



Mason County VOTER

**EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

**League of Women Voters of Mason County
Fall 2021**

Dee Ann Kline, editor
deeannk3@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p><u>Friday, September 3</u> Board Meeting 12:30-2:30pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Tuesday, September 21</u> Membership Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm Speaker: Chad Hanson: Author of Smoke Screen ZOOM link sent prior to meeting.</p> <p><u>Thursday, Sept 23</u> Climate Change Educational Meeting 11:00am – 12:00pm Theme: Welcome Back/Welcome in Speaker: Nancy Vogler: Report on Climate Reality Training ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Tuesday, September 28</u> National Voter Registration Day</p>	<p><u>Friday, October 1</u> Board Meeting 12:30-2:30pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Thursday, October 7</u> Climate Change Planning/Strategy 11:00am – 12:00pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Tuesday, October 19</u> Membership Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm Topic and Speaker: TBD ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Thursday, October 28</u> Climate Change Educational Meeting 11:00am – 12:00pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, November 2</u> Election Day Deposit your ballot in a ballot box by 8pm</p> <p><u>Thursday, November 4</u> Climate Change Planning/Strategy 11:00am – 12:00pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Friday, November 5</u> Board Meeting 12:30-2:30pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Tuesday, November 16</u> Membership Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm Topic and Speaker: TBD ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p>	<p><u>Thursday, December 2</u> Climate Change Planning/Strategy 11:00am – 12:00pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Friday, December 3</u> Board Meeting 12:30-2:30pm ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p> <p><u>Tuesday, December 21</u> Membership Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm Topic and Speaker: TBD ZOOM link sent prior to meeting</p>

*** All monthly membership meetings and programs are open to the public.**

Non-members contact lwmasoncountywa@gmail.com for the ZOOM link for the Membership Meeting.

Information about each meeting is also on the website: www.lwmasoncounty.org

Membership in the LWVMC is highly encouraged but not required. Donations (cash or check) are gratefully and happily accepted!

By Amy Davis and Karen Herr [LOOKING BACK: 2020-2021](#)

LWVMC 2020-2021 - Annual Report

We are calling this past year “The Year of Zoom”. Although Covid-19 deprived us of the camaraderie of in-person meetings, we were energized by the increased attendance at meetings and workshops through Zoom and embraced our unusual circumstances by inviting diverse and prominent speakers from far and wide.

We charged ahead to get out the vote, clarify voting issues, lobby our legislators, advance racial justice, examine solutions to poverty, lobby in support of responsible government, and found common purpose through civic engagement. We advocated for resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change, celebrated our past, and progressed into our future.

Advocacy

- Masked-up in July, we gathered about half the signatures needed to place Home Rule Charter, (an effective form of holding local government accountable) on the November ballot.
- Wrote Letters to County Commissioners and Letters to the Editor in support of Home Rule.
- Urged members to support specific (over 30) State legislative bills during the 2020 session.
- Attended LWVWA Action Workshop in December – record turnout.
- Attended LWVWA Lobby Week in February – record turnout. We met with Rep. MacEwen’s Legislative Aid to advocate for democracy bills.
- Wrote a letter to Board of County Commissioners in support of HB 1590 (using funds for low-income housing).
- Wrote three different Letters to the Editor that voiced our support for democracy, climate, Asian American Pacific Islanders, housing, and environmental concerns.
- Sent a letter to Port of Shelton opposing Regional Airport location in our area.
- Inaugurated a Speak Up School Committee to educate citizens about re-districting and training them to prepare and present testimony in public hearings on re-districting.
- Received regular updates from our Observer Corps on local government agendas.
- Hosted nine programs/speakers to encourage dialogue on current topics.

Voter Empowerment

- More than 35 get out the vote volunteers participated in our Postcard Project to send 4991 handwritten postcards encouraging new voters, voters who didn’t vote in 2016, and voters from a low turnout precinct. Financial support of \$1500 from an anonymous donor, plus many volunteers purchased their own stamps. The entire effort was submitted to LWVWA as a nomination for the Local Leagues’ Strengthening Democracy Award.
- Coordinated with Mason County Elections on Be Vote Ready campaign. Attended voter registration training.
- Voter Services Committee registered voters in person in September and October at various sites and distributed TRY (They Represent You) and information flyers.
- Dressed in suffragist costumes on National Voter Registration Day and waved signs to Vote Early.
- Wrote three Letters to the Editor on the topics of voter information and voter encouragement.
- Participated in two iFiberOne News_Radio interviews.
- Attended Civic Engagement meeting with author of “The State We’re In”.
- Partnered with other counties to produce Candidate Forums.

