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# THE **V**oter

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

VOLUME LXXXVIII ISSUE 4, April 2025  
*A printable version of The Voter is available at [LWVSpokane.org](http://LWVSpokane.org)*

## Spokane League's 75th Anniversary Celebration

By Elaine Harger



The celebration of the Spokane League's 75th anniversary, held at The Hive on the afternoon of March 22, was a wonderful success.

Eighty+ League members, friends, family and special guests attended and were treated to a delightfully funny performance of suffrage-era plays by Gonzaga students under the direction of Theater Program Chair, Prof. Leslie Stamoolis. The script was taken from *The Woman of It* by Mary Shaw (1914) and *An Anti-Suffrage Monologue* by Marie Jenney Howe (1913), and the message was timeless, speaking across a century to the sort of distorted thinking that denies the vote to any class of citizens.



Longtime and new League members were reunited and/or met for the very first time. The venue was perfect for simultaneous conversations scattered around

*75th Anniversary* cont'd page 2

## April Calendar

### Hands Off Rally

**Saturday, April 5, 3pm - 4:30pm**

BA Clark Park, 3922 N. Normandie St. Spokane, 99205 For more info see: <https://www.mobilize.us/handsoff/event/764887/>

### AH&HS Committee Meeting, Sunday,

**April 6**, meeting link email is [lwvsaahhs@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaahhs@gmail.com).

### General Meeting, hosted by the Environmental Issues Committee

**Tuesday, April 8**, 4:30pm - 7pm at The Hive 2904 E. Sprague Ave

### Board Meeting, Thursday, April 10,

**6pm to 8pm** on Zoom, for meeting link email [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com)

### Lunch with the League, Friday, April 11

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

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the room. Sheri Barnard, LWVSA president from 1977-79 and mayor of Spokane from 1989-94, accompanied by her walker and Louise Chadez, attended. Gary Stokes, general manager of KSPS, and Dawn Bayman, producer of Civics Bowl, were there and promised another high school civics game show to air next year.

Under the firm, but gracious leadership of LWVSA board member Ruth May, a dozen League members contributed time, energy and creativity to the gala event.

Pamela Joyner was in charge of the catering by Feast World Kitchen, an absolutely delicious assortment of Middle Eastern dishes. Mary Lloyd, Lunell Haight, and Elaine Harger spent hours with archival

material at the Museum of Arts and Culture to come up with a fantastic display (Mary), an exhibit of Spokane League studies (Lunell), and a zine (Elaine). Mariesa Lenz turned a mish-mash of photos of people, newspaper clippings, buttons into a looping slide show displayed on three large screens around the room.

Lin McGinn and Suzi Hokonson contributed to building the guest list and sending out the lovely invitations designed by Kyla Scott. League treasurer, Mike Bell, wrote the checks to pay for everything.

Last, but far from least, a dozen League members and at least two husbands helped with set up, greetings, and clean-up. No doubt, our League predecessors would have agreed...the event was a grand tribute to the past 75 – or was it, 77...91?! – years of League activism in Spokane.



**April Calendar, Meetings** cont'd from page 1  
**Redistricting Commission Reform Meeting, Thursday, April 17, 3pm** at Liberty Park Library work on team strategy to prepare for our legislators meet ups.

**Environmental Issues Committee Meeting, Thursday, April 17, 6:30pm** on Zoom, for a meeting link email [amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com](mailto:amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com).

**Tour of Spokane Election Office, Tuesday, April, 22 at 10am.** See the elections office in action while special election ballots are being counted! RSVP to Elaine, [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com). 1033 W. Gardner Ave. Spokane 99260

**The Voter Newsletter Deadline is Friday, April 18**  
Send info to: [corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)



## Upcoming — LWVWA Convention 6-8 June 2025

By Elaine Harger

Every other year, the state League hosts a convention at which statewide elections are held, plenary sessions conducted for organizational work, and workshops offered. The theme of this year's convention is "Stand Up for Democracy" and it is being held in Vancouver.

