

THE VOTER

A newsletter for **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF IDAHO

LWVID
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Summer 2023

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From your co-president:

Four years ago, I was in search of a venue for overcoming the fear and frustration I was feeling about the increasingly strident tone in the public discourse of my beloved home state. When I was approached to consider the League (thank you Crystal), I said "Why not?" Covid had trapped all of us and working on Vote411 gave me the positive outlet I needed. Today, as I begin my term as LWVID co-president, I have found my intellectual and civic home. I am honored to serve with my friend Betsy McBride in this capacity, and thank you for the trust placed in me to take this on.



Henscheid



Mc Bride

The 2023 Idaho Legislature produced dozens of bills intended to suppress voting, govern women's bodies, interfere in parenting, weaken the judiciary, and censor reading materials in schools and libraries. That's the short list. I have found in the Idaho League a cadre of bird dogs willing to spend our waking hours cataloging and combating extremism, and in supporting policy which share League values. In accordance with League custom, we will take a careful, evidence-based approach to this work. The Legislative Action Committee is currently sponsoring a summer book club on Bradley Onishi's *Preparing for War: The extremist history of white Christian nationalism*, as part of our research. From that and other discussions, we will prepare a list of priorities to present to the state board prior to next year's legislative session.

LWVID Board of Directors

Term ends 2025

Betsy McBride, co-president
Jean Henscheid, co-president
Elinor Chehey, vice president
Terry Kerler, secretary
Judi Hanna, director

Term ends 2024

Pam Ward, treasurer
Ann Carlson, director
Kendal Shaber, director
Susan Ripley, director

The journey back to bipartisanship and civility, once Idaho hallmarks, will require hard work. There is no one I would rather attempt this journey with than LWVID members.

*~ Jean M. Henscheid, Ph.D.,
LWVID co-president*

News from the Local Leagues



At Annual Meeting in May, the Pocatello League celebrated a successful year of “Making Democracy Work©” with voter registration, community education, and advocacy. Thirty-one members and friends, including two student members, attended the no-host dinner meeting held at the Portneuf Brewery. Highlighting the evening was a 2023 Legislative Review with guest speakers Dist. 28 Sen. Jim Guthrie (R) and Dist. 29 Sen. James Ruchti (D).



Susan Carter, LWVP Membership recruitment

During the business meeting Leaguers elected 2023-2025 officers: Treasurer Kathleen Lewis, and board members Jenny Peek (Voter Service director), Vicki Allen and Catalina Steckbauer. President Pam Ward, Secretary Mary Kuehler, Membership Director Susan Carter, board members Terry Kaufmann and Teresa Westfall will continue their terms. Currently there are 53 Pocatello League members.

The League is recognized as a trusted nonpartisan organization in Pocatello. Our volunteers empower voters through voter registration drives, candidate forums, legislative forums, voter education, and advocacy for positive change on public policy. We reach out to the community through newspaper articles, television reporting and radio coverage. This year KISU public radio aired our 2023 Legislative Preview forum live.

We continued our goal to build relationships with other community organizations. We partnered with the Pocatello Branch of the NAACP to register voters at the recent Juneteenth Celebration and the Portneuf Farmers Market. We registered new voters at our local high schools in April and at the Cinco de Mayo Street Fair at the Sho-Ban Hotel. Leaguers plan to register Idaho State University students at the community event “Welcome Back Orange & Black” on Aug. 21 and partner with ISU student organizations for National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 19. We successfully recruited new members and volunteers at the Leadership Pocatello-Chubbuck Diplomat Day sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on June 8.



Catalina Steckbauer receiving the Cinco de Mayo award May 2023

Thanks to our members’ dedication and hours of volunteering, the Pocatello League was able to empower voters and defend democracy.

Website: <https://my.lwv.org/idaho/local-leagues/pocatello>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVPocatello>

~ Pam Ward, president (lwvpocatelloid@gmail.com)

News from the Local Leagues



The League of Women Voters, Moscow (LWVM) board has several new officers and directors including Kylee Britzman, president, Jill Rinaldi, first vice president, and Chris Sokol, director. The new board looks forward to serving the members of the League during the upcoming year.



City of Moscow declared Sept. 19, 2022 as LWV of Moscow Day

This year's annual meeting took place on Zoom. Members voted to extend the research timeline for the Poverty on the Palouse study update. The study will be completed by May 2024, and will provide an update to the original 2012 poverty study conducted by LWVM. This updated study will provide local leaders and residents with an in-depth analysis on issues ranging from housing to healthcare to employment to transportation. Much has changed since the original study, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so we are extremely excited to provide an update on the original study.

