



VOLUME LXXXIV ISSUE 7, August 3, 2021

A printable PDF of *The Voter* will be available at [LWVSpokane.org](https://www.lwvspokane.org)

It's Election Day!

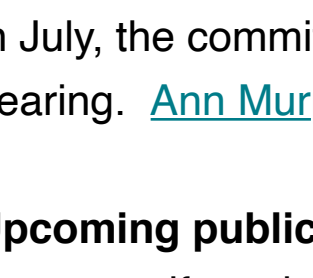
Reminder: Have you mailed or dropped off your ballot?

Redistricting In Washington State and Spokane County: Status, Hearings, Updates

Ann Murphy, President

It is time to let your voice be heard on redistricting! Both the State of Washington and Spokane County are undergoing separate redistricting processes as defined by law.

In Spokane County



The Redistricting Committee is working to draw five new districts for County Commissioners. Learn more about the committee and its work at www.redistrictspokane.co.com. Leaguers are attending the committee's regular meetings on **Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30 pm**, at The Champions Room, 720 W. Mallon (just east of Monroe). Meetings are open to the public and provide insights into the process.

In July, the committee held two sessions: a public information session and a public hearing. [Ann Murphy testified for League.](#)

Upcoming public meetings will provide attendees with more information and allow you to testify to the committee. All meetings are both in-person and virtual. [Check here](#) for virtual connections and materials. (Scroll down to the calendar.)

- **Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021, 5:30-7:30 pm**, at the Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, Spokane, Public Information Meeting #2
- **Spokane, Aug. 12, 2021, 5:30-7:30 pm**, at Center Place, 2426 N Discovery Pl, Spokane Valley, Public Hearing #2 to accept testimony from citizens as to what is important to them in the new districts for the county.

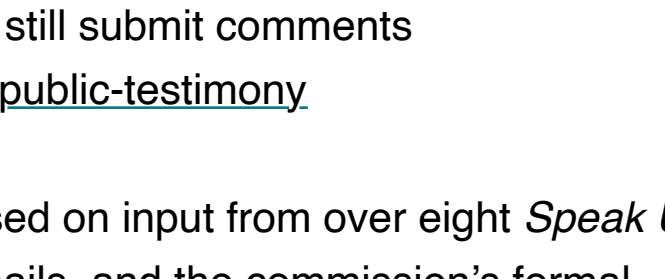
More meetings are coming in September and October. Get them on your calendar now, spread the word, and watch for more particulars.

- **Thursday, Sept. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.:** Public information session #3, Deer Park Public Library, 208 South Forest Ave., Deer Park, WA 99006
- **Thursday, Sept. 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m.:** Public hearing #3, Moran Prairie Public Library, 6004 South Regal St., Spokane, WA 99223

- **Thursday, Sept. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.:** Public information session #4, Cheney Public Library, 610 First St., Cheney, WA 99004
- **Thursday, Oct. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.:** Public hearing #4, Northern Quest Resort & Casino, 100 North Hayford Rd., Airway Heights, WA 99001 (Kallispel Ballroom)

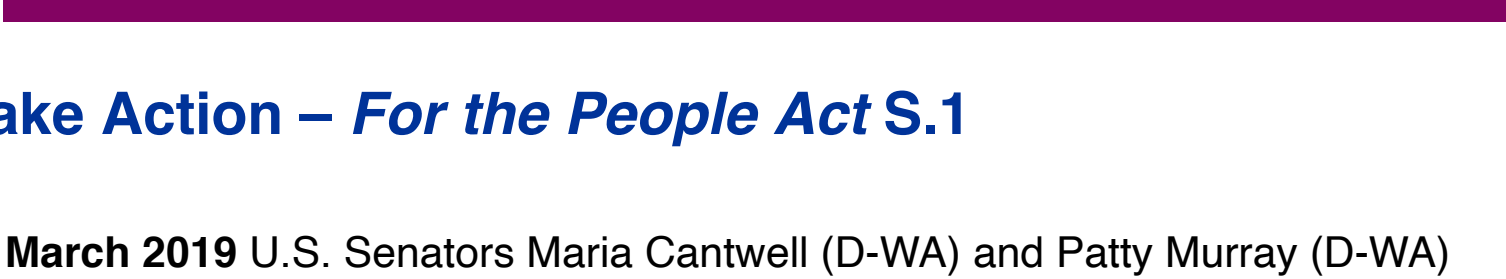
In Washington State

With a tag line of ***Draw Your WA***, the state commission holds regular business meetings and has completed two rounds of virtual public hearings in various Congressional Districts throughout the state. More info: <https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/>



