

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>
Find us on Facebook

September
2024
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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

- **10-6-24 Downtown Yakima Farmer's Market** – Come see us at the Farmers Market at the Farmer's Market Pavilion from 9am to 1pm.
- **10-7-24 Leadership Team** – Meets the first Monday of the month at 4:30pm at the YWCA – All members are welcome!
- **10-11-24 Voter Services Committee** – Meets at noon at C&S Coffee shop in Terrace Heights.
- **10-12-24 Selah United Methodist Church Harvest Market Festival** – Selah United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Harvest Festival to support the Selah Food Bank. There will be locally handmade products, live music, kid's activities, Make N Take pumpkins, mini donuts and BBQ chicken for purchase. 1061 Selah Loop Rd 10am to 3pm
- **10-17-24 - Meet The Candidates! Public "Meet and Greet" Event** - This is your opportunity to hear brief presentations from the candidates and interact with them one-on-one. Come with your questions and get to know the individuals who may represent you in the upcoming elections. Holiday Inn, 802 East Yakima Avenue, 6:30pm to 8pm.

Announcements

Join us October 17th for a **Candidate Meet and Greet** at the Holiday Inn in Yakima located at 802 East Yakima Avenue, 6:30pm to 8pm for a chance to meet the candidates running for office in the 14th District Senate Race, 14th and 15th Legislative Districts, and District 2 and 3 County Commission positions. Don't miss this chance to engage with your future leaders!

Yard Signs are still available – If you are interested in receiving one, please contact Criss Bardill at cbardill@gmail.com.

Message from the LWVYC President

NO on I-2117

A Call to Action for Yakima County and Beyond

By Coleen Anderson

Coleen Anderson, a member of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County, is a retired legal secretary, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of five. After retirement, she relocated to Yakima to be closer to her family. In 2019, she read [The End of Ice](#) by Dahr Jamail, which opened her eyes to the drastic environmental changes affecting the planet. Around the same time, Greta Thunberg's speeches made her realize her own complicity in the degradation of the Earth. This awakening led her to dedicate her life to understanding and combating climate change. On September 20, 2019, she helped organize a youth-inspired climate march in downtown Yakima, which drew over 100 attendees. Shortly thereafter, she and three others founded 350 Yakima Climate Action, a local group modeled after 350.org, co-founded by Bill McKibben.

The League of Women Voters of Washington voted to oppose Initiative 2117 at its May 13, 2024 board meeting. LWVWA recommends voting no on I-2117.

With climate change posing an existential threat to all life on Earth, it is imperative that each of us take action to mitigate its impacts. Washington State is already feeling the effects, including dangerous heat waves, smoke from forest fires, and droughts that threaten our agricultural sector. We have only a small window of time to make a significant difference for future generations, but we must act quickly. One of the most effective ways to do so is through the ballot box.

About I-2117 and the CCA

This November, Washington State Initiative 2117 will appear on the ballot, and it deserves our careful attention. The initiative seeks not only to repeal the [Climate Commitment Act](#) (CCA) but also to prohibit the state from creating similar programs in the future. The CCA, signed into law in 2019, establishes a comprehensive, market-based system to reduce carbon pollution and meet the state's climate goals. To date, the Act has generated approximately \$2.5 billion, which is being invested in projects across the state. The CCA is a cornerstone of Washington's efforts to limit greenhouse gases and build infrastructure that can adapt to our changing climate.

The NO on I-2117 Campaign

The League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) is committed to advocating for informed, effective policies that protect the health, safety, and well-being of our communities. As such, LWVWA has endorsed the "NO on I-2117 Campaign." The September 17 issue of the LWVWA Newsletter includes important information on this and the other three state initiatives funded by Brian Heywood, a mega-millionaire transplant from California. He is using his wealth to influence Washington's laws—laws that were carefully crafted by our elected legislators. You can learn more here: [Pledge to Vote NO | Vote NO on Initiative 2117 \(no2117.com\)](#)

False Claims

Proponents of I-2117 falsely claim that repealing the CCA will lead to lower gas prices. The reality is that the initiative offers no guarantee of this. Washington has long had some of the highest gas prices in the country, even before the CCA. In fact, the record high of \$5.55 per gallon occurred eight months before the CCA took effect, yet backers of this initiative continue to blame the Act. The only certainty is that repealing the CCA will allow more pollution and remove critical protections.

Harms to Our Communities

While I-2117 supporters rely on misleading claims, it's essential to look more closely at the potential consequences. Repealing the CCA would eliminate protections for our air, water, forests, and farmlands, allowing increased pollution. It would endanger the safety of our drinking water, lead to more toxic air pollution, and result in more children and adults suffering from asthma and other illnesses. Additionally, it would shift the financial burden of pollution's impacts onto communities, workers, and families.

