

Renew Your Membership! See page 2.

THE **V**oter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF SPOKANE AREA
VOLUME LXXXVIII ISSUE 1, January 2025
A printable version of The Voter is available at LWVSpokane.org

Time to Prioritize — Program Planning

By Elaine Harger

At the beginning of each year, League members across the country gather locally to begin planning for education, action and advocacy in the next two years. Our work is rooted in the principles of the League of Women Voters and in positions taken by local, state, and the national League. State and national position statements can be found on the LWVWA website at: <https://lwvwa.org/league-positions>

At our January member meeting, members will be introduced to this time-honored plan-of-work process and will begin to identify issues for League attention as we enter into 2025. Information about the process can be found at: <https://lwvwa.org/Program-of-Work-and-Studies/>

This is Spokane's chance to plan local work and to influence priorities at the state level. Should the Spokane League want to submit a proposal for consideration at the state convention in June, we must do so by April.

Please plan on attending this very important meeting:

Date: 14 January, Tuesday

Time: 4:30-5:00pm social time, 5:00-7:00pm program

Location: Spokane Valley Library, Diane E. Zahand Room, West, 22 N. Herald Street, Spokane Valley 99206

Time to Prioritize — Program Planning continued next page

Calendar

AH&HS Committee Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 5, 5:30pm to 6:30pm
on Zoom, for meeting link email lwvsaahhs@gmail.com.

Board Meeting, Thursday, Jan. 9, 5pm to 7pm on Zoom, for meeting link email eharger@drizzle.com

Lunch with the League
Friday, Jan. 10 at Frankie Doodles Restaurant, 30 E. 3rd Ave.
11am League Orientation
12 noon Lunch
RSVP to Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319

Speak-Up School
Saturday, Jan. 11, 9:30am - 12:30pm
Via Zoom. Register at <https://lwvwa.org/event-5933433>

Membership Meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 4:30pm to 6:30pm, Planning the next two years
at Spokane Valley Library, 22 N. Herald Street, S. V. 99206

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting, Thursday, Jan. 16, 6:30pm
on Zoom, for a meeting link email amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com.

- Page 1** • Time to Prioritize — Program Planning at our next Membership Meeting • Calendar of Events
- Page 2** • Studies, Trainings and Workshops • New and Renewing Members • Board of Directors
- Page 3** • Welcome/Membership Committee Updates, ChapterSpot
- Page 4** • Immigration Nuts & Bolts of a Complex Issue, Opinion by Susan Martin
- Page 5** • Links to Informative Information on Immigration Rights • Lunch with the League • Copyright

LWVWA — Two Studies for Review and Consensus

The Elder Caregiving Study has just been released. The state League is asking locals to encourage members to review the study and participate in a conversation in order to develop a consensus as to whether or not to support the study. The study process offers League members the opportunity to be involved in decision-making for the organization.

On January 7, the committee that prepared the study will hold two information sessions via Zoom. One at 1:30pm, the other at 6:30pm.

Registration is required. For more information see: <https://lwvwa.org/eldercare>

The Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State Study is not yet on the LWVWA website, but will follow the same process of review and consensus as described above. Dates of information sessions and the study itself will be provided as soon as possible. **Stay tuned!**

Upcoming LWVWA Trainings

Saturday, January 4, 2025, 10am

Thursday, January 9, 6:30pm

How to Use the Legislative Web Site

<https://lwvwa.org/event-5981617?Calendar-ViewType=1&SelectedDate=1/19/2025>

Saturday, January 11, 9:30am-12:30pm

Speak Up School – a virtual workshop

conducted by the state League on communicating with elected officials, register at:

<https://lwvwa.org/event-5933433>

Action Workshop Recordings

This workshop took place on December 7th, but recordings are available at:

<https://lwvwa.org/AW2024>

URGENT!! URGENT!! URGENT!!
Member Renewals are due by Jan 15!
You can pay your 2025 dues now at
<https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/join-or-renew-form>

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SPOKANE AREA

Board of Directors

President - Vacant
Vice President - Elaine Harger
Treasurer - Mike Bell
Secretary - Vacant
Directors - Lin McGinn, Pamela Joyner, Sue Irwin and Ruth May

Thank You New and Renewing Members!



