

**By Sherri Dysart: Climate Change Committee Chair, LWV Mason County**

On January 7, 2021, the LWVMC launched a study group to become citizen experts on the Growth Management Act (GMA). Washington's GMA was adopted in 1990 because of unprecedented population growth in the state between 1960 and 1990. There was no plan in place to manage growth, resulting in loss of farmland, fish and wildlife habitat as well as threats to water supply in some areas. Cities and counties needed tools to cope with rapid growth in order to protect natural resources, and plan for necessary facilities and services in urban growth areas. Our study of the GMA will include analysis of the Mason County Comprehensive Plan 2036.

LWV members can ask or legislators to support HB 1099. This bill would require cities and counties to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; it would also require planning for damage from extreme weather events and other climate disasters like floods, droughts and wildfires.