





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXVII ISSUE 3, MARCH 1, 2024  
*A printable version of The Voter is available at [LWVSpokane.org](https://www.lwvspokane.org)*

From the President  
Jean Richardson

Presidential Primary Coming Up

It seems appropriate that in this column I write to you about the upcoming presidential primary. It can be easy for us to overlook this opportunity to participate our democracy. The March primary differs from the August Primary and the November General election, where the final selection of our next U.S. President will occur. In March, we are actually participating in the nomination of the candidates presented by each party. In August we will be voting in the primary election for state and local offices. The general election is on November 5th, ballots are mailed out October 18, and we will elect the President, a US senator, US representatives, our state governor, and several other state and local officials.

The exciting news for we parents, aunts, uncles, grand-

parents, great aunts, and great uncles is that young people who will be 18 by November 5, 2024, can vote in the March 12th election and the August 6th election. This can be recognized as a rite of passage into full fledged civic engagement to be celebrated!

KEY DATES

**March 4** – Deadline for online and by mail registration and address updates. Mailed registrations must be received by an elections official by this date, not postmarked by this date.

**March 12** – Presidential Primary Last day to register or update in person at a county elections office. Mailed ballots must have a March 12 postmark to count. Ballot boxes and voting centers close at 8:00 p.m. After 8:00 p.m., counties begin transmission of results to the Secretary of State.

**March 29** – Last day for Secretary of State to certify Presidential Primary results.

*For more details, see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on the Washington Secretary of State’ website:*  
<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/helpful-information/presidential-primary-faq>  
*and*  
<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/voter-eligibility-resources/future-voter-program>

#FutureVoter

If you will be 18 by the November 5 General Election, you can vote in the Presidential Primary.  
*Credit: Washington Secretary of State’s website*

Summary of February 21, 2023 Board Meeting

1. Marcy Coltrain, LWVWA President, joined the Board meeting for a discussion of two items:

- The relationship of state and local fundraising for the Redistricting Task Force. It was determined that all fund raising will be done at the state level and that before approaching any local organizations, the State President will have a discussion with the Local President.

- Mary also clarified that in our local Problem-Solving Policy as required by National, the State President may be consulted for any disputes that cannot be resolved at the local level. After discussion, the Board accepted the Problem Resolution Policy.

2. Mary Lloyd was appointed Chair of the Local Redistricting Task Force and Ann Murphy will serve as the liaison to the State Task Force.

3. Phyllis Holmes, Beth Pellicciotti and Beck Dickerhoof agreed to join the nominating committee to interview the applicants for next year’s Board positions to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting in May.

4. The Board voted to send a Letter of Concern to the Central Valley Board of Directors and a letter to the editor of the Spokesman Review regarding the resolution the Board recently adopted opposing two proposed legislative bills,

- HB 2331 which would add a level of protection to the instructional materials selected for students to study the cultural and experiential contributions of individuals or groups for whom discrimination is prohibited by law.

- SB 5462 which would expand existing requirements in Washington regarding curriculum to include “the histories, contributions, and perspective of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.” Based on LWV State and National Education positions, it was determined that:

- The current CVSD policies failed to provide the level of protection that these bills seek to establish and

- The public had not received adequate notice that the resolution was to be voted on and had no opportunity for input.

- A letter would also be send to the School Boards of Mead and Deer Park which also passed similar resolutions opposing the two Bills.

5. The Board approved the Committee reports from Membership, Nominations, Voter Services, Communications, Affordable Housing and Homelessness, Environment.

For more details regarding Board meetings, please contact Carol Landa-McVicker at [cj\\_99224@yahoo.com](mailto:cj_99224@yahoo.com)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SPOKANE AREA

Annual Meeting  
Save the Date!

Tuesday, May 14 | 5pm to 7pm

Shadle Library—In Person on Zoom at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZMrc-isrTKiGtzwOcTO6CZt9jEBYJ-I0MRM>

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SPOKANE AREA

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Calendar

MARCH 2024

AH&HS Meeting  
Sunday, March 3 – 5:30pm to 6:30pm on ZOOM If you wish to attend, contact us at [lwvsaahhs@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaahhs@gmail.com) for the link.

