



VOTER

August 2026

<https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Polly Parton

I hope everyone is taking full advantage of our great summer. Travel, gardening, BBQs, evenings on the patio and water activities are some of life's pleasures. Thank you to our members who continue to support our league thru this time. Voter engagements are increasing thru the fall and I hope our members will find an event to engage in (see the calendar on the last page). If you haven't participated in these events, please join us. We have a great time at each event, having meaningful conversations with voters and future voters. A fun game for kids to play and learn helps us interact while sparking an interest in civics. Meeting our fellow league members is a joy as each member has unique views and I learn something from each one of you.

We are planning an August event to celebrate Women's Equality Day and the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment. An invite will be sent as we finalize the details. We will have a speaker and treats. We invite all members and this is a great time to invite a friend or neighbor. Please watch for the invitation.

LWV CONVENTION 2026 – WOMEN UNITED & RISE – Judy Golberg

As the LWV-BF delegate to national convention, this is my report. I was a virtual delegate and spent the weekend of June 26-28 glued to the computer with the convention sessions and voting platform both open and ready for action! That may sound farfetched but for League junkies, it was fun! Convention is much better in person but virtual attendance saves travel days, big \$\$s, and refreshments within reach.

Pictures of convention have been posted along with recordings of several business sessions (plenaries), workshops and special guests. To view, click on this [link](#).

Day 1 – President Dianna Winn handled the convention with grace and fairness. She did a great job as President.

First, we heard a recorded talk from Lucy Baines Johnson, former President Johnson's daughter. She was a teenager when her father signed the national voter's act and reminisced about that time in history.

1073 members were registered as delegates, out of a possible 1983. 178 were virtual delegates. 49 states and Washington, DC were represented. A quorum was present.

Business included accepting the Standing Rules and the slate of officers, board members and nominating committee. There were no further nominations from the floor. The slate was declared elected. The immediate past President from LWVWA, Mary Coltrane was one of those elected to the Board.

Program Planning – ongoing Positions were approved. The concurrence with LWVWA’s study and position regarding Welcoming Immigrants was overwhelmingly approved. (To those in our local League who participated in that study, thank you.) Non-recommended concurrences were approved for consideration the following day. When a concurrence or program is “non-recommended”, it requires an extra step to come before the delegates. (More on these later.) There was one non-recommended study that did not pass consideration.

Day 2 – The first item virtual delegates could view was a 2-hour session on diversity, equity and inclusion. The video has been posted. Afternoon started with a fireside chat with Dianna and Celina Stewart, CEO. They discussed the challenges over the past two years including launching the membership portal and the constitutional crisis. Security had to be hired plus Celina wore body armor while on speaking engagements. Next, we heard from the CEO of the Girl Scouts, a partner with League.

Plenary session included the discussion on Resolutions. There were six moved forward for discussion and adoption. All six were adopted with a good amount of discussion. Topics: value of civil service workers, DC statehood, constitutional crisis, direct election of the president, surveillance technology (cameras), and human trafficking.

The Budget was passed. The national League is experiencing a strong financial period.

Business took us back to the non-recommended concurrences. Colorado League asked for concurrence on religious freedom. This required a 2/3 vote and did not pass. There was a challenge to the vote, then a motion to suspend the rules how a quorum was figured. Eventually, this motion passed. Interesting discussion on the quorum. The rules will be rewritten in the future to be clear. The room had several parliamentarians who all their Robert’s Rules in hand!

NY League’s concurrence regarding privatization did not pass.

Day 3 – Sunday. Plenary began at 7 AM, eastern time. That is 4 AM in WA and 3 AM in Alaska. We were all there!

Bylaws came next. Any change to LWV’s Bylaws in Articles I-III are required changes for all Leagues. Article II, Section 2 amendment was approved. We have until next annual meeting in May to make the changes to ours. This amendment added a member’s rights and responsibilities policy. Article VIII, Section added a statement regarding emergency powers. It may be something we wish to add. This will protect our organization from challenges if there is a national emergency and the board/membership cannot meet according to the Bylaws. There

were four more Bylaws amendments that did pass. Several non-recommended Bylaws amendments were proposed but all failed.

Convention ended with another fireside chats with Celina and newly elected president Sania Irwin discussing the future.

Plan to attend in the future. It is a wonderful experience. Thank you for allowing me to be your delegate.

