

RSVP for LWVSA's 75th Anniversary Celebration! See pg. 2

THE **V**oter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF SPOKANE AREA
VOLUME LXXXVIII ISSUE 3, March 2025
A printable version of The Voter is available at LWVSpokane.org

Shape League Policy on Eldercare and Immigration

By Elaine Harger

The Washington state League of Women Voters is calling on local Leagues to engage in consensus discussions on two new studies — Elder Caregiving Study and Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State Study. The studies, discussion and consensus questions, and a guide to the consensus process can be found online at: <https://lwwva.org/eldercare> <https://lwwva.org/immigration>

Democracy always requires knowledge, deliberation, debate, collaboration and cooperation.

based on a study and goes through this process, which is truly democracy in action!

Consensus discussions are a time-tested process within the League for studying public policy issues and arriving at League positions regarding those issues. Every League position is

League Policy cont'd page 2

March Calendar

AH&HS Committee Meeting, Sunday, Mar. 2 meeting link email is lwwsaahhs@gmail.com.

General Meeting, Navigating the Fentanyl Crisis: A Community Approach Tuesday, Mar. 11, 4:30pm refreshments, 5pm program, In person at Hillyard Library, Events Rm 4110 N. Cook St, Spokane, and on Zoom at [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9902111111](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9902111111)

Board Meeting, Thursday, Mar. 13, 6pm to 8pm on Zoom, for meeting link email eharger@drizzle.com

Lunch with the League, Friday, Mar. 14 at Frankie Doodles Restaurant, 30 E. 3rd Ave. **11am** League Orientation **12 noon** Lunch RSVP to Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319

Saturday, Mar. 15, 3pm-5pm, Eldercare Consensus discussion on Zoom, see pg 2 (only LWVSA League members)

Tuesday, Mar. 18, 6pm-8pm, Immigration Consensus discussion on Zoom,

March Calendar cont'd page 2

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LWVWA Two New Studies Ready for Consensus Process

Democracy always requires knowledge, deliberation, debate, collaboration and cooperation. When League members participate in the consensus process we practice our mission of defending democracy by actually engaging in one important aspect of it.

Here in Spokane, we will hold our consensus discussions via Zoom on the following dates and times. To receive the meeting links you will need to register using the Zoom links in the boxes on the right.

So, please read the studies, and clear your calendars for what is likely to be a 2-hour discussion on both March 15 and 18.

If you have any questions, please contact me at eharger@drizzle.com, 509-893-8862 landline, 425-221-8294 texts.

LWVSA Elder Caregiving Study consensus discussion via Zoom

Sat. Mar. 15, 3pm-5pm PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/gEObL0pD-QbSbYISKelt8AQ> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

LWVSA Welcoming Immigrants to Washington consensus discussion via Zoom

Tues. Mar. 18, 6pm-8pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/Pbmgcx-8ZQHqpFdmvxMK8rw> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

March Calendar cont'd from page 1

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting, Thursday, Mar. 20, 6:30pm on Zoom, for a meeting link email amycompestone.lwvsa@gmail.com

LWVSA 75th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, Mar. 22, 4pm Doors open 5pm Program starts, at The Hive, 2904 E. Sprague Ave. **RSVP by 3/12** to ruthmay6873@gmail.com

Criminal Justice Reform Committee, Monday, Mar. 24 on Zoom, contact Lin McGinn for information Linmcginn2@aol.com

Redistricting Commission Reform Meeting Thursday, Mar. 27, 3pm at Liberty Park Library we'll begin team strategy to prepare for our legislators meet ups.

Interested in learning more and supporting immigrant members of our community?

Join LWVSA's new Immigration Committee.

The Immigration Committee's original planning committee is Carol Landa McVicker, Marilyn Sullivan, Elaine Harger, Susan Hales, Louise Chavez, and Carmela Conroy.

Email carmelaconroy@yahoo.com to join us.

Join in celebrating
the **75th**
Anniversary
of **LWV** LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
OF SPOKANE AREA

Suffrage-Era Performances by
Gonzaga Theatre Group
Collections from the Archives
Catering by Feast
Celebratory Toast

The Hive | 2904 E. Sprague Avenue
Saturday | March 22, 2025
Doors open at 4:00PM
Program starts at 5:00PM

Please RSVP by 3/12 to
ruthmay6873@gmail.com

Donations Welcome

The Environmental Issues Committee is finalizing plans for the April general meeting (same month as Earth day!) Stay tuned for details.

County Commissioner Amber Waldref, District 2



Amber Waldref, District 2
County Commissioner,

The LWVSA Affordable Housing & Housing Solutions committee met with County Commissioner Amber Waldref on January 16th. For the past 2 years, elected officials and community leaders of multiple greater Spokane jurisdictions were attempting to create a Regional Housing Authority, which would have been an official government entity formed to combine funds and efforts to work on affordable housing and homelessness projects. However, this proved to be too difficult due to the power dynamics of the different jurisdictions. Fortunately, this group of individuals pivoted and agreed to meet informally in what is now being called a Regional Housing & Homelessness Collaboration. The goals of this Collaboration are to combine and reduce duplication of efforts in regards to funding, strategizing, operational issues and the collection and use of data.

