



VOLUME LXXXVIII Issue 10, October 2025

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

A Message From Co-Presidents Sue and Ruth

What a wonderful **kickoff event** we had at our September meeting. Our guest panelists engaged energetically in discussing the Constitutional Crisis. They specifically addressed free speech in media, interference in voting criteria and chaos in higher education. Each panelist was able to share their concerns and answered many questions from our members. Our turnout was extraordinary with a packed house at the Hive! Each of our working committees displayed their various projects and engaged with new and current members. Thank you one and all for all your work to put this important event together.

As we move forward in October we will be joining **The No Kings Rally** on the 18th with millions of citizens across the country. LWVUS has partnered with several other national organizations. If you would like to participate please sign up, see below. **Our October 14th Membership Meeting** will be held this month at Shadle Library and feature guest Heather Richardson. This is a combined hosting of our Civic Education and Immigration committees.

To address the ongoing assault on democracy, the Washington State League has formed a **Resisting Threats to Democracy Committee**, which meets weekly to analyze the threats and prioritize action on them based on their potential impact in Washington State and an assessment of how urgently a response is needed. Here in Spokane, we have added Alison Wells to our “helper” list as our league’s representative to this committee. Alison’s job is to communicate these designated priorities to our league so that members have a reliable and timely source of actions we can take to defend democracy. Look for this information monthly in *The Voter* and occasional Reminder/Action emails.

We are introducing the newest section, see page 2, that will help you with the most immediate action and information.

Moving forward together!

Sue and Ruth

October Calendar

AH&HS meeting,
Sunday, Oct. 5, 5:30pm-6:30pm
on Zoom email lwvsaahhs@gmail.com
for meeting link

LWVSA Board Meeting, Thursday,
Oct. 9, 5pm-7pm on Zoom, email
ruthmay250@gmail.com for
meeting link

General Membership meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 4:30-6:30pm.
Guest Speaker Heather
Richardson, see page 5.
At Shadle Public Library

Redistricting meeting, Oct. 16,
3pm, at Liberty Park Library
Meeting Room B

LWV at No Kings Rally, Oct. 18,
1-4pm, B.A. Clark Park, Spokane

The Voter Newsletter Deadline
is Friday, Oct. 17. Send info to:
corderographics@gmail.com

League Orientation and Lunch,
Wed, Oct 22, 11am-1pm
See page 10 for details.

Immigration meeting,
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7pm-8:30pm
on Zoom,
email ichadez@gmail.com for link.

Environmental Issues meeting,
Oct 23 6:30-8pm on Zoom,
email acomp4274@gmail.com

Watch for our upcoming fundraising efforts!

Meanwhile, a good way to donate to the LWVSA is direct contributions to the LWVSA website:
<https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/donate>

If members intend to donate to the LWVSA through the LWVUS website, please be sure to select the Spokane chapter as the recipient.

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What YOU Can Do!

✓ ...locally: LWVSA

Sign up for the No Kings Protest on Oct. 18. See page 2 for how to join the LWVSA contingent.

Learn about daily democracy practices for League members. Engage! <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/daily-democracy-practices-league-members>

✓ ... statewide: LWVWA

Join the Decline to Sign campaign. Initiative Measure IL26-126 would require all voters to have an enhanced drivers' license or provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship in person or have their registration canceled. Find out more: <https://lwvwa.org/IL26-126>

Federal officials are canceling the next stage of Hanford clean-up. Speak up. Contact your elected officials to support their efforts to challenge this move:

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/hanford/article312083294.html>

Wondering about how to deal with information distortion? Register for the League's Media & News Literacy Workshop: Mis-, Dis-, and Mal-information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/Hd4UjXtKRRCNQ5MfoAGU9w?emci=d3c4f282-3093-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=f2ba65da-6393-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=24452563#/registration>

✓ ... nationally: LWVUS

Concerned about challenges to the League's presence at naturalization ceremonies?

For clarification, read this: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/voter-services/guidance-voter-registration-services-naturalization-ceremonies>

LWVUS recently became a cosponsor of the NoKings2 protest on Oct.18. Read about it here: <https://www.nokings.org/partners> and see below for event information here in Spokane.

