

THE VOTER



This Newsletter is published by and for the
League of Women Voters of Yakima County
PO Box 723, Yakima, WA 98907

On the Web at:
<https://lwvyakimacounty.org>
Find us on Facebook

April/May
2025
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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, Interim President
- Dori Baker-Peralta
- Janis Luvaas, Treasurer and Membership
- Karri Livingston
- Kitty Jubran
- Steve Hill
- Susan Kaphammer

Meeting on 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

- **6-17-2025 Annual Meeting** 4:30pm at the YWCA – All members and guests are welcome!

Announcements

We invite all members to our annual meeting to discuss current projects and the future direction of the League. We will be meeting at 4:30pm on June 17, 2025, at YWCA second floor conference room located at 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima, WA 98902.

Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Know Your League

Check these websites to more fully understand your League:

Our local Yakima County League:

<https://lwvyakimacounty.org/>

Our Washington state League:

<https://www.lwvwa.org/>

Our National League:

<https://www.lwv.org/>

Message from the Interim LWVYC President

Criss Bardill

Greetings, fellow League Members and Friends!

As I write this, we are fully into Spring, a time for renewal and hope. This is fitting as our League is undergoing a renewal, and hope springs from our activities and participation in demonstrations as we continue to face threats to our democracy and the potential for a constitutional crisis.

I am very pleased to share that Cindy Olivas has agreed to assume the Presidency of our League. The Leadership Team and I will be working with Cindy over the next couple of months, as she begins to step into that role. She will be formally elected at the Annual Meeting on June 17. Cindy joined our League in 2022 and has been an effective and energetic member of the Leadership Team and Voter Service since 2023.

About a dozen League members participated in the April 5th Hands Off/Save Our Democracy demonstration along 40th Avenue between West Powerhouse and East Powerhouse. Organizers estimated about 1300 participants, and it was a cheerful and enthusiastic crowd, with lots of supportive honking responses from cars on 40th Avenue. See Betty Van Ryders report on that event.

On April 19th League members joined others at the Protect Climate/Protect the Planet March and Rally downtown, starting at the Millennial Plaza and marching to Performance Park, before returning to Millennial Plaza, with speakers at both locations.

As I write this on April 30, a May Day March and Rally is planned for tomorrow at Miller Park.

As more actions are planned this spring and on into the summer, please check our website for more information. We will try to keep it up to date and not bother you with repeated emails. There is a lot of organizing going on, I hope you will find ways to participate. It is so important that we make our voices heard, especially to our local representatives and officials.

<https://lwvyakimacounty.org/>

I hope each of you will take advantage of our beautiful spring weather and all the flowering trees and flowers by getting outside. I find it helps my mental health and lifts my spirits.

In League,

Criss Bardill, Interim President

MEMBER'S CORNER

Voter Services Report

Your Voter Services Committee participated in two tabling events in March. On March 24th we were at Davis High School for their Career, College and STEM fair and on March 25th we were at Eisenhower High School for their Conferences, Colleges and Career event. We had a warm welcome from the staff, students and their parents and great conversations. We provided a QR code from the Washington State Secretary of State that directs those who scan it to the Washington State Voter registration site. At least 20 participants utilized the QR code. We also had paper Voter Registration forms on site and 9 participants took those with them and 6 filled them out for us to turn into the Yakima County Auditor's Office.

We are invited back to Davis High School on April 22nd for their "Celebrate Your Future Day". A day to celebrate all the senior's future plans, whether it be school, military or entering the workforce. We will again provide voting resources for the students and families who attend this event. And we were invited back to both Yakima High Schools for their fall events in October and their spring events in March.

We had a booth at Earth Day Yakima 2025 on April 26th at Sarg Hubbard Park. Our children's activity for the event was rock painting and many children participated! League member, Barb Schultz, obtained the rocks and the markers we needed for our activity.

On April 30, we had a table at the OIC event 100 Jobs for 100 Kids at The Henry Beauchamp Community Center. 11 students completed registration forms, 4 took registration forms with them, and 36 scanned the QR code to do on-line registration.

Our next Voter Services meeting is scheduled for May 9th, C & S Coffeehouse, 12:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Karri Livingston, Voter Services Chair
With updating by Criss Bardill



Barb Schultz, Susan Kaphammer, Maria Jett (standing) and Betty Van Ryder staff our booth at Earth Day, April 26.



Danielle Surkatty and Dori Baker prepare a banner at the Protect Climate / Protect Immigrants Rally and March on April 19.

Membership Report

As of April 30, we have 59 members.

Margot Sloop is our newest member. Margot is the new Exhibits Manager at the Yakima Valley Museum.

We want to acknowledge the passing of Myra McLain, a former Yakima League Member. Myra, her husband Jim, and their three children moved to Yakima in 1964, where Jim taught school. They were active in Wesley Methodist Church and Myra volunteered at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital and was also a member of the Association of University Women.

She is survived by her daughter Jo Ellen McLain of Yakima.



League member Susan Martin shares information with an attendee at the OIC 100 Jobs for 100 Kids on April 30.

April 5 Hands Off Demonstration

Several members of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County joined over 13,000 other county citizens in a nationwide rally April 5 along 40th Avenue. We peacefully protested the dismantling of many of governmental agencies that are essential to our economy and well-being. As we lined the road, supporters in cars honked their horns and waved in response to our messages on creative and sometimes humorous signs. The emphasis of the event was to point out that our basic concerns and needs are not partisan.

I talked to Sara Shields, the Yakima Herald Republic reporter covering the event and said although I am a proud member of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County, I am also representing myself as a member of this community.

