

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

October
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

- **10-12-24 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
- **10-14-24 Voter Services Committee** – Meets at noon at C&S Coffee shop in Terrace Heights.
- **10-17-24 Meet the Candidates! Public "Meet and Greet" Event** - Holiday Inn, 802 East Yakima Avenue, 6:30pm to 8pm.
- **10-28-24 Online or Mail-in Deadline** - 8 day by mail or online registration and update deadline.
- **10-28-24 Tour of the Yakima County Election Process** – See the blurb in the Membership Corner for more information.
- **11-4-24 Leadership Team** – Meets the first Monday of the month at 4:30pm at the YWCA – All members are welcome!
- **11-5-24 General Election** - In-person registration and update deadline.

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

Empowering Voters and Building Advocacy: Your Guide to the 2024 Elections

While many of us are well-informed voters, we know that not everyone in our community has the same level of engagement or access to accurate information. This election presents an opportunity not only for us to cast our votes, but also to help others understand how they can make their voices heard.

How you can help

- **Reach out to your friends and family:** Whether through casual conversation, a phone call, or social media, encourage those around you to check their voter registration status, learn about the candidates and issues, and make a plan to vote.
- **Provide resources:** Direct them to reliable sources of information, like Vote411.org, where they can enter their address to get a personalized voter guide. There, they can compare candidates' positions on key issues and learn about ballot measures. It's an easy and nonpartisan way for voters to feel more confident about their choices.
- **Offer support:** Some people may feel overwhelmed by the voting process. Offering to discuss candidates, help fill out ballots, or even drive someone to a ballot drop-off location can make a significant difference.

Share how to return your ballot

For ballot drop-off locations and accessible voting centers, please visit [this link](#). Remember:

- **By mail:** Ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day. No postage is required but check the last pick-up time if using a blue collection box.
- **In person:** Use official Yakima County Auditor's Office ballot drop boxes, which are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Be cautious of unofficial locations, and only give your ballot to someone you trust if you cannot deliver it yourself.

Additional Resources

In addition to encouraging voter participation, we also have valuable resources available to help you stay informed and engage with the issues on the ballot:

- **Washington Ballot Measures 2024:** For a comprehensive overview of state ballot measures, including League positions on each measure, visit the [League of Women Voters of Washington's ballot measures page](#).
- **Candidate and Issue Forums:** Watch video recordings of candidate forums and issue discussions to get a deeper understanding of what's on the ballot. These forums are an excellent way to hear directly from candidates and advocates. You can access them by visiting the [State-Wide Forums and debates](#) page.
- **YouTube: LWV Washington 2024 Ballot Measures Discussion:** For those who prefer watching in-depth discussions, check out the League's YouTube channel, which features a breakdown of important issues. You can watch the ballot measures discussion video [here](#).

These resources will not only help you stay informed but will also empower you to share credible, nonpartisan information with your networks.

This election is about more than just casting our own ballots—it's about empowering those around us to participate fully in our democracy. By encouraging our friends, family, and neighbors to vote, and pointing them toward trusted resources like Vote411.org and the additional tools mentioned above, we help ensure that every voice is heard. Let's continue to build a stronger, more engaged electorate together. Thank you for all that you do!

Lee Murdock

Member's Corner

Welcome New Members!

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to **Kingsly McConnell** and **Charlene Scott**, 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.

Come Tour the Election Department

Curious about how a voter's ballot is processed after it's returned to the Election Department? Join us for a group visit on **Monday, October 28th, at 8:00 a.m.** The visit will last about an hour.

Please contact Cindy Olivas at (509) 594-6469 or email at cindyolivas@aol.com by **October 23rd**, so we can adjust if we need two groups. Let's see how our vote counts!

A Healthy Future for our Children - Town Hall

Hosted by Between the Ridges: Alliance for the Common Good and 350 Yakima Climate Action along with multiple partners, including the LWVYC, the Healthy Future for Our Children Town Hall and dinner was truly inspirational. The moderator and panelists delivered excellent presentations, providing valuable, though sometimes distressing, information on health, the environment, and the economy. The audience's participation greatly enriched the discussion. The event offered an abundance of good food and helped deepen the understanding of the Climate Commitment Act's impact on our state and community. Attendees left with a strong sense of the importance of voting "NO" on I-2117. The event was recorded and will hopefully be available for public viewing soon.

The campaign is currently seeking volunteers, and there are several ways to get involved. Actions people can take include pledging to vote "NO" at <https://no2117.com/pledge-to-vote-no/>. This Sunday at 9:30 a.m., a rally and canvassing opportunity will take place at the SEIU offices, 415 N. 20th Ave. Additionally, every Saturday from now until November 2, from 10 a.m. to noon, volunteers will meet at Gilbert Park for door knocking.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Coleen Anderson at 360-731-4555.

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.

Thank you Criss Bardill!

Criss joined the League of Women Voters of Yakima County in 2010 and served as our President from 2016-2020.

Criss, a native Washingtonian, grew up on the Olympic Peninsula and moved to Yakima in 1979. She began her career as the Human Resources Director at Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health before transitioning in 1985 to the Yakima Heart Center as Office Administrator. In 2000, Criss shifted to residential real estate with Almon Realty, where she worked until her retirement in 2006.

Since then, she has actively contributed to the community through her involvement with organizations like the Zonta Club of Yakima Valley and PFLAG of Yakima. Her interests include reading, traveling, and staying engaged in civic life.

