

# *The Voter*

**June 2022**

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## Primary Forums Coming in July

The Forums Committee has been meeting over the spring and summer to plan three candidate forums in July in advance of the Aug. 2 primary. We may hold as many as nine forums in October before the Nov. 8 general election. The primary forums will be conducted as Zoom webinars, but we may consider in-person or hybrid forums in the future.

Candidate forums are crucial in carrying out our League’s mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government. While national media may focus on Congressional and presidential elections, we

zero in on the ones that matter most at the state and local level – including county commissioner, state representative and senator, sheriff and district court judges. These forums allow our members and the general public to pose questions to the candidates and to size them up side-by-side.

Some of the jobs involved in putting on a forum include moderator, backup moderator, candidate liaison, Zoom host, webinar manager and timekeeper. If you think you might like to get involved in this work, please contact Ann Strosnider.

Helping out with the primary forums this year are Maurie Louis, Catherine Ahl, Janet Stegemeyer, Rhonda Fairgrieve, Alicia Vause, Candy Rankin, Carol Larsen, Colette Crosby, Delight Willing, Susan Daniel, Leni Skarin, Myra Howrey, Liz Sebren, Robin Muir, Linda Streissguth and Ann Strosnider.

**To see the forums schedule, go to our website at [www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forums](http://www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forums) .**

*Ann Strosnider*

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## Preserving Green Space with Pocket Parks

Fellow League member Kathleen Gallagher shared her deep emotions around pocket parks in a poignant letter she sent to a good number of recipients. It's a very moving letter which she sent to, among others, our US Representative Derek Kilmer and our US Senator Patty Murray. Immediately after reading Kathleen's words Maureen Cervinsky responded with what I feel is perfect advice. Her response also went to Representative Kilmer, Senator Murray and others. With Kathleen and Maureen's permission I am including these two items in the June edition of our League's Voter.

*Maurie Louis, President*

### **Pocket Parks by Kathleen Gallagher (B/CK)**

In front of Silverdale Vintage Apartments was a piece of undeveloped woods and a field. Today the field is gone and the trees have all been knocked down. The trees were a balm to look out on and filled with birds, nests, and singing. Gone in exchange for more storage units for the expanding population, rise in housing prices, and rents. I am angry.

When I suggested community pocket parks, it encompassed near neighborliness and DEI, environment (trees), handicapped accessibility, water, picnic area and benches for workers and residents. Across from The Trails a whole new housing was built. Foresight is needed, not hindsight from which we apparently learn nothing as history promulgates.

I love the Gateway Clear Creek Park, but it is not easy to reach unless you use gas and parking lots. Goodbye climate goals. I walk as best I can and have been thinking of getting rid of my car altogether. I am a rare person on the sidewalks (where there are sidewalks). There are almost no benches, no trash cans, no water fountains (hence plenty of trash and plastic water bottles).

What is the value of infrastructure if there is not accountability to humans, except as spending machines for their system?

I am angry. I am tired. I am old. I am running out of energy and time. I want someone younger to take up the cause. Someone to whom all this matters or will in hindsight. We are as good as blind.

*Kathleen Gallagher*

## **Response to the Pocket Parks Letter to the Editor by Maureen Cervinsky (B/CK)**

I am sorry that our attempt to engage the community in the pocket parks concept did not gain traction, Kathleen. The video is still on YouTube and in the League's list of recordings. I wish I knew how to attract people's attention and energize support. [\(1\) 2020-12-02 Pocket Parks Kathleen Gallagher - YouTube](#)

One thing that is important for those of us who are concerned about preserving green spaces and quality of life considerations, like walking paths and community spaces, should pay close attention to the candidates for the District 3 County Commissioners position. That commissioner represents the unincorporated areas in Central Kitsap and Bremerton as well as most of the city of Bremerton. I hope that through the forum process, concerned citizens will submit questions that address their concerns about how the county growth plan provides for livable communities and concerns for the quality of life.

