

# THE **V**oter

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXVIII Issue 6, June 2025  
*A printable version of The Voter is available at [LWVSpokane.org](http://LWVSpokane.org)*

## Leadership Report

by Sue Irwin and Ruth May, Co-Presidents

First and foremost, we would like to thank you all for your vote of confidence in placing us in such an important role. Our new Board of Directors met informally to get to know each other a bit, establish dates and times for our monthly meetings, and set aboard retreat in July.

During the board retreat we will focus on our plan of work with emphasis on the immediate challenges we are facing.

Committee chairs will be joining us in a working session to assist in our decisions.

We are pleased to announce that a full delegation will be attending the state convention on June 5-8 in Vancouver, and we look forward to new ideas and strategies from LWVWA and local Leagues across the state. This is a huge commitment on the part of our individual delegates and we are grateful for their willingness to represent us.

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## June Calendar

**AH&HS Comm. Meeting, Sunday, June 1,**  
meeting link email is [lwvsaahhs@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaahhs@gmail.com).

**LWVWA Convention June 5-8 in Vancouver, WA** For more information email Elaine at [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com).

**Special Program Tuesday, June 10, 4:30pm - 7:00pm** *Immigration Past, Immigration Present: How to be an active ally.* Liberty Park Library 402 S. Pittsburg St. See page 3.

**Lunch with the League, Friday, June 13** at Frankie Doodles Restaurant, 30 E. 3rd Ave.  
**11am** new member orientation **12 noon** Lunch  
RSVP to Lunell at [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com) or 509-443-1319

**The Voter Newsletter Deadline is Friday, July 25.** Send info to: [corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)

**Environmental Issues Committee Meeting, Thursday, June 26, 6:30pm** on Zoom,  
for a meeting link email [amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com](mailto:amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com).

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As we move ahead during these trying times, we would like to remind you of Unite and Rise 8.5. LWVUS' powerful new initiative to engage and mobilize 8.5 million people to preserve and protect democracy by rising non-violently against the anti-democratic actions recently taken by this administration. 8.5 million people is 3.5% of eligible voters in the United States. Research shows this is the number of people needed to bring about meaningful change. Please take a look at the Power Playbook for Unite and Rise on the LWVUS website for more specific information. Here is the website link: <https://www.lvv.org/league-management/ad-vocacy-litigation/unite-rise-power-playbook-1-may-2025-july-2025>

LWVUS is not officially endorsing the nation-wide "NO KINGS" protest rally scheduled

for June 14 th , but members are encouraged to participate individually. If you choose to join the rally it must be with signs that reflect our non-partisan commitment targeting policy positions, not people.

After the June 10th LWVSA member meeting, hosted by the Immigration Committee, we will be taking a summer break. There will be no membership meetings until September. But, do expect to see a July/August edition of *The Voter* and attend the pot luck on July 26, see page 7.

Happy summer.

Ruth and Sue,  
Co-Presidents  
[lwvsaleadership@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaleadership@gmail.com)

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## Affordable Housing & Homeless Solutions (AH&HS)

### *Deb Elzinga, Director of Community Frameworks*

by Becky Dickerhoof

Community Frameworks (CF) celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2024. That was a real surprise to our committee because we had only heard of them recently. It is a national organization that grew out of the EXPO 74's Environmental Symposium Series, which was based on the belief that it was critical for citizens to be involved in shaping the future of the institutions that affected their lives. Housing became the cornerstone of their work. Community Frameworks is one of four nation-wide organizations that act as a funding intermediary for HUD's Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP). Their work has resulted in creating over 4,500 homeownership opportunities across the Pacific Northwest region. Here in Spokane, they have rehabbed 4,600 homes and now own 9 rental properties that serve over 500 people.

Deb began with the organization in 2017 and has seen a lot of changes over that time. They have been successful with their 9 rental properties. They consult with other non-profits developing affordable housing. They partner with banks to provide mortgages for low-income buyers. They offer Homebuyer Education and Counseling and on-site case workers to help support new homeowners. While their past suc-

cess has been life-changing for many of the residents of WA state, the current economic conditions are offering many more challenges. CF has successfully used the tax credit program to help garner funding from businesses. Government policies have caused significant increases in the cost of property insurance, legal expenses and property repairs and maintenance. As a result, CF is looking at finding creative ways to increase funding, such as a fund-raising program, private banks, and philanthropic organizations. Deb encourages the LWVSA members to reach out to their elected officials to work to address deficiencies in zoning regulations, development restrictions, work to avoid urban sprawl and find financial incentives to promote development housing for the low- and middle-income households.



Deb Elzinga, Director of  
Community Frameworks

# Immigration Committee Updates

## Training and action opportunity on June 10 – all members invited!

By Julia Presar

The Immigration Committee invites all LWV - Spokane Area members to a special program, training and action meeting — Immigration Past, Immigration Present: How to be an active ally.

