



The Kitsap

# Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

NOVEMBER 2021

## 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.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### NOVEMBER

**Nov. 29:** Voter Services committee meeting, 2 p.m. via Zoom; contact Alicia Vause/Colette Crosby

#### DECEMBER

**Dec 1:** DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Susan Griggs

**Dec 4:** Action Workshop, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Martha Burke

**Dec 7:** Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Ch. 2 and 3 of "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster" by Bill Gates; contact Kathy Campbell

**Dec 9:** LWVK Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Maurie Louis

**Dec 10:** Healthcare Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Leni Skarin or Jessica Guidry

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From left is Monica Bernhard, Chief Operating Officer, Kitsap Mental Health Services; Bridget Glasspoole, Director of Housing and Community Services, Kitsap Mental Health Services; and Rochelle Karlsen, Housing Chair, League of Women Voters of Kitsap

Photo by  
Judy-Rae Karlsen

## League 'Welcome Home Baskets' Project Big Funding Winner

The 'Welcome Home Baskets' project for Pendleton Place was the big winner at the quarterly meeting of 100 Who Care, Kitsap. The project first was pitched in July by Connie Syapin, co-chair of the LWVK Housing Committee. Rochelle Karlsen recently went back for another try that was overwhelmingly supported. 100 Who Care, Kitsap, is a giving circle of Kitsap residents who seek to make a difference in Kitsap County by pooling charity dollars. Kathy Campbell, a LWVK League member who was highlighted in last month's Voter, launched this local chapter of 100 Who Care last year.

Pendleton Place is a 72-unit supportive housing complex opening next March in Bremerton. It is being built by Kitsap Mental Health Services in partnership with Bremerton Housing Authority. Kitsap Mental Health Services is a private, nonprof-

it agency providing comprehensive behavioral health services in Kitsap County since 1978. Pendleton Place residents will rent an apartment and be assigned a case manager who will work with them to engage with the

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# Kitsap County Elections Office Visit

Anyone is welcome to tour the Elections Office in Kitsap County and observe what is happening. Auditor Paul Andrews suggested at a League Voter Registration training session that interested citizens visit when ‘something is going on,’ so I showed up the morning of Nov. 3, no appointment needed.

I got to watch the ‘random batch audit’ that is required by state law. On Election Day, six batches of ballots are randomly selected to again test to make sure the tabulation system is counting ballots correctly. The test is conducted the day after Election Day. When there is at least one countywide race on the ballot, a countywide race must be selected. The test results are documented and recorded. What I watched was a hand count of the vote to make sure it matches the machine count. The hand count is always done by two people who have to agree on a voter’s intent before separating the ballots into piles of ‘yes,’ ‘no,’ ‘undercount’ (no choice marked), or ‘overcount’

(both choices marked).

I also observed signature verification. The personnel assigned to this task must receive training from the Washington State Patrol. The six staff members sat in front of computer screens that had numerous examples of a voter’s legal signature as from a voter registration form, driver’s license, building permit, property purchase, etc. As long as one of those matches the signature on the ballot envelope, it is accepted. Ballot envelopes are not opened until after signature verification.

It was interesting that election personnel can only use orange ink pens when making notations. The auditor has a permanent 24/7 live view of the ballot processing room. Activities such as the ‘Random Batch Audit’ that I watched in person also are live-streamed. FAQs about Washington State elections: [www.sos.wa.gov/elections/general-election-faqs.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/general-election-faqs.aspx).

— Janet Stegemeyer

## Unit News

■ **Bainbridge Island:** Our Dec. 15 meeting will be a zoom meeting and our guest speaker will be the chief of police for Bainbridge Island. It will be exciting to hear his new ideas for our island. A zoom link will be sent before the meeting; Delight Willing and Colette Crosby, Co-chairs

■ **Bremerton/CK:** On Oct. 16, the B/CK Unit met with Deputy Auditor Daryl Daugs for an update on the current state of the Kitsap County Commissioners’ redistricting process. Four members joined Daryl at the United Way conference room while six members attended remotely. We recorded our conversation and you may view it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfOsZWb3RVg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfOsZWb3RVg).

We finished our October Get-Out-the-Vote efforts by waving our GoVote signs at two locations, , on four occasions and

to the accompaniment of honks and waves. To cap October off, seven members from our unit met at west Bremerton’s Spiro’s for dinner and a conversation about Ijeoma Oluo’s “So You Want to Talk about Race.”

Our conversation with Bremerton School District’s Assistant Superintendent, Iva Scott, has been postponed until our January meeting. For more information and a Zoom link, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

■ **North Kitsap:** No report this month.