If you missed those chances to testify, you can still submit comments online: <https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/submit-public-testimony>

LWVWA has developed several draft maps based on input from over eight *Speak Up Schools*, 20 listening sessions, hundreds of emails, and the commission's formal outreach meetings. Alison McCaffree, LWVWA Redistricting Issue Chair, is leading the effort to complete these drafts. More info: <https://lwvwa.org/redistricting>

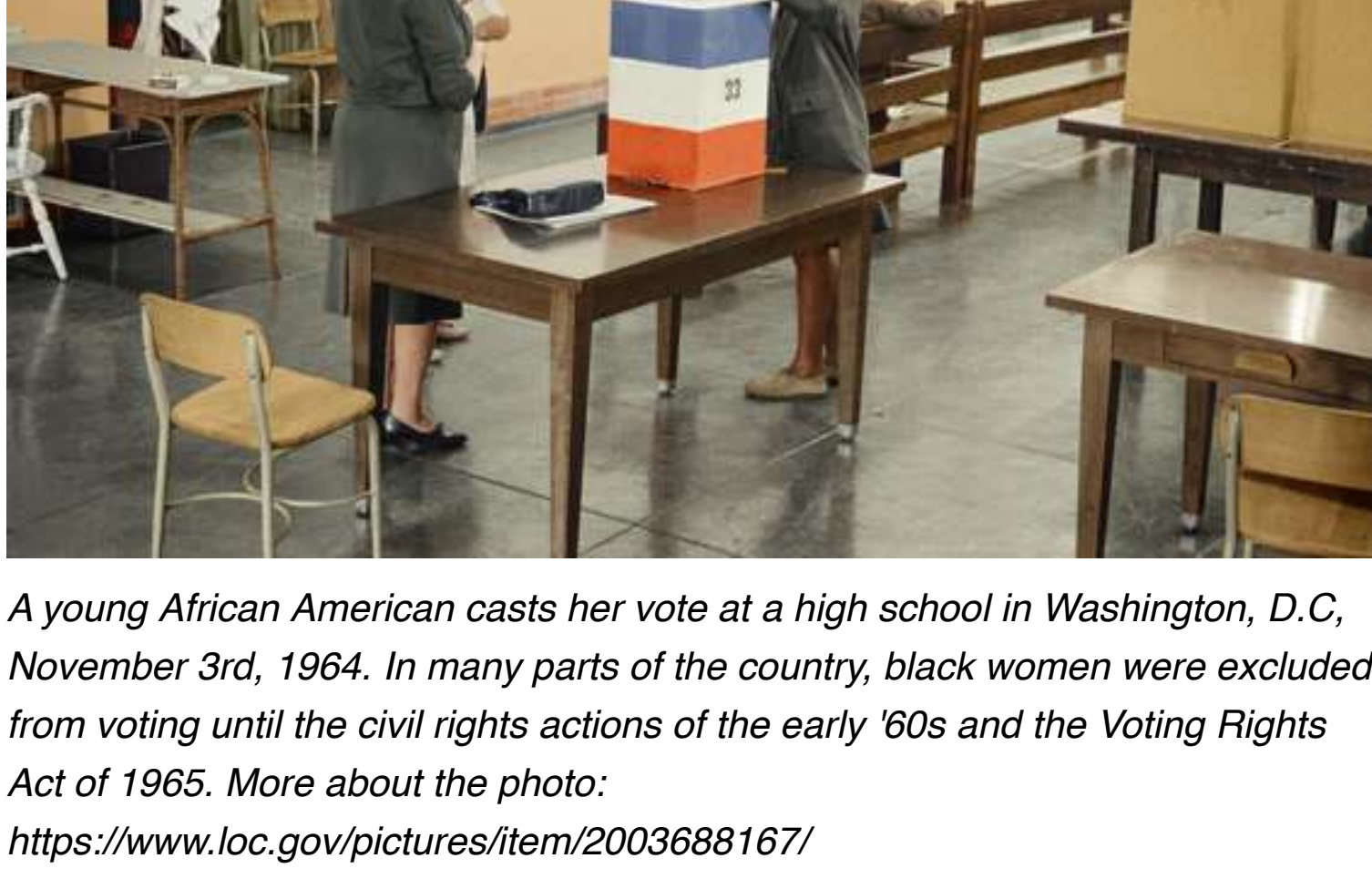


Take Action – For the People Act S.1

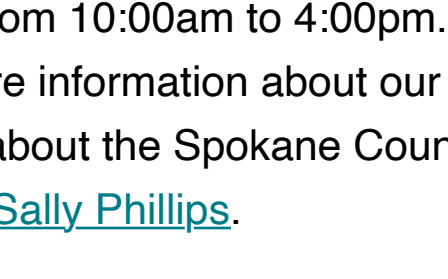
In **March 2019** U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA) joined their colleagues in introducing S.1, the ***For the People Act***—a sweeping package of comprehensive reforms that would protect and strengthen voting rights, end special interest corruption of our politics, and make government work for the people.

Lawmakers in 43 states continue to use unfounded election conspiracies regarding the 2020 presidential election to push to restrict Americans' access to the ballot box — with a disproportionate impact on Black and Brown Americans. According to a recent report from the Brennan Center, at least 253 bills to restrict voting have been introduced around the country.

Let our US Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray know that you support the *For the People Act* that is currently awaiting a vote in the US Senate. Go to: <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/action-alert/take-action-tell-our-senators-passing-people-act-s1-priority>. Please feel free to edit the message sufficiently to thank Senators Cantwell and Murray for already supporting the bill.