Two keynote speakers will address convention delegates and observers — on Friday evening, Washington State Attorney Nick Brown, and, on Saturday, national League President Dianna Wynn. At some point during the convention, President Wynn will be available during a stand-alone Q&A session to talk with attendees.

Given the number of Spokane League members, we can send 6 delegates. A delegate participates fully in the plenary sessions and votes on all issues. Spokane League members can also attend as observers. There is no limit on

the number of observers attending, ie. we can ALL go! Some funding is available for delegates to attend to help defray costs.

Other opportunities for being active at the convention include:

- presenting a workshop
- setting up an exhibit
- offering a gift basket for the raffle
- helping register attendees at the convention

Information about the convention can be found here: <https://lwvwa.org/Convention-2025-Details/>

If you are interested in being an official LWVSA delegate to the state convention, please email me at [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com). The board will decide who will attend as our delegates at our May 15 meeting.

## NEW IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE.

*Interested in learning more and supporting immigrant members of our community?*

Email [carmelaconroy@yahoo.com](mailto:carmelaconroy@yahoo.com)  
For more information.

## LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SPOKANE AREA Board of Directors

**President** - Vacant

**Vice President** - Elaine Harger

**Treasurer** - Mike Bell

**Secretary** - Vacant

**Directors** - Sue Irwin, Pamela Joyner, Ruth May and Lin McGinn,



# Spokane League Consensus Discussions

by Elaine Harger

*In March, LWVSA members participated in consensus discussions about two studies presented to League members in Washington state: the Elder Caregiving Study and the Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State Study.*

*As members know, the LWV is a non-partisan organization. The League does not endorse or support political parties or candidates for office. Being non-partisan, however, does not mean that the League is apolitical. Thru a rigorous, grassroots process, the League does identify public policy issues of concern, engage in in-depth study of those issues, host informed conversations and lively debates about them in order to arrive at official League positions on the issue/s. This is the process members engaged in on March 15th and 18th via Zoom.*

## Elder Caregiving Study

Eleven members engaged in this consensus discussion during the afternoon of March 15. Here are the barebones result of our conversations:

**High priority was given** to the recommendation that LWVWA support enhancements and increased funding for home and community-based services and systems to keep elders in their homes as long as possible.

**Low priority was given** to the recommendation that LWVWA support state and local outreach efforts to connect individuals and families with information and referrals regarding elder caregiving services and assistance.

**High priority was given** to the recommendation that LWVWA support state and local planning/legislation for healthy aging, including coordination across government programs, partnerships with business, and appropriate community infrastructure, (e.g., accessible transportation, housing, health care, and nutrition).

**No consensus was formed** on the recommendation that LWVWA support funding for programs such as family leave, tax credits and respite care for family caregivers who care for elders in their own home.

**High priority was given** to the recommendation that LWVWA support efforts to improve access to affordable, readily available and culturally appropriate respite care for elders and family caregivers.

**High concern** was the consensus on improving working conditions, wages, benefits, and stability of employment for paid caregivers.

**High importance** was given to reducing barriers to caregiver recruitment and retention including lack of readily available training and certification, transportation, affordable housing and child care.

**High priority** was given to the recommendation that LWVWA support innovative approaches to

## Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State Study

Fourteen members engaged in this consensus discussion on the evening of March 18. Here are the results of our conversations:

**Strong agreement** that LWVWA should have a strong position condemning xenophobia, discrimination against immigrants, and anti-immigration rhetoric and we should encourage political leaders in Washington state to take actions to counter these threats to democracy.

**Agreement** that LWVWA should call on the State of Washington to continue to oppose federal policies when these policies undermine the rights of immigrants in the state.

**Agreement** that LWVWA should support state funding to ensure greater access to legal representation for immigrants.

**Neutral** that LWVWA should base its advocacy on the proposition that state and local governments are accountable for providing essential services to all residents, regardless of immigration status.

