



## VOTER October 2024

[www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org)

### President's Message ~ Diane Molleson

Our candidate forums has been recorded by Northwest Public Broadcasting at the end of September and broadcast the week of October 14 on PBS through NWPB and KTNW. They will be rebroadcast the week of October 28 and will also appear on NWPB's YouTube, the LWVBF and Badger Club websites and on the Cities of Richland and Pasco TV sites through election day on November 5. We are covering 13 races, including an in-person debate between Jaime Herrera Buetler and Dave Upthegrove, the candidates for the Commissioner of Public Lands. A list of the races and the days/times they will be broadcast appears in this *VOTER*.

In August, we held a presentation and discussion of I-2117 (repeal of the Climate Commitment Act) led by Doug Ray, Board Chair of Carbon Washington and Senior Research Fellow Emeritus of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Ray described the strengths and weaknesses of the Climate Commitment Act and explained why he and Carbon Washington oppose I-2117, a position shared by the League of Women Voters of Washington. This event, held in the Richland public Library, was open to the public and well attended.

On October 16, we are hosting a Wine Social for our members and guests that would like to learn more about League. There, we will present the pros and cons of the four initiatives on the November ballot. (See details in a separate article.) We hope you will join us.

### Wine Social on October 16

Save the date! And bring a friend who would enjoy League activities. It is time to meet our new members and mingle with veteran League members. Four LWVBF members will present the pros and cons of the initiatives on the November ballot: I-2109 (Repeal Capital Gains Tax), I-2117 (Repeal the Climate Commitment Act)], and I-2124 (Opting out of Long-Term Services Insurance Program). In addition, we will touch on I-2066 (Regulating energy services, including natural gas and electrification). Come for an evening of lively conversation. Wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. The Social will be on October 16 at 5:30 p.m. at 135 Meadow Hills Drive in Richland. **Please RSVP to Janet Nail** [janet@janetnail.com](mailto:janet@janetnail.com) or 509-546-1467. We hope to see you there.

## Voter Registration Drives: Volunteers Needed

Members can help register voters at the following events:

**October 2:** CBC Club Rush (where they advertise student clubs), Columbia Basin College, 2600 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave in Pasco, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., volunteers needed. Contact Chris Grantham at [christinegrantham3@gmail.com](mailto:christinegrantham3@gmail.com) if you can help.

**October 9:** CBC Resource Fair, Columbia Basin College, 2600 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave in Pasco, Noon - 2 p.m. Diane and Bev/ more volunteers welcome. Contact Diane Molleson at [molleson@frontier.com](mailto:molleson@frontier.com) if you can help.

**October 17:** Pasco High VIP Day, 108 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Pasco, 8:45 a.m. - Noon—Chris and Margie/ more volunteers welcome. Contact Chris Grantham at [christinegrantham3@gmail.com](mailto:christinegrantham3@gmail.com) if you can help.

**Nov. 6:** Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Ave in Richland, 10 a.m. - Noon.

## LWV-BF Treasurer's Report – August 2024 – Carla Chiotti

*As of August 31, 2024:*

Checking is	\$7,057.70
Savings is	<u>\$1,857.29</u>
Total	\$8,914.99

**Income: \$1,145.02:** We received \$1,045 in membership dues from one new member (welcome Mary Gates), 12 renewing members, and two second-in-household. We also received \$100 in contributions.

**Expenses: \$16.77:** We paid \$16.77 in PayPal fees. We received a \$15 reimbursement from Umpqua Bank for the mistake they made in July, but they made the same error in August and charged us another \$15. (This was reimbursed in September and the bank says they have it fixed this time).

**In-Kind Donation:** We received an in-kind donation of 200 red, white, and blue “Vote” wristbands. The value of the donation is \$136.

**Membership campaign:** During August, twelve members and two second-in-households renewed their memberships.

**Education Fund:** We received an update for the LWVBF Education Fund on 8/29/24. Thanks to a \$200 donation, our balance now stands at \$8,340.42.

Members can donate to our education fund for scholarships by sending a check to: **LWVWA Education Fund**. The address is 1511 Third Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA, 98101, Attn: Ed Fund Treasurer. Please earmark your donation to the Benton-Franklin League Scholarship Fund in the memo line. Thank you.

**Coming changes:** Training for the new membership process will take place after the November elections. LWVUS has said that local chapters will be responsible for informing their members of the coming changes. A slide show is being developed by a few treasurers in Washington state that can be modified by each chapter to help with educate members about the new system.

