

September 4, 2020

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

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Newsletter Change Alert



League (TMIL).

For events with time constraints, we will use social media to broadcast those. Another way for local Leagues to get the word out is to post events to their own Facebook page, and the state League can “share” that message on the LWVWA [Facebook](#) page.

In order to lessen the amount of League mail that members receive, we’ve decided to reduce the number of newsletters the LWV of Washington produces. Starting with this issue, LWV of Washington members will receive two LWVWA newsletters per month: *The Voter* will continue to be published on the first Friday of every month for LWV of Washington members and nonmembers, but the members-only TWIL will now be published once a month, on the third Friday. This means we’ll also be changing the title to *This Month in the*

LWVWA Voter Services Update



The LWVWA Voter Services Committee, having survived the primaries, is finalizing plans for all of our statewide general election debates. Details are still being finalized, but will be forthcoming.

We are sponsoring (and co-sponsoring with *The Spokesman-Review* and local Leagues) multiple debates for governor, attorney general, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, secretary of state, and treasurer.

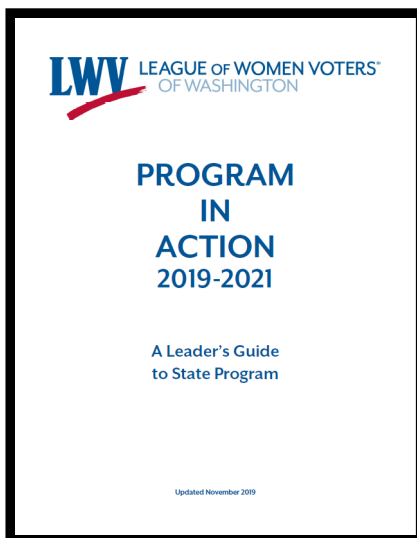
Co-sponsoring Leagues include Bellingham/Whatcom County, Clark County, Spokane Area, Tacoma-Pierce County, Thurston County, and Yakima County.

As of now, the first debate is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 and the last one for Tuesday, October 13.

We need your questions! Please send questions to forumquestions@lwvwa.org. Your name is optional, but we do need the race for which you want the question asked, and what area you live in. Thank you!

For updates, check the LWVWA [website](#), the LWVWA [Facebook page](#), and the LWVWA newsletters.

Where's the Action?



It's in the League! LWVWA action will be coming up in the Washington State Legislature, and the LWVWA Lobby Team is already working hard to get ready. And you could become part of the effort. Are you attentive to and interested in the League's advocacy work and prepared to take the next step?

The Lobby Team is recruiting additional volunteers. You can work with an existing Lobby Team issue chair or perhaps in a new area. As the League expands its efforts through the diversity, equity, and inclusion lens, we are seeking more individuals who can bring expertise to social and economic justice and racial justice—important and timely issues. In our elections area, looking into the transparency of digital campaign ads is becoming important.

The “Increase League Impact” section of the LWVWA *Strategic Plan* states: “Enhance advocacy outcomes affecting public policy.” Our Lobby Team works to change public policy based on our position statements in our [Program in Action and Impact on Issues](#) documents.

The Lobby Team is a group of dedicated volunteers who work as professionals to effect public policy changes. They lobby legislators to pass bills. They work in coalition with other like-minded organizations formed around the same [issues that the League supports](#).

The top issues in Washington State align with the priorities identified by the LWVUS. Making democracy work (redistricting, voter protections, election administration reform, money in politics) along with climate change, criminal justice, and reproductive rights. Additionally, in this state, the League is working on education, gun safety, housing and homelessness, health

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Do you have expertise that you would like to share in an area of great importance as we move into the new reality of our world? Contact [Ann Murphy](#) to get connected with an issue.

LWVWA to Be Recognized at Democracy First Award Event

The LWV of Washington frequently works with allies in achieving our shared advocacy efforts. One of the strongest and deepest relationships we have is with [Fix Democracy First](#) (FDF). FDF is one of the few statewide organizations that focuses exclusively on the League's core issue: democracy. It is also the only other organization in the state doing significant work to challenge the serious threat of money in politics. Our two organizations have co-sponsored three successful Democracy Lobby Days as well as numerous other events. The LWVWA Democracy Team Chair Kathy Sakahara and FDF Executive Director Cindy Black work together almost daily and have shared many treks to Olympia to testify.



