



VOTER August 2025

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message – Polly Parton

Thank you Beverly Johnson-Torelli and fellow LWV members for organizing the Primary Candidate Forums. This is League service at its best. See the Voter 2025 article on page 3 of this Voter and let your friends and neighbors know about the forums.

Check out your monthly newsletter from LWV of Washington. It's filled with information such as *How to Defend our Democracy* and the national initiative *Unite and Rise 8.5*. Learn about events such as the September workshop to become a savvy consumer of media and news or an upcoming webinar to help write letters to the editor. I'm watching for that. Browse the newsletter and you will find something to grab your attention.

Two Ways to Get Involved Now

Help out at the informational/voter table (Saturday afternoon August 30th) at the Tumbleweed Music Festival in Richland. With volunteers for 3-4 shifts of 2 hours each, we greet the fans and listen to great festival music. We have some volunteers but more would shorten the tasks. This is a great activity for new members to meet others and learn more about League.

Can you help organize information/voter events? We need you! One or two committee leads would phone and/or email our members to recruit and confirm volunteer times and details. We do this a few times a year. This is a great way to get involved.

Email or text if you can volunteer Polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509-551-3818

"We cannot remain neutral or silent when our democracy is threatened. History is watching."
(from LWVWA)

LWVBF Treasurer's Report – Carla Ciotti

As of June 30, 2025:

Checking is	\$6,838.28
Savings is	<u>1,857.45</u>
Total	\$8,695.73

Income:

Reimbursement from Ed Fund	\$4,295.88
State Convention Basket Raffle	80.00

Total income: \$4375.88**Expenses:**

LWVWA ½ 2025-26 PMP	\$817.00
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Total expenses: \$817.00

In June, we received a reimbursement of \$4,295.88 from our Educational Fund for the two scholarships awarded in May and scholarship expenses. We also received \$80 for the basket that was raffled at the state convention.

Our only expense was \$817.00 for one-half of the LWVWA Per Member Payment for 2025-2026.

Education Fund: After withdrawing \$4,295.88 to pay for scholarships and expenses and receiving a \$400 donation from a member (thank you!), our balance now stands at \$8,744.54. Members can donate to our education fund by sending a check to: **LWVWA Education Fund**. The address is 1511 Third Avenue, Suite 801, Seattle, WA, 98101, Attention: Ed Fund Treasurer. **Please note on the check or separately that your donation is for the Benton-Franklin League Education Fund.** Donations to the Education Fund are tax deductible. Thank you.

Membership Renewal – Carla Ciotti

Most memberships in the Benton Franklin Counties League of Women Voters will be up for renewal on September 30th. (If you have joined since the new online membership system began on February 1st, you can ignore this message). With the new membership system, members will be encouraged to renew online through the Membership Portal. The national League of Women Voters will send you a notice to renew 60 days before your renewal date, which will probably be at the end of July for most of us in LWVBF. You can renew your membership at any time by going to our local chapter's website (<https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties>) and clicking the JOIN button. It will take you to the member portal at LWVUS where you can renew your membership. Joining now will extend your membership until September 30, 2026.

What is the cost of annual dues?

The new membership system does not have a set dues amount. The new system is pay-as-you-can with a minimum of \$20. Members are encouraged to pay a dues amount of \$75, which is our former dues amount. Dues are divided among national LWV, state LWV, and our local chapter. Our local chapter will receive 20% of the total dues amount, minus processing fees. You can choose to pay by credit card or through your bank (ACH).

What else is new/different about the new system?

Students no longer receive free memberships. Students are encouraged to join at the minimum dues rate of \$20.

There is also no longer a membership category for second-in-households. When the primary member joins, a second person can be added to the membership. Be aware that this membership will be charged the same dues as the primary member. So, if you choose to pay \$75 for your membership, the additional person's dues will also be \$75. (Hint: if you want to continue paying the former dues rate of a primary membership plus second-in-household (\$110), you can list your membership rate as \$55 and that will total \$110 for the two of you). Alternatively, the second person can join on their own.

Members with 50 years of membership will continue to be free.

There is also an opportunity to indicate that you want your membership to be automatically renewed each year.

