

The LWV of the Spokane Area (LWVSA) is dedicated to helping residents become informed and active in their government. LWVSA impacts during the 2022-2023 year are testament to this goal. Over the last 75 years, LWVSA has carried out actions on county and city government, Spokane's aquifer, school levies, solid waste issues, and.... More! The following are highlights of the important work our local League has done just this past year on behalf of all residents.

Voter Services

LWVSA volunteers were active this past year *registering hundreds of citizens to vote* in our region. Their work included tabling at the Eastern District of Washington Naturalization Ceremonies, Unity in the Community, Gonzaga/Logan Block Party, EWU Neighborfest, Camp Hope, LWVSA Candidate Forums, Spokane Homeless Connect, Regional Youth Leadership Conference, Lilac City Roller Derby event, and at the upcoming Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Day. In addition, Voter Services volunteers have made presentations to all Spokane Public Schools high school civics classes highlighting the history and importance of voting and *registering 206 students as future voters!* Voter Services also produces **They Represent You**, a document listing contact information for all elected officials in the Spokane Area, County, State and US. A downloadable copy is available on the LWVSA homepage.



Candidate Forums

LWVSA was active in organizing primary and general election candidate forums in the greater Spokane region. We held forums for candidates for Spokane County Board of County Commissioners, Legislative Districts, District Court Judges, and Spokane County Prosecutor; and assisted LWVWA, the Spokesman Review and KSPS in hosting forums for candidates for Washington Secretary of State and US Senate.

Programs and Actions

Our **Affordable Housing and Homeless Solutions Committee** was active throughout the year meeting with ally groups, presenting a monthly General Meeting widely attended by community leaders and League members, and advocating for city, county and state actions in support of affordable housing and tenant rights.

Our **Environmental Issues Committee** was instrumental in a successful consensus process for the LWVWA Shoreline Management Act (SMA) Study. This work led to a request to the Spokane County Board of Commissioners to update their Shoreline Management Plan, as required by the state SMA.

Our **Local Government Committee** has followed the Spokane City Council and the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners regarding work related to redistricting, affordable housing and homelessness, smart justice against a new Spokane County jail, the City of Spokane Sustainability Action Plan, and the Spokane County Shoreline Management Plan.

Legislative Actions

LWVSA members attended the *LWVWA Action Workshop* and participated in *Lobby Week* activities learning how the legislative process works and about LWVWA legislative priorities, as well as providing members the opportunity to visit with their legislators to advocate for priority bills in the following areas: Democracy, Voting, Elections and Money in Politics; Social and Economic Issues; and Climate and Energy Issues.

Civics Bowl

Civics Bowl, a civics knowledge tournament for area high school students, was created through a partnership between LWVSA, Spokane Public Schools and KSPS PBS to elevate the importance of civics education among students, their families, and the viewing public. Civics Bowl tournaments were televised on KSPS PBS in 2022 and 2023. At the 2022 National Educational Telecommunications Association Conference, NETA announced that KSPS PBS had won a national Public Media Award for Civics Bowl! LWVSA has submitted Civics Bowl for a state LWVWA award at the 2023 state convention in May.



Member Education for Today and Tomorrow!

LWVSA membership continues to be strong with 155 members – 24 new members in the last year! Residents ages 16 and above are welcome as voting members. Student memberships and scholarships are available.

Members learn about current topics vital to our region at eight monthly meetings covering issues related to redistricting, ballot issues, state legislative action, program planning, homelessness and affordable housing, civics education, and regional environmental issues. Members receive 11 monthly issues of *The Voter*, sent electronically, with information on the progress of our goals, activities, and how members can get involved.

Our website, LWVSpokane.org, and our Facebook page provide members and the public with important information to empower voters and defend democracy, right here at home.