



## VOTER November 2024

[www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org)

### President's Message ~ Diane Molleson

**“Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November”<sup>1</sup>. Election Day!**

#### **Remember to:**

Check the League's personalized Voting Guide [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) for information on the candidates. There you will also find your legislative district, see what's on your ballot, and be able to check your voter registration. The State League has made a huge effort to have the candidates respond to their questionnaire, so you will be able to see and compare the candidates' responses to the issues.

Watch our candidate forums. We covered 13 races, including the state senators and representatives in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> legislative districts, the county commissioner races, and more. The forums can be viewed through Election Day on YouTube and the following sites: [NWPB Vote 2024](http://NWPB Vote 2024), [lwv-bf.org](http://lwv-bf.org), [ci.richland.wa.us](http://ci.richland.wa.us), [pasco-wa.gov](http://pasco-wa.gov) and [cbbc.clubexpress.com](http://cbbc.clubexpress.com)

The LWVWA website (<https://lwvwa.org/>) has simplified ballot summaries of the four initiatives as well as links to forums of the state-wide races—U.S. Senate, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Schools, and Commissioner of Public Lands.

In this month of offering thanks, a big thank you to our League members for their herculean efforts to get out the vote and inform the public about the candidates and the initiatives. A special shout out to Beverly Johnson-Torelli who does such a stellar job organizing our candidate forums. We are also thankful for our partnership with Northwest Public Broadcasting and the impressive job they do moderating and producing our forums.

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<sup>1</sup> Line from a British Nursery rhyme about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605

Many thanks to all the members who signed on to be election observers and helped with the innumerable registration drives and tabling events throughout the Tri-Cities. Since August, our voter service efforts went into overdrive, and we have educated and registered voters at CBC; WSU-Tri-Cities; elementary, middle, and high schools; Naturalization ceremonies; the Celebration of Diversity and Culture in Howard Amon Park; and the Tri-Cities Seattle Children's Clinic, among other venues.

Please join us on November 13 for a post-election debrief at Michele Pirotte's home. Details are in a separate article in this issue. We are also planning a Holiday Party on December 8 and will have more information in the December VOTER.

## **History of Voting**

Please join us for the "History of Voting" presented by members of the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties! Come to the East Benton County Historical Society Museum at 205 Keewaydin Drive in Kennewick on November 2, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

The presentation will include a timeline of when different groups attained voting rights, as well as women's specific fight for the vote. The process of voter registration and how a ballot moves through the system will also be explained.

The presenters will be dressed as they would have been in the 1920, the year that women got the vote. Come and enjoy the fun!

## **Table Talk: Post Election Analysis on November 13** **Save the date!**

Please join us for a discussion of the election results and voter trends at Michele Pirotte's home. (A huge thank you to Michele for hosting!)

Volunteers are needed to bring either a soup, salad, dessert, or bread. A few people are already bringing wine, and one is bringing a vegetarian soup (we would like to offer one other soup choice).

We will toast our efforts to advocate for our issues, conduct civil discussions, present information about the initiatives on the ballot, and introduce the candidates running for office through our candidate forums.

**Place:** 2426 Delle Celle Drive, Richland

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**RSVP:** [mpirotte63@gmail.com](mailto:mpirotte63@gmail.com) or 509-521-2983

## From LWVWA

Trust on the ballot: Voting in Washington  
Nov. 7, 7:30- 9 pm

Join three Washington Secretaries of State as they discuss the history and evolution of voting in our state—from the various systems in place to the complex and polarized climate we now operate in. Current Secretary of State Steve Hobbs joins former Secretaries of State Kim Wyman and Sam Reed for a panel discussion convened by the University of Washington's College of Arts & Sciences and the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance.

