Her career as a social worker was marked by a deep compassion for others and a steadfast dedication to making a difference. She worked tirelessly on housing issues affecting migrant workers and was a vocal advocate for at-risk youth and street kid support. Vicky was one of the original volunteers for Yakima County Point in Time, an annual census of those experiencing homelessness.

In addition to her professional and volunteer work, Vicky was a vibrant and active member of several community organizations. She was a proud member of the Yakima County Master Gardeners, sharing her love of horticulture and helping to cultivate a greener community. Her spiritual life was enriched by her involvement with the Unitarian Universalist Church, where she found a welcoming and supportive community.

Vicky's passion for the outdoors and conservation was evident through her participation in the Yakima Valley Audubon Society and The Cascadians, an outdoor recreation and conservation club. Her dedication to preserving our natural environment inspired many and contributed to the sustainability of our beautiful region.

Vicky's life was a testament to the power of community engagement and the impact one person can make. Her legacy of service, advocacy, and compassion will continue to inspire us all. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the many lives she touched through her remarkable journey.

Election News

A lot of us are still in our preparation stage for the 2024 election. We're gathering information, reading and talking to people we trust, watching the debates. To see the Yakima County Official Local Voter's Guide, go to [Elections | Yakima County, WA](#)

You might find this abbreviated election calendar helpful in your planning.

Type	Event	Date
Primary	Ballots available	7/19/2024
	8 day by mail or online registration and update deadline	7/29/2024
	In-person registration and update deadline	8/6/2024
	Election day	8/6/2024
	Election certified	8/20/2024
General	Overseas/military ballots mailed	9/20/2024
	Ballots available	10/18/2024
	8 day by mail or online registration and update deadline	10/28/2024
	In-person registration and update deadline	11/5/2024
	Election day	11/5/2024
	Election certified	11/26/2024

Voter registration and update deadlines

- **By mail or online:** Applications for new registration or updates must be received by an elections official no later than 8 days before the election. (by close of business for mail; online by midnight)
- **In person:** Applicants must appear in-person at the County Auditor's Office no later than 8pm on the day of the election to register or update their current registration.

Where to take your ballot

By mail: Mailing your ballot on election day? It must be postmarked no later than election day to be valid. Be sure to check the last pick-up or collection time if you use a blue collection box on election day.

No postage is required.

In Person: The Yakima County Election's Web site has an interactive map showing official ballot drop boxes maintained by the Yakima County Auditor's Office.

Other locations that may offer ballot collection are unofficial and are not associated with the Yakima County Auditor's Office. If you cannot deliver your ballot personally, you should only give it to someone you trust.

Drop boxes are open from the date ballots are mailed until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

State and National

Dianna Wynn Elected Next President of the League of Women Voters

WASHINGTON – The League of Women Voters is pleased to announce Dianna Wynn as the new LWVUS Board president. Delegates at the League of Women Voters National Convention elected Dianna Wynn to serve as the 22nd president of the organization on Friday, June 28th, 2024.

“Dianna’s dedication and passion for the League’s mission combined with her experience on the national board position her for success leading the organization for the next two years,” said Sania Irwin, outgoing president of the League of Women Voters. “Since 2022, I have worked with Dianna and have seen her dedication to the League and to the voters we serve. She is a proven leader, and I am confident that under her guidance, the League will continue to make a significant impact on our democracy.”

Dianna first joined the League in 2013 and served as president of the League of Women Voters of Wake County in Raleigh, North Carolina. Before joining the national Board, she focused on advocating for fair voting maps in North Carolina and ending gerrymandering in redistricting. When past president Dr. Deborah Ann Turner passed away in January, Dianna was appointed vice president by her fellow board members.

“I am honored to serve as the new president of the League of Women Voters to advance our mission of defending democracy and ensure that everyone’s voting rights are protected,” said Dianna Wynn, president of the League of Women Voters. “I am deeply committed to our work to empower voters, and together with the national office, look forward to leading our organization to build a bigger, bolder, and more powerful League of the future.”

Dianna is a communication consultant and former college professor in communication studies. She is also a past president of the ACLU of North Carolina and co-authored several college textbooks, including “Working in Groups” and “THINK Communication.”

“Dianna brings a wealth of experience, exceptional leadership skills, and most importantly, a deep commitment to the League and our mission,” said Kelly McFarland-Stratman, chief of staff and interim co-CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “We are thrilled to have her serve as our new president of the board and look forward to working with her in this new role as we continue to build the League of the future.”

Over 1,200 hundred members from all fifty states and the District of Columbia and Virgin Islands attended the League’s 56th National Convention, held virtually and in person in Washington, DC, from June 28 to June 30.

The League membership also elected a new national board of directors that will serve through June 2026, including Sania Irwin (vice president), Toni Monette (secretary), Leah Edwards (treasurer), Tracy Adkison, Melissa Breach, Stacey Chavis, Kimberly Hamlin, Vedna Heywood, Jada Hunter, Alexis Juday-Marshall, and Brandi Slaughter.

State and National

Watch the Attorney General Candidate Forum

On June 18, the Leagues of Women Voters of Washington and Benton-Franklin Counties and Northwest Public Broadcasting hosted the 2024 Washington State Attorney General Candidate Forum. The forum was held at Washington State University Tri-Cities in Richland. Questions were collected and vetted by the League of Women Voters of Washington State.

- Moderator: Matt Loveless
- Candidates: Nick Brown, Manka Dhingra, Pete Serrano

You can view the recording at: [2024 Washington State Attorney General Candidate Forum - Presented by LWVWA and NWPB \(youtube.com\)](#)

Watch the Commissioner of Public Lands Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of Washington will host a candidate forum at Clark College in Vancouver featuring candidates running for Washington Commissioner of Public Lands. The forum will be on Thursday, July 18 at 6:30 PM at Gaiser Hall, Clark College located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663. The forum will be streamed live on TVW [League of Women Voters Lands Commissioner Forum - TVW](#)

LWV Statement in Response to SCOTUS Decision on Presidential Immunity

WASHINGTON — Today, League of Women Voters of the US's Chief Counsel, Celina Stewart, issued this response to the US Supreme Court's 6 – 3 decision in Trump v. United States:

“The Supreme Court’s ruling to grant extraordinary immunity for sitting presidents is the most dangerous decision for democracy of our time. This erosion of democracy expands executive authority to give sitting US presidents the powers of a king — which is exactly what our republic was established to avoid.

“According to the Court's own words, the US Supreme Court is ‘charged with ensuring the American people the promise of equal justice under law.’ With this decision, the court has taken yet another step to dissolve democracy and abandon the American people, elevating the seat of president above the law.

“Our country is at an existential crossroads, and voters must make a critical decision about the direction of our nation. The League will continue to do our part by providing nonpartisan election information for voters at [VOTE411.org](#), empowering voters to send a clear message about the future we want. We urge American voters to turn up and turn out in November to ensure our democracy reflects the will of the people.”

National League of Women Voters Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.



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 yakimacountylwyc@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.