



## VOTER

April 2022

[www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org)

### President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

The month of April seems to embody the essence of spring with the blooming of beautiful flowers, sunny skies, and the rebirth of nature. Throughout the year, our League continues the mission of Making Democracy Work.® Specifically, during the spring, summer and fall, League members encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote. Please take the time to remind your relatives, friends, and neighbors of the importance of elections and how they affect our daily lives. April is one of the months in which special elections are allowed to be held. This year on **April 26<sup>th</sup>**, the Kennewick, Finley, and Prosser School Districts will be running their levies again. This time the Kennewick SD is requesting levy money for two years, rather than four.

Please see the following information and dates listed below for the 2022 Primary and General Elections. The races in 2022 range from Senatorial, Congressional and Legislative Districts to County Officials, Judges, and the Pasco School District. (Because of redistricting, all five of the Pasco School District Board members will end their current terms in 2022. Redistricting may have an impact on other Benton and Franklin County races as well.)

For specific information on the next election date for officials from the President through those who govern the local area, go to [www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org) and click on Publications. There you will find our TRY (They Represent You) pamphlet. Reminder-please note the following months and dates:

**April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** - Zoom Business/Planning Meeting

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Earth Day

**April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** - Zoom Table Talk- Steve Ghan, retired PNNL Climate Scientist

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** - Cinco de Mayo; **May 8<sup>th</sup>** - Mother's Day.

**May 16th-20th** - The week that candidates officially file to run for office. **July 15th** - Date for ballots to be mailed out.

**May 19th at 6:00 p.m.** - LWV-BF Annual Meeting -All members are invited

**May 30th** - Memorial Day

**June 10th-12th** - LWV-WA Council – Everett

**-\* June 16th at 6:00 p.m.** – Zoom Business/Planning Meeting

**June 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** - Table Talk with Benton County Auditor Brenda Chilton regarding election processes. It may also include Franklin County Auditor Matt Beaton, and/or Steve Hobbs, WA Secretary of State. - **TBD** - (Zoom, in-person, or hybrid)

**June 23rd-26th** - LWV-US Convention - Denver, Colorado and Virtual

**July** - **LWV-BF** Candidate Forums/Debates will be conducted. Northwest Public Broadcasting will again be our production partners.

**August 2nd** - Primary Election.

**October 21st** - Ballots to be mailed out. LWV-BF Candidate Forums/Debates will be conducted. Northwest Public Broadcasting will again be our production partners.

**November 8th** - General Election.

## **Treasurer’s Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen**

At February 28, 2022:

<b>Checking is:</b>	<b>\$6,712.34</b>
<b>Savings is:</b>	<b>\$1,856.83</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,569.17</b>

<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
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\$75. 00 in dues were received.

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$2,553.00</b>
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Expenses were \$400.00 to California for the website; \$1,016.00 to the national League (LWV-US)’and \$603.00 to the state League (LWV-WA) for our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter PMP’s. We also paid \$100.00 to the LWV-WA Education Fund for 5 elementary books, “The State We’re In” and \$431.00 printing the brochures “They Represent You”.

**Membership and Dues:** We have 87 members including 7 students, 11 second in household members.

**Budget:** The budget committee, Janet Nail (chair), Susan Kreid, and the Treasurer met in March and the Proposed FY2022-23 budget was presented at the March Business and Planning meeting. Board approval is slated for April and the budget is formally approved by the membership at the May Annual Meeting.

Whether you attend the National convention or State Council, we have enough funds to send one or two members. You may have your own room if you pay for half of it. Also, Thursday night is usually paid by the members themselves.

**National Convention:** The National Convention is in Denver, CO June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. The in-person registration fee is \$475.00, and the virtual registration fee is \$300.00. Information is at this link: [Home | League of Women Voters 2022 Convention \(lwv.org\)](https://www.lwv.org). The Sheraton is charging \$209.00/night for a double room and parking is \$40.00/day. We would like to encourage newer members to attend this informative and interesting convention.

