

# THE Voter

VOLUME LXXXVIII Issue 2, February 2026

A printable version of *The Voter* is available at [here](#)

## A Message From Co-Presidents Sue and Ruth

Our recent monthly meeting was a successful VIRTUAL experience thanks to the technical skills of our secretary Samantha Ash Armstrong. Our attendance of about 40 members was key to its success. Breakout rooms were created for program committee discussion with a sharing from each of them when we came back together as a group. This process is the basis of our LWV Spokane Area Program of Work for 2026-27. It will be presented to the membership at our annual meeting May 12th and voted on at that time. Your input and engagement is important to the process and is led by program committees. Stay tuned and engaged!

Mike Bell, our treasurer has taken the lead to revive our Heath Care committee. His experience in the area of rural hospitals is a foundation for extraordinary work in extraordinary times. Several of you have joined him in his effort and we thank you. For information about this committee you can contact Mike Bell at [mrbellcpa@gmail.com](mailto:mrbellcpa@gmail.com)

In four short months the State Council meeting will convene in Lacey WA June 6th and 7th. We will have 7 or 8 delegate positions, based on our number of local members. Delegates are an integral part of the conference with full voting rights as the state prepares for its 2026-27 year planning. You may also attend as an observer if you choose. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please let us know. We have scholarships for the conference fee. Typically attendees are responsible for their own travel and housing. If extra funds are available we try to assist where we can. For more information see page 3

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## February Calendar

**AH&HS meeting, Sunday, Feb. 1**  
at 6pm on Zoom email

[lwvsaaahs@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaaahs@gmail.com) for link

**Lobby Week meetings with state representatives, Monday, Feb. 2,**  
**5:15pm - 6:15pm** Email [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com) for the zoom link.

**LWVSA Board Meeting, Thursday, Feb. 5, 5pm-7pm** on Zoom, email [ruthmay250@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmay250@gmail.com) for link

**General Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 10 4:30-5pm** social time. Environmental committee program **5-6:30pm.**  
Spokane Valley Library, 22 N Herald Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206

**Redistricting meeting, Thursday, Feb. 19 at 3pm.** Liberty Park Library.  
For more info email Mary Lloyd at [riteasrain190@gmail.com](mailto:riteasrain190@gmail.com)

**The Voter Newsletter Deadline is Friday, Feb 20.** Send info to: Julie at [corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)

**Immigration meeting Tuesday, Feb 23, 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom.**  
Email Julia Presar at [julia.presar@gmail.com](mailto:julia.presar@gmail.com) or Louise Chadez [lchadez@gmail.com](mailto:lchadez@gmail.com) for link.

**League Orientation (11am) and Lunch (noon), Wednesday, Feb. 25**  
at Frankie Doodles. Email Lunell at [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com) for more info.

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Our work become more critical every day in **both education and advocacy**. We would like share the "identity Markers" from LWVUS in answer to the question "What does the League need to be to show up in the moment?"

**Be Bold, Be Loud, Be Activists, Be Nimble, Be Influential**

Thank your for your continued support and engagement. Moving forward together in solidarity.

Sue and Ruth

## What YOU Can Do

By Alison Wells

### ✓ ...locally: LWVSA

Please check out a choice of Information Sessions on visiting the Spokane Public Schools during the last two weeks of May 2026. Teachers are inviting us into their classrooms to conduct voter registration and to encourage students to vote. **Information Sessions are scheduled for Monday, February 9 at 10:00 am on ZOOM or Thursday, February 12 at 4:30 pm on ZOOM**

Attend an information session to learn how these visits are organized, the choice of volunteer roles, and how the League of Women Voters helps future voters. After learning more about this project, you can choose to sign up for voter registration and/or presentation training. To receive the ZOOM link for these Information Sessions, contact Beth Pellicciotti at [pelliccmb@gmail.com](mailto:pelliccmb@gmail.com)

**"Speak up" via letters to local media.** If you're interested in writing letters to the editor as part of a team that responds to news articles or to other letters published in local news outlets, we want to hear from you. Support regarding League positions is available, but letters would represent individual members' views. For more information, contact Alison Wells: [aliwells26@gmail.com](mailto:aliwells26@gmail.com)

