

The LWV of the Spokane Area (LWVSA) is dedicated to helping residents become informed and active in their government. LWVSA impacts from June of 2021 through May of 2022 are testament to this goal.



Voter Services

With the goal of “training the trainers,” LWVSA volunteers created a **slide deck to teach volunteers how to register citizens to vote**. Spokane County Library volunteers trained with it and then registered patrons during National Voter Registration Day in September. Our volunteers registered voters at the July 4th Freedom in the Arboretum event, Hillyard Farmers Market, AAPI Family Day, Unity in the Community, Earth Day 2022, and in Spokane high schools.



Partnering with LWV Washington, we produced the **Be A Voter** campaign, distributing bookmarks and Voter Fact Sheets, along with the state League’s **Your Vote** printed guide, at area public libraries, community centers, events and college libraries. **Be A Voter** yard signs are posted at League member’s homes during election season. City and County libraries also received copies of the League’s *The State We’re In: Washington*.



Voters continued to turn to LWVSA for **candidate forums**. Produced via Zoom because of the pandemic, our volunteers created 13 candidate forums throughout the 2021 election season. We also produced and distributed our brochure with contact info for all local elected officials, **They Represent You**.

LWVSA volunteers assembled and delivered 361 **Voter Registration Kits** for people experiencing homelessness.

Civics Education

In the fall, adult learners took a deep dive into **what it means to be a citizen** as LWVSA board member Elaine Harger conducted classes in Spokane Community College’s Act II program.

Despite pandemic disruptions, high school students learned about civics and voting from LWVSA members who spoke during in-person classes and held voter registration sessions. **205 students registered to vote**. *The State We’re in: Washington* textbooks will be sent to 24 civics teachers and 32 8th grade teachers in Spokane Public Schools.

In partnership with KSPS PBS and Spokane Public Schools, LWVSA produced a civics knowledge tournament for students from six area high schools. **Civics Bowl** aired on KSPS PBS over six weeks starting in May. LWVSA volunteers provided over 350 questions asked during the tournament, including some that came from the LWVWA textbook, *The State We’re In: Washington*. LWVWA provided a \$2,000 Civic Education Grant and LWV Spokane provided \$5,000 in local member donations to help make the project possible. The program generated positive news coverage, wide community interest, and was a finalist for a national LWV award.



Homelessness & Affordable Housing



Programs and Action

Our **Affordable Housing/Homelessness Solutions** Committee was active throughout the year, meeting with ally groups, presenting a February General Meeting widely attended by community leaders as well as League members; providing testimony at Spokane City Council meetings and writing letters in support of affordable housing, homelessness solutions and warming centers. We also advocated for adequate staffing for the city’s Office of Civil Rights, Equity and Inclusion in the 2022 Spokane budget.

Our **Enviro Issues Team** held regular monthly meetings, tracked environmental legislation; supported the Spokane Sustainability Action Plan; and presented April’s General Meeting with guest speakers on Regenerative Agriculture, SAP and Home Composting.

We continued our work on transparency and fairness regarding **Spokane County redistricting**, attending committee meetings, testifying at hearings, wrting an OpEd for the Spokesman-Review, keeping our members up to date with frequent communication, and providing a thorough update at the September general meeting.

Members attended the **LWVWA Action Workshop**, speaking with legislators statewide on behalf of several bills supported by LWV. We also advocated for the Western States Center’s work on **inclusion, equity, nonviolence and respect**. And we wrote a ltter to the US Department of Transportation in support of a **bill that would provide a needed land bridge across I-90** in Spokane’s east central neighborhood.

Member Education

Despite pandemic fatigue, membership continues to be strong. People ages 16 and above are welcome as voting members. Student memberships and scholarships are available.

Members learned about current topics vital to our region at eight monthly meetings: redistricting; ballot issues; diversity, equity and inclusion; state legislative action; program planning; homelessness and affordable housing; civics education and regenerative agriculture.

Members received 11 monthly issues of The Voter, sent electronically, with information on the progress of our goals, activities, and how members can get involved.

Our website, LWVSpokane.org, and our Facebook page provided members and the public with important information to empower voters and defend democracy, right here at home.

