

Voting rights are the cornerstone of our democracy. The process of voting in Washington State is lauded as fair, inclusive, efficient, and transparent. But voting is only the first step of engagement in our democracy. Making sure our legislators hear us is a crucial second step and an essential commitment. Now that the Legislature is in full swing, the members of the League of Women Voters of Mason County are actively engaging our legislators in discussions on legislation we support and advocating for policies we believe in.

The League was founded to be a nonpartisan voice for American voters who wanted free, fair, and open elections above all else. Our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. The League's advocacy has always been issue-based, and we arrive at our positions after careful study and input from LWV members in our communities locally and across Washington and the nation. We never derive our positions from politicians, candidates or political parties. Our allegiance will always be first and foremost to the voters.

However, it can be a challenge to avoid the appearance of partisanship when publicly addressing issues such as racial injustice, climate change, and voting rights in this heightened political climate; but we must continue to speak out. We don't believe wanting every eligible voter to have equal access to the ballot box is partisan. We don't believe wanting a robust democracy in which everyone has an equal voice and equal representation is partisan. And we don't believe wanting to improve our environment to ensure we have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink is partisan – it is American.

The League of Women Voters will proudly continue our advocacy in striving to create a stronger, more inclusive, just, and equitable democracy for American voters – a place where everyone has a voice. We hope you agree – we hope you will make the commitment and join us. Visit us at <https://my.lwv.org/washington/mason-county>.

Karen Herr
LWVMC Co-president