

THE VOTER

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Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

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

LWV-Kitsap All Member Social

Please join us for the **All-Member Social** on September 2nd at The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Road, Bremerton, WA 98312. Schedule of events:

- **10 a.m.: LWVK Board Meeting (all are welcome!)**
- **11 a.m.: Guest Speaker:** Jessica Guidry, Equity Program Manager, Kitsap Public Health District. Jessica will join us in person to speak about the healthcare crisis in Kitsap County related to high healthcare costs and inadequate access to services in Kitsap County. She will share her perspective of the district’s resolution to advance a public health approach. Jessica has been with the Kitsap Public Health District for 15 years. This is sure to be a valuable educational session for League members.
- **Noon – 2 p.m.: All Member Social!** Bring your own lunch, the Board will provide a selection of desserts and beverages (no citrus in the desserts, please).

The room at The Pearl is large enough in which to spread out for any members concerned about health safety. The Board Meeting and Guest Speaker portions of the meeting will be hybrid. Please RSVP to debibarner@gmail.com if you will be joining us in person, so we can plan accordingly. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day is September 19, 2023! It would be wonderful to see Kitsap league members, around the county, registering people to vote, helping to change their registration address, or answering questions about voting. Please sign up to volunteer with your unit leads.

And there will be even more opportunities to let our community members see the League of Women Voters’ involvement in voting. The units are signing up volunteers to register people at the libraries, Farmers’ Markets, high schools, and Goodwill stores, and waving “Vote Now” signs closer to the November 7th election.

Let us all take one shift and Get Out the Vote!

New League of Women Voters Yard Signs!



Interested in a new nonpartisan yard sign that promotes voting and the League of Women Voters of Kitsap? League member Rande Gjerstad designed this eye-catching sign to display in our yards. They are double-sided and measure 18" x 24" (standard yard sign size).

We'll be placing an order from Blue Sky in mid-September so that the signs will be ready for the fall election. The final price will be determined by how many we order, but the expected price is around \$13 each. If you would like one, please send an email to Alicia Vause (aliciavotes@gmail.com).

Forums Committee

General Election Forums Start in One Month – Mark Your Calendars!

The Forums Committee has been at work planning the candidate and issue forums LWVK will host in October ahead of the General Election on November 7th. A few of the forums this year are being provided as hybrid, meaning in-person for candidates and audience while also being shown on Zoom. Here are the dates we are hoping to be able to schedule; please save the dates on your calendars:

South Kitsap

- Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m.: Port Orchard City Council Pos. 1, 4, 5 and At-Large, (Hybrid) In-person format at Port Orchard City Hall with concurrent Zoom viewing
- Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.: Port Orchard Mayor, (Hybrid) In-person format at Port Orchard City Hall with concurrent Zoom viewing
- Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.: South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Commissioner, Pos. 3. (Hybrid) In-person format at Port Orchard City Hall with concurrent Zoom viewing
- Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.: South Kitsap School District Bond issue – Zoom format.
- Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.: West Sound Utility District Commissioner Pos. 2 – Zoom format.
- Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.: South Kitsap School Board, Pos. 1, 2, & 5 – Zoom format

North Kitsap

- Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m.: Poulsbo City Council, Pos. 1 & 4 – format Hybrid
- Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.: North Kitsap School Board, Pos. 2, 4 & 5 – Zoom format.

Central Kitsap

- Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.: Bremerton City Council, Pos. 2,4 & 6 – Zoom format.
- Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m.: Bremerton School Board, Pos. 1 – Zoom format.
- Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.: Central Kitsap School Board, Pos. 2,4 & 6 – Zoom format.

Bainbridge Island

- Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.: Bainbridge School Board, Pos. 4 – Zoom format.
- Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m.: Bainbridge City Council, At-Large Position – Zoom format.

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With all these forums, the forums team is asking for your help with the following:

- **Questions** (for candidates and SK School Bond): Please send questions to info@lww-kitsap.org with the subject line: Forum questions, no later than two days prior to the forums. Sooner is better.
- **Publicity**: The team wants to reach many voters and is requesting names of organizations, a contact person, and contact email that you know may have ways to reach voters. Please send that information to info@lww-kitsap.org, Subject line: Publicity
- **Assistance with forums**: If you have time to assist with forums, such as sorting questions, or attending the in-person forums and greeting attendees, please contact kimabellwvwa@gmail.com

Local races are important, and the above opportunities are short term and make a big impact. If you have more time, the team is also encouraging watch parties for the forums. These can be organized the night of or any date prior to folks voting. If you have ideas about places these could be held, please contact kimabellwvwa@gmail.com.

Kim Abel and Ann Strosnider

Welcome New Members

LWVK welcomes Naomi Truitt and Ursula Volwiler! Naomi joins the SK Unit and Ursula the Bremer-ton/CK. If you run into our new Leaguers at an event, be sure to introduce yourself and share information about upcoming events and activities.

Kitsap County 2044 Comprehensive Plan

In May, when Eric Baker joined the League webinar, *2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan Balancing Community Priorities*, to give an overview of Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan, he offered to arrange a meeting with county experts if we wanted to go deeper into any aspect of the plan. We decided to take him up on his offer and are working with county officials for a public program about the county's Critical Area Ordinances (CAO) proposals.

Understanding Critical Area Ordinances in Kitsap County's 2044 Comprehensive Plan Revision

Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 p.m.

Join the Webinar at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89535577497>

To submit questions in advance, email info@lww-kitsap.org and type CAO in the subject line

All cities and counties in Washington are required to adopt regulations protecting "critical areas in order to preserve the natural environment, wildlife habitats, and sources of fresh drinking water" (The Growth Management Act (GMA)). These areas include Fish & Wildlife Conservation Areas, Wetlands, Frequently Flooded Areas, Geologically Hazardous Areas, and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, so this is obviously a very complex issue.

We hope, through this program, to learn the basics of CAO establishment and what changes are being considered. It is important that we understand the issues and get these regulations right. Our informed comments will influence what these regulations look like.

League member Amy Lawrence will moderate the webinar.

To learn more about CAO in the update, including a CAO handbook, go to: <https://www.kitsap.gov/dcd/Pages/Critical-Areas-Ordinance-Update-2024.aspx>

To view Eric Baker's presentation on balancing community priorities, go to: <https://youtu.be/LwHFM-F0ogbM>

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To access Critical Areas Ordinance Update - Available Working Group Written Summaries go to:

- 7/20/23 - [Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas](#)
- 7/25/23 - [Wetlands](#)
- 7/26/23 - [Frequently Flooded Areas](#)
- 7/27/23 - [Geologically Hazardous Areas](#)
- 7/27/23 - [Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas](#)

Maureen Cervinsky

Committee News

Early Education: 0 to 3

The month of August was a quiet month for the committee except for our picnic at Island State Park. We met on one of the hottest days of the year, August 15th, in the welcoming cool shade of the picnic area. Most of our conversation was enjoyable chit chat and getting to know each other better, but we did touch upon some business. We plan to hold our meetings on the same schedule as last year - the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. (except for September). We also did a little strategizing about how to work toward our goals. We spent a very pleasant early summer afternoon together.

Rosalind Renouard, Chair

Healthcare Committee Meeting September 8th

The Healthcare Committee will resume meeting on the second Friday of each month after the summer pause. The next meeting on September 8th on Zoom from 12:30-2 p.m. will include a presentation from Melia Hughes, Coordinator of the Kitsap Parent Coalition (KCPC).

KCPC is a county funded free service and provides resource navigation and advocacy support to parents and professionals caring for people with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). Melia will explain the services KCPC provides and discuss how the shortage of caregivers which challenges people seeking to age in place also affects those who have family members with disabilities.

All League members interested in the issues of availability of healthcare services and the shortage of caregivers are welcome to attend this meeting.

Leni Skarin, Committee Chair

Membership Committee

Due to a delay in the PayPal statements, some members that are current may have received a dues reminder. Carol is working through the discrepancies and appreciates everyone's patience and understanding.

MELD

Suzanne Schreiner and Raejean Bridges-Avalos have volunteered to represent our Kitsap league on the state MELD (membership, engagement, leadership development) committee. The next meeting will be Monday, August 28. The July meeting was canceled. Look for an update on discussion points in the next Voter.

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Unit News

Bainbridge Island Unit

At our June unit meeting, we decided to try quarterly meetings held in the evening by Zoom. Our first meeting in this format is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m.

We will hear from Cat, who is holding the fort as acting president of LWV-Kitsap in Robin's absence. She will report on plans for the upcoming year and activities happening soon. She can help us know what is going on beyond our unit which may involve some or all of us.

Then we will hear from Carolyn Burger, who is our leading committee member focusing on the critical redistricting efforts facing our state. There is evidently right now one redistricting issue in the Yakima area which will impact probably more than one district. We will learn what this is and how we personally might get involved.

We will discuss whether this quarterly and evening schedule is more inviting to our members. We hope for a bigger turnout than we had during the last year. Please be prepared to share your opinions on this! And do add any other ideas for improvement and suggestions for topics.

We look forward to seeing you on September 26 on Zoom.

Colette Crosby & Delight Willing, Co-Chairs

Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit

The program for the Bremerton/Central Unit meeting on September 16 is Elizabeth Doll from Braver Angels. Braver Angels is a nationwide organization with the mission to "bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic." Elizabeth is the National Director of Politics for Braver Angels. We look forward to hearing about ways to address the growing challenge of partisan politics in our communities and how Braver Angels have partnered with the League. This hybrid meeting will in person at the United Way conference room at 645 Fourth St. and on Zoom on September 16 starting at 10 a.m.

Maureen Cervinsky

North Kitsap Unit

On August 30 the NK unit will meet for a potluck meeting to discuss Fall voter services activities. It is anticipated that we will have a representative at the Sept. 6 Kingston High School Open House. Members will set up voter registration stations at Goodwill locations, KRL buildings, and possibly the Poulsbo Farmers Market. Other options will be discussed.

Carol Larsen, Interim Chair

South Kitsap Unit

The SK Unit held another successful Port Orchard Farmer's Market (POFM) Voter Outreach Booth on Aug. 12. Three new voter registrations were gathered plus lots of mostly positive interactions with people occurred. Booth volunteers were Darrel Allen, Jeannie Allen, Samantha Carpenter, Alexandria Piccio, Anita Rose, Janet Stegemeyer, and Shirley Wall. Thanks to Gary Beanland and Susan Daniel for loaning us the canopy and chairs. Future POFM Voter Outreach Booth dates are Sept. 23 and Oct. 7.

SK Unit members enjoyed a sunny in-person get-together picnic at Manchester State Park on Aug. 15.

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Several South Kitsap candidate and issue forums are being organized for October ahead of the General Election on Nov. 7:

- Oct. 2: Port Orchard City Council
- Oct. 4: Port Orchard Mayor
- Oct. 4: South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Commissioner
- Oct. 5: West Sound Utility District Commissioner
- Oct. 5: South Kitsap School District Bond
- Oct. 10: South Kitsap School Board Directors

The SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Our next meeting is September 12. Contact: Janet Stegemeyer, jans@oz.net, 360-471-9470.

Janet Stegemeyer

Voter Team

Editor: Katie Pratt

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Content: Suzanne Schreiner & Cat Freudenberg

If you have questions or would like to submit an article for a future issue of the Voter, please reach out to Cat or Suzanne.

Mark Your Calendar

Sat Sep 2, 2023

10 a.m. LWV-KITSAP Board Mtg (Hybrid)

11 a.m. Guest Speaker: Jessica Guidry (Hybrid)

Noon-2 p.m. ALL LWVK MEMBER Learning & Social

Where: The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Road, Bremerton

Details: Bring your own lunch and come to learn, mingle, meet, or get reacquainted with other League members. The Board will be providing beverages and desserts.

Fri Sep 8, 2023

12:30 p.m. Healthcare Committee

Tue Sep 12, 2023

10:30 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Where: Zoom

Sat Sep 16, 2023

10 a.m. LWV CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 Fourth St., Unit 101, Bremerton

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Wed Sep 26, 2023

7 p.m. Bainbridge Island Unit Meeting **Note NEW TIME!**

Where: Zoom

Sat Oct 7, 2023

10 a.m. LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Where: The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Road, Bremerton

Tue Oct 10, 2023

10:30 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Fri Oct 13, 2023

12:30 p.m. Healthcare Committee

Sat Oct 21, 2023

10 a.m. LWV CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 Fourth St., Unit 101, Bremerton

Wed Oct 25, 2023

7 p.m. Bainbridge Island Unit Meeting **Note NEW TIME!**

Where: Zoom