We need to be paying attention to what decisions are being made in the county and city governments. That means attending the public meetings where these decisions are made. It also means understanding how these decisions are made, how our elected officials stand on the issues, but also the constraints that are placed upon them. Many other coalitions and agencies impact what is done in our county and the ability of our elected officials to influence development. We need to advocate for more transparency and more local coverage of our local governments.

I hope that our next District 3 Kitsap County Commissioner is thoughtful about the development of Kitsap County and transparent about how the decisions are made.

*Maureen Cervinsky*

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## **Support Our Public-School Educators**

The past few years have been most difficult for Public School teachers and staff. Besides COVID, they are facing unprecedented attacks and harassment from people critical of curriculum, many attack the teaching of factual historical events. Some want to ban books and conversations they 'might' disagree with. As a retired teacher, with 40 years in education, I am concerned. There are resources available in Kitsap County if you would also like to be involved in supporting our educators. One of these great resources is: **The Kitsap ERACE Coalition Education Team**, which *is working to support educators and to be sure School Districts have MEANINGFUL Equity Policies in place.*

Kitsap ERACE Coalition is part of a local grassroots group of people engaging neighbors to build community to boost interconnected race equity work. They have been active since 2019. The Education Team is one of six working teams. The other teams are Criminal Justice Institutions, Governmental Jurisdictions, Health System, and Advocating for Community Members Unlearning Racism/White Supremacy (ACMU), and Breaking Bread Planning Team (primarily ministers in Kitsap County). If any of these teams sound interesting to you, please contact me at [judy.arbogast@gmail.com](mailto:judy.arbogast@gmail.com).

ERACE has developed a sample letter to educators, which you can personalize it with activities you see in your district. The letter was recently published as an open letter to educators in the Kitsap Sun, June 9, 2022 at <https://tinyurl.com/ERACEletter>.

I encourage you to join me in thanking teachers.

*Judy Arbogast* [judy.arbogast@gmail.com](mailto:judy.arbogast@gmail.com)

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## 2022 LWVWA Council Report

Eight of us attended the 2022 LWVWA Council in Everett from June 10 to June 12. The official business item was to vote in the new state board members recommended by the state league's nominating committee. It's great to say that we now have two LWVK members on the state board, Myra Howrey (NK) and Susan Daniel (SK). I personally was moved by Dr. Nicholas Lovrich's presentation, "*Polarization & Incivility in American Politics: Is Congressional Gridlock Affecting U.S. State Legislatures?*"; and, I was also inspired by Jessica Rohloff, LWV US Secretary, "*What's New, What's Not with National.*" Her League journey was great to hear. Perhaps the League members in your unit can share Jessica's story.

You can download Dr. Lovrich's presentation and loads of other Council materials, by going to the state leagues website at <https://lwvwa.org/Council-2022#download>.

*Maurie Louis, President*

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## Committee and Unit Reports

### Climate Solutions Committee

On June 13 the Climate Solutions Committee hosted a meeting with Greg Williams about Solar Power. He shared the advantages of using solar power in our area. The recording can soon be found on the LWV Kitsap website.

On June 28 we will be covering Section 3 of *Saving Us* by Katharine Hayhoe. You are welcome to join even if you have not read the book. Ms. Hayhoe's purpose is to empower us to have meaningful conversations about the climate crisis. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89180822623>

Meeting ID: 891 8082 2623 Passcode: CSBooks

The committee is on summer break during July and August. Let Marty Bishop, or Anita Rose, know if you have ideas for speakers in September and beyond.

### Planning Committee Year in Review

The Planning Committee was pleased to host several compelling speakers during the course of the last fiscal year. The year started with Joe Rutan and Jeff Shea from Kitsap Public Works to discuss the newly raised transportation fees. We then shifted to Public Banking with presentations from Stoney Bird, Ruth Fruland, and Meredith Green (our County Treasurer). The Brown Bag discussion with our County Council members and Port

Authority representatives focused on development in Kitsap County. The committee also acted in a supporting role for unit meeting speakers, the Health Committee presentation of End of Life and Reproductive Care, and the Climate Solutions Committee Roundtable. This was an ambitious undertaking, but thanks to Zoom we were able to host many different speakers.