**Agreement** that LWVWA should support holistic approaches to welcoming immigrants that take into account the interconnected challenges that immigrants face; the need for more effective coordination amongst the state agencies that interact with immigrants and refugees; and adequate funding to permit such coordination.

**Strong agreement** that LWVWA should support safe working conditions, fair pay and benefits for immigrants, regardless of immigration status.

**Strong agreement** that LWVWA should support efforts taken by the state government and immigrant-led organizations in Washington to reduce delays in the issuance of work permits.

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

# The New Reality of the Housing and Homeless Crisis in 2025

By Becky Dickerhoof

Last week the headlines of the National Low Income Housing Coalition issue were: Hundreds Join NLIHC's Hands Off Housing Event at HUD Headquarter; House Republicans Release Year-Long Stopgap Funding Bill Underfunding HUD's Vital Programs; House Financial Services Committee Holds Hearing on Housing Supply with Focus on Costly Regulations; Ranking member Waters Leads 122 Lawmakers in Demanding Transparency on HUD and DOGE; Senate Banking Committee to Hold Hearing on Housing Affordability; Several States, Including Maryland, Introduce Just Cause Eviction Protections This legislative Session; School District in North Carolina Launches Affordable Housing Initiative for Educators; and Thousands to lose Housing Assistance Under Proposed 2025 Funding Cuts.

Our nation is facing so many challenges and crises, and not just housing. But shelter is a basic need. A necessity to maintain life and yet thousands in our city struggle to find safe shelter for themselves and their families. I attended several meetings last week where the topic of discussion was the uncertainty of the future of low-income

housing funding. We have come to learn that even after the congress awards funds for programs it doesn't mean the funds will be distributed. While the hope is that funding for 2024 will be received no one was willing to guarantee that would happen, not after what we have seen over the last 60 days. Advocates warned programs and services would have to look for alternate funding. But no one had any suggestions where that funding might be found.

*"The problem isn't homeless people, the problem is people are homeless."*

All three levels of our organization, LWVSA, LWVWA and LWV recognized and created positions concerning the housing crisis in our country. Please go to the links I have provided and review those positions. We

need the support of our membership to advocate for low-income housing. We cannot condemn others for seeking shelter in public places if we cannot offer affordable housing. I heard a quote recently, <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/positions>

[https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV\\_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf)

## 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.

**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.**

**Elder Care** cont'd from page 4

caregiver education and training including a career ladder that extends from high school through professional degrees.

**High priority** was given to the recommendation that LWVWA support aligning Washington's Medicaid Estate Recovery and community spousal resource allowances with those required by Federal Medicaid law and regulations.

**Welcoming Immigrants** cont'd from page 4

Strong agreement that LWVWA and local Leagues should reach out proactively to immigrants and naturalized citizens to learn more about their needs and the contributions immigrants may make to the League.

If you would like to see the full consensus reports, that include member comments, they are posted on the LWVSA website.

## **Environmental Issues Committee hosts the April General Meeting**

### **Waste -d in Spokane: Trash Talk with Elisabeth Murphy of Spokane County Solid Waste**

By Amy Compestine, LWV Spokane Environmental Issues Committee Chair

The Environmental Issues Committee is please to host Elizabeth April at our General Meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 4:30 -7pm, at The Hive, 2904 E. Sprague Ave.

Elizabeth works at Spokane County Solid Waste in the Master Composter and Recycling Program, and her office works with other agencies to expand both the awareness and knowledge of these activities. She will talk about the Waste to Energy program, which provides resources and makes connections for non-profit allies to expand the program and receive training. Elizabeth will also address the problems of getting multi-unit housing to participate in waste recycling and composting, and will explain her plans for revamping of the City and county's waste ambassador program.

There will also be a brief presentation by Kate Makinson, who is a teacher at Peperzak Middle School. Kate will talk about how she created a recycling program at the school, and how it is going.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, during a Q&A session following each speaker.

