



## League of Women Voters® of Mason County

P. O. Box 2465 Shelton, WA98584 info@lwvmasoncounty.org [www.lwvmasoncounty.org](http://www.lwvmasoncounty.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMasonCounty>

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Mason County is blessed with abundant natural resources, which not only add to the quality of life for our community, but support critically important businesses like the shellfish, tourism, fishing, agriculture, and timber industries.

There is growing concern about the impacts of extreme weather events in Mason County. Extreme weather events have harmed the health, safety, and security of Mason County residents and have increased the urgency to take action. Our natural-resources based industries are the foundation of our economy. They are also the most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather events.

The League of Women Voters of Mason County is asking the County Commissioners to begin to develop a climate resilience plan. A particularly relevant example is the Climate Resiliency Plan adopted by Kitsap County in 2020.

[https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/Pages/Climate\\_Change\\_Resiliency\\_KC.aspx](https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/Pages/Climate_Change_Resiliency_KC.aspx)

Build Resilience – While climate change is a global challenge, the impacts are felt and addressed at the local level. Extreme floods, droughts, storms, wildfires, and the chronic impacts of sea level rise are local—and they fall to local governments to handle. Because climate change exacerbates existing risks and brings new ones, it is critically important that all communities build climate resilience. A resilient community will understand what changes to expect, make smart investments, and ensure that residents are prepared for climate impacts. **The sooner a community begins to prepare for change, the greater the potential to avoid loss of lives and property. When communities wait until major impacts are upon them, the costs are greater and the options for effective response are fewer.** (GEOS Institute 2019 / <https://climatereadycommunities.org>)

We know how hard it can be to develop a climate resilience plan and get it implemented. The League wants to be a resource for this work, realizing that capacity issues are a reality for many small counties. We understand the importance of working and thinking together, creating solutions that will make the whole community more resilient.

We look forward to your response and engaging in a conversation about taking the first steps in building a highly resilient community.

League of Women Voters of Mason County Co-Presidents

Lynn Busacca

Dee Ann Kline

Nancy Snyder

Cheryl Williams