**Join LWVSA's Observer Corp and help hold local officials accountable.** Volunteers attend local city councils, school boards, and other civic bodies, in person or virtually, and file brief reports with our league on the proceedings. We need a few volunteers to attend Spokane City Council meetings, which are held every Monday evening at 6pm. Meetings can be watched live on City-Cable 5 or online. For information or to sign up, contact Sue Irwin: [lwwsaleadership@gmail.com](mailto:lwwsaleadership@gmail.com)

**Share this alert about the February 10 special election.** This is an election for voters in East Valley, Newport, Rosalie, St. John, and Takoa School Districts only. Eligible voters should be aware that the changes to postmarks announced by the USPS on Christmas Eve are now in effect. The LWVWA recommends that if you are voting within a week of an election day (in this case, Feb. 10), using a drop box rather than mailing your ballot is the best way to ensure that it arrives in time to be counted.

### ✓ ... statewide: LWVWA

Take action on LWVWA'S priority legislation currently under consideration in Olympia. Read the Legislative Action Newsletter to find out more about individual bills and then follow the links to voice support or opposition. The 2026 legislative session continues through March 12.

<https://www.lwvwa.org/League-Newsletters>

### ✓... nationally: LWVUS

Commit to Unite and Rise 8.5. Unite and Rise is a national LWV initiative to defend democracy by mobilizing 3.5% of U.S. voters (8.5 million people), the estimated number of voters it would take to bring about change through nonviolent protest. To learn more: <https://act.lwv.org/page/84217/petition/1>

Protect the count. H.R.151 and S.2205 seek to add a citizenship question to the 2030 Census. LWV has found this to be unconstitutional and a violation of the 14th Amendment. Tell your representatives that the Census must count all people: <https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-congress-census-must-count-all-people>

# —THE— POWER OF US

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON

## 2026 STATE COUNCIL

LACEY, WA ▶ JUNE 6–7, 2026

### *Want to be a Spokane delegate?*

#### **Registration fees:**

Early Bird \$115

Volunteer \$75

New since Convention \$60

Regular \$135

Early Bird Virtual \$25

Regular Virtual \$30

If you are interested in being a delegate  
contact us at  
[lwvsaleadership@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaleadership@gmail.com)

### *Volunteers needed – reduced registration fee!*

**Volunteers sign up for one of three shifts  
and receive a special link to register at the  
reduced rate.** (volunteers would still be eligible  
for other scholarships to help reduce barriers  
to participation.)

8am - 2pm (set up and lunch)

2pm - 8pm (happy hour and dinner)

8am - 1pm (set up and clean up)

Email Angela at [agyurko@lwvwa.org](mailto:agyurko@lwvwa.org)  
with questions or to volunteer.

## Meet Online with Our Legislators

Join members to plan zoom visits with legislators while they are in session in Olympia. This is an essential part of representative government and democracy. It's fun and interesting. Email [lh@fastmail.com](mailto:lh@fastmail.com) for the zoom link.

Monday, Feb. 2nd, 5:15pm - 6:15pm

## Thank You New & Renewed Members!



### **NEW MEMBERS**

Deidre Allen  
Carol Nbadbuki  
Margaret O'Connell  
Karen Beranek

Elaine Harger  
Joan Kercher  
Gina Raebel  
Anna Roberts  
Judy Silverstein  
Mary Weathers

### **RENEWED MEMBERS**

Janice Baker  
Mardell Cochran  
Carmela Conroy

Kathleen West  
Janet Wingenroth

(Updated 1-23-26)

# Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions (AHHS)

## The Gray Wave: The Elderly and Homelessness

By Stacey Mainer

The “Gray Wave” refers to the growing population of unhoused individuals aged 55 and older. According to the 2024 HUD Point-in-Time Count, nearly 20%—one in five—people experiencing homelessness are 55 or older. Projections estimate that by 2030, the number of unhoused older adults will triple.

Most older adults never anticipated becoming unhoused. Yet a single destabilizing event—a medical emergency, job loss, rising housing costs, or the death of a spouse or partner—can quickly unravel decades of stability. Many older adults rely primarily on Social Security as their main source of income, which has not kept pace with inflation. A 2024 study by the University of California, San Francisco, found that prior to becoming unhoused, the median monthly household income for older adults was just \$920, with a significant portion spent on rent.