How do I donate to our local league?

In the past many of you paid above the \$75 dues amount, and the amount above \$75 was kept as a donation by our local league. Now, we will receive only 20% of whatever you pay for dues, even if it's above \$75. However, there is a way to donate to our local league when you pay dues online that allows us to receive the full amount of your donation. After you complete the dues page, you are taken to a second page where you can donate to our local league, and we will receive the full amount of your donation less processing fees.

You can also donate to our local league through our local website

(<https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties>), or by writing a check to LWVBF, and sending it to LWVBF, P.O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352.

Where can I get help with renewing my membership?

The following link takes you to a guide that walks you through the steps of renewing your membership.

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/LWV%20Portal%20Users%20Guide%20for%20Members.pdf>

You can also call one of the following members for help with the new system: Carla Chiotti (509-946-7217), Judy Golberg (509-627-5347), Janet Nail (509-546-1467) or Diane Molleson (509) 554-7317.

Thank you for continuing your membership with LWV Benton and Franklin Counties.

Candidates Forums – Beverly Johnson-Torelli

VOTE 2025! Partnering to Empower Voters

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties and Northwest Public Broadcasting, NWPB Vote, bring you the 2025 Primary Candidate Forums. Races are featured in

which three or more candidates filed. All three of the one-hour shows will be available on KTNW TV 31.1 and on YouTube, the League's website and Facebook, and via partner sites like the City of Richland and Columbia Basin Badger Club. The links and schedule are listed below.

Kennewick City Council

Ward 1, Position 1 & Ward 3, Position 3

TV: 7/19-7pm; 7/26-4pm; 8/3-7pm; 8/4-4pm

<https://youtu.be/1VAWXcZbo>

Kennewick School Board & Richland City Council

Kennewick School Board, Director 1 and Richland City Council, Positions 3 & 4

TV: 7/24-4pm; 7/27-7pm; 8/2-4pm & 7pm

<https://youtu.be/QxMwVqb6Ous>

Richland City Council

Positions 6 & 7

TV: 7/19-4pm; 7/20-7pm; 7/26-7pm; 7/31-4pm

<https://youtu.be/rMQLHhGMOzU>

Naturalization Ceremony – Beverly Johnson-Torelli

The next Naturalization Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Federal Building in Richland. That date also happens to be National Voter Registration Day. If you have never seen the ceremony and/or would like to help with voter registration, contact Bev Johnson-Torelli at sasjoh@aol.com or (509) 521-0947. New League members might be especially interested in attending, as a record number of newly minted citizens do usually register on that particular occasion. Thanks to all who have helped in the past!

LWVBF Book Club – Polly Parton

Our August book is *On Desperate Ground* by Hampton Sides. The 17-day battle in the frozen mountains of North Korea in 1950 reveals the brutal cost of war. I'm reminded that we maintain over 25,000 U.S. troops in South Korea almost 75 years later as part of the Mutual Defense Treaty.

For July, we read *Go a River* by Shelley Reed, a story of love, strength and growth in beautiful Colorado. I enjoyed the coming-of-age story and how her choices changed her adulthood.

Join us the 2nd Monday each month, 6 pm via Zoom by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the link. We keep discussions to one hour. Please join in even if you did not squeeze the book into your schedule. Polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509 -551-3818

Calendar Of Events

August

- 11 Book Club via Zoom
- 19 LWVBF Business and Planning Meeting/Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 pm

September

- 9 Book Club via Zoom
- 16 LWVBF Business and Planning Meeting/Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 pm
- 16 Naturalization Ceremony, Richland Federal Building, 10 am

Email: lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

Instagram: [lwv.of.bf](https://www.instagram.com/lwv.of.bf)

Facebook: [League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties](https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersofBentonFranklinCounties)

Mailing Address:

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

OFFICERS:

President: Polly Parton
1st Vice President: Ruvine Jimenez
2nd Vice President: Michelle Pirotte
Secretary: Diane Molleson
Treasurer: Carla Chiotti

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

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Brianna Harty
Marci Palmer
Mary Shaw
Glenda Williams
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JoAnne Dimond
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