

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>

June, 2026
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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
- Janis Luvaas, Treasurer and Membership
- Karri Livingston, Voter Services Chair
- Kitty Jubran
- Steve Hill
- Criss Bardill, The Voter Editor
- Joy McKinney
- Lana Barnes

The Leadership Team meets on the first Monday of the month at 4:30 pm in the second floor conference room at the YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima, WA.

All members are welcome!

Calendar

Monday, June 1, 4:30 PM, LWVYC Leadership Team Meeting. YWCA, 818 W. Yakima Ave. All members welcome!

Watch for an email with details about:

**LWVYC Annual Meeting
for All Members.**

Tuesday, June 16, 5-7 PM
At Unity of Yakima Spiritual Church
401 S 8th Avenue, Yakima
Guests Welcome.

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,

Hello to all of you and thank you for the support that the League has received. Since my last newsletter article, there have been meetings and presentations shared by non-profit organizations around the valley. These events have been open and free to the public, and to League members. As always, I try to keep up on these events to share. The Leadership Team have stated that GOTV is the most important activity that the league can do. I am wondering what you as a member would like to see the League of Women Voters of Yakima County do. Please attend the LWVYC Annual Meeting on June 16th.

ELLA invited our League to participate in the May Day event in Sunnyside, WA on May 1st. I went to the event and set up a table with materials and resources. I provided information sheets about "Decline the ILP26-500" that have been circulating around the valley. I put together a fact sheet on talks about prohibiting mail-in voting, and information about the SAVE AMERICA Act which, if passed, will require all citizens who vote to provide certain identification each time when voting. The requirements are the voter's name must match their birth certificate, or passport, or driver's license. At this event, I had sixty-eight community attendees stop by the table and take various resources. I also gave out six business cards. No one registered to vote, but being present was good. Our communities want to know that the Yakima County League of Women Voters are visible and present. I enjoyed the Aztec's ceremonies, the Mariachi music, and the baile folklorico, Mexican cultural dances. ELLA, thank you for inviting the Yakima County League to be a part of this May Day event.

You might know that I have been part of the two-year Indian Study of Treaty Rights, which is important to me. I have connected with tribal members at various gatherings and workshops. On May 8, I attended an event outside Goldendale, Washington, where I had the opportunity to visit the Pushpum Encampment site and see its beautiful landscape of rolling hills and views of the Columbia River. The encampment is at the highest elevation in the valley, and on a cloudless day you can see the sister Mountains, the Blue Mountains, and the Columbia River. Although the day was cloudy, cold, and windy, I was grateful to attend and take part in the gathering. We learned about the importance of keeping the Pushpum area open to the River People tribes. It has been a sacred place for thousands of years, where the Bands of the Yakama Nation have gathered food, fished, and hunted. The federal government has approved a permit to build a water storage shed on the Pushpum encampment area without input from the River People tribes. The Tribes were not informed by the Federal Government prior to the permit approval. On May 15th, Washington Conservation Action, 350 Climate, and Yakama tribal member Elaine Harvey also presented a free documentary, *The Sacred Hills*. Afterwards, Elaine Harvey answered questions and shared concerns about the water storage shed. Popcorn and licorice were an added treat. There is also a petition that registered voters can sign, and I will try to get the QR code for it.

There was another opportunity to watch a documentary film, *Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness*. Two film producers worked together to produce the documentary which was filmed in locations across the United States. This film took the audience with the producers on that journey. It is troubling to see the judgment and labels often placed on people experiencing homelessness, especially by those who have never faced it themselves. The film emphasized that homelessness is a condition, not a person's identity, and that people experiencing homelessness are human beings first. I also learned more about how homelessness became a larger issue during the Reagan era, when affordable housing policies for low-income people often fell short. Many housing programs had strict requirements

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued on Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from Page 2

and offered too little support to help people remain housed and off the streets. Finding affordable housing was especially difficult after an eviction was filed, and waiting lists were often long. African American communities have been disproportionately affected by homelessness for distinct reasons as mentioned in the film. One harmful label mentioned was "laziness" and "druggies". I am grateful for the community members, organizations, and League members working to find solutions. County Commissioner Kyle Curtis spoke about Yakima County's five-year homelessness plan, which is available online. If you would like to learn more, please contact the County Commissioners' Office.