A young African American casts her vote at a high school in Washington, D.C., November 3rd, 1964. In many parts of the country, black women were excluded from voting until the civil rights actions of the early '60s and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. More about the photo: <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003688167/>



Volunteers Needed

Join the LWVSA at the upcoming 2021 Unity in the Community event on Saturday, August 21 in Riverfront Park from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Our League will host a table to register people to vote; share information about our local, state and national Leagues; and provide details about the Spokane County redistricting process. If you can volunteer, please [contact Sally Phillips](#).

Be A Voter!

Becky Dickerhoof, Board Member, Voter Service Chair

LWV Washington has developed a "Be A Voter" campaign for the 2021 election cycle to encourage all citizens to vote. Yard signs along with flyers suitable for posting in vehicle windows, libraries and community centers, will be available for members to display. They will have the new "Be a Voter" graphic on one side and "Vote411.org" on the other. The signs should be usable for this and future voting cycles. The Voter Services committee hopes to have them available at the Unity in the Community event and at the first in-person general meeting in September. Members who want signs are encouraged to donate to the Education Fund to help cover the costs. More info to come!

What is a Citizen? Civics Ed Classes Dive In

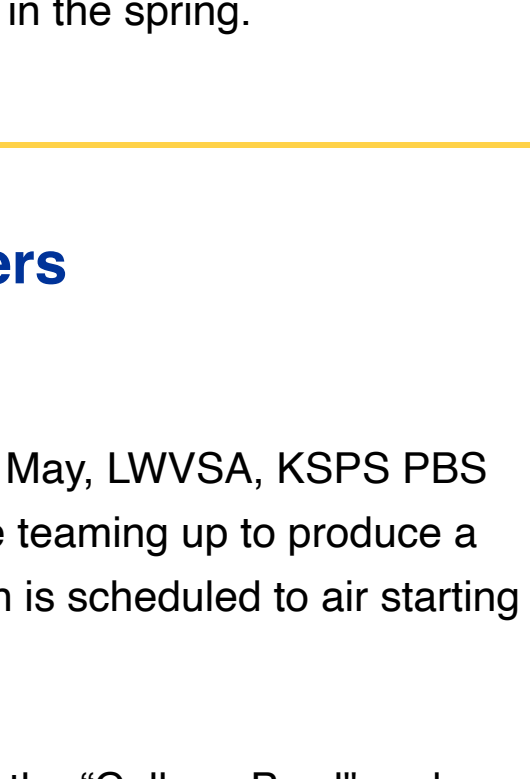
Elaine Harge& Beth Pellicciotti, Civics Education Committee

The Civics Education committee has been working this spring and summer to develop classes for citizens to learn more about their responsibilities as voters, the history of our voting rights, and the value of citizen participation. All of the classes are developed in partnership with the Act 2 program of Spokane Community College, geared to people over age 50.

