



VOTER

September 2024

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Diane Molleson

Fall is coming and so is the General Election on November 5! Our League will be helping the State League host the in-person candidate forum for the Commissioner of Public Lands at WSU-TC on September 25 at 6 pm. As I write, that race is too close to call and is being recounted. We're looking forward to welcoming the top two candidates--Jaime Herrera Beutler and Dave Upthegrove **or** Sue Kuehl Pederson--to the Tri-Cities and will just have to wait a little longer to find out who the second-place finisher will be.

A list of the other 18 races our League is covering appears in this VOTER. As always, we welcome questions for the candidates. Please send them to Beverly Johnson-Torelli at SasJoh@aol.com by September 18.

National Voter Registration Day falls on Tuesday, September 17, and we have three voter registration events planned that week alone. This would not be possible without the help of our volunteers, and we are very grateful. A huge thank you to them and all the others who are covering voter education events in Kennewick, Richland, Pasco and West Richland this month and next. A list of all our upcoming voter registration events is in a separate article. Please send unregistered voters our way, and sign up to volunteer when you are available.

In October, we are planning a Wine Social for members where we will present the three initiatives that will be on the November ballot.

Voter Registration Drives

We are looking for volunteers for the October 2 and 9 events at CBC and also for September 6 at the Tri-Cities Islamic Center. Please contact Diane Molleson at molleson@frontier.com if you can help. Thank you to all the volunteers who have already signed up.

September 5: **Kamiakin HS Resource Fair**, 600 N. Arthur St. in Kennewick, 6-8 pm.
Two volunteers will attend.

- September 6:** **The Islamic Center of Tri-Cities**, 2900 Bombing Range Road, West Richland, 1:30-2:30 pm. Bev and Sabiha are signed up. Others are welcome.
- September 7:** **Celebration of Community, Diversity & Culture**, Howard Amon Park, 500 Amon Park Dr. in Richland, LWVBF to register voters from Noon-4 pm. Seven volunteers will attend.
- September 17:** **Naturalization Ceremony**, Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Avenue, Richland, 10 am. Five volunteers will attend.
- September 17:** **Seattle Children’s Tri-Cities Clinic**, 8232 W. Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick, 10 am-3 pm. Four volunteers will attend.
- September 19:** **WSU-TC, Student Union Building**, 2710 Crimson Way, 11 am-1 pm. Three volunteers will attend.
- October 2:** **Columbia Basin College Club Rush** (where they advertise student clubs), 2600 N. 20th Ave., Pasco, 10 am-2 pm.
- October 9:** **Columbia Basin College Resource Fair**, 2600 N. 20th Ave., Pasco, Noon-2 pm.

General Election Candidate Forums 2024

Here is a list of the races we will be covering in the General Election on November 5. The forums will be recorded at Northwest Public Broadcasting’s studio at WSU-TC Sept. 25- 27. We welcome questions for the candidates. Please send them to Beverly Johnson-Torelli at SasJoh@aol.com or Diane Molleson at molleson@frontier.com by September 18. Thank you.

LWVWA:

Commissioner of Public Lands - Top two from Primary – in person and live streamed on September 25 at WSU-TC at 6 pm. Jaime Herrera Beutler and Dave Upthegrove or Sue Kuehl Pederson

LWVBF:

4th Congressional District - Jerrod Sessler and Dan Newhouse
5th Congressional District - Michael Baumgartner and Carmela Conroy

8th Legislative District - April Connors and John Christenson

14th Legislative District, Senator - Curtis King and Maria Beltran
14th Legislative District, Position 1 - Chelsea Ditmas and Gloria Mendoza
14th Legislative District, Position 2 - Ana Ruiz Kennedy and Deb Manjarrez

16th Legislative District, Senator - Perry Dozier and Kari Isaacson
16th Legislative District, Position 1 - Mark Klicker and Linda Gunshefski
16th Legislative District, Position 2 - Skyler Rude and Craig R. Woodard

Judicial Position 5 - Bronson Brown and Shawn Sant

Benton Co. Commissioner, District 1 - Jerome Delvin and Jeff J. Smart
Benton Co. Commissioner, District 3 - Will McKay and Zach Fluharty
PUD Commissioner, District 3 - Barry Bush and Mike Massey

15th Legislative District, Position 1 - Chris Corry and Chase Foster
15th Legislative District, Position 2 - Jeremie Dufault and Rich Bright

Franklin Co. Commissioner, District 1 - Steve Bauman and Caleb Atkins
Franklin Co. Commissioner, District 2 - Blanche Barajas and Rocky Mullen
PUD Commissioner, District 3 - Pedro Torres and Stuart Nelson

Treasurer's Report – Carla Chiotti

As of July 31, 2024:

Checking is	\$5,929.47
Savings is	<u>\$1,857.27</u>
Total	\$7,786.74

Income: \$291.89 We received \$110 from new members Charlotte and Peter Later. Welcome! Additionally, two other members renewed their membership for \$110. We also received \$71.89 through PayPal from a woman in Bella Vista, Arkansas. She thought she was joining the LWV for Benton County, Arkansas. (We refunded her membership, see below.)

Expenses: \$482.61 We paid \$389.50 to LWVWA for Per Member Payments. We refunded \$75 to the woman from Arkansas, including the PayPal fee of \$3.11. We also had a debit of \$15 from Umpqua Bank for an incorrect bank fee. (This fee was refunded to us on August 5.)

Membership campaign: The letter requesting membership renewals has been completed and will be sent to members after the Business Meeting on August 20. This will be the last year that membership will be solicited and collected by our local league.

