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February 7, 2020

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

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Once Again, Democracy Rocked!

by Kathy Sakahara, LWVWA Elections, Voting Rights & Campaign Finance Issue Chair

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Democracy rocked again at Democracy Lobby Day 2020 in Olympia on January 21st! This was the third democracy-focused lobby day cosponsored by the [League of Women Voters of Washington State](#) and [FixDemocracyFirst](#), with many saying it was the best one yet.

There were 160 participants representing 35 of Washington's 49 legislative districts raising their voices for a stronger, more inclusive democracy.

We received excellent feedback, with 100% of attendees saying they plan to join us again next year.

"Thank you for your work putting on Democracy Lobby Day. Everything from the communication, to the carpooling tool, to the lawmaker presentations and the scheduled appointments was well planned and communicated. Very worthwhile day."

~Democracy Lobby Day 2020 participant

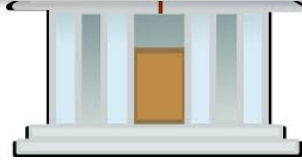
Here are some other things we learned from participants:

- It was the first time some of them had ever met with a legislator
- They left feeling very empowered as a citizen, with a much clearer understanding of how Olympia and the legislative process work
- They felt they can have a voice—and that their participation really does make a difference.
- They're energized to do more advocacy, and want to come back to Lobby Day next year.

Most of the [bills we lobbied](#) for that day are still alive. Yesterday, February 6, was an important cutoff date, so you will find the current status of these bills on their [issue pages](#) by Sunday. Please continue to support bills that survive the cutoff.

Introducing the LWVWA Public Bank Task Force

By Toyoko Tsukuda, Co-chair, LWVWA Public Bank Task Force

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Under the framework of the League's position on privatization,* in April 2019 the LWVWA Public Bank (PB) task force was formed to explore the issue of public banking and evaluate the Washington State Legislature's proposed bill SB 5995 establishing the Washington Investment Trust (WIT), a state-chartered public cooperative bank.

The task force has two objectives. One is to analyze available PB studies and feasibility reports for Washington and other states and to evaluate whether the existing use of private commercial banks to manage public funds meets the League's criteria under its privatization position, or whether state funds should be returned to state control under a public bank. The task force will then recommend to the LWVWA state board whether to support, not support, or not decide on the then current state legislation. The second objective is to share information on PB issues and education with statewide Leagues.

Here are highlights of our progress since April:

- Evaluated the Washington State Legislature's proposed 2019 bill (SB 5995) to establish WIT, a state-owned PB, and discussed it at the PB Caucus at the LWVWA 2019 convention.
- Periodically shared information on PB issues in the LWVWA's member newsletter, *This Week In League (TWIL)*.
- Reviewed and discussed studies, reports, and the California state bill on PB implementation, as well as selected reports, which can be found on the [LWVWA website](#), along with supplemental information including names of the task force members and video resources.
- Other summaries of PB studies for Maine, Vermont, and the California PB bill will be announced in *TWIL* and posted on the League website.
- Currently reviewing and discussing a book on the banking system and functions, [Checking the Banks: The Nuts and Bolts of Banking for People Who Want to Fix It](#) by Tom Sgouros, and a research brief, [Doubly Bound: The Costs of Issuing Municipal Bonds](#), by Marc Joffe, published by the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society.

If you have questions, please contact [Toyoko Tsukuda](#), or [Adele Reynolds](#).

* The LWVWA statement on privatization can be found on page 13 of [Program in Action 2019-2021](#).

**Call to Action for the Equal Rights
Amendment!**



The League of Women Voters of the United States has pushed for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) since Congress first passed it in 1972, and on January 27, 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA!

The week of February 10th, the U.S. House will vote for final passage of H.J. Res. 79, a resolution that will remove the ratification deadline for the ERA. This is a necessary step in ratifying the ERA, as it will remove the ambiguity that the deadline puts on the amendment and clear the way for final ratification.

After the House passes the legislation, the focus will shift to the Senate. Senators Ben Cardin and Lisa Murkowski introduced a bipartisan companion piece in the Senate, S.J. Res. 6. We believe it does not yet have the votes to pass in the Senate, but the LWVUS is working to add more cosponsors and inform members of Congress about the need for this important legislation.

