



VOTER

July 2021

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Welcome to summer! Our greatest challenge will be to stay cool in the midst of unprecedented temperatures.

Our League's tribute to Marilyn Perkins, including pictures, appeared in the June 18th "This Month in League" (TMIL) newsletter published by the LWVWA. If you missed it, contact me at sasjoh@aol.com and I will forward it to you. Her celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 3rd, at 2:00 p.m. with a reception following, at Sunset Event Center, located at 915 the By-Pass Highway, Richland.

Attention Board members: There will not be a meeting in July.

League members: Please enjoy the virtual Candidate Forums as announced below.

Important: Local Elections 2021

The importance of local elections cannot be overstated, considering the impact that local government has on our daily lives. Informational dates are listed below:

July 16--Ballots mailed

July 26--Deadline for mail-in and online voter registration

August 3--Deadline for in-person registration

August 3--Election Day

August 17--Certification at 9 AM

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties will be hosting virtual Primary Candidate Forums for the local City Council and School Board Director positions. They are all non-partisan races. This will be done in conjunction with media partners, Northwest Public Broadcasting (NWPB), KTNW TV (aka

PBS), the City of Richland and the City of Pasco. The featured races are those that have three or more candidates filing for office.

They will be broadcast on KTNW Channel 31 (Digital: 22) at 7:00 p.m. and repeated at midnight on the following dates:

July 12th --Richland-3 races:

City Council Position 1-3 candidates: Ms. Fitzgerald, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Jones

City Council Position 2-4 candidates: Ms. Boring, Mr. Luzzo, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Stanfield

Richland School Board Director 1-3 candidates: Ms. Byrd, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Cleary

July 13th--Pasco-2 races:

City Council Position 3-4 candidates: Mr. Perales, Mr. Martinez, Mr. Brown, Ms. Torres

Pasco School Board Director 5-3 candidates: Ms. Andres, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Kennedy

July 14th--Kennewick-3 races:

City Council Position 1-3 candidates: Mr. Britain, Mr. Finkbeiner, Ms. Crawford

City Council Position 3-3 candidates: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Lohr, Mr. Trumbo

City Council Position 4-4 candidates: Mr. Short, Mr. Verhei, Mr. McKay, Ms. Creek

July 15th--Benton City-1 race; Kennewick-2 races

Benton City Council Position 3-3 candidates: Ms. Cornish, Mr. Weber, Mr. Sandretto

Kennewick School Board Directors 1-4 candidates: Mr. Bullert, Mr. Nielson, Mr. Valentine, Mr. Rodgers

Kennewick School Board Director 2-3 candidates: Mr. Langford, Ms. Steinert, Mr. Galbraith

The featured moderators will be Tracci Dial from KNDU on July 12th and 13th and Matt Loveless from Murrow College of Communication-WSU Pullman on July 14th and 15th.

After the date noted above for each set of races and through August 3rd, the Primary Candidate Forums will also be available on YouTube as well as the following websites/FB pages:

City of Richland ci.richland.wa.us www.facebook.com/richlandWA
www.youtube.com/richlandcityviewtv

City of Pasco www.pasco-wa.gov/psctv PSC-TV Channel 191 on Spectrum Cable

Northwest Public Broadcasting www.nwpb.org

Columbia Basin Badger Club www.columbiabasinbadgers.com

League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties www.lwv-bf.org

Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

On May 31, 2021:

Checking is:	\$5,752.45
Savings is:	\$1,856.69
Total:	\$7,609.14

Income: \$110.00

We received dues for Richard and Patricia Badalamente. We are very pleased to have them join us.

Expenses: \$57.79

Marilyn paid for the Civics brochures and so \$54.30 was paid to John Perkins who presented the invoice. There were \$3.49 in PayPal fees.

Membership and Dues:

We have 83 members including 7 students, 8 with second in household. New members include Richard and Patricia Badalamente and Muriel Templeton. We are very pleased to have them join us.

Budget Committee:

The Proposed FY2021-2022 Budget was approved at the Annual Meeting in May.

Marilyn Perkins:

Marilyn's obituary is on the Einan's web site. The link is:

<https://www.sunsetgardenstricities.com/.../marilyn-perkins/> she is greatly missed and if you want to donate to the Education Fund, make out your check to LWVWA Education Fund and specify Marilyn Perkins and our League.

The address is:

LWV of Washington
1511-3rd Ave, Suite 900
Seattle WA 98101

Other donations may be made to the WSU Student Emergency Fund.

<https://foundation.wsu.edu/give/> or your local public radio to TV station

You Can Be An Advocate ~ Lora Rathbone

At the LWVWA Convention last week there was a session on Advocacy. Here is a brief summary:

Advocacy is speaking up for a cause. Lobbying is how we advocate at the legislature. What the League chooses to lobby for must be consistent with League positions which is key to the League's credibility.

One way to be an advocate is to respond to the action alerts that are sent weekly in the LWVWA legislative newsletter during the legislative session. You can sign in "pro" on a bill or sign an issue chair's pre-written letter or provide testimony. And there are many more opportunities to help:

- Communication: draft social media content, write letters to the editor, prepare a one-page summary of a bill for legislators to review
- Research: analyze bills; see what other leagues are doing
- Advocacy: Draft legislation and amendments, meet with legislators, draft testimony
- Outreach: Coordinate and recruit volunteers

Many league members worked hard to keep us informed on bills the league supported in the 2021 legislative session. They continue to advocate for League issues during the interim. This is when a lot of work is done and legislators have the time to give to constituents.

If you would like to help bring about the changes you would like to see on a particular issue, contact the issue chair at <https://lwvwa.org/Lobby-Team-Bios> to ask how you can help.

Washington State Redistricting Commission ~ Leona Hassing

Every 10 years, a bipartisan Washington State Redistricting Commission (WSRC) is established for the purpose of redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries.

The WSRC consists of four voting members—two Democrats and two Republicans picked by the leaders of the Democratic and Republican caucuses in the state House and Senate. A fifth, nonvoting chairperson is then picked by the voting members.

The Commission must draw the district lines in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all Washingtonians.

The U.S. Census Bureau announced appropriation numbers on April 26, 2021. US population is 331M and Washington state 7.71M. Washington retains its 10 representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives. WA legislative districts will be 157K people and congressional districts will be 771K people.

The WSRC began holding public outreach meetings on May 22, which have now been completed. A second round is scheduled for the last week of July 2021. Deadline for completed maps is November 15, 2021. At least three of four members must agree to the maps. The Legislature can make only minor changes to the commission maps and the governor has no role.

Under state law, districts must be made as equal in population as possible and are not supposed to be gerrymandered for partisan advantage or discriminate against any group. They are also supposed to avoid splitting up cities and other political subdivisions.

For additional information:

<https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/>

<https://lwvwa.org/redistricting>

Help Wanted!! Administrators Needed

LWVBF is in need of a new Administrator for its Facebook page and a new Webmaster or Associate Webmaster. Training is available. If you have questions or are willing to volunteer, please contact Judy Golberg, at 509-627-5347 or jgolberg@charter.net

Women's Equality Day Celebration Picnic ~ Peggy Gregory

We will celebrate on August 26 from 5:00-7:30pm at Highlands Grange Park Picnic Shelter. The shelter is the large shelter close to the parking lot and Mid-Columbia library at 1620 S Union St Kennewick.

Please bring your own meal, nonalcoholic beverage and chair.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 19, 6:00pm ~ Zoom Board Meeting

August 26, 5:00pm ~ Women's Equality Day Celebration Picnic

Email us at:

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Mailing Address:

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OFFICERS:

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TBD