“We are thrilled to be recognizing the League of Women Voters of Washington because of the critical role the League’s advocacy work has played in protecting and expanding voting rights and fighting special interest money in politics. From Democracy Lobby Days to the countless times our organizations were the only ones testifying on critical campaign finance reform bills, our collaboration has been not only powerful, but fun!” said Linda Brewster, Chair of Fix Democracy First.

In the past FDF has hosted an annual awards dinner. But like so many other events, this year’s celebration will be held virtually and will be spread over three nights. On Wednesday, September 16, it will kick off with a Special Democracy Happy Hour at 5 p.m. The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 17 at 6 p.m. It will wrap up on Friday, September 18 at 6 p.m. with special guest speaker Lawrence Lessig, Harvard Law School professor, nationally recognized leader in combating corruption in our politics, and author of *They Don’t Represent Us: Reclaiming Our Democracy*. To learn more about the events and register, visit the [Fix Democracy First website](#).

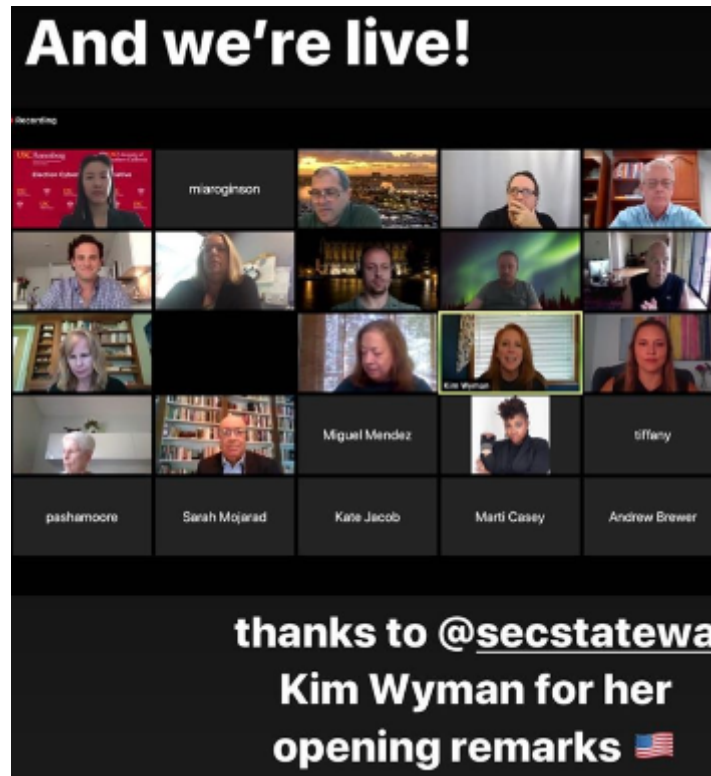
Our Candidate Is Democracy: Election Cybersecurity Training

By Janet Stegemeyer, Member, LWV of Kitsap County

What could discourage or prevent citizens from voting? How can ballot tabulation be manipulated? The 2020 reality is that hackers, disinformation campaigns, and other interference from Iran, China, and Russia are not just plots from Hollywood suspense films. All 50 state election offices have been attacked by U.S. adversaries, and although the firewalls have held so far, the threats are ever-present and becoming more sophisticated. With the pandemic compounding security concerns, keeping up with new ways to protect the integrity of our elections is crucial.

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Clayton Powell III. The initiative has been holding virtual workshops for each of the 50 states to train staffers, candidates, state parties, and state and local election workers in the latest techniques of how to prevent attacks on our electoral systems. Washington State's Virtual Workshop via Zoom on June 23 was attended by Secretary of State Kim Wyman along with other state election and campaign officials as well as four members of the League of Women Voters of Washington.



Washington State Secretary of State Kim Wyman addressed participants at the USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative workshop on June 23. (Photo from Instagram use_truvote)

The content of the workshop was divided into three sections: Cyber Safety and Security, Disinformation and Misinformation, and Crisis Communication.

Dr. Clifford Neuman, an associate professor of computer science at USC with a special interest in computer security, was the workshop's main speaker. He warned that any person or thing connected to elections or campaigns is at risk, including candidates, politicians, campaign workers, election officials, journalists, news sites, social media, organizational systems, and voters. Personal devices are also vulnerable. Adversaries can even target family and friends of officials—anything to disrupt an election. They attempt to manipulate voters by microtargeting ads, creating confusion among voters, releasing unflattering and stolen data, and pushing disinformation, such as announcements that the due date for registering to vote has changed or that a polling place location has moved.