Coalition Over 450 Strong

A broad and diverse coalition of organizations and individuals from across the state has united to oppose I-2117. This coalition, now more than 450 members strong, includes firefighters, small business owners, leading companies, doctors, nurses, labor unions, environmental leaders, Tribal Nations, and local groups like St. Michael's Episcopal Mission, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, and Citizens Climate Lobby. Even bp America, an oil company, is part of this effort.

Risk of Repeal Map

The Clean and Prosperous Institute has developed a [Risk of Repeal Map/Tool](#) that shows where CCA funds are being invested across the state. So far, approximately \$51 million has gone toward over 15 projects in Yakima County alone, including \$3.2 million for the East-West Corridor and \$1 million for the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program.

The Importance of an Informed Vote

As voters, we have a responsibility to make decisions that support the well-being of our communities. 350 Yakima Climate Action focuses on reducing pollution from fossil fuels and promoting solutions to curtail climate change. That's why we strongly support the NO on I-2117 Campaign. We urge every voter in Yakima County to carefully consider the implications of I-2117 and to vote against it. By doing so, we affirm our commitment to a strong, responsive local government that serves the best interests of all residents. As the LWWWA stated in its September 17 newsletter: "We cannot go backward; we cannot even delay."

Please vote NO on I-2117.

To Take Action / Volunteer for the NO on I-2117 Campaign

Contact Coleen Anderson at coleenanderson22@gmail.com or 360-731-4555. You can also "Pledge to Vote No" at <https://no2117.com/pledge-to-vote-no/>.



Bill Jacobs, Charley Mulvey, Coleen Anderson getting ready to distribute literature

Member's Corner

Welcome New Members!

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to **Susan Martin** and **Lana Barnes**, our newest members 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



Tracy Levy and Kitty Jubran at the Farmers Market

Thank you to Tracy and Kitty for talking to voters and registering people at the Downtown Yakima Farmer's Market!



Volunteers Miquel Ayala and Sukay Navarrete

We registered 4 new voters at El Grito de Independencia Celebration at Heritage – special thank you to the Heritage High School Equivalency Program (**HEP**) who provided us with volunteers to translate!

New Member Spotlight



At the League of Women Voters of Yakima County, our strength lies in the dedication and passion of our members. In this new feature, we are proud to introduce and celebrate the individuals who contribute to our shared mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Each month, we will highlight a member whose efforts and commitment inspire us all. We hope these stories not only recognize their invaluable contributions but also encourage others to get involved in meaningful ways.

Welcome Tracy Levy!

Tracy joined the League of Women Voters of Yakima County in April of last year.

Tracy was born and raised in Yakima. She later moved to Massachusetts, where she completed her Master of Science in Nonprofit Management. Before returning to the West a few years ago, she worked for various nonprofits in administrative and Human Resources roles. After being laid off this summer, she is seeking a new HR position with a nonprofit, social purpose corporation, or B-corp to continue her career. In the meantime, she's enjoying more time with her cats and tackling home projects.

Tracy enjoys baking, playing board games with her husband, attempting to transform their front yard into a heritage garden, general frivolity, and reading. She is currently the Board President of the Yakima Valley Libraries Foundation.

Tracy first became interested in the League of Women Voters while living in Massachusetts, and after moving back to Yakima, she decided to get more involved. Her parents instilled in her a strong sense of civic responsibility, especially around voting, and she is happy to contribute to the cause.

Member's Corner Continued

OIC Senior Nutrition – Ballot Walkthrough



Figure 1 - Participants and volunteers OF THE Ballot Walkthrough partnership with OIC Senior Nutrition program.



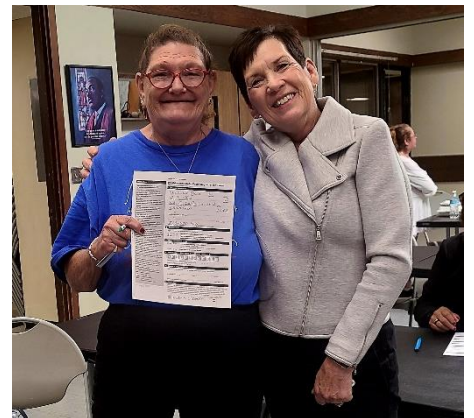
Volunteers and OIC Staff

The event was well attended, with approximately 20 senior participants, 5 OIC staff members, and 4 LWVYC volunteers. A special thank you goes out to our League volunteers: Ulla Whitmont, Dori Peralta Baker, Joy McKinney, and Karri Livingston, whose support was invaluable. We are pleased to report that two seniors were registered to vote during the event, making it a productive and impactful evening.