There is also a population of chronically unhoused older adults. These individuals often cycle in and out of homelessness while facing compounding challenges, including chronic health conditions, mental illness, substance use disorders, and the cumulative effects of trauma. Aging while unhoused accelerates physical decline and raises the risk of premature death.

### Call to Action:

The Gray Wave is not made up of strangers. These are our parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors—people who worked, raised families, and built our communities. They deserve to age with safety, dignity, and stability. No one should grow old without a place to call home. We must act by expanding affordable housing and creating shelters and services that protect older adults.

*Most older adults never anticipated becoming unhoused. Yet a single destabilizing event ... can quickly unravel decades of stability.*

### Senior Homelessness is a growing crisis in the US.

At the LWV-SA General Meeting on March 10, 2026,  
the AHHS committee will present a  
Free Public screening of “No Place to Grow Old”,  
a 2024 documentary produced by Humans for Housing.

It will be held in the Larch Room at CHAS Health Administration Center, 731 N Iron Bridge Way, Spokane, WA 99202.

Social time 4:30-5 pm

Film 5 pm

Panel Discussion 5:45-7 pm.

We will serve finger food, popcorn and the usually refreshments.

Space is limited so use the QR code to RSVP on Sign-Up Genius for a free seat to attend in person. The meeting and film will also be available by Zoom.



**The deadline is February 20 for the March issue of THE VOTER.**  
Email submissions to Julie at [corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)

# Civic Education Committee

## Information Sessions for High School Voter Registration.

Beth Pellicciotti, pelliccmb@gmail.com

Please check out a choice of Information Sessions on visiting the Spokane Public Schools during the last two weeks of May 2026. Teachers are inviting us into their classrooms to conduct voter registration and to encourage students to vote.

### Information Sessions

Monday, February 9 at 10:00 am on ZOOM

OR

Thursday, February 12 at 4:30 pm on ZOOM

Attend an information session and learn more about how these visits are organized, the choice of volunteer roles, and how the League of Women Voters helps future voters.

After learning more about this project, you can choose to sign up for voter registration and/or presentation training. To receive the ZOOM link for these Information Sessions, contact Beth Pellicciotti at [pelliccmb@gmail.com](mailto:pelliccmb@gmail.com)

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## Environmental Issues Committee

By Amy Compestine

Come to the February General Membership meeting to learn about the lower Snake River Dams and salmon restoration. Program will include an introductory presentation, followed by breakout discussions. Hosted by Environmental Issues Committee

### February General Membership

**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**Time:** 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**Location:** Diane E. Zahand Meeting Room East, Spokane Valley Library

### Upcoming opportunities for community engagement and public comment!

[The PlanSpokane 2046 Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\)](#) is now available for public review. The City of Spokane is seeking comments from the public to help inform future growth for our city. Comments are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18. Learn how to submit comments and find the Draft EIS here. (included a couple links in case one doesn't work)

### Draft Environmental Impact Statement - City of Spokane, Washington

There will also be several opportunities to ask questions and discuss the the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. See dates below (more info on website above)

2026 will be an important year for long-range planning in Spokane County. By the end of the year, the Plan Commission will recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a new 20-year Comprehensive Plan to guide growth until 2046. This document will guide county action on affordable

<b>Session 2</b> <b>When:</b> February 3, 4 to 6 p.m. <b>Where:</b> Hillyard Library, Events Room	<b>Session 4</b> <b>When:</b> February 10, 4 to 6 p.m. <b>Where:</b> Shadle Park Library, Studio Room
<b>Session 3</b> <b>When:</b> February 5, 3 to 6 p.m. <b>Where:</b> Liberty Park Library, Study Room A	<b>Session 5</b> <b>When:</b> February 12, 4 to 6 pm. <b>Where:</b> South Hill Library, Study Room A

housing, climate change and resiliency, natural and rural land management, and development. Both the Natural and Rural Lands and the Climate Resiliency Technical Advisory Committees have drafts in progress for recommendations that will be available to the public on a rolling basis over

*Environmental Issues* cont'd on page 8

## **NEW! Healthcare Committee**

By Michael Bell

The One Big Beautiful Bill will cause millions of Americans to go without healthcare insurance. Being uninsured, their services will more than likely be reflected in a significant rise in uncompensated care at local hospitals. This law effectively shifts over \$900 billion in costs from the federal government to the local communities' hospitals. Especially vulnerable are hospitals in small rural communities that are essentially the canaries in the coal mine.

