

The Kitsap **Voter**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

OCTOBER 2020

LWVUS Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement:

Empowering
voters.
Defending
democracy.

Vision Statement:

We envision
a democracy
where every
person has
the desire,
the right,
the knowledge
and the
confidence
to participate.

VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUMS

2020 General Election

*All forums hosted on Zoom. Pre-register (links below) to watch live.
You may submit questions ahead of time at www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forum-questions.*

October 8, 2020 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Kitsap County Commissioner, Districts 1 & 2

Dist. 1: Robert Gelder, Scott Henden
Dist. 2: Charlotte Garrido, Oran Root

To attend, pre-register at <https://bit.ly/2F1ciH8>

October 12, 2020 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

23rd Legislative District: Senator, House Reps Pos. 1 & 2

Senator: Pam Madden-Boyer, Christine Rolfes
Rep. Pos. 1: Tarra Simmons, April Ferguson
Rep. Pos. 2: Elaina Gonzales-Blanton, Drew Hansen

To attend, pre-register at <https://bit.ly/2R6ncNY>

October 14, 2020 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

26th Legislative District: House Reps Pos. 1 & 2

Rep. Pos. 1: Jesse Young, Carrie Hesch
Rep. Pos. 2: Michelle Caldier, Joy Stanford

To attend, pre-register at <https://bit.ly/3blf9Av>

Virtual candidate forums are hosted and brought to you by



Guest Columnist

It's a Long Road From Lithuania to Bainbridge Island

Replacing the President's Corner this month is the first of a series of columns by LWVK board members. This one is by Diana

Urbaite-Sosonkina, one of the newer members of the board.

How long have you lived in Kitsap County and what brought you here?

Kitsap County has been our home for almost three years now. Initially my husband and I were looking to purchase a home in Seattle. However, a small peek at Bainbridge Island showed us exactly where we wanted to be.

How long have you been a member of LWV Kitsap? What drew you to join the League?

I joined the League in April 2019. After receiving a local almanac through the mail, I skimmed the list of clubs and orga-

nizations. The League of Women Voters stood out because it was a nonpartisan organization which focused on educating voters. I was attracted to the idea of joining an organization whose members take a tempered, rational approach to solving complex problems.

Where did you grow up and how does your upbringing influence your League activity if at all?

I was born in Lithuania — a small, northeastern country in Europe.

When I was just over a year old, Lithuania was the first of several Soviet republics to officially declare independence in March 1990. Having seen first-hand the disastrous consequences of the communist regime, I am very cautious of the far-left ideologies. I believe them to be just as toxic as any other extremist ideology. The problem with communism is that it comes

across as completely innocuous, and even benevolent. After all, who could argue against equity? But we all have different interests, aptitudes, talents, skills, and health, so problems immediately arise with the implementation of making people have equal outcomes.

In the Soviet Union, meritocratic hierarchy was annihilated. All that mattered was party allegiance; it became a canonical element of leadership. With that, virtues like truth, honor, courage transformed into an ugly, unrecognizable mutant. Since there was no concern for actual merit, citizens did what was expedient. In this system lying, cheating and back-stabbing were automatically (even though unintentionally) reinforced.

My grandfather was captured as a political prisoner, because he disagreed with the Soviet regime. Soon after that, he was sent to Siberia — to a labor camp. The only reason he survived was because he was a well-educated man who spoke Latin. He befriended a Polish camp doctor. Latin was their common language. The doctor gave my grandfather survival tips. In those camps, working to exhaustion was rewarded with more food but purposefully not enough to recover. One of the tips, which sounds so simple now, was to avoid laboring for this reward. My grandfather eventually made it through the camps and lived a long life to tell stories of his “adventures” to his grandchildren. We must be very careful never to destroy earned merit again.

What kind of work do you or did you do (if retired)?

I have experience working in small-business marketing and Montessori education, but currently I am taking time off to decide what I want to do with the rest of my life.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of League?

See LITHUANIA on Page 3



Diana
Urbaite-
Sosonkina

Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

Oct. 3, Board meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom; contact Ann Strosnider or Leni Skarin

Oct. 8, forum for Kitsap County Commissioner candidates, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

Oct. 10, Deadline for November Voter; contact Ann Strosnider

Oct. 10, DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom; contact Susan Griggs

Oct. 12, SK Unit meeting 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom; contact Susan Daniel

Oct. 12, forum for 23rd Legislative District candidates, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

Oct. 14: forum for 26th Legislative District candidates, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

Oct. 16, General Election ballots in the mail to voters

Oct. 17, Bremerton/CK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Oct. 19, Planning Committee meeting, 10 a.m. to noon; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Oct. 24, National Vote Early Day

Oct. 28, NK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon; contact Pam Hamon

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3, General Election Day; deadline for in-person voter registration

◆ Ballots must be postmarked

by this day if mailed; or place in official ballot drop by 8 p.m.