CITY OF SPOKANE
CANDIDATE HOUSING FORUM

October 7, 2025
5:30PM

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Community Center
300 S Stone St
Spokane, WA 99202

HOSTED BY:

- Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium
- BLACK HOMEOWNERSHIP SPOKANE
- Habitat for Humanity Spokane



Observer Corps - An essential watchdog in these chaotic times.

Here is an easy way to help the LWVSA defend democracy and to stay connected with what is happening in our local government. Just attend, in person or virtually, a city council, county commissioner, school board, planning commissioner or a neighborhood council meeting, fill out a short report form found on our website and submit to Sue Irwin at sgirwin@gmail.com. The idea is to attend regularly enough to understand what is going on so that you can alert members if there is something the League needs to comment on. Stephanie Baker, from our committee, has created a google calendar that will help in organizing our presence at these and other meetings. Thank you, Stephanie!

City Council meets Mondays at 6:00 pm and streams live on Channel 5 online at <https://my.spokanecity.org/citycable5/live>

County Commissioners meets Mondays for Board Briefing at 9:00 am and Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. <https://www.spokanecounty.gov/2077/Public-Meetings>

Spokane School Board meet in the evening at 6:00 pm. You can register for the zoom link at <https://www.spokaneschools.org/page/school-board-meetings>

Public Hearings are held in the Commissioner's Hearing Room. Lower Level of the Public Works Building. To find public hearing information, visit the page.

Public Meetings can be held either in the Commissioner's Hearing Room or a conference room in the Public Works Building. Please email Sue Irwin at sgirwin@gmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in helping out.

10.18.2025

**WE SAY
NO KINGS**



**SPOKANE'S
NO KINGS RALLY**

**from 1pm to 4pm. at B.A. Clark Park
(N. Division, between W. Lacrosse and W. Garland)**

The League Is Standing Up for Democracy.

On October 18, 2025, millions of people* are expected to join nationwide in a peaceful demonstration opposing actions and policies of the federal government that threaten democracy. This No Kings event is being organized by Indivisible, the ACLU, the 50501 Movement, and others, and is supported by more than 200 organizations, including the national League of Women Voters. The event is designed to send a message that, in the United States, we have no kings. Power resides in the people. Members are encouraged to participate in this day of action. You can visit the No Kings website to learn more. <https://www.nokings.org/#map>. Just click on Spokane on the map.

* Estimates of the size of the protests on June 14, 2025, are between 3 million and 6 million people. Organizers for the No Kings event hope to increase that number substantially.

To sign up to be part of the LWVSA contingent, or if you have questions about it, contact either Alison Wells aliwells26@gmail.com or Elaine Harger eharger@drizzle.com.

Civic Education Committee Update

Viewing the Washington State Constitution Washington Office of the Secretary of State

By Beth Pellicciotti

On September 15, 2025, residents of Spokane had the opportunity to view the original Washington State Constitution at the Spokane Central Library. Spokane League members Stephanie Baker, Aruna Bhuta, Carmela Conroy, and Beth Pellicciotti attended the viewing.

Scores of visitors, many with young children, viewed the document. This viewing was the first time the 1889 Washington State Constitution traveled, its first time outside a secure vault in Olympia. The Washington State patrol with Washington State archivists driving behind the escort arrived in Spokane the night before the viewing.

Outreach archivist Ben Helle told a story about the approval of the state's Constitution. After the first submission of the Constitution to the federal government, legislators waited eagerly for approval of statehood; legislation was pending. However, the governor of the Washington territory had neglected to sign the original transmission of the Constitution. Once the mistake was discovered, the Constitution was resent, and Washington was declared the 42nd state.

Visitors to the display could read these approval telegrams on faded and hand-written scraps of paper. These crucial telegrams were the only



Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs and State Archivist Heather Hirota with the original 1889 State Constitution , September 14, 2023

documentation that the Washington statehood had been approved. For many years, these telegrams remained hidden in the state archives until discovered and restored (think about the last scene in the Raiders of the Lost Ark with the precious artifact being shelved in a huge warehouse of boxes). Contact Beth Pellicciotti, pelliccmb@gmail.com



(left to right) Marilyn Sullivan, Jennifer Calvert and Becky Dickerhoof at a local rally this summer.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SPOKANE AREA

Board of Directors

Co-President	2 year Co-President Ruth May
Co-President	2 year Co-President Sue Irwin
Treasurer	1 year Treasurer Mike Bell
Secretary	2 year Secretary Samantha Armstrong Ash
Directors	1 year Director Emily Grizzell
	1 year Director Elaine Harger
	1 year Director Kathy West

Spokane League General Meeting on October 14, 2025

Spokane Public Schools’ Support for Children and Families in Immigrant Communities

By Beth Pellicciotti,

A Spokane League member on the Immigration Committee, Gretchen McDevitt, had a career in the Spokane Public Schools (SPS) as a counselor. At a recent committee meeting, she asked how children of immigrants were faring in the schools. She wanted to know how this year’s changes in federal immigration policy were impacting students in their classes as well as what support these students and their families were receiving.