At the recent membership committee, the LWVSA board decided to see if there is an interest in forming a healthcare committee. I am pleased to announce that we have had five attendees enthusiastically express an interest in forming such a committee. The primary purpose of the committee will be to promote efforts to educate our community about the negative effects of this new law.

If anyone is interested in this proposed healthcare committee, please contact Michael Bell, the acting chairman, at [mrbellcpa@gmail.com](mailto:mrbellcpa@gmail.com) for more information.

*The primary purpose of the committee will be to promote efforts to educate our community about the negative effects of this new law.*

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## **LWVSA Immigration Committee**

### **Immigration Committee Gears Up for 2026**

By Susan Hale, Immigration Committee Member  
Julia Presar and Louise Chadez, Co-Chairs

Immigration Committee members are engaging actively to advocate for policies that positively impact the lives of immigrant and refugee families, promote local communities and offer presentations to the broader community about our work and Washington State's historical support for immigrants.

Alysha Brady traveled across the State to participate in "Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day 2026." Representing all of us, they joined with members of Spokane's Peace and Justice Action League (PJALS) and the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), as well as others from across the state, for a powerful day of meetings with our legislators in Olympia. Louise Chadez and other Committee members also participated in the League's virtual Lobby Week, for meetings with legislators by Zoom, also focusing on issues that affect immigrants.

To promote and provide direct and personal support for Spokane's immigrant communities, Committee member, Alysha Brady, organized a group of LWVSA members to join her for an Afghani dinner at Emran, a struggling immigrant-owned restaurant whose plight was highlighted in the *Spokesman-Review*, recently.

Alysha invites all of us to join her at Feast on February 21st to visit, eat and learn about Feast's many programs supporting immigrant chefs and their communities.

See this announcement on Alysha's latest list of new opportunities for involvement in the life of Spokane's vibrant immigrant communities.

Our Committee's activities are building on the long history of LWVSA support for immigrants and refugees. Reaching out, we are now actively seeking opportunities to present about our League's immigration work and what we have learned about our State's history from the LWA-WA report, *Welcoming Immigrants to Washington*.

Our Committee eagerly seeks new voices and ideas for how we can support and protect Spokane's immigrant and refugee families in these challenging times.

Come and help us plan workshops, collaborations and community engagement activities! For more information and the detailed agenda, please contact Co-Chairs, Julia Presar ([julia.presar@gmail.com](mailto:julia.presar@gmail.com)) and Louise Chadez ([lchadez@gmail.com](mailto:lchadez@gmail.com)).

# This Month: Engage with and Support Local Immigrant Communities

The Immigration Committee would like to invite you to join us at two upcoming events in February.

## Dinner at Feast World Kitchen Saturday Feb 21st @ 6pm

Feast is a non-profit organization that fosters community connections while supporting economic resilience for Immigrant and Refugee families in Spokane. They have a rotating roster of chefs who prepare foods from their culture which means that the menu changes every day. Over 90% of each dining dollar goes directly to the immigrant or refugee chef preparing the meal. Chefs in the program have used their earnings to save for home purchases, further their education or invest in their own business. Located at 1321 W. 3rd Ave.

## Volunteering at El Mercadito Saturday Feb 28th @ the West Central Community Center

El Mercadito, a program of Latinos en Spokane, is a monthly cultural market that provides free, fresh cultural foods to the community, access to health care services through CHAS Health clinic, and a vibrant multicultural food destination in Spokane. El Mercadito addresses health care and food security in Spokane, to better serve the increasing Latino and immigrant population.

Two hour shifts from 1-7pm

1-3pm - Setup (note: this does require carrying heavy loads)

3-5pm - Food distribution

5-7pm - Food distribution and clean up

For both events, if possible, please RSVP to Alysha Brady at [AlyshaB2005@gmail.com](mailto:AlyshaB2005@gmail.com) or via text at 817-919-2492.

**Join the  
Immigration Committee**  
Meetings every 4th Tuesday,  
7:00 – 8:30 pm on Zoom.  
Contact Co-Chairs: Julia Presar  
[julia.presar@gmail.com](mailto:julia.presar@gmail.com)  
and Louise Chadez  
[lchadez@gmail.com](mailto:lchadez@gmail.com) for an invite.



