

THE VOTER



This Newsletter published by and for the
League of Women Voters of Yakima County
PO Box 723, Yakima, WA 98907 509-452-3419

*We respectfully acknowledge
that we are on the traditional
land of the Yakama People.*

September, 2021
Vol.21, No 9

MISSION STATEMENT:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

VISION:

We envision a democracy
where every person has the desire,
the right, the knowledge, and the confidence
to participate.

VALUE STATEMENT:

The League believes in the power of women to
create a more perfect democracy.

Officers

President: Cheri Kilty
Secretary: Karen Pilon
Treasurer: Janis Luvaas
Membership: Rhonda Hauff

Leadership Team

Criss Bardill
Quinn Dalan
Kitty Jubran
Susan Kaphammer
Lee Murdock

Voter Editor: Susan Kaphammer
949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board currently meets at 4:30 PM,
typically the first Monday of the month.

All members are welcome.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 28, 5:30 PM **Community
Conversation: Opioid Epidemic in Yakima County.**
Panel Discussion. (Rescheduled from Last Month.) *See
announcement below.*

Thursday, September 30, 4:30 to 6:00 PM **Redistricting
Map Study and Review.** Filipino Community Hall, 211 W
2nd St, Wapato. *See attached flier.*

Friday, October 1, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM **Redistricting
Map Study and Review.** Performance Park, 2nd St near
Courthouse, Yakima. *See attached flier.*

Saturday, October 2. **Marches for Reproductive Rights**
planned for Yakima and Sunnyside. *See article on p. 2.*

Monday, October 4, 4:30 PM **Leadership Team Meeting**
at YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima. Contact Cheri if
prefer to attend via Zoom.

September Community Conversation

Opioid Epidemic in Yakima County

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 5:30 PM
Online Event**

Join the conversation with a panel of
community leaders including:

Theresa Adkison, Triumph Treatment
Yakima County **Sheriff Robert Udell**
Erika Ochoa, Yakima Health District

Watch live or stream later on the
LWVYC Facebook Page

League Conversations: Informing the public.

LWVYC President's Column...

“NOTES FROM CHERI” is deferred for this issue, given the large amount of information about activities. Cheri’s column will return next month.

Grassroots Community Events...

MARCHES FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS SCHEDULED IN YAKIMA AND SUNNYSIDE

On Saturday, October 2, the Women’s March will convene in Washington, D.C., with sister marches around the country, including in Yakima and Sunnyside, to defend reproductive rights in light of the Supreme Court ruling regarding the new law in Texas. The LWVUS has encouraged local Leagues to consider participating. Our LWVYC is promoting this event, as well as one in Sunnyside, and encouraging members to attend.

The Sunnyside March for Women begins at 9 AM with participants gathering in the parking lot near Sakuras and Fiesta Foods. The plan is to march about 1.6 miles along the Lower Yakima Valley Pathway, taking about 30 to 45 minutes. According to their posters, marchers are asked to wear comfy shoes and bring your passion and your signs to, “Help us defend ALL women everywhere and our reproductive freedom!



Logo for Sunnyside event

Yakima’s Women’s March will begin at Miller Park, 513 N 3rd St, at 12



Noon for speakers, followed by marching downtown and looping back to Miller Park. This event is expected to conclude by 3 PM.

Advocates are also encouraged to "Claim a Corner" and do street sign waving throughout the day as well as in days leading up to the October 2nd event. A casual gathering for continued networking, socializing & fundraising for Planned Parenthood is planned for 3 to 6 PM at Single

Hill Brewing, 102 N Naches Ave.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the freedom to peacefully protest and rally together is an invaluable part of the democracy movement. We also know that even a peaceful event can turn disruptive or violent and all attendees should understand the risk factors involved. Safety tips for all types of protests and rallies include:

- Be prepared and inform yourself. Find out as much information as possible about times, locations, purpose, and demands of any rally or protest.
- **Observe all social distancing protocols: wear mask, bring your own sanitizer, keep your distance.**
- Refrain from joining groups in any inside location where space and ventilation might be limited.
- Bring water, and snacks for longer events.
- Wear comfortable and weather appropriate clothes. It’s always a good idea to check the weather forecast in advance. League members may wear League gear and carry League branded signs to peaceful protests and community clean-up events.
- Do not go alone: have another adult with you, especially if you will be bringing minors along.
- Find someone to be your emergency contact. This person should know where you are planning to be and assign a moment to check-in and make sure that you returned home safely.

Get Out the Vote...

