

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.

President's Corner

I hope your transition into 2024 was a smooth one, because our engines are running, and we are heading out on the highway (my apologies to Steppenwolf). One month into the year, the wheels are turning, and we are getting back to the work of the League. By the start of February, we will have completed our program planning for the Kitsap League. The purpose of planning is two-fold. First, it is our local League's preferences for action on topics of local concern. Those topics also are based on League positions and principles. Second, our choices are shared with the National League to help them see what local Leagues have chosen as their priorities. We will vote on our Program of Work for 2024/2025 at our annual meeting in May.

Additionally, this year is a "National Convention Year," and our state League of Women Voters hopes that its position on "The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy" will be adopted nationally by consensus (this study is available on the LWVWA.org website in its entirety). "The League supports credible and ethical local journalism, in whatever format it is published, as essential to our democracy." Where there is no local journal, there is less information readily available to voters about what is happening in their local government, thus affecting voter turnout. By sending three voting delegates to the Convention, LWV/K can help LWVWA attain the goal of consensus.

At the end of last year, Catherine Freudenberg and I completed a very lengthy survey about our volunteer efforts throughout the year. Questions were centered on the types of events we put on — voter registration and other get-out-the-vote efforts, and events geared toward community education. We had to estimate the number of hours spent on each event as well as the numbers of volunteers involved in each activity. I have asked the unit leads to keep track of this information throughout this year and ask that each of you help by reporting what you are working on and the number of hours you have contributed to the effort.

We expect 2024 to be a busy year. Please consider ways you can help — we aren't asking for a lifetime commitment, just a few hours when you can. As always, I am grateful for all you have done and are doing to make our community a better place.

In League,
Robin Muir, President LWV-Kitsap

Nominating Committee: Board Position Descriptions

The Nominating Committee is approaching members to join the LWV/K Board to fill the 1st, 3rd and 5th Director positions. Nominees are confirmed at the Annual Meeting in May. Directors commit to serve two years and agree to attend the monthly Board meetings. Board meetings are hybrid on the first Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon. Meeting locations are subject to availability, typically libraries and when available, the Pearl in Bremerton. All League members are welcome to attend the board meetings, in person or via Zoom.

ARTICLE V — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 5 – Powers and Duties: The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the national and

state Conventions and at the Annual Meeting of LWVKitsap. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

a) Delegates to National Convention: The Board of Directors shall select a slate of delegates to the Convention in the number allotted to the LWVKitsap under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

b) Delegates to the State Convention and State Council: The Board of Directors shall select a slate of delegates to the Convention or Council in the number allotted to the LWVKitsap under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Washington.

If you have any questions regarding the office of LWVK Board Director, feel free to contact any of our committee members: Barb Willock (SK); Cat Freudenberg (BI); Kathleen Cahall (BR/CK); Carol Larsen (NK).

Maureen Cervinsky, Committee Chair

Early Education: 0 to 3

The 2024 Washington State Legislative Session has started and bills relating to childcare and early learning have been proposed and are being tracked by the 0 to Three Committee members. Thanks to LWV-WA, we can follow these bills and take appropriate action in support of them by accessing the Legislature's website and communicating our support to our representatives. The Fair Start for Kids bill, passed a few years ago, requires continuous funding, so we also will be watching for that as well.

Some of the bills that are more incremental in nature that we are following are:

SB 5793/HB 1991: both relating to sick leave that would allow paid leave for "certain workplace, school and childcare closures."

SB 5870: "Expanding and streamlining eligibility for early learning programs." This relates to Working Connections Child Care that helps "... eligible families pay for childcare. When a family qualifies for childcare subsidy benefits and chooses an eligible provider, the state pays a portion of the cost of childcare. Parents may be responsible for a copayment to their provider each month." There is a copay calculation table.

SB 5933: "Concerning funding for early support for infants and toddlers." This bill would increase funding for intervention services at the earliest and best time — the infant and toddler stage.

SB 5941: "Clarifying requirements for subsidized child care." The department shall establish and implement policies in the Working Connections Child Care Program to promote stability and quality of care for children from low-income households. The bill would like to increase the eligibility income for families from 60% of annual medium income to a figure between 60% and 75% by 2025.

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SB 6108: “Early learning coordinators at ESDs.” Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this purpose, each educational service district must designate an early learning coordinator to support increased collaboration, recruitment, enrollment, and service delivery across Washington’s prekindergarten through third grade continuum.

HB 2195: “Strengthening the early learning facilities grant and loan program.” This bill increases support for the building and improvement of early learning facilities. All the above are bills that would strengthen the early learning and childcare environment as well as help families obtain and afford services.

The committee is continuing to work on the redesign of our flyers and updating our PowerPoint Presentation. Please contact Rosalind Renouard if you have any questions or are interested in learning more about this committee.