■ **South Kitsap:** At the Nov. 8 meeting, Alicia Vause of the Bainbridge Island Unit gave a “tour” of the LWVK website to show how to access all of its features. The brief tour was recorded and soon will be available for viewing on the LWVK website. The SK Unit meets the second Monday of the month except for Decem-

ber. The next unit meeting via Zoom will at 10 a.m. Jan. 10. Contact Janet Stegemeyer for information.

## CALENDAR

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**Dec 13:** Climate Solutions Committee meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Guest Ted Larson Freeman, “Understanding Climate Policy”; contact Marty Bishop

**Dec 14:** “0 to 3” Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Rosalind Renouard

**Dec 15:** Bainbridge Island Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

**Dec 18:** Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m.; contact Maureen Cervinsky

**Dec 20:** Planning Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Robin Muir

**Dec 21:** Climate Solutions Book

Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Ch. 4 and 5 of “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster” by Bill Gates; contact Kathy Campbell

**Dec 22:** North Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Pam Hamon

**Dec 27:** Climate Solutions Committee business meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Marty Bishop

## JANUARY 2022

**Jan. 1:** LWVK Board meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Maurie Louis

**Jan. 3:** SK Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Janet Stegemeyer

**Jan. 4:** Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom; contact Marty Bishop

**Jan. 5:** DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Susan Griggs

**Jan. 10:** South Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Janet Stegemeyer

## New Member is Recent Tech Industry Retiree

Please join me in welcoming one of our newest League members, Catherine (Cat) Freudenberg. Cat attended one of our primary forums this year and was impressed with the questions asked of the candidates. After researching our organization, Cat joined the League and I immediately recruited her to help with the Voter. Her technological skills and having another set of eyes have proven invaluable.

Cat grew up in a military family so is a seasoned world traveler and has visited other parts of our world on her own as well. Her family made Bainbridge Island their final destination in the mid-1970s, while Cat went on to pursue her education and then career. After 32 years in telecommunications, where she managed a 24/7 operation in multiple states, she retired and returned to the Island fulltime.

She now is pursuing another career that she will find challenging and as varied as her previous work but one that will not wake her up in the middle of the night to solve some crisis. She keeps busy herding or attempting to



Photo by P. Skinner

Cat with alpaca Luchador.

herd her four dogs and two kitties. Previously, Cat also raised alpacas on a farm in Kent. The pandemic “shut-in time” prompted Cat to experiment in bread and pasta making and her husband, Richard, particularly enjoys this new hobby.

One of Cat’s colleagues used to say about a problem: “you can stand there and admire it or do something about it.”

Looking at the activities performed by the League, it was clear to her that the League shared this philosophy. Cat

en trashcan will be filled with shampoo, toothbrush, deodorant, combs, bath soap, body lotion, toilet tissue, laundry soap, sponges, cleaning supplies and hot pads.

“These residents are coming into their new home off the street with little more than the clothes on their back. Our goal is to provide some of the basic necessities to make this transition to housing more comfortable and less stressful,” says Rochelle Karlsen, chair of the Housing Committee. “Some of the items we’ll provide are things most of us probably take for granted. This generous donation through 100 Who Care, Kitsap, will go a long way in helping us purchase these items.”

The drive for donations continues until December 31, 2021. You can donate at: [www.kitsapmentalhealth.org/register/donate-online/](http://www.kitsapmentalhealth.org/register/donate-online/), and select “Pendleton Place Welcome Baskets.” If you prefer to pay by check, make your check payable to Kitsap



Photo by R. Freudenberg

Cat with Teddy.

is eager to help educate voters on the importance of local elections and improving the quality of life for the less fortunate. She loves to research issues and act on facts. Cat believes we can learn a lot from other countries in addressing some of our societal problems and that we should be willing to value other success stories and adopt strategies irrespective of their origin. It is our fortune to have Cat as a member and she will contribute greatly to our reaching our objectives.

— Susanne Hughes

### PENDLETON

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available services which include: onsite medical and dental health care provided by Peninsula Community Health; behavioral health care provided by Kitsap Mental Health Services and; skills building and job search services offered by Work-Source.

Residents will be adults who are chronically homeless, have a diagnosis of mental health disorder and/or substance use disorder, suffer from chronic health conditions, or have a developmental disability. Individuals who have been chronically homeless for a year or more will be prioritized. Potential residents are being screened by Kitsap Community Resources.

The ‘Welcome Home Baskets’ will provide some basic necessities to the new residents. A laundry basket and a kitch-

Mental Health Services and note “Pendleton Place Welcome Baskets” in the memo line. Mail to:

Kitsap Mental Health Services  
Attn: Donations  
5455 Almira Drive NE  
Bremerton, WA 98311

You also can contribute by participating in an “assembly party” in February. If you’re interested, please send an email to [ppbremertonwa@gmail.com](mailto:ppbremertonwa@gmail.com). The Housing Committee greatly appreciates the support of League members, friends, and family.

