

# THE **V**oter

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

VOLUME LXXXVIII ISSUE 7, July/August 2025

*A printable version of The Voter is available at [LWVSpokane.org](http://LWVSpokane.org)*

## A Message from Sue and Ruth

### **UNITE AND RISE 8.5 and more!**

Threats to our democracy cannot be more real than at this very moment in time. Our strength lies in our solidarity and mission. LWVUS has created an abundance of tools for us to use in our work. This is being mirrored by Washington State LWV. Where to start with all this information?

First we encourage you to read your National and Washington State newsletters when you can. It is our intent to filter through the many announcements and ACTION requests sent to our leadership team and pass on those that are most critical and timely.

This is a fast moving train with spontaneous events popping up everywhere.

If you hear of any event we should consider supporting please reach out to us ASAP.  
[ruthmay250@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmay250@gmail.com) or [sgirwin@gmail.com](mailto:sgirwin@gmail.com)

**Here are some resources to help with face-to-face encounters and participation decisions.**

**Unite & Rise Campaign:** <https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise?emci=606eaf7d-1a51-f011-8f7c-6045bdfe8e9c&emdi=a944d5ae-4851-f011-8f7c-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=6415138>

**Practicing Nonpartisanship:** <https://www.lwv.org/blog/remaining-nonpartisan-hyper-partisan-times>

**Right to Protest:** <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-supports-right-protest>

## July/August Calendar

**AH&HS Comm. Meeting, Sunday, July 6,**  
meeting link email is  
[lwvsaahhs@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaahhs@gmail.com)

**Immigration Committee Meeting**  
**4th Tuesday, July 22 and August 26,**  
**7pm-8:30pm – on Zoom** Email  
[Ichadez@gmail.com](mailto:Ichadez@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

**No Agenda Potluck**  
**July 26, see page 9**

**The Voter Newsletter Deadline is Friday,**  
**August 22.** Send info to:  
[corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)

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# The League of Women Voters of Washington's 2025 Convention

## *Inspired, Fortified & - Yes - Raging!*

by Ruth May

The League of Women Voters of Washington's 2025 Convention, held in Vancouver, was a power packed three days of workshops, caucuses, plenary business meetings, outstanding keynote speakers, and impromptu gatherings. Spokane's full delegation of seven members and one observer were in attendance.

Three of our local member delegates engaged at the state level in the proceedings. Jean Alliman chaired the LWWVA Nominating Committee. As a state board member, Beth Pellicciotti organized a plenary workshop with round tables with eight League voter education presentations, and also helped conduct the business proceedings. Lunell Haught facilitated multiple caucus meetings and nominated the new state Nominating Committee chair from the floor. Representing LWWSA, Julia Presar did a masterful job of presenting our ballot translation project, receiving accolades from all who attended and requests that her presentation be recorded for broader access.

**INSPIRED** — Keynote speakers included Willie Frank III, Nisqually Tribal Council member; Nick Brown, Washington State Attorney General; Susan Martin, former Executive Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform; Kate Starbird, Professor at the Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering at the University of Washington; and Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters.

**FORTIFIED** — Tools, guidance, exchanges of information, commiseration and cool ideas were offered at a time most needed when the League — nationally, statewide and locally — doubles down on standing up for democracy. Each workshop, caucus, and informal discussion highlighted issues from



Left to right: Front row: Lunell Haught, Mary Lloyd, Lin McGinn, Jean Alliman, Ruth May, Beth Pellicciotti.  
Back row: Elaine Harger, Suzi Hokonson, Julia Presar.

Resisting Threats to Democracy to Media Literacy, with lots of training and support for our many areas of work.

### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Dianna Wynn defined the bold actions LWWUS is now taking as the core values of LWWUS are being challenged daily. She spoke of the courage it will take for the fight ahead of us and the importance of coalitions. Dianna reminded us

of our organization's history and our long vision and strength.

Willy Frank III shared the moving story of his father's activism and commitment to the environment and return of the salmon. He offered hope and vision as he carries on his father's legacy to protect treaty rights and tribal sovereignty.

