



VOTER

October 2021

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

President's Message-October 2021 Voter - Beverly Johnson-Torelli

LWVBF Picnic

Fall is in the air, and the weather could not have been nicer for the League's September 23rd picnic. We celebrated the August 26th Women's Equality Day, which commemorated the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment. We also recognized the 26th Amendment, which was passed in July of 1971 and granted 18-year-olds the right to vote. The evening was dedicated to Marilyn Perkins. She would have been so happy to participate in our first in-person event since February 2020. Two members shared garden produce for others to take home. The attendees had a wonderful time, truly enjoying the discussion and becoming better acquainted with each other.

Voter Registration/Education Opportunities

August 28th - Amistad Elementary Back to School Event, Kennewick - Thanks goes to Polly Parton who handed out voter registration forms, "how to register" information, TRY's, etc., at this drive-through food and school supplies giveaway.

September 28th was National Voter Registration Day. Keeping that date in mind, new and seasoned League members offered voter registration and education at Legacy High School's Fall Fest in Kennewick on September 30th. Thanks to everyone who helped at this event!

LWV Benton-Franklin Candidate Forums 2021

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties will be offering virtual candidate forums for Tri-City area city council, school board director and the Port of Benton positions that will be on the November 2nd general election ballot.

They are being pre-recorded in conjunction with media partners Northwest Public Broadcasting aka PBS.

Broadcasting will be on PBS at KTNW-TV at 7 p.m. and repeated at midnight on the following dates: (The exact channel for KTNW may vary depending on the service provider, Spectrum, Dish, etc.)

Monday, October 11th - Kennewick City Council and Kennewick School Board - 6 races

Tuesday, October 12th - Richland City Council - 5 races

Wednesday, October 13th - Richland School Board and West Richland City Council - positions 1 and 2- 5 races

Thursday, October 14th - West Richland City Council - position 3 and Mayor, Pasco City Council and Pasco School Board - 5 races

Friday, October 15th - Benton City - City Council, Kiona-Benton School Board and Port of Benton - 5 races

Matt Loveless from Murrow College of Communication at WSU Pullman will be the moderator.

The forums will also be available through November 2nd on nwpub.org, the League Facebook and website, www.lwv-bf.org, and through the League's additional partners: The Columbia Basin Badger Club www.columbiabasinbadgers.com, and for their races, the Cities of Richland and Pasco at www.facebook.com/richlandWA; www.youtube.com/richlandcityviewtv; channel 192, www.pasco-wa.gov/psctv; Pasco City Channel 191

Ballots for the election will be mailed on October 13. The deadline for mail-in and online voter registration is October 25. Register in-person through November 2.

Redistricting Information

The third round of the Commission public input meetings is scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m. Legislative map feedback

Saturday, October 9th at 10:00 a.m. Congressional map feedback

To learn more and to register go to <https://www.lwvwa.org/speakup>. In the LWVBF's maps meeting with Alison McCaffree, the highest priority expressed for the Tri-City area was to place Pasco in one legislative district rather than being

split between the 9th and 16th. The links below contain the maps that the LWVWA is presenting to the commissioners. The note regarding the Colville Tribe references their desire to stay divided between the 4th and 5th Congressional Districts rather than being together in one district as the League initially recommended.

Legislative Districts: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/129a61ac-6e8f-4b9a-9afa-9a19feb56298>

Congressional Districts:

Recommended Map: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/fb321178-e606-4897-b421-38bd313cf305>

Additional Example Map: (developed before Colville Tribe's press release)
<https://davesredistricting.org/join/163fbd3a-f48e-49b0-88f8-780cd5af99c2>

“Health Reform & Social Justice: Opportunities for Reducing Inequity and Addressing Health Disparities” ~ Jon Li ~ Davis, CA LWV

On Wednesday October 6 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm PT, The League of Women Voters Davis Area will be hosting a virtual Community Forum, “Health Reform & Social Justice: Opportunities for Reducing Inequity and Addressing Health Disparities”.

For this event, the League will be hosting an evening with Dr. Susan Rogers, President of Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP). Dr. Rogers's presentation will include an overview of the U.S. health care system through a social justice lens, followed by a discussion highlighting disparities resulting from our current policies and opportunities to improve inequities through health reform.

