

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.*

October, 2022
Vol.22, No 6

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: Lee Murdock
Secretary: Betty Van Ryder
Treasurer and Membership:
Janis Luvaas

Leadership Team

Dori Baker-Peralta
Criss Bardill
Quinn Dalan
Steve Hill
Kitty Jubran
Susan Kaphammer
Cheri Kilty
Karri Livingston
Karen Pilon

Voter Editor: Susan Kaphammer
509-949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board currently meets at 4:30 PM,
usually the first Monday of the month at the
YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima.

All members are welcome.

CALENDAR

County Commissioner Candidates' Forum October
20, 2022 at 6:30 PM. Yakima City Council Chamber,
129 N 2nd St. In person; also online. *See attached
flyer. Share information and encourage attendance!*

ELECTION DAY Tuesday, November 8. Deadline
to mail in ballot.

On-Going

Administration / Public Relations Committee Normally
meets the 4th Monday of each month at 4:30 PM at YWCA,
818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima. *Next meeting on **October 24.***

Voter Services Committee *Next meeting on **Friday,
November 4 at Noon** at C & S Coffee House, 2961 Stone-
wood Court Suite C, in Terrace Heights.*

Leadership Team Normally meets the 1st Monday of each
month at 4:30 PM at YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave. *Next
meeting on **November 7.***

LWVYC Public Relations...

PICTURE THIS!

Our Public Relations Committee is renewing its call
for photos to enhance and illustrate our professionally
designed webpage. Older pictures, newer pictures,
informal snapshots, posed images, League events and
members out in the community – any and all such photos
are welcome in print or digital format.

If you are not sure that what you have will work for
us, send it in anyway or ask Criss Bardill. She is collecting
images and obtaining permissions for use on our website.
Contact her at cbardill@gmail.com.

And stay tuned for the release of our website.
Sections will profile who we are and what we do, our
history, and news and events.

Messages from LWVYC President...

CANDIDATES' FORUM SET FOR OCTOBER 20

On October 20th, the League of Women Voters of Yakima County is hosting a Candidates' Forum for all 6 candidates running for the Yakima Board of County Commissioners – this will be the first time all 3 seats are up for election at the same time offering a unique perspective we have never seen before.

The League of Women Voters has a long history of hosting nonpartisan candidate forums and educating the American people. Every election season, Leagues across the country hold hundreds of candidate debates and forums to help voters learn about the candidates on their ballot. Attending or watching a candidate forum is one of the best ways to prepare for casting your ballot. As a core feature of U.S. politics, candidate forums help voters learn more about a candidate and their stance on key issues.

- Candidate debates help us get informed and learn more about the candidates: Forums help voters cut through the noise and get the facts by hearing firsthand about a candidate's views and plans. Research even shows that attending a debate or forum can impact your vote, and that Americans are more likely to vote when they feel informed about the candidates.
- Forums provide us with an opportunity for us to ask the hard questions: Forum moderators often take questions from the audience, which means that you have the chance to ask candidates – publicly and on the record – about the issues that matter most to you. We have a right to have our voices represented in government, and candidate forums help us ask the questions to determine the candidate that best reflects our concerns.
- Democracy works best when we engage with it: When you watch a forum and discuss it with the people around you – including coworkers, classmates, friends, and family – you're helping foster important dialogue about the issues that affect our lives.
- The candidates that we vote into office will make important decisions that affect you, your family, and your community: The people we elect this November will make decisions that affect issues like the economy, education, security, health care and more. Election Day is just around the corner; now is the time for all of us to get the information we need to cast a ballot in the 2022 elections.

Come be a part of the process of shaping our community. Attend the forum:

- In person at 6:30 PM at Yakima City Hall Council Chambers at 129 North Second Street
- Online with live stream at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream/>
- Through Y-PAC on 194 Spectrum Cable or on Y-PAC website.

- Lee Murdock

LEAGUE CONNECTS WITH PUBLIC AT FARMERS' MARKET

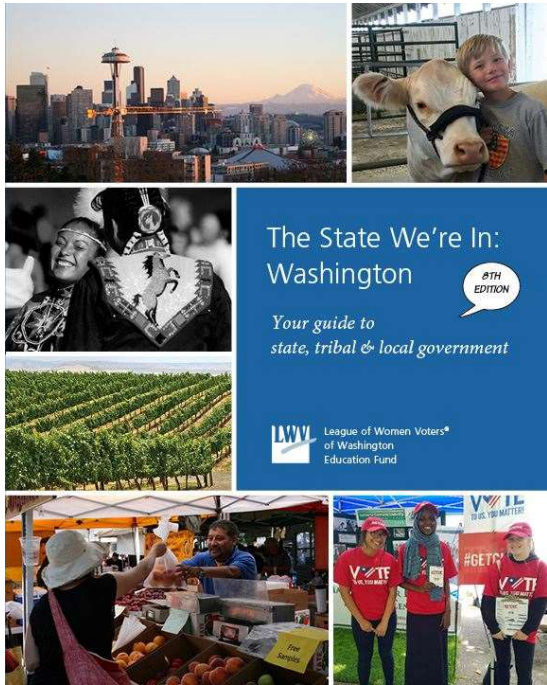
Having a booth at the Downtown Yakima Farmers' Market was a great success thanks to Kitty Jubran, Criss Bardill, Janis Luvaas, Steve Hill, and Deborah Severtson-Coffin – all of whom volunteered to talk to members, answer questions, and enjoy the sounds of the market.