**LWV-WA Council:** State Council will be held in June 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at the [Delta Hotels-Marriott](https://www.deltahotels.com) in Everett. Fellow League members from all over Washington state are perusing local League table displays of current projects, books and brochures, and perhaps silent auction baskets. Registration for the Council is \$125.00 (early bird) and after May 14<sup>th</sup> will be \$150.00. Here is the link: [League of Women Voters of Washington - The LWV of Washington Council, "Reconnect, Restore, Renew," Set for June \(lwvwa.org\)](https://www.lwvwa.org)

## Update on the WA Legislative Session ~ Lora Rathbone

New (or soon to be) WA State Laws:

The WA Legislative session for 2022 ended on March 10. Here is a list of bills that the LWV-WA supported that are now law, and several that have passed but are still waiting for the governor's signature. (He likely will sign these). Please take a moment and thank our legislators when they vote for the bills we support. They really appreciate it! And thank you for your help with calling or writing.

You can see a much more extensive list of bills in the attached document, along with how the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> LD legislators voted.

To learn more about the final version of the bill that passed, type in the bill number at <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

HB 1878/SB 5798 - Expand free lunches to all students (no effective date)

SB 5583 - People Incarcerated in a group setting to be counted at home for local redistricting. Effective date 6/9/2022.

SB 5497 - Extends voting authority to student members on the state board of education. Effective 6/9/2022.

SB 5078 - High-Capacity Magazine restriction. Effective date 7/1/2022.

HB 1630 - Restricting weapons in certain locations, including school board meetings. Delivered to governor.

HB 1705 - Closing ghost guns loophole Delivered to governor.

HB 1590 - Enrollment stabilization funding for local school levies to address enrollment declines. Delivered to Governor.

HB 1953 - Sensitive Voter Information. Delivered to Governor

New (or soon to be) WA State Laws:

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You can see a much more extensive list of bills in the attached document, along with how the 8, 9, and 16<sup>th</sup> LD legislators voted.

## LWV and other Bills that passed in 2022

Category	Bill Number	Bill Title/Description	Bill Status
Democracy	SB 5793	Stipends for Low Income People to Participate in Policy Making	PASSED. Del. To Governor. Sen. <b>Sch.- Yes.</b> B,D-No. Rep. <b>Rep Rude-Y.</b> B,K,K,D,S-No.
Democracy	HB 1876	Disclosures for Ballot Measures having fiscal Impact on State Revenue.	PASSED. Del. To Gov. Sen. B,D,S; Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - No
Democracy	HB 1953	Sensitive Voter Information	PASSED. Del. To Gov. <b>Rep Rude-Y.</b> Sen. B,D,S; Rep B,K,K,D,S-No.
Democracy	SB 5583	People Incarcerated & in group setting to be counted at home for local redistricting	<b>PASSED. Gov. signed Mar 11.</b> Effective date 6/9/2022*. <b>Boen, Klip, Rude, Klic – Y.</b> Dye and Schm- No. Sen B,D,S- No.
Democracy	HB 1156/SB 5584 5182 5148 5597 5636	-Ranked choice voting (local) -Advisory votes - Harassment of election officials - Enhanced WA voting Rights act -Auto voter registration	All died.
LWV- Education	HB 1590	Enrollment stabilization funding for local school levies to address enrollment declines	Mar 10 Delivered to Gov. <b>Rep Rude, Klic- Y.</b> B,Klip,D, S and Sen B,D,S- no

Category	Bill Number	Bill Title/Description	Bill Status
LWV- Education	HB 1664	Increases prototypical school formulas by increasing the number of school nurses	Mar 10 Delivered to Gov. <b>Sen. B,D,S and Rude- Y</b> ; Reps B,K,K,D,S- no.
LWV- Education	HB 1723	Increases the accessibility and affordability of telecommunication services, devices, and training	Mar 10 Delivered to Gov. <b>Rep Boen, Rude, – Y.</b> Klck, Klip, Dye, Sch and Sen. B,D,S- No.
Food/Nutrition	<u>HB 1878</u> <u>SB 5798</u>	Expand free lunches to all students	<b>PASSED. Gov. signed</b> on 3/4. <b>Sen B,D- Y</b> ; Sch-no. <b>Rep B,K,K,R,S,D - Y</b>
Food/Nutrition	<u>HB 1833</u>	Statewide multilingual tool for school meal applications programs	<b>PASSED.</b> Delivered to gov. on 3/8. <b>Sen. B,D,S and Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - Y</b>
Economic Justice	<u>SB 5838</u> <u>HB 1947</u>	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) diaper subsidy	<b>PASSED. 3/17/22 Gov. signed.</b> Effective date 11/1/2023. <b>Sen. B,D,S - Y.</b> Reps B,K,K,R,S,D – No.
Economic Justice	Budget	Increase the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) monthly grant.	Included in Supplemental <b>Budget PASSED.</b>
Economic Justice	<u>HB 1748</u>	Expand ABD program eligibility to human trafficking victims	<b>PASSED.</b> Delivered to gov. on 3/10. Unanimous.

