

THE VOTER



This Newsletter published by and for the League of Women Voters of Yakima County
PO Box 723, Yakima WA 98907 509-452-3419

April/May, 2017
Vol. 18, No. 3

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

VISION

To empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

Calendar

- May 8, *LWVYC League Conversations*
5:30-7:30, Ann Ingham Room, UUCY
Update on Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Plan with Wendy Christensen, Project Manager
- May 11, LWVYC Board meeting, noon League office
- May 22, Annual Meeting** 5:30-8:30, Orchard Park Retirement Community Activity Room
- June 2 -4, LWVWA State Convention, Seattle

Officers

President: Lynne Baxter
Secretary: Karen Pilon
Treasurer: Janis Luvaas

Board of Directors

Kathy Lambert
Ruth Schroeder
Criss Bardill
Cynthia Garrick

Voter Editor: Criss Bardill
965-2351 or cbardill@gmail.com

The Board meets at noon on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the League office.
All members are welcome to attend.

LWVYC ANNUAL MEETING

May 22, 2017
5:30 – 8:00

Orchard Park Retirement Community
Activities Room

\$10.00

Many Thanks to:

ELLIE LAMBERT, for leading our *League Conversations* discussion on March 12 on homelessness and current efforts to address this serious and chronic issue in our Valley. Ellie's in-depth knowledge and sincere efforts to help us understand the complexity of this issue were very well received by those attending.

KAREN PILON AND CYNTHIA GARRICK, for staffing a Voter Registration table at the International Women's Day event at Wesley Methodist Church on March 8th.

KARA KONDO LUNCHEON BIG SUCCESS

The Kara Kondo Luncheon was held on April 12, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Downtown Yakima. Cliff Moore, Yakima City Manager shared his impressions of Yakima with the 57 guests at the buffet meal. His upbeat presentation included downtown restaurants, art, restoration and new development. Becky Schall spoke briefly about the League of Women Voters and Trixanna Koch discussed the life of Kara Kondo and her role with the League and the Downtown Committee. A brief biography follows:

Kara Kondo was a member of the League of Women Voters for 55 years, having served as President twice. She encouraged the League to be involved in the study of the city of Yakima and helped create the Downtown Committee in the early 90's. For several decades she was the League's appointed observer and participant in water issues of the valley, which ultimately resulted in the Yakima River Basin Integrated Management Plan, a collaborative agreement among more than a dozen entities.

Kara and her husband Tak Kondo grew up in Wapato, Washington on neighboring farms. Her family was relocated to Heart Mountain during World War II, but Kara joined Tak in Louisville Kentucky, where they were married and lived, while he was stationed in the army at Fort Knox. They later returned to the Yakima Valley where they raised their two children and were actively engaged in the community. A special dry-land garden has been created at the Yakima Valley Arboretum in honor of Kara Kondo's contributions to the community. The Downtown Committee of the League of Women Voters hosts the annual Kara Kondo Luncheon in her honor.

LWVWA Recommends Not Signing I-1552 Petition

The League of Women Voters of Washington is strongly recommending that voters NOT sign I-1552, an initiative that will rollback non-discrimination protections for transgender Washingtonians.

“We usually wait until initiatives make it to the ballot before making a recommendation,” says Kathy Sakahara, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Washington. “But initiatives and bills like I-1552 increase dangerous rhetoric which can lead to hate crimes and violence against LGBTQ people. Regardless of whether it’s approved by voters, the anti-transgender fear mongering accompanying I-1552 can lead to real harm, especially to transgender and gender non-conforming people students who already face higher rates of bullying, harassment and violence.”

See our complete statement [here](#). Find more information about No on I-1522 [here](#).

If you know someone who would like information about the League or is interested in joining, please forward their contact information and we'll send materials, or invite them to complete and mail the form below..

Phone: 509-452-3419

Email: yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com

PO Box 723
Yakima, WA 98907

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA COUNTY
Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!

Name: _____

Membership Categories:

Address: _____

_____ \$10 Student Associate

_____ \$60 Basic

Phone: _____

_____ \$70 Contributing

E-Mail: _____

_____ \$80 Supporting

_____ \$40 Each additional family member at the same residence

Note:→ Student Associate is not a voting member

Make checks payable to: LWVYC, PO Box 723, YAKIMA WA 98907

VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

Secretary of State www.secstate.wa.gov/

LWVWA- Vote 411
www.vote411.org

Yakima County Auditor
<http://yakimacounty.us/170/Elections>