The plans for next year are taking shape. Our next meeting will be August 15th, 2022 at 10:00am. If you would like to be a part of planning events in any way, large or small, please contact Robin Muir at [sumuirhom@gmail.com](mailto:sumuirhom@gmail.com)

## **DEI June Report**

- Are School Boards allowed to make decisions at committee meetings, and then vote on them at the School Board Meeting without really talking at all about what they are voting on?
- Are City Councils allowed to have Retreats where the public cannot see what is going on there?
- Can Committee members send emails to each other and comment on them out of the public view?

All these items are covered by the Open Meeting Act and/or the Public Records Act. Our DEI Committee thinks that it is important for all League members to know what is in Washington's Sunshine Laws (that cover both acts) and then go to meetings put on by our officials and observe whether they are following these laws. Our aim is to help them to follow the law so that their decisions will not be declared null and void on account of not following the law.

We are planning to hold session(s) to inform our League members on the law. Then, after the election and after the new officials have had a chance to get knowledgeable about the Sunshine Laws (they are given 90 days in which to get this training), we plan to have a panel discussion with the officials and some other knowledgeable persons in the state (such as the AG, ACLU, WashCog) where community members are encouraged to attend also.

In addition, we have other topics that we are working on during the summer and early fall, including a Testifying 101 Webinar, a Voices of the Indigenous Tribes that will be organized in tandem with the Planning Committee, and Factual Evidenced-Based School Curriculum.

There are community events that are going on this summer which involve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. These included a "In Protest of Gun Violence" that is to be held at the east end of the Manette Bridge on June 11th, and a "Projects Teaching Peoples History" at Bainbridge Island Historical Museum Sunday, June 12th, with a Truth Pledge that people were encouraged to take.

There will be/was a Vendor and Resource Fair offered by the Juneteenth Community Planning Crew on Thursday, June 16th at Sinclair Missionary Baptist Church at 4900 Auto Center Blvd. in Bremerton. That committee will follow up with the Juneteenth Freedom Festival and People's March on Saturday, June 18th, starting at 10 am at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Pacific St in Bremerton marching to the Festival in Evergreen Park, which goes from 11 am to 3 pm. Bainbridge Island will have their Juneteenth Community Celebration on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 pm at the Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center at Waterfront Park.

Finally, there will be the Kitsap Pride Festival 2022 on Saturday, July 23 from 4 – 9 pm at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds.

Do you see anything that catches your attention? Would you like to get involved in a project or an activity? Contact Susan Griggs at [susan.griggs0803@gmail.com](mailto:susan.griggs0803@gmail.com) or 509-668-2888 for more information.

Our next DEI meeting is on the first Friday of July, July 1 at 10:00 am (unless we find that people will not be able to meet on a holiday weekend). Contact Susan (contact info below) for the link. We will also be talking about how to make sure we include people in LWVK activities and community activities that may have mobility, hearing, visual, and/or neurological differences. Please come and join us!

[Susan.griggs0803@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.griggs0803@gmail.com)  
509-668-2888

## Healthcare Committee

At the June meeting, the Healthcare Committee agreed not to meet in July and August. Leni Skarin & Pam Hamon shared an update about the LWVWA project on Public Hospital Districts (PHD). The PHD Project Committee will develop three webinars this year about what PHD's are, how they operate, and the process for creating a PHD to address unmet community healthcare needs. Leni will contact Unit leaders to see if she can share the presentation at unit meetings.

Jessica also reported on the Public Health District board expansion to 10 members, which is in the process of accepting applications from community members. She also reported about several healthcare access and availability assessments the Health District is conducting this year with several community partners. Contact Jessica if you are interested in more information or if you want to be part of the Healthcare Committee.