This summer the ***Speak Up School*** team of volunteers has been hosting classes. Starting in October, a multi-week course called ***What is a Citizen*** begins on October 26 at 1:00 pm in person at SCC. Classes will be led by our own Elaine Harger on Tuesday afternoons through December 7. Registration will open on August 17 at the [SCC Act 2 website](#). League members are encouraged to register.

Here is the class description:

What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens? How can citizens become active in municipal, state, and national governance? What impact will Spokane County Commissioner redistricting have on our lives? These questions and others will guide learning, reading, writing, and conversation in this course. The course is designed to involve all participants in building a learning community. Big issues will be broken down and analyzed; personal experiences will inform our learning; avenues to civic engagement and skills for activism will be explored. A culminating project will document and celebrate our collective learning. The course is designed by the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area's Civics Education Committee.

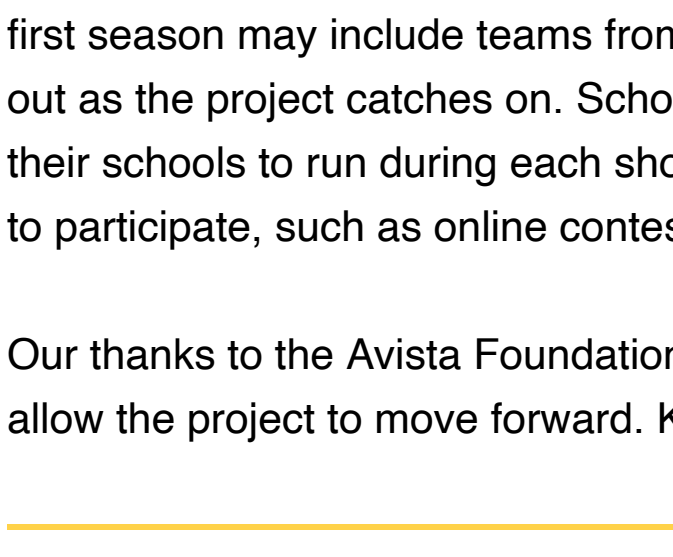


Watch for the next Act 2 course, ***Who "We The People" Are: Securing America's Great Democratic Experiment***, led by Carmela Conroy in the spring.

"Civics Bowl" to Engage High Schoolers

Dawn Bayman, Communications Chair

Following the successful High School Civics contest last May, LWVSA, KSPS PBS and an advisory council of local high school teachers are teaming up to produce a televised high school civics tournament. The pilot season is scheduled to air starting in late winter.



Modeled loosely on the "College Bowl" and "High School Bowl" programs of the '60s and '70s, the tournament will pit teams of three or four students representing participating high schools against one another in half-hour contests recorded in the KSPS PBS studios, then televised and streamed online. Teams will answer questions about national, state, tribal and regional governments and other topics related to high school-level study of civics and government. LWVSA members will provide the questions and the judging during the tournament. The program will be hosted by KSPS' Gary Stokes.

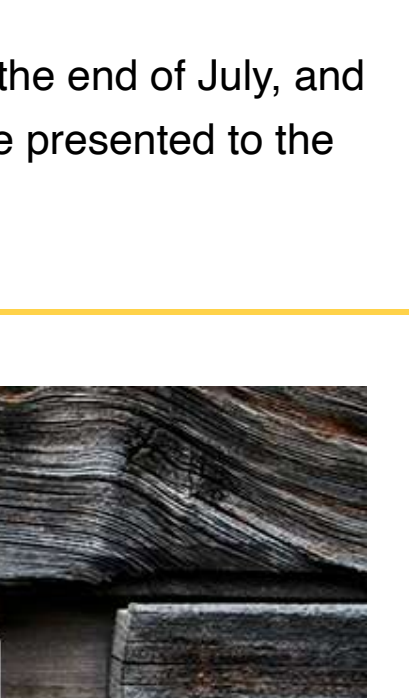
Though still in the early stages, initial plans call for about six teams in a double-elimination tournament, creating a pilot season of *Civics Bowl* programs. This short first season may include teams from Spokane schools only, but we hope to branch out as the project catches on. Schools may submit student-produced videos about their schools to run during each show. Each show will also include ways for viewers to participate, such as online contests.