## **Candidates Forum Broadcasting Schedule – Beverly Johnson-Torelli**

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties and Northwest Public Broadcasting present the following 2024 General Election Candidate Forums!

In addition to KTNW TV (PBS), they will also be available on YouTube, the League's website at <http://www.lwv-bf.org>, through the Cities of Richland and Pasco, and the Columbia Basin Badger Club. The links will remain available through November 5th. Ballots will be sent out on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for online or mail-in registrations is October 28<sup>th</sup>. In person registration and voting is available in the auditor's office through November 5th, General Election Day, until 8:00 p.m.

On KTNW TV – The following programs will air at 4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., & 11:00 p.m. on each of the designated days below:

### **Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Senator: Dozier & Isaacson  
16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Rep, Position 1: Klicker & Gunshefski  
16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Rep, Position 2: Rude & Woodard

### **Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

Benton/Franklin Co Superior Court Judge: Brown & Sant  
Benton County Commissioner, District 1: Delvin & Smart  
Benton PUD Com, District 3: Bush & Massey

### **Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Positions 1 & 2: Dimas & Ruiz Kennedy  
8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Position 2: Connors & Christenson  
15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Positions 1 & 2: Corry, Foster & Bright

### **Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Franklin County Commissioner, District 1: Bauman & Atkins  
Franklin Co Commissioner, District 2: Mullen & Barajas  
Franklin Co PUD Commissioner, District 3: Torres & Nelson

**Also on KTNW TV:**

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.– Commissioner of Public Lands - Presented by LWV of Washington State and Northwest Public Broadcasting. This Candidate Forum was held in person and livestreamed on September 25<sup>th</sup>. It is currently available on YouTube, <http://www.lwvwa.org>, and the other sites listed above.

**Repeats on KTNW TV:**

All shows will be repeated twice on **Monday-Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>-November 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. as follows:**

**Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Franklin County Commissioners, District 1 & 2, Franklin Co PUD Com, District 3

**Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Legislative 14<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

Benton County Superior Court Judge, Benton Co Commissioner, District 1, & Benton Co PUD Commissioner

**Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

16<sup>th</sup> Senator & 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Positions, 1 & 2

**Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

WA State Commissioner of Public Lands

## **Table Talk Report – Lora Rathbone**

### **Pros and Cons of I-2117 and Washington’s Climate Commitment Act –**

This LWVBF Table Talk was held August 29 at 6 p.m. in the Gallery Room at the Richland Public Library. Douglas Ray, Board Chair of Carbon Washington and Senior Research Fellow Emeritus at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, shared his views on the strengths and weaknesses of the Climate Commitment Act and explained why he and Carbon Washington oppose Initiative 2117. We publicized the event to the public, and refreshments were available. About 20 people attended.

Background information: the mission of CarbonWA is to increase demand for climate action and fight for smart carbon policy. “By focusing on effective, efficient, and equitable climate solutions, we develop and promote programs and policies that are supported by diverse stakeholders and set an example for national and global action.” Learn more at <https://www.carbonwa.org/work>.

Carbon Washington supports the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). “By putting **a price on carbon** emissions, the Act ...provides necessary revenue to accelerate decarbonization efforts

and enables the funding of important programs like the Working Families Tax Credit, which helps lower-income families meet their needs.”

Doug started his presentation by saying “reliable studies show that without a price on carbon, no significant decrease in climate pollution occurs. The CCA, which puts a price on carbon, is the largest element in Washington state’s program to reduce climate pollution. This cap and invest type of program is common in Europe. California has had a similar program for ten years; we learned from them and ours is better. The best source to learn about the CCA is <https://climate.wa.gov/>.

I-2117 forbids pricing carbon in WA state. If it passes, we will not meet the required reductions in emissions. It will also end the \$2 billion already generated and being used to transition to clean buses, expanding the EV charging network, and much more. It will also end the prioritized support for overburdened communities, with programs such as utility bill credits.”

The main argument for preventing pricing carbon is that it will increase the cost of gasoline - to only 25 cents per gallon, which is a small price to pay for clean air and better health. The LWVWA argument for a No vote is “there is no Guarantee of Lower Prices: Repeal of the law doesn’t ensure lower energy costs but guarantees more pollution and weakens environmental protection.”

The answer is not to repeal the CCA but to keep working to make the transition equitable.