**Date:** Tuesday, June 10  
**Time:** 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Liberty Park Library.

**Speakers include:**

- Carmela Conroy will speak about the history of immigration in the USA.
- Jorge Guerrero, community organizer, will speak about ICE and Border Patrol and their tactics in Spokane County.
- Olga Lucia Herrera, PhD, will present “Standing Beside, Not Behind: Accompanying

Immigrants through ICE and USCIS” about opportunities for League members to accompany immigrants to their ICE check-ins and USCIS appointments.

Note that we are inviting volunteers from organizations that support local immigrant communities, as we all can learn and take action from this training.

Refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to [Julia.Presar@gmail.com](mailto:Julia.Presar@gmail.com) 206-235-9389. We have limited seating.

## May Day March and Rally

By Julia Presar

May Day March and Rally on May 1, 2025 found the League in full-throated participation, as posted in the LWVWA newsletter, Resisting Threats to Democracy.

On May Day, Jan Wingenroth, Mary Lloyd, Elaine Harger, Julia Presar, (left to right, Julia speaking), ventured to a rally by Latinos en Spokane in support of immigrants. Elaine spoke eloquently about the League, the constitutional crisis and the history of May Day. Julia spoke about the work the Spokane Area League is doing with immigrants and naturalized citizens, including ballot translations in multiple languages.

Read the speeches <https://lwwva.org/RTD-Articles/13496140?em-ci=14cece06-cf2a-f011-8b3d-6045bd-ed8cca&emdi=20fb2b7a-752b-f011-8b3d-6045bded8cca&ceid=10165812>

Watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbtshDrsXOM>



### Board of Directors

<b>Co-President</b>	2 year Co-President Ruth May
<b>Co-President</b>	2 year Co-President Sue Irwin
<b>Treasurer</b>	1 year Treasurer Mike Bell
<b>Secretary</b>	2 year Secretary Samantha Armstrong Ash
<b>Directors</b>	1 year Director Emily Grizzell
	1 year Director Elaine Harger
	1 year Director Kathy West

# Redistricting Commission Reform Committee

By Mary Lloyd

Our Redistricting Commission Reform Committee in Spokane September with the third Thursday of the month meetings at 3:00 pm. If you have any questions please contact Mary Lloyd at [riteasrain190@gmail.com](mailto:riteasrain190@gmail.com). However, you can stay involved with this work at the state level. Join the LWVWA redistricting team on the third Wednesday of each month where we discuss action steps and work collaboratively to meet our RCRC timeframe goals.

See the LWVWA website <http://lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting> or contact Alison McCaffree - RCRC chair at [amccaffree@lwvwa.org](mailto:amccaffree@lwvwa.org)

## Observer Corps Information

Here is an easy way to help the LWVSA defend democracy and to stay connected with what is happening in our local government. Just attend, in person or virtually, a city council, county commissioner, school board, planning commissioner or a neighborhood council meeting, fill out a short report form found on our website and submit to Sue Irwin at [sgirwin@gmail.com](mailto:sgirwin@gmail.com). The idea is to attend regularly enough to understand what is going on so that you can alert members if there is something the League needs to comment on. A calendar is in the process of being developed that will make the work of this committee much more efficient. Welcome to Stephanie Baker, Nicole Setterberg, Debra Briggs and Stuart Wilson. Thank you so much for your interest and enthusiasm

**City Council** meets Mondays at 6:00 pm and streams live on Channel 5 online at <https://my.spokanecity.org/citycable5/live>

**County Commissioners** meets Mondays for Board Briefing at 9:00 am and Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85674845677>

**Spokane School Board** meet in the evening at 6:00 pm. You can register for the zoom link at <https://www.spokaneschools.org/page/school-board-meetings>

**Public Hearings** are held in the Commissioner's Hearing Room. Lower Level of the Public Works Building.

**Public Meetings** can be held either in the Commissioner's Hearing Room or a conference room in the Public Works Building.

*Please email Sue Irwin at [sgirwin@gmail.com](mailto:sgirwin@gmail.com) if you have questions or are interested in helping out.*

## Thank You New & Renewed Members!



NEW MEMBERS	RENEWED MEMBERS
Alysha Brady	Louise Chadez
Michelle Brown	Jean Richardson
Katherine Carpenter	Mary Shepard
Merry Fougere	Robert West
Lorna Jeanneret	(since 4-26-25)
Ester Kjeldsen	

**THE VOTER** will publish a combined July/August issue.  
The deadline is June 21 for July 1 publication.  
Email submissions to Julie at [corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)



# Voter Services Report

## Summer Outreach Activities

by Elaine Harger

Spring is here, we're on the verge of summer, and voter registration and outreach activities are in full swing!

Although four of our events in May (Cheney Mayfest, Brush on the Bluff, EWU's Basic Needs Resource Fair, and Spokane Valley Connect) only generated one newly registered voter, League volunteers made positive outreach to members of widely varying community groups.

Interest in the League was high at each event and many expressed their appreciation for the work the League does.

