

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>

April, 2026
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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

- Cindy Olivas, President
- Barb Schultz, Secretary and Membership
- Janis Luvaas, Treasurer
- Karri Livingston, Voter Services Chair
- Criss Bardill, The Voter Editor
- Kitty Jubran, Hospitality / Logistics
- Steve Hill, Budget Committee Chair
- Joy McKinney, WA Jail Impacted Voting Program
- Lana Barnes, Nominations Chair

Meets 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

Monday, May 4, 4:30. **LWVYC Leadership Team Meeting.** At YWCA, 818 W. Yakima Ave. All members welcome!

Friday, May 8, 12 Noon. **LWVYC Voters' Service Committee Meeting.** Starbucks, 5906 Summitview Ave., Yakima.

Tuesday, June 16, 5 to 7 PM.

LWVYC Annual Meeting for All Members.

Unity of Yakima Spiritual Church, 401 South 8th Avenue, Yakima.

See attached flyer!

Turn to "Opportunities for Action,"
on Page 3, for additional events.

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/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to Springtime as it brings new growth, vibrant colors, and sweet scents. I can smell the lilacs and blossoms as I type this. If you are a person with allergies this may not be such a welcoming event. So, I will try not to overdo my exuberance for Spring. I welcome you, instead.

Please know that I am grateful for all the support that I have received lately whether assisting with a project beside you or words of encouragement. I am humbled by those actions. I became the president when no one else wanted the job. I stepped up to the plate with courage and determination to do well. It has been 10 months now as president of this League.

I have learned more about the League of Women Voters at all three levels in the brief time that I have served as president. The struggles I have been through have only made me more solid and stronger as a leader. When my term is over, I hope to leave the League in a much better place for someone else to step in one day and take over. This is why it is important to get involved as often as you can. If only to find two to four hours per month out of your hectic schedule between juggling work, the family, or social activities, get involved with your League. I would love to collaborate with you in any capacity. I know that I could use help. Come to a meeting and just say, "Hi."

The Annual meeting is coming up soon. Please consider the reason you joined the League of Women Voters. If you have been a member for a year or so, consider becoming part of the Leadership Team. I would bet money that we have the same mindset about preserving our democracy and protecting those rights. We want to get people registered to vote but also to get them ready to vote; even if it means driving someone to the closest ballot drop box or helping a person make a phone call to get a replacement ballot because it is misplaced.

Look for more information about The LWVYC Annual Meeting next month on the included flyer.

Annual Meeting

June 16, 2026

5:00 -5:30 p.m. Social

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Meeting

Unity of Yakima Spiritual Church

401 S. 8th Ave., Yakima

Please enjoy reading the other wonderful articles in The Voter.

Sincerely,

Cindy Olivas, President



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Sunday 4/26, 11:00am-3:00pm - **63rd Annual Sukiyaki Dinner**, Wapato Buddhist Temple, Tickets \$30 available on sale online (includes 3% fee). Purchase at: <https://bit.ly/Sukiyaki2026>

Monday, 4/27, 6:00-8:00pm - **Town Hall Meeting with WA District 14 and 15 Representatives**, Excel Youth Center, 1001 N. 9th Ave., Yakima. Sponsored by the Representatives of District 14 and District 15. This town hall is open to the public.

Friday 5/1, 3:30-7:00pm - **May Day Event**, Yakima. Gather at 3:30 pm at YVC, with a program and then at 4 pm **March to Miller Park**. 5:15pm - **Gathering at Miller Park** with resource booths, speakers, entertainment, food. Sponsored by May 1st Coalition.

Friday 5/1, 3:00-7:00 pm - **May Day Event**, Sunnyside. A parade and community event. Vendors, community groups, music, dance performers, raffles, and lots of good food. [Public Link: May Day Flyers and Route](#)

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM CINDY

GOTV connected to BTR partnering

Locally, the Yakima League is partnering with a group of like-minded, non-partisan, grassroots organizations that are concerned about voting and have been involved with Yakima's Between the Ridges (BTR). The groups are focusing on Getting Out the Vote (GOTV). We have all heard that Yakima County has one of the lowest voting rates in Washington State. During our quarterly meeting, the attendees brainstormed ideas on ways to GOTV. I cannot tell you how much you can be a game changer in supporting our cause through donations, volunteering, or recruiting your acquaintances to work for the cause. Some of you could work from your home. I know that there are many of you with special talents and skills, please get involved.

