

Renew Your Membership! See page 3.

THE **V**oter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXVII Issue 10, October 2024

A printable version of The Voter is available at LWVSpokane.org

Calendar

- Membership Meeting, Wed. Oct. 9,** Auntie's Books, Mezz. 402 W. Main, **4:30pm to 5pm** socialize **5pm to 7pm** Official meeting.
- Board Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 10, 5pm to 7pm** Liberty Park Library, Study A. 402 S. Pittsburg
- Lunch with the League**
Friday, Oct. 11 at Frankie Doodles
11am League Orientation
12 noon Lunch and conversation – you don't have to buy anything!
 RSVP to Lunell lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319
- Redistricting Committee Meeting**
Thursday Oct., 16, 3:30 -4pm at Liberty Park Library at 402 S. Pittsburg
- Environmental Issues Committee Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 17, 6:30pm**
 email amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com. com. to receive a Zoom link for the meeting
- AH&HS Committee Meeting**
Sunday, Oct. 20, 5:30pm to 6:30pm on ZOOM, Please email lwvsaahhs@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link for the meeting.

Nonpartisanship & Political Engagement: A Balancing Act

By Elaine Harger

In the final month leading up to the 2024 general election on Nov. 5, members have asked questions about how being a politically engaged citizen fits into the context of the League's longstanding nonpartisan character. From the national League website is the following statement about this balancing act:

The choice made [by the League of Women Voters] in 1920 to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate for public office continues today to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics. The nonpartisan policy has added strength to the League's positions on issues and has made possible wide acceptance of League voter service and other educational activities.

At the same time, the League is a political organization and encourages members to participate fully in the political party of their choice. It is an advantage to the League to have politically active members and, equally important, it can be a personally satisfying experience.

Each League's board of directors is responsible for drafting and carrying out a nonpartisan policy in its community. In order to ensure the credibility of the League as a nonpartisan organization, the board also is responsible for seeing that both its members and the public understand the League's nonpartisan policy.

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Nonpartisan Engagement continued from page 1

(SOURCE: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidance/developing-and-implementing-nonpartisan-policy>)

At our October meeting, we will talk about being a partisan member of a nonpartisan organization and engage in activities that help clarify how and when a person can be one or the other at any given time.

To prepare yourself for this meeting, first familiarize yourself with our LWVSA's Nonpartisan-ship Policy. To help with that, here it is:

A. *The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues.*

While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. Therefore, the Board has established the following guidelines to protect the League's nonpartisan reputation:

B. *In accordance with the national LWV's non-partisanship policy, the LWVSA Executive Officers will not engage in partisan activities while serving as a LWVSA Executive Officer. Partisan activities include, but are not limited to:*

- Holding political office.
- Donating reportable sums to a candidate.
- By word or deed, publicly endorsing a candidate for office/position.

C. *All other members are encouraged to participate fully in the political process, serve on public boards and commissions, and participate in political activities as individuals without implying or receiving League endorsement. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernible.*

D. *This policy is to be reviewed and endorsed or revised by the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area ("LWVSA") Board of Directors ("Board") at the beginning of each League year and subsequently published in the VOTER.*

Revised and Approved 11/16/22 (SOURCE: <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/nonpartisan-policy>)

The question has been asked, how is "executive officer" defined? Does this mean committee chairs? Our bylaws don't provide a specific definition, but do state the following:

One Executive Officer (a Co-President or President) and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The second Executive Officer (a Co-President or Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

The second thing to do to prepare for the meeting is to review our state League's positions which oppose four initiatives on the upcoming ballot. We'll have an opportunity at our meeting to talk about how to advocate for "No" votes. You can find info at LWVWA.org. Be sure to scroll down on the homepage to find PDF links to "Simplified Ballot Initiative Summaries."

Come to October's meeting for lively conversation and a fun activity or two! Here are meeting details:

Location: Auntie's Books, 402 W. Main St.

Space: Mezzanine

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Time: 4:30 PM social gathering, 5-7pm meeting

Lunch with the League



Join us for an informal no-host lunch at Frankie Doodles, 30 E. Third St.