One example of a project that this group is working on is collaborating on the collection, analysis and metrics of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Every individual who interacts with affordable housing & homelessness services is entered into this system. The goal of this project is to understand how service providers and government employees are currently using this system and to train individuals to use the data, using best practices, to set goals and track key performance metrics. Also, as a result of this collaboration the City of Spokane, City of Spokane

Valley, Spokane County and the Spokane Regional Health District worked together to launch a new data dashboard to help the community better understand homelessness and programs that exist to provide support to those who are unhoused.

Amber would like to create a housing assistance fund to address the short-term needs of those individuals and families who are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. These funds would be used for initial rent and security deposits and both government jurisdictions and non-profits could contribute to this fund.

Amber also would like to increase the number of detox beds in our region. The County is funding 12 new beds at Spokane Treatment & Recovery Services (STARS) and the city might fund 10 more beds, but she said we still need more places for people to stabilize and get substance use treatment.

Amber doesn't think there is majority Commission-

Waldref cont'd on page 6

March General Meeting, Hosted by the Affordable Housing & Housing Solutions Committee

Navigating the Fentanyl Crisis: A Community Approach

Capt. Wohl, Assistant Chief, from the Spokane Police Department will share with the League the department's future under Chief Hall and Chief Hall's thoughts on improving their response to the fentanyl crisis.

Dr. Bob Lutz MD, a CHAS Street Medicine provider also formerly with the Spokane County and State Health departments, will speak on the data concerning the fentanyl crisis.

Hallie Burchinal, Executive Director of Compassionate Addiction Treatment, will speak on the treatment side of the fentanyl crisis.

Here are the details: hybrid meeting in-person and online via Zoom

DATE: Tuesday, March 11

TIME: 4:30pm-6:30pm, program begins at 5:00pm, refreshments at 4:30pm

In-person: Hillyard Library, Events Room, 4110 N. Cook St, Spokane 99207

Online on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9ByEwfqkTnORrB5ataLYhw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Welcoming Committee Updates

By Lunell Haught

Lunch at Frankie Doodles

Friday, March 14 at Frankie Doodle's Restaurant, 30 E 3 rd Ave (off Division) Spokane 99202, 11 am join for orientation to the League of Women Voters, 12 noon no-host lunch – you don't have to eat, but the menu is complete – free parking and on bus route. RSVPs appreciated 509-443-1319 (land line no text, leave name and phone number or email LH1@fastmail.com)
Do important work with amazing people!



Permanent name tag

If you would like a permanent nametag to take home, email Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com with how you want your name to appear and whether you prefer a pin or magnet style. \$12 includes tax, you can pick it up at a League meeting.

What are League positions and when do we testify?

Check out your Member Handbook <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/members-only/member-handbook-organizational-chart-bylaws-standing-committees-annual-report-more>

Washington has one of the most accessible processes for communicating with your elected officials and knowing what's going on. It's one of the reasons you joined the League – to engage first hand, not just read about it. This is not complicated or difficult. The LWVWA legislative newsletter will give you bill ideas (you don't have to do them all) and TVW can keep you informed on what to watch and when to testify.

You can share your thoughts (testify) through electronic submission OR live through Zoom at a hearing. Jump in! **Questions? Contact Lunell 509-443- 1319 or lh1@fastmail.com**

Find Your Place in the League!

Contact Pamela Joyner 509-236-2441 joynerpam@gmail.com or Lunell Haught 509-443-1319 (no text) lh1@fastmail.com.

Comprehensive Plan Update (or What Happened to the Neighborhood?)

What happened to the neighborhood? Every 10 years the Spokane County Comprehensive Land Use Plan is updated, Now is the time. Public opinion is essential. <https://www.spokanecounty.org/4926/2017-2037-Comprehensive-Plan> Now is a perfect time to get involved. There are several League members are working on various aspects of the plan, which includes housing, transportation, open and natural spaces and more.

Take a look at how you can be involved with the City of Spokane's Climate work <https://my.spokanecity.org/planspokane/climate-planning/>

The League is a pot-luck, not a restaurant

This means we have to make sure we have enough nourishment to do our work AND we have to make the nourishment ourselves. Many members have served on the board of directors. Now may be your time to take a turn. Those who came before were challenged with not knowing enough (they learned) not having enough time (never has there been enough time) having demanding family obligations (find understanding compassionate others).

This is crucial work: keeping the organization going so we can do the essential work of democracy. You don't have to work alone, unless you want to. Many of us have made decades-long friends who share our values. Board membership isn't forever, it is for a year or two. You can still travel, you don't need to be very good at technology, and you don't need much money. Contact Pamela Joyner joynerpam@gmail.com or Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com.

You don't have to do everything, you just have to do your part.