Criss joined the League at the encouragement of her mentor, Bev Goodman, and quickly became an active participant. Her dedication to the League stems from her passion for civic education and increasing community engagement. When asked why others should consider joining the League, Criss highlighted the members' commitment to their neighbors and the League's mission of "Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy."



Member's Corner Continued

League Members Attend NAACP 80 Years of Service Event



Susan Kaphammer, Dori Peralta Baker, Honoree Steve Hill, Michael Murdock, Criss Bardill, Raine Murdock, and Cindy Olivas

A group of League members had the honor of attending the NAACP of Yakima County's celebration of 80 years of service to our community. The event was highlighted by an inspiring keynote address from Senator T'wina Nobles, who represents the 28th Legislative District. She eloquently spoke about the rich history of the Yakima Valley and the unwavering passion of those who have led the community over the decades.

We are especially proud to celebrate fellow League member Steve Hill, who was recognized with the Community Service Award for his 43 years of dedicated service as the Director of the Yakima County Department of Human Services. His leadership in countless community service projects has made a lasting impact on the Yakima Valley, and he continues to play an active role in service.

Additional honorees included:

- **Rodney Bryant** – Educational Service Award
- **Alphonso Bradley** – Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Ester Huey** – Trailblazer Award
- **OIC of Washington** – Outstanding Community Partner
- **Rev. Robert Trimble** – President's Award

The League of Women Voters is proud to stand alongside the NAACP as a strong partner in civic engagement projects, and we look forward to continuing our work together to promote a more informed and active electorate.



Betty Van Ryder, Criss Bardill and Cindy Olivas

A great Year at the Market



Dori Peralta Baker at the Market

Last Sunday marked our final day at the Downtown Yakima Farmer's Market for this season, and we couldn't have done it without the dedication of our amazing volunteers. A special thank you to Barb Schultz, Cindy Olivas, Criss Bardill, Dori Peralta Baker, Jackie Hertel, Kitty Jubran, Nancy Lust, and Tracy Levy for their time and enthusiasm. Their efforts in engaging with community members and helping register voters made a significant impact. We truly appreciate the energy and commitment each of you brought to these important conversations!



State and National

US Senate Debate

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Washington, in partnership with KIRO 7

U.S. SENATE DEBATE



MARIA CANTWELL

**WATCH LIVE AT 12 P.M.
THU OCTOBER 17
ON KIRO 7
AND LOCAL RADIO
AND TV STATIONS
ACROSS THE STATE**



RAUL GARCIA

Submit your questions for candidates to
forumquestions@lwvwa.org
or at www.kiro7.com/debate

Questions should be:

- answerable by both candidates
- be relevant to the elected position
- include the voter's name and city of residence



Simplified Washington State Ballot Initiative Summaries from our State League

These provide clear, concise information on upcoming ballot initiatives. Each summary covers the effect of your vote, a summary of the measure, its background, potential immediate and fiscal impacts if passed, and the key arguments for and against the initiative. Make an informed decision this election season!

<https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/BallotMeasures/2024%20Ballot%20Initiatives/I-2066%20LWVWA%202024%20Washington%20Ballot%20Summary.pdf>

<https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/BallotMeasures/2024%20Ballot%20Initiatives/I-2109%20LWVWA%202024%20Washington%20Ballot%20Summary.pdf>

<https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/BallotMeasures/2024%20Ballot%20Initiatives/I-2117%20LWVWA%202024%20Washington%20Ballot%20Summary.pdf>

<https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/BallotMeasures/2024%20Ballot%20Initiatives/I-2124%20LWVWA%202024%20Washington%20Ballot%20Summary.pdf>

Advocacy – Use Your Voice

YARD SIGNS STILL AVAILABLE!!



Please help get the rest of our signs out for public viewing. We have about 15 left, and it would be a shame to not have them out and about for the next 4 weeks. You are free to offer them to neighbors and friends, or to plant them on a street corner near you (avoid private yards unless you ask for permission).

If you would like a sign, please contact Criss Bardill at cbardill@gmail.com or 509-930-2622. She will be happy to arrange to get a sign for you. We only ask that you return the signs after the election or store them for posting in future years.

Volunteer Opportunity - Facebook Maintenance

We need a volunteer to help maintain our Facebook page. It is a light duty, mainly to do occasional postings by the League and regular monitoring of comments from visitors to the page that may need responses. The League President and members of the Leadership Team would provide postings and would be available to respond to comments. If this is something you would be willing to try, please let us know by emailing yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunity - Día de los Muertos Ofrenda Setup

We are partnering to create a beautiful ofrenda for Día de los Muertos, a tradition where we honor and remember our loved ones who have passed. The ofrenda is an altar decorated with offerings, photos, candles, and personal items. It's a meaningful way to celebrate the lives of those no longer with us. Setup begins on Saturday, October 19, 2024 with possibly some planning meeting beforehand.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Cindy Olivas at cindyolivas@aol.com.

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.



MEET THE CANDIDATES! Public "Meet and Greet" Event

Join us 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.**

- **Date:** Thursday, October 17, 2024
- **Time:** 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- **Location:** Holiday Inn, 802 East Yakima Avenue

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.

Hosted by the **League of Women Voters of Yakima County** and co-sponsored by Washington Conservation Action Education Fund, Native Vote Washington Education Fund, Latino Community Fund, NAACP – Yakima Branch, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, Faith Action Network, and Between the Ridges: Alliance for the Common Good, this event is free and open to the public.

The **League of Women Voters** is a non-partisan organization that promotes informed and active participation in government.

Don't miss this chance to engage with your future leaders!



Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima





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