Members also voted on revisions made to the LWVM bylaws. A committee worked to revise and further specify several key areas of the bylaws. These changes are meant to increase transparency for decision-making processes of the League.

Throughout the spring, education and voter registration were top priorities. Each month featured two events for the Speaker Series, one in person at the 1912 Center and one on Zoom. A survey was sent to members asking for their preferences in topics and format, and the Speaker Series Committee worked hard to deliver on these preferences with topics including homelessness, pregnancy and abortion, tribal law, and suicide prevention. For voter registration, members have placed an emphasis on registering younger voters by being present at campus and community events.



Students voting in the LWVM run high school Mock Election 2022

As we continue into the "new normal" the League of Women Voters, Moscow strives to offer events and meetings in multiple formats, encourages new members to join committees, and helps inform and educate community members about important societal topics especially when it comes to voting and democracy

~Kylee Britzman, president

News from the Local Leagues



After reconstituting the Boise MAL five years ago, Crystal Callahan is stepping away from its leadership. We owe Crystal a great debt for having the vision of a renewed League presence in Boise. The Greater Boise Area MAL has been punching above its weight under Crystal's leadership with an intrepid band of Leaguers who register voters at new citizen ceremonies, student registrations and special events, hold trainings, collaborate and strategize with other groups like BABE VOTE and City Club, work VOTE411 in both state and local elections, and hold candidate forums. We thank Crystal for all her leadership, technical chops, and social media prowess.



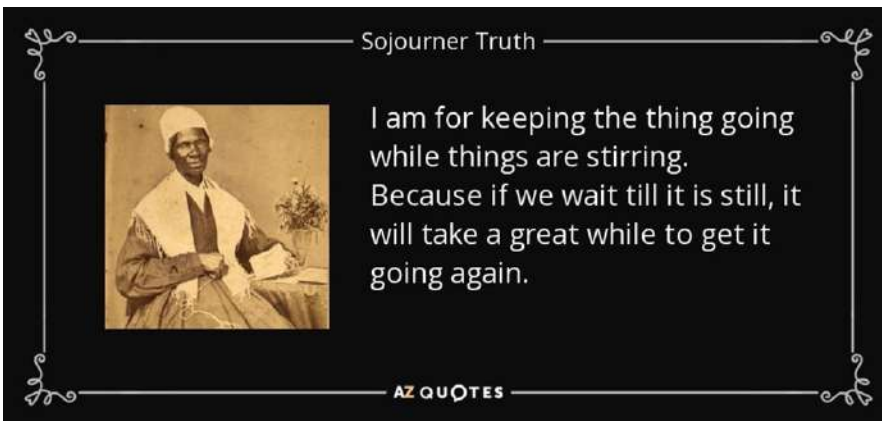
Callahan

Kendal Shaber will be interim chair until a new leadership team can be completed. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group or want to become more active in the Greater Boise Area MAL, please contact Kendal Shaber at lwvgreaterboisearea@gmail.com.

The League offers great leadership, fellowship and creative opportunities in

Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy!

Your passion is needed now more than ever in our state!



Below: Jean and Sam Sandmire from BABE VOTE register Latino voters at the Latinos Unidos Conference in Nampa, May 8 2023.



Follow the GBA MAL Unit on Twitter and Instagram:

TWITTER@LWVGREATERBOISE
INSTAGRAM/LWVGREATERBOISE/

News from the Local Leagues



The 2023 Idaho Directory of Elected Officials was updated and distributed in early February. Thanks to the sponsors and members who helped to update the information. The Asotin County Washington Directory has not been updated since 2021. The directories are on the League website. Click here [LWV LC Valley Directory of Elected Officials](#) and scroll down the page to access both the Idaho and Washington directories. The pamphlet is a quick reference with contact information for elected officials and other agencies. Our commitment is to promote citizen involvement by providing information.

Voter Service projects this year are focused on information to educate citizens regarding exercising the right to vote and the voter registration process. Maxine attended an event organized by Disability Action Center Northwest on Feb. 4 in Lewiston to provide voter registration and capture any personal stories on exercising the right to vote. The focus on the letter-writing event was to help clients communicate with their legislators regarding their firsthand experiences.

Adele and Virginia are working on voter registration with the Clarkston YES Clarkston High School new building project.