Friday, October 11 (every 2nd Friday of the month)

11am Learn about the League – an orientation to the League and how you can get the most from your membership. For new and long-term members.

12 noon order lunch or just join in the conversation – you don't have to buy anything! Free parking and on the bus line. (Just east of Division on 3rd – meet downstairs in the back)

<https://frankiedoodles.net> RSVP to Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319



Board of Directors

President - Vacant

Vice President - Elaine Harger

Treasurer - Mike Bell

Secretary - Vacant

Directors - Lin McGinn, Pamela Joyner, Sue Irwin and Ruth May

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions (AHHS)

The Only Solution to Homelessness

By Becky Dickerhoof

We have long realized that homelessness is deemed a criminal offense in our society. Our former mayor was often quoted “we make homelessness to comfortable.” That logic is hard to understand if you have ever spent a night in the cold with insufficient shelter. As part of her campaign to make being poor and unable to afford shelter more uncomfortable was to “sweep away” what few belongings they had to discourage them from existing in her city. Advocates have relied heavily on *Martin v. Boise* to prevent cities from criminalizing being poor and unhoused. Now SCOTUS has overturned that decision with the *Grants Pass* ruling. Public camping bans no longer are considered cruel and unusual punishment if you have no other shelter. Cities are now free to use jails as homeless shelters. The GAO, the government accountability office, has found that for every \$100 increase in monthly median rent, there’s a 9% increase in homelessness. Victims of low wages and soaring rents are now going to be jailed if they can’t find a way to

hide their poverty. Being jailed brings all manner of consequences. Whatever assistance they are getting is cut off and requires months to reclaim. If they weren’t already unemployed, they would be now. If they have been trying to keep their family intact this will surely make that even more difficult. Then there is the cost to the taxpayer. While the minimum wage will not support housing in Spokane, the taxpayers fork over \$200/day to house those incarcerated. Recently, during a presentation at the Spokane Homeless Coalition, it was reported that most of those incarcerated are there due to homelessness. At another press conference, Councilman Jonathan Bingle stated that law enforcement recognizes most of the crimes in Spokane are committed by 100 individuals who should be in jail. We should be more focused on putting those 100 in jail and house the criminally poor!

“The evidence is irrefutable that the best approach to addressing homelessness is providing people with access to affordable, stable housing and voluntary supportive services,” said Sarah Saadian, the Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Field Organizing for the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Sunday, Oct. 20, 5:30pm to 6:30pm on ZOOM,
Please email lwvsahhs@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link for the meeting.



Thank You New and Renewing Members!

NEW: Jennifer Westra
Stephanie Bond

RENEWING:
Michael Bell
Mary Hughes
Susan Irwin
Carol Lander-McVicker
Linda Milsow
Sally Phillips

Time to Renew Membership!

You can pay your 2025 dues now, information on pay pal or checks is at <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/join-or-renew-form>.

Paying early helps volunteers manage this process more easily!



Ballot Translation Committee

Ballot Translation and Voter Outreach and Education for Naturalized Citizens

By Susan Hales, Chair, Ballot Translation Committee

The Sample Ballot produced by the Spokane County Elections Office is now being translated for use as a voting resource by naturalized citizens whose first languages are Spanish, Arabic, Dari, Russian, Ukrainian, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Vietnamese and Chinese. The translated Sample Ballots will be posted on the LWVSA website by Mary Hughes and Jan Wingenroth and linked to the Spokane County Elections website by Vicky Dalton, County Auditor. Print copies will be distributed at LWVSA voter workshops and other events hosted by our partner organizations.

With the project now in final production stage, the work of the LWVSA Ballot Project committee members, Judy Silverstein, Dawn Shuster, Becky Dickerhoof, Mary Moore and Susan Hales is in-

tensely focused on the presentation of 12 voter workshops for naturalized citizens and production of workshop kits containing the necessary translated voter education handouts for each. The non-partisan workshops are presented in partnership with the many organizations serving Spokane's refugee and immigrant communities. Workshop topics cover who is eligible to vote, how to register to be a voter, Washington's vote-by-mail election system, the mechanics of how to complete and submit a ballot, how votes are counted in the Elections Office and other topics.

