



The Voter

March 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.**

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NOTE: You may have to click ALLOW for some of the links.

Before the Year Ends



Upcoming Activities

We have several big things happening between now and the end of the 2022-2023 League year. Be sure to look at the calendar that is posted in our For Members section to see the Zoom meeting details. There will also be more details in the upcoming March Voter.

- **Decline of Local News Study and Consensus:** Watch for when your unit's consensus meetings will be held. Due March 20.
- **Program Planning Day - March 21 (Zoom)""**
- **"Affordable Housing for Those in the Middle,"** hosted by the Program Planning Committee, March 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Village Green, 26159 Dulay Road NE, Kingston.
- **LWVWA 2023 Convention - May 4 to 7 (Details [here.](#))**
- **Annual Meeting - May 16 (Tentatively hybrid)**

Upcoming Guest Speakers

- **Bainbridge Island Unit - March 22, 10 a.m. to noon. Althea Paulson** is immediate pastpresident of the **KIAC board** and currently vice president. 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. (Go to For Members calendar for details.)

Attend a Board Meeting Anytime

Members are always encouraged to attend the monthly board meetings at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The Zoom link is in the description of each board meeting entry on the calendar posted in the For Members section of our website at <https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/members-only/> (Ask your unit lead for the password.)

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Why Redistricting Reform?

What we learned from the 2021 redistricting process in Washington state:



What is broken.

2021 Redistricting Commission
People-Focused Report Card

- D +** Transparency
- C** Prioritize Communities of Interest
- D** Don't favor incumbents or party affiliations
- C -** Timely staffing & communications
- B +** Outreach & Access

We deserve better.

Representation in our democracy has at its core the division of people into districts (e.g., Congressional, legislative). How these district lines are drawn determines which public officials will run for office and who will represent us. There are many parts of our state, including here in Kitsap County, where cities with higher numbers of minorities have been divided into multiple districts to reduce their political influence. Through redistricting reform, we will come to better know all people in Kitsap, how they are represented, and identify our communities of interest. Beyond that, a people-focused redistricting commission will address each of the problems noted above from 2021.

From the LWV-US website: “The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.” The League has a history of working to ensure that every citizen is able to vote and have representation; this is our chance at a local level to make sure we carry out this pledge.

Other states have formed people-focused redistricting commissions that have resulted in more competitive districts, higher voter turnout, and a significantly less partisan process. We can do better in Washington, but we need to start the process now. The first steps include: building relationships with other organizations, surveying citizens to better understand how to engage them in the process, sharing this information with the public, and advocating for redistricting reform.

LWV-Kitsap will have its Program Planning Meeting on March 21, 2023, and we will vote for our primary focus areas for 2023-2024. Redistricting reform is an effort that is being undertaken statewide and LWV is taking a leadership role in this process. LWV-Kitsap already has several members engaged in redistricting reform at the state level and an LWV-Kitsap Redistricting Reform Task Force has been formed under Elections as part of the Protect Our Democracy (POD) work that was approved last year. We ask that you support redistricting reform as an LWV-Kitsap “Program of Work” for 2023-2024. Thank you! Any questions, please contact Carolyn Burger at carolyn4bi@gmail.com.

Carolyn Burger

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Affordable Housing for Those in the Middle

March Event



Spearheaded by Martha Burke, the Program Planning Committee will host a panel discussion entitled, "Affordable Housing for Those in the Middle" on March 25, 2023, at the Village Green 26159 Dulay Rd NE, Kingston, WA, 98346, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Attendees may join in person or via Zoom. Zoom details will be distributed to LWV-Kitsap members closer to the event. The panel will consist of Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler, architect Brian Cavanaugh, and Built Green Program Manager Sonja O'Claire. The panel will focus on environmentally friendly building techniques, ways to provide housing that are less expensive, and how to incorporate these new ideas in a manner consistent with development goals as laid out in the comprehensive plan.

Brian Cavanaugh is one of the founding partners of Architecture Building Culture (ABC). ABC was founded in 2008 with partner Mark Ritchie. Their philosophy is that architecture is "an instrument for improving the world." To that end, the firm has worked on a variety of building types to meet the needs of their communities. Built Green's program manager Sonja O'Claire is a certified Sustainable Building Advisor. Built Green's mission is "to serve as the driving force for environmentally sound design and development practices in Washington's cities and communities." For Mayor Wheeler, finding ways to mitigate the housing shortage in Kitsap County is one of his top priorities. He believes, "As a local government, Bremerton can affect the supply by supporting initiatives that create more options for housing. In addition, as local leaders, we can help develop programs and funding to support our most vulnerable populations. We can also put energy and focus into creating and maintaining low-income housing, which is often referred to as 'deeply affordable housing.'"

Housing availability for those of more modest means will be a big issue in the coming years. The paradigm is shifting away from single-family homes on large lots. Please join us at the Village Green or via Zoom for a program that should be interesting and informative.

Robin Muir

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Democracy Lobby Week



Last month's Democracy Lobby Week was jointly sponsored by the League of Women Voters Washington and Democracy First. There were 270 registrants and around 64 appointments with legislators. Members that participated are encouraged to complete the participant survey. Main programs video recordings can be viewed here: [League of Women Voters of Washington -](#)

[Democracy Lobby Week 2023 \(lwwa.org\)](https://lwwa.org) Members are encouraged to stay involved as there are so many opportunities. If you would like more information on any of the programs or are interested in finding ways to get more involved, reach out to Susan Fleming at the LWV-WA (sfleming@lwwa.org) or Cindy Black at Fix Democracy First (cindy@fixdemocracyfirst.org)
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Committee Reports



DEI News



There is a lot going on in terms of Equity in Kitsap County. The Latino/a/x community has been organizing so that the schools in Kitsap County will respond better to concerns about bullying and discrimination toward students of color. This was initiated by a Latina mental health therapist who organized parents to attend a meeting just prior to Thanksgiving 2022 with the North Kitsap High School Principal to share their concerns. Principal Megan Sawicki took down each parent's concerns and indicated that she would take it to the appropriate administrators to address these concerns.

Subsequently, a Town Hall for the Latino/a/x community was held on February 7, 2023, where many Kitsap County social activists for People of Color came together to support the Latino/a/x North Kitsap Public Schools families. The Suquamish Tribe issued a letter of support and held both a healing prayer and a blanket ceremony. Many county officials attended as well as activists. The organizers shared a list of 9 solutions to the problems in the school district, which has since been approved by the families who attended the Town Hall and sent to the school district. As a result, all the other school districts have contacted the organizer and asked what they can do to avoid a Town Hall in their district.

The North Kitsap Public Health District Equity section, led by our own LWV-Kitsap member Jessica Guidry, has been actively confronting the public health crisis of racism. They have an outreach worker who is interacting with minority communities and sharing public health resources including facilitating grants to combat racism.

There are events coming up addressing DEI issues in our county, including the Kitsap Youth Rally for Human Rights on March 24th at Olympic College and the Race Equity Summit, also on March 24th, at Marvin Williams Recreation Center.

The DEI Committee is following the activities going on in Kitsap County and considering how to focus our attention to increase the diversity in our organization and provide educational activities to our members and the general public. The committee is going to educate ourselves on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and the effects of trauma — as mental health issues greatly impact public safety and law enforcement resources — and how these issues intersect with the diverse communities, including the community of people with disabilities.

A webinar on the Voices of Kitsap County focused on the Indigenous Tribes is now being organized for June of 2023. More information will be shared shortly. The DEI Committee meets on the first Friday of the month at 10:00 am via Zoom. Our next meeting is on March 3rd. For more information, contact Susan Griggs at susan.griggs0803@gmail.com.

Susan Griggs

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Voter Team News



In February, the Voter Team added two new members: Katie Pratt and Suzanne Schreiner. Katie has stepped in to take the reins as Voter Editor and Suzanne Schreiner will be assisting

with articles and content. The Team is here to assist committee chairs and unit leads with articles and news. Your Voter Team from L to R: Katie Pratt, Editor; Barb Willock, Layout & Distribution; Suzanne Schreiner, Content; Cat Freudenberg, Content; and Maurie Louis, technology support for website and distribution tools. Content can be sent to Catherine Freudenberg at scalpaca@msn.com by the 21st of each month and it is helpful if your subject line indicates that it is Voter content.

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Early Education: 0 to 3



The 0 to Three Committee's schedule was hampered this month by event cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances, but we still feel we are making progress. We presently are updating our PowerPoint presentation to ready it for the April meeting of the Kitsap County Democratic Women's organization. At the same time, we've continued to track legislation pertinent to early learning and childcare. Additionally, we continue to look for other opportunities to educate the public (e.g.,

speaking to groups, distributing our flyers and bookmark, and pursuing new avenues of endeavor).

Rosalind Renouard

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Healthcare Committee



On March 10th, the Healthcare Committee will hear from Dr. Kathy Hebard about the shortage of OB/GYN healthcare services in Kitsap County. Dr Hebard is an OB/GYN physician in private practice, and her insight into the problems of providing comprehensive reproductive health care services to women in Kitsap County comes from her experience as a provider. All

League members are welcome to attend this meeting to learn more about this concerning situation.

The March 10th meeting begins at 12:30 pm and the Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86913834630>

Leni Skarin, Healthcare Committee Chair

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Planning Committee



LWV Kitsap Planning Committee has been busy making plans! In the next few months, we have several opportunities to get together in person or via Zoom webinars. The March event is a forum titled "Affordable Housing for Those in the Middle" – see the announcement above. Additionally, the Planning Committee is working on more events to be held over the next three months. Watch for more information on these events in future editions of The Voter.

- We have invited our County Prosecutor, Chad Enright, and local attorney and author, Thomas Weaver, to discuss the rule of law and the history of the Electoral College, respectively. This event is being planned as a webinar for the end of April. Stay tuned for more details.
- We are exploring a venue for our annual meeting on May 16th. The potential site will be the Vibe Coworks in Poulsbo. Catered lunch will be available from ChocMo. The meeting will be hybrid, but please consider joining us in person to renew acquaintances and generate some new energy for our programs. We will ask for reservations as soon as all details are firmed up. Space will be limited to 50.
- The last of the *Voices in the Community* webinars is tentatively scheduled for June 16th. Our guest will be Chairman Leonard Foresman from the Suquamish Tribe. Mr. Foresman is always a compelling speaker; I urge you to attend.

Our meetings are on the third Monday of each month from 10am - 11:00ish. All are welcome to attend.

Robin Muir

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Unit News



Bainbridge Island Unit

Bainbridge Unit members met at the end of February to hold a consensus discussion of "The Decline of Local News" and discuss the programs members would like to see the Kitsap League focus on in 2023. In the 2022 calendar year, the Kitsap League voted to concentrate on Voter Services and Saving Our Democracy.

Colette Crosby & Delight Willing

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Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit

The Bremerton/CK Unit will meet on March 18th, 10:00 am, at the Kitsap United Way conference room, 645 4th Avenue, Bremerton. Those wishing to attend remotely may do so via Zoom. Susan Griggs will give a brief presentation on the LWV-WA redistricting efforts. Raejean Bridges-Avalos will present the "Know Your County: Kitsap" committee's phase one report regarding how the Kitsap

County government works. Following the report, members will discuss topics for future meetings. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Raejean.

Maureen Cervinsky

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North Kitsap Unit

North Kitsap Unit members met at the end of February to hold a consensus discussion of “The Decline of Local News”.

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South Kitsap Unit

The SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am via Zoom. Our guest speaker on February 14th was Tim Winter, superintendent of the South Kitsap School District. A unit consensus Zoom meeting on “The Decline of Local News” was held on February 21st. Contact: Janet Stegemeyer, jans@oz.net, 360-471-947

Janet Stegemeyer

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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.lwvkitsap.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

Mon Feb 27, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics
10:30 a.m. NK Unit Meeting
7:00 p.m. Climate Solutions Business

Fri Mar 3, 2023

10 a.m. DEI Committee

Sat Mar 4, 2023

10 a.m. LWVK Board Mtg

Mon Mar 6, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

Fri Mar 10, 2023

12:30 p.m. Healthcare Committee

Mon Mar 13, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

2:00 p.m. Voter Services meeting

Tue Mar 14, 2023

10:30 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Sat Mar 18, 2023

10 a.m. Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting

Mon Mar 20, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

10 a.m. Planning Committee

Tue Mar 21, 2023

10 a.m. 2023 Program Planning Day

Wed Mar 22, 2023

10 a.m. BI Unit Meeting

Mon Mar 27, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

10:30 a.m. NK Unit Meeting

Sat Apr 1, 2023

10 a.m. LWVK Board Mtg

Mon Apr 3, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

Fri Apr 7, 2023

10 a.m. DEI Committee

Mon Apr 10, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

2 Voter Services meeting

Tue Apr 11, 2023

10:30 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Fri Apr 14, 2023

12:30 Healthcare Committee

Sat Apr 15, 2023

10 a.m. Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting

Mon Apr 17, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

10 a.m. Program Planning Committee

Tue Apr 18, 2023

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

Mon Apr 24, 2023

10 a.m. ACT Legislative Topics

10:30 a.m. NK Unit Meeting

7 p.m. Climate Solutions Business

Wed Apr 26, 2023

10 a.m. BI Unit Meetin

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