LWVLC Valley 68th Annual Meeting was held March 15.

Legacy Tree fundraising event is underway for 2023. A kiosk with the message *Celebrating 100+ years of Women's Right to Vote* telling a brief history of the fight for the right to vote is planned along with the planting of trees and a bench in Lewiston's Community Park. Individual contributions are being collected in a Legacy Tree Fund at Idaho Central Credit Union for the project. The fundraising letter sent to potential donors has resulted in halfway to our \$3,000 goal.

Follow the LWVLC Valley League on Facebook.

Click on this link:

[https://
www.facebook.com/
profile.php?
id=100066771603312](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066771603312)



~ Maxine Miller, LWVLC Valley spokesperson

LWV of Lewis Clark Valley in 2020. This League has additional challenges as part of the League is in Lewiston, Idaho, and part is in Clarkston, Washington.

News from the Local Leagues



Members of the LWV of Kootenai County

The LWV of Kootenai County has been in a rebuilding process with their membership growing. During this past year they held many voter education events.

On May 6 they sponsored a Meet the Library Trustees Candidate Forum. The headline in the Coeur d'Alene Press read "Barbs traded over books, budget and more." Read the article here [Coeur d'Alene Press](#).

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KOOTENAI COUNTY
Making Democracy Work: Serving the people of Coeur d'Alene, Fernan Village, Harrison, Hausar, Hayden, Hayden Lake, Post Falls, Rathdrum, and Spirit Lake.

"MEET THE CANDIDATES"
Community Library Network Trustee Election Town Hall

This is your chance to meet the candidates of Community Library Network Trustee position on the May 16 ballot. All four candidates who are on running for the position have been invited to participate. Voters are encouraged to come meet Tom Hanley, Regina McCrea, Judy Meyer, and Tim Plass.

The Honorable Patrick D. Costello, emeritus law professor at the University of Idaho and Chief Judge of the Colville Tribal Court will moderate the debate. Candidates will be given the opportunity to make opening statements. Each will be given three minutes to answer questions with a maximum of three rebuttals of one minute each. The morning event is designed as a resource for voters to meet the candidates in person and hear first hand what they have to say.

THIS WAY

Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the American Legion Hall
1138 East Poleline Avenue, Post Falls
10:00 AM to 12 Noon. Doors open at 9:30.
Hot coffee and refreshments will be served.



They also participated in Vote411, the online voter guide, and staffed voter registration tables at some events.

Keep it up folks!

~ Staff Report

Idaho Falls MALs



Melanie Edwards, Idaho Falls MAL spokesperson, and Pam Ward, LWV Pocatello president at the suffragist statue in Boise

We are getting a small local MAL Unit off the ground in Idaho Falls. We began with high school registration in the fall and this spring, with some guidance from the Pocatello League and the help of a local city council member who is a retired teacher.

We joined forces with BABE VOTE for a voter registration table at Idaho Falls Pride event June 24. At that event we registered 99 people, collected 90 absentee ballot requests, and had many sign up to volunteer for BABE VOTE. We also passed out several LWV membership forms.

We hope to have more timely preparation for visiting high schools this fall to lay the groundwork for registering seniors next spring. We are on the lookout for opportunities at our local colleges too.

In addition to registering voters, we plan to contribute local candidate information for the Vote411 website. Hoping more members will join (and rejoin) and help develop this MAL group.

~ Melanie Edwards, spokesperson

Editor's note:

Over the years Idaho Falls area has had many members. The numbers dwindled but a recent resurgence occurred, and member Melanie Edwards is getting things going and working on organizing a MAL (Members-at-Large) Unit again. This is a very exciting time. As you recall, seven years ago member Crystal Callahan began a similar effort in the Boise area. That group grew from a handful of members to the 44 we have today. It is possible and we wish our Idaho Falls Leaguers well. And we are all here to help.

Membership Report

As of June 21, 2023, LWVID has a membership of 319

The breakdown is:

LWVID Members at large – 55
LWV of Kootenai County – 37
LWV of Moscow – 155
LWV of Lewis Clark Valley – 19
LWV of Pocatello – 53

Of the 55 MALs, 44 are in the Boise metropolitan area which includes Boise, Caldwell, Meridian, Nampa, Garden City, and Star.

The Idaho Falls area numbers 8.
The remainder are located in Filer, and Stanley.