Join on-line by registering at <https://events.uw.edu/>

## Last Minute Voting Reminders – Lora Rathbone

### 1. Ballot Initiative Summaries:

[Initiative 2066: Related to the Restrictions on Access to Natural Gas](#) ☐

[Initiative 2109: Repeal Capital Gains Tax](#) ☐

[Initiative 2117: Prohibiting All State Agencies, Counties, and Cities From Implementing Any Type of Carbon Tax Credit Trading \[Repeal the Climate Commitment Act \(CCA\)\]](#) ☐

[Initiative 2124: Opting out of Long-Term Services Insurance Program](#) ☐

### 2. Sign your name and leave a phone number on the back of your ballot's envelope!

“About 39,000 Tri-City voters have submitted their ballots for the Nov. 5 general election as of Friday [Oct. 25].... And already nearly 1%, or about 360, have been flagged and set aside for no signatures, a mismatched signature or for other reasons. ..Ranking Washington's 39 counties on the percent of ballots they've challenged, Franklin lands at No. 10 with 1.7% challenged and Benton lands at No. 27 with 0.7% challenged.

Voters can check the status of their ballot online at [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov) . After entering your name and birth date, you'll be able to see if your ballot was accepted and was in line for tabulation.

If your ballot is marked as challenged, it's recommended you contact your local elections center to “cure” or fix the problem before election day.” *Tri-City Herald*.

## Lobby Week and Action Workshop Changes – Lora Rathbone

The WA legislative session begins in January. To prepare, the LWVWA has held annual fall Legislative Action Workshops for several years. They also participated in Lobby Week with Fix Democracy First. During Lobby Week, evening presentations on issues were held and daytime meetings with local legislators were scheduled for participants.

This year there are both uncertainties of the election and challenges from the forecast revenue shortfalls. The election will result in significant changes in the House and Senate as well as the Governor and these will affect legislative priorities. The combination of these factors and the late timing of them has led the LWVWA Lobby Team to believe that a change in approach is needed this year.

For this fall, the Lobby Team has proposed that the Action Workshop again be virtual and specifically focus on developing relationships with legislators rather than on legislative issues. The workshop could provide support to local Leagues who want to set up Meet & Greet or reception events after the election in November, December or early January. Legislative priorities would later be promulgated through the Legislative Newsletter, so that having established some relationships with local legislators, interested League members could advocate with them.

The Team has also proposed that there would not be a Lobby Week this year sponsored by the League but that League members would be encouraged to participate in Lobby Days with coalitions on issues of interest to them.

If you are in the 8th, 14th, 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> legislative district and are interested in working with your legislators on league priorities, please let me know.  
[ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com)

## Book Club

Our October book *The Exvangelicals: Loving, Living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church* by Sarah McCammon was a thoughtful and eye-opening peek at a segment of modern evangelicals. I always learn something, first from the book and again in the discussions.

Next is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. This historical fiction is from the perspective of young Frankie serving in the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War. We will skip December and start with a new book list on January 13, 2025.

Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 in even if you did not read the book on November 11.

[Polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:Polly.parton@yahoo.com) or 509 -551-3818

## LWV-BF Treasurer's Report – September 2024 – Carla Chiotti

*As of September 30, 2024:*

Checking is	\$ 8,554.28
Savings is	<u>\$ 1,857.31</u>
Total	\$10,411.59

**Income: \$3,420.02.** We received \$2,975 in membership dues. We had six new members in September. Welcome to Tracey and Eirik Krogstad, JoAnn Evans, Patricia Hamilton, Steve Ghan, and Brianna Harty. In addition, 39 members renewed their membership. We also received \$445 in contributions.

**Expenses: \$1,923.42.** We paid \$31.20 in PayPal fees, \$173.81 for our annual Zoom fee, \$1312 to LWVUS for half of the 2025 PMP fee, and \$389.50 to LWVWA for the second quarter PMP fees. We also purchased postage stamps and envelopes for the membership campaign for \$16.91.

**Membership campaign:** During September, 31 members and eight second-in-households renewed their memberships. The membership form was sent by postal mail to all members who had not renewed their membership. Since the new ChapterSpot membership system begins in January, memberships must be renewed by the end of the year, or the member will be listed as inactive.