*Please bring your own drinking vessel (reusable cup, mug or water bottle) to the meeting!*

## **Upcoming Events**

Visit the Washington Climate Partnership website to learn more about the CCAP and how community is involved in the process. Please reach out to Tyler Hughes at [tyler.hughes@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:tyler.hughes@commerce.wa.gov) or Isabel Baird at [isabel.baird@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:isabel.baird@commerce.wa.gov) with any questions.

### **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Community Meeting**

**When:** 5pm – 6:30pm, Wednesday, April 2, 2025

**Where:** Spokane Public Library – Central 906 W Main Ave, Spokane, WA 99201 directions and parking information here <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/central/>

**Why:** Share your feedback on climate action in Washington and provide input on the state's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

**RSVP:** Registration to attend the WA Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Community Meeting <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f645ec930b514e87a4d4e94dbf82da41>

### **Waste to Energy Plant Tour**

**When:** Thursday, May 22, 2025, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Join the Spokane Riverkeeper for a 90 minute tour of Spokane's Waste to Energy Facility May 22nd and learn how our trash is turned into energy. This tour includes an orientation, question/answer period and a walking tour of the facility. For more information, and to sign up go to this link <https://www.spokaneriverkeeper.org/calendar/2025/5/22/waste-to-energy-plant-tour>

# Voter Services Report

by Elaine Harger

*Spring is here! That means that opportunities to register voters, engage in voter outreach and education abound!*

**At press time we have several opportunities for you to volunteer for voter registration events:**

## **APRIL**

- 3rd – Thursday – Naturalization ceremony – 10:00 check-in to noon – Federal Courthouse
- 10th – Thursday – Naturalization ceremony – 10:00 check-in to noon – Federal Courthouse

## **MAY**

- 1st – Thursday – Naturalization ceremony – 10:00 check-in to noon – Federal Courthouse
- 10th – Saturday – Mayfest, 9:00 check-in to 4:00pm, Cheney downtown
- 16th – Friday – Naturalization ceremony – 10:45 check-in to noon – Federal Courthouse
- 17th – Saturday – Brush on the Bluff – 9:00 check-in to 4:00pm – Polly Judd Park, W Cannon Pl Ln, Spokane
- 20th – Tuesday – Basic Needs Resource Fair – EWU Cheney

Contact Sally Phillips 509-448-6271, [phillips1948@comcast.net](mailto:phillips1948@comcast.net)

## *Hands Off Rally – Spokane*

**National Protest Endorsed by LWVUS**  
**Saturday, April 5, 3pm – 4:30pm**

BA Clark Park, 3922 N. Normandie St. Spokane, 99205 For more info see:  
<https://www.mobilize.us/handsoff/event/764887/>

**TOUR — SPOKANE COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE — 22 April**  
*See the elections office in action!*

On April 22, at 10:00 am, while special election ballots are being counted, LWVSA members are invited to tour the facility. RSVP to Elaine, [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com).  
at 1033 W. Gardner Ave. Spokane 99260

**Thank You**  
**New & Renewing Members!**

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Ashly Baziotis  
Paula Mitchell  
Earl Moore  
Mary Skewis

### **RENEWING MEMBERS:**

Carol Gauper  
Barbara Morkill  
Cathy Nemmert  
Donna Pierce



# Welcoming Committee Updates

By Lunell Haught

## Lunch at Frankie Doodles

**Friday, April 11 at Frankie Doodle's Restaurant,**  
30 E 3 rd Ave (off Division) Spokane 99202,  
11 am join for orientation to the League of  
Women Voters, 12 noon no-host lunch – you  
don't have to eat, but the menu is complete –  
free parking and on bus route. RSVPs appreciat-  
ed 509-443-1319 (land line no text, leave name  
and phone number or email [LH1@fastmail.com](mailto:LH1@fastmail.com)  
*Do important work with amazing people!*



## Permanent name tag

If you would like a permanent nametag to take home, email Lunell Haught [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com) with how you want your name to appear and whether you prefer a pin or magnet style. \$15 includes tax, you can pick it up at a League meeting. Order by April 15 to get printing discount of up to \$5.00