The Immigration Committee, co-chaired by Louise Chadez and Julia Presar, has asked Heather Richardson, Director of SPS English Language Development, to answer these questions at a general monthly meeting of the Spokane League on Tuesday, October 14th (at the Shadle Public Library from 4:30-6:30 pm).

An article in the Spokesman Review provides background into Heather Richardson’s work (“Today was the first day at Spokane Public Schools. For some, it’s their first day of school in America,” September 4, 2024, Today was the first Day of school...).

“In April 2014, 1,441 students received English language development services in varied capacities throughout the district, though there is significant variation in the number of students depending on the time of year as they move through the department.


A point in time snapshot from February 2024 counted 2,373 students receiving services. There are around 70 languages spoken by Spokane Public Schools’ families, though 80% of non-English speakers use the same 10 languages: Marshallese is the most common, followed by Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Swahili, Dari and Pashto (both official languages of Afghanistan), Ukrainian, Karen from Southeast Asia, and Kinyarwanda, which is spoken in Rwanda and adjacent African countries.

Staff communicate with those who use the remaining 60 languages using a phone translator service. Translators guide families in signing up for bussing, filling out other school paperwork and working with other support services they may need.”

Please plan on meeting Heather Richardson on October 14th to learn more about her work. As we learned in the recent League study, “Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State,” language development is crucial to immigrants and their children.

Contact Beth Pellicciotti, pelliccmb@gmail.com

Also, plan to learn more about this study with Julia Presar at the Wednesday, November 12 General Meeting (note date change due to November 11 holiday).




Educational Workshops for League Members

Learn how to be a savvy consumer of media and news through four online, interactive educational workshops.

Each workshop includes news examples, group challenges, individual skill development and links to additional resources.

The workshops will teach you skills to help discern what is true at a time when it is becoming harder to know the real facts.



See Schedule at <https://www.lwvwa.org/power-up-calendar>

Immigration Committee Update

We Invite You to Participate, Learn and Take Action to Support Immigrants!

By Alysha Brady and Susan Halesz

Hosting the October 14 General Meeting – Multilingual Education in Schools

Heather Richardson, Spokane Public Schools Diversity Specialist, will present on multilingual education and the district's work with children whose first language is not English, plus ways League members can support this work.

Hosting the November 12 General Meeting – Welcoming Immigrants to WA State

Julia Presar, Co-Chair LWVSA Immigration Committee, will guide us through the League study which provides information on Washington's immigrant populations – their contributions to Washington's economy and society, the barriers. Come, participate and learn how we local members can get involved in taking actions.

Presenting Cultural Awareness Workshop - November 15, 2025

Rumyana Kudeva, EWU School of Social Work and SRHD Program Specialist, will lead us in a cultural awareness overview workshop with interactive learning experiences to prepare our membership to be active with the immigrant communities: culturally aware, knowledgeable and sensitive. For details and how to register, and contact Susan Hales (susanhales2015@gmail.com) or Louise Chadez (lchadez@gmail.com) for further information.

Building Relationships with Immigrant Organizations

We are reaching out to immigrant-serving organizations to learn more about their needs and how League members can be of assistance.

Supporting the “Signs of Solidarity” National Campaign As part of this national campaign, we would visit local businesses to encourage them to post signs in support of immigrant communities, as well as signs creating private areas for workers where ICE officers cannot enter without a signed judicial warrant. Contact Louise Chadez (lchadez@gmail.com) to learn more and volunteer. **Get Involved!**

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.

Thank You New & Renewed Members!



