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The Voter

MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE LWVWA

December 4, 2020

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Registered for the Action Workshop Yet?

If you haven't already registered for this year's Action Workshop, it's not too late! The first of two sessions is Saturday, December 5. This year's virtual

website.

At the Action Workshop, you'll learn about the League's legislative priorities and how to get involved. The opening session on December 5 will include a panel of two advocates and two legislators talking about the issue of the year—revenue: why we need it and how to get it. At sessions following the keynote panel, you'll learn more about the League's priorities within the categories of democracy, revenue, climate change, education, economic/social justice, and criminal justice/gun safety.

Optional sessions after 1 p.m. will discuss resources related to the legislative session, such as the LWVWA *Legislative Newsletter* and where to find legislative information on the League website.

So join the LWVWA at the Action Workshop and meet the League's hard-working volunteer Advocacy Team members and paid lobbyist. You'll also have an opportunity to ask questions about the process and how to use it.

Don't wait! [Register now!](#)



Virtual Legislature

Changes at the State Legislature

By LWV of Washington Advocacy Team

“There is nothing permanent except change.” — Heraclitus

The world has shifted this year. Many of our past customs, practices, and events have had to change because of the COVID pandemic. The Washington State Legislature convening on January 11, 2021, is no exception. All of their procedures are being reviewed and many are going to be different. And one of the outcomes of these changes may be many more opportunities for constituents to testify or speak with their legislators.

As with our League activities, the legislature will be doing most of its work

process down, resulting in far fewer bills being considered, and even fewer passed. That's because legislators can't catch constituents in the hall for a spontaneous conversation or step out of a meeting to talk with colleagues in the back room. Fewer committee meetings will be held on a daily or weekly basis. It is estimated that fewer than a quarter of the number of bills normally passed in a session can be handled this year.

Another change will be to companion bills. In the past, often a Senate and House member would each sponsor an identical bill in their respective chambers; those are called "companion bills." When the bills progressed, this made it easier for the opposite chamber to move ahead on whichever one passed first. This year, legislators are asked not to use companion bills, saving precious airtime for different issues. Advocating for a given bill will be done more sequentially in this new system.

However, because constituents can communicate from home, whether directly with their own legislators or by giving testimony, the opportunities are greater for many people who live far away from the capitol—at least, those who have broadband access (which many don't). Instead of commuting from Spokane or Bellingham to Olympia for a committee hearing, advocates can sign up and testify from wherever they are.

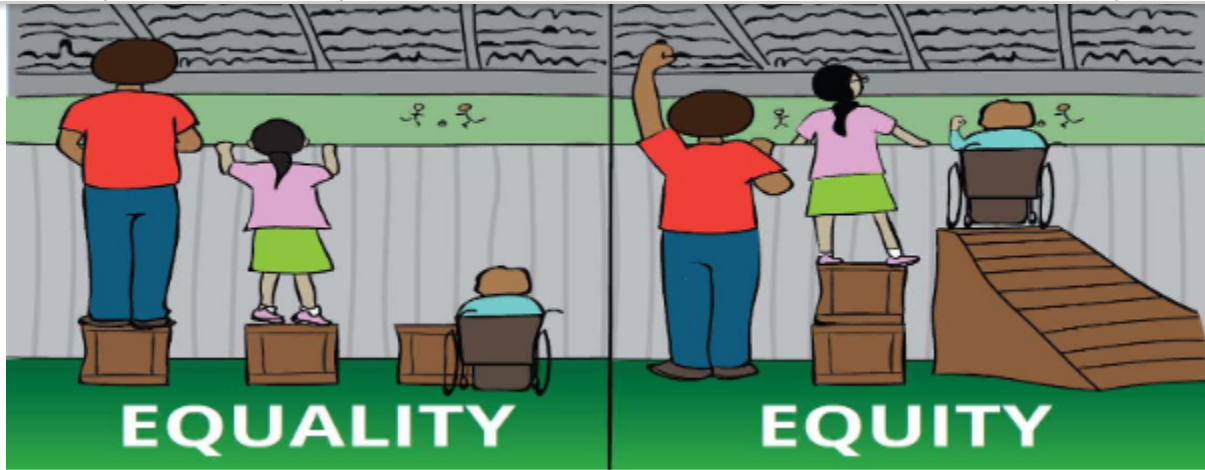
That said, the public is encouraged to use email as the primary communication method. Most legislators will be booked solidly from morning through evening, so sending an email can be a better way to get messages to the legislature. League members and supporters are encouraged to advocate for League issues through the actions recommended in the weekly *Legislative Newsletter* (make sure to subscribe [here](#)) and by communicating electronically.

To send your legislator a message, find the email address on the Washington State Legislature [Member Information](#) page. Newly elected representatives will have legislative emails assigned during December. Email addresses for incumbents will remain the same.

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Help Needed!

Your statewide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Working Committee is looking for a few new members.

What We Do: We're listening and learning about local communities and their needs. Our goal is to be allies and create support for local Leagues. Our first step is to add information to the League website, including sections for a blog, resources, and DEI "stories."

What We Need: Members to explore, discuss, create, and plan:

- Educational outreach on specific topic areas under the DEI umbrella.
- A book discussion group. Two good books are *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson and *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo.
- How to be an ally with other community groups.
- Affinity discussion groups on specific DEI topics, such as supporting an immigrant community or local farmworkers.
- Support for the website.