At the EWU and Spokane Valley events, we engaged in the national League's Unite and Rise 8.2 advocacy work regarding cuts to Medicaid. We urged attendees to contact their representatives who were voting on the budget bill. Many knew what was happening and were grateful for the TRYs we handed out and the timely alert we shared about the pending vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. We handed out a small flyer at EWU, but did not use the flyer at Spokane Valley opting instead to urge attendees to phone or email elected officials and show them where in the TRY brochure they could find contact information.

### Volunteers needed for:

- 6/5 10 am Naturalization Ceremony  
- Federal Courthouse  
2 volunteers needed
- 6/12 10 am Naturalization Ceremony - Federal Courthouse  
2 volunteers needed
- 6/14 11 am to 6 pm Spokane Pride  
- Riverfront Park - 6 volunteers needed
- 6/21 11 am to 3 pm World Refugee Day - Pergola Event Center  
1 - 4 volunteers needed
- 6/26 10 am Naturalization Ceremony - Federal Courthouse  
2 volunteers needed
- 7/3 10:30 Naturalization Ceremony - Shriners Event Center  
4 volunteers needed

For naturalization ceremonies contact Sally Phillips,  
[phillips1948@comcast.net](mailto:phillips1948@comcast.net)

For all others contact Elaine Harger,  
[eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com)



### UPCOMING

Volunteers are needed  
Saturday, June 14  
at Spokane Pride.

The hope is to table from  
11:00 am to 6:00pm.

To do so, we'll need at least  
six volunteers for three  
shifts —

11am-1:30pm

1:30pm-4:00pm

4:00pm-6:00pm

Contact Elaine,  
[eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com),  
if you can help.



Contact your representatives TODAY!



### Tell Congress Not to Gut Medicaid

Congress is currently considering a budget package that would slash Medicaid funding, putting millions of American's health care coverage at risk.

Medicaid is the single largest source of health coverage in the country. Nearly 72 million Americans, including children, pregnant people, seniors, families with limited income, and people with disabilities, rely on Medicaid for essential care including doctor visits, hospitalizations, long-term care, maternity care, mental health care, and rural clinic services.

We must protect Medicaid for the millions who rely on it. Tell Congress not to endanger the health of our country.

20 May 2025 from LWVSpokane.org

# How can you get involved in LWV – Spokane Area?

By Julia Presar

Look through opportunities in the Volunteer Corner and connect with those people.

Read the updates in this Voter from Committees and reach out to the author if you want more information about what you read.

Go the website <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area> and peruse the calendar, the issues and the Member Handbook <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/members-only/member-handbook-organizational-chart-bylaws-standing-committees-annual-report-more>

As a wise LWV - Spokane Area member once said, *“The League is not a train that you jump on. It is a wagon, and you can either pull it or push it, but it won’t move unless you reach out and grab hold.”*

Volunteer Corner - grab the wagon!	
Opportunities	Contacts
Are you a public speaker?  You can give presentations to high school classes, business, immigrant and religious organizations. Topics include civics education and voter information.	Reach out to Beth Pelliciotti <a href="mailto:pelliccmb@gmail.com">pelliccmb@gmail.com</a>
Do you want to welcome new citizens to democracy and voting?  You can work with a partner and register naturalized citizens to vote at events throughout the summer.	Reach out to Sally Phillips <a href="mailto:phillips1948@comcast.net">phillips1948@comcast.net</a>
Do you like connecting with people in a casual environment?  Do you have ideas about how to engage the public in a fair/festival setting? Thoughts on table-top games? You could give input on innovative ways to encourage civic action.	Reach out to Elaine Harger <a href="mailto:eharger@drizzle.com">eharger@drizzle.com</a>
Are you comfortable in online meetings?  You could attend a monthly zoom meeting where people share league activities around the state and then report back to the LWVSA board.	Reach out to Lunell Haight <a href="mailto:lh1@fasmail.com">lh1@fasmail.com</a>
Do you enjoy listening, learning and taking notes?  You could observe local meetings (government, advocacy) and then report back to the Observer Corp or the Affordable Housing/Homelessness Committee.	Reach out to Sue Irwin for local government meetings <a href="mailto:sgirwin@gmail.com">sgirwin@gmail.com</a> or to Sherri Gangitano <a href="mailto:lwvsaahhs@gmail.com">lwvsaahhs@gmail.com</a> for meetings regarding housing.

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

## Welcoming Committee Updates

By Julia Presar

### *Summer schedule for League lunches and learning about the League*

Summer is a time when the League's rhythm changes. We continue to be out in the community. We spend summer as a time to organize for the coming year (LWV Spokane uses a June to June Calendar). There will be no Frankie Doodle's lunches or information sessions for new members, people are welcome to contact Lunell at any time with questions or suggestions. Our social time will be a summer gathering, no agenda, just food and friends. Mark your calendar for a potluck lunch on Saturday, July 26 at Lunell's house (car pool if you can) 7802 S. Cheney Spokane Road – 6.8 miles southwest of the smokestacks in downtown Spokane – easy to get to. If you'd like to help organize this, please contact Lunell at 509-443-1319 (land line, no text) or [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com)

Lunch with the League will resume in September.



## *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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