Lunch with the League  
Friday, March 8 – 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
At The Osprey Restaurant at Ruby River Hotel 700 N Division St. Spokane, WA 99202

General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, March 12 – 5:30pm to 7:00pm discussion of the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS) Central Library, 906 W. Main St. Event Room B

The Voter Deadline – Friday, March 15

LWVSA Board Meeting  
Wednesday, March 20 – 4:00pm to 6:00pm Meetings held on third Wed of each month via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend. Please reach out to Jean at [jean@azuregate.net](mailto:jean@azuregate.net) before March 19 to get the Zoom link

FUTURE MEETINGS:  
General Meeting  
Tuesday, April 9 – 5:30pm to 7:00pm Hosted by the Environmental Committee

LWVSA Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, May 14 – 5:00pm to 7:00pm Hybrid meeting at the Shadle Park library

June 1-2 – LWVWA Council Meeting

Lunch with the League!

LWV Spokane Area Luncheon



Friday, March 8, 12pm to 1pm

The Osprey restaurant, in the Ruby River Hotel, 700 N. Division Street

RSVP to Jean Richardson at [jean@azuregate.net](mailto:jean@azuregate.net) or 509-788-8998 (texts are welcome)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SPOKANE AREA

Board of Directors

President - Jean Richardson

Vice President - Pamela Joyner

Treasurer - Mike Bell

Secretary - Carol Landa-McVicker

Director - Lin McGinn

Director - Elaine Harger

March is Women’s History Month.

Check out the free downloadable 2024 Women’s History Magazine - share it with friends.







Here is one of Spokane's warming shelters

## Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions

# Housing and Homelessness in February

Becky Dickerhoof

The month of February is a time of data collection reflection for the advocates of housing and homelessness. At the end of January, the annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT) was concluded. During the exercise, the volunteers try to find and talk to everyone who is unhoused. They count those who are in shelters or other temporary types of housing, such as RVs, and personal vehicles; the people they can find. But there are thousands more that are unhoused. They are sleeping on a relative or friend's couch. They are living in their parents' basement. They are living in their car. The schools also count how many students are homeless or couch-surfing. Students who are living with others because their families do not have housing are part of the school counts. Children who are in unstable housing are still bused to their home schools, no matter where they might find themselves. The state recognizes that these children will be further traumatized if they lose their school connections. The data collected is used by the US Housing and Urban Development Department to determine what funding our community will receive and what programs and grants we might be eligible for.

They are sleeping on a relative or friend's couch. They are living in their parents' basement. They are living in their car.

While doing the PIT many volunteers witnessed drug dealing and drug use. It is no wonder the homeless, those already traumatized and now are unsheltered, turn to self-medication to overcome their mental despair. Recently the front page of the Spokesman Review reported on the cost of fentanyl to our communities. While we have services that will help addicted people recover, they simply do not have the room to treat all those in need. If addicts cannot get help, they give up trying and fall back into the world of drug abuse. Someone recently referred to the homeless as "riffraff." As one of our committee members pointed out they are still human beings. It only takes one medical disaster, the loss of a job, a major home or car expense, to cause a family or individual to lose their home. They are not all criminals or undesirable, whatever that is. They simply made a choice that in hindsight was the wrong choice or they felt they had no other choice. How do you choose a life-saving medication over your rent? The people you see on the corner of Division and 3rd are only a small number of the ~12,000 unsheltered in Spokane. Do not cubbyhole someone who may not have a stable residence as riffraff. They are human beings who deserve a helping hand.

Like many residents of Spokane City and County, our committee is hopeful over the next year a change in how our government approaches the housing and homeless crisis will become more successful. We still hope a way will be found to make the Spokane Regional Housing Authority a reality.

Our next two AH&HS meetings will be March 3, 5:30 to 6:30 on ZOOM. If you wish to attend, contact us at lwvsaahs@gmail.com for the link.

## Civic Education

# Civic Education is for Adults too

Beth Pellicciotti

Many times we think that civic education is solely for students in K-12 schools. We might remember our own civics class in high school and wonder what is taught now. In Washington State, a semester of civic education is required for graduation from high school, legislation strongly supported by the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) in 2018.

However, civic education is also for adults, for those of us out of high school a few years or a few decades. As adults we learn civics through teachable moments; we learn because we are motivated to learn. League members learn how government works (one definition of civic education) when we study how a bill becomes a state law or how a city council passes ordinances.