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/3032/Five-Year-Homeless-Housing-Strategic-Pla#docaccess-14e26a1aac6c58cf611fb5910787ab1f>

Janis Luvaas also loaned me a book titled, *Nowhere to Live: The Hidden Story of America's Housing Crisis* by James S. Burling. It discusses the challenges faced by individuals and families, with their stories drawn from experience in getting housing. It is a great read.

I have been actively involved with the Redistricting Committee since last June. I have a great deal of information to share with the League about why this work is so important to our communities and to Yakima County. There are communities in the Yakima area that get little representation. If you would like to learn more about this project or get involved, please let me know. This week, I spoke with the Chair of the Redistricting Committee, Alison McCaffree. She and a group of League members from the Seattle area would like to collaborate with us here in the valley to walk the district lines of District 14 and 15. I would like to welcome their support. Please consider supporting this effort if you are interested.

I am not sure if you know about the campaign for "Getting Out the Vote" which started with Between the Ridges and other organizational partners in Yakima County. I feel strongly that all organizations, churches, and civic organizations representing our communities need to be a part of this campaign. Partnerships are vital to getting into communities that have not been active or are in rural areas with hard-to-reach places. If you are interested, please let me know.

Last, I have spent approximately twenty-five hours cleaning up and adding amendments to update our Bylaws. Hopefully, you will have an opportunity to see the changes at the Annual Meeting on June 16th. Steve Hill helped me with this project. If you have any questions about any of these projects, please reach me at 509-594-6469 or at cindyo4lwvyc@gmail.com.

Cindy Olivas, President

THE LEAGUE ACTS...

only after careful study and member consensus; to achieve reasonable, equitable and responsible policy.

SO YOU CAN...

- Connect with and strengthen your community.
- Research issues from many points of view.
- Foster dialogue on important issues.
- Advocate for positive change in your community.
- Work with others to create stronger communities.
- Help preserve our constitutional rights and civil liberties
- Learn about a broad range of issues.

(from our LWVYC Website)

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE BRINGS INFORMATION TO VARIOUS EVENTS

At the invitation of the YVC librarian, we tabled on April 14 during the noon hour. Karri, Joy and her sister Cheryl McKinney, presented to YVC students/faculty and had a great discussion about local politics, ballot boxes vs. USPS, correct signatures on ballots and getting together with 10 friends to encourage voting. We had great discussions that warmed all our hearts – the audience really participated in why local elections were important. Bridgette Flamenco, the YVC librarian, stated she will be inviting us back in the fall.

On Earth Day, April 18, 2026, we had another successful event – with lots of traffic and lots of rock painting for the children. Barb spoke to a person who had a felony conviction and gave him one of our pamphlets that he was very happy to receive.

We would like to do this annual event again – but we need younger folks to help with set up and take down.



On May 13, from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm, we tabled at Perry Tech for the first time in recent history, as with the YVC event, we were pleased with the amount of activity and interaction.

Pictured at left: At a tabling event at Perry Tech, Kitty Jibran and Joy McKinney engage in discussions about the importance of voting and being sure your vote is counted.

We are tentatively planning a Get Out the Vote tabling event at Fred Meyer on July 22 from noon to 6 PM.

Yakima Pride Festival and Parade is on June 20, 2026, and we would like to have a presence. But we would need volunteers from outside our committee. If you are interested in participating, please let Karri know. Friends and family are welcome for the parade and we would need help staffing a table at the Fairgrounds.

LWVWA / AARP PLANNING TO LIVE STREAM CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 FORUM

AARP, the American Association of Retired People, contacted the State LWV to find out if any leagues in the Congressional District 4 Region would be interested in helping to organize a live stream forum for the Congressional District 4 candidates. The leagues were Yakima, Kittitas, Benton-Franklin, and Klickitat-Skamania Unit-at-Large. Since there were changes in the District 4 boundaries, two Leagues decided to decline and not participate. Benton-Franklin County and Yakima County moved forward.