**The LWV WA summaries of each initiative that will be on the November ballot can be found [HERE](#). More detail on I-2117 is [HERE](#). They oppose all the initiatives.**

Douglas Ray, PhD. Chairman, Board of Directors, CarbonWA. [Doug@carbonwa.org](mailto:Doug@carbonwa.org)

## **Emergency Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs): Project Update – Richard Badalamente**

About a year ago, the LWVBF began a project to raise awareness of Washington’s Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law, and in the process educate people about ERPOs and what they can and cannot do. This effort is consistent with the LWVWA’s policy statement on gun safety.

The ERPO team, led by LWVBF member Richard Badalamente, now includes LWV members Carla Chiotti and Diane Molleson; Karla Carlisle, a lawyer with the Northwest Justice Project; and JoDee Garretson, the Executive Director of the Support, Advocacy and Resource Center (SARC).

The results of a public records request of the Benton County Superior Court and Franklin County showed how sparingly this law is used in Benton and Franklin Counties. Between 2017, when the law took effect, through the end of 2023, only 13 ERPOs were granted. However, we recently received some welcome news. An ERPO filed last month by the NW Justice Project was the first ERPO to be granted in Benton and Franklin Counties since 2021.

Richard and Rosanna Herrera of SARC will be meeting with Benton County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisinger in October to discuss how few ERPO petitions are being requested and granted.

We need League members willing to write Letters to the Editor in support of the ERPO law, not as members of League, but as members of the community concerned with gun violence. Richard would be happy to provide help (i.e. a template of the letter) with this effort.

## **LWVBF Book Club – Polly Parton**

LWVBF Book Club, *The Exvangelicals: Loving, Living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church* by Sarah McCammon is our October Book on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

In September we discussed *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walker. *The Cold Millions* is a novel set close to home, Spokane Washington. Set in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the young Dolan Brothers struggle to make their way through the fight for better wages and work into union jobs. It was a good discussion of labor history and some Spokane history. For October we moved *The Women* to November (for long availability) and pulled up *The Exvangelicals* by Sarah McCammon for October.

Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month, 6 pm via Zoom by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the link. We keep discussion to one hour. Please join in even if you did not read the book.

[Polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:Polly.parton@yahoo.com) or 509 -551-3818

## **MELD (Membership Engagement, Leadership, Development) - Leona Hassing**

This month's Pod meeting centered on reviewing the origin and structure of MELD and exploring discussion topics for the year ahead.

LWVWA has three Pods, each has a facilitator, board liaison and unit members. Pod facilitators are Jean Alliman, Lunell Haught, Ann Murphy and the state board liaison is Nancy Halvorson. Each Pod is arranged by size and location in order to provide a contrast in the exchange of ideas, the sharing of what's successful and not successful within the unit. Pod members are responsible to report back and share information to their units.

Possible topics for Pod meetings included to become familiar with the state and national league website, and to become informed as to the wide array of information on the TVW website and the state legislative site, [leg.Wa.gov](http://leg.Wa.gov).

Items for attention were the structure of the action workshop held during the legislative session has changed. The accuracy of the membership roster because National Voter Services will be

sending swag later this year. LWVUS is reminding each unit to have on file the person who is the point of contact. VOTE411 has its challenges. Candidates are not filling out their candidate resumes.

The topic for the October meeting, the third Monday each month, will be the National Dues structure. The discussion will be in addition to the state president's and treasurer's meetings.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 2 – Voter Registration Drive, CBC Club Rush
- Oct. 9 – Voter Registration Drive, CBC Resource Fair
- Oct. 17 – Pasco High VIP Day
- Nov. 6 – Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Building, Richland
- Oct. 14 – LWVBF Book Club
- Oct. 15 – LWVBF Business and Planning Meeting/Board Meeting 6 pm via Zoom
- Oct. 16 – Membership Wine Social, 5:30 pm at Janet Nail's Home
- Nov. 5 – Election Day

Email: [lwv.of.bf@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.of.bf@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: [League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties](https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersofBenton&FranklinCounties)

### Mailing Address:

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Franklin Counties  
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Richland, WA 99352

#### OFFICERS:

President: Diane Molleson  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Susan Thornton  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Ruvine Jimenez  
Secretary: Peggy Gregory  
Treasurer: Carla Chiotti

#### ELECTED DIRECTORS:

JoAnne Dimond  
Leona Hassing  
Beverly Johnson-Torelli  
Janet Nail  
Polly Parton  
Lora Rathbone

#### APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

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