Economic Justice	<a href="#"><u>SB 5649</u></a>	Paid Family and Medical Leave access	PASSED. Delivered to gov. on 3/11. <b>Sen B,D- Y</b> ; Sch-no. <b>Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - Y</b>
Economic Justice	Budget	We Feed Washington emergency food program	Included in Supplemental <b>Budget PASSED.</b>
Economic Justice	<a href="#"><u>HB 2075</u></a>	Reducing call-center wait times and providing in-person services at DSHS.	PASSED. Delivered to governor on 3/10. Reps <b>B,K,R,S,D – Y</b> . Klip excused. Senate unanimous – Y.
Economic Justice	<a href="#"><u>HB 1888</u></a>	Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) Budget request of \$10M, expanding eligibility	<b>PASSED. Governor signed on 3/11. Sen B,D- Y</b> ; Sch-no. <b>Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - Y</b>
Economic Justice	<a href="#"><u>HB 1723</u></a>	Digital Equity Act	PASSED. Delivered to gov. on 3/10. Sen. B,D,S- No. Rep <b>B, Klick, Rude – Y</b> ; Klip, Dye, Schm- no.
Environment	<a href="#"><u>HB 1814</u></a>	Community Solar- equitable access (not a FAN bill)	PASSED. Delivered to governor. Sen. B,D,S and Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - No
Healthcare	<a href="#"><u>HB 1616</u></a>	Expand Charity Care Act	PASSED. Delivered to gov. on 3/10. Sen. B,D,S and Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - No
Immigrant Rights/Healthcare	Budget	Health Equity for Immigrants Campaign	Included in Supplemental <b>Budget PASSED.</b>
Immigrant Rights	Budget	\$28.4million one-time funding for Afghan and Ukrainian refugee resettlement.	Included in Supplemental <b>Budget PASSED.</b>
Indigenous Rights	<a href="#"><u>HB 1725</u></a>	Create an endangered missing indigenous person advisory	PASSED. Delivered to governor on 3/10. Unanimous.

Gun Responsibility	<a href="#">SB 5078</a>	High Capacity Magazine restrictions	<b>PASSED. Governor signed.</b> Effective date 7/1/2022. Sen. B,D,S and Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - No
Gun Responsibility	<a href="#">HB 1630</a>	Restricting weapons in certain locations, including school board meetings	PASSED. Delivered to gov. on 3/10. Sen. B,D,S and Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - No
Gun Responsibility	<a href="#">HB 1705</a>	Closing ghost guns loophole	PASSED. Delivered to gov. on 3/7. Sen. B,D,S and Reps B,K,K,R,S,D - No
Housing	SB 5566	Expanding eligibility for the independent youth housing program.	Delivered to Governor
Housing	SB 5883	Unaccompanied homeless youth's ability to provide informed consent	Delivered to Governor

## Observer Corps ~ Diane Molleson

The LWV-BF has an Observer Corps where members attend events of interest to the community, such as school board, city council, port commissioner, county commissioner meetings etc. and report their observations to the League. We currently have an observer reporting on the West Richland City Council, and accounts of Richland's City Council meetings can be found at [tricitieobserver.com](http://tricitieobserver.com)

More observers are always welcome. Here is a list of potential local government meetings to observe.