NEW MEMBERS

Nanae Farley
Julie Neff
Angela Vetch
Annette Romesburg

RENEWED MEMBERS

Aruna Bhuta
Sunday Cummins
Lynn Davis
Pat Dempsey

Becky Dickerhoof
Susan Irwin
Pamela Joyner
Mary Lloyd
Ruth May
Julia Presar
Beth Pellicciotti
Mary Anne Sullivan
Jean (Gloria) Wells
Deanna Willoughbys
(since 9-20-25)

Redistricting Committee Update – A Program Committee

Redistricting Commission Reform Committee (RCRC)

– Next Steps

By Mary Lloyd

At the September Spokane Area leagues' General Meeting, chair leaders of both Program and Standing Committees were asked to host tables so members could introduce themselves and share their team's goals and current activities.

Delighted that a handful of our members were inquisitive about the Spokane Area (SA) Redistricting Committee, we began our brief conversation focusing on what Redistricting means with the basics of which Legislative District they currently were registered to vote.

Even more encouraging, from this tabling introduction of this program, we had a current league member attend our monthly September Spokane Redistricting meeting the following Thursday, with Louise Chadez and me, welcoming Jet Kercher.

In the proceeding conversation we discussed available materials in Redistricting 'LITE' for our 1.5 hour available to all members. Model Legislation - Google Drive. I'm always thankful our state team leaders have provided this link to enable each of us to keep informed and have the availability of prepared materials for discussion.

The Redistricting Committee – in both state and local - are LWVWA and SA Program Committees. As such, both state and local teams work together in monthly statewide Task Force committee meetings shaping our steps forward. The state regularly hosts this monthly meeting, bringing together coalition partners, leaders, and non-members for one-and a half-hour to two-hour sessions. Very insightful participation occurs where independent organizations help in our building blocks of engaging other individuals towards a commitment to a redistricting process that reflects a truly Independent Redistricting Commission.

Current state task force members and attendees recognize the aim to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission for the 2040 census.

Yes, that's a long way from today. In fact, the years before us concern many current members who hope to be an active member of the league in the decade(s) ahead.

In closing of the monthly meeting Jet was provided the state link introducing the basics of this Redistricting program which took place on Saturday, September 21, and again on Tuesday September 30, focusing on the basics of redistricting, the downfalls of our bi-partisan commission in Washington State and the controversy over mid-decade redistricting for partisan gain.

We invite all of you and others with interest to our monthly meeting - Third Thursday of each month at 3 :00 PM at (TBD) location if they wish to learn more about our program goal.

For next month (October is reserved), our RCRC local program team will meet at the Liberty Park Spokane Public Library (SPL) Branch Study Room B location to be readily accessible to attendees in our Spokane Area.

Contact me at ríteasrain190@gmail.com to let me know your questions, thoughts or concerns each month and will let you know monthly location. Branch library reservations can only be made monthly with a month's day prior to each meeting date.

Ending of summer is always difficult for me as we pull out the rakes and put away the sunny and hot days' clothing in the Spokane area. Yet, with each season I feel rejuvenated to have each day as a record of life. May all of you stay pleasant to our families and to others in the Strive for our Democracy. It ain't easy staying upbeat some days. Thank you all for being in the league team as we do this together.

Warmth to all,

Mary

**The deadline is October 17 for the November issue of *THE VOTER*.
Email submissions to Julie at corderographics@gmail.com**

Voter Services Committee Update

Are you interested in learning about engaging with the public while tabling?

by Elaine Harger

Voter Services activities and conversations in August and September brought to the fore several questions regarding how League members engage with the public while tabling at community events:

- Who do we engage and who do we let pass by? Why?
- How do we frame our invitation to a passer-by to engage with us?
- To what extent should we “be ourselves” when talking with someone we don’t know?
- How can we distinguish voter outreach from League advocacy?
- How do we handle strident partisanship?
- When we put on our LWV name-tag, what does that mean?
- What do League members need to engage with tabling opportunities?

In discussing these questions one-on-one with others, it’s become clear to me that an intentional conversation is needed between League members who are interested in helping to revise how LWVSA helps train members for tabling events.

If you would like to be part of this discussion, please email me at eharger@drizzle.com. In the next couple weeks I want to organize a time when a group conversation can happen, most likely via Zoom. Of course, I am always happy to meet in person for coffee and conversation! Just let me know.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Oct. 29, 6:00-7:30pm — Millwood Candidate Forum — League members needed to welcome Millwood residents to the forum and provide LWVSA information at our table. Please contact me if you are interested!