This project is made possible by generous support from Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund, Empire Health Community Advocacy Fund, Spokane Rotary Club 21 and LWVSA Education Fund.

Call for Donations – bring to the October meeting!

By Mike Bell

The LWVSA Board is asking members who attend the September 11th membership meeting at The Hive to donate items to help unhoused people in the Spokane area.

Hope House is devoted to providing services exclusively to women experiencing homelessness. Hope House is asking for the following items: sunscreen, deodorant, travel sized shampoo and conditioner, hygiene wipes, bath towels, laundry detergent (tide pods), disposable razors, ground coffee, **new** women's underwear (all sizes), hair accessories,

individual alcohol swabs, leggings, and household items (no bakeware).

CHAS Mobile Medicine/Street Medicine/Outreach provides mobile medical care to homeless individuals throughout the Spokane area. CHAS is asking for the following new and used items: men's and women's shoes (all sizes and styles – tennis shoes, boots, sandals), blankets and sleeping bags, men's and women's clothes in all sizes (jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, t-shirts, long johns and snow pants).

Civic Education

Civic Engagement: How Do We Learn It?

By Beth Pellicciotti

How do children and young adults learn to be civically engaged? Perhaps they model friends or family members who speak up at local council meetings. Perhaps they have an inspirational teacher in school who encourages them to research issues and write letters about these issues to legislators.



Children and adults also had the chance to do a "write-in ballot" in case they did not see a choice they wanted.



Perhaps on this September afternoon in Spokane Valley, even the very young could learn civic engagement by visiting the Spokane League table at ValleyFest. With limited instructions by League members, children and adults slipped blue "ballots" into pictured envelopes conveying their park wishes to Spokane Valley Council members planning a new park. In only a few hours, 300 individuals, mostly

families with children, made their choices known.

Elaine Harger created the display and will tally the results with a letter to the Spokane Valley Council. Here are pictures of two future voters, intent on making their park wishes known: If you would like to learn more about this civic education work, please contact Beth Pellicciotti at pelliccmb@gmail.com

Environmental Committee

By Amy Compestine

The League of Women Voters of Washington is asking voters to vote NO on four Initiatives (<https://lwvwa.org/The-Evergreen-Voter/13374422>) that will be on the ballot in November, including I-2117, which would repeal the provisions of the Washington Climate Commitment Act. For more information on I-2117 go to <https://lwvwa.org/This-Month-in-the-League/13407779>

The Environmental Issues Committee is planning to be present at 2 upcoming events in Spokane on October 16th and 31st. At each event we will host a table to advocate for Vote No on I-2117, and to provide more information on the 4 ballot initiatives. These simplified ballot initiative summaries for I-2066, I-2109, I-2117, and I-2124 can be found on the state league home page, here <https://www.lwvwa.org/>

We need your help! We need volunteers to help with tabling for 2-3 hour shifts at either of these events.

- Spokane Regional Labor Rally (tentative)
Wed., Oct. 16 4pm-7pm
- Spokane Pride Youth Carnival
Thurs., Oct. 31 3:30-8pm

For more information email amycompestinelwvsa@gmail.com

Environmental Issues Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Our October meeting will be on Thursday, 17Oct at 6:30pm on zoom.

If you'd like to attend, please email amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com.

Friday, October 18 Deadline for the November issue of *The Voter*.

Send submissions to:
corderographics@gmail.com

Voter Services Report

By Elaine Harger

September gave League members excellent opportunities to hone tabling skills and talking points in registering voters, helping with address changes, and directing voters to helpful information — Spark Central & Night Market, Rogers High School, Fairview and Rockwood retirement facilities, the United Steelworkers Union retirees’ committee, Valleyfest, Rosauers grocery in Brownes Addition, two naturalization ceremonies and Eastern Washington University’s Neighborfest all welcomed LWVSA members to share info and empower voters.