Those of us working in voter education must learn Washington State election processes to answer questions about voting deadlines, signatures on the ballot, and the security of our state's mail-in ballot system. From our own learning about elections, we teach others.

On January 6, 2024, League members from across the state had several teachable moments by attending the LWVWA Speak-up School. We learned how to research state legislation, write testimony, and possibly testify on legislation. The Speak-up School PowerPoint covers these few hours of instruction and discussion and was preparation for LWVWA Lobby Week held January 22- January 26, 2024.

This article focuses on one part of Speak-up School, how to use <https://leg.wa.gov/>, the comprehensive guide to state-level legislation. While I have used leg.wa.gov many times, until Speak-up School, I had never seen such clear depictions of that website's information. Here were my civic education teachable moments from the LWVWA Speak-up School.

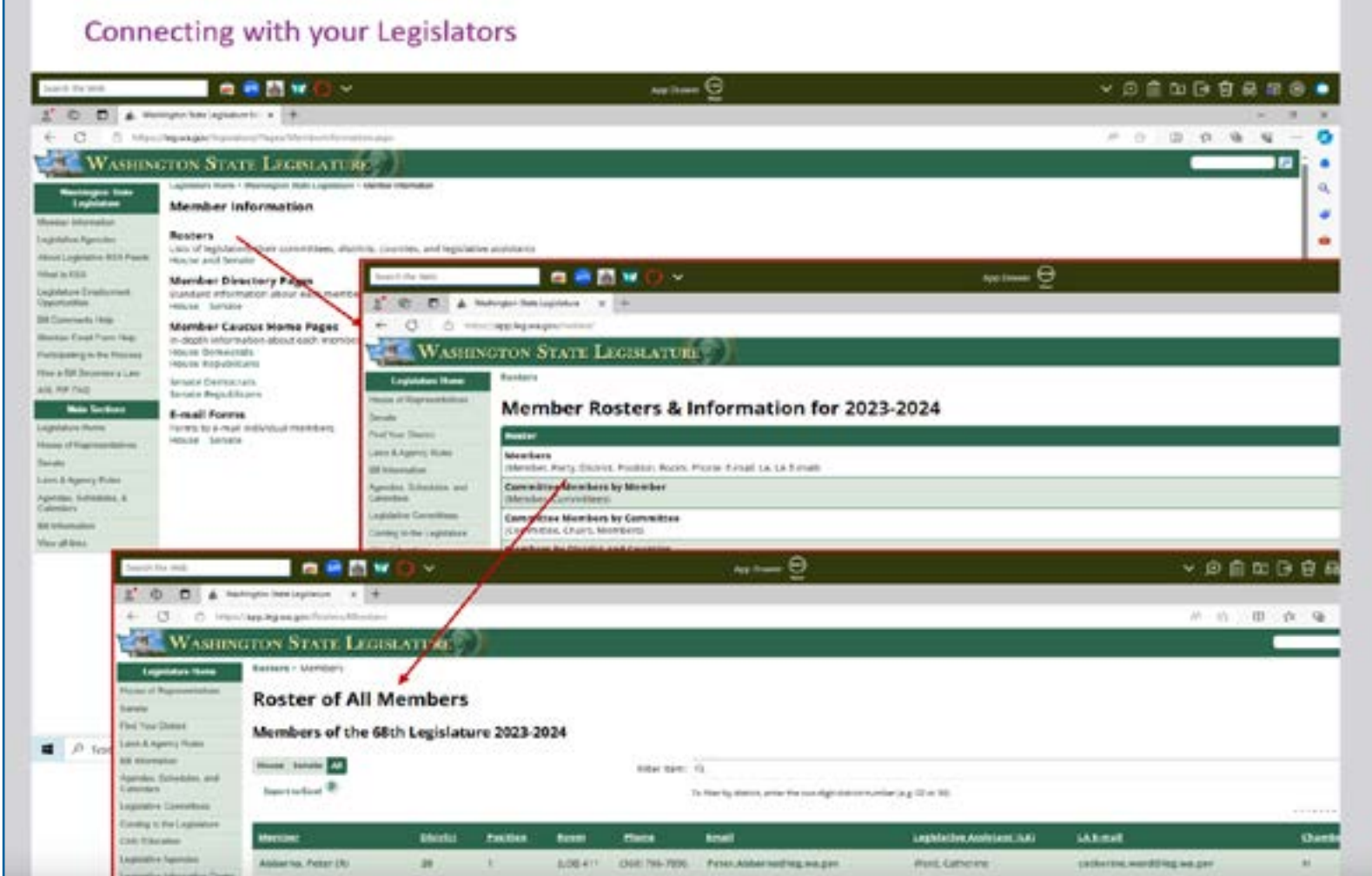
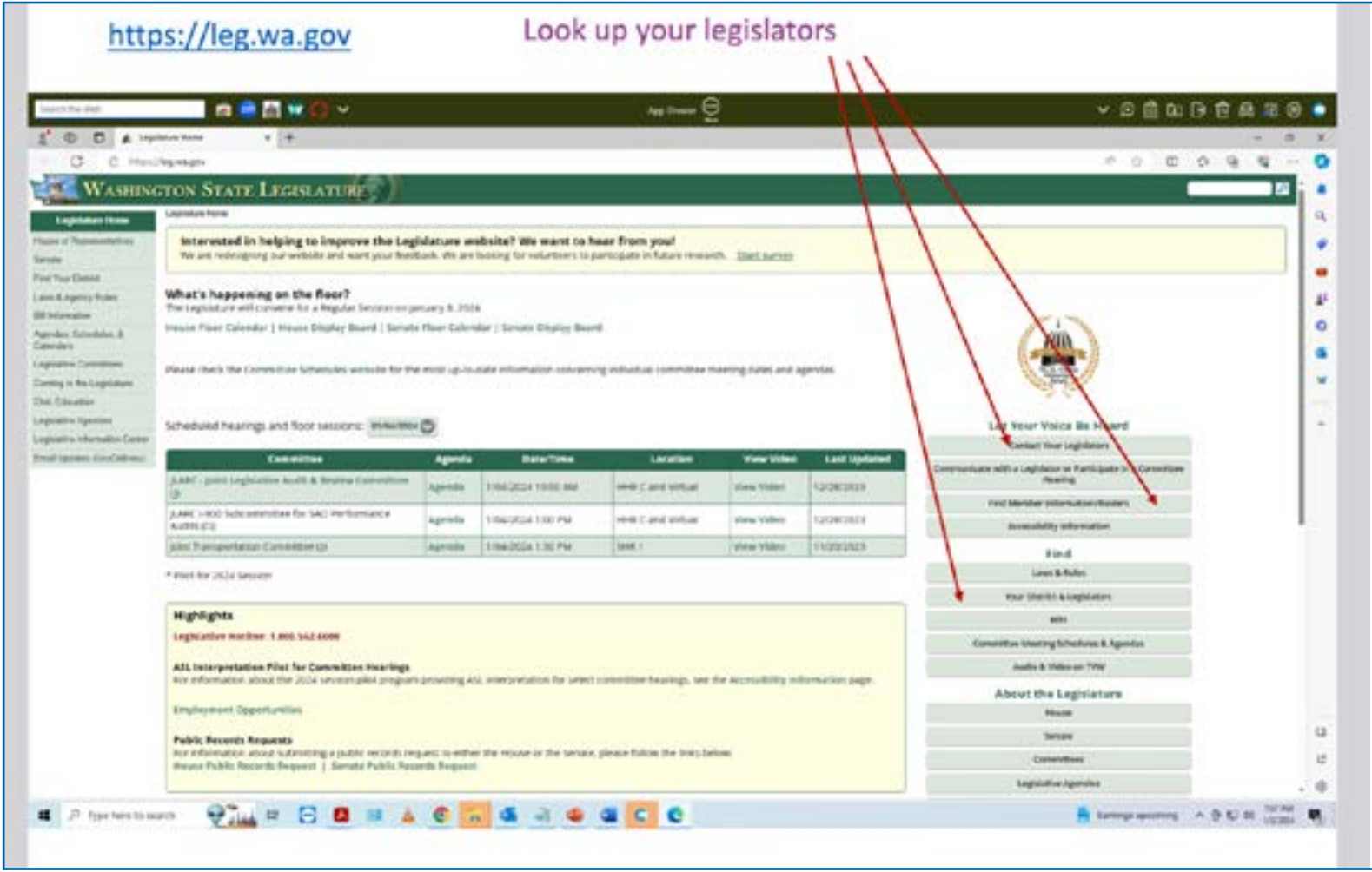
Using leg.wa.gov to look up and connect with my legislators: A few years ago, I was