VOTER SERVICES LEAD UP TO NOVEMBER 2 ELECTION

LWVYC members Karri Livingston and Kitty Jurban recently participated in a State League Zoom meeting focused on voter services. They received information on tools to assist local Leagues in getting out the vote, the *Your Vote* tabloid, and efforts to counter election mis- and disinformation. The Leadership Team will consider how to integrate these into our local efforts to encourage informed participation in elections.

Front and Back of Bookmark from LWVWA "Be A Voter" Toolkit

The Election Credibility Project coordinated through the Washington State League is particularly timely given continuing efforts to cast doubt on the integrity of our voting systems, along with other pervasive untruths. The [truth sandwich](https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2020/how-to-serve-up-a-tasty-truth-sandwich/) (<https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2020/how-to-serve-up-a-tasty-truth-sandwich/>) offers a way to respond to disinformation. The formula for a "truth sandwich" is:

The Be a Voter toolkit (<https://lwvwa.org/Be-a-Voter-Toolkit>) provides a range of images to print and distribute or to include in publications. The bookmark image on this page is an example. Another we could consider providing to high school and college sites is a Voter Registration flyer targeted at younger voters.

The *Your Vote* tabloid, developed in partnership with *The Spokesman-Review*, consists of articles including: Election Facts – multiple safeguards in place to protect the integrity of Washington’s elections; Ten Tips for Voting – registering and voting in Washington; Accessibility – assistance for voters who have disabilities; Observers – how trained volunteers watch the counting and processing of ballots.

Lunell Haught, President of the LWVWA, introduces the articles, noting that League members have over several months, investigated voting processes across the state.

It is important that all eligible voters exercise their rights at the ballot box. That participation is what makes a true democracy.

We want people to be confident as they vote. We want them to be confident they have the right information they need to make informed choices as well as to be confident that their votes are safe and secure.... Your vote is your voice. Your vote is power.

(Continued on Page 4)

VOTER SERVICES. . . (Continued from Page 3)

1. Start with the truth. The first frame gets the advantage.
2. Indicate the lie. Avoid amplifying the specific language if possible.
3. Return to the truth. Always repeat truths more than lies.

An example: The Arizona ballot audit, conducted over several months and costing millions of dollars, confirmed President Biden’s win and found no proof of widespread fraud or errors. -*Truth* Officials in several states are considering similar election recounts because of claims that the election was faulty. -*Acknowledge Lie* The Maricopa County Board confirmed that the election “results reflect the will of the voters.-*End with the truth*

Editor’s Note: Our next issue of The Voter will include a summary of the “factoids” about the security and integrity of the elections process in Washington State.

National, State and Local Leagues...

MAPS DEVELOPED FOR REDISTRICTING

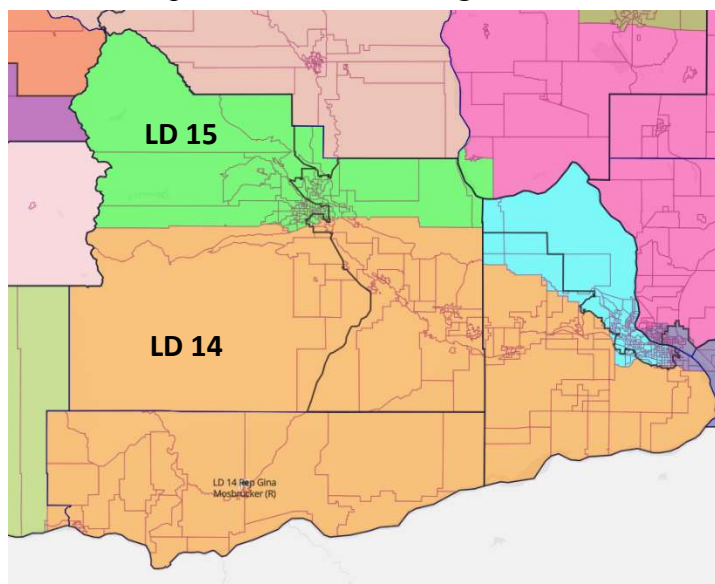


The National League program, “People Powered Fair Maps” has existed for over two years to support state and local leagues. The every-ten-years process of Redistricting, the redrawing of political boundaries in response to the census, can be skewed by partisan gerrymandering that impedes the political influence of some populations in favor of one political party over another. With a commitment to considering all voices, the League advocates for fairness and equity in the Redistricting process and results.