Membership Outreach

- 70 members total, 18 of whom are new to our League.
- Held one League 101 orientation with 16 new members in attendance.
- Initiated a Telephone Tree to stay connected during the pandemic.

- Focused on ways to engage membership through seven different committees: Voter Services, Climate Change, Observer Corps, Advocacy, Centennial Projects, Growth Management Study, and Speak Up School.
- Purchased and distributed “Impact on Issues” 2020-2022.
- Distributed “The State We’re In” to new members.
- Sent out numerous colorful and information-packed electronic invitations.
- Formed a Tech Communications Team.

Centennial Committee

- Eight League members worked to bring a spotlight on seven “Women Leaders of Mason County” who pushed the boundaries, demonstrated civic spirit, and represented the diversity of our county.
- Supported with a Mason County Preservation Commission grant and funds from our LWVMC budget.
- Biographies of each woman have been recorded and posted on our website and shared with the LWVWA.

Climate Change Committee

- Held 13 programs with prominent speakers to accomplish its mission: “to increase awareness of climate change and its projected impacts on our local economy, environment, and quality of life; to evaluate local, state, and national energy/climate change initiatives and legislation; and to coordinate with other organizations advocating for policies to lessen and forestall climate change impacts. Working as a non-partisan group, the committee will share scientific, objective information from up-to-date and reliable sources with local and state businesses, governmental leaders, and our community.”
- Connected with scientists, youth groups, tribes, legislators, business concerns, industry concerns, ordinary citizens, environmental justice groups, local government, and local media.
- Established ongoing contacts with the media, school districts, climate justice groups, and LWVWA Climate Issue Chair.
- Wrote letters to The Shelton Mason County Journal, Port of Shelton, Shelton City Council (four total).
- Meetings were publicized and reported by The Shelton Mason County Journal.

Growth Management Act

- A new study group formed to focus on the function of local growth management.

New Leadership Model

- Our nominating committee proposed, created, and nominated a four-member leadership model to share the goals and tasks of leadership for our upcoming year – 2021-2022.

By Leadership Team

MOVING FORWARD: 2021-2022

The new four- member Leadership Team composed of Lynn Busacca, Dee Ann Kline, Nancy Snyder, and Cheryl Williams is a unique leadership model in LWVWA. The responsibilities of leadership have been divided so that each member of the Leadership Team will be responsible for coordinating the



meetings and activities for specific months of the year. Each member will also provide support to one or more of the Committees.

We begin our new program year with uncertainty of the impact of emergence of the Delta variant of Covid. Safety of our members is forefront in determining how we can carry on our League activities and engage with the public in civic activities. For the near future, board and general meetings will be held via ZOOM.

We were able to hold an in-person planning retreat in early August. Committee chairs presented a Program of Work for the 2021-2022 year. These Programs of Work are described in the next section: **What's Up with LWV-Local**

What's Up with LWV – Local

Bobbie Stady Chair

Voter Services Committee



Our goal is to provide voter education, as appropriate, during the Covid-19 pandemic, through voter registration public announcements, presentations to school age students and through distribution and introduction of the new edition of The State We Are In: Washington to schools and educational programs in Mason County.

Voter Registration

In light of the Pandemic, we are focused on investigating ways to encourage voter registration without face-to-face encounters. Ways we are considering now are:

- Advertising on digital message boards located in Mason County
- Hanging colorful flyers in strategic locations
- Producing Radio blurbs
- Placing flyers in the local newspaper
- Writing postcards to reluctant voters
- Messaging on the LWV Facebook page

Voter Education

We are willing to meet with school districts and specified people to discuss/present the new edition of The State We Are In: Washington.



We have already met with several local educational programs and have plans to begin anew in August/September.

What we aim to ACCOMPLISH in Mason County this year is an:

- Increase in the number of voter registrations, young and old, through alternative means.
- Increase in awareness of the voting process through effective messaging.
- Increase in civic knowledge through improved resources to our community of educators.

By Lynn Busacca

Membership and Outreach Committee

GET EXCITED, BE ENGAGED!!

A significant goal of our committee is to connect our members with an area of interest and a sense of purpose. Ask yourself: do I want to make sure every eligible person can vote? Am I interested in learning more about the impact of climate change in Mason County? What are the current issues and how can I effectively advocate with my elected officials? Let us know what excites you! Join an in-person neighborhood gathering or connect through Zoom at a future League 101 or a Meet & Greet event. Stay tuned for more information or contact a committee member to discover how your talent, skill or passion can be best utilized: cindyshotts@hotmail.com or Lbusacca@gmail.com

BECOME A MEMBER, JOIN OR RENEW

For 100 years, LWV has been highly trusted organization. Become a citizen advocate

Want to support our League your membership to work,



fighting for voting rights. We are a with demonstrated effectiveness. and help make our voices heard!

but have no time? Join anyway and put even if you cannot.

