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

This Newsletter published by and for the

League of Women Voters of Yakima County

PO Box 723 Yakima WA 98907 509-452-3419

April, 2020

Vol.20, No 4

**CALENDAR**

*Online:* Monday, May 4; 4:30 PM. **Leadership Team Meeting.** Via Zoom. ***Check email for details.***

*Online:* Weekend of May 30 – 31. **League of Women Voters of Washington State Council.** Via Zoom. *See Notes from Criss on Page 2. Additional information to come.*

*Looking ahead:*

*Tentative:* Monday, June 15**. LWVYC Annual Meeting**. Details to follow.

*Tentative*: Tuesday, June 23; 5:30 PM. **League Conversation.** (Topic To Be Announced.) Wesley United Methodist Church, 14 N 48th Avenue, Yakima.*.*

**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.

March 26

April1, 4 PM

**Officers**

*President:*  Criss Bardill

*Secretary:* Karen Pilon

*Treasurer:* Janis Luvaas

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Kitty Jubran

Susan Kaphammer

Cheri Kilty

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Marilyn Shearer

Elaine Smith

*Voter Editor:* Susan Kaphammer

949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board meets at 4:00 PM the 1st Monday of each month at the League Office at the UUCY Church, 225 N 2nd Street, Yakima

**All members are welcome to attend.**



**2020 Census**

**In the Time of**

**Covid-19**

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The Census Bureau has pushed out the deadlines that had been given to the various steps of the 2020 Census. The bottom line is that the Census now needs to be completed by August 14. This will hopefully help achieve a more complete count.

Our local League civic engagement activities in support of the census have been suspended. But we all still need to be completing our own census, encouraging family and friends to do the same, and promoting the Census though our online activities, our social groups, our employment, and our churches. The census article on p. 3-4 of this newsletter gives information to help in encouraging people to participate.

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***LWVYC President’s Column…***

**NOTES FROM CRISS**

I sincerely hope this finds all of you well and safe, and your families and loved ones the same. These times present all of us with many challenges, but I am heartened by the generous assistance being offered on line, especially on the *Yakima Cares* Facebook page (check it out), and the many people sewing and crafting masks for our medical folks and other first responders. We are all learning to cope in various ways and, hopefully, to keep our spirits up and work to help others do the same.

On Monday, April 6, our Leadership Team held our monthly meeting online using the Zoom meeting software. While there were inevitable challenges, we held a successful meeting as some of us go kicking and screaming into this new technology (and some of us were already experienced hands at this).

A few updates to share: our Annual Meeting has been tentatively rescheduled to June 15. Hopefully by then it will be safe to meet in person. But if not, we will need to set up a virtual meeting prior to the end of our fiscal year, which is June 30. We will also hopefully restart our *League Conversation*s with a presentation on June 23rd.

The State Council Meeting scheduled in Yakima on May 30-31 will now be a virtual meeting, via Zoom. Delores Irwin from the Kittitas County League and I are members of the Council committee and will be sharing more information as the schedule and structure gets finalized. There will be a small registration fee ($20-25) to cover costs, and the individual trainings and breakout sessions will happen over several days and attendees will be able to pick and choose what they want to attend. This will be an opportunity for members to mix on-line with League members from all over the state, and take in as much as they want of the conference offerings while avoiding the typical expense of in-person registration fees. (And you can attend in your pajamas or sweats!)

In looking forward to more normalized times, we hope to provide local candidate forums in the fall and may be co-sponsoring a State Candidates forum under the State League structure.

Finally, a bit of housekeeping. We have been unable to track down the 2nd set of keys to the UU Church and our League Office. I think they have been missing for over a year. Please let me know if, by chance, you have these. Thanks!

***Election Issues of Concern…***

**ELECTION SAFETY AND ACCESS NEEDED**

The League of Women Voters of the United States has called for a nationwide expansion of no-excuse absentee voting and mail-in ballots due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak:  “The League of Women Voters officially calls on all states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia to expand no-excuse absentee voting and mail-in ballots for the duration of the 2020 election cycle. In light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, it is imperative for state election officials to address voters’ and poll workers’ fears by limiting the need to cast an in-person ballot. The time to act is now.”

Washington State has been a leader in implementing mail-in voting. But many states face challenges in providing for voter and election-official safety in addition to ongoing concerns for ballot security and voter access. The League continues to monitor and advocate protecting voters and the election process for all citizens.

Read the full [League of Women Voters statement](https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-calls-states-expand-absentee-and-mail-voting?utm_source=MonthlyHighlights&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=March2020).

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***Personal and League Civic Engagement…***

**ABOUT THE CENSUS**

The current census is the 6th in my lifetime, although I have no recall of the first few. Since the scheduled activities promoting Census participation planned for the League involvement are suspended, I wanted to refresh my own understanding of our Census so I can informally promote it to friends, family and acquaintances. I hope this survey of Census factoids might be useful to you as well. Perhaps you will find, as I did, that I had more to learn.

MANDATED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION (Article 1, Section 2): “Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers… The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.”

COUNTS PEOPLE, NOT CITIZENS: Intended to count the U.S. population as of April 1, including all people living in the 50 States and in 5 Territories – Puerto Rico, American Samoa, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Participation is required by law. Citizenship status is not asked or tabulated.

PRIVACY MANDATED: By law (Title 13 of U.S. Code) the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, homes or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies. Every Census employee takes an oath to protect personal information for life.

DETERMINES CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION: Results determine how many seats each state has in the House of Representatives. The Federal Census Redistricting Data Program provides population informationfor redrawing congressional and state legislative districts, subject to various procedures established by each state.

IMPACTS FEDERAL FUNDING: Individuals and communities are supported or protected by over 130 programs for which planning and funding is based on population information from the Census. Programs impacted by Census information are detailed in the government publication, [Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution](https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2020-01/Uses-of-Census-Bureau-Data-in-Federal-Funds-Distribution.pdf). Examples include:

Medicaid and Medicare Part B

Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to States

Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Block Grants

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and WIC

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Special Education and Career and Technical Education Grants to States

Head Start

Family Violence Prevention and Services / Grants for Battered Women’s Shelters

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Allocation to States

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness

Adoption Assistance

English Language Acquisition Grants

Section 8 Housing

Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons

*(continued on Page 4)*

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ABOUT THE CENSUS *(continued from Page 3)*

Unemployment Insurance

Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support

Wildlife Restoration

Small Business Development Centers

…. and many others, totaling over $689 Billion in 2015

CENSUS DATA WIDELY USED:

* Businesses use population statistics to help decide where to add jobs, expand, or open new stores, restaurants, factories, offices or other businesses..
* Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.
* Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

AVOID CENSUS SCAMS: The Census Bureau will never request: Social Security numbers, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, anything having to do with a political party.

This article quoted and adapted information from, [*Shape Your Future*](https://2020census.gov/)*,* the official 2020 Census website. -- Susan Kaphammer



**League of Women Voters of Yakima County**

**Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_\_$60 Basic\_\_\_\_\_\_$40 Each additional family member at same residence

Sustaining Gift: $60 \_\_\_\_\_ $40 \_\_\_\_\_ $25\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**

LWVYC

PO Box 723

YAKIMA WA 98907

Your Sustaining Gift provides additional support for our local activities.

**\*Please Note Annual Dues Distribution:** National: $32

State: $19

LWVYC retains: $ 9

## VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

Secretary of State [www.secstate.wa.gov/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/)

LWVWA- Vote 411 Yakima County Auditor

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.vote411.org) <http://yakimacounty.us/170/Elections>