### Board of Directors

Co-President	Ruth May (2027) <a href="mailto:lwvsaleadership@gmail.com">lwvsaleadership@gmail.com</a>
Co-President	Sue Irwin (2027) <a href="mailto:lwvsaleadership@gmail.com">lwvsaleadership@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Treasurer Mike Bell (2026)
Secretary	Samantha Armstrong Ash (2027)
Director	Emily Grizzell (2026)
Director	Elaine Harger (2026)
Director	Kathy West (2026)

### Committee Chairs

**Affordable Housing & Homeless Solutions**  
Sherri Gangitano [lwvsaaahhs@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaaahhs@gmail.com)

**Civic Education**  
Beth Pelliciotti [pelliccmb@gmail.com](mailto:pelliccmb@gmail.com)

**Environmental Issues**  
Amy Compestine [amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com](mailto:amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com)

**Immigration Committee**  
Co-Chair Julia Presar [julia.presar@gmail.com](mailto:julia.presar@gmail.com)  
Co-Chair Louise Chadez [lchadez@gmail.com](mailto:lchadez@gmail.com)

**Observer Corp**  
Sue Irwin [lwvsaleadership@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaleadership@gmail.com)

**Redistricting Committee**  
Mary Lloyd [riteasrain190@gmail.com](mailto:riteasrain190@gmail.com)

**Voter Services**  
Elaine Harger [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com)

**Welcoming Committee**  
Lunell Haight [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com)

**Environmental Issues** cont'd from page 5

the next few months. Conversations around community placemaking at the I-90/NSC Connection, bridge amenities, plaza design, landscaping and more will be just some of the topics of conversation at upcoming events.

**For more information and a schedule of plan commission meetings go here:**

<https://www.spokanecounty.gov/623/Planning-Commission>

Dept. of Ecology posted an update on the PFAS site cleanup for the Spokane International Airport. An agreed order for remedial investigation, feasibility study, and potential interim cleanup actions has been signed; the order and an updated Public Participation Plan will be available for public comment for 30 days beginning in early February. Go to this link for more information:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16774>

To learn more about Environmental Issues committee or how to attend a meeting, contact [amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com](mailto:amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com)

## Update of LWVWA Indian Treaty Rights Study

*By Suzi Hokonson*

The state League is updating our 1980 Indian Treaty Rights Study to address significant changes in government-to-government relations between tribal nations and Washington state. Consideration will be given to History, Sovereignty, Government to Government Relations, Economic Prosperity, Energy and Salmon.

The study is expected to be completed in 2027.

Here are some interesting facts about Washington reservation sizes and populations, this can be confusing as tribes often list facts differently.

Statistics on land size includes: tribal trust land, individually owned tribal trust land, fee land and off reservation land. Population statistics include: total reservation population, tribal member population on reservation, non tribal population on reservation, off reservation tribal population and total tribal population.

**The Spokane Tribe** is 229,429 acres and 2,541 tribal members.

**The Colville Tribe** is 1.4 million acres and nearly 9,600 tribal members.

**The Yakima Tribe** has 1.4 million acres and 9,405 tribal members.

**The Hoh Tribe** is 477 acres and 97 tribal members.

**The Muckleshoot Tribe** is 3,922 acres and 3,353 tribal members.

**The Snoqualmie Tribe** is 12,000 acres and 650 tribal members.

I have visited 17 Washington reservations and plan on visiting 10 more February 7-14. It has been fun looking up tribal information. I also reread *There There* by Tommy Orange and his latest book *The Wandering Stars*.

For members interested in these issues, much information is available through tribal websites, books, documentaries, movies, and the internet generally. In addition, LWVWA's 7th/8th grade civics book, *The State We're In – Washington*, does a good job covering tribal history and current issues. The book is available online at <https://www.lwvwa.org/books>

Members are also encouraged to read: <https://www.lwvthurston.org/docs.ashx?id=1120593>

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Suzi, the study group's Spokane area co-chair, at 509-808-1255, [suzihokonson@yahoo.com](mailto:suzihokonson@yahoo.com).

# Redistricting Committee Update – A Program Action Committee

By Mary Lloyd

## Redistricting Commission Reform Committee (RCRC) – Next Steps

- Our LVVWA Leagues Redistricting Commission Reform mantra is **Put People First**.
  - Washingtonians deserve stable representation that protects the voices of all voters.