The most quotable words of the gathering came from Kate Starbird's final power-

point slide. "Rage against the bullshit machine!" was Starbird's advice to convention attendees as she wrapped up her fascinating presentation on mis- dis- and mal-information which featured research on how instantaneously social

*"The magic of my  
father was the magic  
of leadership. We're all  
a piece of my dad."*

*—Willie Frank III*

**LWWVA Convention 2025** cont'd on page 3

**LWVWA Convention 2025** cont'd

media “influencers” spread and readers multiply faulty “news.” She recommended to everyone philosophy professor Harry Frankfurt’s essay “On Bullshit” to better understand the morass that muddles political communication today. Without such understanding the defense of democracy and empowerment of voters lacks the knowledge needed to counter the current political climate. See

[https://www2.csudh.edu/ccauthen/576f12/frankfurt\\_harry\\_-\\_on\\_bullshit.pdf](https://www2.csudh.edu/ccauthen/576f12/frankfurt_harry_-_on_bullshit.pdf)



League member participating at the convention.

Want to know more about the LWVWA’s 2025 Convention? Talk to any of our Spokane member attendees — myself, Jean Alliman, Beth Pellicciotti, Elaine Harger, Lunell Haught, Suzi Hokonson, Mary Lloyd, Lin McGinn, and Julia Presar. We all will gladly share our perspectives and experiences in Vancouver.

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

### ***Ben Stuckart, Executive Director, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium***

by Becky Dickerhoof

The Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC) is a membership association that promotes the long-term availability of affordable housing in Greater Spokane. In 1989, the Greater Spokane Coalition Against Poverty (GSCAP) identified a need to increase the availability of housing for Spokane residents of low income. GSCAP called for a mechanism to encourage and facilitate collaboration on affordable housing development and advocacy. That mechanism is the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC). They began in 1990 with 10 members. Today, SLIHC has over 30 nonprofit and public members that develop and promote affordable housing, and more than 15 supportive members that include lenders, private sector firms, contractors, attorneys, and others that support affordable housing. The Consortium has campaigned for and supported the passage of HB 1590, General Facilities Charge (GFC) fee increase and other programs that will provide homes and services for those in need. In early 2020, after serving as the president of Spokane City Council Ben became the Executive Director of SLIHC. As director he has worked to develop a land bank which provides access to low-cost land for affordable housing. Other projects

include bringing more Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LITEC) projects to Spokane, urging the county to issue bonds to finance social housing, and promoting a safe parking location for RVs and a tiny home village. Recently Ben

wrote the Guest Opinion Column for *The Spokesman-Review* (June 1, 2025) reminding readers the region needs over 26,000 units of low-income housing, has a 3-year wait list, but due to lack of funding creates about 200 units per year. With over 30 members SLIHC continues to work with the city and county to develop more housing for the area. Just like every other organization that relies on outside funding SLIHC worries about their future in the coming years. The need for their work continues as homelessness becomes ever more prevalent in our region.



Ben Stuckart, Executive Director, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium





June 10 Immigration committee program — a full house.

## Immigration Committee Updates

### *LWVSA Immigration Committee Welcomes All: Join Us in Supporting and Protecting Immigrants!*

Committee Co-Chairs: Julia Presar and Louise Chadez

On June 24th, we identified five areas of focus and action. Join the discussion July 22nd. Our League's Immigration Committee promotes education and advocacy for immigrant rights, support and protection. Currently, with 12 members, the Committee is designing project and activity opportunities for all of our members.

On June 10, the Committee presented, "Immigration Past, Immigration Present" to an audience of 40-plus members of the League and community organizations serving immigrants. Drawing on her years in the U.S. Foreign Service, Carmela Conroy presented a historical perspective on U.S. immigration policy and its impacts. Nicole Ruiz, Field Organizer at Nuestras Raíces informed the audience of the current structure and tactics of border and immigration enforcement agencies. Olga Lucia Herrera, certified interpreter, immigrant supporter and activist, emphasized the importance and means for all of us to stand beside our immigrants.

These speakers gave us ways we can personally support and protect immigrants:

- Be friendly and engage with your immigrant neighbors and acquaintances. A very realistic fear of ICE is isolating many people right now and a friendly face is welcome.
- Talk about things other than "where are you from." Chat about activities, family events, and holidays, as you would with all neighbors.
- Asking about immigration status is off-limits

### **Come to our next Immigration Committee Meeting!**

**Tuesday, July 22 – 7:pm-8:30 pm – on Zoom**

Email [Ichadez@gmail.com](mailto:Ichadez@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

***Reach Out! Learn and Engage!***

and can cause fear. Note that ICE officers can be dressed and act like civilians, so when you ask about immigration status, the person has no way of knowing if you are friendly or an ICE officer.

