

THE **V**oter

VOLUME LXXXVIII ISSUE 3, March 2026

A printable version of *The Voter* is available at [here](#)

A Message From Co-Presidents Sue and Ruth

As the challenges of LWV work continue we are so grateful for the contributions of each and everyone one of our members. We would like to recognize two in particular this month. **Julie Cordero** has been tirelessly producing *The Voter* for a number of years and will be stepping down and we are looking for someone else to step up. If you have any interest in working with this important project please contact Ruth at ruthmay250@gmail.com. In the interim you will see some changes as we transition.

The second member to highlight is **Alison Wells**. The Board of Directors recently voted to expand the board, appointing Alison who has been representing LWVSA with our state Resisting Threats to Democracy group and writing our "What You Can Do" article in *The Voter*. Alison has been on our board in the past and we are happy to welcome her back.

March will be a busy month with activities in both education and advocacy. Our monthly meeting on March 10th is hosted by AHHS featuring the documentary film *No Place To Grow Old*. (Please RSVP here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EABAA2CA4FBC07-61820176-noplace>) Also, LWVSA has endorsed No Kings 3 rally on March 28th. Our Voter Services will be tabling at this event.

We are happy to welcome so many new and returning members and encourage you to participate as you can. Our solidarity is our strength and our comradery is our sustenance.

Moving forward together,

Sue and Ruth

March Calendar

AH&HS committee meeting, Sunday, March 1 at 6pm on Zoom, email lwvsahhs@gmail.com for link

LVWSA Board Meeting, Thursday, March. 5, 5pm-7pm on Zoom, email ruthmay250@gmail.com for link

Membership Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 4:30-5pm social time. **5-7pm.** film screen and panel discussion, at CHAS Health Learning Institute, 731 N. Iron Bridge Way, Spokane, 99202 RSVP at www.svca.info/AHHS-Forum

Immigration committee meeting Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 – 8:30 pm on Zoom. Email Julia Presar at julia.presar@gmail.com or Louise Chadez lchadez@gmail.com for link.

League Orientation (11am) and Lunch (noon), Wednesday, March. 25 at Frankie Doodles. Email Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com for more info.

Environmental Issues committee meeting Thursday, March 26, 6:30pm-7:30pm on zoom. For link email amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com

No Kings 3 Rally, Saturday, March 28, noon to 4:30 at B.A. Clark Park, Division St & Garland Ave, Spokane, For info: <https://www.nokings.org>

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What YOU Can Do

By Alison Wells

✓ ...locally: LWVSA

Get ready for the March 28th No Kings 3 Rally. This particular No Kings event will focus on the unconstitutional actions of ICE agents and the lack of accountability for the killing of two unarmed citizens in Minneapolis. The event will take place from noon to 4:30 p.m. at B.A. Clark Park, Division Street and Garland Avenue in Spokane. For further information: <https://www.nokings.org> To volunteer at the LWVSA table, contact Elaine Harger at eharger@drizzle.com

✓ ...statewide: LWVSA

Plan to attend the “Democracy Power-Up,” a virtual town hall hosted by the LWVWA’s Resisting Threats to Democracy team. This members-only event will explore strategies for meeting the challenge of defending democracy in difficult times. It will be held March 25 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.. For further information about this event and to register: <https://lwwa.org/event-6561533>

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions (AHHS)

AICC Meets with AHHS Committee: Strengthening Support for Tribal Communities

By Sherri Gangitano

On January 12, 2026, several members of the AHHS committee joined four staff from the American Indian Community Center (AICC) in Spokane for a productive meeting. Attendees included Program Manager Marsha Matte, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Stephanie Sijohn, Central Intake/FCSS CHW/HUB Navigator Mary Jones, and Caseworker/FCSS CHW/HUB Navigator Colette Barnett. The discussion focused on AICC’s mission to assist clients by connecting them to internal or external services—especially those navigating mental health concerns, substance use histories, or recent incarceration. AICC serves all tribes, races, and Pacific Islanders, supporting people from more than 350 tribes spanning the West Coast to Minnesota.