This event was a collaborative effort between the League of Women Voters of Yakima County's Voter Services Committee and OIC of Washington's Senior Nutrition Program. The goal of the evening was to provide valuable voting and ballot information to the senior participants, either before or during their meal service. The League of Women Voters of Yakima County (LWVYC) shared information about the League's mission, offered guidance on voting procedures, and distributed additional community education materials.



Volunteers with newly registered voter



Karri Livingston with newly registered voter

State and National

VOTE411.org Clarification

June 29, 2024 – Today the League of Women Voters Education Fund issued the following statement regarding the League’s nonpartisan election information tool [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org):

“It’s troubling that misinformation about the League’s nonpartisan elections resource is being spread among voters. The League of Women Voters’ VOTE411.org platform is a tool that provides the public with both federal and state-specific information so voters can participate in our democracy with confidence. The League of Women Voters has been strictly nonpartisan for over a century, neither supporting nor opposing political parties or candidates for office at any level of government.

“The purpose of VOTE411 is to meet the needs of voters and help individuals navigate the election process. Since VOTE411’s inception, the award-winning platform has provided election resources to millions of Americans in every election.

“As a 104-year-old voting rights organization, the League of Women Voters understands the importance of all elections, from local municipalities to those for federal office. We urge everyone to use all available tools to fully participate in our democracy, whether that comes from VOTE411 or the state and local elections websites we link to on the site.

“The League of Women Voters stands with voters and remains committed to empowering voters to make their voices heard.

“VOTE411 is transparent about the data collected on our website, and voters should rest assured that using the tool does not result in the selling or sharing of their personal data. Learn more about VOTE411 and read our privacy policy at <https://www.vote411.org/legal#privacy-policy>

Note: Two of our local Legislative candidates (one from LD 14 and one from LD15) have responded to VOTE411, as have most of the State-wide candidates. It’s worth checking out!

The League of Women Voters Holds Debates for Insurance Commissioner and Secretary of State on October 1

Seattle, WA — The Leagues of Women Voters of Washington and Snohomish County are pleased to present the candidates for Insurance Commissioner and for Secretary of State in debates on October 1. Doors open at 6:00 pm. The Insurance Commissioner debate will begin at 6:30. The Secretary of State debate will follow immediately at 7:15 p.m.

These debates will be held at Edmonds College Black Box Theater in Lynwood, WA. They will be in person and will be recorded and live streamed by TVW. The public is invited to attend. Both debates offer voters a chance to ask the candidates questions and hear their answers regarding how they would do the job of Insurance Commissioner and Secretary of State. Voters can submit questions for the candidates in advance by emailing forumquestions@lwvwa.org.

“The public is invited to attend and hear directly from the candidates on these important races,” said LWWVA President Mary Coltrane. “The League of Women Voters welcomes questions from the public, so their concerns are part of the candidate selection process we call democracy.” Cathy Liu Scott, President of the LWV of Snohomish County, added “The League thanks these candidates for their participation. Voters deserve to hear first-hand from those who seek to represent us. These statewide offices hold critical responsibilities—for our elections and our overall health. We look forward to a substantive debate and informative evening. Please join us!”

The public is invited to attend the in-person forum. TVW will also stream the forum on its website at [tvw.org](https://www.tvw.org). After the event, voters will find the forum posted on www.lwvwa.org and [tvw.org](https://www.tvw.org).

Advocacy – Use Your Voice

YARD SIGNS! YARD SIGNS!



We have created and purchased 45 yard signs for distribution to our members and Friends of The League.

If you would like a sign, please contact Criss Bardill at cbardill@gmail.com or 509-930-2622. She will be happy to plan to get a sign to you.

We only ask that you return the signs after the election or store them for posting in future years.

STATE-WIDE FORUMS AND DEBATES SPONSORED BY THE LWV WASHINGTON

State-wide General Election Debates

Submit questions for the candidates in state-wide races to forumquestions@lwvwa.org. Please reference the race your questions are for in the subject line of the email.

- **9.25 WED | Commissioner of Public Lands Debate**
 - 6PM at WSU Tri-Cities, Richland, WA. Watch in-person or livestream at bit.ly/CPL925. [Learn more.](#)
- **10.1 TUE | Insurance Commissioner Debate**
 - 6:30PM at Edmonds College, Lynnwood, WA. Watch in-person or on TVW. [Learn more.](#)
- **10.1 TUE | Secretary of State Debate**
 - 7:15PM at Edmonds College, Lynnwood, WA. Watch in-person or on TVW. [Learn more.](#)
- **10.5 SAT | Superintendent of Public Instruction Debate**
 - 1PM at Bellevue Public Library, Bellevue, WA. Watch in-person or on TVW. [Learn more.](#)

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