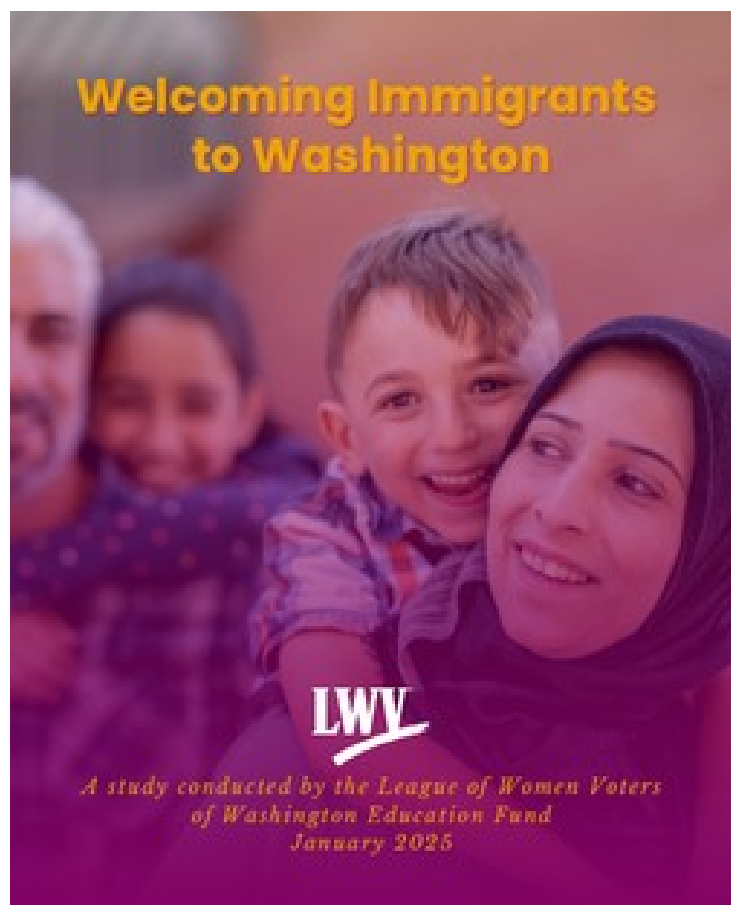
This is not the first time that AARP has done a live stream virtual forum with various Leagues in Washington State. Benton-Franklin has been working with AARP since 2020. BF League member Bev Johnson-Torelli was instrumental in giving lots of guidance to AARP using LWV forum procedures. Also, the BF and Yakima County Leagues are giving their logos to AARP, as well as League Presidents' signatures. The photocopy signatures will be placed on the candidate's invitation, along with the main AARP organizers putting this event together. Filming will be on June 2 and June 3 on the WSU Campus in the Tri-cities. The forum will be on Public Broadcast TV stations and U Tube sometime in July.

More details and updates to come.

WASHINGTON STATE LEAGUE'S "WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS" RECOMMENDED FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE

Reprinted from Resisting Threats to Democracy, newsletter from LWVWA. See <https://www.lwvwa.org/League-Newsletters> for issues and to subscribe.

Great news! The LWVWA's "Welcoming Immigrants" position has been accepted by LWVUS as a recommended position going into LWVUS' national convention. **The proposed concurrence will be voted on June 25-28, 2026, at the LWVUS Convention in Columbus, Ohio, by in-person and virtual delegates.** If adopted by LWVUS, all state and local Leagues across the country would be able to utilize the position to advocate for immigrants' rights and access to services. For more information, see [the LWVWA Seeks National Concurrence with Welcoming Immigrants Position—and Local Leagues Can Help](#). Find the ["Welcoming Immigrants" position](#) and [the study supporting the position](#).





MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

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

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!

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