New Membership? Select a LWV-Mason County, P. O.

the new member form found on our website (name, mailing address, email, preferred phone number, areas of interest). Dues are not tax-deductible.

dues category, then send your check to Box 2465, Shelton, WA 98584. Include

\$60 Basic Membership

\$90 Household Membership

\$25 Student Membership

\$100 Irene Davis Membership (honors our founder and provides additional support to fund our work and special projects).

\$120 (new category) Jean Moore Membership (honors long time member Jean Moore and provides additional support to fund our work and special projects).

Renewal? Select a dues category and send your check to LWV-Mason County, P. O. Box 2465, Shelton, WA 98584 or pay with a credit card from the Square link on the website www.lwvmasoncounty.org. Please note if any information has changed: phone number, email, mailing address.

Questions, concerns, scholarship requests? Contact lbusacca@gmail.com

By Amy Davis and Karen Herr

Advocacy

Our Advocacy Committee will be a work in progress. We do not yet have a specific list of everything we want to accomplish this year, but when issues arise in the community and positions are taken by the League, we will determine the best course of action to take to engage our members.

Program of Work and Member Engagement:

One of the most important aspects of advocacy is encouraging and engaging more of our members in getting involved and taking action. It's vital for the success of our League. One priority is to ensure all members have an opportunity to engage in some sort of advocacy this year.

Other priorities:

- Continue to share State and National League action alerts with our members – giving them the opportunity to weigh in on pertinent legislation.
- Resume the postcard parties – dependent on the Covid situation.
- Send out weekly emails during the 2022 Legislative Session to encourage members to act on League priority bills.

By Cindy Shotts

Centennial Committee

Program of Work: Focus area—Women Power Democracy

Centennial Committee members will plan for four county-wide presentations on the Women Leaders of Mason County project. A reachable goal is two events in fall 2021 and two events in spring 2022. One of the events can be in February to highlight LWV founding.

Organizations in Mason County will be asked to co-sponsor events in the various areas of the county. An example could be to work with Mary M. Knight school and the Old-timers event in May in Matlock to honor Mary M. Knight. Events will be advertised on KMAS radio, the Journal non-profit column, and through co-sponsor organizations. Photos and reporting in the Journal to follow each event. Photos and stories will be featured on the LWVMC newsletter, website, and Facebook page.



By Cheryl Williams

Observer Corp

Program of Work: Observer Corps members go to each meeting and report back at each general membership (and possible board) meeting on what is going on around the county. Agendas for each meeting serve as a guide as to what can be discussed in the report.

We are currently observing Mason County Commissioner meetings. They meet on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00am. Commission meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.co.mason.wa.us. You can watch the meetings LIVE or recorded at MasonWebTV.Com. .

A goal is to have at the very least County and City meetings covered, but here are some others (subject to change):

- PUD Commission (1 and 3)
- Port of Shelton Commission
- Port of Allyn Commission
- Local School Boards
- Planning Advisory Commission

Member engagement: All members are invited to join the committee and can choose which meetings they'd like to cover. Similar to journalism, once you're involved with one, there's a yearning to find out more!

Duties include attending or listening to a current meeting, preparing, and giving a concise report on anything important, and serving as a point of contact for member questions. This is your chance to be engaged in local government and politics.

We may eventually be able to gather over coffee or lunch dates to debrief!

By Sherri Dysart

Climate Change Committee



LWVMC Mission:

The LWVMC Climate Change Committee's mission is to increase awareness of climate change and its projected impacts on our local economy, environment, and quality of life. The Climate Change Committee is committed to transformational conversations with local citizens, NGOs, businesses, tribal and governmental entities, by fostering open and ongoing exchange with all interested parties.

Program of Work:

Actions to support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

How will the CCC support climate goals and policies in Mason County?

- Help identify climate goals for Mason County
- Advocate for climate change resiliency assessment

Meetings:

Climate Change Committee members will meet twice per month, the first and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 11:00 – 12:00, via Zoom. The first meeting of the month is normally a Planning/Strategy meeting; the second meeting of the month is an educational forum featuring guest speakers. The next meeting is September 23, 2021, at 11:00 AM. The 9/23/21 meeting will be an orientation for new and continuing members, and an exploration of upcoming topics for study.