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER – Bree Bowen

19th Amendment Anniversary

It's that time of the summer, again: when we pause to celebrate the passing of the 19th amendment. The 19th Amendment guarantees that the right of U.S. citizens to vote cannot be denied or abridged on account of sex. After decades of arguments for and against women's suffrage, Congress finally passed the 19th Amendment in June of 1919. After Congress approved the 19th Amendment, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become law. (This process is called ratification.) On March 22, 1920, Washington voted to ratify the 19th Amendment. By August of 1920, 36 states (including Washington) ratified the amendment, ensuring that the right to vote could not be denied based on sex.

The first three states to ratify the law were Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois. The last few states to ratify were Georgia (1971), Louisiana (1970), and North Carolina (1971). However, the very last state to approve final ratifications was Mississippi, who didn't ratify until 1984, and even then, didn't officially certify it until 1995!

Unfortunately, under the newly proposed (but not yet passed in the Senate) SAVE Act, married women would face an additional hurdle while trying to vote. Nearly 70 million American women do not have a birth certificate that matches their current legal name. Under this bill, they would need to present both a birth certificate and a marriage certificate to establish their identity. This burden is not partisan. It falls on tens of millions of women regardless of how they vote. Many organizations, including LWV, and congressional critics argue that this creates a massive hurdle or "show your papers" mandate. They contend millions of married women without an updated passport matching their legal name could struggle or face new red tape to register. You can find more information on the League's opposition to the SAVE Act (and how to encourage your senators to vote no) at <https://www.lwv.org/save-act>.

Quote for the Month – From Diane Molleson's MELD Notes

"First Follower Theory" by Derek Sivers who argues that "leadership isn't crafted by the lone pioneer, but by the first person who joins them because that follower transforms an individual action into a shared movement."

LWVBF TREASURER'S REPORT – Carla Ciotti, Treasurer

LWVBF Treasurer's Report – June 2026

As of June 30, 2026

Checking is	\$6,528.27
<u>Savings is</u>	<u>1,857.63</u>
Total	\$8,385.90

Income:

From Education Fund 375.26

Savings interest .01

Total income: \$375.27

Expenses (April and May):

Domain expenses 12.93

Total expenses: \$12.93

Membership Dues and Donations: In June we did not receive any dues or contributions.

Please watch your email for membership renewal notices from the U.S. League of Women Voters. See below for more information on the renewal process.

Our bank account was reimbursed \$375.26 from our Education Fund for expenses incurred for the scholarship program.

We received one in-kind donation of \$150 from a member who attended the national LWV convention virtually and paid for her registration.

Expenses: Our only expense this month was for Domain Privacy and Protection from Bluehost. The cost was \$12.93.

Education Fund: The local league received a reimbursement for the scholarship program expenses of \$375.26 which reduced the Education Fund Balance to \$14,019.28.

Audit Committee: June 30 was the end of the fiscal year. Volunteers will be recruited at the July meeting to audit the financial records for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

LWV Membership Renewal: Members will be notified by LWVUS 60 days and 30 days before their renewal date and again on the renewal date. Members will be considered active members for 60 days beyond their renewal date (the grace period). If members do not renew by the end of the grace period, they will be dropped from the national roster and our local league's email list. If you choose Auto Renew, your membership will be automatically renewed on your due date.

Also, when you renew on-line you need to use the email address that is associated with your LWV account. This is how your account is identified. If you use a different email address, you will be registered as a new member and have a duplicate account. If you don't know which email

address to use, please contact Carla, Treasurer (509-521-2158) or Shirley, Roster Manager (509-392-1808)

You can also join or renew your membership by writing a check to **LWVUS** and sending it to our local post office box: LWVBF P.O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352. You choose your dues amount; it must be at least \$20. \$75 is the recommended dues amount.

If you have questions on how to renew, which email address to use, or need to know when your membership is due for renewal, please contact Carla or Shirley (phone numbers above).

Contributions:

To donate to the Education Fund: Members can donate to our education fund by sending a check to: **LWVWA Education Fund**. The address is 1511 Third Avenue, Suite 801, Seattle, WA, 98101, Attention: Ed Fund Treasurer. **Please note on the check or separately that your donation is for the Benton-Franklin League Education Fund.** Donations to the Education Fund are tax deductible.

If you would like your donation to go exclusively to our Scholarship Program, please specify that in your note. Also, please contact Carla separately and your donation will be earmarked for scholarships.

To donate to our local league: Members can donate to the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties by either writing a check to **LWVBF**, P.O. Box 765, Richland, 99352 or clicking the Donate button on our web page <https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties>.

