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# The Voter

MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE LWVWA

March 5, 2021

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**By Jackie Aase, Jason Victor Serinus, and Angela Gyurko, LWV of Jefferson County**

The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County (LWVJC) has created three informational videos that focus on running for and serving in public office. These videos, comprised of Q&As with city and county officials, were conducted via Zoom and are [available for viewing on the LWVJC website](#), along with transcripts of the videos, as well as on the [LWVJC YouTube page](#).

and what's expected of them as officeholders. The LWVJC encourages other League chapters to view these videos and then create videos of their own tailored to their region's specific needs and procedures.

Because the LWVJC could not give extra airtime to candidates in an election year, unit-at-large president Angela Gyurko spoke with current Port of Port Townsend commissioners, Chimacum and Port Townsend school board members, and Port Townsend City Council members who were not running for election during the calendar year. In addition, due to open meeting regulations, no one discussed any past, current, or future issues that the officials might be called upon to address during their time in office.

Questioning began with how long people served in office, why they decided to run, their campaign strategies, and the financial costs of campaigning. From there, Gyurko moved on to how much time per week officeholders spend fulfilling their obligations, what duties occupy the bulk of their time, the rewards of serving, the extent to which their jobs and commitments differ from what they had anticipated before serving, and what advice they would offer anyone considering running for office.

The videos also reminded viewers of the week in mid-May during which they can file as candidates for office and provided the county website address for complete filing information.

If other chapters across the state are considering creating videos for their areas, the LWVJC would be happy to share the lessons it has learned regarding scheduling, technology, working within legal constraints, and preparing accurate, yet readable, transcripts. Contact [Angela Gyurko](#), president, League of Women Voters of Jefferson County.



The LWVUS is proud to announce that its VOTE411 [Election Information You Need](#) video from the 2020 fall video series won the [Ragan Communications V3 Award](#) for Best Public Service Video. Available in English and Spanish, the video provides voters with important information about

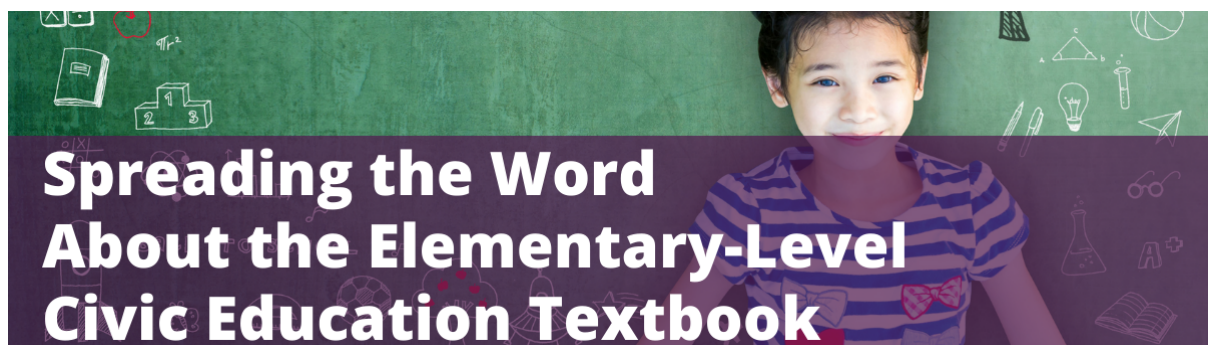


**By Nathaniel Jones, Board Member, LWV of Thurston County**

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County will host a Working with Local Government forum on Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. At the forum, locally elected representatives will help us decode and successfully navigate the sometimes confusing world of local decision-making. Officials from Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County will discuss how better public engagement results in better decisions and will offer tips on how to work with government to effectively advocate on current local issues. The virtual forum will be held as a town hall panel discussion with audience questions and answers.

Citizens, frustrated by the seemingly endless mire of meetings, processes, and studies, are often left wondering how anything actually gets done. Meanwhile, elected officials struggle to find authentic community sentiment through the noise of special interests and a dearth of real community participation. All too often, community conflict erupts in desperate, eleventh-hour fights that might have been avoided with more effective communication and engagement.

Join us for an evening of direct communication with government leaders who are closest to the people. Hone your advocacy skills and pick up tips on how to work with your local leaders and public servants to create the community you want to see. [Register for the Working with Local Government forum](#) on the LWV of Thurston County website.



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*The State We're In: Washington* textbook for elementary students is our latest important work to bring civic education resources to students in our state. Karen Verrill of the LWV of Thurston County served as the project manager, overseeing the writer, designer, and editor team to produce and publish an excellent book for grades 3 through 5. This new book was made possible through a grant from the state legislature, and as a thank you, Karen and Thurston County League members Dawn Gibbs and Julie Frick mailed 153 of the books to legislators, Governor Jay Inslee, Lt. Governor Denny Heck, and Secretary of State Kim Wyman, who were thrilled to receive a copy of the book.

Now, we as League members need to find ways to get this textbook into the hands of educators and students so that we can continue to make democracy work for everyone. We are asking local Leagues to assist in this marketing effort. Please help the League out by spreading the word about this fabulous book. [Online versions](#) of the books are available on the LWVWA website, along with links for ordering the books and a teacher's guide.

This book has also been translated into Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese by students in the Seattle School District. The translations are posted free on the [Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) (OSPI) website. The book is endorsed by the Washington State Council of the Social Studies and the Washington State Indian Education Association.



### April 2021

**Friday, April 9**—A Conversation with RepresentWomen and Exploring the Fair Representation Act, 4 p.m. [Registration required](#), seating limited.

**Monday, April 12**—Practice Session for Testifying at the Redistricting Commission Hearings, noon–1 p.m. Contact [cbardill@gmail.com](mailto:cbardill@gmail.com) to register.

**Monday, April 19**—LWVWA Board Meeting, noon–3:30 p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

**Monday, April 19**—Action & Advocacy: Filibuster 101, 10 a.m.–11 a.m. Zoom Meeting ID: 728 6695 7807

**Tuesday, April 20**—LWVWA Education Fund Board Meeting, noon–3:30 p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

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**Saturday, April 24**—Virtual Civic Theater: Many Maps One Voice—Online Video Premiere 4 p.m.–6:30 p.m., [buy tickets](#).

**Monday, April 26**—Practice Session for Testifying at the Redistricting Commission Hearings, noon–1 p.m. Contact [cbardill@gmail.com](mailto:cbardill@gmail.com) to register.

**Thursday, April 29**—LWV of the United States Redistricting Day of Action, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., information to come.

### May 2021

**Saturday, May 1**—Redistricting 101 presentation by Alison McCaffree, Delta Kappa Gamma Convention, 8:30 a.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

**Monday, May 17–Friday, May 21**—[Washington Nonprofits Conference](#)

**Monday, May 17**—LWVWA Board Meeting, noon–3:30 p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

**Tuesday, May 18**—LWVWA Education Fund Board Meeting, noon–3:30 p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

### June 2021

**Thursday, June 24–Monday, June 28**—LWV of Washington Convention, details to come.



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