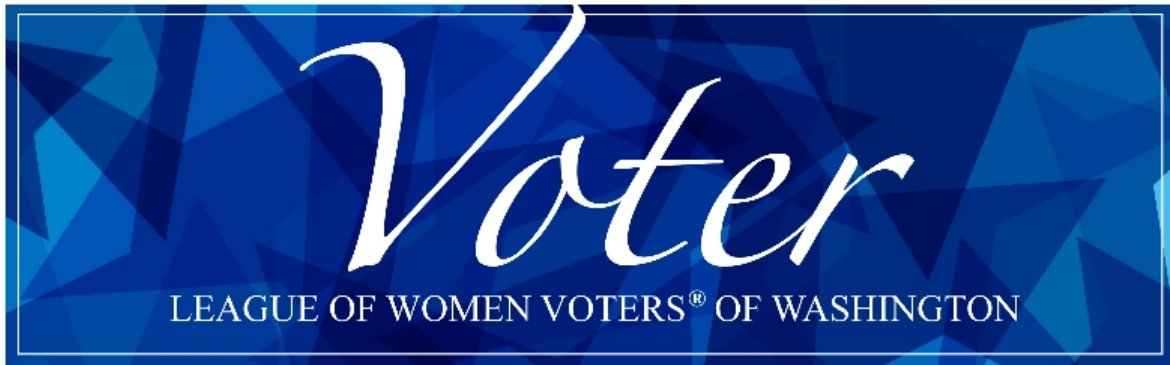


April 3, 2020

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Empowering all Washingtonians to engage in a more responsible and responsive democracy

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## Governor Signs Sexual Health Education Bill

By Ann Murphy, Lobby Team Chair, LWV of Washington



You can watch the governor sign the bill on the [TVW website](#) (signing at 10:16).

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voters of Washington submitted a petition with more than 500 signatures to the governor's office urging him to sign the bill; the opposition sent more than 9,000 messages.

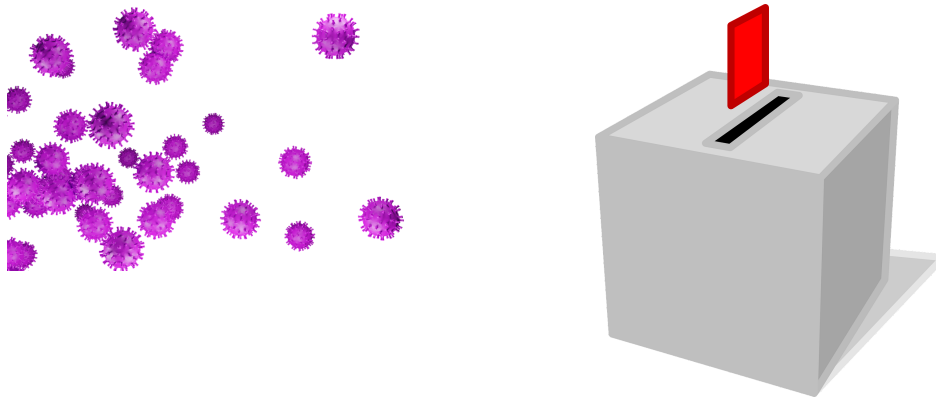
The bill was requested by Chris Reykdal, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and cosponsored by Senator Claire Wilson. Representative Monica Jurado Stonier was the prime sponsor of the companion House bill, HB 1407.

A variety of backers included the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington Education Association, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands, Washington State Department of Health, YMCA, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, statewide Parent Teacher Association, along with students from various grade levels and colleges.

The opposition to this bill has already started a campaign to gather signatures to place Referendum 90, which would repeal SB 5395, on the 2020 fall ballot.

Follow the news in your area and stay tuned for more information from the League on further action.

## Elections in the Time of Coronavirus



As the nation copes with the coronavirus outbreak, we're seeing calls for more flexibility in voting. It's critical to safeguard our election process to ensure that the upcoming elections are secure and that all voters have access to cast their ballots. While Washington State is a leader in mail-in voting, it's time to [advocate for this at the national level](#).

Last week, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and while we're pleased Congress came together to provide desperately needed relief, the bill fell short of the [\\$2 billion in election funding needed](#) to safeguard the right to vote in the upcoming November election. The League of Women Voters has called on Congress to [prioritize elections in the next round of stimulus](#).

Additionally, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Ron Wyden have introduced the [Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act](#) (co-sponsored by both Washington State senators) to expand voting by mail to all states and offer contingency plans that would allow Americans to vote in the event of an emergency.

## Census: Be Counted

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In these times of uncertainty, standing together is critical, even if it's at a distance. Completing the census (and helping in getting out the count) are two actions we can take to support our communities and participate fully in our democracy during the coronavirus crisis. More than \$800 billion of federal funding for states and localities is also allocated according to official census counts. This determines the number of seats in Congress for each state and affects decisions and funds for schools, hospitals, roads, infrastructure, and other areas of daily life.

Visit the [LWVWA Census page](#) to see how you can help the census count in your community by working with or creating a [Complete Count Committee](#). Urge your friends and family to complete the census and help the League in promoting Get Out the Count. Both the federal government and the state Office of Financial Management provide promotional resources. For updates on how the coronavirus is affecting the census, check the U.S. Census Bureau's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

## Want to Learn More About Ranked-Choice Voting?

By Ann Murphy, Lobby Team Chair, LWV of Washington

As a result of its election methods study, the League of Women Voters of Washington “supports the concept of a majority vote requirement for winners of single offices such as mayor or governor, as long as it is achieved using a voting method such as the instant runoff vote, rather than a second, separate runoff election.” The [2020 Issue Paper on Elections](#) provides more information about the League’s stance.

RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE.  
FILL IN ONE CIRCLE PER CANDIDATE AND ONE  
CIRCLE PER CHOICE.

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Ranked-choice voting (RCV), sometimes referred to as “instant runoff voting,” is an electoral system that allows voters to rank multiple candidates in order of preference on their ballots. If a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, then that candidate is declared the winner. If not, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. A new tally is then conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of the adjusted votes. The process is repeated until one

candidate wins an absolute majority. You can read more in the League’s [studies and reports](#) on its website.

The LWVWA supported RCV in the 2019-2020 legislature with [HB 1722](#) and [SB 5708](#). These companion bills would allow local jurisdictions to circumvent the top two primary system and implement RCV for the general elections. The LWVWA has supported these bills since introduction and anticipates supporting the bills that will be introduced in the 2021 session.

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If you have questions about RCV, contact Kathy Sakahara, Democracy Issue Chair, at [ksakahara@lwvwa.org](mailto:ksakahara@lwvwa.org).

## Democracy ZOOMs On

Between September 2019 and March 2020, 75 League sessions used the video platform Zoom to meet virtually. Since moving to all-virtual meetings in March, 127 Zoom meetings and presentations have been scheduled for the near future.

Despite the challenges we face, the League is proving you don't have to be face-to-face to make democracy work!

## Washington State Nonprofit Conference Goes Virtual



**Washington State  
Nonprofit  
Conference**

In light of the coronavirus, and out of concern for the well-being of the community, Washington State Nonprofits has decided to change how it implements its [2020 Washington State Nonprofit Conference](#), *The Power of Participation*. It will no longer be held in-person at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue on May 19 and 20.

Instead, the conference will be held on the same dates as follows:

- Many of the workshops and some other aspects of the conference will be virtual, along with some new features, on the same conference days, so save those dates!
- Conference workshops will be listed on the Washington State Nonprofits website, with many of the current sessions included but offered in new, creative, and interactive ways. The conference agenda is under development and the offerings be posted by April 10 and completed by April 15.
- All three of the daylong Deep Dive sessions will be in webinar format. Each session will consist of a series of three webinars, spaced out over two to three weeks. This will include the same great content and presenters as originally scheduled. Planned dates are targeted for June and July 2020. Exact dates and times are to come.

Overall the conference will have the same price structure, and there will still be opportunities for connecting, sharing, and finding answers to your most pressing questions. You can still use the [registration link](#) to register for the conference. Members of the League of Women Voters of Washington are eligible for the member rate (the discount code for local Leagues is on the [member section](#) of the LWVWA website). Early-bird discount member fee of \$192 goes through May 4. After that, the member price is \$228.

Washington Nonprofits is currently monitoring how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting

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# Calendar

2020 is the Centennial of the 19th Amendment, which granted women in the United States the right to vote. It's also the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. Events and celebrations are planned across Washington to mark the occasions. You will find Washington League history and events [here](#). For additional suffrage events across the state see the [Washington Suffrage Centennial website](#).

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**Note: In-person events have been canceled across Washington in response to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information about these restrictions, see the [Washington State Department of Health website](#).**

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## April 2020

**Monday, April 20**—LWV of Washington Board meeting, virtual with Zoom, 9:30 a.m. Anyone is welcome to listen and be on the agenda. If you want to be on the agenda please send an email request to [president@lwvwa.org](mailto:president@lwvwa.org) by April 10. Email [info@lwvwa.org](mailto:info@lwvwa.org) for the Zoom link.

**POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE/MUSEUM CLOSURE**—Exhibit Opening, "[Votes For Women: 100 Years and Counting](#)," Washington State History Museum, Tacoma. On display through August 30, 2020.

**POSTPONED**—*Many Maps, One Voice* performances in Seattle and Spokane.

## May 2020

**Saturday, May 30- Sunday, May 31**—LWVWA Council—Due to the coronavirus outbreak, we will have a virtual council this year! It will still be fun and informative—from the comfort of your own home. Details will follow in the next few weeks on the [LWVWA website](#).

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**The LWVWA state office in Seattle will be closed:**  
**May 29-June 3 (State Council)**  
**June 23-June 30 (National Convention)**

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## June 2020

**Friday, June 12**—Public forum with guest speakers discussing women's history, Edmonds Historical Museum, 118 Fifth Ave. N., Edmonds, WA (details to follow)

**June 25-28**—[LWVUS National Convention 2020](#), Washington, D.C.

**Friday, June 26**—"Where's Missouri Hanna?" scavenger hunt, downtown Edmonds (details to follow)

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~~No July LWVWA Board Meeting—Executive Committee will be available for action~~

## August 2020

**No August LWVWA Board Meeting**—Executive Committee will be available for action

**Saturday, August 15**—LWV Clallam County Centennial Celebration Finale and Quilt Raffle, Olympic Cellars Winery, 255410 US-101, Port Angeles.

**Saturday, August 22**—Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration, State Capitol, Olympia, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Saturday, August 22**—"[Community Party in the Park](#)," Celebration of Women's Equality Day and passage of 19th Amendment, Maritime Park, Bellingham.



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