NEW MEMBERS:

Lynn Davis
Katheryn Janssen

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Janice Baker
Dawn Bayman
Julie Biggerstaff
Rick Biggerstaff
Carmela Conroy
Julie Cordero
David Green
Susan Hales

Leslie Hope
Mary Lou Johnson
Joan Kercher
Judy Krueger
Jeff Lambert
Rebecca Long
Stacy Mainer
Karen November
Teresa Overhauser
Anna Roberts
Kathleen Rowley
Mary Weathers

Friday, January 17 is the Deadline for the February issue of *The Voter*.
Send submissions to: corderographics@gmail.com

Membership Committee Updates

By Lunell Haught

Lunch at Frankie Doodles

Friday, January 10 at Frankie Doodle's Restaurant, 30 E 3 rd Ave (off Division) Spokane

11 am join for orientation to the League of Women Voters, 12 noon no-host lunch – you don't have to eat, but the menu is complete – free parking and on bus route. RSVPs appreciated 509-443-1319 (land line no text, leave name and phone number or email LH1@fastmail.com)

Permanent name tag

If you would like a permanent nametag to take home email Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com with how you want your name to appear and whether you prefer a pin or magnet style. \$12 includes tax, you can pick it up at a League meeting.



Meet your legislators

The legislative session will begin mid-January with many already working. Two big differences this year, we have more new legislators than in previous years, and the revenue is projected to be at least \$15 Billion short. This is a good year to focus on policy, at which the League excels. Please see League positions in your Member Handbook <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/members-only/member-handbook-organizational-chart-bylaws-standing-committees-annual-report-more>

You should have gotten an email from Lunell Haught inviting you to participate in a short 'get to know you' session with your legislators. The purpose of these meetings is to raise our local legislator's awareness of the League but most importantly it is so that when the League needs advocates from particular districts we already have a contact. This is not complicated or difficult. Let Lunell know if you'd like to be involved, you should have received an email with details but if you didn't and are interested, contact lh1@fastmail.com

Saturday, January 11, 9:30am–12:30pm, Virtual Event

Learn the best ways to communicate your interests and concerns to elected officials. Register here <https://lwvwa.org/event-5933433>

3

Spokane County Comprehensive Land Use Plan

is being updated, which occurs every 10 years. It is based on the Growth Management Act which was sponsored by the League and many other organizations to address sprawl and quality of life in Washington. It includes planning policies. The cities in the county are also updating their plans. The plan requires public participation (thank you LWV) and this means you can have input on transportation, parks and open space, housing, infrastructure, climate impacts, critical areas, etc. <https://www.spokanecounty.org/4926/2017-2037-Comprehensive-Plan>

Comprehensive (Comp) Plan

If you are not familiar with the Comprehensive (Comp) Plan it can be daunting. Lunell Haught is by no means an expert but has worked on it since the adoption of the Growth Management Act and would love to share observations and explanations with anyone who is interested in this. Please contact LH1@fastmail.com if you are interested or curious. Meetings of Comp Plan committees are on zoom so you could observe from your device. This would be a great volunteer observer role OR a chance to provide testimony (opinion). <https://www.spokanecounty.org/5011/Comprehensive-Plan-Update>

Gotten a call lately?

In addition to the questionnaires members completed in early December to help leadership know more about members you should have received a phone call – or message – from a member of the Welcome Committee. We are learning why people join the League (make friends, be involved, just like to support good civics) and what/how much they want to volunteer, if they understand the League, and how to 'plug in' if they want to volunteer. We're also checking contact information accuracy. These have been rich conversations and will guide our programs going forward.

Check out ChapterSpot
the new League membership platform
<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/membership/chapterspot-resources>

OPINION

Immigration: the Nuts and Bolts of a Complex Issue

November 27, 2024 Guest Column, *The Journal of the San Juan Islands*

By Susan Martin, *Donald G. Herzberg Professor Emerita of International Migration*

For the forty-plus years I have been an immigration policy wonk, and well before then, immigration has been a controversial issue. No less a gure than Benjamin Franklin railed against German immigrants in Pennsylvania for retaining their native language and exhibiting “boorish” behavior. He warned that Pennsylvania would become a German-speaking colony if immigration persisted. The Know-Nothing party in the 1850s saw noticeable support for their plans to restrict Irish and Mexican immigration. The restrictionist movement of the late nineteenth – early 20th centuries was based on the proposition that Italian, Jewish, Greek, Russian and other immigrants were overwhelmingly criminals, took jobs from Americans, refused to learn English, were dependent on public aid, showed no loyalty to the United States, and would never integrate into American society.