Noting that, “Since 1930, The League of Women Voters of Washington has been a leader in redistricting advocacy.” This statement by President Lunell Haught began the September 23rd letter to the Redistricting Commission forwarding maps and narratives for consideration by the Commission. She stressed that, “We [the League] have executed a statewide, transparent, nonpartisan process to develop maps resulting in these example solutions that put communities of interest first.”

Further information and links are available at <https://lwvwa.org/maps/>. Sections from proposed maps and narrative:

LWVWA Proposed Yakima area Legislative Districts



Narrative for South Central WA, Yakima

South Central is home to the largest population of Latinx people as well as the Yakama Nation. We prioritized keeping the Yakama nation together with fishing villages and creating a majority BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) district in the LD14.

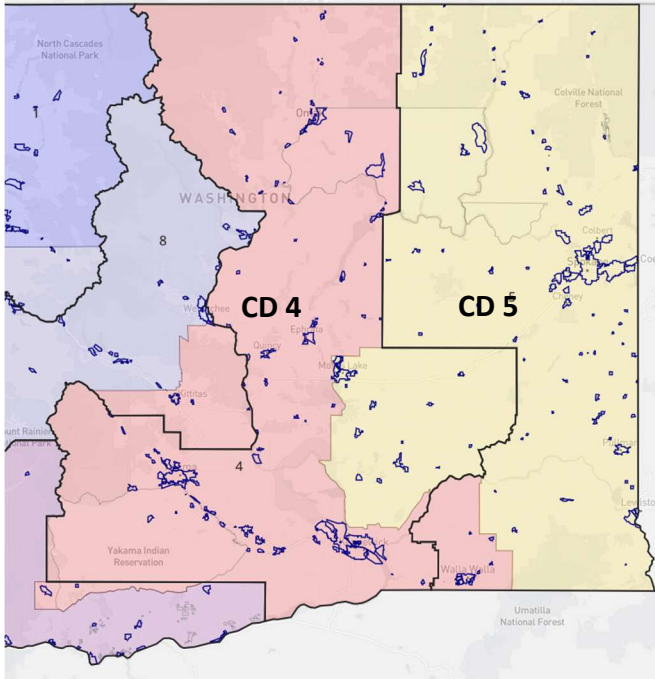
- Yakama Nation Reservation is united in LD14 and includes fishing villages in Klickitat Co.
- Cities of Union Gap, Tappico, White Swan, with the Yakama Nation (native and POC populations).
- Down valley cities of Wapato, Zillah, Grange and Toppenish united with Yakama Nation.

(Continued on Page 5)

MAPS DEVELOPED. . . (Continued from Page 4)

- City of Yakima is wholly within LD15; does not exacerbate historical racial lines from west to east Yakima.
- Benton Co agricultural area united with other agricultural areas in Yakima Co.
- Yakima Co in 2LDs.

LWVWA Proposed E. WA Congressional Districts



Narrative for South Central WA, Yakima

Our recommended version of eastern Washington maintains the vertical orientation of CD4 & CD5. We are doing this to honor the request of the Colville Tribes to maintain its current division in both CDs.

Desired qualities accomplished:

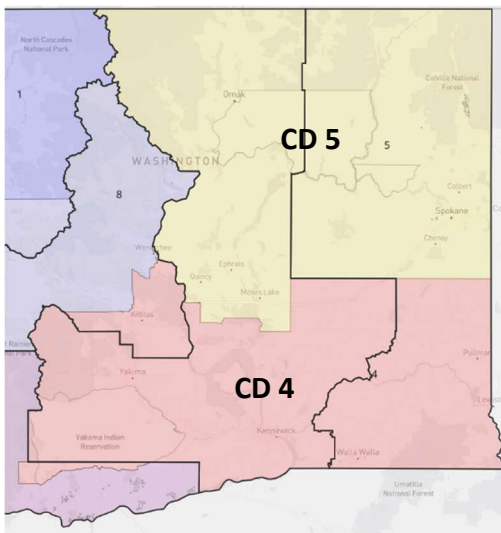
- Maintains the greatest number of people in their current district.
- CD4 and CD5 follow mainly county lines.
- Yakama Nation and its historic lands to the north are both in CD4.
- Maintains Colville Tribes in CD4 and CD5 as requested.
- Unites Walla Walla County and connects it to Tri-Cities, assisting economic ties in CD4 and growing Latinx population in both Walla Walla and Pasco.

Not accomplished/undesired results

- CD4 and CD5 remain difficult to drive from end to end.

