

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼[View this email in your browser](#)

# The Voter

MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE LWVWA

October 1, 2021

## In This Issue

(Note: these links may not work in some browsers)

1. The LWV of Washington Working for Democracy
2. League Spotlight: LWV of Pullman
3. LWVWA Redistricting Maps Put Communities of Interest First
4. Your Vote Provides Answers to the Most Common Voting Claims
5. Sign Up to Take Action With OutreachCircle
6. Calendar



## The LWV of Washington Working for Democracy

**By Lunell Haught, President, LWV of Washington**

The Voter goes to people who are not necessarily members of the League of Women Voters. As our “guests,” and as members who were not at the state Board of Directors retreat, I’d like to share some of the energy and commitment of the 2021-2023 board.

“I sometimes get so discouraged but when I meet with League members, I get so rejuvenated and hopeful,” was a comment I wrote down to remember during our August retreat Zoom meeting. People are dealing with

done, and much the League is doing on so many fronts.

When you wonder what's to be done, look at some of the actions League members are taking to make democracy work:

- The [Your Vote](#) tabloid (available online and in print) directly addresses several issues: what's true and what's not (factoids), the enthusiasm of college and high school voters and voting centers, and the safety and security of Washington's almost unique voting system, which is a new experience for those moving here from another state.
- Civic education throughout the state is being boosted by local League efforts to engage students in how democracy works. This is a long-time effort finally coming to fruition.
- Social justice advocates are networking and supporting each other as local and state approaches are developed and implemented.
- Climate change is being tackled through advocacy with other groups and with our own Advocacy Team.
- The election season is upon us; local Leagues are working with election officials, ensuring again the effectiveness and transparency of our system. Local Leagues are ramping up to host debates and educate (in multiple languages) about ballot issues.

These are just a few answers to the "What can I do when I get discouraged?" question. Be aware, join in.

You don't have to be a League member to participate—although that would be great—just know that there are things you can do to foster hope. It begins by reading this *Voter* and checking out the [LWVWA website](#) or your local League.

We hear the world is getting more fractured. The League is working to bring us back together.



### Pullman League Donates Textbooks to Libraries and Schools

donated copies of the civics textbook published by the LWV of Washington to local schools and libraries. The book, *The State We're In: Washington—Your Guide to State, Tribal, and Local Government*, is published in three versions, one for grades 3 to 5, one for grades 7 to 12, and a teacher's edition. These highly acclaimed books are colorful and engaging, with many illustrations, graphs, photos and drawings.

A set of 10 books was given to the Neill Public Library for a book club kit they plan to make available to teachers and homeschool families. A set containing each of the three books was given to the local school districts. Sets are also being given to each of the Whitman County public libraries.

For more information or to order books, visit the [LWVWA Books page](#).



Lennis Boyer-Watts of the LWV of Pullman donating textbooks to Sarah Bofenkamp of the City of Palouse Library.

### **Focus on Pullman League Member Lennis Boyer-Watts**

LWV of Pullman member Lennis Boyer-Watts moved to Pullman from Reno, Nevada, in 1990 when her husband was offered a faculty position in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Washington State University. She worked as a pediatrician at Palouse Pediatrics until her retirement in December 2019. She has four children, all of whom attended Pullman schools.

community, state, and national issues and the way the organization provides educational opportunities for the public to learn about these issues.

She's interested in continuing the League's focus on poverty locally. Other topics of interest include combating climate change and civics education.



## LWVWA Redistricting Maps Put Communities of Interest First

**By Alison McCaffree, Census and Redistricting Chair, LWVWA**

The League of Women Voters of Washington has released example legislative and congressional redistricting maps that put communities of interest first. After a transparent statewide nonpartisan feedback process to develop the maps, the LWVWA submitted the maps to the Washington State Redistricting Commission for consideration. To view a full description of the process and example maps, visit the LWVWA website pages at [lwvwa.org/redistricting](https://lwvwa.org/redistricting), [lwvwa.org/maps](https://lwvwa.org/maps), and [lwvwa.org/speakup](https://lwvwa.org/speakup).

