



*Democracy in Action Across Washington State | News from the League of Women Voters of WA*

## To Do List

- We need YOU! [Apply for a LWVWA Board position.](#)
- If you haven't already, subscribe to our [Legislative Action Newsletter.](#)
- Please [give to the LWVWA](#) to support our mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram!](#)

## Upcoming Events

### 1.6 SAT | LWVWA Speak-Up School

**REGISTER NOW:** [Attend Speak-Up School](#) and learn how to effectively engage with legislators and use resources like the legislature's [website](#) and the League's [Legislative Action Newsletter.](#)

### 1.22-1.26 MON-FRI | Democracy Lobby Week

**REGISTER NOW:** [Meet with Lobby Team members](#) to learn about the issues coming up in Washington's 2024 legislative session. Attendees also have the opportunity to meet with their legislators.

### 1.8-3.11 | ACT via Zoom

**REGISTER NOW:** Action Coffee Time (ACT) gatherings are weekly informational and question-and-answer sessions using League, state, and community resources to provide the background information you need on topics related to current Washington State legislation. Learn more or register [here.](#)

[Find more League events around the state. →](#)



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Advocacy Season

January of 2024 will be a momentous political year. It will likely be the year of an historic election season. At the local level, it will also be the year that comprehensive plans begin to be adopted with detailed strategies outlining the provision of sufficient new affordable housing for the next two decades, along with clear guidelines on how local jurisdictions intend to address the pressing issues of climate mitigation and resilience. These are the crises of our time and will be the focus of much of the legislative session.

As we move into 2024, the League will be working at the state Legislature on those issues and others of importance to our members, as well as supporting local jurisdictions in their comprehensive planning work.

### How do these things come together?

The League's mission, centered on Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy, manifests through diverse initiatives, with a key focus on advocating for democratic processes and voter empowerment across all levels. At the state level, our primary arena is the state Legislature; we also support the work done by Washington's local Leagues in communities across the state.

League advocacy work is rooted in an extensive process of research, analysis, publication of studies, membership consensus, and adoption of positions. Only after the completion of this process, can the League advocate on specific issues. This ensures our advocacy is both evidence-based and supported by our membership. Beyond our advocacy work, the League's study and consensus process provides voters with solid, reliable, *and* verifiable information that empowers them to make informed decisions at the ballot box. This is how the League supports democracy.



### Meet the LWWA Lobby Team

Who are the people that represent League at the Legislature? There is a team of issue experts (called Issue Chairs) who each specialize in a subject for which they come with expertise and remain well-informed.

[Read More](#)



## Empowering Change: The LWWA's 2024 Legislative Agenda

With the 2024 legislative session set to begin on January 8, the League of Women Voters of Washington has announced our Board-adopted legislative priorities for this year. Our Lobby Team will use these priorities to ensure that their advocacy work aligns with our commitment to justice, fairness, and civic engagement.

[Read More](#)



## A Health Check on Healthcare

Mary Lynne Courtney, LWWA Behavioral Health Issue Chair, delves into the existing vulnerabilities in the state's healthcare system and envisions a more robust alternative, shedding light on the potential improvements that could be achieved with the right support. This is where the League's advocacy team gets to work.

[Read More](#)



## The Lobby Team Can't Do This Work Alone! Here's How You Can Help...

There are a number of ways you can take action and help support the Lobby Team's advocacy. Read on to see how you can take action!

[Read More](#)

## And there's more...

The January issue of *The Evergreen Voter* marks the beginning of a series featuring articles penned by individuals with firsthand experiences. Every few months, we will showcase writings from someone who has grappled with poverty, homelessness, and perhaps, the criminal justice system. These individuals will share their stories in their unique voices, serving as poignant reminders of the significance of our advocacy efforts.



## League in the News

We provide this list of articles about the League's work in Washington State to showcase the work being done by our state and local Leagues. You may encounter a paywall when you click on an article. As our recent study "[The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy](#)" found, local newspapers play a crucial role in supporting healthy communities and healthy democracies. The LWVWA encourages you to subscribe to your local paper if you are able.

- [Voter Turnout Hits Modern Low in WA](#) | LWV of Washington | *The Seattle Times*
- [OPINION: The Loss of Responsible Local Newspapers and Reporters is a Problem for Democracy](#) | LWV of Washington | *The Seattle Times*
- [Guest Commentary: Cowardly Attacks Undermine our Democracy](#) | LWV Yakima County | *Yakima Herald-Republic*
- [Spokane Valley City Council Adopts Homeless Action Plan](#) | LWV Spokane Area | *The Center Square*
- [First Phase of Little League Park Revamp Nearly Done](#) | LWV Clallam County | *The Center Square*
- [Puyallup Tribe Announces \\$600,000 in Donations to Organizations](#) | LWV Tacoma/Pierce County | *The Center Square*
- [LETTER: League Supports Public Participation](#) | LWV Clark County | *The Center Square*
- [OPINION: The Loss of Responsible Local Newspapers and Reporters is a Problem for Democracy](#) | LWV of Washington | *The Olympian*
- [County Council member Jane Fuller and Senator Liz Lovelett host public meeting on Lopez](#) | LWV San Juans | *The Journal of the San Juans*
- [Ferries awarded \\$4.8 million to extend lifespan of six aging vessels by up to a decade](#) | LWV San Juans | *The Journal of the San Juans*
- [League of Women Voters Observer Corps Notes](#) | LWV San Juans | *The Journal of the San Juans*
- [League of Women Voters Observer Corps notes on Council and Board of Health](#) | LWV San Juans | *The Journal of the San Juans*
- [LWV Observer Corps notes from SJHD1, Port and Town Council meetings](#) | LWV San Juans | *The Journal of the San Juans*
- [Controversial Zylstra Trail removed from TIP unanimously by San Juan County Council](#) | LWV San Juans | *San Juan Islander*
- [League of Women Voters Observer Corps notes on Council and Board of Health](#) | LWV San Juans | *The Journal of the San Juans*
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### Join Your Local League

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person 16 and older may become a voting member of the League.

Join

### Support the League

We're able to continue our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy because of support from folks like you. Show your support by donating to the League of Women Voters of Washington right now!

Donate



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