- While we maintain Moses Lake in one CD. The map splits Moses Lake and Othello from the rest of Grant County.
- Splits Franklin County along rural/urban divide.
- Yakama Fishing Villages along Columbia River are divided from the Yakama Nation main reservation.

LWVWA Additional E. WA Cong. Districts



Narrative for Additional Map

This second version of eastern Washington congressional district CD4 and CD5 with horizontal position had widespread support in our network.

Advantages to a horizontal solution to CD4 and CD5:

- Connects water basins that are at the heart of agriculture and economic viability. Allows the combining of the Snake River and its confluence to the Columbia River - key for transportation, jobs, and hydropower.
- Unites a Health District that is common to Walla Walla, Benton, Franklin, Yakima, Columbia, and Kittitas Counties.
- Unites common environmental concerns in the south part of the state focused on less rainfall in the Columbia plateau.
- Travel is much easier in CD4 along Hwy 12 and I-82.
- More compact and convenient lines – i.e., a more elegant solution.

MAPS DEVELOPED. . . *(Continued from Page 5)*

The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima County is inviting the public to view several maps currently under consideration by the Commission at events in Wapato on Thursday, September 30, and in Yakima on Friday, October 1. This is an opportunity to learn about and share reactions to potential impacts of the maps on our local concerns. *See the Calendar on page 1 and the attached flier.*

Special appreciation is extended to Dori Peralta Baker, APIC Yakima Chair and member of LWVYC for her dedication in facilitating these sessions and previous workshops to support Yakima County voters working for fair maps.

In the press release, “LWVWA Releases Redistricting Maps That Put Communities of Interest First,” Alison McCaffree, who has shepherded the state and local League involvement, reminds us:

While redistricting relies on technology and data analysis, ultimately human judgement must balance representation among many disparate groups—with many needs that sometimes overlap or conflict. Maps are a compromise among a range of objectives and many legal and equitable mapping solutions exist. The League hopes that the Washington State Redistricting Commission will study the district lines and use them to develop the best solutions for the people of Washington.

The Redistricting Commission will continue to take public input through October 22. The next dates are: October 5 at 7:00 PM for Input on Draft Legislative Maps (register at https://leg-wa-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FV_o8ujUStWS-yx9nZkdwA) and October 9 at 10:00 AM for Input on Draft Congressional Maps. (register at https://leg-wa-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZfNpIgpWQKOlercD6_5Q1Q). The Washington State Redistricting Commission website at <https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/> outlines their work and explains how to provide input.

Yakima County League History...

YAKIMA COUNTY LEAGUE IMPROVES LIBRARY SERVICES

This is the third installment of a series of articles adapted from a typed ten-page document titled, “A History of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County,” by co-authors Kara Kondo, Geneve Bowden, Marge Van Scoy, Laura Hopp, Pat Ball, Charlotte Kendrick, and Marilyn Lane. The first article covered the very beginnings of our chapter from March 1950 through the middle of 1951, and last month’s article continued the history as the League moved from provisional to official status and hosted the State Convention. This installment focuses on League efforts in the 1950s to establish the Regional Library.

Editor’s Note: Direct quotes from “A History of the League...” will be indicated by quotation marks. Some details and names will be omitted. At the conclusion of the newsletter series, the entire document will be made available to interested members.

Areas in Need of Solutions

The “Know Your Town” study, the first project of the new League, brought members’ attentions to “areas that were in need of solution,” including the Carnegie City Library. They launched into an extensive campaign to improve library services.

“In 1951, the City Library was too small and deteriorating. The proposal to join with the County Library to form a Regional Library System was made. A local realtor had a large department store corporation interested in building a multi-storie retail store on the library site with library facilities on the top floor of the building.

(Continued on Page 6)

YAKIMA COUNTY LEAGUE... (Continued from Page 5)