Neuman stated that America's enemies work to discourage or prevent voting, manipulate vote tallies, and create distrust in the voting outcomes. They gain access because of poor password management, malicious code (viruses), social engineering, unprotected data, and promoting misinformation. Strong passwords unique to different accounts are key to stopping these attacks, along with two-step or multifactor authentication.

Neuman's suggestions to prevent "phishing" include being cautious about clicking on email links that could install malware or ransomware on computers, always keeping a disconnected backup of data, and only downloading the most needed apps from trusted sources.

People working from home need to take special care, said Neuman. Be mindful of where you store sensitive data, don't use the same system for entertainment, and be vigilant about links,

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Secretary of State Wyman and eight other expert panelists also presented their input. Because of the Election Cybersecurity Initiative's tools and information, Washington State's campaigns, election staff, and interested citizens will be better prepared to keep our elections safe.

Information on Washington State elections and voting [system security](#) can be found on the Secretary of State's website.

Individuals interested in better securing their own personal and/or business cybersecurity can find tips on the [Washington State Office of Cybersecurity](#) website.

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote Flyers Ready

By Bonnie Bless-Boenish, Education Committee Chair, LWV of Clallam County

For many years, the League of Women Voters of Clallam County has participated in back-to-school events in both Port Angeles and Sequim. Usually we set up a table, ask people about their voter registration status, and have forms available to fill out, with assistance as needed. We answer voting questions and hand out a variety of League information, including *They Represent You* (TRY) brochures.

Last year, we added a student and parent voting activity, which was a great way to draw families to our table. Folks enjoyed discussing with their children about how they'd vote in the pet survey and seemed more willing to discuss voting registration with us after participating in the activity. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we needed to change this year's events to a drive-through format. We definitely wanted to target the parent population, but needed to figure out a different way to do it. We created and printed flyers with QR codes and information on registering to vote that were put in every backpack of school supplies. The message was targeted for K-5, middle school, and high school participants.

As other Leagues heard of the flyers and asked to use them, we worked with Mary Coltrane (LWVWA Voter Services Chair) and Lea Galanter (LWVWA Communications Chair) for revisions and approval. Special thanks go to Wende Sanderson, who had them translated into Spanish.

The back-to-school drive-through flyers inspired us to think about other drive-through events in our communities, such as food banks. Food banks in the area are now using three flyers. They include voter registration information, a voter checklist with frequently asked questions, and a flyer on resources for learning more about what's on the ballot.

If you'd like to use these flyers, you can talk to your Voter Services Chair, as we have shared them with the Voter Services Network so all local Leagues have copies. You can also [download the flyers](#) directly or check out the LWVWA [Voter Info & Tools page](#) for more resources.



Ready to Vote?

Am I eligible to register?
In order to vote in Washington state, you must

- be a US citizen
- live at your current address for 30 days before the election
- be at least 18 years old by Election Day
- not be under supervision of the Department of Corrections for a felony

How do I register or check my information or make updates?

Use your phone or a computer and go to vote.wa.gov. Registering takes about 2 minutes. You need your driver's license, driver's permit or state ID to register online. If you don't have one of those, you'll need to print out a form, use the last four digits of your Social Security number and mail the form in.

Help your family REGISTER to VOTE or check or update registrations online at vote.wa.gov

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON EDUCATION FUND
EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.
For more information go to lwvwa.org

The League Signs On to Letter Requesting Reduced Threats to Orcas

By Martin Gibbins, Water Issue Chair, LWVWA Lobby Team

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service (NMFS) requesting that the U.S. Navy reduce the threat to southern resident orcas during weapon system testing and training proposed in this orca habitat. Orcas are the largest dolphin species, and the southern residents live along the Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia coasts.

The League takes action on environmental concerns as well as democracy and voting issues. We often testify in the legislature in favor of preserving our environment and reversing the damage already done, actions that improve both human and natural health and address climate change. In recent legislative sessions, we have supported bills to reduce water pollution; preserve the health of rivers, streams, and shorelines; and restore our natural salmon stocks. Many of the bills also help protect and restore the health of our southern resident orcas, an iconic species in our state, which are regrettably in decline.