continued next column

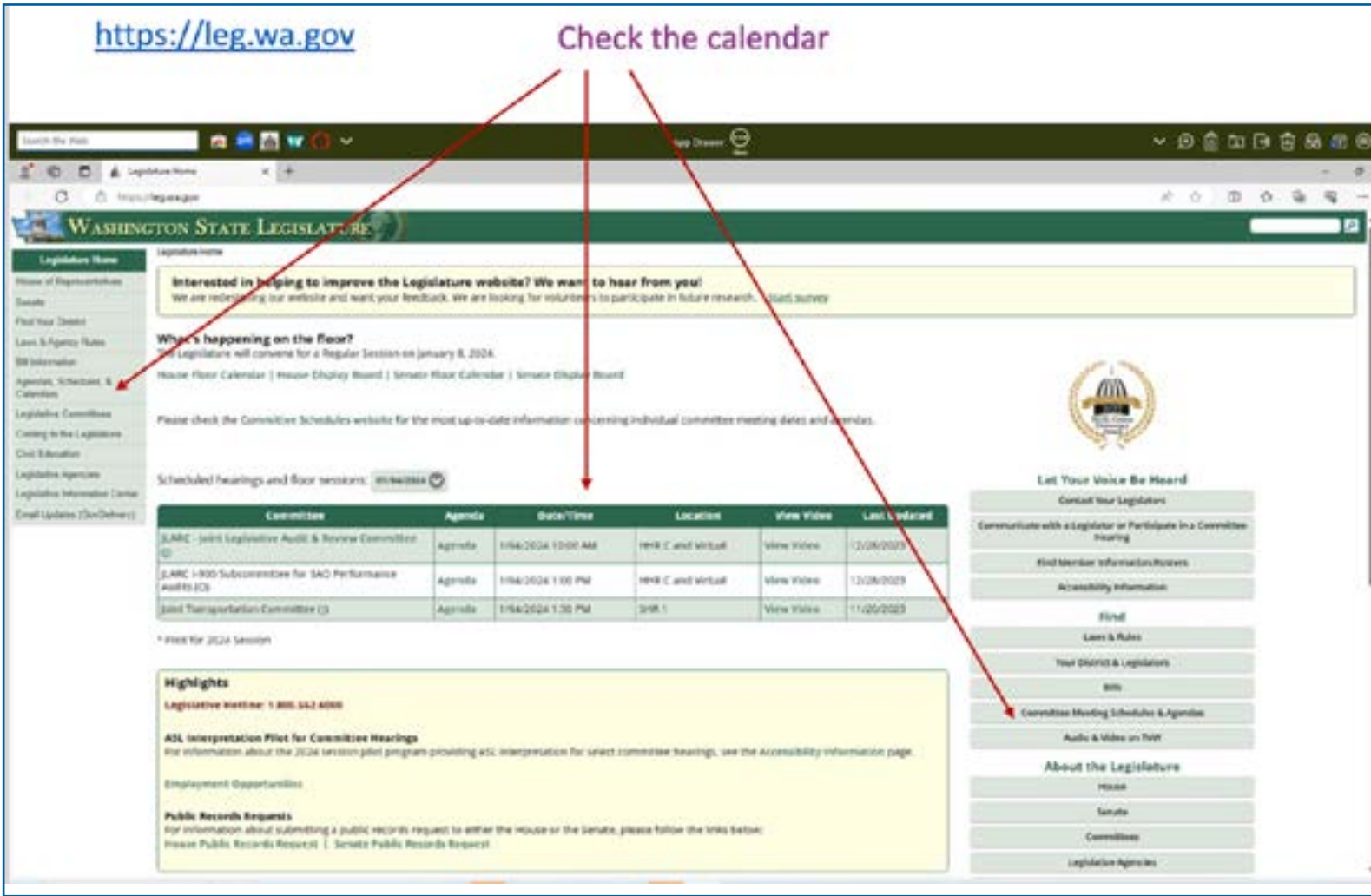
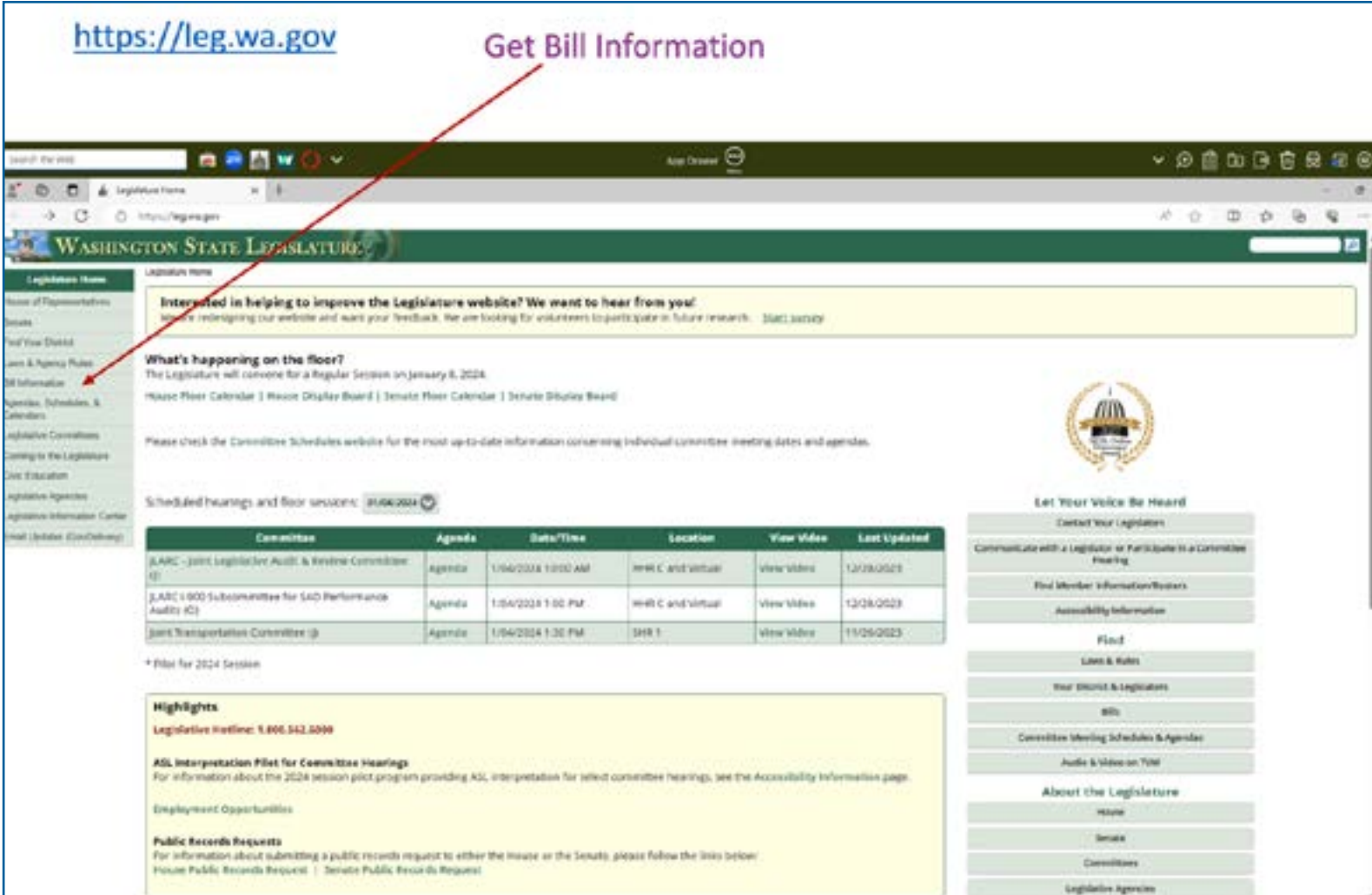
a new member to the League as well as new to Spokane. I was flummoxed at one of my first League meetings when asked to identify myself by legislative district. I had no idea!