~ Susan Ripley, membership chair

LWVID 37th Biennial Convention

Your state Convention was both the end of the League season and the informed, energetic launch of the 2023-2025 biennium. We had the best of speakers, good and ample food, games, and the delegates elected new officers. Your state board now includes two new superwomen – Terry Kerler from LWV Pocatello was elected to be the secretary and Ann Carlson from Greater Boise Area MAL (Members-at-Large) UNIT agreed to transition from being a member of every League effort to being a director. Susan Ripley from LWV Moscow, famous for her four years as state League president, continues as membership maven but also is a director. Jean Henscheid from Star, GBA MAL Unit, is bringing her civic determination honed by hours at the state capitol and on the work of the Legislative Action Committee, to the new office of co-president. Jean is not only determined to make a difference but is great fun. Note: Experience the fun by joining the Legislative Action Committee.

The Planning Committee, made up of members of the GBA MAL Unit, delivered an agenda that responded to some of Idaho's most alarming political trends. The committee was determined to provide a virtual attendance option for members and that was only possible because Crystal Callahan checked out the equipment needs and expertly conducted the electronic gear like the pro she is.

All League conventions include “direction to the board” and the input was on-target. During one extended dialogue on the ranked-choice voting initiative being circulated, it was decided to gather a few Leaguers to develop information that all Leagues can take into communities. The objective is to prepare voters to cast informed votes on the unfamiliar voting method that is not easily explained. Who is better than League to do this? Yes, we are inviting you to be one of the “few.”

We are still applauding the efforts and the many hours invested to provide a perfect way to spend a Saturday in early June. And thank you to all who came to Boise in-person and virtually to fill the room with intelligence and energy.

Sustainable democracy is the work of League. Doing it together makes us all smarter and more effective. And besides, the friendships we forge are lasting and true. Onward.

~ Betsy McBride, co-president



LWVID Convention Theme

Convention Theme: “Idaho, Too Great to Hate?”

Our Panelists:

It was clear by the time the Convention Planning Committee started meeting in late January, that in the Idaho Legislature, we were seeing an attack on democracy and public institutions in Idaho - voting rights, public education at all levels, libraries, the separation of church and state, civil liberties - the list goes on. We knew that we needed a better understanding of the shifting terrain to develop strategies for how we’re going to empower voters and defend democracy moving forward.



Riccards

We were fortunate to have outstanding panelists who shared their insights and experiences with us. Patrick Riccards, CEO of Life After Hate, provided an overview of extremist groups nationally and perspective of why people join hate groups and why they leave them.



Juday-Marshall

Alexis Juday-Marshall, member of the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters United States, explained that LWVUS is supporting multiple lawsuits around the country against voter suppression including LWVID’s lawsuit. She also gave specific examples of creative actions Leagues are taking at the state level around the country.



Stewart

Both Tony Stewart, founding member of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, and Jim Jones, former Idaho Attorney General and Idaho Supreme Court justice, emphasized



Jones

how important it was to stand up to hate while tailoring responses to the needs of each community. Jones ended the panel on an optimistic note of confidence in the Idaho Constitution and the initiative process as well as a reminder of the cyclical nature of these movements.

Our afternoon speaker:



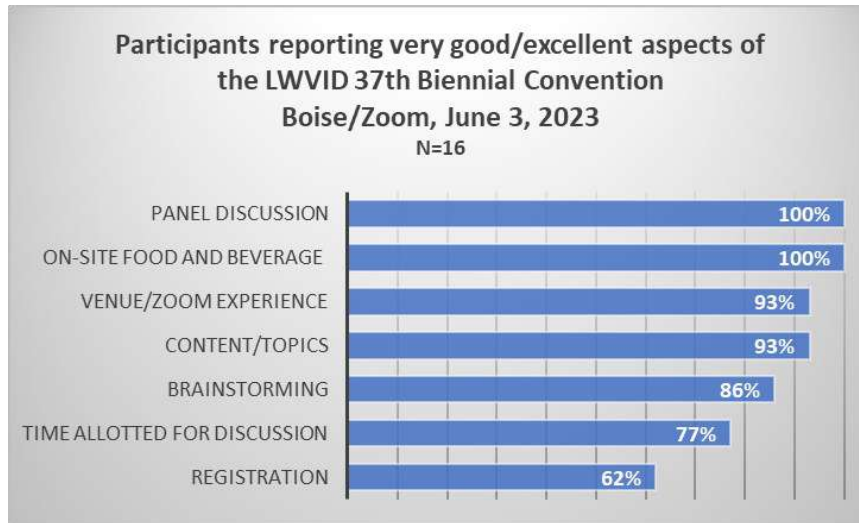
Belknap-Brinegar

“YES, YOU CAN!!,” was the message from Toni Belknap-Brinegar in her presentation on recruiting women, people of color and people with disabilities to serve on state boards and commissions.