Deadline for April issue of *The Voter* is March 21

Please send submissions to: corderographics@gmail.com

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

Voter Services Report

by Elaine Harger

LWVUS 2024 Survey

Every December, the national League of Women Voters conducts a survey asking local and state Leagues for data regarding activities for the year. Here is snapshot of the work of Spokane League members – it is not a complete list!

- 4030 volunteer hours
- 157 voter service activities
- 85 member volunteers
- 19 naturalization ceremonies
- 9 languages – general election ballots translated into Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Kinyarwanda, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Ukrainian and Vietnamese
- 9 immigrant community partners – Asians for Collective Liberation Spokane, Find a Solution, Latinos en Spokane, Manzanita House, Mujeres in Action, Muslims for Community Action and Support, Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane, Thrive International and World Relief Spokane
- voter registration at Unity in the Community, Valley Fest, Spokane Pride, 3 retirement homes, Eastern Washington Legislative Forum, Freedom in the Arboretum, Spokane Community College, Eastern Washington University, Spark Central, Rosauer's, and several other community events
- OSPI candidate forum in the primary election
- civic education in all Spokane Public Schools



Here is Laura Arce, Language Access Specialist, Washington Secretary of State's Office, with Spokane League member Judy Krueger. Susie Gerard, Social Studies Coordinator from Spokane Public Schools, arranged voter registration at Lewis and Clark High School for Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

Temperance and Citizenship Special Guest from Secretary of State Office

In February, Beth Pellicciotti organized a visit by Laura Arce, Language Access Specialist for the Washington Secretary of State Office, in conjunction with a week-long voter registration drive at Spokane public high schools. Laura made presentations in civics classes at Lewis and Clark High School and at the Rubin Trejo Dual Language Academy. The following day Laura, along with Beth, myself and SPS's Susie Gerard, met with Michelle Norwood, Education Service District 101 administrator of Language Arts program and Multilingual language instruction for Northeast WA. And another meeting with members of the ballot translation committee, Susan Hales, Becky Dickerhoof, Julia Pressar, and Jacky Garcia-Angulo, the Community Policy Liaison with Mujeres in Action. *Stay tuned for the outcome of this special visit.*

Thank You New & Renewing Members!

NEW MEMBERS:	RENEWING MEMBERS:
Mary Kaschmitter	A Hales
Anne Alden	Linda Lane
Gray Graham	Rebecca Madany
Mariesa Lenz	Dianne Molsberry

Be Sure to Join Our Consensus Discussions. See page 2.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SPOKANE AREA

Board of Directors

President - Vacant
Vice President - Elaine Harger
Treasurer - Mike Bell
Secretary - Vacant
Directors - Sue Irwin, Pamela Joyner, Ruth May and Lin McGinn,

Meeting with Spokane County Elections Office

by Beth Pellicciotti, LWVSA Civic Education Chair

The Spokane County Elections Office has been a long-time partner of the Spokane League. The County Auditor and League member, Vicky Dalton, has supported our League's outreach efforts to young voters in the high schools and to new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies.

Spokane County Elections Office asked to meet with the League, and we were asked by three workers, "What do you do, and how can we help you in your work?"

Elaine Harger and I described the two parts of our mission, Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy, and the two parts of our organization – educating voters and affecting public policy. We offered examples of our work –

- tabling at many community events, including Naturalization Ceremonies
- presenting to high school students about voting and civic engagement,
- hosting candidate forums,
- translating the general election ballot into nine languages,
- observing and reporting on local government meetings.

We also offered examples of our advocacy work, stressing that while we are a nonpartisan organization, we sometimes take action on issues.

When asked how we could partner with County Elections, we had a wish list of:

- tours of the county election office and their processes
- invitation to be independent observers of the election process
- sample ballots, including envelopes, to show to first-time voters
- stickers, Mark the Ballot SWAG
- training about the Accessible Voting Unit for those with disabilities and limited reading ability
- invitation to partner with outreach events at local colleges (including the College HUB at Eastern Washington University)

This meeting presents an opportunity for the Spokane League. County Elections wants to become more involved with our work, and we can learn much from them. The Spokane League Board will be meeting soon; this recent discussion with Spokane County elections staff gives the Board some wonderful choices for strengthening this partnership.

Amber Waldref cont'd from page 3

er support for the County to adopt the 1590 tax at this time, which would add a tenth of a percent to sales tax to fund affordable housing. Some commissioners are currently prioritizing working with the community on a sales tax to fund criminal justice reforms and new jail facilities.

We asked Amber how the LWVSA could support this regional collaboration. She asked our committee and other league members to participate in the feedback process for the Continuum of Care 5-year plan. She feels that the community is not aware of the CoC Board and how to provide input

to plans to reduce homelessness and the league could serve as an educational body and conduit to the community. She encouraged our committee members and other league members to go on the Spokane City and Spokane County websites to learn more about the city, the County and CoC what they are doing to combat homelessness and promote affordable housing. Spokane Regional Continuum of Care - City of Spokane, Washington

In March, the LWVSA Affordable Housing & Homelessness Committee will be hosting the general meeting, with a panel discussion on the fentanyl crisis in Spokane County. See page 3!

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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