Nov. 7, LWVK Board meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom; contact Ann Strosnider or Leni Skarin

Nov. 9, SK Unit Meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom; contact Susan Daniel

Nov. 14: Deadline for December Voter; contact Ann Strosnider

Nov. 14: DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom, contact Susan Griggs

Nov. 16, Planning Committee meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, contact Maureen Cervinsky

Nov. 21, Bremerton/CK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Voting Questions Answered

Editor's note: Daryl Daugs, Chief Deputy Auditor for Kitsap County, was the guest of the Get Out the Vote Committee at a Zoom meeting on August 20. Here are some of our questions and his answers (edited for space considerations).

LWV: When will ballots be mailed

DD: By October 16.

LWV: When and where should we mail ballots back?

DD: By October 26 if you are going to use a post office or a postal box. But we encourage use of one of the Auditor's 22 white ballot drop boxes. If your ballot is in the drop box by 8 p.m. election night, you don't have to worry about postmark.

LWV: What about National Vote Early Day (October 24)?

DD: October 24 is great. But at least by October 26.

LWV: What kind of turnout are you expecting in November?

DD: The 2020 primary had a high turnout (55 percent). We are



Daryl Daugs, Chief Deputy Auditor, Kitsap County, answered questions about voting at a recent meeting of the VR/GOTV Committee.

preparing for a 90 percent turnout across the state in the general election.

LWV: Will there be a homeless mobile van?

DD: No, but we have three walk-in voting locations, below:

■ Kitsap County Administration Building, 619 Division St., Port Orchard

■ Marvin Williams Recreation

Center, 725 Park Ave., Bremerton

■ Young Voters: Leni Skarin, Maureen Cervinsky and others will be working with Auditor Paul Andrews to record a question and answer session with teen voters before the election. Information about how to view it will be shared in the November Voter and by MailChimp.

■ Census: The recording of our webinar, "2020 Census in Kitsap County" is up on our website. Leni shared this more recent update: Washington state is tied in second place with Wisconsin at 71.5% self-response. The Census Bureau reports that it has concluded the enumeration of another 24.4% of households in Washington state, which would mean that 95.9% of households in our state have been counted.

Center, 725 Park Ave., Bremerton
■ Poulsbo Fire Station, 911 NE Liberty Road, Poulsbo

LWV: Will there be vans going to nursing homes/assisted living centers?

DD: No, due to COVID.

LWV: What do you think of our idea of sending postcards to voters

See DAUGS on Page 5

Meet a New Member

RuthAnn Krusell

I grew up in a large family, in a very small space. I was born and raised in Edmonds, one of seven. In 1976, I moved to Anchorage, Alaska, spending 20 adventuresome years there.

In 1996, we decided it was time to come home. My husband and I were very fortunate to find our home in Kingston.

With all that is happening in our country, I found a desire to give back and attempt to assist in making a difference. Not knowing where to start, I asked close family and friends for recommendations. My incredibly brilliant niece recommended the League. I did some research and with the help of Carol Larsen, here I am.

I look forward to being a part of a great organization.

LITHUANIA

From Page 2

Currently, I am learning two new languages: Italian and French. Dancing is my passion as well.

Tell us a little about your family. Are you married? Do you have children? Do you have any pets?

Being happily married, my husband and I enjoy travel adventures. We like to discover new countries and take road trips.

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming year as a League board member?

This is my first year as a League board member, so I am taking these first few months to observe and identify the areas where I can contribute.

Board Snippets

From Sept. 5, 2020

■ **Treasurer's Report:** Expenses for GOTV and the forums should not be a problem because we have adequate funding in our Education Fund. Be sure to submit all receipts to Karen Faye for reimbursement.

■ **Vote411:** Once Vote411 goes live for the general election, we need to check it to make sure our local candidates have answered the questions.

■ **Redistricting:** The public education program on redistricting, which we hoped to hold in November, will be postponed. We want to work with the Auditor on this program, and the Auditor and staff will be too busy with the election to do

Committee News



We're gearing up for a new postcard campaign, this time focusing on asking voters to get their ballots in early.

