THE Voter
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXIV ISSUE 9, September 1, 2021

A printable PDF of The Voter will be available at LWVSpokane.org

From the President

Almost like clockwork, the weather has begun to change, schools have started, and the leaves are beginning to turn. Fall is upon us. We have had a busy and abnormal calendar, redistricting/ League calendar, along with various holiday and seasonally related activities. Our hope is that you will be tested to get your booster shot, get your flu shot, and continue to wear masks and use social distance in the center. Let's support members in the LWVSA. We have a lot of work to do and we need your support and your ideas.

And as we begin our work anew for the League year, we are reminded that we are but a few days left the realities of the redistricting page in LWVSA. We look forward to start refining a person Service Meeting by coming together for our Kick Off Meeting on Tuesday September 14 and continue to meet on the same topic. So for the first being, our meetings will continue to be virtual. Stay safe. . . And serve everyone!

Ann Murphy, LWVSA President

Kickoff Meeting for 2021-22 – Welcome All!

Our Kick Off Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 14, 1:30 am or 6:30 pm – and yes, it will all be virtual

Zoom Link for Tuesday, September 14 General Meetings

1:30 am: click here at 1:30 AM (6 am PT)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88004378962?pwd=aVpFRm1qUzNNMTNFNlNqaVBQ

Meeting ID: **880 0437 8962** Passcode: **8vAMr1**
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,

We will –

- do some catch up on summer activities including quick reports from the Leadership Retreat and Convention
- have some fun stories – no visit and ask questions.
- have a "Fall Line Up" of activities and ways to become involved – Voter Service Committee, membership Team, and Zoom Co – Host, 2 & 3 Zoom Book
- Get updates on both the County and State Redistricting efforts
- Hear the status of the Spokane Sustainability Action Plan

See separate articles in this issue of **The Voter** about some of these activities.

September is Dues Renewal Month!

It's that time of year again. We annual renewal of your dues to the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area. Your renewal allows our important work to continue. Without your dues, we would be unable to sustain our organizational operating demands(yes, even those that use

Please visit LWVSpokane.org to make an instant renewal with a credit card. Or send a check payable to LWVSA to League of Women Voters - Spokane Area, 3404 North Howard, Spokane, WA 99205.

Renewal payments are due by September 30.

Last year your membership contributions made a tremendous impact on our community:

- We provided accurate and reliable information on ballot measures and candidates for elections and registration to thousands of our neighbors who may not otherwise have received this information.
- We helped Spokane residents learn about the issues and how to vote in elections.
- We provided over a dozen 2020 local candidate forums and issue forums, reaching viewers on multiple social media channels and websites.

These are just a few of the accomplishments our dues helped to fund last year. Make your Annual Renewal a team review. Review how to help propel the impactful work into 2022 and beyond.

Review Membership

Watch for Member Survey
Our Membership with Ann Murphy's survey to help guide the Volunteer or Job Leadership. Please watch for it in your inbox.

Volunteer Now to Help with Candidate Forums

Lisa Kaber, LWVSA Candidate Forum Team

Join the Action! LWVSA needs volunteers to stage the 10 competitive races in the upcoming General Election, including City of Spokane Council, Spokane County Council, Spokane Public Schools Board and City of Spokane Municipal Court.

Due to the pandemic, we will be hosting candidate forums in person. We need a host, moderator and timer for each forum, to be ready to welcome candidates and attendees! Q and A starting 20 min between forums during the last two weeks of October and early

Wow! Wait, that only has to last hours! We need to schedule two hours per session.

Please email Lisa Kaber to volunteer or learn more, and remember to let her know what you prefer volunteer should work for you.

If you have ideas for questions of the candidates please send those along as well.

Redistricting Updates

Ann Murphy, President

Spokane County Redistricting Committee

Spokane County Redistricting Committee The four commissioners have finished their draft maps as August 31. Read the draft plan.

You can learn more by reading excellent Spokesman-Review articles from Monday, August 30 and Tuesday, September 3.

The Redistricting Committee is getting further analysis on three of the four maps. Tuesday, September 7, is the final time we meet to review items in the map. You can make your individual comments by **by Sept 24, 2021, deadline** at the Commission's website - www.spokanecounty.org/ccr

- by sending emails to the commission participants on the website
- by attending the Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 7, at 1:30pm in the Bryan Room at the Martin Public Library, 3004 South Regal St. Spokane, or text virtual participation (in website website)

Please remember the comments website for details in person or virtual for all other meetings:

- Sept 9, 3:30-7:30pm - Public Information meeting - Deer Park Library
- Oct 1, 3:30-7:30pm - Public Information meeting - Cheney Library
- Oct 1, 5:30-7:30pm - Final Public Hearing - Northern Quest Resort & Casino, 100 N. Hayford Rd., Airway Heights (Antique Ballroom)

The final plan needs to be filed with Betty Gilkey, Spokane County Auditor, by November 15. The Commission has to file a plan by Nov. 15 or the County Auditor will do so, and other entities and those districts will be used in the 2022 elections. Read more about the Redistricting process.