Nov. 15 — Cultural Awareness Workshop sponsored by the LWVSA’s Immigration Committee is happening. All League members are encouraged to attend, especially all who engage with members of the public — a diverse group in Spokane, for sure! See page 6 for details.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

You might have heard about limitations imposed on the League’s voter registration activities at naturalization ceremonies. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services revised their policy regarding who may or may not do voter registration at ceremonies conducted at USCIS facilities.

Fortunately, in eastern Washington, these ceremonies are conducted in courthouses and public spaces.

Sally Phillips reports that the last two voter registration events at naturalization ceremonies (one at the courthouse, the other at Central Valley High School) went off as usual.

Many, many thanks to all you League members who assisted!

Defending democracy starts at home.

State and national elections are important, of course, but the real change and infrastructure for democracy is local. Community boards and commissions are the beginning and frequently the end of democracy. Think about school, planning, park, and library boards. This is where League members play an important role in securing democracy.

Attend, testify, and observe meetings. Better yet, apply to be on a board.

<https://www.spokanecounty.gov/2061/Current-Vacancies>

<https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/>

https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/MonthlyOutreachReport_1.pdf

How can you get involved in LWV - Spokane Area?

by Julia Presar

Look through opportunities in the Volunteer Corner and connect with those people.

Read the updates in this Voter from Committees and reach out to the author if you want more information about what you read.

Go the website <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area> and peruse the calendar, the issues and the Member Handbook <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/members-only/member-handbook-organizational-chart-bylaws-standing-committees-annual-report-more>

As a wise LWV - Spokane Area member once said, “The League is not a train that you jump on. It is a wagon, and you can either pull it or push it, but it won’t move unless you reach out and grab hold.”

VOLUNTEER CORNER – Grab the Wagon!	
Opportunities	Contacts
Are you a public speaker? You can give presentations to high school classes, business, immigrant and religious organizations. Topics include civics education and voter information.	Reach out to Beth Pelliciotti pelliccmb@gmail.com
Do you want to welcome new citizens to democracy and voting? You can work with a partner and register naturalized citizens to vote at events throughout the summer.	Reach out to Sally Phillips phillips1948@comcast.net
Do you like connecting with people in a casual environment? Do you have ideas about how to engage the public in a fair/festival setting? Thoughts on table-top games? You could give input on innovative ways to encourage civic action.	Reach out to Elaine Harger eharger@drizzle.com
Are you comfortable in online meetings? You could attend a monthly zoom meeting where people share league activities around the state and then report back to the LWVSA board.	Reach out to Lunell Haight lh1@fasmail.com
Do you enjoy listening, learning and taking notes? You could observe local meetings (government, advocacy) and then report back to the Observer Corp or the Affordable Housing/Homelessness Committee.	Reach out to Sue Irwin for local government meetings sgirwin@gmail.com or to Sherri Gangitano lwvsaahhs@gmail.com for meetings regarding housing.

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

Welcoming Committee Update

by Lunell Haught

Welcome Committee: Orientation and any/all member and guest Lunches

On the Fourth Wednesday of the month the Welcome Committee presents basic League information to members at 11 am. This is followed by a no-host lunch – come for part or all of this informal, informative gathering at Frankie Doodle's 30 E Third in Spokane, free parking, on a bus line. Let Lunell know if you can join us lh1@fastmail.com. If you forget to let her know come anyway, you're always welcome!

Deep Dives

There is a place for you on a state study committee. Why do state studies matter?

The only way the League can comment on and promote public policy is if the League has a 'position' on the issue. This means that a state-wide committee has studied it, the study has gone to each of our 2500 members and they have met in local groups to come to consensus (not vote) on what our position/recommendations should be about the issue, and it has been adopted. This means League members have taken a deep dive into an issue.

The most valuable thing the League has is its credibility. We know this from internal and external assessments about the League. Credibility is built on understanding what/why we're advocating.

You can do more than just be concerned about Housing, Treaty Rights, and the State of Democracy in Washington. These three issues are the subject of state studies that you can join. East side members should be on these committees (this means you). It is a huge learning experience and you can do as much or as little as you want. There are many important roles you can choose from, there are usually at least a dozen people on a committee, and you can meet people you never thought you'd know. This is one of the richest parts of your League membership. Don't miss the opportunity-this is what you paid for!

Contact Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com for details.

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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