## League Leadership

If you'd like to serve on the LWV SA board of directors there is still time to apply. Go to the members only section of <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area> for a job description and applications which must be turned in by April 3. Nominations can also be made at the Annual meeting. This is really long and you can edit or veto it:

## What Can I Do?

What can be done about concerns for democracy? Here are a few ideas: On the local level get updates from a reliable source about public meetings. (Range has good lists <https://range-media.co/>). Speaking up is a right and responsibility. School and Library boards (elections) have been a target so pay attention. Many meetings are on zoom so it is easier than ever to participate. You can testify for the record and show up and speak when possible or be an observer. Showing up gives a chance to meet the those who disagree with you and you can demonstrate how approachable you are. You might go to coffee with them. Get training on what to do

when ICE and arresters show up, and what the rules are related to the immigrant/naturalized citizen scenario. The League just completed a study on the Immigrants in Washington. Members have been discussing what to do for the last month in preparation for writing a 'position' that can be used in legislation. Members need greater clarity on what terms mean, 'status', and the rights associated with them: green card,

## At the state level

Watch/listen to/fund [TVW https://tvw.org/](https://tvw.org/) For the truly nerdy you can get a daily list of what committees are meeting - not just legislative ones. They also do great interviews, reporting and summarizing what's happening in Olympia. Washington is the easiest state in the country to access what events and discussion and participate in them. Stay informed and testify. As easy as clicking a 'send an email' is, here's the statistics on how legislators are affected by various communications: Sorry it's fuzzy. ref: <https://www.congressfoundation.org/thanks-to-Alison-McCaffree-The-Washington-Coalition-for-Open-Government-https://www.washcog.org/continues-to-publish-information-about-government-secrecy.-We-just-recently-updated-our-Your-Right-to-Know-report-https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60ef-3943f0a342333daf1fb0/t/67d50a7891fe43431d99890e/1742015107022/WashCOG+Special+Report+Update+2025.pdf> Talk to your state legislators about so-called 'legislative privilege' (like executive privilege) to hide legislative work. Urge your legislator to reject it. Consider both state <https://www.washcog.org/olympia-watch> or <https://lwvwa.org/Legislative-action-newsletter> for recommended bills to support or oppose. At the national level continue to write and visit your congress member and our senators. There are lots of options, figure out what you can do - observe, speak, march, back channel influence - do it. "It is better to try something and fail than to try nothing and succeed. The result may be the same, but you won't be.

***We always grow more through defeats than victories." - Soren Kierkegaard***

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



# Volunteer Corner – list of Opportunities

## Looking for a place to plug in?

Peruse this list of opportunities that make up some of the work of the LWVSA and find something you want to try. Then reach out to the contact person to get the details.

Opportunities	Contacts
<p>Are you a public speaker?</p> <p>You can give presentations to high school classes.</p>	<p>Reach out to Beth Pelliciotti  <a href="mailto:pelliccmb@gmail.com">pelliccmb@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Do you want to welcome new citizens to democracy and voting?</p> <p>You can work with a partner and register naturalized citizens to vote at events throughout the year.</p>	<p>Reach out to Sally Phillips  <a href="mailto:phillips1948@comcast.net">phillips1948@comcast.net</a></p>
<p>Do you like connecting with people in a casual environment?</p> <p>You can work with a partner at public fairs/festivals sharing <i>They Represent You</i>, or recruiting new members for the League.</p>	<p>Reach out to Elaine Harger  <a href="mailto:eharger@drizzle.com">eharger@drizzle.com</a></p>
<p>Are you comfortable in online meetings?</p> <p>You could attend a monthly zoom meeting where people share league activities around the state and then report back to the LWVSA board.</p>	<p>Reach out to Lunell Haight  <a href="mailto:lh1@fasmail.com">lh1@fasmail.com</a></p>
<p>Do you enjoy listening, learning and taking notes?</p> <p>You could observe local meetings (government, advocacy) and then report back to the Observer Corp or the Affordable Housing/Homelessness Committee.</p>	<p>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.</p>

## 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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