

# 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.*

August, 2019  
Vol. 19, No 8

## 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.

## Calendar

Monday, September 9, 4:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting. LWVY Office, Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima, 225 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Yakima. *Note change to 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday for this month due to Labor Day Holiday.*

Tuesday, October 22, 5:30 PM October Conversation: El Censo 2020. Wesley United Methodist Church, 14 N 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima. More information to follow.

### NOTE:

CANCELLED: Monday, September 16 address, "Civil Conversations in an Angry Age" by David Smith. See "Notes From Criss" in this issue.

## Officers

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*Voter Editor:* Susan Kaphammer  
949-0127; [susanlkap@gmail.com](mailto:susanlkap@gmail.com)

The Board meets at 4:00 PM the 1st Monday  
of each month at the League office.

**All members are welcome to attend.**

## LWVYC Offers "Land Acknowledgement"

You may notice the additional wording in the masthead of this newsletter, acknowledging that we live on lands the Yakama People once exclusively inhabited. Last month the Board approved this wording for our publications.

In, "Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call to Acknowledgement," the [U.S. Department of Arts and Culture](#) calls on, "All artists, cultural workers, public officials, educators, administrators, community leaders, organizers, and engaged community members to open all public events and gatherings with acknowledgement of the traditional Native inhabitants of the land."

USDAC notes that, "Acknowledgement by itself is a small gesture. But this beginning can be an opening to greater public consciousness of Native sovereignty and cultural rights, [and] a step toward equitable relationship and reconciliation."

Our local League takes this action to show respect and honor the truth of the land and its people.

## NOTES FROM CRISS

You have all received the invitation to participate in the **Yakima Sunfair Parade** on September 21. It would be a wonderful opportunity to show our support for and our place in the Yakima community. Participation is open to anyone who supports our mission of **Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy**. We need a minimum commitment of 20 people to justify the \$100 entrance fee. Please let me know if you want to commit to this event and please invite friends and family as well!

We were disappointed to cancel the **Humanities WA speaker David Smith on “Civil Conversations in an Angry Age”**. David was not able to accommodate our evening date of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we felt a noon or afternoon presentation would restrict our attendance.

On July 24, five League members from Yakima and one from the Kittitas League, two ESD105 Education Advocates, and the Director of Teaching, Learning and Instruction Technology from the Sunnyside School District gathered for a 4 hour introduction to the **Kids Voting USA program**. Bonnie Bless-Boenish from the Clallam County LWV was our trainer, with assistance from her husband, Han. We were all very invigorated by the scope and power of this program, as well as somewhat overwhelmed with the same! The Yakima League attendees met the following week for a “where from here” discussion, and are now reaching out to ESD105 for their possible support of the program as a continuing education offering to teachers, and if Bonnie would be available to return for a full 12 hour, 2 day training. If you are interested in knowing more about this program, please explore at this link: [www.kidsvotingusa.org](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org)

On Tuesday, 8/13, Elaine Smith and I will be representing the League at the Grandview Together Night Out event. We will offer voter registration and educational materials. This is another opportunity to make our presence known in lower Yakima County.

## Sign Up and Open Up: Keeping Our LWVWA Community Informed!

From Amy Peloff, Administrator, League of Women Voters of Washington

Your League can be the most informed in Washington (yes, we can keep track of this)!

TWIL (*This Week in League*) is THE way friends and members get the inside scoop on neighboring Leagues and the State League issues, ideas, and events. It is quick to scan, there are [copies archived](#) on the [For Members](#) section of LWVWA.org. The goal is to have 100% member subscribers, and 95% of them regularly opening the link to check it out. If you have signed up for this and aren't getting it check your spam filter... If you haven't signed up for it, or you aren't sure... [sign up here](#).

Not Sure How to Login to the “Members Only” Section of LWVWA.org? Here is a quick refresher on how to do this:

1. Visit our website: [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)
2. Click on “FOR MEMBERS” in the menu bar—it is on the far right.
3. Click on the “Log in” link in the gold bar. (Alternatively, you can also click on the “Log in” link in the purple section of the footer on any page.)
4. Enter your email and password and click on the blue “Log in” button.
  - a. If you have forgotten your password (or never had one in the first place!), click on the “Forgot password” link to the right of the blue “Log in” button.
  - b. On this page, enter your email address and then type the (somewhat difficult to read) characters that appear in the grey box into the “\*Code” section.