The League's process parallels the Redistricting Commission's in developing new legislative and congressional district solutions. The League used tools on [Dave's Redistricting](#) website to both develop and publicize the draft maps throughout the process. The following Washington state sample maps are posted on the [Dave's Redistricting](#) website:

- [Legislative districts](#)
- [Congressional districts](#)
- [Additional earlier map](#) (developed before the Sept. 15 [Colville Tribes press release](#))

For this redistricting cycle, the League held [Speak Up School](#) workshops across the state to teach citizens how to testify and has educated over 4,700 people to date. To develop these [maps](#), the League also held more than 40 "listening sessions" in communities around the state to discuss redistricting. The League has been publicizing draft maps each month based on feedback from communities across Washington state.

- Provide contiguous and equal population.
- Keep communities of interest together:
  - Tribal populations: Consolidate each native reservation and surrounding tribal population into single districts or distribute into multiple districts according to the expressed wishes of tribal members or representatives.
  - Known racial and ethnic communities (Latinx, Black, Asian American Pacific Islander, etc.)
  - Build majority people of color districts where possible (e.g. Congressional District 9, the Yakima area, and South King County).
  - Identify and honor, where possible, areas of shared economic, environmental, and transportation interests.
  - Identify and honor, where possible, rural, suburban, and urban communities.
- Provide fair and effective representation.
- Create districts that are compact and convenient.
- Minimize splitting political boundaries—county, city, and other municipalities.
- Encourage electoral competition at district, region, and state levels. Do not favor incumbent or party interests.

For the League's purposes, a *community of interest* was defined as an area with recognized similarities of legislative concerns, including but not limited to racial, ethnic, geographic, governmental, regional, social, cultural, partisan, economic, or historic interests. The League prioritized racial and ethnic communities and recognized that not everyone in each group thinks or votes the same way. The focus has been on empowering those communities who have historically been underrepresented to have enough voting power to decide their own representatives.

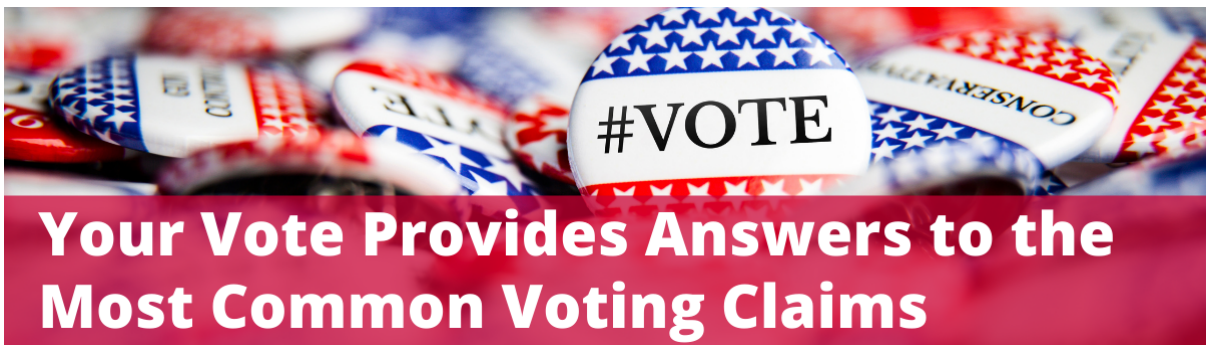
While redistricting relies on technology and data analysis, ultimately human judgment must balance representation among many disparate groups—with many needs that sometimes overlap or conflict. Maps are a compromise among a range of objectives, and many legal and equitable mapping solutions exist. The League hopes that the Redistricting Commission will study the district lines and use them to develop the best solutions for the people of Washington.

and concerns. The deadline to ensure full consideration of third-party map submissions by the commission is October 22, 2021.

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021, 7 p.m.: [Redistricting Commission—Public Input on Draft Legislative Maps](#)

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, 10 a.m. [Redistricting Commission—Public Input on Draft Congressional Maps](#)

For more information, contact Alison McCaffree, [amccaffree@lwvwa.org](mailto:amccaffree@lwvwa.org), 253-720-6813.