On January 21, 2026, at 1:30 P.M. our State League Chair Karen Crowley and State League Democracy Coordinator, Redistricting & Census Issue Chair, and Redistricting Reform Task Force Chair gave testimony on HJR 4209. (HJR means House Joint Resolution used in the context of U.S. Congress). If you've never heard or participated in testimony hearings you can familiarize yourself with the recordings via the website under Public Hearings, find the bill and become familiar with the webpage available content.

These two testimonials given by league for this bill were among the many who gave support or opposition to this bill. The League of Women Voters of WA opposes mid-decade census redistricting. By the time this is printed in February the outcome of this bill will have been voted on (or may not have come to the floor for vote).

And your thoughts may now be – “What?” Full context and for following the bill go to:

HJR 4209 Washington State Legislature

### The Summary of Bill:

*If any state adopts a new congressional map mid-decade absent a court order, the Legislature may, before the next decennial census, amend the congressional districts of the state districting law by a majority vote of both houses. Each district must contain a population, excluding nonresident military personnel, as nearly equal as practicable to the population of any other district. To the extent reasonable, each district must contain contiguous territory; be compact and convenient; and be separated from adjoining districts by natural geographic barriers, artificial barriers, or political subdivision boundaries. The amended districting law goes into immediate effect upon adoption by the Legislature and remains in effect until the Legislature amends the state districting law again after another state adopts a new congressional map mid-decade or until a new state districting law is adopted following the next decennial census.*

Foremost, the League of Women Voters of Washington State and our Spokane Area League believe it is important to maintain our cornerstone of democracy and believes mid-decade

redrawing maps for political gain is dangerous. It silences our voices and weakens our democracy. Thereby, why LVVWA opposes this bill.

When redistricting is done equitably and responsibly, fair redistricting ensures that every person's voice carries equal weight. When done quickly, and for partisan gain, redistricting silences voices that ensure a government that is responsive and accountable to the people.

Moving forward, our league goal urges the adoption of a constitutional amendment that reforms the Washington State Redistricting Commission to be an expanded citizen commission that emphasizes nonpartisanship and that commits transparency, accountability, access, and citizen engagement. We call this the People First Redistricting Commission – which is to remove the incentive for narrow self-interest.

### Our State Redistricting Commission Reform 2026 Goals are:

- Create and publish a model legislation for a new People First Redistricting Commission for Washington bill (North Star Proposal)
- Create and get support for a Redistricting Accountability Bill - prepare to advocate for the bill in the 2027 session.
- Identify legislative sponsors and champions, campaign chairs, and local and state coalition partners.

Please join us in our reform of the Redistricting Commission in March 19th. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of the month, at 3 P.M. at Liberty Park Library in one of the meeting rooms. Email me to make sure this is the library location in case it is already booked. [riteas-rain190@gmail.com](mailto:riteas-rain190@gmail.com)

I'm excited to connect with you as your interest in the changes our state and local league are pursuing continues to grow.

Mary

# Voter Services Report

## Young Voter Registration Project, 2026

by Elaine Harger

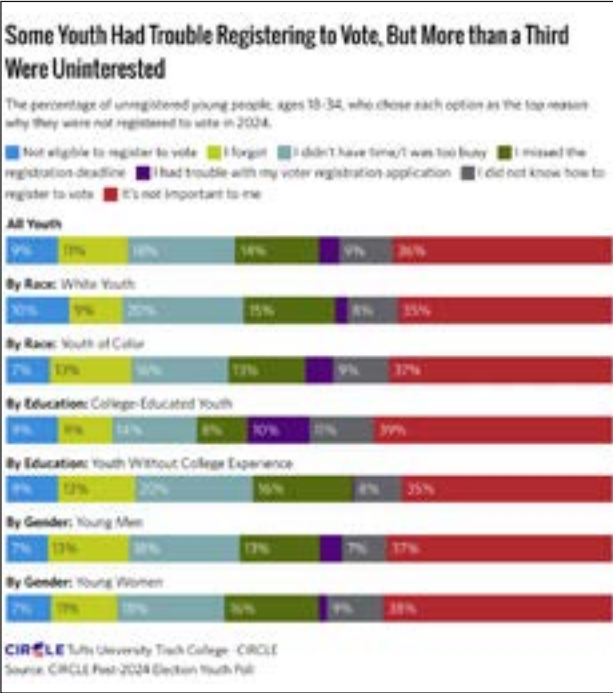
In January the national LWV hosted a virtual meeting for recipients of their “**Young Voter Registration Project, 2026.**” Beth Pellicciotti had submitted a proposal on behalf of LWVSA, and we were awarded \$500 to use as needed for registering young people to vote. Along with background information provided by LWV staff people, ideas from other recipients of funding were shared.

