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The Voter

MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE LWVWA

March 5, 2021

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League Offers Civics Textbooks to Inspire Students to Become Active Citizens

We are happy to introduce the League's brand-new civics textbook, *The State We're In: Washington*, which is designed for elementary grades 3 through 5. The book is easy and fun to read. Its many colorful images, descriptive pictures, and graphics not only enhance the text but demonstrate our state's ethnic and geographic diversity. It includes chapters on how early explorers who arrived by ship affected Indigenous tribes, details about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and other items required for these grades. It includes two chapters about how our Native American tribes govern themselves and how they interact with state and local governments.

governments work, and how governments affect the natural world. It is designed to help students learn who makes the laws and regulations that govern our schools, cities, and state, and how they can have a part in making decisions that affect their lives.

The online version is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act so students with disabilities can use screen readers to enjoy this interesting book.



The eighth edition of our textbook for grades 7 through 12, *The State We're In: Washington, Your Guide to State, Tribal and Local Government*, is used widely across the state. It is a user-friendly book that covers the basics of government, how it works, and why we should care about it. It includes historic and current information about tribal government as an integral part of civics education.

This book has 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. These textbooks were written by Jill Severn, who has been a speechwriter for two governors, worked in the legislature, and was a policy analyst and writer for many state agencies.

The LWVWA Education Fund produces these books to help all residents understand government and how they can participate in it.

[Online versions](#) of the books are available on the LWVWA website along with links for ordering the books and a teacher's guide. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Karen Verrill at Kverrill@lwvwa.org.

National Day of Action to Shine a Light on Redistricting



On Thursday, April 29, the League of Women Voters will host a People-Powered Day of Action with events around the country to shine a light on the redistricting process. The League knows that fair maps depend on public input, and no one organization or one person has the solution for fair maps. This makes collaborating with partner organizations and community leaders necessary. The Day of Action will include digital and in-person tactics for LWV affiliates, partners, and other stakeholders, and Leagues around the country will be hosting a variety of events at the local, state, and national levels.

All Leagues are encouraged to [sign up and participate](#) for the Day of Action. The LWVUS will have more public announcements in the future, and you can check the LWVUS website [for more information](#). The League is asking members to fill out a [short sign-up form/survey](#) to provide basic information to the League in the lead-up to the People-Powered Day of Action so local Leagues know how best to support members, produce resources, and publicize events on their webpages. This survey is open until Saturday, April 10th.

Women Leaders of Mason County

By Cindy Shotts, Centennial Project Chair

During the 2020 Centennial of the 19th Amendment, members of the League of Women Voters of Mason County looked back to learn about women across the nation who led the way during the long campaign for women's suffrage. We were inspired by these women of the past to shine a spotlight on the lives and leadership of women in our own county. The project to research and write biographies and to create a traveling display, booklet, and PowerPoint presentation was partially funded by a grant from the Mason County Historical

Council, and family members.



Women Leaders posters created by Linda Woytowich

Women in Mason County made significant contributions to the social, economic, and political life of their communities. Native American women held leadership and management positions in their tribal groups. Women pioneers in Washington Territory and early statehood had gained property rights, voted in school elections, and served on juries long before they achieved the right to vote in all state and national elections. Women have always been half of history, and their stories add to our understanding of who we are.

We chose to research the lives of seven women, both past and present, who made a difference in Mason County by:

- Pushing boundaries as they overcame limitations and expectations of women in their time and persisted through adversity.
- Setting an example of citizen participation as they helped build the communities in Mason County with their unique skills and talents.
- Representing the diverse cultures and communities of Mason County.

You can [watch our video presentations](#) about these seven women on the LWV of Mason County webpage.

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Celebrate Women's History Month!

Join the League Sunday, March 21 at 4 p.m. PT for a virtual performance of the Off-Broadway hit *Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty* starring Emmy Award-winning Elaine Bromka (with a live Q&A with Elaine immediately following the show).

In this show, three former first ladies—Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford—share a behind-the-scenes look at of their lives as first ladies. Written by Eric H. Weinberger and Elaine Bromka, the play is a witty and intimate re-imagining of three women who suddenly found themselves celebrities, revealing the personal cost of what Pat Nixon called the “hardest unpaid job in the world.”

Weaving in the presidents, social change, and politics of the times, *Tea for Three* has been critically acclaimed for its blend of humor and passion. [Tickets](#) are available now and are pay-what-you-can (as a fundraiser for the LWV Education Fund, the League suggests \$25 per ticket).



Elaine Bromka playing three first ladies.

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LWVWA Affinity Groups

Two New Affinity Groups Forming!

Observer Corps: Would you like to start an Observer Corps for your League? Do you already have one and want to share ideas and resources with fellow observers? Email Linda Benson, lbenson@lwvwa.org, and get connected!

Membership Development: How does your League welcome new members and get them involved? Join a new group discussion. Email Linda Benson, lbenson@lwvwa.org, and enjoy an exchange of ideas.

Join an already established Affinity Discussion Group:

Criminal Justice: Deb Carstens, dcarstens@lwvwa.org

Gun Safety: Pat Griffith, pgriffith@lwvwa.org

Health Care: Kim Abbey, kabbey@lwvwa.org

Public Bank: Ruth Fruland, rfruland@lwvwa.org and Stoney Bird, sbird@lwvwa.org

Responsible Journalism: Dee Anne Finken, dfinken@comcast.net

Treasurers: Myra Howrey, edfundtreasurer@lwvwa.org

Webmaster/Communication: Delores Irwin, deloreslwv@gmail.com

2021 Mid-Session Town Halls

We have compiled a list of live virtual town hall events being held by Washington state legislators. Make sure that your representatives hear from you on the issues you care about, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. A [list of the town halls](#) is available on the League website.

League Calendar

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Saturday, March 6—Speak Up School, LWV Clark County, 10 a.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

Thursday, March 11—LWVUS DEI webinar on “Gender Identity,” 4 p.m. PT. [Registration required](#).

Thursday, March 11—Data Lenses, Speak Up School, 6 p.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

Monday, March 15—LWVWA Board Meeting, noon-3:30 p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

Tuesday, March 16—LWVWA Education Fund Board Meeting, noon-3:30, p.m., contact [Amy Peloff](#) to attend.

Saturday, March 20—Testimony & Testifying, LWV of Snohomish and Skagit Counties Speak Up School, 9 a.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

Saturday, March 20—Day Two Speak Up School Training, LWV Clark County, 10 a.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

Sunday, March 21—*Tea for Three*, play and virtual event/fundraiser for the LWVWA Education Fund, 4 p.m., [purchase tickets](#).

Monday, March 22—Testimony, LWV of Snohomish and Skagit Counties Speak Up School, 6 p.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

Tuesday, March 23—Data Lenses, LWV of Snohomish and Skagit Counties Speak Up School, 6 p.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

Thursday, March 25—Redistricting 101, LWV of San Juan County Speak Up School, 2 p.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

Thursday, March 25—Dave's Redistricting App Map Drawing, Speak Up School Training, 6-7:30 p.m., [registration](#).

Thursday, March 25—Testimony, LWV of Snohomish and Skagit Counties Speak Up School, 6 p.m., [Speak Up Schools](#).

April 2021

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

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

Wednesday, April 21—LWVUS webinar on How to Effectively Assess Litigation Opportunities, noon, [registration required](#).

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](#), use

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June 2021

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



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