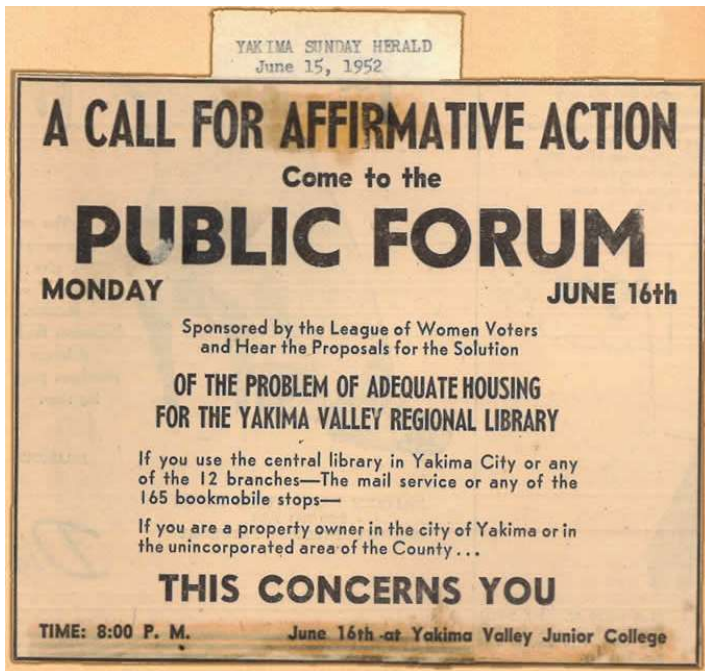


Image from Yakima Memory, an online collaboration between Yakima Valley Libraries and Yakima Valley Museum. <https://archives.yvl.org/>

“The League, with the Friends of the Library, sponsored a series of open meetings to standing-room only crowds with panel presentations on these issues. These open, even handed (*sic*) discussions provided much needed direction. The library boards employed Helen Gilbert as their librarian to administer a building program for a 2 story library on the Carnegie site, to be financed by simultaneous bond issues in the city and the county. The League formed a speakers bureau, held coffee hours, and assisted in many ways with an educational program that secured passage of both bond issues.

“The building was completed in 1957 and League members were hostesses for the Open House, which went on for several days.

“The League continued to monitor the library operation and its funding for a number of years. We also studied school libraries to determine their adequacy, and worked to improve their libraries and services, and

helped them to cooperate with the Regional Library System.”

(The next installment will recount early League initiatives for city and county government.)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON
STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY**

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. We will actively work to remove barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA COUNTY

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!

New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____

Membership Categories:

Address: _____

_____ \$10 Student

_____ \$60 Basic

Phone: _____

_____ \$40 Each added
family member at the same
residence

E-Mail: _____

Scholarships are available for potential members who cannot afford dues. Please contact us at yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com

Additional Sustaining Gift: \$60 _____ \$40 _____ \$25 _____ Other: _____

Your Sustaining Gift will help support our local activities.

Make checks payable to: LWVYC And mail to: LWVYC, PO Box 723, YAKIMA WA 98907

Please note: Our fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. Initial dues received before December 31 will be subject to renewal on June 30 of the following year. Initial dues received after January 1 will be subject to renewal on June 30 of the year following that year.

- Examples: a) Initial dues paid October 10, 2020; renewal date June 30, 2021
b) Initial dues paid February 24, 2021; renewal date June 30, 2022



Yakima County

509 945-0891

apicyakima@gmail.com

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington State
Celebrating Unity and Civic Participation

Media Release – Time Sensitive

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021
Contact: Dori Peralta Baker 509 945-0891
Paul Tabayoyon 509 494-2804
Subject: Public Viewing of Redistricting Maps

Public Invited to Review Redistricting Map Submissions

Yakima, WA – The Asian Pacific Island Coalition of Yakima Valley invites the public to view several maps under deliberation by the 2021 Washington State Redistricting Committee. The maps will be on display in Wapato on Thursday, September 30th and in Yakima on Friday, October 1st.

District Maps Study & Review in Wapato & Yakima

Refreshments Provided

Thursday, Sep 30th from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm – dinner time

Filipino Community Hall, 211 West 2nd St in Wapato

Friday, Oct 1 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm – lunch break

Performance Park on 2nd St near County Courthouse in Yakima

The responses to the 2020 US Census have been filed and several shifts in population clusters merits the need to redraw boundaries for Legislative Districts 14 and 15 as well as Congressional District 4. Several BIPOC coalitions and civic groups organized learning sessions to build better understanding of the redistricting process. These organizations also encouraged using mapping software to develop maps that put communities of interest first.

These sessions were transparent and non-partisan. The Redistricting Justice Washington and the League of Women Voters – WA are submitting their map examples. The redistricting committee commissioners have also drawn their own maps for review. All have worked diligently to ensure equitable representation and review of the maps as a precursor to providing written or oral testimony at the Oct 5th and Oct 9th Public Meetings.

Go to <https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/> for additional information on the redistricting process and to register to provide public testimony at the upcoming public meetings.

Released by Dori Peralta Baker, APIC Yakima Chair apicyakima@gmail.com