The SAVE American Act IP26-500

Please say "No", decline to sign the SAVE the American Act, and vote 'No' if IP26-500 comes to the ballot. The SAVE Act has been passed by the House and is now in the Senate for debate and a vote. As an initiative to people, it must get over 309K signatures by July 2 in order to be placed on the ballot in November 2026. IP 26-500 would make it more difficult for eligible citizens to vote if passed. It would affect many women, adults who were adopted at birth, transgender citizens, people with disability, people living below the federal poverty level, aging citizens, and people who live in isolated rural areas. For these people, access to documents, costs, and transportation are key factors. Can you imagine how many eligible citizens may not be able to vote? While we may be reasonably confident that our two State Senators will not support this bill, it is always good to let them know that is what we hope they will do. Contact them at:

<https://www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/> and <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>.

Special Election: Yakima School District Bond

Don't forget to vote by April 28 if you live within the Yakima School District Area. There is an important \$200 million Bond on the ballot. Please remind other people to vote. If you mail your ballot, please send it at least 7-9 days prior to the April 28th date. If later than that, please drop it off at your nearest Voting Dropbox or deliver it in person to the Yakima County Election Office. Don't forget to sign your name as shown on your ballot, and write the date on the outside envelope. Include your telephone number; this will help to get your vote processed on time. *See flyer included with this newsletter.*

Your President,
Cindy Olivas



VOTER SERVICES

At our last Voter Services meeting on April 10th, we celebrated our end-of-March, early-April tabling events at Selah, Davis, and Eisenhower High School. We had amazing conversations with students, their parents, and teachers about the importance of voting. We are carrying that same important message to YVC students on April 14th and at the Earth Day event on April 18th.

On May 13th, we will engage students at Perry Tech in the cafeteria from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. If you are interested in participating at Perry Tech, please email Joy McKinney at joycatbird@gmail.com.

Our next Voter Services Committee meeting is scheduled for May 8th at noon. We meet at the Starbucks, 5906 Summitview Avenue. Everyone is welcome to join us as we continue to plan our work in the community to encourage everyone to vote!

Karri Livingston, Voter Services Chair

2026 LWVYC Nominating Committee Seeks Members for Involvement

Request for Nominations: Leadership Team Vacancies

The Nominating Committee for 2026–2027 seeks members assistance in identifying candidates for members of the Leadership Team whose terms are coming to an end. Your recommendations and involvement are essential to ensure the continued success and strength of our organization.

Treasurer & Membership Position Vacancy

There is currently an opening for the Treasurer/Membership role within the League. Janis Luvaas, who has dedicated over 15 years of service in this position, will be stepping down. If you know someone who would be well-suited, or if you are interested in serving as the next Treasurer for LWVYC, please contact the committee.

How to Express Interest

If you would like to learn more about these important positions or wish to apply, please reach out to a member of the Nominating Committee. We will be happy to meet with you, answer any questions, and provide more information about what the role entails.

Committee Members,

Lana Barnes, lanadee26@gmail.com

Kitty Jubran, 509-966-5418 (no email)

Ulla Whitmont, ullawhi@gmail.com

Addendum from Voter Editor – I will be resigning from the Voter Editor position following our annual meeting. If you are interested in getting involved with the production of The Voter, please contact me or President Cindy.

Criss Bardill, cbardill@gmail.com

Cindy Olivas, cindyo4lwvyc@gmail.com

LWVYC VOTES CONCURRENCE FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

In March, the League of Women Voters of Yakima County Leadership Team voted to support immigrant rights. Our League, along with several other leagues in Washington State, are in concurrence with immigrant rights and have sent this position to the National League of Women Voters. What exactly does concurrence mean? A Concurrence is the process used by the League to adopt a position based on the research, consensus, or study materials produced by another League or committee. Here is the Adopted Position on Immigrants:

Position in Brief

The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that all residents of Washington state, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should be treated with dignity and respect. This means that all residents, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should have access to essential state-funded services, have the opportunity to avail themselves of legal representation in court and immigration proceedings, and have the opportunity to live and work in safety. The League encourages all elected officials and government leaders in Washington to continue to take action to ensure these fundamental rights. It also means that political leaders in Washington have an obligation to condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Many of you are aware of the increasing number of assaults by the federal government on immigrants and U.S. citizens supporting immigrants' rights. Other state Leagues also have notified the LWVWA that they support the position, including Illinois and Minnesota, both recent targets of increased federal crackdowns on immigrants. The others include two border-hugging states, Arizona and New Mexico, along with Delaware, Utah and West Virginia. Los Angeles and New York City recently notified the Washington State League of their intent to vote for concurrence.

This position will be presented and voted on at the National Convention in June.



**CONSIDER ATTENDING
STATE LEAGUE
GATHERING**

The upcoming State Council in Lacey, WA on June 5, 6, & 7, 2026 is our State gathering sponsored by the State Board Members. Many of the workshops will be presented by Local League Teams. I do know that there will be a workshop on 'How to Use Canva'. More workshops to come. Learn more at: <https://www.lwvwa.org/2026Council>.

If there are any members in good standing who would like to attend, please contact me, your League president. Note: if you are a new member and joined in June 2025 to present, your registration cost is \$60, plus your expenses for travel, and hotel accommodation. There are some funds available for reimbursement. Any member who would like to attend, please email interest to: yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com. I will provide you with further information. Your President plans to attend.



LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION IN COLUMBUS, OHIO and ONLINE

The National Convention is in Columbus, Ohio, and is scheduled for June 25-28, 2026. LWVYC is allowed to have two delegates with voting power to register and attend in person or by a virtual meeting. League members who attend would be responsible for their registration costs, travel, hotel, meals and any other expenses. There are some reimbursable funds but very limited. If you are interested in being part of this National Convention, please let the League President know. You must be a member in good standing. Convention information available at: <https://events.lwv.org/event/Convention2026/summary>.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

(selected from the Home Page of our State League -- <https://www.lwvwa.org/>)

The League Is a Nonpartisan Source You Can Trust

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League acts in support of, or in opposition to, selected governmental issues that its members have studied. It does not support or oppose candidates, factions, or political parties. League members, as individuals, may support candidates of the political party of their choice. In order to protect the League's nonpartisanship policy, guidelines regarding the political activities of the Board of Directors are reviewed frequently.

LWV Member Rights and Responsibilities

Individuals who join the League of Women Voters become part of a highly trusted, 100+ year-old organization comprised of a large grassroots network. LWV is committed to providing opportunities for members to amplify their individual political power by participating in local, state, and national League actions.

Passages:

We recently received some sad news from the State League office. Long time League activist, Cynthia Stewart, of the Tacoma-Pierce County LWV, passed away on April 6. Cynthia served two terms on the LWV Thurston County board, three terms as president of LWV Tacoma-Pierce County and three terms on the LWVWA board. She was active in the State Advocacy Committee, including recently serving as the Chair. The following link is to an interview with Cynthia in 2025: <https://lwvwa.org/This-Month-in-the-League/13563834>

APRIL 28, 2026 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

Bond Proposal



Yakima
SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRITO ESCOLAR

Yakima School District is asking voters to consider a bond to:



Replace two 60+ year old schools to improve safety, security and function



Make improvements across the district to schools, playgrounds and athletic facilities



VOTE BY APRIL 28, 2026!

Register to vote at: votewa.gov

Learn more on our website at:
ysd7.org/bond2026



SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

For the

LWVYC Annual Meeting

Opportunity to Meet with Other Members!

5:00 -5:30 p.m. Social

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Meeting

at Unity of Yakima Spiritual Church

401 S. 8th Ave., Yakima

Members & Guests Are Welcome

Business Items:

- A. **Adopt** a local Program
- B. **Elect** Treasurer and Leadership Team Members,
and members of the Nominating Committee
- C. **Adopt** an adequate budget for each committee
- D. **Adopt** any Bylaw amendments
- E. **Transact** such other business as may
properly come before it.



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA COUNTY, OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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:
LWVYC, PO Box 723,
Yakima, WA 98907

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS?

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