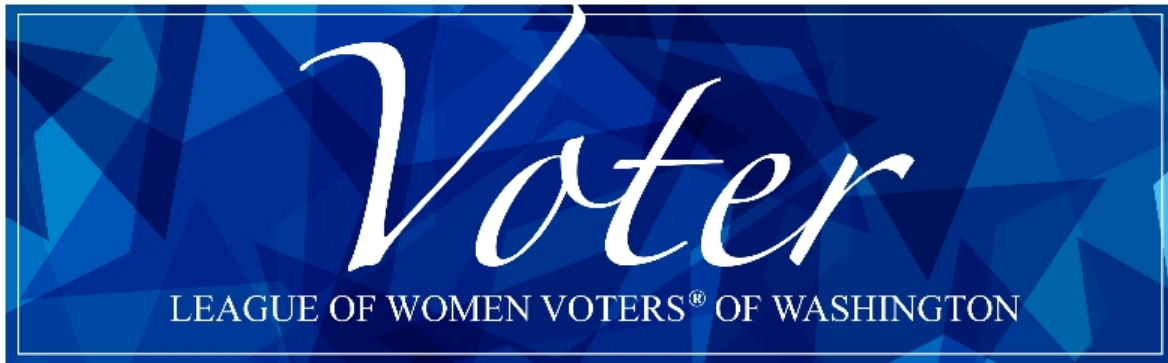


June 5, 2020

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

## In This Issue

- ★ [A Note from the LWV of Washington President](#)
- ★ [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: How to Take Action](#)
- ★ [Referendum 90: Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Deadline](#)

### Approaches

- ★ [Cultivating Civic Conversations: New Discussion Group to Start This](#)

### Month

- ★ [Public Disclosure Commission Seeking Public Input](#)
- ★ [Gonzaga University Choirs Celebrate Suffrage in Song](#)
- ★ [PBS Focuses on "The Vote"](#)
- ★ [LWVWA Calendar](#)

## A Note from the LWV of Washington President

Let us who are here together in common fellowship to make democracy work for everyone take some time to recognize the despair and oppression of many of our fellows. It isn't just one thing that is troubling, it is many things. The advantage of the League is that we work in so many areas (democracy, health care, equity, income, education, and more) that there is a place for you to go from "it is too much, it is overwhelming" to "I can

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not, be in the lead; with others, we will be. I want you to know that state board members are reaching out to leaders in organizations whose main mission is to end racism to see what would be best for the LWVWA to do. We will keep you informed of what develops—also know we are working in many areas. We have important work to do, both immediately and in the long term.

— Lunell Haught

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: How to Take Action

By Susan Fleming, 1st Vice President, LWV of Washington



We are horrified by the police killings of unarmed black men and women. We are well aware of the injustices African Americans have suffered in our country for years, for decades, since before our country was founded. There are laws and there are policies. ... So why are we in this situation? Are the laws and policies being ignored? Willfully or accidentally? There are lots of reasons, but we must remedy this state of affairs if we want to preserve our nation as the home of the free, the land of opportunity, the beacon on the hill. Those phrases sound hollow right now.

I've read sophisticated histories and political analyses; there are reasons why we are where we are. It is good to have some understanding as to how we ended up here, and why we are languishing in this shameful and unhappy place. The League of Women Voters, along with many other organizations, has condemned recent events in the strongest terms.

But what can we *do*? As individuals and as organizations what actions can we take to educate ourselves, work for peace and justice, and move toward fairness and equity among all the races and cultures that live here? Here, we offer some resources to become more informed on the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[Ten Things White People Can Do to Work for Racial Justice](#), by Oren Jay Sofer

[Seventy-Five Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#), by Corinne Shutack

[Anti-Racism Resources](#), compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein

The League of Women Voters of the United States has joined with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in a [letter to our congressional leadership](#) urging Congress to "take swift and decisive legislative action in response to ongoing fatal police killings and other violence against Black people across our country."

We know what to do, or at least how to begin. Let's get to it! Please share your successes.

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By Ann Murphy, Lobby Team Chair, LWV of Washington

The current campaign to gather signatures on Referendum 90, which will put the Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (CSHE) bill on the November 2020 ballot, will draw to a close on June 10, 2020. LWVWA supports the CSHE as passed by the Legislature ([ESSB 5395](#)) and [signed by Governor Jay Inslee earlier this year](#).