Housing & Basic Needs: Persistent Challenges

AICC continues to provide crucial housing support, even as funding challenges persist. During the COVID era, special grants enabled AICC to house 1,900 families, but eligibility restrictions have tightened under current funding. Many clients look for alternatives to shelters, seeking help with clothing, hygiene supplies, and income assistance. The “Better Held Together” mortgage program currently faces long wait times and limited grant funds, now capped at under

\$105,000. Communication barriers between landlords and tenants further complicate these efforts.

Tribal Members: Income & Transportation Struggles

Tribal members often contend with very low incomes and must travel for work due to local job shortages, making transportation both crucial and challenging. Efforts to secure additional funding are often hindered by bureaucratic obstacles.

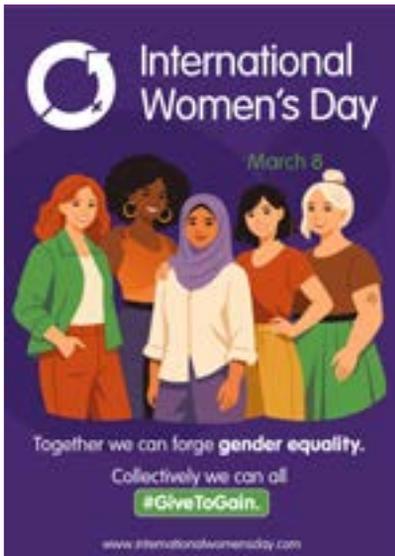
Expanding Services & Partnerships

Beyond housing, AICC supports clients with healthcare navigation, employment services, tuition assistance, transportation aid, car insurance, and youth job training (ages 16–24). Partnerships with DSHS enable food stamp and ID voucher access, while collaboration with Spokane Public Schools strengthens advocacy for state funding.

Looking Ahead: New Facility & Future Goals

AICC is actively fundraising \$500,000 toward a new permanent facility, part of a \$16.5 million project expected to break ground in late 2026.

AHHS attendees included Sherri Gangitano, Becky Dickerhoof, Jennifer Calvert, Stacey Mainer, and Marilyn Sullivan.



LWVSA Volunteers Needed for International Women's Day Event

Spokane's Celebration of International Women's Day
Saturday, March 7, 2026

2pm to 4pm at B.A. Clark Park

LWVSA will have a League information table at the event. 2 to 3 volunteers are needed 1:30pm to 4pm. Contact Elaine Harger to volunteer eharger@drizzle.com

3922 North Normandie Street (Garland & Division)
Spokane, WA, 99205

For more information (registration NOT required):

<https://action.womensmarch.com/events/spokane-say-it-saturday-says-free-america>



Affordable Housing & Homeless Solutions Committee

No Place to Grow Old – Film Screening & Discussion on Housing, Aging & Community Response

No Place to Grow Old is a powerful documentary that explores the growing connection between housing instability and aging. The screening will be followed by a moderated panel discussion focused on community impact, local challenges, and possible responses.

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

4:30–5:00 PM – Social Time

5:00–7:00 PM – Film Screening & Panel Discussion

CHAS Health Learning Institute

731 N Iron Bridge Way, Spokane, WA 99202

Who Should Attend

Community members • Advocates • Service providers • Anyone concerned about housing and aging in our region

RSVP IS REQUIRED!

- In-person seating
- Virtual (Zoom) also available

www.svca.info/AHHS-Forum



For questions or issues with RSVP, contact Sherri G (509) 263-4970
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EABAA2CA4FBC07-61820176-noplace> (if issues with links)

Civic Education Committee

Voter Registration Training

Beth Pellicciotti, Civic Education Chair and Elaine Harger, Voter Services Chair

The Spokane League will be registering **Future Voters** to vote in high school classes in late May. If you are interested in this high school project or would like a refresher on voter registration, please attend one of two Voter Registration Training sessions on:

Tuesday, March 17 at 10:00 am (ZOOM)

OR

Thursday, March 19 at 4:30 pm (ZOOM)

Contact Beth Pellicciotti, pelliccmb@gmail.com for the ZOOM link

We will cover:

Understanding voting from a **new** voter's perspective (working with Future Voters)

The importance of primaries and mid-term elections

All parts of the voter registration form and votewa.gov

The ballot and when to expect it

The three envelopes with the ballot

The Voters' Guide and how to use it for candidate information

The importance of signatures and how they are checked

Most important – your questions and comments

Environmental Issues Committee

The next Environmental Issues committee meeting is on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 6:30pm-7:30pm on zoom.