You can do the following things to help pass this important legislation:

1. [Register](#) and join us on our ERA Action call on Friday, February 7 at 2 p.m. PT. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions and plan together to make the ERA a reality.
2. [Contact your representatives](#) and tell them to support the ERA.
3. Talk with senators and their offices when they are home for recess the week of February 17th.
4. Join the active [LWV Equal Rights Amendment Group](#) on Facebook to stay updated!

Self-Check on Bias: We Can Fix Our Polarization

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Of course we are biased. Another word for *bias* is *perspective* with a tinge of *prejudice*. Rather than deny my bias, I'm increasingly interested in recognizing my biases and taking them into account when I act or speak.

Here are some biases we humans tend to have that are worth considering:

Anchoring bias: Relying too much (or anchoring) on one trait or piece of information when making decisions. Just knowing that someone is progressive or conservative or from a particular culture shades everything else I hear about it.

Projection bias: Assuming "everyone" thinks like I do, with the same attitudes, priorities or beliefs. For example, everyone thinks democracy is great, social justice is the most important thing, and we all should carry guns.

Representative bias: Assuming what I am seeing is because it is similar to something I have seen or heard before. We humans love patterns and shortcuts (lazy-brain syndrome...I just named that), so I can assume that I don't have to dig deeply to know what a situation or motivation really is.

Confirmation bias: Looking for information that is consistent with my existing beliefs. I ignore inconsistent information, I make assumptions and have expectations about what I'll find. We process information to confirm that we were right all along.

For a revealing look at your thinking and assumptions, you might want to take the [Factfulness Quiz](#).

The point of all of this is that if we are concerned about polarization there is only one person who can do something about it. If we want to narrow the political divide, consider how these biases affect us. And then see if there is anything in the "opposition" side that we can agree with, or at least understand. We are too complex to reduce ourselves to either/or thinking.

The League Partners with *The 19th*: A Newsroom for and by Women

By Lea Galanter, Communication Chair, LWV of Washington

A group of veteran women journalists from around the country has started a national newsroom, called [The 19th](#), in honor of the 19th Amendment. The League of Women Voters is a founding partner and, like the League, *The 19th* is nonprofit and nonpartisan; it will also be free to read and share. Cofounded by Emily Ramshaw and Amanda Zamora, who both worked at the *Texas Tribune*, *The 19th* will cover gender, politics, and policy in an effort to empower women, especially those who are underserved and underrepresented in the media. The newsroom will focus on evidence-based reporting that exposes gender inequity and injustice and publish stories on issues that affect women, from health care to the economy.



The 19th plans to launch its website, newsletter, and community platform in the summer of

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around the country on a national listening tour that will kick off in Austin on April 22 and include stops in Los Angeles, Denver, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Atlanta.

To learn more about *The 19th*, support the newsroom, or to apply for open positions, visit the website at [The 19thnews.org](https://www.the19thnews.org).

LWV of Kitsap County Centennial Celebration



The LWV will be 100 years old in February, and to celebrate this milestone, The League's administrator, Dr. Amy Peloff (pictured), will join the LWV of Kitsap County on Wednesday, February 26, at the Island Lake Community Building for a potluck brunch and a historical look at the League. (Please bring a brunch item to share and consider bringing a mug and your own table setting to support environmental sustainability.) Her presentation will highlight some of the League's many successes while exploring what we can learn from our history—both positive and negative—to create an even brighter future.

Peloff is an affiliate assistant professor of gender, women, and sexuality studies at the University of Washington. Her writing on feminism has encompassed a variety of pop culture topics, from Dolly Parton to Dr Who, and she continually studies the ways in which ideas about identities are created, presented, and shared through media and entertainment. When she is not working with students at the University of Washington or giving talks on feminism and media through the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau, she runs the state office for the League of Women Voters of Washington.

Many Maps, One Voice Returns for New Tour through Washington and Oregon



Jane Fellows as Mary Ellen McCaffree in *Many Maps, One Voice*.