This is what 100 voter registration kits looks like!

League members also made up 100 voter registration kits for distribution to unhoused people and another 100 kits for the Native American Community Center.

Valleyfest, in Spokane Valley’s Mirabeau Park, provided an especially fun opportunity to engage with voters.

At September’s League meeting the voter services group came up with a “game” to engage people of all ages. Over 300 Valleyfest attendees participated by voting for what kind of facilities they’d most like to see in future Spokane Valley parks. We’ll be sending the results of the votes to City Council members so that they have input from the public for future planning. Mary Ella V., Beth P., Amy C. and I had a most enjoyable day talking with a great variety of people — and 313 people voted!

Results of Valleyfest Votes?

Indoor pool-185	playground-118
splash pad-109	community garden-82
skate park-71	giant chess game-42

Write-in candidates included: clean dog park-5; pickleball-3; walking trails-2; cycle cross course-1; futsal pitch-1; hot tub-1; less devel-

opment more green space-1; memory garden-1; music garden-1; pollinator hedgerow-1; safety patrol-1; treehouse with slide-1; use local contractors only please-1 :-)

LWVSA always needs more volunteers!

More opportunities for voter registration are coming up in October. If you are not already on Sally Phillips’ voter registration opportunities email list please send her a request to add your email. Contact Sally at phillips1948@comcast.net.

Upcoming voter registration opportunities in October include:

- 1 Oct., 10am-12pm** — National Student Voter Registration Day at Spokane Community College, Bldg. 6, The Lair
- 2 Oct., 6pm-8pm** — Candidate Forum on the Environment at Gonzaga University, Cataldo Hall
- 3 Oct., 11am** — Naturalization Ceremony, Foley Courthouse
- 12 Oct., 10am-3pm** — 5th Annual Veterans Resource Fair, Salvation Army, 222 E. Indiana
- 15 Oct., 6-8:30** — NAACP Candidate Forum at Spokane Central Library
- 17 Oct., Time TBD**, Naturalization Ceremony Foley Courthouse



Pop-in for pop-ups & string a few beads!

Finally, at September’s member meeting we talked about doing pop-up voter registration. The idea is for League members, at their convenience, to “pop-up” at a busy street corner an offer to assist pedestrians with voter registration. You can pop-up solo or with a buddy.

And, while you’re at it, help string a couple “I AM A VOTER” friendship bracelets. We’ve heard they’re very popular with the younger crowd!

If you want to give this a try there will be two opportunities on Sunday, Oct 6th to get materials and instructions.

- 8-10am** — Ladder Coffee 2823 N. Monroe
- 1-3pm** — Spokane Valley Library, 22 N Herald Rd, Conference. Room C

Questions? Contact Elaine at eharger@drizzle.com, phone 509-893-8862, text 425-221-8294.

November 12 Membership Meeting “Now What? – Meet the League”

By Lunell Haught

However the local elections turn out, members will want to talk about them and what to do next. This is the League’s regular monthly meeting and will include local journalists discussing how they cover politics and inform the public. Bring a friend or acquaintance. There will be

an opportunity to get more information about League programs so you can choose your ‘now what’ (what do you want to volunteer for) and perhaps interest your guest in an activity. You can also suggest a new area for League members to be active in. 4:30 – 5 social; 5:00 meeting.

Welcoming Committee updates

By Lunell Haught

Please check the Roster by October 15

Please check the accuracy of your contact information at https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/lwvsa_membership_list_1-31-24-jredit_0317.pdf

Remember, this information is NOT shared with anyone except League members. If it is not accurate please send an email to roster manager and treasurer mrbell@mrbellcpa@gmail.com

Want a snazzy name tag?

The League has free name tags for members which are brought to meetings. In addition, permanent name tags are available for \$10.00. These name tags have a magnetic or pin backing. These are great to keep for tabling, public events, and meetings. Some members like just their first name (they like them for tabling events) and others prefer their full name – your choice. When I get orders, I’ll bring them to the League meeting and collect cash or a check from you. Please send an email to Lunell Haught lh1@fast-mail.com by October 15, 2024. Please include how you want your name to appear and whether you want a magnetic or pin fastener. You can pick yours up at a membership meeting.