The forum will conclude with an audience Q&A.

Dr. Rogers is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and currently an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Rush University. She has recently retired from her hospitalist practice in Chicago at Stroger Hospital of Cook County. She has previously served as co-director of medical student teaching at Stroger and as Medical Director of Near North Health Service Corp, a Chicago FQHC. Most recently, Dr. Rogers spoke at the June California League of Women Voters Annual Convention, providing the presentation: “Health Care: Inequities and Opportunities.”

This forum aims to educate voters about our current healthcare model and how it impacts local care access, affordability, quality, and equity.

Our guest speaker provides insights into how health reform can improve each of these to optimize community health and wellness. The LWVDA supports the National League healthcare positions in support of an affordable, accessible, quality, and equitable health care system, critical for the health, safety, and economic security of all communities. Becoming an informed voter is fundamental to ensuring the engagement needed to affect meaningful reform. The future of our community health and healthcare systems will rely upon votes cast by those with a better understanding of current needs and resources and our opportunities to enact needed change.

To help speakers best address your concerns, questions, and issues, we encourage attendees to please submit them in advance to komalh@lwvdavisarea.org before October 4.

The Davis Area LWV Health Care Committee thanks co-sponsors LWV of Washington DC, LWV of Vermont, LWV of Amherst Massachusetts, LWV of Greater Hartford Connecticut, LWV of Tompkins County New York, LWV of Mid-Hudson County New York, LWV of Broome and Tioga Counties New York, LWV of Teaneck New Jersey, LWV of Asheville-Buncombe North Carolina, LWV of Charlotte Mecklenberg North Carolina, LWV of Macon/Bibb Georgia, LWV of Manatee County Florida, LWV of Hillsborough Florida, LWV of Miami-Dade County Florida, LWV of Collier County Florida, LWV of East Alabama, LWV of Louisiana, LWV of Philadelphia Pennsylvania, LWV of Bucks County Pennsylvania, LWV of Lower Merion & Narberth Pennsylvania, LWV of Copper County Michigan, LWV of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights Michigan, LWV of McDonough County Illinois, LWV of Johnson County Kansas, LWV of Licking County Ohio, LWV of Tarrant County Texas, LWV of Richardson Texas, LWV of the State of Washington, LWV of Tacoma-Pierce County Washington, LWV of Benton-Franklin Washington, LWV of Seattle-King County Washington, LWV of Klamath County Oregon, LWV of Central Yavapai County Arizona, LWV of NW Maricopa County Arizona, LWV of Butte County California, LWV of Mother Lode California, LWV of Napa California, LWV of Alameda California, LWV of Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville California, LWV of Eden Area California, LWV of Southwest Santa Clara Valley, LWV of San Luis Obispo County California, LWV of Santa Barbara California, and the LWV of Long Beach California.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/173140998387>

Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

At August 31, 2021:

Checking is:	\$6,088.97
Savings is:	\$1,856.73
Total:	\$7,945.70

Income:	\$75.00
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We received dues of \$75.00 for Sherry Davis,

Expenses:	\$0
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Membership and Dues:

We have 85 members including 7 students, 8 with second in household. The dues letter for FY 2021-22 was sent out early September.

Education Fund:

At the end of August, the total Washington State Education fund for our Benton - Franklin league is \$4,066. It has not changed from last month.

Janet Nail, Christine Grantham and Diane Molleson have generously offered to be on the Audit team to assemble later this month or early next month.

Washington State Tax Structure Work Group ~ Lora Rathbone

Washington State Tax Structure Work Group – opportunity for your input

The Tax Structure Work Group is a bipartisan group with the goal to make our state tax structure more equitable and stable, using the legislative process. It is NOT to increase or decrease taxes. The Tax Structure Work Group will be holding town hall meetings around the state to present and hear reactions to scenarios they are developing for tax reform to help guide future legislation.

Joan Lawson, the LWV WA Action Chair, contacted League members to say the League's input is important. She plans to testify in the name of the League but is asking local League members to participate as individuals to speak on behalf of League positions. The Town Hall meetings for the 9th and 16th Legislative districts met September 22, and the 8th Legislative District will meet September 29th. I attended the session on the 22nd, along with a few others from our league.