- Find out more about how to affirm and support immigrants in "Know Your Rights," "Rapid Response," or "How to Accompany" trainings.
- Make connections and build friendships with immigrants and their communities by volunteering with immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations, and visit immigrant-owned businesses.

**Below are local organizations that directly serve Spokane area refugees and immigrants. We can all go to their websites to sign up for their newsletters, learn how to get involved, participate in their events, and complete volunteer application forms.**

Asians for Collective Liberation:  
<https://www.aclspokane.org>

Feast World Kitchen:  
<https://www.feastworldkitchen.org>

Global Neighborhood:  
<https://www.global-neighborhood.org>

International Refugee Committee in Spokane:  
<https://www.rescue.org/volunteer>

Latinos en Spokane:  
<https://www.latinosenspokane.org>

Lutheran Community Services Northwest:  
<https://www.lcsnw.org/office/spokane/>

Manzanita House:  
<https://www.manzanitahousespokane.org>

Mujeres in Action: <https://www.miaspokane.org>

Nuestras Raices Centro Comunitario: <https://www.hbpaofspokane.org/volunteer-with-us>

Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane:  
<https://www.ricspokane.org>

Thrive International:  
<https://www.thriveint.org/volunteers>

World Relief Spokane:  
<https://www.worldrelief.org/spokane>

**Take action to support and protect our immigrant neighbors and friends!**

*Submitted by Susan Hales, LWVSA Immigration Committee member*

# *LWVSA participates in local World Refugee Day Celebration*

by Susan Hales

Spokane celebrated World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 21st and LWVSA was on site! LWVSA volunteers: Alysha Brady, Julie Cordero, Susan Hales, Judy Krueger, Linda Murphy and Judy Silverstein registered new citizens to vote and encouraged all to support our new LWV position advocating for U.S. immigrants and immigrants' rights.



Photo credit: Naghma Sherazi

# *Thank You New & Renewed Members!*



**NEW MEMBERS**  
Mary Carter  
Erin Clowes  
Joseph Ghodsee  
Suzanne Tresko  
Charlene Violette

**RENEWED MEMBERS**  
Julie Ernst  
Janet Katz  
Akua Lum-Reeser  
  
(since 6-17-25)

**The deadline is August 22 for September 1  
THE VOTER publication.  
Email submissions to Julie at [corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)**

# Redistricting Commission Reform Committee

## Redistricting Commission Reform – Next Steps

by Mary Lloyd

Our LWVWA State Convention was a success with such great people stepping in from Clark County - Vancouver League taking the role of hosting the event. With the workbook agenda in hand, one could navigate their 'spare' time with engagement in many workshops or caucus events. A big thank you from our team.

Our Redistricting Reform Statewide Committee and Local Area Team (LAT) Chairs and other members of the state group– led by Alison McCaffree (Task Force Chair), had an exhibit table, a scavenger bingo game as well as hosting a workshop and a caucus.

Our first committee event was a caucus, Friday evening, and it kept five tables busy with aspects of tackling Redistricting Reform: Why This? Why Now?

Engaging participants in our movement to further democracy, each table had components and outlines of topics for what will take place to change the WA State Constitution REDISTRICTING 1. [Outline of Topics - WA State Constitution REDISTRICTING Components ver2.docx - Google Docs](#) from where it is under Amendment 74 (1983), to what it can become. This includes the Commission Formation; Size; Qualification; Legislative Action to Support Commission; Redistricting Criteria; Map (Plan) Amendments by Legislature; Reconvening of Commission to Modify Map (Plan); Terms and Vacancy; WA Supreme Court Rule; Legal Standing of Maps (Plan) by Commission; Legal Establishment of REDISTRICTING as Amended.

The Washington State Redistricting Act RCW 44.05 [2. Outline of Topics - Washington State Redistricting Act \(RCW\) .docx - Google Docs](#), has the outline of what will need to be tackled through workshops of the committee and our statewide collaboration groups the State League Committee is working through as our next steps...

As you can see, the process ahead is a lot to tackle. Fortunately, we have many examples of states already using a Commission Reform. Take a look at the other documents this summer during your break of monthly meetings to brush up on these other states' Independent Redistricting format. [4. Outline of Topics - Common Cause .docx - Google Docs](#)

If you have a desire to delve into the process of working with others to change the WA State Redistricting Commission visit our State League website for the available resources. Then contact me and we can prepare time to sit and volunteer our time and energy with our State Committee. [League of Women Voters of Washington - Current Issues](#) Making Democracy Work blue section and look under Redistricting. You can download the Issue Paper by clicking on the underlined words. When you open the document, you can join us at our

Statewide monthly Redistricting Reform Committee meeting each third Wednesday at 2 PM on ZOOM link, by contacting Alison McCaffree, using the link at the bottom of the paper.

Our Local Action Team (LAT) will begin our monthly meetings again in September. The third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 PM.

So, for your summer months, keep enjoying the weather outside, playing in the garden, trails and lakes, keep cool by reading up on the Redistricting Reform Advocacy efforts our state and our local leagues support for creating a commission structure that is 21st century representing the advancements of our state and our efforts to advance equitable representation and civic participation. Help in making a truly independent commission.

Stay well, healthy and kind.



### Board of Directors

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Co-President</b> | 2 year Co-President Ruth May            |
| <b>Co-President</b> | 2 year Co-President Sue Irwin           |
| <b>Treasurer</b>    | 1 year Treasurer Mike Bell              |
| <b>Secretary</b>    | 2 year Secretary Samantha Armstrong Ash |
| <b>Directors</b>    | 1 year Director Emily Grizzell          |
|                     | 1 year Director Elaine Harger           |
|                     | 1 year Director Kathy West              |

# Voter Services Report

## Tabling at Local Events – Focus on Immigrants

by Elaine Harger

June LWVSA tabling events focused on informing passers-by of the LWVWA's position on immigrants in Washington state. We let people know that the League is a nonpartisan organization, neither supporting nor opposing political parties and candidates, but that we do, on occasion, take positions on matters of public policy.

At Spokane Pride and at World Refugee Day we informed the people with whom we spoke about the state League's position regarding immigrants and urged them to contact elected officials to share their views on what is now happening to immigrants in the U.S. Nearly everyone appreciated the information provided by the League which included the handout shown below and the 2025 TRY directory.

For the World Refugee Day event, Susan Hales had this flyer translated into several languages. Please see her report on page 5.

LWVSA is proud to support

**IMMIGRANT & LGBTQ+**

family, friends and neighbors

at **SPOKANE PRIDE!**

Riverfront Park, 6/14/25


**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SPOKANE, WASH.

**IMMIGRANTS KEEP WASHINGTON WORKING!**

- 15% of all Washingtonians are immigrants, only 3.4% undocumented
- 77% of all agricultural workers in the state are immigrants
- 51.3% of all software developers are immigrants
- 48.9% of all maids and housekeepers are immigrants
- 36.4% of all health aids in the state are immigrants.

"The State of Washington should continue to challenge federal policies that undermine the rights of immigrants in the state." League of Women Voters of Washington, scan QR code for full statement.

Contact elected officials to support, not deport, immigrant family members, friends and neighbors!



### Volunteers needed for:

- 7/3, Thursday, 10:30am – Naturalization Ceremony – Shriners Event Center, 4 volunteers needed
- 7/4, Friday, 11:00am to 3:00pm – Freedom in the Arboretum – Finch Arboretum, 4 volunteers needed for two 2-hours shifts
- 7/17, 10:00am Naturalization Ceremony – Foley Court house, 2 volunteers needed
- 9/20, Saturday, 10:30am to 6:00pm – Valleyfest – Mirabeau Point Park, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 8 volunteers needed for four 2-hour shifts

To volunteer for naturalization ceremonies contact Sally Phillips, [phillips1948@comcast.net](mailto:phillips1948@comcast.net)  
For all others contact Elaine Harger, [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com)

## 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. A calendar is in the process of being developed that will make the work of this committee much more efficient. Welcome to Stephanie Baker, Nicole Setterberg, Debra Briggs and Stuart Wilson. Thank you so much for your interest and enthusiasm

**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** held in the Commissioner's Hearing Rm. Lower Level of the Public Works Bldg.

**Public Meetings** held in Commissioner's Hearing Rm. or a conference rm. in the Public Works Bldg.



# How can you get involved in LWV – Spokane Area?

by Julia Presar

Look through opportunities in the Volunteer Corner and connect with those people.

Read the updates in this Voter from Committees and reach out to the author if you want more information about what you read.

Go the website <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area> and peruse the calendar, the issues and the Member Handbook <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/members-only/member-handbook-organizational-chart-bylaws-standing-committees-annual-report-more>

As a wise LWV - Spokane Area member once said, “The League is not a train that you jump on. It is a wagon, and you can either pull it or push it, but it won’t move unless you reach out and grab hold.”

| Volunteer Corner – Grab the Wagon!  |  |
|---|--|
| Opportunities   | Contacts   |
| Are you a public speaker?<br><br>You can give presentations to high school classes, business, immigrant and religious organizations. Topics include civics education and voter information.   | Reach out to Beth Pelliciotti<br><a href="mailto:pelliccmb@gmail.com">pelliccmb@gmail.com</a>  |
| Do you want to welcome new citizens to democracy and voting?<br><br>You can work with a partner and register naturalized citizens to vote at events throughout the summer.  | Reach out to Sally Phillips<br><a href="mailto:phillips1948@comcast.net">phillips1948@comcast.net</a>  |
| Do you like connecting with people in a casual environment?<br><br>Do you have ideas about how to engage the public in a fair/festival setting? Thoughts on table-top games? You could give input on innovative ways to encourage civic action. | Reach out to Elaine Harger<br><a href="mailto:eharger@drizzle.com">eharger@drizzle.com</a>   |
| Are you comfortable in online meetings?<br><br>You could attend a monthly zoom meeting where people share league activities around the state and then report back to the LWVSA board.   | Reach out to Lunell Haight<br><a href="mailto:lh1@fasmail.com">lh1@fasmail.com</a>   |
| Do you enjoy listening, learning and taking notes?<br><br>You could observe local meetings (government, advocacy) and then report back to the Observer Corp or the Affordable Housing/Homelessness Committee.                                   | Reach out to Sue Irwin for local government meetings<br><a href="mailto:sgirwin@gmail.com">sgirwin@gmail.com</a><br>or to Sherri Gangitano<br><a href="mailto:lwvsaahhs@gmail.com">lwvsaahhs@gmail.com</a> for meetings regarding housing. |

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



# Welcoming and Nominating Committee Updates

by Lunell Haught

## Nominating Committee:

We're looking for people who either want to be on the committee (you don't have to know anyone in League) and/or are curious, want to do something big or small regarding democracy, and are nonpartisan. Summer is a great time to explore what role you want to play in defending democracy, either on the local or state level. There are many options – let's talk about your next step with the League. Contact Lunell Haught at 509-443-1319 (land line/no text) or [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com)

## Welcome: No Agenda Potluck

Join fellow Leaguers at a NO AGENDA potluck gathering at Lunell Haught's home on Saturday, July 26 from 11 until 2 (ish) 7802 S Cheney Spokane Road (3 miles from the 195 exit. We know there are lots of events going on this summer, try to make this one! RSVP appreciated but better to come unannounced and empty handed than stay away! If you can let me know you're coming and what you'll bring that would be appreciated!

RSVP to Lunell Haught at 509-443-1319 (land line/no text) or [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com)

## Orientation to League/Lunch with the League:

There will be no formal sessions or lunches until September but that doesn't mean you can't connect and learn about the League. Be sure you have access to the members section of the website and look at the Members Handbook. <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/members-only/member-handbook-organizational-chart-bylaws-standing-committees-annual-report-more>

Washington: the State We're In is a LWVWA project that identifies aspects of democracy and what indicates the status of those aspects in Washington. There is room for researchers, writers, organizers proof-readers, and more. If you're interested contact Lunell Haught at 509-443-1319 (land line/no text) [lh1@fastmail.com](mailto:lh1@fastmail.com)

— Public Statement —

### LWV Urges Congress to Exercise Its Authority

On the 105th anniversary of its founding, the League of Women Voters sent a letter to Congressional leadership regarding the organization's grave concern over the state of our nation.

Specifically, the League writes to urge Congress to exercise its authority to protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach that the Executive Branch has shown in the last few weeks. The letter outlines our concerns and is signed by leadership from every state League and DC affiliate in the country.

[View letter at link below](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/LWV%2051%20state%20letter%20to%20Congress%20FINAL.pdf)

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/LWV%2051%20state%20letter%20to%20Congress%20FINAL.pdf>

## 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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