**This is basic and critical information in a democracy.** Who is representing me? How do I contact my representatives? These first two slides should help you "Look up your legislators" and "Connect with your legislators." When we make these connections to send an email or testify, we don't speak for the League unless authorized to do so, but we make our concerns known as constituents.

(Slides created by Cynthia Stewart, LWVWA Board, Advocacy Chair.)



**Get bill information:** Read more about legislation for yourself. It is important to understand the nuances of the legislation that interests you the most. In 2018, I learned that legislation written to support civic education as a high school requirement was not the same as legislation making civic education a high school graduation requirement. The LWVWA pushed hard for that graduation requirement. One word made all the difference in implementation! (Read Washington State Civic Education History by Catherine Ahl, LWVWA Education Issue Chair).



**Check the calendar:** The current legislative session, called a short session, is swift; it is over in a matter of weeks. Within this flurry of committee meetings and House and Senate voting, League members work on your behalf in the legislature. These Issue Chairs speak for the League, write testimony, and testify on priority legislation based on League positions.

Every year, you can amplify their voices and testimony by signing up for the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter and by sending your own support for specified legislation, as a constituent of your district. In Speak-up School, we learned that personal stories lend substantial weight to your support of or opposition to any legislation.

Finally, if you are a new League member, take in this information in parts. I am seven years in as a League member, and I know I am still learning. **We learn and then we teach others through civic and voter education; this is how we Empower Voters and Defend Democracy.**



# General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 12 – 5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Central Library, 906 W. Main St. Event Room B

A discussion of the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS)

## Police Use-Of-Force Public Dashboard

This month's program is a discussion of the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS), a new online platform designed to meet statewide use-of-force reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies and to provide public access to the use-of-force data.

WADEPS will serve as the central hub for collecting, analyzing, and sharing law enforcement data with the public and will include tools and resources for understanding the information.

Authorized by the state legislature by RCW 10.118, WADEPS is managed by Washington State University in collaboration with Seattle University and supported by world-class, cloud-based technology.

### WADEPS goals:

- Strengthen community-police relations
- Modernize policing data collection
- Support evidence-based decision-making
- Provide analytical resources and tools

Learn more at [go.wsu.edu/wadeeps](https://go.wsu.edu/wadeeps)

### Our Speaker's Bios:

Dr. David A. Makin has extensive experience in translational research, working with police departments and public safety agencies to implement data collection practices. He has conducted research in diverse environments across various states and countries and has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers. He has received over \$17 million in research funding and is a recognized expert in programmatic implementation and evaluation, technology implementation and integration, and integrating body-worn camera footage into law enforcement operations. In addition to his research, statistical, and disciplinary expertise, he has completed a 40-hour POST-certified Crisis Intervention Team training and a 2-year Fellowship at the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville. He holds several awards for research, teaching, and service across several institutions of higher education where he has worked.

Dr. Season Hoard is an associate professor jointly appointed in the School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs and the Division of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) at Washington State University. She has extensive experience in translational research, working with government and non-government agencies to evaluate and improve programs and policies. She has received over \$5 million in research funding and has expertise in public policy, gender equality, program and policy evaluation, and applied research methods.



Sally and Julia ready to register voters at a Naturalization Ceremony in December 2023 at the Thomas Foley US Courthouse.

## Voter Services

# Voter Services Report

by Elaine Harger

Big news from Voter Services is that LWVWA is working with us in Spokane to organize a forum with candidates running in the primary election for Superintendent of Public Instruction. So far there are five likely candidates, and we have just reached out to six school districts in the area as possible partners. As this event takes shape members will be informed of volunteer opportunities.

The Voter Services team conducted a successful (and fun!) monthly LWVSA membership meeting on February 13th at the Liberty Park Library. Becky and Elaine covered tabling basics, with a skit, followed by descriptions of tabling materials, instructions on keeping data in the log book, and pointers about communicating with people at events. Beth followed them with an overview of voter registration basics and special emphasis on recent changes in voter registration laws:



We wrapped up the evening by sending Vote Valentines to all our members.

- 17-year-olds can vote in primary election if they will be 18 by the general election day. Many parents — and teens — do not know that 16-year-olds can pre-register to vote.
- VoteWA.gov does not allow minors (<18-year olds) to see their registration information online. This is confusing! Additionally so because VoteWA does have them in the system and will activate the person's online account at 5:00 a.m. on their birthday. If a 16- or 17-year-old needs to update their address they must register again online or via paper form.
- On July 15, 2024 a new law takes effect allowing citizens to register to vote online, and via paper registration forms, using the last four digits of their social security number. The LWVWA Democracy Issue chair worked hard to change this law as it is an equity issue for people who do not have a drivers license.

Sally then explained to the 20+ meeting attendees at what type of events LWVSA does voter registration and how to get on her list so that members can volunteer as registration opportunities become available.