Education Fund: I have emailed Michael Martin the LWVWA Treasurer asking for the current balance of the Education Fund. I have not received a reply as of this writing. The June report shows a balance of **\$8,140.42**.

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: The new membership platform, ChapterSpot, will be launched at the end of January or beginning of February. All local leagues will need to set up a Stripe account in the fall. Training for the new system will be scheduled after the November elections.

Transition to new Treasurer: The transition has been going slowly but surely. We've completed the transition with the bank and we are working on PayPal. The remainder of the Treasurer's documents were received by the August Board meeting.

Anonymous Check from KeyBank - Carla Chiotti

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties recently received a bank check from Key Bank made payable to our local League. From the notations on the check, it seems that the check writer wanted to donate to the Education Fund that funds our scholarships.

Donations to the Education Fund need to be made payable to LWVWA Education Fund and sent to 1511 Third Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA, 98101, Attn: Ed Fund Treasurer. A notation should indicate that the donation is for Benton-Franklin League Scholarship Fund.

We would like to return this check to the person who sent it and ask that the check be rewritten to LWVWA Education Fund. If you submitted this check, please contact Carla Chiotti, Treasurer, at 509-946-7217 or cchiotti@gmail.com.

Thank you for your donation. We want to get it to the right place.

Elections – Leona Hassing

While local races were not exactly nail-biters, the Primary Election did produce the closest Primary Election race in state history. A statewide recount is required to confirm who finished second in the race for Commissioner of Public Lands.

Republican Jaime Herrera-Beutler, a former congresswoman, received the highest number of votes in the Primary. But Democrat Dave Upthegrove is only 51 votes ahead of Republican Sue Kuehl Pederson in the race for second place and a spot on the General Election ballot. That works out to just 0.0064% of the vote.

State law requires a manual recount when the margin is less than 0.25%. Canvassing boards in each of Washington's 39 counties conducted the recount. Officials expect it takes about seven business days.

The LWVWA is scheduling the public forum for that office at WSU-TC on Wednesday, September 25 at 6 pm.

LWVBF Book Club – Polly Parton

LWVBF Book Club, *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walker is our September Book on September 9th.

In August we discussed *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. This was our 2nd Towles book and I enjoyed his easy way of telling a story. Multiple characters were highlighted and their stories of a short period of time interacting were told. It was a small but good discussion.

The *Cold Millions* is a novel set close to home, Spokane Washington. Set in the early 20th century, the young Dolan Brothers struggle to make their way through the fight for better wages and work into union jobs. It will be a good September discussion.

Join us the 2nd 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 us even if you did not read the book, Polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509 -551-3818

LWVBF Bylaws – Judy Golberg

With the election season upon us, this is a reminder of our organization’s Bylaws and Policies:

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES AND POLICIES

Section 1. Purposes: The purposes of the LWVBF are: 1. to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and 2. to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policies: The Policies of the LWVBF are: 1. Political Policy: The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. 2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy: The League is fully committed to ensure compliance—in principle and in practice—with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Please remember that the League’s membership list is for internal use only.

Observer Corps - Diane Molleson

The LWVBF has an Observer Corps where members attend and observe the workings of local governmental agencies with rule-making authority, such as school boards, city councils, ports, irrigation districts, and library boards. Observers attend the meetings of these agencies and report their observations to the League. Our Observer Corps has been inactive for the past year, and we are hoping to resurrect it.

The LWVWA's Local News and Democracy committee is toying with the idea of creating and offering training on some basic reporting skills for members interested in preparing observer reports. The training would be voluntary. And *Tumbleweird*, our region's local alternative newspaper, is interested in publishing reports from Observer Corps members to keep their readers up-to-date on the workings of local government entities.

Many of these meetings, such as the Kennewick and Benton City Councils, are accessible over the internet. Others may need to be attended in person. However, almost all the meetings are recorded and can be viewed for some time after they have taken place.

If you would like to become part of our Observer Corps, or just want more information, please contact Diane Molleson at molleson@frontier.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 5** ~ Voter Registration, Kamiakin HS
- Sept. 6** ~ Voter Registration, The Islamic Center of Tri-Cities
- Sept. 7** ~ Voter Registration, Celebration of Community, Diversity and Culture
- Sept. 9** ~ LWVBF Book Club
- Sept. 17** ~ Voter Registration, Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Building, Richland
- Sept. 17** ~ Voter Registration, Seattle Children's Tri-Cities Clinic
- Sept. 17** ~ LWVBF Business & Planning Meeting/Board Meeting 6 pm via Zoom
- Sept. 19** ~ Voter Registration, WSU-TC
- Oct. 2** ~ Voter Registration, Columbia Basin College Club Rush
- Oct. 9** ~ Voter Registration, Columbia Basin Resource Center
- Oct. 14** ~ LWVBF Book Club
- Oct. 15** ~ LWVBF Business & Planning Meeting/Board Meeting 6 pm via Zoom
- Oct. 16** ~ Membership Wine Social at Janet's

Email: 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:
League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin
Counties
P.O. Box 765
Richland, WA 99352

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
:	
OFFICERS:	
President: Diane Molleson	
1 st Vice President: Susan Thornton	
2 nd Vice President: Ruvine Jimenez	
Secretary: Peggy Gregory	
Treasurer: Carla Chiotti	
ELECTED DIRECTORS:	APPOINTED DIRECTORS:
JoAnne Dimond	Sabiha Khan
Leona Hassing	Michelle Pirotte
Beverly Johnson-Torelli	Shirley Sonnichsen
Janet Nail	
Polly Parton	VOTER EDITOR:
Lora Rathbone	JoAnne Dimond