Postcard Campaign

As we are about to begin our big general election postcard campaign, the committee wants to share what we learned from the August primary election. Remember, we targeted three precincts in Bremerton with historically low voter turnouts to receive postcards with a personal note of encouragement to vote. No cards were sent to registered voters in another control group of precincts. Turnout was very similar in all of the precincts, in the low 40 percent range.

We found that the only precinct that did slightly better than the others was Precinct 95, and decided to take a closer look. Voting was not random. People who voted in Precinct 95 in August had a habit of voting steadily in recent elections, including the presidential primary in March, a local issue in February, and elections in 2019.

They also were about two years older than non-voting registered "active" voters. We must keep up our candidate forums and make them readily available to this community. Recent arrivals and younger voters need these to make informed decisions on candidates in local elections.

The Postcard Committee decided to change direction for the General Election, particularly considering the possibility of mail service delays. Because the Auditor

is expecting a very high turnout, this time the message is "Make Sure Your Vote Counts." Our cards will emphasize making a voting plan to get your ballot in early. They will include locations and dates for local ballot drop boxes.

There already are more than 60 wonderful Kitsap LWV volunteers prepared to address and stamp 4,000 postcards for the same precincts! Special thanks to Maurie Louis, Colette Crosby, Pam Hamon, Maureen and John Cervinsky, Susan Daniel, and our artist, Alicia Vause. — Karen Faye



Helen Hoover and Martha Burke set up a voter registration table at the Poulsbo farmers market on Saturday, Sept. 5. We are looking into setting up a table at the Bainbridge Island farmers market as well.

VR/GOTV

Because of COVID-19, we have been limited in our usual voter registration efforts, but Martha Burke and Helen Hoover recently set up a League table at the Poulsbo farmers market. We may be registering at the Bainbridge farmers market as well.

Colette Crosby and Victoria Hilt are promoting registering to vote and voting early on our social media sites. Members are encouraged to send Colette pictures of VOTE masks and fun stories about registering and voting. Our most important message will be encouraging voters to use the ballot drop boxes provided by the Auditor's office or mailing ballots no later than Oct. 26.

We gave 1,500 Spanish/English voter registration flyers to local food banks to be put in their food distribution bags.

Units are scheduling holding the banners and VOTE NOW signs at the end of October, so let your unit leader know if you want to help. A subcommittee of the VR/GOTV committee is focusing on getting access to the high schools for voter regis-

tration and encouraging youth to vote.

We are working with the Auditor's office to put signs next to the blue USPS mail boxes encouraging voters to make sure their ballots are counted by mailing before election day. We have more VR bookmarks, and VOTER pins will be ordered. Contact Pam Hamon if you can help with distribution.

Maurie Louis is organizing the second postcard writing campaign to the same three precincts to see if we can make a difference. The Unit Leaders will handle the distribution and volunteers will mail the postcards Oct. 17. — Pam Hamon

Planning

The Planning Committee meets on the third Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. We are hoping to have a student interview with Auditor Paul Andrews ready for broadcast by Friday, Oct. 16. The League's taped interview between David Nelson and Jevin West regarding false information and the 2020 election should be available for view in early October. The link will be posted on our website (www.lwv-kitsap.org), Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. It will also be available for viewing through Bremerton Kitsap Access Television (BKAT) on Comcast Channel 12 and WAVE Broadband Channel 3. We'll send out the broadcast times for "When Disinformation Meets Election 2020: Becoming an Informed Citizen" when available.

— Maureen Cervinsky

DEI

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has scheduled an interview with Tracy Flood, a local attorney who is president of the Bremerton NAACP chapter, for Sept. 30. The session, titled "How to be a Better Ally," will be taped for later viewing.

Health Care

Due to work and family responsibilities, Jessica Guidry had to step aside temporarily from being the chair. The committee does not plan to meet again until January because members are busy with GOTV activities. Please contact Leni Skarin or Ann Strosnider if you are interested in chairing this important committee.

Unit News

■ **Bainbridge Island:** The BI Unit met Sept. 9 and discussed GOTV activities and staffing the Bainbridge farmers market to register voters. Many people have volunteered to hold Vote Now signs at the Bainbridge ferry and to address postcards to voters in low-turnout precincts. Because of all this activity, we have decided to revisit the unit meeting frequency after the November election. Contact Colette Crosby.

■ **North Kitsap:** The NK Unit meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. on Zoom. On Sept. 23, we plan to discuss the CHI/Virginia Mason hospital merger and the Brennan Center webinar report on what to expect on Election Day. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 28. Contact Pam Hamon.