We will be reviewing the questions and suggestions shared by members at the February membership meeting, and exploring ideas for future presentations on the Lower Snake River dams, and related committee actions. Stay tuned for updates!

If you are interested in learning more about Environmental Issues, or would like to attend a committee meeting, please email the chair Amy Compestine at amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com

Thank You New & Renewed Members!



NEW MEMBERS

Catherine Hut

Jean Nguyen

Kelley Strange

Elizabeth Szombathuy

Janet Tenold

(Updated 2-20-26)

RENEWED MEMBERS

Stephanie Baker

Dennis Dellwo

Shirley Grossman

Rebecca Long

Donna Pierce

Lynnette Vehrs

Stuart Wilson

LWVSA Immigration Committee

This Month: Engage With and Support Local Immigrant Communities

By Susan Hales, Immigration Committee Member
Julia Presar and Louise Chadez, Co-Chairs

The Immigration Committee would like to invite you to join us for our new recurring monthly dinner series - the third Saturday of every month - to support a local immigrant-owned restaurant. This month, we'll be having dinner at Dos Amigos on Saturday Mar 21 @ 6pm. Dos Amigos is located at 12119 E Trent Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99206. Please RSVP to Alysha Brady at AlyshaB2005@gmail.com or by text at (817) 919-2492.

We also want to encourage members to attend this upcoming online event from local organization, Refugee & Immigrant Connections Spokane (RICS):

Fireside Chat on Immigration - Sunday Mar. 15 @ 10am - Join the RICS team and immigration expert Greg Cunningham from Educators' Immigration Resource for a fireside chat and Q/A session on immigration, legal statuses, rights, and how to get involved. Walk away feeling more confident to confront misinformation and advocate for your refugee and immigrant neighbors.

Donations of any amount are requested to register.

Register online at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fireside-chat-on-immigration-tickets-1983043180535>

Join the Immigration Committee

Meetings every 4th Tuesday,
7:00 – 8:30 pm on Zoom.

Contact Co-Chairs: Julia Presar

julia.presar@gmail.com

and Louise Chadez

lchadez@gmail.com for an invite.

Board of Directors

Co-President	Ruth May (2027) lwvsaleadership@gmail.com
Co-President	Sue Irwin (2027) lwvsaleadership@gmail.com
Treasurer	Treasurer Mike Bell (2026)
Secretary	Samantha Armstrong Ash (2027)
Director	Emily Grizzell (2026)
Director	Elaine Harger (2026)
Director	Kathy West (2026)

Committee Chairs

Affordable Housing & Homeless Solutions

Sherri Gangitano lwvsaaahhs@gmail.com

Civic Education

Beth Pelliciotti pelliccmb@gmail.com

Environmental Issues

Amy Compestine

amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com

Immigration Committee

Co-Chair Julia Presar julia.presar@gmail.com

Co-Chair Louise Chadez lchadez@gmail.com

Observer Corp

Sue Irwin lwvsaleadership@gmail.com

Redistricting Committee

Mary Lloyd riteasrain190@gmail.com

Voter Services

Elaine Harger eharger@drizzle.com

Welcoming Committee

Lunell Haight lh1@fastmail.com



lwv.org/washington/spokane-area 2404 N Howard St, Spokane, WA 99205

LWW of Washington 2-year Update Study of the 1980s Indian Treaty Rights Study.

By Suzi Hokonson

Saturday I returned from a nine day - 1300 mile trip visiting 11 reservations on the west side. This was my fifth trip and I have now visited all 29 Recognized Tribes. It has been a wonderful experience and I hope to return to every reservation.

I spent two days in Olympia and visited with over 20 elected officials &/or their staff. I had 20 minutes with Representative Chris Stearns - Navajo tribal member, representing Dist 23 - Auburn area. I also had 20 minutes with Debra Lekanoff - Alaskan tribal member, representing Dist 40 - Bellingham area.