Thank you.

Carla Chiotti, LWVBF Treasurer
cchiotti@gmail.com
(509) 521-2158 (text is fine)



July Naturalization Ceremony

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Elaine Hetherington

Polly Parton

Christine Grantham

Pattie Blakeman

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LWVWA PRESIDENT’S CALL – Polly Parton

From LWVUS National Convention – Six Program items were adopted

- 1 - Voting Rights
- 2 – Protecting Elections
- 3 – Redistricting
- 4 – Immigration
- 5 – Individual Rights
- 6 – The Presidency

- Two concurrences were passed: Religious Freedom, & Protecting the Rights of Immigrants (LWVWA)
- LWV Strongly denounces President Trump’s false claims about election security in national address and condemns President Trump’s removal of Election Assistance Commission Commissioners
- LWV asks federal court to enforce ruling blocking unlawful SAVE system
- WINS – Birthright citizenship ruling is a critical win and Supreme Court protects vote by mail and preserves states’ authority over ballot receipt rules
- LOSSES – Supreme Court upholds State laws barring transgender girls from school athletics and they strike down key campaign finance provision, turning political parties into conduits for big donors

From LWVWA

- Washington State Supreme Court candidate information page is on the state website
- Data center Affinity Group (new), 1st zoom meeting is 8/6 at 6 pm
- Initiatives: Webpage up: Vote “NO” to Protect Vulnerable Kids - LWVWA Opposes IL26-001 & IL26-638
- Decline to Sign I-500: (to establish heightened voter registration and voting requirements) No signatures turned in, so this is dead for now!
- National Voter Registration Day – September 15
- National Voter Education Week – October 5-9
- National Election Hero Day – October 20

BOOK CLUB – Polly Parton

The July book was *107 Days* by Kamala Harris. Kamala breaks down the 2024 campaign, the VP search and the fraught relationship with President Biden. This was a unique campaign, during a most unique political atmosphere. Our book for August is *West with Giraffes: A novel* by Lynda Rutledge, an adventure based on a historic event. The September book is *There is No Place for Us. working and Homeless in America* by Brian Goldstone. The October book is *The Dream Hotel* by Lala Lalami.



Join us the 2nd Monday each month at 6 pm via Zoom by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the link. We keep discussions to one hour. Please join in even if you did not squeeze the book into your schedule. For more information. pparton34@gmail.com or 509 -551-3818

Calendar of Events -August, September

(Want to join any event? Text, email or call us)

8/1 Saturday – Islamic Center Multicultural Bazaar & Bake Sale & Tabling, 10 – 4 pm, 2900 Bombing Range Rd, Chris Grantham leads, Polly

8/6 Thursday – Pasco Supporting Schools & Families 3- 4:30 pm Margie Bass leads, others?

8/6 Thursday – Data Affinity Group 1st zoom, 6 pm, with Marty Gibbons

8/17 Monday – Back to School Resource Fair 4-6:30 pm HAPO Ctr. Polly, others?

8/18 Tuesday –Board Meeting 6 pm, zoom

9/9 Wednesday - Kamiakin Open House 6-8 pm

9/16 Wednesday – Teacher Open House, at REACH, 4:30- 6 pm,

9/19 Saturday –Tri-City Diversity & Inclusion Council Cultural Event, Fair Grounds, noon to

4 pm Diane Mollison leads, others?

9/22 – Tuesday Board Meeting 6 pm

TBA Women's Equality Day Event marking the 19th Amendment certification (8/26)

Email: LWV-BF@gmail.com

This is a new email address

Instagram: [lwv.of.bf](https://www.instagram.com/lwv.of.bf)

Facebook: [League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties](#)

Mailing Address:

League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties

P.O. Box 765

Richland, WA 99352

OFFICERS:

New 2026-2027 OFFICERS:

President: Polly Parton

1st Vice President: Michelle Pirotte

2nd Vice President: Brianna Harty

Secretary: Diane Molleson

Treasurer: Carla Chiotti

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Richard Badalamente

Margie Bass

Emily Dirkes

Christine Grantham

Sue Thornton

Glenda Williams

APPOINTED DIRECTORS: (TBD)

Bev Johnson-Torelli

JoAnne Dimond

Lora Rathbone

Ruvine Jimenez

Judy Blair

Nominating Committee

Brianna Harty - Chair

Emily Dirkes, Michele Pirotte