Our registration training/update was followed by a Valentine postcard party! By now you should have received yours in the mail. If you didn't, contact me!

On February 14, the LWVWA voter services chairs zoomed to discuss tabling best practices. *Leagues around the state are doing amazing things when it comes to community outreach:*

- **The Snohomish League**, aware that 87% of people eligible to vote in the county are already registered, is developing ways of engaging both their members and the public at events — a “game show” about voting and election laws; a binder with election laws, downloaded from the Secretary of State's website, to help answer questions; partnering with their elections office to go into jails to register people to vote; and another partnership with Goodwill stores where they set up a table in the week leading up to National Voter Registration Day in September — last year they counted 223 new registration.
- **The Clallam League** focuses on reaching younger voters with pompom voting! This involves selecting a worthy cause, setting up cylinders to hold the pom-poms, and then using the election results to actually make a donation or to inform officials of public sentiment. For example, the Humane Society was selected as the worthy cause; the question to voters “Should money be for dog- or cat-food?”; after the “election” the League follows through on the outcome. Another example regarded an issue being considered by the city council regarding playground upgrades. At its table, the League took the pulse of the community and then presented the results at a city council meeting.
- **The Thurston League's** most popular voter engagement activity — with children, teens and adults alike — is a “What's your favorite animal?” poster with pushpins that go into a cork-board so that results can be seen immediately. Volunteers take care when young children are voting with the pushpins. Thurston is also considering renaming their candidate forums to candidate interviews! After all, what's a “forum”? Aren't they “interviews”?
- **The Skagit League** considers “Are you registered to vote?” an invasive question, so engage people with lines like “We're here registering people to vote. Can we help you?” and “Did you know you can check your voting history online?” They also find that red tablecloths, bunting, candy, and QR codes attract attention. Their next outreach effort will be to go to retirement and nursing homes to help residents change addresses.
- **The Clark League** uses pop-ups on popular downtown street corners to catch folks on Fridays when people are leaving work, heading home, to cafes, bars, etc. They have buttons, QR codes, info about ballot box locations; they even pop-up in coffee shop with flyers.

With all these wonderful ideas, we in Spokane should be encouraged to get more creative with our voter outreach.

If you are interested in helping, let me know! [eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com)



## Save the Date!

The Environmental Issues Committee is planning the program for the April General Meeting of LWVSA, and this will be a preview of the Community Conversations to be held through Spokane County Library District as part of Expo '74+50. Please save the date for the April meeting, and plan on participating in the discussion, as we would appreciate your feedback on how to best facilitate discussions on the climate crisis with a diverse audience with varying viewpoints on this topic. We hope to see you there!

**Tuesday, April 9th 2024, 5:30-7pm at the Spokane Valley Library (Diane Z Meeting Room West)**



We celebrated the League's birthday at our February General meeting, hosted by our membership committee.

## Thank you Renewing Members



Linda and Randy Crowe  
Carol and Al Gauper  
Ruth May  
Lisa Miles-Conrad  
Phyllis Thayer



# Interested in Volunteering?

## WHO DO YOU CALL?

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

Affordable Housing -  
[LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com).

Communications - Jean Richardson  
[jean@azuregate.net](mailto:jean@azuregate.net)

Environmental Issues - Amy Compestine  
[acomp4274@gmail.com](mailto:acomp4274@gmail.com)

Voter Services - Elaine Harger  
[eharger@drizzle.com](mailto:eharger@drizzle.com)

## Interested in Leadership?

*Not sure what is a good fit for your skills and schedule?*

Contact Jean Richardson and get your questions answered. 503-788-8998 or [LWSAleadership@gmail.com](mailto:LWSAleadership@gmail.com)

# New Deadlines for *The Voter* Newsletter in 2024.

In an effort to ensure you receive your newsletter before the first of the new month, deadlines are earlier this year.

*Friday, March 15* for April issue of *The Voter*

*Friday, April 19* for May issue of *The Voter*

*Friday, May 17* for June issue of *The Voter*

*Friday, June14* for July issue of *The Voter*

Send submissions or questions to Julie Cordero: 509-768-2998 (text ok) or email [corderographics@gmail.com](mailto:corderographics@gmail.com)

## Join the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

follow this link

[Join or Renew Online](#)



# Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



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