I gave them the civic book for middle and high school students. They both were near tears so appreciative of what we are doing for the tribes.

I encourage everyone to consider visiting reservations and spend some money, stay at the Casinos (all are now smoke-free), eat at their wonderful restaurants, buy seafood and, gas, it's often cheaper. All of these contribute to their economic prosperity, and help pay them back for living free on their land.

When visiting a Reservation, I suggest thoroughly studying websites: checking out where the Casinos (all are now smoke free), Hotels, Museums, Administration, Elders, Housing, Community, and Schools are located.

The state committee is coming together nicely, if you would like to join committees: History, Sovereignty, Gov to Gov, Economic Prosperity, Health, Salmon/Resources/Energy, MMIWP, or Education, please contact Suzi Hokonson (509-808-1255).

It has been such a joy to spend 14 months on this study. It gives me great hope for our nation. I encourage and invite everyone to go to powwow's, I went to seven last year.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON
**—THE—
POWER
OF
US**
**2026 STATE
COUNCIL**
LACEY, WA ▶ JUNE 6-7, 2026

Want to be a Spokane delegate?

Registration fees:

Early Bird \$115

Volunteer \$75

New since Convention \$60

Regular \$135

Early Bird Virtual \$25

Regular Virtual \$30

If you are interested in being a delegate contact us at lwwsaleadership@gmail.com

Volunteers needed - reduced registration fee!

Volunteers sign up for one of three shifts and receive a special link to register at the reduced rate.

(volunteers would still be eligible for other scholarships to help reduce barriers to participation.)

8am - 2pm (set up and lunch)

2pm - 8pm (happy hour and dinner)

8am - 1pm (set up and clean up)

Email Angela at agyurko@lwwwa.org

with questions or to volunteer.

Redistricting Committee Update – A Program Action Committee Redistricting Commission Reform Committee (RCRC) – Next Steps

By Mary Lloyd

- Our LVVWA Leagues Redistricting Commission Reform mantra is **Put People First**.
 - Washingtonians deserve stable representation that protects the voices of all voters.

First order of information from February state league monthly board meeting. The Redistricting Commission Reform Committee was approved to continue their Advocacy for the following year. All the previous years of work by this state committee are shaping up to our timeline and we in the RCRC committee and our advocates are pleased with the state board decision so we may move forward with our advocacy efforts.

Over the past 6 months, we collectively within sub-groups created a draft questionnaire linking policy and commission laws to help guide a later public survey. It covers topics such as **Structure and Selection**, e.g. the number of commissioners, applicant qualifications, selection process, party affiliation, and who should make these 'hiring' choices. **Outreach and Access**, e.g. what advance notice and how often for public meetings, geographic locations and available materials and tools for map making and language translations for these public meetings. **Accountability and Transparency**, e.g. commissioner required training, meeting conduct, mapping criteria, and population deviation in mapping district boundaries **Staffing and Timing**, e.g. Type and term of staffing, designation of qualifications of staffing. As mentioned in our state committee sessions, this is the slow – logging process.

We're pushing for some immediate legislative map making and public meeting process in the 2027 - long session. And for our future the NORTH STAR goal of legislation and constitutional changes.

Update on HJR 4209

The League of Women Voters of WA **opposes mid-decade census redistricting**.

In February's SA VOTER, I described how, on January 21, 2026, at 1:30 P.M., our State League Chair Karen Crowley and Alison McCaffree—State League Democracy Coordinator, Redistricting & Census Issue Chair, and

Redistricting Reform Task Force Chair—provided testimony regarding **HJR 4209**. (HJR stands for House Joint Resolution in the U.S. Congressional context.) This bill addresses mid-term Congressional redistricting in our state. For a detailed overview of Washington's congressional districts and their representatives, see [Washington's congressional districts - Wikipedia](#).

As of March, this bill stalled at committee and did not reach the House floor for a vote—meaning it went no further than testimony. The state league welcomes this result, with the viewpoint that HJR 4209 highlighted issues with partisan efforts to shape congressional maps. For more, see the WA non-partisan legislative staff summary at [4209 HBA SGOV 26](#).