**By Mary Coltrane, Voter Services Portfolio Director, LWV of Washington**

The League of Women Voters of Washington and *The Spokesman-Review* are proud to present the [Your Vote](#) tabloid to voters across Washington state. This 20-page paper includes stories on such topics as voting technology for voters with disabilities, restoring voting rights to residents with felonies, college hubs for the young, and teen voter registration. It also includes a voting timeline showing when various groups became part of the electorate and an explanation of when to expect your ballot. The paper is also available through the [League website](#), along with more information about how to “Be a Voter.”

Many people worked to bring the *Your Vote* paper together. Dee Anne Finken of the LWV of Clark County, wrote many of the stories. Staff at *The Spokesman-Review* added other stories, along with the cover art, layout, and headlines.

The Election Credibility Committee, chaired by Linnea Hirst, pulled together the bulleted “factoids” to provide the voting facts about our electoral process. Her committee first interviewed staff at the Office of the Secretary of State to find out what mis- and disinformation stories they were hearing from voters. From there, answers were researched, vetted, and organized to present the facts and fully explain the truth.

[Your Vote](#) is timely and informative. Read what Craig Brown, *The Columbian* (Vancouver, WA) editor, had to say about it in his [From the Newsroom](#) column.



# OutreachCircle

## Sign Up To Take Action!

Protecting voting rights and defending democracy are incredibly important—and require that we all are actively involved. The LWV has a new tool, OutreachCircle, to help make this easier, and that is, less time-consuming, and more community-engaging.

OutreachCircle is an app you can download on your smart phone that makes taking action and, if you want, sharing those action opportunities with your friends and family easier than ever before. Don't want to add another app to your phone? You can still sign up and participate via email alerts. Choose your option below:

- [Install on iPhone or iPad](#)
- [Install on Android Phone or tablet](#)
- [Sign up for OutreachCircle Emails](#)

Once the app is installed, join our circle by searching for **League of Women Voters WA**—and start taking action to defend democracy!



## League Calendar

### October

**Tuesday, October 5**—LWV of Snohomish County, City Council Candidate Forum, 6 p.m., live on KSER 90.7 FM and KXIR 89.9 FM, as well as on the [Snohomish League website](#).

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Wednesday, October 6**—Heath Reform and Social Justice discussion hosted by the LWV of the Davis Area (CA), 6 p.m. Featuring Dr. Susan Rogers, president of Physicians for a National Health Plan. [Registration](#) required.

**Friday, October 8**—LWV of Snohomish County, Brier City Council and Mayoral Candidate Forum; recording available 8 a.m. on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Monday, October 11**—LWV of Snohomish County, Monroe City Council Candidate Forum; recording available 8 a.m. on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Monday, October 11**—LWV of Snohomish County, Lynnwood City Council and Mayoral Candidate Forum, 6 p.m., live on KSER 90.7 FM and KXIR 89.9 FM, as well as on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Tuesday, October 12**—LWV of Snohomish County, Edmonds City Council Candidate Forum, 6 p.m., live on KSER 90.7 FM and KXIR 89.9 FM, as well as on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Tuesday, October 12**—LWV of Snohomish County, Monroe School Board Candidate Forum, 6 p.m., live on KSER 90.7 FM and KXIR 89.9 FM, as well as on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Wednesday, October 13**—LWV of Snohomish County, Stanwood City Council Candidate Forum, 6 p.m., live on KSER 90.7 FM and KXIR 89.9 FM, as well as on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Saturday, October 16**—LWV of Snohomish County, Sultan and Gold Bar City Council Candidate Forums; recording available 8 a.m. on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Saturday, October 16**—LWV of Snohomish County, Fire District 5 Candidate Forum; recording available 8 a.m. on the [Snohomish League website](#).

**Friday, October 29**—Last day to submit applications for the LWVUS [Board of Directors](#) and the [Nominating Committee](#).





**Subscribe**

**Past Issues**

**Translate ▼**

---

*Copyright © 2021 League of Women Voters of Washington, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).