### County Commissioners

Benton County      Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. [www.co.benton.wa.us](http://www.co.benton.wa.us)  
Franklin County    Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. [www.co.franklin.wa.us](http://www.co.franklin.wa.us)

### City Council

Kennewick: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month- 6:30 p.m. [www.go2kennewick.com](http://www.go2kennewick.com)

Richland: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month- 6:00 p.m. [www.ci.richland.wa.us](http://www.ci.richland.wa.us)

Pasco: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of every month, except observed holidays- 7 p.m.  
[www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov)



Benton City: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month-7:00 p.m. [www.ci.benton-city.wa.us](http://www.ci.benton-city.wa.us)

West Richland: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month- 6:00 p.m.  
[www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org)

**City Planning Committee (same websites as city council, listed above)**

Kennewick: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month- 6:30 p.m.

Richland: 4th Wednesday of every month - 6:00 p.m.

Pasco: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month- 7:00 p.m.

**Richland Library Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month-5:30 p.m.  
[www.myrichlandlibrary.org](http://www.myrichlandlibrary.org)

**Mid-Columbia Libraries Board:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month- 5:30 p.m.  
[www.midcolumbialibraries.org](http://www.midcolumbialibraries.org)

**School Districts/ School Board Meetings**

Kennewick: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. [www.ksd.org](http://www.ksd.org)

Pasco: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. [www.psd1.org](http://www.psd1.org)

Richland: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. [www.rsd.edu](http://www.rsd.edu)

Benton City: check website for meeting announcements: [www.kibesd.org](http://www.kibesd.org)

**Ports**

Benton: 8:30 a.m. Check website for meeting dates [www.portofbenton.com](http://www.portofbenton.com)

Kennewick: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month at 2:00 p.m. [www.portofkennewick.org](http://www.portofkennewick.org)

Pasco: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. [www.portofpasco.org](http://www.portofpasco.org)

## **Irrigation Districts**

Kennewick Irrigation District 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.  
[www.kid.org](http://www.kid.org)

Benton Irrigation District (Benton City): 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. at 3:00 p.m. and 4<sup>th</sup> Mon. at 8 a.m. [www.bidwater.org](http://www.bidwater.org)

## **They Represent You (TRYs) ~ Diane Molleson**

Our 2022 TRY pamphlet has now been printed and distributed to the ports, Auditor's Offices, City Halls, community centers and other organizations. It will also be distributed to some schools via the Civics Education Committee. It can be found on our website at [www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org) If you would like a hard copy, please contact Diane Molleson at [molleson@frontier.com](mailto:molleson@frontier.com) and I will mail one to you.

## **Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development ~ Polly Parton**

**MELD Zoom Meeting**-Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development,  
February 2, 2022

MELD calls share between leagues ideas, accomplishments and best practices with guidance and mentorship from our coach Lynn Busacca. Our calls are usually 60 minutes, Lynn provides an agenda. Discussions are casual and productive. Contact Polly Parton if you would like to join the next call. Phone 509-551-3818 or [polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com)

Attendees- Lynn Busacca of Mason Co. (Facilitator), Jayne Frietag (LWV-WA Board Representative) of Seattle/King Co., Carol Goss., and Shelley Kneip of Thurston Co., Carol Larson of Kitsap Co., Maren Halvorsen of Clallam Co., Maree Lerchen of Lewis Co. and Polly Parton of Benton-Franklin Co.

## **Round Table Review-**

Maren Halvorsen- is newly appointed to the Squim School Board and they are searching for a Superintendent. Their league challenge is they are still using a 4 person executive council for club leadership.

Carol Goss- about 40 people watched their recent comprehensive Tribal Health Care Forum with Vicki Lowe. She asks how other groups compensate their speakers. Their program planning will include voter ed., get out the vote, engaging youth, DEI and good local government. Their candidate forum committee has met.

Sheley Kneip- they are updating the policy and procedure manual.

Carol Larson- civics ed. meeting is scheduled on 03/14, and on 03/16 End of Life presentation will be discussed with a public health official.

Maree Lerchen- is still recovering from her recent accident but a March Zoom meeting is planned for their newly formed LWV unit, also searching for rosters of past and new members in the new area. She will speak with Linda Benson about the process for electing their first leadership.

Polly Parton- civics ed. group will purchase some grade school level books *The State We're In* to help develop a presentation for younger kids. Our March Table Talk speaker will be Michele Gerber on establishing an addiction, recovery and rehabilitation facility in the Tri-Cities. We may host the 2023 State Convention.