■ Bremerton/Central

Kitsap: The Brem./CK Unit meets via Zoom on the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon. Our unit plans to continue exploring "Know Your Community" by inviting community leaders to share their important work. Contact Maureen Cervinsky.

■ **South Kitsap:** The SK Unit meets via Zoom at 10 a.m. the second Monday of each month. With the Nov. 3 election quickly approaching, our emphasis is on getting out the vote (GOTV). Some of us will be addressing VOTER postcards to residents in low-turnout precincts and we again will hold VOTE NOW signs near heavy traffic areas to encourage all to vote. In addition, our members also are actively participating on the DEI, Housing and Health Care committees. Contact Susan Daniel.

LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — Susan Griggs; susan.griggs0803@gmail.com

Early Childhood Education (0-3) — Rosalind Renouard; rrenouard@msn.com

Forums — Ann Strosnider; astrosnider@mac.com

Housing — Rochelle Karlsen and Connie Syapin; sailorrochelle@gmail.com; csyapin@msn.com

Legislative Issue Liaison — Martha Burke; mburke2007@aol.com

LWV 101 — Pam Hamon and Carol Larsen; pchamon@icloud.com; clarsen88@gmail.com

Membership — Carol Larsen; clarsen88@gmail.com

Planning — Maureen Cervinsky; mcervinsky@gmail.com

Publicity — Maurie Louis; maurie.louis@comcast.net

Social Media — Colette Crosby; colettecrosby@gmail.com

Technology — Maurie Louis; maurie.louis@comcast.net

Vote411 — Martha Burke; mburke2007@aol.com

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote — Pam Hamon and Alicia Vause; pchamon@icloud.com; aliciavotes@gmail.com

ON THE WEB

Find our local League news, meeting notices, publications, and reminders on our Facebook page or website, www.lwv-kitsap.org. Be sure to 'like' us on Facebook.

DAUGS

From Page 3

in low-turnout precincts?

DD: Direct mail, such as postcards, is considered the best way to reach voters. Letting them know about ballot drop boxes and voting centers is a great idea.

LWV: We hear so many concerns in the national news about voting by mail. Should we be worried?

DD: No, these concerns don't apply in Washington state. We have been doing mail-in voting exclusively

for the past 10 years, and it generally goes very smoothly. Mailed ballots provide a paper trail, which is very important in case of disputed elections or recounts. We have strict protocols for emptying ballot boxes and checking signatures on ballots. We welcome anyone with questions to contact our office, talk to us and take a tour.

LWV: We hear a lot about 'voter purging' in other states. Do we do that?

DD: We do not purge voters

in Washington state. If you voted in 1980 and have not voted since, you are still on the rolls. If your ballot is sent to you and comes back 'undeliverable,' you will be moved to inactive status, but you will still be registered. You are only removed if you die or move to another state.

LWV: Can people volunteer to be 'poll watchers'?

DD: We do use volunteers for ballot processing, but they all receive background checks and appropriate training. And they are all paid. You can apply through the Auditor's web-

site at kitsapgov.com.

LWV: How is the Auditor's office communicating all this to the public?

DD: We invite you to follow the Auditor's office on social media, then retweet and share. We are also doing press releases and hoping for an article in the Kitsap Sun.

The Voter's pamphlet (due out a week before the ballots are mailed) contains a wealth of information, including a listing of the addresses of all 22 ballot drop boxes.

League of Women Voters
of Kitsap County, WA
P.O. Box 1524
Poulsbo, WA 98370



OCTOBER 2020 Voter

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Membership Levels

<p>_____ \$60 Basic Membership</p> <p>_____ \$90 Household Membership (2 or more members at the same address)</p> <p>_____ \$110 Carrie Chapman Catt Member (founder of League of Women Voters)</p> <p>_____ \$160 Jo Huey Member (first president of LWV/K)</p> <p>_____ Donation to Education Fund (only donations to the Education fund are tax-deductible)</p> <p>_____ Free Student Membership (with current student identification)</p> <p>_____ Additional donation to support your local Kitsap League (Full or partial scholarships are available upon request.)</p>	<p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____ _____</p> <p>EMAIL _____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p>
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Dues are payable by check or by PayPal at lwv-kitsap.org. Make checks payable to LWV/Kitsap and mail to: League of Women Voters/Kitsap
P.O. Box 1524
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Mark Your Calendar: Dues are payable in July. Members are notified well in advance; please pay dues on time.
NOTE: If paying with PayPal, you will be charged a small additional fee to cover the PayPal convenience charge.