This perception was false then, as we see by the successes of those immigrants, and it is false today. Analyses of crime rates repeatedly nd that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born Americans. Immigrants are more likely to be entrepreneurs, creating jobs for other immigrants and the native-born. They do so as small business owners and titans of the economy (think Google, Slack, Peloton and Space X, to name only a few). Immigrants hold about a quarter of all patents in the United States, considerably higher than their share of the population. The Congressional Budget Oce estimates that the recent surge in immigration will add \$1.2 trillion in federal revenue during the next decade.

This is not to say there is no need for immigration reform. The backlogs faced by people seeking legal permanent residency (aka, a green card) or asylum are beyond reason. For example, highly educated people from certain countries who otherwise qualify for permanent immigration status face as much as a 190-year wait for a green card, according to the Congressional Research Service. Enforcement of immigration laws is also problematical, whether one prefers more or less of it, with the immigration courts similarly backlogged.

We know much about what the new administration will do on Jan. 20 and beyond. Trump will likely try to reinstate a ban on migration from Muslim countries, decimate the refugee resettlement program, strip Haitians and others of protection under Temporary Protected Status and reinstate regulations to make it harder for family members to enter with green cards. He has promised mass deportations, which will be very expensive, inhumane (remember the family separations he oversaw) and extremely disruptive to the American economy.

So, what can we do to cushion the eects of Trump’s policies.

1) Focus on protecting vulnerable immigrants in our own county and state. Distribute “Know Your Rights” information or organize Know Your Rights workshops. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center has cards that help people assert their rights if they encounter immigration enforcement ocers. These can be ordered or printed from <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>.

2) Washington state and San Juan County have armed that they will not cooperate with immigration enforcement agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Protection unless they present judicial arrest warrants rather than administrative ones. Let our elected ocials know you support this position.

3) Support legal challenges to the plan for mass deportation and other harmful policy changes. The American Civil Liberties Union is already planning to intervene but needs nancial resources to mount litigation. Consider donating to this cause. The Washington Attorney General led or joined dozens of legal cases against the rst Trump administration, winning all but three, and has already indicated that Washington will do the same when he is governor. Applaud that action.

4) Help individual immigrants and their families who are at risk of deportation. The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and other immigrant rights groups represent many immigrants and asylum

seekers in court but they have to turn away others because of a lack of funding. Research shows that almost half of asylum seekers with legal representation win in court while only 15% without representation succeed. Support these organizations and others that provide legal representation.

Also encourage public funding for such representation, as currently is available in Seattle and King County (<https://www.seattle.gov/council/issues/past-issues/legal-defense-for-immigrants-and-refugees>).

5) Contact members of Congress and tell them that you oppose legislation that will harm immigrants and their families. Be as specific as possible. For example, if the kids who received [the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] are at risk of deportation, tailor your statement to this population – ditto with asylum seekers; people with TPS; Ukrainians, Afghans, Haitians and others granted humanitarian parole; or the undocumented neighbor who has lived next to you for the past 20 years.

We are not without power to stop bad things from happening. Although it will be difficult, it is well worth trying.

Reprinted from *The Journal of the San Juan Islands*.

Helpful Information from the National Immigration Project

Community FAQ: What Do We Expect at the Beginning of Trump2.0 and How You Can Get Prepared: <https://nipnlg.org/work/resources/community-faq-what-do-we-expect-beginning-trump-20-and-how-you-can-get-prepared>

The Immigration Legal Resource Center's Red Cards help people assert their rights when dealing with ICE. Printouts in multiple languages are available here: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>

Lunch with the League *Lunch at Frankie Doodles, 30 E. Third Ave.*

Friday, January 10 (every 2nd Friday of the month)

11am League orientation, learn how you can get the most from your membership. For new and long-term members.

12 noon order lunch or just join in the conversation – you don't have to buy anything! Free parking and on the bus line. (just east of Division on 3rd – meet downstairs in the back) <https://frankiedoodles.net>

RSVP to Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319 (land line, no text)



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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, 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/achievements as well.

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