**Education Fund:** A member donated \$100 to the LWVBF Education Fund on 9/8/24. Our balance now stands at \$8,440.42.

Members can donate to our education fund for scholarships by sending a check to: LWV-WA 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.

**Transition to ChapterSpot, new Membership Platform:** ChapterSpot training sessions for local chapter officers have been scheduled for November and December. The new platform is scheduled to launch in January 2025.

**Thank you!** I want to extend a big thank you to Shirley for handling the Treasurer duties while I was on a 3-week vacation in September/October.

## **From LWWUS - The League's New System for Managing Memberships and Collecting Dues**

LWW is switching to a new member portal for all Leagues across the country. There is no action that members need to take right now, but we want to provide you with an overview of what these changes mean for you.

This year, you will still renew in the usual way. When the system launches in **January 2025, you will receive an email to log in to the portal, but you will not be asked to renew again until a year after your most recent renewal.** You will be given the option to sign up to auto-renew annually, and your membership will last a year after your last renewal. Once you have access to the portal, you will be able to update your own information, including contact information.

When it comes time to renew, you will receive an email reminder. Dues will no longer be a fixed rate but will be pay-what-you-can. The recommended dues amount for all members across the country will be \$75, but members can pay any amount (minimum \$20), including the current dues rate.

Under the current system, LWW of Benton & Franklin Counties pays a fixed rate per member to LWW of Washington State and to LWWUS. Under the new system, a percentage of dues will go to the state and national League. This means that when you renew, if you would like to make an additional contribution directly to LWW of Benton & Franklin Counties, this will need to be separate from choosing a higher dues amount. A higher dues amount benefits the League as a whole and allows us to offer the option of lower dues to increase our member base but does not exclusively support the local League.

There will still be the option to renew by check for members who don't use the internet, but members who are able to access the portal and renew that way are encouraged to do so.

On a member level, we hope these changes will make managing your membership easier. On a League level, this is expected to increase membership around the country and increase our ability to empower voters and defend democracy.

Remember, in the coming weeks you will receive an email through ChapterSpot, the new membership system, asking you to log in to the portal for the first time. You are not being asked to renew or pay dues, only to log in and complete your member information.

It is important that you log in to the portal to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information, as well as to help the League more broadly understand who we

are as an organization. If you haven't received an invitation to log in before February 7, please check your spam folder or reach out to [membership@lwv.org](mailto:membership@lwv.org).

For more information, see member-oriented FAQs:

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Member%20Focused%20FAQ.pdf>

and member-oriented powerpoint presentation:

[https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Membership%20Changes%20Slides%20for%20Members%20v1.pdf)

[09/Membership%20Changes%20Slides%20for%20Members%20v1.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Membership%20Changes%20Slides%20for%20Members%20v1.pdf)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 2:** History of Voting presentation at East Benton County Historical Society, 2 pm
- November 6:** Naturalization Ceremony at Richland's Federal Building, 10 am
- November 11:** Book Club 6 pm on Zoom
- November 13:** Post-election debrief at Michele Pirotte's home at 5:30 pm
- November 19:** Board and Planning meeting, 6 pm on Zoom
- December 8:** Holiday party at Chris Grantham's home, 1-3 pm
- December:** No December Board meeting

Email: [lwv.of.bf@gmail.com](mailto: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/LeagueofWomenVotersofBentonFranklinCounties)

### Mailing Address:

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

#### OFFICERS:

President: Diane Molleson

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Susan Thornton

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Ruvine Jimenez

Secretary: Peggy Gregory

Treasurer: Carla Chiotti

#### ELECTED DIRECTORS:

JoAnne Dimond

Leona Hassing

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Janet Nail

Polly Parton

Lora Rathbone

#### APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Sabiha Khan

Michelle Pirotte

Shirley Sonnichsen

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JoAnne Dimond