New ideas are welcome; we are a busy and friendly group.

Please contact: Susan Fleming, LWVWA DEI Director, sfleming@lwvwa.org

Time to Get Ready for 2021 Redistricting and Speak Up

By Karen Crowley, LWV of Snohomish County, and Cassa Hanon, LWV of Seattle-King County

districts in all 50 states. Here in Washington, participation in the national initiative is taking shape in the form of [Speak Up Schools](#), a targeted strategy to improve the quality, content, and diversity of input to our 2021 [Washington State Redistricting Commission](#). These sessions will help participants find their own voice and build effective, personal testimony.

Several Leagues and partner organizations have already agreed to host Speak Up Schools in early 2021. Our focus now is on learning! Register to attend December Train-the-Trainer sessions. What will you learn?



- The basics of redistricting
- How to write testimony
- How to talk about redistricting
- How to testify effectively
- Resources, materials, and organizing tips for hosting a local Speak Up School

Our goal is to prepare trainers and coaches to host their own Speak Up Schools. Everyone is welcome, no prior experience necessary. The train-the-trainer approach is experiential learning, with participants experiencing the training modules and then switching hats to learn how to deliver them.

Two separate, three-day train-the-trainer Zoom sessions will be available in December so you can attend the week that works best for you. All sessions are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Week one dates:

- Tuesday, Dec. 8 (day 1)
- Wednesday, Dec. 9 (day 2)
- Friday, Dec. 11 (day 3)

Week two dates:

- Monday, Dec. 14 (day 1)
- Tuesday, Dec. 15 (day 2)
- Thursday, Dec. 17 (day 3)

To register: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4710941>

For more information: <https://lwvwa.org/speakup/>

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**The LWVWA
Public Bank
Committee**

A Public Bank for Washington? Learn All About It

By **Stoney Bird and Ruth Fruland, Co-Chairs, LWVWA Public Bank Committee**

You've seen articles in *The Voter* about public banks, the Public Bank Committee, and how the League effort to support a public bank in Washington State fits the LWV of Washington privatization position. But we suspect that most of our League members are still unsure what a public bank actually is.

To learn more, plan to attend the Public Bank 101 workshop on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., where you'll learn about:

- How a public bank would differ from private sector banks.
- What a difference a public bank could make in Washington State revenues and debts.
- How you can help support a public bank during the upcoming legislative session and beyond.
- Other resources for information.

To attend the Public Bank 101 workshop on January 7, [register](#) online.

Today! Watch a New Documentary on Proportional Representation



Join [More Equitable Democracy](#) and [Campaign Legal Center](#) for the virtual world premiere of the documentary *Eastpointe* on Friday, December 4 at 1 p.m. PT. This documentary on electoral reforms tells the story of how one community coped with demographic change.

The LWVWA supports the use of proportional representation to achieve a more representative elected body. The LWVUS supports alternative election methods

[Registration required.](#)

Due to the holiday season, *The Voter* will not be published on January 1, 2021. The next *Voter* will be published on February 5, 2021.



Happy Holidays from the LWV of Washington!

League Calendar

December 2020

TODAY Friday, December 4—Virtual world premiere of documentary film *Eastpointe*. [Registration required.](#)

Saturday, December 5—Action Workshop Session 1, virtual, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. [Registration](#) required.

Tuesday, December 8—Speak Up School Train-the-trainer Day 1, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Zoom. Register here: <https://speakup.brownpapertickets.com/>

Wednesday, December 9—Speak Up School Train-the-trainer Day 1, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Zoom. Register here: <https://speakup.brownpapertickets.com/>

Friday, December 11—Speak Up School Train-the-trainer Day 2, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Zoom. Register here: <https://speakup.brownpapertickets.com/>

Saturday, December 12—Action Workshop Session 2, virtual, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. [Registration](#) required.

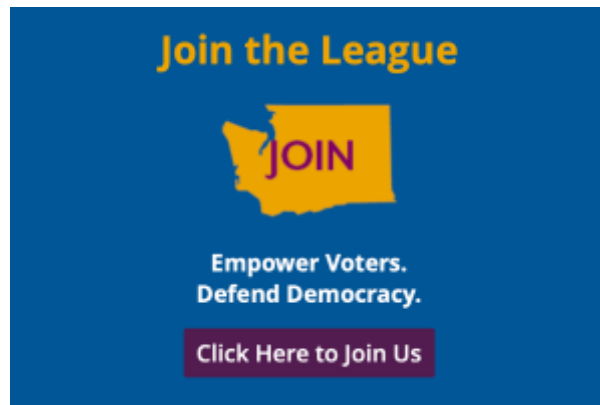
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Tuesday, December 15—Speak Up School Train-the-trainer Day 1 (Repeat), 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Zoom. Register here: <https://speakup.brownpapertickets.com/>

Thursday, December 17—Speak Up School Train-the-trainer Day 2 (Repeat), 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Zoom. Register here: <https://speakup.brownpapertickets.com/>

January 2021

Thursday, January 7—Public Bank 101 workshop, 6:30 p.m. [Register](#) online.



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