### **Discussions**

How League can compensate speakers-Carol G. asked what others do. They are discussing to establish the criteria. Maren H. said they have given signed cards with a gift basket to Election Officials. Shelley K. said they gave LWV coffee mugs in the past. Most don't pay but acknowledged some form of appreciation should be given.

**Being a More Welcoming League-** Lynn B. led the discussion of this handout. Shelley K. noted when she joined it took a while to be personally welcomed, this task can be missed if not assigned. Carol G. noted we should ask each gathering about new participants. Maren H. liked new member profiles in newsletters. One of her members has invited new and existing members to a weekly walk and talk, she also felt having the President do a personal welcome is impactful, also carpooling was informative and helpful. Carol L. said their individual units are welcoming, planned speakers are a helpful event and delivering the welcome package in person can be very palpable and meaningful. Lynn B said they have used smaller neighborhood group events, have a mentorship program and some attended city meetings and tours together. Maree L. said we should be aware of a natural cliquish pattern that can happen.

Carol L. said their local library has equipment to facilitate hybrid in-person/zoom meetings. Maree L. felt zoom calls would be continued because of the geographic nature of their units.

Statement against anti democracy rally in Olympia- The request to sign on was met with mixed reviews because of limited background information and a lack of time to discuss as a group. Jayne F. said the state board had not signed on yet but is discussing and may submit an op-ed to?

## LWV-BF Book Club -Polly Parton

Come and Join Us!

Please join us as we start a local League book club. We may read fiction (or non), women's and social issues, biographies, political and climate stories plus new and older books. Our meetings will be limited to one-hour discussions and led by whoever chose that month's book. You can join us even if you haven't read the book (some months are busy). If the date and time doesn't hit the sweet spot, we will adjust (send me your ideas). I get most of my books from Mid-Columbia Library or used book sellers such as Thriftbooks. The first book choice is *State of Terror*, a fictional (hopefully?) political thriller about the Secretary of State set in the current time, available at Mid-Columbia Libraries. We will meet via Zoom for convenience.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month)

A Zoom invite will be sent to all members the 1<sup>st</sup> month, after that it will be sent only to those who request it. Please send me a text or email if you want on the invite list (even if you cannot always attend)

*State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny (available at Mid-Columbia Library)

Hope to see you there, Polly Parton, 509-551-3818 or [polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com)

## Thank you for Volunteering ~Judy Golberg

Many thanks to Polly Parton for becoming an administrator for LWV-BF's webpage and to Lynne Harrison for helping with our Facebook page. Having more than one person willing to do these jobs is so very helpful. Thank you for stepping up and volunteering.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m.** ~ Zoom Business/Planning (aka Board Meeting) All members are welcome to participate

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.** ~ Zoom Table Talk Climate Change Solutions , Steve Ghan, retired PNNL Climate Scientist

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Special Election

**May 19<sup>th</sup>.,6:00 p.m.** ~ Annual Meeting TBD-Zoom, in person or hybrid

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.** ~ Zoom Business Planning Meeting

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, -12<sup>th</sup>** ~ LWV-WA State Council-Evergreen

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.** ~ Table Talk with Benton County Auditor Brenda Chilton regarding election processes. It may also include Franklin County Auditor Matt Beaton, and/or Steve Hobbs, WA Secretary of State TBD-Zoom, in person or hybrid

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>, -26<sup>th</sup>** ~ LWV-US Convention Denver, CO and Virtual

**July** ~ Candidate Forums/Debates

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>,** ~ Primary

**October** ~ Candidate Forums/Debates

**November 8<sup>th</sup>,** ~ General Election

[lwv.of.bf@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.of.bf@gmail.com)

**Mailing Address:**

League of Women Voters of Benton and  
Franklin Counties  
P.O.Box 765  
Richland, WA 99352

**OFFICERS:**

President: Beverly Johnson-Torelli  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Diane Molleson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Polly Parton  
Secretary: Sandra Hendry  
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen  
Voter Editor: Peggy Gregory

**ELECTED DIRECTORS:**

Bree Bowen  
JoAnne Dimond  
Wendy Espinosa  
Ruvine Jimenez  
Janet Nail  
Lora Rathbone

**APPOINTED DIRECTORS:**

Christine Grantham  
Peggy Gregory  
Leona Hassing  
Sabiha Khan