Marilyn Vogler, Chair **GROWTH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Growth Management Committee will meet this year to study the Mason County Growth Management and prepare to present testimony when the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan is updated in 2023. As meetings are scheduled, they will be posted on the website www.lwvmasoncounty.org

By Cindy Shotts **TECH/COMMUNICATION TEAM**

Program of Work:

A new committee with members who are interested and skilled in using technology will assess our current technology tools and make recommendations for how to better utilize our webpage, Facebook page, newsletter, Gmail account, sign-up tools, Zoom, etc. The team members will investigate new tools that may improve our outreach and use the LWVWA Technology Affinity group as a source for how other local Leagues in the state use technology.

The goal of using technology is to make our LWVMC work accessible to members and the public. The focus is to improve our outreach through technology.

Member Engagement:

Members will be invited to participate, especially members who have expressed an interest in technology. After the LWVMC board and membership agrees on any new technology, the team could offer training for members.

By Dee Ann Kline **LWV Mason County Communication Tools**

The LWV Mason County website (www.lwvmasoncounty.org) continues to be updated. VOTER SERVICES TAB includes drop down menus on Voter Information, Voter Registration and Vote-By-Mail. News Tab includes information about our Mason County League and important Voter events. The Newsletter can also be found on the News Tab. Be sure to check the Calendar page for information about League events. You will find our Mason County Advocacy Positions and Action Alerts in the Action and Advocacy section. If you would like something added to the website, send it to Dee Ann at deeannk3@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Mason County maintains an active Facebook page. By “Liking” this page and then sharing the posts, we can spread our important messages. Cindy Shotts administers the Facebook page: cindyschotts@hotmail.com .

We utilize email to distribute important documents such as meeting agendas and minutes. This newsletter is also sent by email. If you are not receiving these emails, contact Nancy McMahon: eldermama2020@gmail.com

What's Up with LWV – State

A refreshed DEI Working Committee is forming, and if DEI is something you care deeply about, please consider joining!

Maybe you even know someone who might also be

interested. There are plenty of ways your interests and skills can help move us forward: technical talents,

community connections, ideas for reaching out to our membership, and more. We work closely with Civics Education, Voter Services, and Advocacy. Contact Susan Fleming at sfleming@lwvwa.org to participate.



Registration is open for the fall 2021 Cultivating Civic Conversations About Race seminar groups, which will meet two times a day on Wednesdays, September 8 through November 17. Participants have a choice of attending a

meeting at 10 a.m. or 4 p.m., depending on their schedules.

This 11-week seminar offers participants an opportunity to discuss key questions about race in a learning community that is anchored by Ijeoma Oluo's bestselling book, *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Each week, we tackle the questions Oluo so generously asks and answers through the lens of her lived experience and extensive research. We layer additional content into the sessions from a wide variety of sources—podcasts, YouTube, TED Talks, and recent conferences. Contact Katherine Murphy kbmurphy@lwvwa.org for information.

What's Up with LWV – National Advocacy Positions

Fighting Voter Suppression

We challenge all efforts and tactics that threaten our democracy and limit the ability of voters to exercise their right to vote.

Money in Politics

Elections should be about the voters not big money interests. It's time to limit SuperPACs and secret donors to protect representative democracy

Redistricting

Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. We oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering that strips rights away from voters.

Recommended Reading

Smoke Screen: Debunking Wildfire Myths to Save our Forests and our Climate

Author: Chad Hanson (Speaker for Sept 23 meeting)

Katie Gale: A Coastal Salish Woman's Life on Oyster Bay

Author: Llyn De Danaan (Member of LWV Mason County)

On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the 20th Century

Author: Timothy Snyder

The State We're In: Washington

Available on the LWVWA website: www.Lwvwa.org

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MEDIA

The **Shelton-Mason County Journal, iFiberOne News Radio, and Mason WebTV** are valuable resources for local news and information.

"Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy." Walter Cronkite

Content suggestions may be sent via email to deeannk3@gmail.com. The editorial board is responsible for content and reserves the right to edit all submissions

Additional information about the League of Women Voters Mason County (LWVMC) is available at our web site: www.lwvmasoncounty.org (LWV Mason County) or by email to lwvmasoncountywa@gmail.com. LWVMC meets on the third Tuesday of the month (no meetings in July and August) from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. All meetings are open to the public. **DURING THE COVID-19 PERIOD OF STAY AT HOME, MEETINGS ARE TAKING PLACE VIA ZOOM.** Non-members can contact lwvmasoncountywa@gmail.com for information and a ZOOM link. Members will receive a ZOOM link by email.