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**Sign Up and Open Up** *continued from Page 2*

- c. This will generate an email to that account that contains a new password for you to use. If you get an error message that tells you “Email not found,” contact Amy at [apeloff@lwvwa.org](mailto:apeloff@lwvwa.org) or (206) 622-8961 and she will help you.
- d. Once you are logged in, you can now access the members only content. If you click on “FOR MEMBERS” in the menu bar now, either a submenu will appear for you to use to navigate, or, it will take you to the “For Members” page where a new menu will appear under the main menu that will give you access to the restricted content.



## State-Owned Public Banks: A National "Hot Topic"

by LWVWA Public Bank Task Force

The LWVWA (League of Women Voters Washington) established a Public Bank Task Force (PBTF) to address League members' interest in discussing the current legislative proposal for the Washington Investment Trust, a state-owned public bank cooperative. If enacted, potential impacts of this proposal may affect both urban and rural communities throughout the state. The PBTF distributes information on the *LWVWA This Week In League* (TWIL) newsletter with links and will provide resource materials compiled to date on the LWVWA website.



However, it is important for us to hear from Local Leagues in both urban and smaller communities, which are often not strongly represented in Olympia. To address the need to share information, educate all League members and determine what, if any, involvement the league should have, the PBTF has begun contacting every local league asking that one person be identified as a point of contact. This person should be the main point of contact for the PBTF to share pertinent documents with the local league members, and to solicit member input.

The PBTF wants to know if members are currently aware of the public bank proposal, and if they have an opinion of the idea. Please email [publicbanktf@lwvwa.org](mailto:publicbanktf@lwvwa.org) with your comments and questions.

**MEMBERS CORNER:** Remember this ongoing feature provides an opportunity for members to submit brief announcements they would like League members to see. They should be non-partisan, non-profit making, and personally involve the member. Just call or email your Voter Editor at 949-0127 or [susanlkap@gmail.com](mailto:susanlkap@gmail.com)

### In Memory of...

We are saddened to observe the passing of two women who were active in our local League. [Charlotte Johnson](#), was a League member in the 1990s. [Doris Ayyoub](#) also joined the League in the 1990s. Joyce Dennison remembers Doris's “conscientious work as money-manager for the League and her over-all enthusiasm and involvement with the League.” Find the obituary accounts of their long and full lives by clicking on their names.

## **Able-Bodied Privilege and Accessible Event Planning Shur Fellow Guidance (April 2019)**

*From LWV Webpage on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy:*

*“LWV 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.”*

In our [DEI \(Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy\)](#) we list ability status as one basis on which there should be no barrier for full League participation. We would like to offer some suggestions for how you can make sure any League event or program you plan is accessible to anyone, but first we wanted to look at what those who are able-bodied may take for granted as part of able-bodied privilege.

The following is from *Everyday Feminism*:

This list includes examples of the benefits those of us who are able-bodied — i.e. not physically disabled, chronically ill, severely obese or otherwise physically limited — experience. (Cognitive ability, a.k.a. neurotypical privilege also exists, but deserves its own article, so will not be included in this list).

Keeping these things in mind will help us to relate to those among us who encounter barriers due to physical limitations and to gain more understanding of what they go through on a daily basis.