Our thanks to the Avista Foundation for providing the seed funding to KSPS PBS to allow the project to move forward. KSPS is seeking other funding as well.

Spokane Sustainability Action Plan: The Next Phase

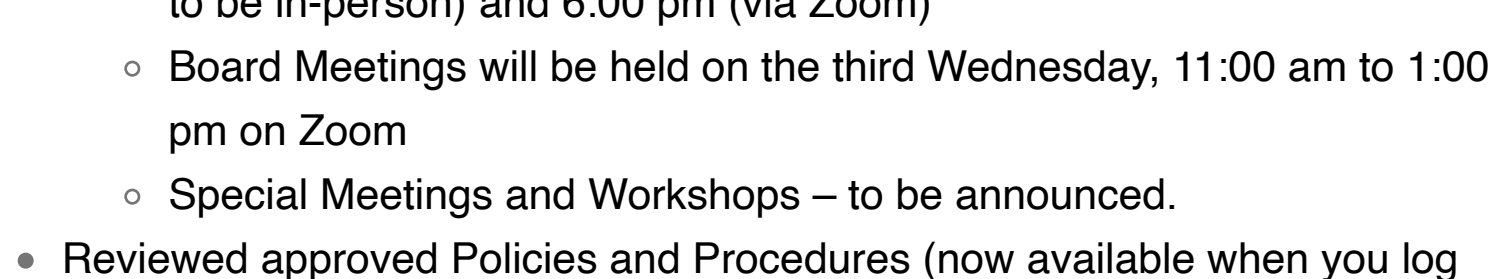
Ann Murphy, President

The City of Spokane Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) has been out for review since late spring April 2021. LWVSA held a General Meeting on the plan with Kara Odegard, Manager of Sustainability Initiatives, presenting the plan and answering questions. You can [review the information on our website](#) and watch the recording of the meeting in the Members-Only Section.



Detailed information on the plan is available on the [city's SAP site](#).

Public comment through surveys and workshops wound down the end of July, and now the SAP team will begin making edits to the final plan to be presented to the City of Spokane Council in the early fall for their consideration.



Ann Murphy, President

The new 2021-22 LWVSA Board held a Retreat on July 23 in an in-person meeting that allowed for greater connectivity.

- Meeting Dates/Times
 - General Meetings on a range of League related topics will be held on the second Tuesday of each month with two offerings: 11:30 am (with a goal to be in-person) and 6:00 pm (via Zoom)
 - Board Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Zoom
 - Special Meetings and Workshops – to be announced.
- Reviewed approved Policies and Procedures (now available when you log into the Members-Only section of [LWVSpokane.org](https://www.lwvspokane.org)). Board Governance Policy to be voted on at the August Meeting
- Approved a revision to the Nonpartisan Policy in **Section B. Board of Directors**. The Board has the responsibility to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. They **may not**:
 - Publicly endorse a candidate for *any elected office*.
 - See the complete Nonpartisan Policy at <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/nonpartisan-policy>
- Approved expenses for office reorganization and Voter Service yard signs.
- Began looking at various plans for General Meetings this coming year.

Fall Meetings

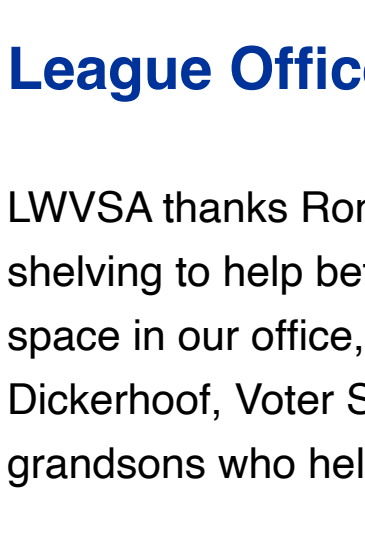
- September 14 – Updates on Redistricting and the KSPS Civics Bowl project
- October 12 – Ballot Issues and other Election information
- Candidate Forums – due to uncertainty of City Council Chambers, Lisa Kuhar and Susan Gray are once again working to schedule Zoom forums with the top candidates in each of the General Election races for Spokane City Council, Spokane Public Schools, and Spokane Valley Council. Links to those forums will be posted on our League website.

Celebrate Women's Equality Day, August 26, 2021

Women's Equality Day is celebrated in the US on August 26 to commemorate the 1920 adoption of the **Nineteenth Amendment** (Amendment XIX) to the **United States Constitution**, which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971, it was first celebrated in 1972, designated by Congress in 1973, and is proclaimed each year by the United States President.

The [National Women's History Alliance](#) promotes celebration ideas with the theme ***Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced***.

Gerard Earns LWVWA Good Citizen Award

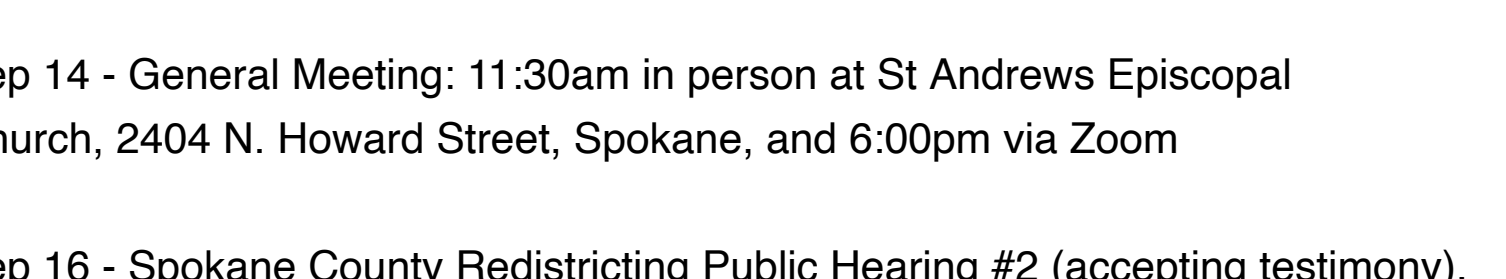
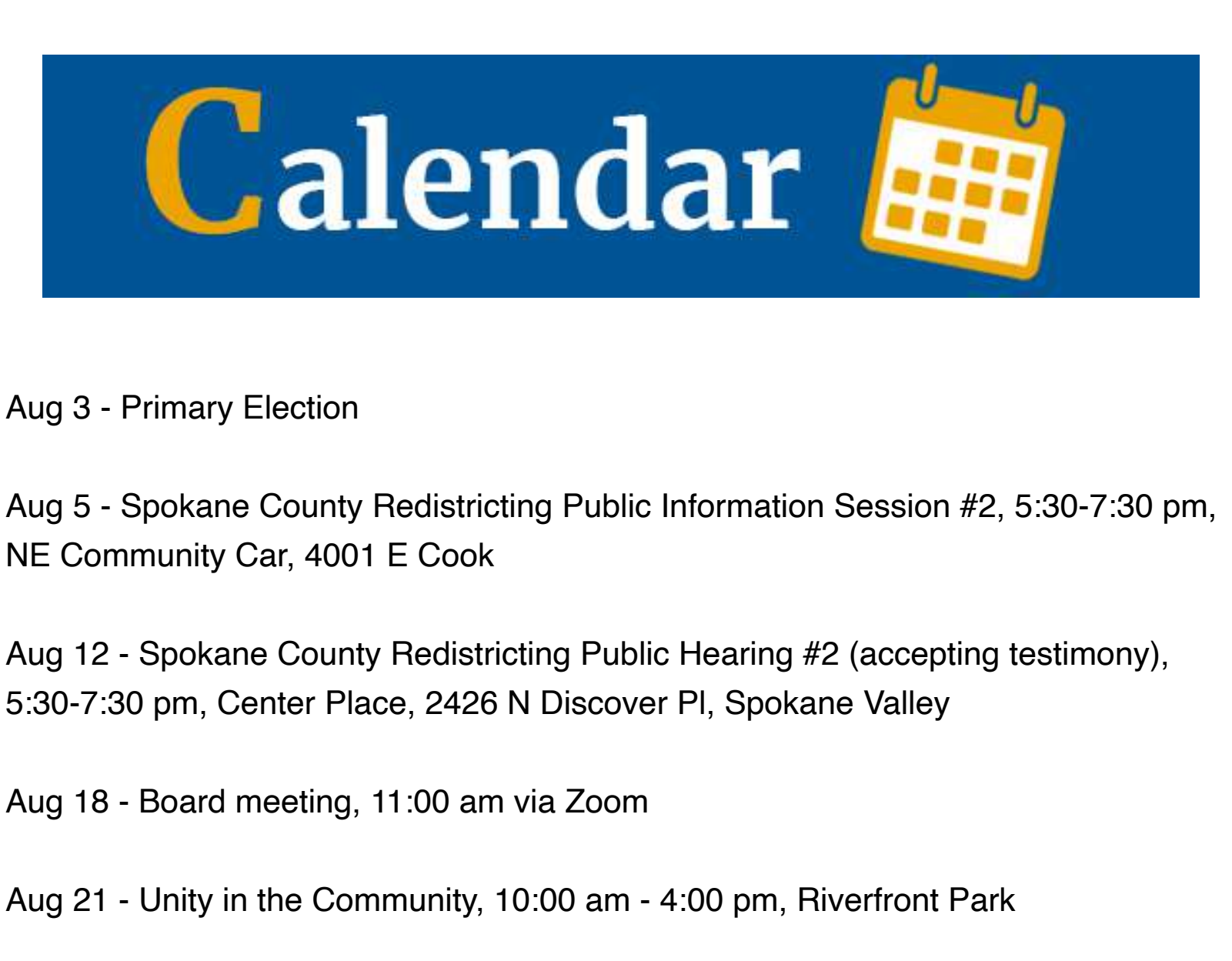


Congratulations to Susie Gerard, recipient of the LWVWA Good Citizen Award, presented by Ann Murphy at the LWVWA 2021 Convention. This award is for a group or individual who has partnered with the local League to promote the mission of the LWV and who has helped serve underrepresented voters. In the nomination, Ann emphasized Susie's pivotal role in developing the program where Spokane League members present on the importance of voting to over 40 high school civics classes a semester. She also emphasized how Susie embraced the League DEI core values in the creation of her outstanding textbook, *American Perspectives*.

Congratulations, Susie!

League Office Gets a Facelift

LWVSA thanks Ron Dickerhoof for his exceptional woodworking skills to provide new shelving to help better organize League materials and to enhance the usage of space in our office, especially for Voter Service equipment! Thanks, too, to Becky Dickerhoof, Voter Service Chair, for reorganizing the office space...and to their grandsons who helped move the new furniture in! (pictured)



- Aug 3 - Primary Election
- Aug 5 - Spokane County Redistricting Public Information Session #2, 5:30-7:30 pm, NE Community Car, 4001 E Cook
- Aug 12 - Spokane County Redistricting Public Hearing #2 (accepting testimony), 5:30-7:30 pm, Center Place, 2426 N Discover Pl, Spokane Valley
- Aug 18 - Board meeting, 11:00 am via Zoom
- Aug 21 - Unity in the Community, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Riverfront Park
- Sep 9 - Spokane County Redistricting Public Information Session #3, 5:30-7:30 pm, Deer Park Public Library
- Sep 14 - General Meeting: 11:30am in person at St Andrews Episcopal Church, 2404 N. Howard Street, Spokane, and 6:00pm via Zoom
- Sep 16 - Spokane County Redistricting Public Hearing #2 (accepting testimony), 5:30-7:30 pm, Moran Prairie Public Library

Your 2021 - 2022 Board

Ann Murphy - President & Action Chair
Elaine Harge - Secretary
Michael Bell - Treasurer
Dawn Bayman - Director (Communications Chair)
Denise Campitelli - Director (Strategic Planning)
Becky Dickerhoof - Director (Voter Services Chair)
April May - Director (Membership Chair)
Sylvia Oliver - Director (Program of Work Chair)



Need a Member Directory?

A printable pdf of the most recent issue of the member directory can be found on the Members Only page of [LWVSpokane.org](https://www.lwvspokane.org). If you're not able to access it, please email Dawn Bayman and she'll send you one.