Belknap-Brinegar, the Conservation Voters of Idaho Boards and Commissions coordinator, discussed the fellowship program offered by the organization which aims to give individuals interested in serving the opportunity to gain experience how government works so they are comfortable and confident once they begin their venture into public service. She can be reached at toni@cvidaho.org.

~ Kendal Shaber, chair, Convention Planning Committee

LWVID Convention Feedback



Whether Zooming or face-to-face, most of the participants in the 37th Biennial Convention offering feedback were pleased with their experience.

Nearly 90% indicated that they are likely or very likely to attend another statewide gathering based on their time at the 2023 convention. The panel discussion organized by state board member Kendal Shaber and incoming board member Ann Carlson received 100% approval.

Nearly as many respondents to the feedback form said the topics discussed were very good or excellent. Participants indicated a need for more opportunities to caucus around League business, discuss issues raised by the panel, and spend time in informal conversations.

Future hybrid gatherings would benefit from the advice of one member who said: “If there could be a way for the Zoom folks to interact with the ‘in-person’ folks during breaks, that would be nice.”

Respondents offered most of their constructive criticism on the Convention registration process. One suggested that Convention organizers “email the convention registration info to all MALs in the state who are out of the loop and otherwise unaware that a convention is planned, as well as being unaware of registration process and topics. (I think this was intended but maybe fell through the cracks?)” The registration issue did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm of attendees or discourage them from expressing their interest in future meetings.

As Co-president Betsy McBride noted in her convention recap, the efforts of convention organizers, particularly Crystal Callahan, allowed the one-third of convention participants attending via Zoom to have as productive and positive of an experience as those in Boise.

Until next time. (Next host is Pocatello for the LWVID 37th Biennial Council.)

~ Jean M. Henscheid, Ph.D., co-president

Convention Attendance

22 Delegates 10 Observers of those 19 in-person 13 virtual

Picture Page—Convention Fun

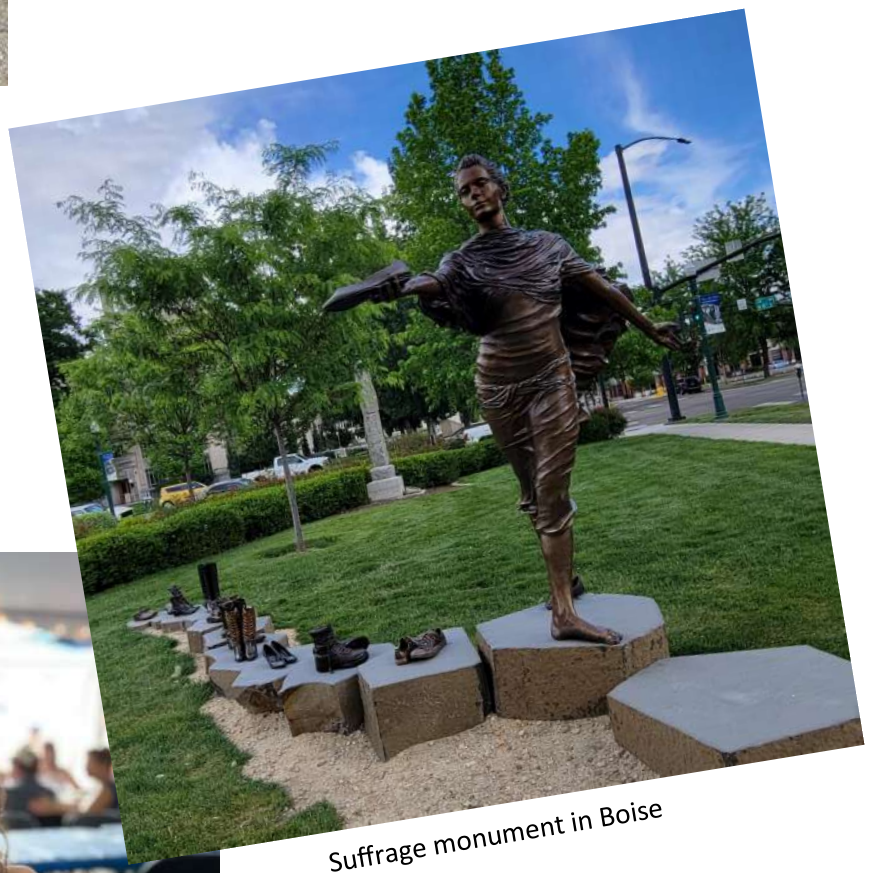


Above: Jean Henscheid and Ann Carlson usher members into the Greek Festival - dinner for Convention attendees.