Joan said the League's position in brief is to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible, and has a sound economic effect. WA state had the most regressive system in the nation, but last year the Legislature passed the capital gains tax and the working families tax credit. Together with the change in property tax reductions for certain populations based on income which passed in 2019, these bills moved Washington state closer to equity. However, there are a number of other options not yet on the table which are described in the Work Group's Preliminary Report, December 2020.

<https://dor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Docs/Pubs/Misc/TaxStructureWorkGroupPrelimReport2020.pdf>

You can learn more about the different tax scenarios and **express your preference by taking the survey** at <https://taxworkgroup.org/survey> You can also learn how different tax scenarios affect people according to income level by using the **Tax calculator** by going to the link at <https://taxworkgroup.org/learn>

If anyone has questions, please contact Cynthia Stewart, Revenue Issue Chair, stewdahl@comcast.net

Membership, Engagement, and Leadership Development (MELD)

~ Polly Parton

Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development (MELD), Monday, September 20

MELD calls provide a monthly interaction between Leagues to network, share ideas, accomplishments and best practices with guidance and mentorship from our coach Lynn Busacca. We are in a new Pod #4 this month with added members including Benton-Franklin, Thurston, Kitsap, Lewis and Clallam Counties. Our New State Liaison Joan Lawson shares State and National resources with us and gives state leader summaries from the local Leagues. Our calls are usually 60 minutes, Lynn provides an agenda. Discussions are casual and productive.

Some highlights of our last call are-

- Carol Goss of Thurston noted they have updated their handbook, learned about cultural relevancy for a 2nd grade classroom. They are holding *'Can We Talk'* about how to build common ground. She wants all members to understand how our dues support National and State voting rights.
- Maree Lerchen of Lewis County deals with a physically distanced league of Packwood, Chehalis, Centralia, Morton, and Randall. She has two daughters living in Richland, she will give them our league information.
- Carol Larsen of Kitsap said because of excessive e-mails, they have one person organize notices and send them 1-2 times a month thru Mail Chimp.
- Rebekah Miller of Clallam spoke of preferring meeting times after work hours (still working) and conflicting expectations between newer and long-term members. Her league converted from a fiscal to a calendar year. She highly praised Kathleen Murphy's virtual discussions on civility. Kathleen will soon have a new presentation on Civics Education.
- Joan Lawson noted when she needed help with a committee/group, she got it. **State Action Workshops will be 12/4 and 12/11 as virtual events.** The fee will be low, this should encourage membership attendance.

Ready To Vote FAQs

Ready to Vote?



Am I eligible to register?

To vote in Washington state, you must

- be a US citizen
- live at your current address for 30 days before the election
- be at least 18 years old by Election Day
- New this year! If completed sentence with Dept. of Corrections for a felony

**Help your family REGISTER to VOTE
or check or update registrations online
at voter.votewa.gov or Vote411.org**



**You need your driver's license,
driver's permit or state ID to register
online. If you don't have one of those, you'll need to print out a form, use the
last four digits of your Social Security
number and mail the form in.**

Online registration deadline is 8 days before, and in-person until 8pm on election day.

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Be a Voter

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is my ballot?

Ballots should arrive by mail two weeks before the election. If not, go to bentonauditor.com/Current-Election or co.franklin.wa.us/auditor/elections

What can I do to be sure my vote is counted? Carefully sign the outside envelope and leave a phone number.

If you send by mail, send well before election day, the first Tuesday in November, to be sure it arrives on time.

To check your ballot status, go to voter.votewa.gov

Where do I find a drop box? Locations are on your ballot or go to your county elections office.

Where can learn more about the candidates and issues? The Voters Guide, sent with your ballot, or on-line at: <https://voter.votewa.gov/>
League of Women Voter's VOTE411.org LWV forums listed at www.lwv-bf.org

Do I have to vote on everything on the ballot? No, you can choose what to vote for.

What about someone with a disability? Can they get assistance to vote? Yes. Persons with a disability should contact their local county elections office for information on accessible voting.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 5, 7:00pm ~ Redistricting Legislative map feedback

October 9, 10:00am ~ Redistricting Congressional map feedback

October 11-15 ~ Candidate Forums

October 21, 6:00pm ~ Zoom Board Meeting All members are welcome to participate

Email us at:

lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

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