Learn more about Pendleton Place: Pendleton Place, [www.kitsapmentalhealth.org/get-help/adults-older-adults/housing-services/pendleton-place/](http://www.kitsapmentalhealth.org/get-help/adults-older-adults/housing-services/pendleton-place/)

Learn more about Kitsap Mental Health Services: [www.kitsapmentalhealth.org](http://www.kitsapmentalhealth.org) Learn more about 100 Who Care, [100whocarekitsap.wixsite.com/powerof100](http://100whocarekitsap.wixsite.com/powerof100).

— Rochelle Karlsen



## Going the Extra Mile on Mile Hill

The Housing Committee’s Janet Stegemeyer added to her personal beautification project at the Mile Hill facility by adding some fall decorations to an old tree stump at the front of the property that further enhances the curb appeal at the future homeless shelter purchased by Kitsap County. Thank you, Janet, for going the extra mile on Mile Hill!

— Rochelle Karlsen



Photo by Rochelle Karlsen

Janet Stegemeyer added a bit of Halloween spirit to the future homeless shelter on Mile Hill Drive in Port Orchard.

## Committee News

### Climate Solutions

The Climate Solutions Committee met on Nov. 8 and shared in a discussion with Marcia Christen about reducing plastic use. Ms. Christen explained ways her family has brought down plastic use by following a hierarchy of decision making. The bottom of the pyramid starts with refusing; Refusing to buy stuff you don’t need. Other “layers” include reduce, reuse, recycle and repair. It is a good message especially as we enter the holidays.

We are reading the book, “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster” by Bill Gates. Gates offers some ideas about how individuals and groups can reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. We discussed the introduction and first chapter on Nov. 16.



Ted Larson Freeman

The Climate Book Club is led by Kathy Campbell and discussion sessions will be on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Contact Marty L. Bishop for the link to join.

Ted Larson Freeman will be our speaker at 7 p.m. Dec. 13. He will lead us in a comprehensive look at financing climate policy by exploring various options with an emphasis on equity. He is an expert on this subject and a longtime lobbyist with Citizens’ Climate Lobby. Please contact Marty L. Bishop for the link to register for this important talk.

— Marty L. Bishop and Anita Rose, Co-chairs

### DEI

The DEI Committee had a webinar Nov. 9 titled, ‘Voices of Kitsap County: A Discussion with Four Latinx Perspectives.’

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## Voting Redistricting Report

The Washington Redistricting Commission expected to be able to send the negotiated state congressional and legislative Maps to the State Legislature as required by Nov. 15. The Commission issued the following announcement on Nov. 16:

“Last night, after substantial work marked by mutual respect and dedication to the important task, the four voting commissioners on the state redistricting commission were unable to adopt a districting plan by the midnight deadline.

“The late release of the 2020 census data combined with technical challenges hampered the commission’s work considerably. Pursuant to RCW 44.05.100, the Supreme Court now has jurisdiction to adopt a districting plan. The commissioners have every faith that the Supreme Court will draw maps that are fair and worthy of the people of Washington.”

The Commission indicated that thousands of Washingtonians have testified, sent in comments, and/or submitted maps in their eagerness to share opinions about how the state should be redistricted.

A large percentage of the testimonies/comments had stressed the importance of keeping communities of interest together and the Commissioners have indicated this also is a high priority for them.

Regarding local redistricting, in most Washington counties including Kitsap, the county auditor draws precinct lines that are subsequently approved by the county commissioners. A maximum of 1,500 eligible voters can be in a precinct and precinct lines cannot cross city or county lines since it is the precinct lines that dictate what is included on each voter’s ballot.

A presentation on the County Commissioner redistricting process by the Kitsap County Auditor staff was recorded at a recent Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit meeting. Go to the B/CK Unit report for information. A public hearing on the three redistricting alternatives for the commissioner districts was scheduled for Nov. 22.

— Susan Griggs

### ON THE WEB

Find our local League news, meeting notices, publications, and reminders on our Facebook page or website, [www.lwv-kitsap.org](http://www.lwv-kitsap.org). Be sure to ‘like’ us on Facebook.

## COMMITTEES

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The panelists discussed how individuals from different Latin American countries are very diverse: having different vocabulary words, different accents, and different traditional customs. Most of the panelists indicated that they were not comfortable with the term Latinx and one associated the term Hispanic with colonialism. The panelists shared openly information about the discrimination and obstacles they have encountered in Kitsap County. They indicated the need for more translators and for a process to teach immigrants how to navigate the American systems. The webinar was very well received by the audience and many of those who attended indicated they wanted to reach out to immigrants and help them.

The DEI committee is looking into having a speaker give input as to how Kitsap County jurisdictions could go about recruiting a more diverse staff.

The committee was asked to provide training to local advocacy groups on how to testify to local city Councils or school boards.

The committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month (Dec. 1 and Jan. 5, 2022).

Contact Susan Griggs (susan.griggs0803@gmail.com) or 509-668-2888 for information.

— Susan Griggs, Chair

### Early Childhood

The “0 to Three” Committee has been working on a Power Point presentation that it feels can be adjusted to suit different audiences, unit meetings and outside organizations of

various types. We’re excited to complete the work at our next meeting this month. In the future we hope to have a meeting open to the public at which time we plan to ask a representative from one of the agencies with which we’ve worked to join us.

— Rosalind Renouard, Chair

### Legislative

This year's LWVWA Action workshop will be on one day, Dec. 4. The flyer, which will be sent electronically to members, provides details about the workshop and all members are strongly encouraged to participate. In particular, members of the Climate Solutions, Healthcare and Housing Committees may want to attend the breakout sessions that will address these topics. Attendance is free.

Martha Burke, LWVK Legislative Committee chair, will host a strategy meeting later in December to develop our League's agenda for the upcoming session.

— Sue Hughes

### LWVK Nominating

We'd Love to hear from you!

The LWVK Nominating Committee is seeking members interested in serving on our 2022-24 Board. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know members from other areas of the county and to learn more about the larger picture of the workings of the League.

Five positions are up for election this year:

Second Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Director, Position 2

Director, Position 4

Extensive knowledge of the

League and long-time membership are **NOT** required. We are looking for people who value the League's mission and want to use their unique skills and strengths to contribute to the diverse activities in which our League is involved.

Please contact any of the Nominating Committee members for specific information concerning board member responsibilities. You also are encouraged to contact current or former board members to learn about their experiences. Thank you for giving thoughtful consideration to this opportunity.

The Nominating Committee includes: Susanne Sue Hughes, Chair (suhughes111@comcast.net); Martha Burke; Pam Hamon; Candy Rankin; and Barbara Willock — Candy Rankin

### LWVWA Nominating

This year, with the LWVWA move to staggered terms for the State Board, the Nominating Committee is visiting local Leagues to talk about their nominating process and to answer any questions. The presentation by Beth Pellicciotti (LWVWA board member and a member of its Nominating Committee) was recorded.

To learn more about the state League's nominating process, view the presentation and join in a Zoom Meet & Greet at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 9. Links to this Meet and Greet will be available soon. More information is on the LWVWA website at [lwvwa.org/Nominating-Committee](http://lwvwa.org/Nominating-Committee).

To view the presentation and receive the PowerPoint slides contact Maurie Louis, [maurie.louis@comcast.net](mailto:maurie.louis@comcast.net).

### Healthcare

The Healthcare Committee has been listening to presentations by different provider groups in Kitsap County, with a focus on reproductive healthcare and end-of-life care services. The recordings for most of these are made available on the League website within a week after our meeting.

In November we heard from Dr. Regina Bonnevie Rogers, chief medical officer for Peninsula Community Health Services.

We expect to hear from Kaiser Permanente and Multi-Care in the next few months.

The committee meets at 12:30 p.m. on the second Friday and our next meeting is Dec. 10.

— Leni Skarin and  
Jessica Guidry

### MELD

MELD is an acronym for Membership, Engagement, Leadership Development. Some history perhaps? This program began in 2005 with the National League wanting to support and strengthen emerging League leadership, membership recruitment and League visibility. MELD in Washington State grew out of this initiative.

Our state has four PODS each consisting of seven to eight local League representatives. Each POD meets monthly to share successes and challenges facing their local League. I represent our Kitsap League and plan to share information in upcoming Voters and ask you to let me know if you have questions, concerns and ideas for improving the program. Your input is valued and encouraged.

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



### NOVEMBER 2021 Voter

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### LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

- Climate Change Solutions** — Anita Rose and Marty Bishop;  
ineedarose2@gmail.com; marty1.bishop@gmail.com
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** — Susan Griggs; susan.griggs0803@gmail.com
- Early Childhood Education (0-3)** — Rosalind Renouard; rrenouard@msn.com
- Healthcare** — Leni Skarin and Jessica Guidry; leniskarin@gmail.com;  
jessicaguidry@hotmail.com
- Housing** — Rochelle Karlsen; sailorrochelle@gmail.com
- Legislative Issue Liaison** — Martha Burke; mburke2007@aol.com
- Membership** — Carol Larsen; clarsen88@gmail.com
- Nominating** — Sue Hughes; suhughes111@comcast.net
- Program Planning** — Robin Muir; sumuirhom@gmail.com
- Publicity** — Rochelle Karlsen; sailorrochelle@gmail.com
- Voter Services** — Colette Crosby and Alicia Vause; colettecrosby@gmail.com;  
aliciavotes@gmail.com
- Voter Editor** — Sue Hughes; suhughes111@comcast.net