Below: Superwomen Kendal Shaber and Pam Ward embody the spirit of LWVID



A convivial evening after Convention at the Greek Festival in Boise.



Suffrage monument in Boise



Treasurer's Report

During the LWVID 37th Biennial Convention in June, Treasurer Pam Ward presented financial statements for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. These included the account balances, the LWVID banking summary, and the LWVID Board recommended two-year budget for FY 2023-2025. Liquid monies are now held at the Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU) in checking and savings accounts. LWVID investment funds are held in an Ameriprise Investment Account and an ICCU CD.

The board-recommended FY 2023-2025 budget was approved by Convention delegates. The LWVID budget is primarily determined by per-member payment income from local Leagues and members-at-large dues. The budgeted revenue included membership income, convention income, donations, and checking account reserves. The expenditures were expanded to include board operations, coalition memberships, communication, local League support, and Convention/Council. Delegates approved a \$5,000 expenditure to develop a new LWVID web site.

Fundraising will be required to sustain our bank accounts.

For more detailed information or for a copy of the budget adopted at Convention email Pam Ward at LWV.Idaho@gmail.com.

~ Pam Ward, LWVID treasurer

Idaho Gives—Thank You

Twenty-seven League members and friends donated \$1,762.14 to the LWVID Education Fund through the 2023 Idaho Gives campaign from April 28 through May 2. Twenty-four benefactors sent donations online and three mailed checks directly to the LWVID treasurer. Donations consisted of 11 from Pocatello (including a member living in Massachusetts), nine from the Greater Boise Area, four from Moscow, two from Kootenai County, and one from Washington, D.C.

According to the bylaws, the LWVID Education Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized “exclusively for educational, charitable, civic, scientific and research purposes” that are non-partisan and do not influence legislation. These funds support the LWVID’s involvement in VOTE411, the online voter guide, which cost \$2,200 last year.



The LWVID Board appreciates the Idaho Gives donors. A special cheer goes to Nancy Spittle of Washington, D.C., and Ann Carlson of Boise for their generous gifts. Thanks to all of you, we can empower voters throughout Idaho.



Idaho has given us so much.
Thanks for giving back to Idaho.

~ Pam Ward, LWVID treasurer

Legislative Action Committee

For 12 weeks this spring, members of the Legislative Action Committee made good on the group's name by taking constant, swift, and focused action during the first regular session of the 67th Idaho Legislature. A recap questionnaire sent to the group's 19 members revealed just how committed they were to watch and respond to the actions of Idaho's policymakers.

In addition to these actions, members posted on social media, recruited other members to join the committee, and faithfully attended meetings every Friday afternoon during the session.

Even those who were new to legislative action found the experience valuable, as one respondent to the questionnaire said: "I learned a lot which has been personally beneficial. My contributions to the LAC were minimal. The exhaustive and effective work and organization of LAC members is commendable." Ninety percent of members said they found the meetings valuable or very valuable. While most members indicated that the amount of effort involved met their expectations, one respondent said she was taken aback: "It was a bit of a surprise how much work and possibilities. I don't look forward to more legislative sessions, but I do look forward to working on that with such a group." Gluttons for punishment and/or committed advocates, all but one member indicated that they were likely or very likely to return to the committee for the 2024 session. As one member said, "I thoroughly enjoyed our weekly 'get-togethers' with the stimulating discussions and consensus about taking action!"

Our focus this year was on voting rights and education funding. With many bills in opposition to League positions, actions leading to their defeat were especially gratifying. Among our wins, the Legislative Action Committee members contributed to:

- Staving off a move to render the initiative process impossible.
- Saving the bipartisan Office of Performance Evaluation.
- Defeating numerous voucher/education savings account efforts.
- Loudly decrying attempts to suppress voting. (While two bills did pass on this issue, the League has joined a lawsuit against these new laws. See Page 15 for information about the lawsuit).

Plans for next year's committee are under way. A majority on the committee indicated that they are interested in focusing efforts on voting rights but are keen to deal with other issues, including education funding and the rights of underrepresented populations, women, and the LGBTQ+ community.