Welcome

Join us for Lunch with the League, an informal no-host lunch at Frankie Doodles Friday,

October 11(every 2nd Friday of the month until January 2025, then we change weeks) It helps if you let Lunell know you’ll be there – LH1@fast-mail.com or 509-443-1319 (no text – land line)

11 am: Learn about the League – an orientation to the League and how you can get the most

from your membership. For new and long-term members.

12 noon: Order lunch or just join in the conversation – you don’t have to buy anything! Free

Parking and on the bus line. 30 E Third Spokane (just east of Division on 3rd – meet downstairs in the back <https://frankiedoodles.net/>

You’ll be getting a phone call/email from a welcome committee member (Sue, Pam, Ruth, Lunell, or Lin) in the next month or so to ask about your interests to make sure you are having the kind of League experience you want.

New LWV Spokane Area information cards available for tabling, leaving at libraries and informing your friends about the League. Pick some up at the next meeting and thank Sue Irwin and Ruth May for their work on them.

Nominating Committee has room for you

By Lunell Haught

The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting members for leadership of the League. This is essential for building the diversity and reach of the League. The committee members don’t have to know a lot of members, just be willing to work as a team to learn about League leadership and talk to members about considering being nominated. Elections are at the spring 2025 annual meeting. If you are interested in joining the effort to seek nominees, please contact Lunell at LH1@fastmail.com. The application to be on the board is at <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/board-directors-information-application>

Pat Mummey

By Lunell Haught

Pat Mummey created what friends and colleagues called a 'very wide wake' meaning her leadership was so strong that you never felt alone in doing the 'right' thing. She was president of the League of Women Voters of Spokane and ultimately became the first woman Spokane County Commissioner. In her eight years as county commissioner her influence is still felt. A recycling queen, and chair of a citizens' advisory board for the waste to energy plant she withstood tremendous heat from nay-sayers when she advocated to close the landfills and build the plant.

She was clear about what mattered in life. As a nurse working for a pediatric oncologist, she encountered hundreds of adults and children facing cancer. She is responsible for spearheading the no smoking indoors and on county property, despite the uproar it caused. She championed clear water, public health and affordable and efficient public transportation.

Mummey was well-known for her occasional abrupt approach. Her supporters say she was short with people because she had little patience for wasting time. That bluntness occasionally worked against her, but it usually

worked for her constituents. For example, in a closed-door meeting about a high-ranking employee who was sexually inappropriate with a female staff member she told her male elected officials and executives that if they didn't remove the employee from office her next call was to the newspaper. The employee was removed from employment.

She proposed curtailing grass-field burning in 1989, six years before the state ordered industry to cut the smoke. She worked for longer prison sentences for violent and predatory sex offenders yet asked for better treatment of offenders and their victims. She ran for county coroner even as she was slowly dying from cancer herself in 1996.

Pat Mummey believed in the system regardless of its flaws and defects. She didn't always get her way, but she was never shy of trying and she wasn't afraid of not being liked. She had a long career on public committees and in office. She knew regardless of status, politics, or interests, we are all in this world together. She loved the League and understood its many different opinions and activities that made civic life better. She was an inspiring force.

Interested in Volunteering? Who Do You Call?

Contact the individuals below to participate in events and on committees:

Affordable Housing - LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com.

Criminal Justice - Lin McGinn linmcginn2@aol.com

Environmental Issues - Amy Compestine amycompestinelwvsa@gmail.com

Redistricting Task Force - Mary Lloyd riteasrain190@gmail.com

Voter Services - Elaine Harger eharger@drizzle.com

Voter Registration - Sally Phillips phillips1948@comcast.net

Welcoming Committee - Lunell Haught at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319

Interested in Leadership? Not sure what is a good fit for you?

Contact Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com, 509-443-1319 or LWVSAleadership@gmail.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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