Timely and timeless, the one-woman play *Many Maps, One Voice* is a lively, provocative dive into the challenges of redistricting. The play brings to life the story of Washington State Representative Mary Ellen McCaffree and her struggle for redistricting reform during the 1960s. Full of surprising ties to today's political landscape, *Many Maps* is a call to civic engagement, citizen action and civility—

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Mary Ellen McCaffree is played by Spokane-born, veteran stage actor Jane Fellows, who brings audiences into the heart and drama of Mary Ellen's journey from mom to redistricting lynchpin. With the 2020 Census, November elections, and 2021 redistricting right around the corner, this educating, entertaining, and inspiring play is a must-see for anyone involved in government, politics, or activism.

The show kicks off its 2020 tour with a one-night performance in Portland on Saturday, February 22 at the Mirabella. This is an intimate setting, so space is limited—RSVP early. The show next goes to Seattle Thursday and Friday, March 19 and 20, including a 2 p.m. matinee on Friday. And for the first time, *Many Maps, One Voice* will be in Spokane Thursday through Saturday, April 23 through 25. For details and ticket information, see the calendar below.

Correction: The author of the January 3 *Voter* article, "Nisqually Tribe Awards Grant to Thurston County League," was Julie Frick. The byline incorrectly listed Sandra Herndon as the author. Herndon was the editor.

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](#).

February 2020

Friday, February 14—100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters

Friday February 14—[LWV Bellingham/Whatcom County](#) Gala Celebration for the League's 100th Anniversary that will coincide with the opening of a [special exhibit](#) commemorating women's suffrage and leaders who have served our state. This event is for members and invited guests, Whatcom Museum, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 14—LWV Tacoma-Pierce County, Gala 100th Birthday Party and High Tea, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m., Olive Branch Café, Freighthouse Square, 2501 E. D St., Tacoma. [Tickets](#) \$40, purchase before Feb. 9.

Saturday, February 15—LWV Thurston County, Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum event honoring the 200th anniversary of Susan B. Anthony's birth and

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Monday, February 17—LWVWA Board Meeting, Virtual

Friday, February 21-Sunday, March 8—LWV Clallam County and Olympic Theatre Arts present *Quilters*, a musical story of a pioneer woman. At Olympic Theatre Arts, 414 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, 360-683-7326.

Saturday, February 22—Many Maps, One Voice, one-woman play about redistricting done right, 7 p.m., Willamette Hall, Mirabella Portland, 3550 SW Bond Ave., Portland, contact [Alison McCaffree](#) for tickets.

Wednesday, February 26—LWV Kitsap County Centennial Celebration, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Island Lake Community Building, 1087 NW Island Lake Rd., Poulsbo.

Wednesday, February 26—King County Library System author event with Elaine Weiss, author of *The Women's Hour*; *The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, including a Q&A and book signing, 7 p.m., Mercer Island High School Performing Arts Center, 9100 SE 42nd St., Mercer Island, [information](#).

Thursday, February 27—LWV Bellingham/Whatcom County author event with Elaine Weiss, author of *The Women's Hour*; *The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Weiss will present a talk, followed by a reception and book signing. The free event is at 6:30 p.m. at Western Washington University Performing Arts Center, 516 High St., Bellingham.

March 2020

Thursday, March 19—*Many Maps, One Voice*, one-woman play about redistricting done right, 7 p.m., Theater Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. S., Seattle, [tickets](#).

Friday, March 20—*Many Maps, One Voice*, one-woman play about redistricting done right, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Theater Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. S., Seattle, [tickets](#).

April 2020

Thursday, April 2—Exhibit Opening, [VOTES FOR WOMEN: 100 Years and Counting](#), Washington State History Museum, Tacoma, WA. On display through August 30, 2020.

Thursday-Saturday, April 23-25—*Many Maps, One Voice*, one-woman play about redistricting done right, 2 p.m. April 23 and 7 p.m. April 24 and 25, Lair Auditorium, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene St., Spokane, free for SCC students, [tickets](#).

May 2020

Saturday, May 30-Sunday, May 31—LWVWA Council, Yakima

June 2020

June 25-28—National LWV Convention, Washington, D.C.

August 2020

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

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marking Women’s Equality Day and the passage of the 19th Amendment. Maritime Park, Bellingham, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, August 22—Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration hosted by the Washington State Women's Commission and the Washington State Historical Society at the Washington State Capitol, Olympia. Free, daylong event featuring speakers, exhibits, vendors, music and more.



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