In these final signature-gathering days, it is important to know that misinformation is being disseminated about the bill. Many of those fears are misplaced and/or incorrect.

ESSB 5395 ensures that all K-12 students statewide will receive age-appropriate information that is medically and scientifically accurate. The Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has approved several curricula, and the specific curriculum adopted must follow state learning standards. An important part of the bill indicates that a parent or legal guardian can request that their child be excused from CSHE instruction.

The LWVWA encourages you to support ESSB as it was passed and not Referendum 90. Our children deserve the truth.

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## Cultivating Civic Conversations: New Discussion Group to Start This Month



The LWV of Kittitas County and the LWV of Skagit County are forming a new book and podcast group with weekly discussions about areas of civic engagement. The group will meet twice each week, Mondays at 11 a.m. or Tuesdays at 7 p.m., so participants can choose a time that fits with their schedule. The group also includes a private Facebook group.

The goal is to create a community of learners, listeners, activists, and builders by studying individual civic action, studying U.S. history through a diverse lens, reflecting on the words of wise voices, and sharing tools and stories.

The first session is Monday, June 15, at 11 a.m., followed by the evening group on Tuesday, June 16, at 7 p.m. Topic sources include [The State We're In: Washington](#) (the LWVWA's civics textbook) and podcasts selected from the [Civil Conversations Project](#) and will alternate week to week. Currently, topics are planned through the week of October 19, 2020.

For more Information, email [Katherine Murphy](#) or [Wende Sanderson](#).

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## Public Disclosure Commission Seeking Public Input



The League of Women Voters of Washington is proud to work closely with the [Public Disclosure Commission](#) (PDC). The PDC is seeking feedback about its website, how you use it, and how well it meets your needs. Please help the PDC by taking its short [online survey](#), which will help it make improvements. The survey takes only 7 to 10 minutes to complete, and your name will not be attached to any results.

The League encourages everyone to support the PDC's efforts to improve its service. According to PDC Chair David Ammons, "This Commission is committed to furthering the PDC's ability to deliver useful and relevant information about money in politics, and it understands the singular importance of the website in delivering on that goal. We've made millions of records available online—now we want to make sure we're making them easy for the public to find and understand."

**Please complete the survey no later than Tuesday, June 9.** If you have any questions or experience problems with the survey, please contact the [PDC](#) directly.

If you are interested in other ways to work with and support the PDC, please contact [Kathy Sakahara](#).

## Gonzaga University Choirs Celebrate Suffrage in Song

Earlier this year, Gonzaga University celebrated the centennial of the 19th Amendment in song with a concert, "The 19th: For Her, For All." The concert featured the Gonzaga Concert Choir, Discantus Treble Choir and Glee Club, who told the story of the 19th Amendment in music, cartoons, and speeches, singing suffrage songs, both for and against. The concert, conducted by Timothy Westerhaus, also featured choral activist Melissa Dunphy and is [available on YouTube to view](#).



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PBS will soon be broadcasting a new program as part of its *American Experience* series, "[The Vote](#)," about the battle for women's suffrage. The show, which premieres in July, focuses on the culminating years 1909 to 1920, explores the tactics used, the questions women grappled with (both pro and con), and women's role in American society. For more information about this program and to [view a trailer](#), visit the PBS website.

## 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](#).

**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.

**The LWVWA state office in Seattle will be closed until the governor reopens office buildings, however, League business can be conducted via internet or phone.**

**Currently scheduled office closures (staff available for urgent matters only) include:  
June 23-June 30 (National Convention)**

### June 2020

**Monday, June 15**—LWV of Washington Board meeting, virtual with Zoom, 9:30 a.m. Anyone is welcome to listen. Email [apeloff@lwvwa.org](mailto:apeloff@lwvwa.org) for the Zoom link.

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## July 2020

**Friday, July 17**—Start of 18-day Primary voting period (through Election Day). Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting Units (AVUs) are available at voting centers.

**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

**Tuesday, August 4**—Primary Election

**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.

## October 2020

**Friday, October 16**—Start of 18-day general voting period (through Election Day). Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting Units are available at voting centers.

## November 2020

**Tuesday, November 3**— General Election



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