LWV
Leagues of Women Voters
Leagues of Women Voters of Washington

The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

July 2024

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Layout: Mary Bowman
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President's Corner

The Democracy Deficit

An Independence Day reflection

By Kathy Bowman

Hello League members! Hope you had a long July weekend! Wondering what "deficit in democracy" This deficit is built into the Constitution. Our Constitution was written by a group of wealthy, landowning, slave-owning, white men who were afraid of the masses of people who were coming to the New Republic. The Constitution was written to protect the property of the people, having power of the Federal Government in the hands of a few. The Senate was created to be the "cooling saucer" to the passions of the people. The Electoral College was created because the Founders did not trust the people to elect a President directly. The Senate and Electoral College interfere with the democratic process.

Electoral College: Instead of the President being elected by the popular vote of the people, the President is selected by electors who are appointed by the states. The number of electors for each state is based on the number of members of Congress from that state. Each state has two Senators, so the smaller states have more power in the Electoral College. The presidential election is decided by the electors in a few swing states, so the votes of people in those states are more important than those in other states. The Electoral College has been criticized for its potential to distort the democratic process, leading to concerns about the fairness of the election and the potential for candidates to focus their campaigns on a few swing states. Overall, the Electoral College is a complex and controversial issue that has been the subject of many debates and discussions over the years. The Senate: The Senate is composed of two senators from each state, regardless of population. This means that smaller states have more power in the Senate than they would in a purely proportional system. The Senate has the power to ratify treaties and confirm appointments, which can be influenced by the interests of smaller states.

Gerrymandering: This is the practice of manipulating the boundaries of electoral districts to favor a particular party or group. Gerrymandering can lead to the creation of districts that are not representative of the population as a whole, and can make it difficult for voters to have a fair and equal say in the election process. Voter suppression: This refers to the practice of making it more difficult for some people to vote, such as by imposing strict voter ID laws or purging voter rolls. Voter suppression can disproportionately affect marginalized communities and can undermine the democratic process by limiting the participation of some voters.

Money in politics: The influence of money in politics can lead to the prioritization of the interests of wealthy donors and special interest groups over those of the general public. This can lead to a democratic deficit in which the voices of ordinary citizens are not heard or given equal weight in the political process.

Lobbying: Lobbying can be a legitimate form of political participation, but it can also lead to a democratic deficit if it is used to influence policy in ways that are not in the interests of the public as a whole. Lobbying can be used to promote the interests of special interest groups, which may not always align with the interests of the general public.

Misinformation: The spread of false or misleading information can undermine the democratic process by distorting the facts and making it difficult for voters to make informed decisions. Misinformation can be used to manipulate public opinion and to undermine the credibility of political institutions and processes.

Overall, these factors can contribute to a democratic deficit in which the interests of the wealthy and powerful are prioritized over those of the general public, and in which the voices of ordinary citizens are not heard or given equal weight in the political process. It is important to be aware of these factors and to work to address them in order to ensure a fair and equitable democratic process.

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Free Speech or Alarm?
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LWVUS News
Topics We're Following ...
Lead Acknowledgments

Calendar

July 4 Observed – United States of America
July 15 Deadline – Elected Leader Questionnaire
July 15 Deadline – Voter Guide Questionnaire
July 15 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
July 15 – 18 Convention – LWV Oregon
July 18 – 21 Convention of Delegates – LWV Washington
July 22 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
July 22 – 25 Convention – LWV Washington
July 25 – 28 Convention – LWV Washington
July 26 – 28 Convention – LWV Washington
August 1 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
August 5 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
August 6 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
August 7 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
August 8 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
August 12 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
August 13 Deadline – Voter Guide Ad
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September 2 Observed – Labor Day
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The public is invited to all VOTER events.
Please contact the sponsoring League for details.

Leagues Need Meetings to always open to the public. League meetings are a great place to learn about the League, ask questions, and meet other League members.

Leader's message

Abolish the Electoral College

Our process, not the popular vote

By Ruth Gaines

The LWVC is proud to stand with the League of Women Voters of the United States in supporting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV). Our state League has been working on this issue since 2019 when we first studied the Electoral College and the National Popular Vote Compact. We reached consensus that the current system of electing our President and Vice President is not serving the interests of the people of our country. Instead, the power of the Electoral College is in the hands of a few people who are not representative of the population of our country. Our state League reached consensus that we should support the National Popular Vote Compact. We also reached consensus that we should support the National Popular Vote, which would make it so that our President and Vice President would be elected by the popular vote of the people.

Since 2019, our state League has been working with our partners in the National Popular Vote campaign to demand that the people's voice be heard. The Electoral College has been abolished in 17 states and DC, representing 209 electoral votes. The Compact has been introduced in 49 states and DC, representing 2,117 electoral votes.

Colorado, Oregon, and Nevada are commitment to support a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College.

Washington State is a member state of the Compact. We are proud to be a member state.

The Best National Popular Vote Interstate Compact by 2024.

Our state League is working with our partners in the National Popular Vote campaign to demand that the people's voice be heard. Our state League is proud to be a member state of the Compact.

Jane Freeman

In June, 5 Top Abolition Courts, League of Women Voters, Jane Freeman, Ruth Gaines, Kathy Bowman, Mary Bowman, Kathy Bowman, Ruth Gaines, Mary Bowman, Kathy Bowman, Ruth Gaines, Mary Bowman, Kathy Bowman, Ruth Gaines