Across the U.S. 126 Leagues involved in voter outreach at 2,300 schools, reaching 160,000 students.

LWV shared a report from Tufts University regarding a study of youth and voting in the 2024 election which identified specific reasons some young people give for not registering to vote and for not voting. The full report can be found here:

<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/2024-poll-barriers-issues-economy>

but the following two graphs should be of great interest to readers of *The Voter*.



During the meeting, a request for brief reports from local Leagues turned up ideas that we in Spokane might want to consider:

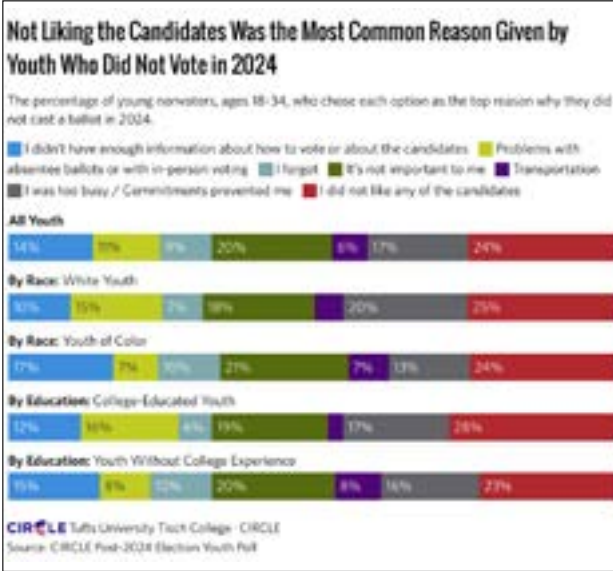
- outreach to superintendents, voter registration at graduation rehearsals
- League member mentors high school students who then make announcements at schools about the importance of voting
- county high school visits with classroom presentations in language arts and gov't classes; in smaller districts have sessions in school libraries, this year also at tribal schools.

Later in the meeting, focus turned to GOTV (get out the vote) activities with young people. One story was really inspiring:

*Our League sends postcards to students we've registered and hold a GOTV event and rally at the high school before the primary election. For the rally we gather at the school library with blank poster boards for students to make signs, and have a table for phone banking so that students can make reminder calls about the primary to registered voters. We also invite elected officials to the event to answer questions from students. Super important to send thank-yous to teachers, principal, superintendent for helping. Our march goes out of the school to city hall, where students put their primary ballots into the ballot box.*

Another League noted that they have an OPT IN form whenever they register youth so that those interested in receiving reminders/texts from the League when important election dates approach are called.

As LWVSA gears up for voter outreach to high school students, this information should inform our approach and talking points with youth.



# Welcoming Committee Update

by Lunell Haught

## Join us for lunch

Every 4th Wednesday (February 25) at noon at Frankie Doodle's 30 East 3rd Spokane. This is an informal time to find out what people are reading, advocating, doing to decompress, and more.

At 11 am there is a brief session for new and current members to become more familiar with the League. This is especially good for people who aren't sure what they want to focus on in the League. Members typically alternate from high intensity volunteer work to a more relaxed schedule, there are lots of options.

If you can let Lunell know you're coming that'd be great [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com)

## League members meetings with Legislators

The lobby week ended in January and now it is time to meet with legislators and advocate for League priority bills. Join Lunell for a zoom session on February 2 at 6:30 to plan how this works. Members should get an email with the zoom link but if you don't, contact LH1@fastmail.com to get it. Most visits with legislators on zoom are about 15 minutes.

## 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 February 7 and it'll be ready at the March meeting.



The League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund works on major civics education projects to teach students how they can participate in making and keeping government effective.

Learn More at:  
<https://lwvwaef.org/>

# 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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