The League was well represented by Criss Bardill, Kitty Jubran, Susan Kaphammer, Cindy Olivia, Janis Luvaas, Steve Hill, Dori Baker, Lana Barnes, Barbara Schultz, Leslie and Spencer Hatton, Carole Folsom-Hill, Rosemary Saul, Elaine and Sid Smith, Phil and Gean Dindia, and me, Betty Van Ryder. There may be other League members who participated, and I didn't see you.

These active League members also represent many other facets of our community life and are to be commended for their continued efforts on behalf of all who are fortunate to live in Yakima County.

The occasion was upbeat and enthusiastic. Friendly exchanges among the diverse group of like-minded people added to the optimistic nature of the event and reinforced the importance of community engagement.

Participation in this activity supports the mission of the League of Women Voters across our fragile nation as we continue our important work to Defend Democracy.

Betty Van Ryder

STATE AND NATIONAL

LWVUS Declares a National Constitutional Crisis

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-declares-united-states-constitutional-crisis-announces-new-initiative>

LWVUS has made a powerful statement about our nation's constitutional crisis. Read this statement from Dianna Wynn, LWVUS President, which received national attention in the media. She noted,

"LWVUS has decided that now is the time to sound the alarm: our country is in a full-on constitutional crisis. The foundational principles that have sustained our democracy — checks and balances, the rule of law, free and fair elections — are under direct and sustained attack.

Today, we declared a constitutional crisis along with our intention to launch an 8.5 million-strong initiative, called Unite & Rise 8.5.

Unite and Rise 8.5 will engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters between now and November 2026 to protect and preserve our democratic institutions. The initiative is part of LWV's Women Defend Democracy campaign.

The foundational principles that have sustained our democracy — checks and balances, the rule of law, free and fair elections — are under direct and sustained threat. In this extraordinary moment, we cannot proceed with business as usual. All Americans — no matter who you voted for in 2024 — need to come together, stand united, and fight back to save our democracy. We cannot afford to fail the generations to come."

Action on Lawsuit Filed by LWVUS

[Federal Court Blocks Part of Anti-Voter Trump Executive Order Challenged by League of Women Voters](#)

Washington, DC — Today, a federal court judge issued a [ruling](#) in [League of Women Voters et. al. v. Trump et. al.](#), temporarily blocking the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) from implementing a provision in the President's executive order adding a requirement to show a passport or similar document proving citizenship when registering to vote via the federal form. While the case proceeds, this injunction preserves the status quo where would-be-voters already affirm under penalty of perjury that they are US citizens on the federal form.

"The League of Women Voters is heartened by this ruling, which is a major victory for voters across the country," said **Marcia Johnson, chief counsel of the League of Women Voters of the United States**. "While the fight is far from over, we're glad the court agreed that a President cannot 'short-circuit' Congress and unilaterally use an illegal executive order to obliterate the rights of millions of voters. Broadly, this executive order and the *SAVE Act* try to make it more difficult for American voters, particularly women voters, to participate in our elections — but the League hasn't and will not back down. The League of Women Voters will continue to fight to defend our democracy from those who seek to restrict it."

"No voter should ever have to jump through unnecessary hoops to register to vote," said **Pinny Sheoran, president of the League of Women Voters of Arizona**. "For the sake of Arizona voters, LWV of Arizona is glad that the federal court has temporarily blocked one of the most egregious provisions of this anti-voter executive order."

The League of Women Voters of the US, League of Women Voters of Arizona, League of Women Voters Education Fund, OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote, Hispanic Federation, and NAACP are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ACLU of DC, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, the Legal Defense Fund, Latino Justice PRLDEF, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC (Advancing Justice – AAJC) in the suit. On March 27, several of the above voting rights organizations sent a [letter](#) to the EAC urging them not to take action in response to key provisions in the executive order, as doing so would violate federal law.

A link to the original complaint is [here](#).

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation at the local, state, and national levels.

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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Opportunities for Action

Yakima Valley Farmers Market

The League will have a table at the Farmers Market throughout the season at 15 West Yakima Avenue 9AM – 1PM

The Voter Services Committee is hoping to fill this schedule earlier rather than later. We hope you will consider volunteering to fill one of these open slots. If you are new to our tabling activities, let Committee Chair Karri Livingston know and she will pair you with an experienced member. Also, we are hoping to find one or two younger people to help us transport and set up our canopy and tables for these tabling events. If you have a child or grandchild who would be willing to volunteer for some of these dates, we will deeply appreciate them! You can reach Karri at karrijolivingston@gmail.com

- May 11
- June 1
- September 7
- October 5

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Understanding the demographics of LWV's membership base helps us progress in our value of being a fully inclusive organization. **Please fill out as much of the following info as you are comfortable with:**

Gender: _____ Pronouns: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____ Birth Year: _____

DUES AMOUNT

Please select the dues amount you wish to pay. **The recommended rate is \$75.00**, but you may choose an amount below that, down to a minimum of \$20.00. Higher dues payments help to allow some members to pay below the recommended amount but do not grant additional benefits. *Attach a check payable to the League of Women Voters of the United States.*

☐ \$75.00/year ☐ \$150.00/year ☐ \$250.00/year ☐ \$500.00/year
☐ Choose your own amount (minimum \$20.00): _____

The amount you choose to pay in dues will be split between your local, state, and national League. Would you like to make an additional donation exclusively to your local League?

☐ Yes ☐ No Amount: _____

Pay by credit card or bank account online by clicking on the join/renew form on our website's [Join page](#) or scanning this QR code



To pay by check: fill out this form and mail to:

LOWVYC, PO Box 723,
Yakima, WA 98907

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS?

Do you have a household member wishing to join or renew LOWV membership?
Please complete an additional form and send in with additional dues, thank you!