Meanwhile, with our questionnaire preliminary results our state Redistricting Commission Reform Committee continues to prepare a document/PowerPoint to use for our League Local Action Teams (LAT's) for further presentation to league members and local groups which each LAT will seek for education of the process for redistricting and the Peoples First Commission our LWVWA is seeking for our state.

There will be no public Redistricting Commission Reform Committee meeting in March nor April. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at my email address: riteasrain190@gmail.com or at any Spokane Area general meeting. We will resume in May, third Thursday, at 3:00 P.M. location TBD.

The late snow suggests we still have months ahead to prepare for our sowing into the earth our garden seeds. Be sure to plant a few happy seeds for yourself as we work together towards Defending Our Democracy.

Mary

Voter Services Report

Customizing Voter Outreach

by Elaine Harger

As an example of how LWVSA members can customize voter outreach, I offer the following as an illustration.

At last month's general membership meeting on February 10 — a mere four days from the 106th anniversary of the League of Women Voters on Valentine's Day — potential voters in the room at Spokane Valley Library were offered the opportunity to vote. After all, practice makes perfect!

The election?

My Valentine's Day Vote for all time favorite movie featuring strong women characters goes to:

9 votes — Hidden Figures

7 votes — 9 to 5

3 votes — Thelma & Louise

2 votes — Steel Magnolias

1 vote — Erin Brockovich; Flower Drum Song; Fried Green Tomatoes; Harold & Maude

So, now LWVSA members have a nice list of recommended movies! And, the recommendation was made to give ranked choice voting a try next time. Will do!

How is this sort of activity presented at the League table?

As a person walks by the LWVSA table, a member will say in an inviting, friendly manner: "Would you like to participate in our special election today?"

Person will say either yes or no or what's this all about?

LWVSA member: "We're holding a special election today on XYZ. The election is open to everyone!"

Person: "Okay, I'm in!"

LWVSA member, as briefly as possible, describes the election, hands over a ballot, and tells person where and when results of the election will be posted.

Person votes!

We let people of all ages vote, I've even let people's dogs vote! Everybody gets a say.



Why is an activity like this effective in voter outreach? It's effective and generates interest because the topic of the "special election" is customized to the event. At Garland Pride, for instance, our voting activity concerned characters from the Wizard of Oz because that was the theme of the event. At Brush on the Bluff, voting concerned favorite art mediums because people attending the event were art enthusiasts. At ValleyFest one year, our election concerned features for a new park being considered by the Spokane Valley Parks Department. The idea is to get people of all ages to have a fun voting activity.

Most importantly, with this positive energy in the air, someone who isn't a registered voter can be encouraged to become one.

Okay, so are you, as a LWVSA member, ready to give it a try?

Sign up for voter registration training. See page 4.

Sign up to help with voter registration at the No Kings 3 rally on March 28th.

Time: noon to 4:30pm

Location: Baseball diamond area at B.A.Clark Park, Division St and Garland Ave. in Spokane

Volunteers needed: six to eight for two 2-hour shifts (12-2pm and 2-4pm)

Contact me for details, Elaine Harger, eharger@drizzle.com

Welcome Committee

by Lunell Haught

Join us for lunch with the League

Every 4th Wednesday (March 25) at noon at Frankie Doodle's, 30 East 3rd Spokane. This is an informal time to find out what people are reading, advocating, doing to decompress, and more. At 11 am there is a brief session for new and current members to become more familiar with the League. This is especially good for people who aren't sure what they want to focus on in the League. Members typically alternate from high intensity volunteer work to a more relaxed schedule, there are lots of options.

If you can let Lunell know you're coming that'd be great lh1@fastmail.com

Meeting with Legislators

If you have met with your legislators during the session, tuned into committee meetings at TVW, written an email or signed in on a bill please let Lunell (lh1@fastmail.com) know. We're trying to keep track of member advocacy activity.

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. \$15 includes tax, you can pick it up at a League meeting. Order by March 7 and it'll be ready at the April meeting.



America 250

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the list of grievances. Some of the grievances listed in the declaration include:

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

If you would like to work with other League members and other community organizations on observing this anniversary, contact Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com

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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