Majestic orcas, part of the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, are in danger from proposed U.S. Navy testing. (Photo by Thomas Lipke)

Yet the orcas face threats beyond our state government's influence. The recently proposed Navy plan for testing weapon systems in the orca habitat will disrupt orca feeding, movement, and reproduction. The NMFS made a preliminary determination that this testing would have a negligible impact. The plan was also subject to public comment. The Seattle Aquarium drafted a letter to the NMFS objecting to its determination and outlining the science and data around the anticipated effects and disruption to the orcas. The letter also recommended ways to minimize and mitigate the disruption.

Issue chairs on the LWVWA Lobby Team assessed the letter for accuracy and alignment with League positions and past advocacy and recommended that the League sign on. Because the letter was sent to a federal agency, we also obtained concurrence from the LWVUS. Positions taken by the LWVWA and LWVUS clearly call for democratic participation in environmental issues, and this is one way we participate. The Seattle Aquarium and the League are members of the Environmental Priorities Coalition, along with other organizations that promote legislative action to reduce pollution and improve environmental quality.

Links to more information:

- PDF of the [letter](#) sent to the NMFS
- Organizations in the [Environmental Priorities Coalition](#)
- The Washington Environmental Council on [orca recovery priorities](#)
- Governor Jay Inslee's website on [Southern Resident Orca Whale Recovery](#).
- [CBS News article](#) on the endangered orcas

Legacy Washington to Publish Biography of

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Legacy Washington is completing a biography of Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen of Washington, one of the most influential female legislators in American history. The 300-page book, written by John Hughes, Legacy Washington's Chief Oral Historian, will be available in November and will cover Hansen's life, from her time in the League of Women Voters through her career in national politics.

Hansen's 44 years of public service took her from the Washington State Legislature to the U.S. Capitol as a member of Congress. Dubbed "Mrs. Highways," Hansen was the first woman to head the Roads and Bridges Committee of the Washington State House of Representatives. Later, she became the first woman to head the Washington State Transportation Commission and was largely responsible for creating its predecessor, the State Highway Commission.

She was the first female speaker pro tempore of the Washington State House, the second Washington woman elected to Congress, and the first woman to head a congressional appropriations subcommittee. She strongly endorsed the League's efforts to promote equitable redistricting. Hansen retired from politics in 1975, undefeated in 42 consecutive elections.

Hansen is also part of Legacy Washington's [Ahead of the Curve](#) exhibit, where you can read about [Hansen](#) and other prominent women.

Legacy Washington, which relies on private donations for its exhibits and books, is seeking help with the book's publication and would love the support of the League, since it was such an important part of Hansen's life. We hope League members will help out this worthy project by donating on the [Donate to Washington State Heritage Center Trust](#) page. To make sure that the League gets credit for its gifts, Legacy Washington wants to track League member donations. On the donation page, from the "Make a donation to the program of your choice" menu, select "Legacy Washington." After filling in your information, in the Acknowledgements section at the bottom of the page, select "Please send acknowledgements to" and enter LWV in the Name text box.

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Legacy Washington's forthcoming biography of Julia Butler Hansen will focus on one of the most important women in Washington State history.

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. For Washington State League history and events, visit the [LWVWA Centennial page](#). 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](#).

September 2020

Saturday, September 5—Performance of *An Interview with Our Foremothers* by LWV of Skagit County, 10:30 a.m., via [Zoom](#).

Thursday, September 17—Fix Democracy First 2020 Virtual Awards Ceremony (the

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Monday, September 21—Secretary of State Candidate Forum, noon-1:30 p.m. [Registration](#).

Monday, September 21 & Tuesday, September 22—LWV of Washington Board Meeting, noon-4 p.m..

Tuesday, September 22—[National Voter Registration Day](#).

Thursday, September 24—LWVUS DEI webinar, 4 p.m. PT, [register](#). Recordings later available on the [LWVUS website](#).

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.

Monday, October 19—Forum with the King County Bar Association on citizen initiative review, judicial review, and quality control, 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. [Registration](#) required.

Monday, October 19 & Tuesday, October 20—LWV of Washington Board Meeting, noon-4 p.m..

November 2020

Tuesday, November 3— General Election

Monday, November 16—Forum with the King County Bar Association on legislative reforms, noon-1:30 p.m. [Registration](#) required.

Monday, November 16 & Tuesday, November 17—LWV of Washington Board Meeting, noon-4 p.m.

Joining the League is a great way to get involved in your community and play an active role in our democracy.

The graphic features the LWV logo in blue and red, followed by the text 'LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON' in blue. Below this is the tagline 'Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.' in red. At the bottom, the words 'JOIN US!' are written in large blue letters, with a red arrow pointing towards a starburst graphic.



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