~ Jean M. Henscheid, Ph.D., co-chair (with Kendal Shaber)

Other Legislative Action Committee members include:

Mike Bullard, Ann Carlson, Elinor Chehey, Kathy Dawes, Bonnie Douglas, Renee Foreman Magee, Zena Hartung, Terry Kerler, Jennifer Louma, Betsy McBride, Maxine Miller, Louise Regelin, Susan Ripley, Pam Ward, Barb Wood, and Victoria Young.



LAC Summer Book Club

More than three dozen. That is how many attempts were made, more than half successfully, to pass laws in the Idaho Legislature's 2023 session which do not align with LWV positions. Members of the Legislative Action Committee witnessed lawmakers:

Advocate sending public dollars to religious schools.

Attempt to ban reading materials in public spaces any individual might find objectionable.

Restrict voting.

Demand public schools teach abstinence.

Disband the maternal mortality review committee.

Impose a travel ban on Idahoans transporting pregnant minors across state lines.

Permit the brandishing of a gun if a person feels threatened.

Allow militias to parade on city streets.

Mandate the display of "In God We Trust" symbols in schools.

Criminalize medical treatment for minors suffering from gender dysphoria.

The legislative session prompted the LAC to establish a summer group to research the history, and current incarnation, of a movement that adheres to three principles: That the United States was founded on Christianity and remains a Christian nation; that the pre-Civil Rights era was a time of glory to be restored, and that allowing non-whites and non-Christians equality in the U.S. portends an apocalypse.

The summer group chose to read Bradley Onishi's *Preparing for war: The extremist history of white Christian nationalism-and what comes next*. Over four meetings, from May through August, 24 group members are analyzing the book and its relationship to forces shaping Idaho politics. Goals are to better understand the principles and those who espouse them.

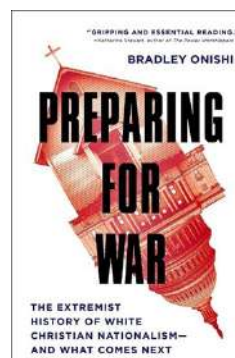


Panelists at the 37th Biennial Convention of the LWVID, speaking on extremism in Idaho and the nation, offered guidance on the issue (See story on page 9) and some hope based on past success in rooting extremists out of the state.

Onishi offered similar guidance, and hope, in his June 17 discussion with members of the state chapter of the American Association of University Women and 10 LWVID members.

~ Jean Henscheid, Ph.D., co-president

Bradley Onishi, author of *Preparing for war: The extremist history of white Christian nationalism-and what comes next*, speaks to members of the American Association of University Women and LWVID members June 17, 2023.



Q and A on the LWVID Voting Rights Lawsuit

In March 2023, the League of Women Voters of Idaho joined with BABE VOTE to file suit in state court asking that two new state acts that amend existing state code related to voting procedures be “enjoined” that is, prevented from proceeding.

Why is the League a co-plaintiff/suing/doing this?

The LWV was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, the president of the National American Women’s Suffrage Assn., immediately after women won the right to vote. Our founding mothers spent nearly a century gaining that right. It is in our DNA, and our volunteer members work hard to protect that right for all eligible voters. The right to vote is the critical feature of America’s form of self-government.

What is the relationship of the League to the co-plaintiff, BABE VOTE?

The LWV of Idaho has been supportive, financially, and otherwise, of BABE VOTE and other youth activists. We applaud their assumption of responsibility for their futures. All Idaho should be proud of these serious young citizens.

Who is the defendant in this lawsuit?

The Idaho secretary of state because he is the official charged with implementing the elections system provided by Idaho statutes.

Tell us/me about the claims in the lawsuit.

Our League has expertise related to public policy and voter education but not on legal action and the requirements of the judicial system. We are grateful to be collaborating with expert lawyers who will be the sources of any public information about the legal details.

For legal questions, whom should be contacted?

Matt Gordon at mgordon@perkinscoie.com

Who is paying for the costs of the lawsuit?

The law firm will bear all direct legal costs. League will assume the costs related to communications with our members and the public.

The law firm of Perkins Coie has clients like the Democratic National Committee. Does this mean the League is a partisan group? (Supports the Democratic Party?)

No, League is stoutly nonpartisan. Large successful law firms have different clients. That is to be expected. Our legal complaint is about voting in Idaho. How the election system works matters to all eligible voters without regard to their party affiliation. Like Idahoans of all ages, youth voters come from across the political spectrum.