Over the 8 weekends we were there, we interacted with almost 200 individuals which resulted in 70 membership applications being handed out, 2 new members and 31 new people added to our Friends of the League distribution list. Volunteers also registered 5 new voters and answered scores of questions.

A great big thank you to the members who stopped by to say hi and ask about our upcoming forum. I look forward to doing this again next year!

Civic Education...

BOOK PROVIDES INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS



Our League Vision is for “a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.” To assist in understanding the structures and functioning of our government, our Yakima League has ordered a supply of the books, *The State We’re In: Washington* published by the Washington State League of Women Voters. Copies will be available for individual purchase at coming events.

Subtitled, *Your Guide to State, Tribal and Local Government*, this edition is useful as a textbook for middle school and high school as well as adult civic education. It is a friendly, easy-to-read primer that covers the basics of what government is, how it works, and why we should care about it. Graphs, photos and drawings accompany the inclusive telling of Washington State, including historic and current Tribal government as an integral part of civics education.

Another edition of *The State We’re In: Washington* is designed to serve as a civics/history textbook

for elementary grades 3-5. Many colorful images, descriptive pictures and graphics demonstrate the ethnic and geographic diversity of our state. The book is easy and fun to read. It includes chapters on how the early explorers affected tribes, early explorers who arrived by ship, the Lewis and Clark Expedition and other items required for these grades. Contents include how our tribes govern themselves and how they interact with state and local governments, as well as how our state was formed, how local and state governments work, and how governments effect the natural world. It is designed to help students learn who makes the rules in our homes, schools, cities, and state and how they can have a part in making decisions that affect their lives.

League members are encouraged to email yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com for purchasing information or to obtain copies to share with teachers or school administrators they think might benefit from being made aware of this resource.

Also, consider purchasing a copy for yourself and for friends and family. Consider the comments by Kitty Jubran, a long-standing and active member of the League. She reports enjoying the book, finding it easy to read and to follow. And, despite her experience and involvement in the League and in the community, she found information new to her that she is glad to now know.



News and Views from League of Women Voters of Washington State...

CALL ON YOUR DIPLOMACY SKILLS

Our LWVWA President, Lunell Haught, recently noted that, “Increasingly League members need diplomacy skills to navigate social spaces, whether dealing with rudeness at a tabling event (it happens) or on social media.” Dictionary.com includes as a definition of diplomacy, “skill in managing negotiations, handling people, etc., so that there is little or no ill will.”

The National Museum of American Diplomacy identifies nine skills that make successful communication more likely, and “ill will” less likely. Excerpted from their site at <https://diplomacy.state.gov/education/the-9-skills-of-diplomacy>, is a list that we can check against our habits and continue to develop:

1. **Analysis:** Study and think critically about situations.
2. **Awareness:** Respect different cultures and customs. Recognize when situations and circumstances are changing and adapt to meet that change. Be aware of what is not known and understood.
3. **Communication:** Articulate positions with clear and appropriate language and listen openly to others’ positions. Determine where interests overlap.
4. **Leadership:** Take action and make decisions using information that is available. Keep the big picture in mind.
5. **Collaboration:** Incorporate the ideas of others and find common ground. Take cues from others when formulating responses and making proposals.
6. **Composure:** Work with others in a professional manner and calmly deal with the range of attitudes and behaviors exhibited by counterparts, difficult partners, and adversaries.
7. **Management:** Use the skills of team members. Know what tools and resources are available to help.
8. **Innovation:** Formulate alternatives and be flexible in responding to unanticipated circumstances.
9. **Advocacy:** Speak on and pursue the goals and missions of your organization and position. Advocacy is also speaking up for and with others who may not have their voices heard.

Lunell Haught concluded her remarks about diplomacy with, “The additional benefit of this list is that it is useful for being a more welcoming organization, because we can also use diplomacy skills to effectively work together with our colleagues.”

STATE LEAGUE WORKS ON ISSUES IN OUR “BACK YARD”

Our LWVWA joined Leagues of Oregon, Idaho, and Montana in commenting on The Columbia River Treaty Modernization Negotiations. Advocating for “comprehensive planning on a basin-wide basis for conservation, development, and management of the water,” the Leagues called for: 1) adding “ecosystem-based function” as a stated treaty purpose; 2) consulting with regional Native American tribes to honor treaty rights; and 3) strengthening flood control measures.