## 0 to Three Committee

The 0 to Three Committee has been busy revamping its power point presentation to fit into a shortened meeting time. By doing this, we also gain the flexibility to tailor our presentations to our audiences. We continue to work to educate as many people as possible about the importance of the earliest years of life and the more we delve into our subject matter the more we are convinced that every parent and potential parent should be aware of this truth. That means educating men as well as women and boys as well as girls. This is why in each of our presentations we emphasize our long sought-after goal of having early brain development taught in high school science and/or family living courses - as of now it seems to be taught, if taught at all, in special courses only for those teens oriented to working in the child care field. We also have been talking via zoom to other organizations. We have had good discussions recently with Marlaina Simmons at Kitsap Strong and Kathleen Kondek at the Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way in Bremerton about potential ways to cooperate in promoting and educating people about early learning. Susan Griggs has asked if we would be willing to talk at the Vital Communications Meeting, a bi-monthly meeting sponsored by Judge Tracy Flood. Of course, we said yes, and we will be making our presentation on June 21st.

## Bremerton/Central Kitsap (B/CK) Unit

Our **Saturday, June 18th unit meeting is hybrid, at United Way and via Zoom, 10 AM.** We'll be making plans for a special unit meeting with David Nelson, the editor of the Kitsap Sun. Davi will be sharing a presentation regarding the health of local news in Kitsap County followed by questions. The **special meeting** will be on Thursday, June 23, at 6:30PM, via Zoom. Contact Maureen Cervinsky for more information.

In July our unit will be doing some **Get-Out-the-Vote activities.** We'll be at the Bremerton Farmers Market on two consecutive Thursdays, July 14 and 21, from 3:30 to 6:30PM. We'll be waving "Go Vote" signs at three locations (Bremerton's Fred Meyer, Kitsap Way and Adele, and Silverdale Way and Ridgetop Boulevard) from 3:30 to 5PM on Friday, July 22nd, and Thursday, July 28th. Contact Candy Rankin for more information.

## The North Kitsap

The North Kitsap unit will not meet in July and will have an in-person picnic at Pam Hamon's house, 17056 Viking Way NW, Poulsbo, August 24 11am to 2 pm.

## The Voter Registration Committee

The Voter Registration Committee will be meeting June 13th, 2pm. They will not meet in July and it has not yet been decided upon to meet August 8th. The individual units will be working on their voter registration activities over the summer.

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## Mark Your Calendar

This list of meetings is a snapshot of the calendar on our website in the For Members section. If you see an error or a missing meeting, fill out the FORM just below the calendar. Once you hit SUBMIT, our volunteer calendar manager will receive it and make the requested changes.

**\*Purple** means it is a meeting open to the public.

Sat Jun 18, 2022

10 am Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting

Mon Jun 20, 2022

10 am Planning Committee

5pm Forums Planning

Tue Jun 21, 2022

10 am '0-Three' committee meeting

Wed Jun 22, 2022

10 am BI Unit Meeting

10 am NK Unit Meeting

Thu Jun 23, 2022

6:30pm Bremerton/CK Special meeting

Mon Jun 27, 2022

10 am LWVK Board retreat

7pm Climate Solutions Business

Tue Jun 28, 2022

7pm Climate Solutions Book Club - 4th Tuesdays

Sat Jul 2, 2022

10 am LWVK Board Mtg Cancelled

Fri Jul 8, 2022

12:30pm Healthcare Committee meeting cancelled

Sat Jul 9, 2022

6pm Elevate 2nd Anniversary Party

Mon Jul 11, 2022

10 am SK Unit Meeting

2pm Voter Services **Cancelled**

Tue Jul 12, 2022

6:30pm LD 26 Senate Forum

Sat Jul 16, 2022

10 am Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting

Mon Jul 18, 2022

All day Planning Committee meeting **cancelled**

Tue Jul 19, 2022

10 am '0-Three' committee meeting

Mon Jul 25, 2022

7pm Climate Solutions Business

Tue Jul 26, 2022

7pm Climate Solutions Book Club - 4th Tuesdays

Wed Jul 27, 2022

10 am BI Unit Meeting

10 am NK Unit Meeting **Cancelled**

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