Continued on next page

Continued: Q and A on the LWVID Lawsuit

What legislative actions does this lawsuit respond to?

The legislature passed and the governor signed HB124 amending Idaho Code Section 34-1113. It is a short bill that describes identification (IDs) acceptable for use at the polls to be able to vote. HB124 eliminates the long-accepted student IDs but leaves in place Idaho driver's licenses, passports with photos, tribal identification cards with a photo and licenses for conceal carry or an enhanced conceal carry.

Later, the legislature passed, and the governor signed HB340. The original complaint was then expanded to include the restrictions from that legislation. While HB124 eliminated student photo IDs issued by accredited educational institutions as acceptable identification, HB340 changed what is acceptable identification for registering to vote.

The new law also provides for a no-fee identification card for those persons without an Idaho driver's license, a passport with photo, a tribal identification card with a photo or a gun license for conceal carry or enhanced conceal carry. The complications arise from both the logistics of obtaining this alternative identification and from a provision that particularly targets out-of-state students. The law requires that persons state they have not had any driver's license for at least six months. To comply, out-of-state students arriving with driver's licenses from their home states would have to surrender them and then wait at least six months before obtaining a no-fee identification card to use for voter registration. This obviously does not align with the current 30-day residency requirement.

When will the law go into effect?

HR124 related to identification for use at the polls "shall be in full force and effect on and after January 1, 2024." HB340, changing voter registration, goes into effect on July 1, 2023.

What is the rationale for the elimination of student IDs as acceptable for registration and voting?

A sponsor cited fears of fraud even though the secretary of state testified that there have been no known instances of voting fraud related to use of student IDs.

Why shouldn't a student use an Idaho driver's license as identification?

Studies report that Generation Z (born between 1996 and 2012) has reasons to not want to drive or own a car. Those reasons are costs, spending more time online, environmental concerns, and more ride-sharing transportation options. In 1997, 90% of 20–25-year-olds had licenses. By 2020 only 80% had licenses. ("Why Gen Z doesn't want to drive," Washington Post, Feb. 13, 2023)

And if out-of-state students have a driver's license, it is normally from the student's home state and is linked to car insurance from the home state. This reality creates a barrier to obtaining a no-fee identification card.

Continued on next page

Continued: Q and A on the LWVID Lawsuit

Why have two different lawsuits related to student IDs been filed?

One has been filed in state court, the other in federal court. Different plaintiffs, different lawyers. The lawsuit involving the League is currently filed in state court but that could change.

Who can vote in Idaho elections?

“To become a qualified elector a citizen must first register with the County Clerk. A person must be a citizen of the United State, 18 years of age, a resident of Idaho and their county for 30 days prior to the election and registered as required by law with their county clerk.”

(Idaho Voters Guide, <https://voteidaho.gov/citizens-guide/>)

Prior to passage of HB124, what identification has been accepted at the polls to vote?

A photo identification or signed personal identification affidavit* is required to vote. Acceptable forms of personal identification are:

An Idaho driver’s license or identification card issued by the Idaho Transportation Department;

A passport or photo identification card issued by an agency of the United States government;

A Tribal photo identification;

An Idaho student photo identification from an accredited institution of higher education including high school, college, university or technical school; and

A license to carry a concealed weapon issued by a county sheriff in Idaho.

***Personal identification Affidavit** – A qualified elector may sign a personal identification affidavit at the polling place and vote if they are unable to present an acceptable form of photo identification.”

(Idaho Voters Guide, <https://voteidaho.gov/citizens-guide/>)

~ Betsy McBride, co-president

Bulletin Board

If you wish to get in touch with a League member or committee, email the editor/membership chair at lwvid1944@gmail.com and I will connect you.

Have you ever wondered about the public policy issues of the LWVUS? Click on this link and you can find the digital book. https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf

A paperback copy is available on Amazon for \$5.

Are you getting updates from the leaders at LWVUS? You can sign up for emails directly to your inbox to be up-to-date with national League happenings.

Click here: [League Update Newsletter Sign Up | League of Women Voters \(lwv.org\)](#)

and you can sign up for the League Update Newsletter.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Nominating Committee asked many members to serve on the next nominating committee and were turned down by everyone they asked. Maybe we didn't ask the right person.

If you would be willing to give a little bit of time, or would like to learn more, please reach out to me, a member of the last nominating committee. LWVID is a statewide volunteer job.

~ Susan Ripley, LWVID past Nominating Committee member

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