The Hanford Advisory Board, organized with the commitment and support of the LWVWA, has been working on the Hanford cleanup for decades, yet underfunding contributes to the disappointing slow pace of The Hanford Nuclear Site Cleanup. The urgency of stabilizing tank waste for storage and disposal may be set aside in competing interests of the agencies involved. The League will continue to lobby for additional funding for Hanford cleanup.

Find more information about the League’s efforts from the September 2022 issue of the LWVWA Newsletter: *The Evergreen Voter* at <https://lwvwa.org/Evergreen-Voter>.

National LWV Project...

COMBATING MIS- AND DISINFORMATION

Political and social speech online, in the media and in person is increasingly loaded with falsehoods. Whether deliberately designed to deceive – disinformation – or unwittingly distributed – misinformation – such statements divide people and get in the way of democracy. When there is no common agreement as to facts, mutual understandings are difficult to achieve.

The LWV Democracy Truth Project has been established to partner with elections officials for effective public messaging, reach out to news media to position the League as a go-to resource for accurate information, engage with partners for opportunities for action and education, and provide voters with accurate information as well as skills and experience to identify and counter mis- and disinformation. Better public understanding of the democratic and electoral process helps reduce the impact of what isn't true. Individuals are encouraged to learn through reliable sources and decline to pass on "information" that is suspected or known to be false.

For 2022 – 2023 the Democracy Truth Project focuses on education, training, and hands-on opportunities for voters to engage with their government and the electoral process beyond voting through customized state strategies.

Additional information is available at "Democracy Truth Project" on the LWV website at: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy/democracy-truth-project>.

State Elections Website....

TRACK YOUR BALLOT



A wealth of personalized voter information is available online simply by typing in [votewa.gov](https://voter.votewa.gov), or clicking this link: <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>. Enter your name and birthdate to check your registration and change your address if needed. At election time, find out if your ballot has been mailed to you, then if it has been returned to the county elections office and accepted. The "Voting History" button lists past elections for which your ballot was counted.

The website also provides a list of your elected representatives at all levels from President to school board members and precinct officers. You can also get background on issues and candidates who will be on your ballot and access a voter guide specific to your neighborhood. Be informed, and VOTE!

Our Yakima County League...

NEW MEMBERS JOIN OUR RANKS

Thus far in 2022, six new members have joined our league. Warm welcome to:

Soneya Lund	Natalie McClendon
Ulla Whitmont	Lisa Wallace
Colleen Anderson	Cindy Olivas

Simply by joining they affirm their support for our comprehensive mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy! We look forward to getting to know them better at League and community events and welcome their particular interests and involvement.

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, 2022, renewal date June 30, 2023
b) Initial dues paid February 24, 2023, renewal date June 30, 2024



Presents

Yakima County Commissioner Forum

Thursday, October 20 at 6:30 pm

The League of Women Voters of Yakima County, in partnership with multiple co-sponsors listed below, is holding a Yakima County Commissioners Candidate’s Forum at Yakima City Hall Council Chambers located at 129 North Second Street, Yakima, WA 98901.

The Yakima County Commissioner candidates are:

- District 1: Amanda McKinney and Angie Girard
- District 2: Dulce Gutierrez and Kyle Curtis
- District 3: LaDon Linde and Steven Saunders

Moderator:

Greg Halling, Executive Editor,
Yakima Herald Republic



Ways to Watch:

- In person at Yakima City Hall
- Live stream www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream
- Y-PAC Web Site and 194 Spectrum Cable



Co-sponsors:



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF YAKIMA COUNTY

le presenta

Foro Publico de candidatos al comité de comisionados del condado de Yakima

Jueves 20 de Octubre, empezando a las 6:30pm

La Liga de Mujeres Votantes del Condado de Yakima en participación con los varios patrocinadores incluidos en este aviso. Le invitan a un foro público con los 6 candidatos a los 3 puestos de comisionados de condado del condado de Yakima. El cual se llevará a cabo en la sala de reuniones del concilio municipal dentro del edificio municipal de la ciudad de Yakima.

129 N. 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901

Los candidatos a comisionado del condado de Yakima son:

Distrito 1: Amanda McKinney y Angie Girard

Distrito 2: Dulce Gutiérrez y Kyle Curtis

Distrito 3: LaDon Linde y Steven Saunders

El moderador del evento será:

Greg Halling, Editor Ejecutivo del periódico local,
Yakima Herald Republic



Maneras de conectarse:

- En persona en el edificio municipal de la ciudad de Yakima
- Por internet en vivo www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream
- Sitio Web de Y-PAC y por medio del canal 194 en su servicio de cable Spectrum



Los patrocinadores del evento son lo siguientes:



Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima

