



The Voter

February 2023

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

The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.



Upcoming Events and Guest Speakers

******* Feb. 6 -10: Democracy Lobby Week - [Register HERE](#).*****

Feb. 14: Tim Winter, [Superintendent of South Kitsap School District \(SK Unit\)](#)

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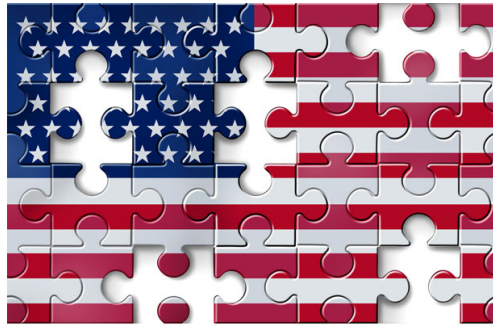
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Redistricting Reform

Redistricting forms the structural foundation of democracy. It defines the boundaries for everything from local to federal voting districts, which determine who we can vote for and how we are represented. Following a national census every 10 years redistricting begins and, in Washington state, that has been done through a bipartisan redistricting commission.

In 2021, the League worked to prepare citizens to provide testimony on redistricting through Speak Up Schools and I attended these training sessions in LWV-Kitsap led by Susan Griggs and Leni Skarin. They did a fabulous job teaching us effective ways to testify, explaining what to expect, helping us prepare and practice. The Speak Up Schools were hosted throughout Washington and hundreds of people testified. It was an encouraging start to the 2021 redistricting process and a great example of democracy in action. In the end, however, the commission met behind closed doors, violated the Open Public Meetings Act, much citizen input was disregarded and there was a scramble to complete the final maps that didn't allow time for review or to

correct discrepancies. There was a focus on what was good for the parties not the people which resulted in protecting incumbents and ensuring safe districts.

Now I'm mad but, as we've all learned don't get mad, get organized. Since early 2022 the WA Redistricting Reform Task Force has been meeting to identify what went wrong and look for solutions. From this work, we have recognized the need to reform the structure and procedures of the Washington State Redistricting Commission through a state constitutional amendment. Local Leagues will play a critical role in this effort. A Redistricting Reform Task Force has been added to LWV-Kitsap's Protect Our Democracy Program of Work that was approved by vote at last year's Program Planning Day and will support redistricting reform here in Kitsap County.

ACTION! How You Can Stay Informed and Be Heard

- Please urge current and upcoming Board Members to put Redistricting Reform as an Action Priority for LWV-Kitsap
- Join the LWV-Kitsap Redistricting Reform Task Force. Contact Carolyn Burger carolyn4bi@gmail.com to be put on the email list.
- Join the WA Redistricting Reform Task Force meeting the third Wednesday of each month. Contact Alison McCaffree at amccaffree@lwvwa.org to be added to her email list.

Carolyn Burger

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Shout Out for Rochelle Karlsen!

Thank you and congratulations to member Rochelle Karlsen who was

recently appointed to a three-year term on the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights. This 12-member group advises the Board of Commissioners on issues related to discrimination to promote equitable treatment of all people and reduce prejudice through education, resource referrals, and advocacy. For more information about the Council, visit [Kitsap County Council for Human Rights \(kitsapgov.com\)](https://www.kitsapgov.com/council-for-human-rights).

Sue Hughes

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Register NOW [here](#).

Here is an opportunity to get into the action in Olympia (without going there.) Attend the 2023 Democracy Lobby Week, February 6th thru 10th, jointly sponsored with [Fix Democracy First](#). This is a week when each of us can meet (via Zoom) with each of our Legislative District's legislators. We will have about 15 minutes with each legislator to talk about bills our League is interested in. In addition to these meetings with legislators, there will be planned sessions which include hearing about current legislation, learning from democracy experts, and getting lobbying tips on how to talk to your legislators.

Monday, Feb. 6: Main program in the evening, including:

- Updates and talking points on current legislation and issues for the legislative session
- Hear directly from a panel of legislators, both Republicans and Democrats
- "How to Lobby," presented by the LWVWA Lobby Team, including contacting legislators, following the progress of bills, developing talking points, and Q&A session

Tuesday, Thursday, Feb. 7 - Feb. 9

- Virtual meetings with your legislators during the day plus evening

programs on topics such as proportional representation, ranked choice voting, campaign finance reform, and more.

Friday, Feb. 10: Wrap-up. Evening Celebration. Suggestions and feedback

Learn more about the programs and register for the Zoom sessions [here](#).

Several of us are arranging the Zoom meetings with our LD23, LD26 and LD35 legislators. An email will go out to all members [WHO REGISTER HERE](#) with the dates and times. Keep an eye out for it. (*Exact schedule is subject to change*)

Maurie Louis, LWVK President

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Consensus Topic: The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy

"With no consensus there can be no position. With no position there can be no advocacy."

It's time again for our League to participate in one of our most important tasks, the grassroots process of consensus. (Twice in one year is quite amazing...) The published study under consideration is titled "The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy." The full published study and the provided consensus questions can be found here: [Decline of Local News Consensus Process - League of Women Voters of Kitsap \(lww-kitsap.org\)](#)

Many of us participated in the consensus process for the “The Shoreline Management Act At 50+ Years” study. Each of our units did very well discussing the published study, reviewing the provided consensus questions, and submitting a sheet showing the level of consensus on each issue represented in the consensus questions. There was strong consensus on most of the questions but there were one or two where the level of consensus was quite low. Points or issues won’t be included in the state’s published official position unless there has proven to be strong consensus among the participating League members.

The key here is “participating League members.” For our League’s advocacy to have an impact, it must be based on official positions and these official positions depend on each of us taking the time to review the issues raised by the study group and voice if you agree or not. There always seem to be one or more raised issues that do not achieve consensus. It’s important to know what these are so that no position is adopted that most of us disagree with. Participating in this process prevents that from happening.

Please note: the report is long – 133 pages! If you can’t bring yourself to read the entire report, please at least read the Preface and Executive Summary (10 pages in all) and the section called “Quick Takes” which summarizes the entire report in three pages, starting page 76.

I very strongly encourage you to participate in your unit’s consensus process. Consensus on important issues is the foundation of all our League positions and advocacies.

Maurie Louis, LWVK President

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2023 Program Planning Day

This year's Program Planning Day is set for March 21. It will be a Zoom meeting. The Zoom information will be sent closer to that date so that it won't get buried in your past emails. The purpose of the Program Planning Day is for all of the members of our League to select on one or more primary focus areas for the upcoming 2023-2024 League year. This is an exercise all local, state and the national Leagues do each year, usually in January. This activity is normally called simply Program Planning. Calling it Program Planning Day helps distinguish it from our Program Planning committee which is quite unrelated.

Some of the past Programs of Work (major areas of focus) have been early childhood development, *Get Out the Vote* and Protect Our Democracy. New ones might have something to do with redistricting, Kitsap transportation, homelessness, Public Hospital Districts. The list is long.

If a unit, committee or any group of members strongly believes our League should focus on a particular issue, they can propose it as a "Program of Work" at the Program Planning Day. The proposal is sent to me so that it can be added to the list of proposed areas. These proposals will be voted on for approval at the Program Planning Day meeting.

Before submitting a "Program of Work" proposal, these questions need to be considered:

Does this issue align well with one or more local, state or national League positions?

(See <https://lwvwa.org/league-positions>.)

- How much member interest is there in the issue?
- Is this a crucial time for the issue?
- Will the League's involvement make a unique impact?
- Will it increase the League's visibility?
- Will this action or program engage League members and the larger community? Might it help us attract new with this project?

It's important that the proposals be sent to Maurie Louis by March 15 so that each can be included in the set of proposals voted on during the Zoom meeting. The submitted proposals will be shared with all members ahead of the meeting. We also take suggestions from the floor during the meeting.

Maurie Louis, LWVK President



Elizabeth Bondy Civics Scholarship Fund Proposal

LWV Kitsap received a bequest from Elisabeth Bondy a few years ago in the approximate amount of \$26,000. Elisabeth Bondy was a Life member of the Kitsap League member and was one of the women who first established LWV Kitsap. Elisabeth died peacefully in Poulsbo, WA on January 4, 2019. She was born on December 19, 1917 in Marienfelde, East Prussia. She graduated from Leipzig University and was working as a librarian when she fled from World War II. Elisabeth immigrated to the United States to marry her late husband Roger Bondy in 1949.

Elisabeth worked for Kitsap Regional Library and volunteered for multiple organizations, including the League of Women Voters and Olympic View Community Club. She was an active member of Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Elisabeth was a passionate supporter of environmental stewardship, social justice, and the arts.

We propose that LWV Kitsap establish an Elisabeth Bondy Civics Scholarship Fund, awarding two \$2,000 scholarships a year, using the funds from her bequest as well as available funds from our Education Fund account. Importance will be given to ensure that the applicants have a good understanding of what it means to live in a democracy, as demonstrated

through community and/or government involvement.

Criteria:

1. Scholarships to graduating high school students attending public high schools in Kitsap County or other Kitsap County residents seeking advanced educational opportunities.
2. Applicants would be required to submit an essay stating what good citizenship means to them or their personal pathway to good citizenship.

Selection:

1. Judges will be recruited from Kitsap League members.
2. Judging would be blind; judges would not know names of applicants.

Funding:

1. Bequest from Elisabeth Bondy – Seek out appropriate investment methods, i.e. laddered CDs.
2. LWV Kitsap Education Fund account – establish yearly availability of EF money not budgeted elsewhere, i.e. Voter Service, TRYs, Public Educational Meetings etc.

Outreach:

Information about this program would be shared with local high schools and Olympic College.

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DEI Committee

The DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee’s webinar on “Voices of Kitsap County” planned for January with the Indigenous tribes has been postponed. The one webinar is now envisioned as two webinars, one with the Suquamish tribe and the other with the Port Gamble S’klallam tribe, to be held possibly in the fall.

The committee is considering how to further diversity in our League, promote equity in our communities, and encourage all community events to be inclusive to persons from all communities. Ideas that have been raised for our committee to do include writing articles about accessibility issues, giving book suggestions to help people learn about concerns of diverse communities, discussing how being part of two diverse communities and the intersection of disability with another diverse community which may affect equity (webinar presented by Adana Protonentis can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYP6l8WgN0I>), inviting a speaker to address restorative justice as a strategy to reduce the use of punitive justice, etc. **We are open to suggestions.**

What is Equity: A definition that I found on the internet is: “the term “equity” refers to fairness and justice and is distinguished from equality: Whereas equality means providing the same to all, equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances.” An example that is often given is one where a few children are trying to see an athletic game, but need to look at it over a fence. A tall child is able to see over the fence, while the other children need to have blocks in order to see over the fence. If these blocks are available, all three children would have equal opportunity to see the game, and have equity.

Our DEI meetings are held by zoom on the first Friday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Please feel free to come and share your ideas and opinions. Contact Susan Griggs at susan.griggs0803@gmail.com for information.

Susan Griggs

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Early Childhood Education: 0 to 3

The Committee met this month to plan the year going forward, particularly thinking about those organizations to whom it would be best to give our PowerPoint presentation. We also are researching what if anything is being taught to high school students about brain development. The committee members have various assignments and will discuss them at our meeting next month. The Committee is also watching the Washington State Legislative Session closely, to monitor the funding of The Fair Start for Kids bill and to check on other initiatives and bills being presented in both the House and Senate as they move through the legislative process.

The Committee will be meeting on February 21, at 10 a.m. If you have any questions or want more information on the 0 to 3 Committee, please contact Rosalind Renouard rrenouard@msn.com

Rosalind Renouard

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Healthcare Committee

There have been so many articles in the Kitsap Sun in the last few months about healthcare issues in Kitsap County that it's sometimes hard to keep up. The gaps which exist in healthcare services are the most important topic of discussion in the Healthcare Committee this year. I encourage all League members to view the video from our January meeting about Public Hospital

Districts, which are one option to consider when gaps in healthcare services exist. It is now available on the LWV-Kitsap website.

We invite all League members to participate in Healthcare Committee meetings over the next several months as we invite different speakers to educate us about healthcare challenges in Kitsap County. The topics we plan to investigate include the status of women's healthcare related to reproductive health, including pregnancy care and delivery; the nursing training programs at Olympic College as a solution to healthcare workforce needs; behavioral healthcare programs available and needed; barriers to accessing healthcare as an equity challenge; availability of healthcare for military families and retirees after closure of naval healthcare services.

At this time, we do not have a confirmed speaker for the next meeting on February 17 at 12:30 p.m., which is a week later than our usual meeting time because of Lobby Week activities. Speaker information will be posted in the member calendar on lww-kitsap.org as soon as it is available and it will be included in the monthly event update. Healthcare Committee meetings are regularly on the second Friday of the month at 12:30 p.m. and the Zoom link is always available on the member calendar.

Leni Skarin

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MELD

The monthly MELD meeting was held with Thurston, Benton-Franklin, Mason Leagues participating. Absent were representatives from Clallam and Lewis Leagues. The State League was represented by Washington State League President Lunell Hurst. After sharing recent activities and events, a discussion of DEI activities was held. Lunell shared that the State League decided to meld DEI points of interest into all standing committees' efforts rather than have it exist as a separate committee of its own. Thurston is grappling with moving toward a similar approach to DEI. The Kitsap League

has a very active and productive DEI committee under the leadership of Susan Griggs. While positioned as a standing committee, LWVK DEI works to integrate its goals across all League outreach and education activities. Benton-Franklin operates similarly.

Membership engagement is an on-going topic of discussion. Mentoring new members and those of long-standing has proven to be a successful approach in this effort. Though not a new idea, and it can be time intensive, but also productive.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, February 27. If anyone is interested in joining me in these conversations let me know. It is an interesting and informative opportunity to learn what other Leagues are doing to "make democracy work."

Carol Larsen, NK

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Voter Registration Committee

The Voter Registration for High School's Subcommittee lead by Becky Drotz, contacted each high school on Good Citizenship Day January 13th with voter information and encouragement to register their students to vote. Janet Stegemeyer contacted each high school newsletter with voter registration information, in particular information regarding using the QR code and pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds. Janet and Becky will be participating in the South Kitsap High School community information day for the 2nd time. The Committee **needs a new chair or co-chairs** to lead the VR committee in 2023. Please contact Pam Hamon or Julie Shryock for information. No future meetings are planned at this time.

Pam Hamon

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Bainbridge Island Unit

The Bainbridge unit of the League of Women Voters of Kitsap County has several activities planned for the next three months of unit meetings.

At our Wednesday, January 25 unit meeting, we will have a special guest: Stefan Goldby, President and CEO of the BI Chamber of Commerce. Stefan is scheduled to discuss emerging issues on Bainbridge Island. He may be able to give us information on the possible development close to the ferry Landing. He's been committed to the island since he and his family moved here in 2015 and he has led community efforts to launch both the Bainbridge Strong campaign and the digital Bainbridge Island General Store.

The February 22 unit meeting is scheduled for two hours. This meeting will be devoted to the consensus project on "The Decline of Local News." An excellent report has been developed in preparation for this consensus process. It is available at the state League site. We highly recommend that each member review it prior to our February 22 discussion.

On March 22, we will be visited by Althea Paulson, who is immediate past president of the KIAC board. She's currently vice president of that board. Althea is also a pro bono immigration attorney for KIAC. Althea was asked to speak about immigration issues, both social and legal, at the local state and national levels.

Colette Crosby and Delight Willing, Co-Chairs

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Bremerton/ Central Kitsap Unit

Kitsap County has two Housing Authorities: Bremerton Housing Authority and Housing Kitsap. Jill Stanton, BHA's Executive Director, and Heather Blough, HK's Executive Director, made a joint presentation to the Bremerton/CK Unit discussing the role of these Housing Authorities in Kitsap, which includes:

- Housing Choice Vouchers
- Public Housing
- Affordable Housing Management
- Affordable Housing Development
- Homeownership Programs
- Self-Sufficiency Programs
- Other Assistance and Special Programs from Local Sources

The presentation addressed the following questions directly:

- Who can benefit from these programs?
- What meaningful impacts have been made to manage the housing crisis?
- What are BHA's and HK's most recent successes?
- What are some of the most difficult challenges right now for BHA and HK?
- What are BHA's and HK's strategic goals moving forward?
- How can community organizations help?

For answers to these questions, access the "Housing Authorities in Kitsap" YouTube video at <<https://youtu.be/GqfBuaPEqdo>>

To see the notes submitted by Candy Rankin regarding the meeting, go to our unit webpage at <<https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/bremerton-ck-unit-page/>>

For more information, contact: Jill Stanton, Executive Director, Bremerton Housing Authority jstanton@bremertonhousing.org 360-616-7240; <<https://bremertonhousing.org/index.php>>

Heather Blough, Executive Director, Housing Kitsap

BloughH@housingkitsap.org

360-535-6142 <https://www.housingkitsap.org>

A reminder that our February hybrid meeting will be held on the 25th (the fourth Saturday) and will be about the LWVWA "Local News" study, led by Kathleen Cahall. Please join us at the United Way Conference room at 10 a.m. or via Zoom. Kathleen is preparing for the consensus process. She read the book *Ghosting the News and the Crisis of American Democracy*, by Margaret Sullivan, and recommends it for those wanting a national/global perspective. For a local Kitsap perspective, you may wish to revisit our last meeting with David Nelson (June), editor of the Kitsap Sun at <https://youtu.be/BTelcUYw2N0>.
Maureen Cervinsky, Unit Leader

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North Kitsap Unit

The North Kitsap Unit met on January 23 and updated ourselves on the various committees represented and had discussion on other League activities. Eight members volunteered to provide voter registration information at the North Kitsap Project Connect held at the Gateway Fellowship Church in Poulsbo on January 24th. Our next meeting will be Monday, February 27th at the Poulsbo Library at 10:30 a.m. There will be a zoom connection. The topic will be answering the consensus questions on the state League's Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy study.

Pam Hamon, Unit Leader

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South Kitsap Unit

The SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Our guest speaker on Feb. 14 will be TIM WINTER, Superintendent of the South Kitsap School District. He will discuss the upcoming bond and other topics related to education and SK schools. The SKSD bond proposal will be a 20-year, \$271 million measure that could go before voters during the November 2023 general election and, if approved, would pay for rebuilds and improvements of multiple aging schools.

A unit consensus Zoom meeting on the DECLINE OF LOCAL NEWS AND ITS IMPACT ON DEMOCRACY will be held in Feb. Study materials are available at <https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/decline-of-local-news-consensus-process/>. If you need more information or have questions, please contact Janet Stegemeyer at jans@oz.net or 360-471-9470.

Janet Stegemeyer, Unit Leader

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Mark Your Calendar

These events and dates come from the League's calendars displayed on our website. The events that are open to the public appear on the [Public Calendar](#) linked to from our home page at <https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/>. Events that are for members only appear on the [Members Calendar](#) that is displayed in the [For Members](#) section of the website. (This calendar also shows the events open to the public.) Go to the appropriate calendar to get the most up-to-date information, including Zoom links. If you are an event's organizer use the members only [Request a change or addition to the LWVK calendar](#) to add/modify/delete your event.

Purple means LWV of Kitsap Public Calendar

Fri Feb 3, 2023

10 a.m. DEI Committee

Sat Feb 4, 2023

10 a.m. LWVK Board Mtg

Mon Feb 13, 2023

2 p.m. Voter Services meeting

Tue Feb 14, 2023

10 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Fri Feb 17, 2023

12:30 p.m. Healthcare Committee

Mon Feb 20, 2023

10 a.m. Planning Committee

Tue Feb 21, 2023

10 a.m. '0-Three' committee meeting

Wed Feb 22, 2023

10 a.m. BI Unit Meeting

Sat Feb 25, 2023

10 a.m. Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting

Mon Feb 27, 2023

10:30 a.m. NK Unit Meeting
7 p.m. Climate Solutions Business

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Fri Mar 3, 2023

10 a.m. DEI Committee

Sat Mar 4, 2023

10 a.m. LWVK Board Mtg

Fri Mar 10, 2023

12:30 p.m. Healthcare Committee

Mon Mar 13, 2023

2 p.m. Voter Services meeting

Tue Mar 14, 2023

10 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Sat Mar 18, 2023

10 a.m. Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting

Mon Mar 20, 2023

10 a.m. Planning Committee

Tue Mar 21, 2023

9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 2023 Program Planning Day

Wed Mar 22, 2023

10 a.m. BI Unit Meeting

Mon Mar 27, 2023

10:30 a.m. NK Unit Meeting
7 p.m. Climate Solutions Business

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