1. You can go about your day without planning every task, like getting dressed or going to the bathroom.
2. You can play sports easily.
3. Public transportation is easy for you.
4. Air travel is relatively easy for you.
5. Others don’t get frustrated with you in public for needing special accommodations or holding up lines.
6. You don’t have to worry about others’ reactions to your able-ness.
7. You have ample role models of your ability to whom you can aspire.
8. You don’t frequently encounter communication barriers.
9. Leisure activities like gardening, knitting or woodworking are easy for you.
10. You can expect to be included in-group activities.
11. As an able-bodied person, you are well-represented in movies, books and TV shows.
12. Typically, you don’t have to rely on others to accomplish tasks.
13. Others don’t assume you need to rely on them to accomplish tasks.
14. As a healthy person, you don’t have to think about your daily pain level when planning events and activities.
15. You can expect to find housing that accommodates your physical needs.
16. People don’t make fun of you because of your ability.
17. Public access to buildings, parks, restaurants etc. is easy for you (this especially applies in small towns wherein handicap access may be limited).
18. If you get hired people don’t assume it’s based on your ability.
19. You don’t face job discrimination based on your ability.
20. Your ability isn’t the butt of jokes in TV shows and movies.

We encourage you to review the list and spend some time on self-reflection and group reflection on: What on this list never occurred to you? What would you add to this list? How might this unconscious



bias impact: How an event is planned? What isn't considered when selecting a venue or location? What additional accommodations are factored into planning?

Consider adding the following to your event planning strategy and checklist:

- When you send out the invitation or notice, include a welcome message to let invitees know they can contact the planner regarding accommodations.
  - Consider adding options for them to select. Options may include: Assistive listening device, Captioning or sign language interpreter, Reserved front row seat, Large print, Advance copy of slides to be projected, Wheelchair access.
  - Only include options that you can reasonably offer and can budget for.
- Look for these features when inspecting your meeting/event space:
  - Visibility – Consider those with impaired sight:
    - Clear signage (identifying location and directions)
    - Well-lit meeting space and adjacent areas
    - Projection screen visible from all seating (if using projection).
  - Acoustics – Consider those with hearing impairment:
    - Microphones for all speakers and roving microphone for Q&A
    - Limit unnecessary background music
    - Seating available near presenter for lip reading
    - Availability of assistive listening devices.
    - Well-lit space for an interpreter if needed
  - Mobility – Consider those who may be in a wheelchair or have other mobility impairments:
    - Accessible parking near venue
    - Proximity to bus stop
    - Ramp and/or elevator access
    - Accessible bathrooms
    - Barrier-free pathways
    - Wide doorways and aisles to accommodate wheelchairs/scooters
    - No loose cables across walking areas.
  - Technology – Consider those who may need to use adaptive devices:
    - Electrical outlets in accessible seating areas to accommodate devices, laptops, etc.
    - Extra space or work surface
  - Service Animals – Consider access and space for service dogs:
    - Comfortable space for service animals to rest during event
    - Accessible toileting and watering facilities nearby.

*NOTE about Shur Fellows:*

*The National Coaching Team (aka [Ruth S. Shur Fellows](#)) has been made possible by a generous financial contribution made to the LWV Education Fund from League member Walter Shur, of Pittsboro, North Carolina, in memory of his wife Ruth S. Shur, a longtime League member and leader. This gift provides for a national coaching team that supports and strengthens emerging League leadership, membership recruitment and League visibility and best practices. [Ruth S. Shur](#) Fellows are a team of dynamic and dedicated volunteers from across the country currently focused on the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) vision for the organization.*

## It's Time to Restore the Voting Rights Act

In a recent message from Celina Stewart, LWV Senior Director of Advocacy and Litigation, League members were reminded that August 6 was the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Instead of celebrating this landmark legislation, advocates are embroiled in opposing attacks on voting rights of Americans.

Despite increasing evidence of voter discrimination and disenfranchisement, Congress has failed to act on pending legislation to restore the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. House Resolution 4: The Voting Rights Advancement Act counters the impacts of the Supreme Court decision on *Shelby County v Holder*, voter ID laws, gerrymandering, and voter purges, all of which threaten voting, especially for young people and communities of color.

League members are urged to contact our Representative and press for support for H.R. 4. Washington 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative Dan Newhouse. Office: 202-225-5816. Local office: 509-452-3243. 1318 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Your Sustaining gift will help support our local activities.

**\*Please Note Annual Dues Distribution:** National: \$32  
State: 19  
LWVYC retains: 9  
\$60

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

### VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

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

LWVWA- Vote 411  
[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

Yakima County Auditor  
<http://yakimacounty.us/170/Elections>