The Redistricting Committee meets regularly on Tuesdays, 4:30-7:00pm. League members Barb Bauer, Sylvia Cleve and Ann Murphy have been attending regularly and are monitoring and commenting to the committee during the Public Forum parts of the meeting.

State Commission for the Legislative and Congressional Districts

LWVSA held a Let's Chat on State Redistricting on Sept 1. If you were unable to attend you have an opportunity to comment. Go to https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/commission-meetings/public-comment-opportunities-for-instructions, which will take you to the Wenatchee Only section for your response.

For your input to be considered, it must be received by Thursday, Sept 9, as per instructions on the web site. Or email your comments to redistricting@leg.wa.gov.

Upcoming dates Learn about draft maps:
- https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/proposed-maps and how to participate in upcoming public comment opportunities: https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/commission-meetings (select Public Comment Meetings pull-down this page)

- Sep 21 – Draft Legislative maps available
- Sep 28 – Draft Congressional maps available
- Oct 4 – Public Hearing on Draft Legislative maps
- Oct 5 – Public Hearing on Draft Congressional maps

Unity in the Community A Rare Chance to Reach Out

Betty Underhill

At an in-person event, our new Mayor-elect, President Pam was touring on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at the Unity in the Community Rally and Resource Fair. Approached by Mrs.Murphy, Sylvia Cleve, Elizabeth Rowell, Diane Martens, Marilyn Daniels, Judy Shoemaker, Linda Mineau, Charlee Hanger and Betty Underhill.

We spent the day interrelating with members, and and now, that we haven't seen in person since the pandemic began. We also helped people register to vote and provided information on our Voter Guide. We met people of all ages, ethnicities, flags, and backgrounds.

In a popular activity at our booth, 127 children (mostly) exercised their right to vote for their favorite pet. Dog was the clear winner.

This was also an opportunity to visit with our board leaders, including Spokane City Council Members Betty Wilkerson and Lori Kinnear, and Mayor Nadine Woodward. Mayor Woodward was the only candidate who came to the local leagues with them. Parker Ellinburg(sp?)and Lilgua also stopped by and expressed interest in speaking to our group in the future.

It was especially delightful to speak with people from all over our nation, from Ukraine, Mexico, Cuba, and Vietnam. Many people were very interested in the issues and hopefully will investing more about our community and the LWVSA. Events like these are vital to our mission to "Empower Voters and Defend Democracy" and we need to be there in person to do our job as a volunteer. Without you we wouldn't be able to complete our mission.

Liz Russell, Judy Shoemaker, and Darlene Hagen staff the booth

Betty Underhill (left) with her mentee Diane Martens

Kids get an educational voting by choosing their favorite kind of pet

Your Ballot Guide Available

Please check out the Your Ballot guide that Lori Kinnear and Betty Wilkerson have put together as a combined project of the LWVSA and the City of Spokane. This is a great tool that will have copies that will be used in upcoming Voter Education work this fall and all the way to elections when we are able to do it safely.

Thank you to LWVSA.

Show Your Support for Voting on National Voter Registration Day

Betty Underhill, Board Member, Voter Service Chair

On September 20, 2021, the League of Women Voters will celebrate National Voter Registration Day. This is a day when we, as a nation, set aside our differences as citizens to rejoice in one and exercise that right to vote for our elected officials.

You are encouraged to participate in this national effort to empower voters by displaying a "Get Out Vote" yard sign during the election cycle. Our sister League, LWVWA, has kicked off a statewide form, "Be A Voter," to better reach citizens about the importance of voting.

Get Your Yard Sign!
Vote411.org is providing yard signs free of charge. But you can also make your own. Be a "Voter" board, write the other side with the reason why you are voting and post on the information you have learned, voting. We have all our members are staying this in mind and are making sure we have our voices heard and rights exist.

We have a dedicated group of voter advocates ready to deliver signs as soon as they are requested. Email Betty Gilkey for more information.

While the signs are free, we are asking each member to donate $10 to go towards the cost of the signs, and operations and our education and we have made online donations at LWVSpokane.org. Click on the purple DONATE button and follow the instructions. Please indicate that your donation is for the "Get Out the Vote Fund" so that our League is credited for the donation. These funds will make it possible for our League to continue to support our many local programs and activities.

We look forward to seeing how our partisan signs in our members' yards for National Voter Registration Day.

Register Now for Act II Civics Course

Beth Pollicoach, Civics Education Committee

Plan on learning more every by signing up to a Spokane Community College Act II course offered by Northwest Leadership Institute, Sept 14 – Nov 16.

Course times with registration information: https://app.appsheet.com/d/sites/a-BuilderCommunity-Research/AC2-Courses-Yourself

Learn More / Register

Choice Bowl Project – Your Help Needed

Dawn Bagness, Communications Chair

As you may have heard, we are creating an impactful, fun, and unique project to benefit the Spokane Public Schools Choice Bowl Project. Choice Bowl Made up of a group of people who are passionate about keep beginning, with the past season of 10 bowls crafted by or relating to **Hope** and **Choice**.

The Choice Ed committee would love to have your help crafting the contest questions and working with the Spokane Public Schools advisory committee. It will be interesting and rewarding work! **If you'd like to volunteer or learn more about it, please reach out to Beth Pollicoach.**

We look forward to sharing the progress of this exciting project!

Spokane Candidates to Discuss Climate Change

Rebecca Kamens, Key Refuge

Gonzaga University's Center for Climate, Society and the Environment will host a candidate forum on Climate Change on Tuesday, Sept. 7, from 7-8:30 pm in the Cataldo Hall Globe Room and via live stream. Registration is in person or virtual attendance is free. Purpose and learn more.

In person attendance requires adherence to Gonzaga's indoor guidelines, including masks and vaccination. Virtual attendance will be provided via zoom and live on the day of the event. Registration for in person attendance ending at the hours will also be available on the day of the event. Gonzaga's Kyle Danielson will be the moderator.

Spokane Science Fiction Author and Spokane City Council candidate and Spokane Public Schools Board candidate Jason Vondeberg will be the speaker. Confirmed participants include Raghunus Sharma (District 3), Betty Wilkerson (District 1), Lori Kinnear (District 2), Karen Stratton (District 3), Jonathan Chai (Community Building Foundation), Facilitator, The Lands Council, Sunrise Substack, Spokane Riverkeeper, and Bill Sprague.

The purpose of the forum is to provide a platform for local climate change stakes that "Key Refuge is a venture based learning for radical climate change" and the League believes that an international approach to combating climate change – including the protection of biodiversity, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and protection of vulnerable resources – is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem." Read more in the research document, Land for Life and Climate Resilience.

Learn More and Register

Ann Murphy, President

At its Aug 19 meeting your LWVSA Board –

- Approved a calendar of monthly program presentations knowing that circumstances may always dictate a change (see website calendar)
- Approved Kickoff Meeting on Tuesday – both changes made with ease (see Zoom above)
- Approved Board Governance Policy (and began work on an updated Policy Manual) – Board Governance Committee (Ann Murphy, President, Kristy Dorr Latimer, President, President of LWVWA and president of Spokane County Council of PTA, Lisa Kaber, Treasurer)
- Approved continued membership in Greater Spokane Progress, Spokane Public Schools Foundation, and Spokane Housing Ventures (refer to the website or LWVSpokane.org)
- Learned that LWVWA is looking for interested volunteers to help plan the Convention, Leadership Retreat, Voter Service Volunteer and Illegal Ballot Collection. Contact Ann Murphy if interested.

We look forward to sharing the progress of this exciting project!

2021-22 LWVSA General Meeting Topics

Sept 14 – Kickoff Meeting – Volunteer Opportunities, Upcoming Action Plan Updates – Ann Murphy and various volunteers

Oct 12 – Election Protection/ Poll Worker and Ballot Drop/

Nov 2 – Legislative Action Workshop follow up and Plans for session — setting up legislators

Dec 14 – Cheney Lunch – Cheer Bipartisan

Jan 11 – Program Planning – Hot Topics/ Program of Work & LWVUS proposals – Spokane Cities

Feb 8 – Public Hospital Districts LWWSA – and other Healthcare Items – Kym Mapp

Mar 8 – Harvest Cities Study Report Out – Beth Pollicoach

Apr 12 – Environmental Issue – Ecovis Team

May 17 – Annual Meeting (evening only)

June – LWVWA Council & LWVUS Convention

Calendar

Sept 7 - Spokane County Redistricting Information meeting, Deer Park

September 14 – LWVSA Kick-off General Meeting – 1:30am & 6:30pm via Zoom

September 16 – LWVWA Board – 11:00am-1:00pm via Zoom

Sept 21 – Draft Legislative Maps available – Washington State Redistricting

Sept 28 – Draft Congressional Maps available

Sept 30 – Spokane County Redistricting Information meeting, Cheney

Oct 1 – **Five** dates/times

Oct 4 – Public Hearing/Meeting – 11:30am & 6:30pm, via Zoom

Oct 5 – LWVSA Board

Oct 18 – Final Spokane County Redistricting Plan due to Spokane County Auditor

Nov 2 – General Election Day

Your 2021 - 2022 Board

Ann Murphy, President & Action Chair
Kristy Dorr Sagen - Secretary
Lisa Kaber - Treasurer
Dawn Bagness - Director (Communications Chair)
Beth Pollicoach - Director (Civics Education Chair)
Becky Cosenhaut - Director (Voter Services Chair)
April May - Director (Membership Chair)
Diane Martens - Director (Program of Work Chair)

Need a Member Directory?
It's needed part of the most recent issue of the member directory. Please contact Ann Murphy or Lisa Kaber at LWVSpokane.org. If you do not want to be seen in **Google** Drive/Client Data/Google and we'll send you one.

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