Rosalind Renouard, Committee Chair

News You Can Use From Around the County



Kitsap County Public Works seeks community assistance with identifying ADA barriers within county rights-of-way.

(Port Orchard, WA) - Kitsap County Public Works is in the process of developing an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan to guide when and where mobility improvements need to be made. An ADA transition plan is one of the federally mandated requirements for state and local governments under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This plan focuses on pedestrian facilities in the Public Right-of-Way including curb ramps, sidewalks, crosswalks, and signal push buttons. Through the development of this plan, Kitsap County Public Works will:

- Inventory existing pedestrian facilities.
- Identify barriers and obstacles which limit accessibility.
- Determine criteria for the prioritization of barrier removal.
- Set a schedule for the removal of barriers.

The development of a comprehensive ADA Transition Plan requires feedback from community members just like you! Public feedback will assist the County in efforts to prioritize investments in accessibility. The public is invited to take a brief survey to provide critical feedback to County staff as recommendations and decisions are made regarding what needs fixing and how best to prioritize resources.

To complete the survey and for more information, please visit: <http://www.kitsapada.com>.

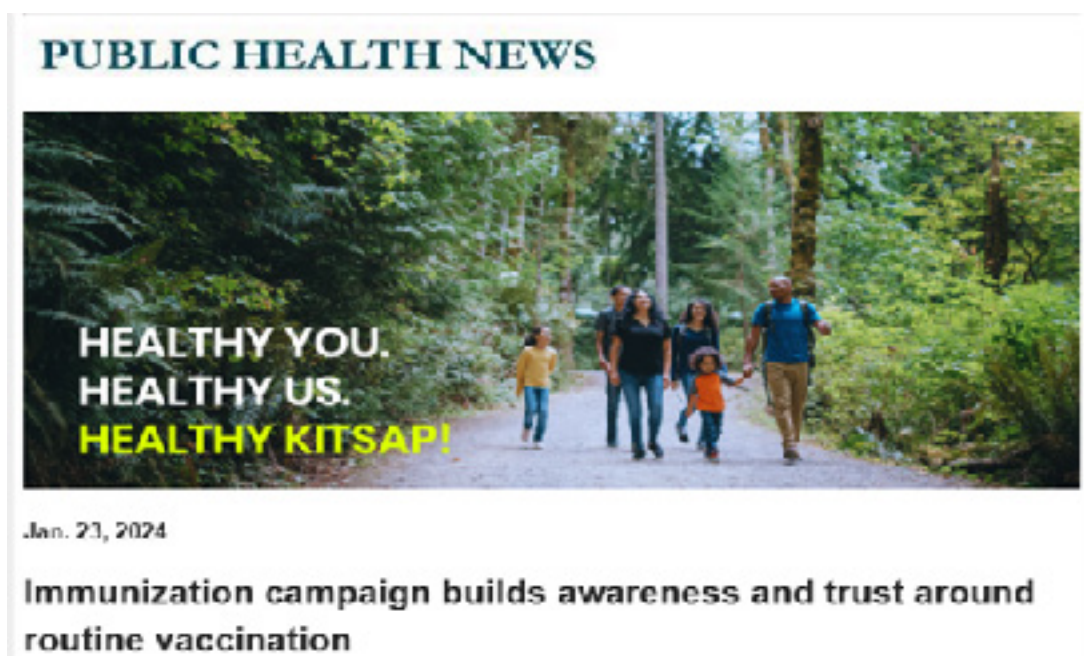
Do you have a specific location that makes travel difficult for you or prevents you from accessing programs or activities? Please use the [Online Reporting Tool](#) to notify Public Works of your ADA concerns.

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Housing Resources Bainbridge to dramatically lower prices at Wintergreen Townhomes

Generations of low-income homebuyers will benefit from \$2.5M grant from state

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA (January 23, 2024) — [Housing Resources Bainbridge](#) (HRB) was awarded a competitive \$2.5 million grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce Housing Trust Fund to further subsidize its affordable homes at [Wintergreen Townhomes](#). HRB is acquiring 31 homes in the mixed-income 73-unit development by Central Highland Homes now under construction near the Virginia Mason Bainbridge Island Medical Center off High School Road. HRB will sell to households earning 80% area median income or below. Read more here: [Housing Resources Bainbridge to dramatically lower prices at Wintergreen Townhomes](#).



Kitsap Public Health News

The campaign features [testimonials from local healthcare providers](#) and community leaders and a [website](#) with streamlined vaccine information.

KITSAP COUNTY — Kitsap Public Health District has launched a [countywide campaign](#) to increase awareness and build trust around routine vaccination by elevating the voices of local community leaders and healthcare professionals.

From childhood immunizations to seasonal immunizations like flu shots, routine vaccination is one of the most important tools we have to safeguard our health and protect people around us. However, [vaccine coverage decreased](#) following the COVID-19 pandemic.

As one strategy to address this concerning trend, we designed a campaign that emphasizes the importance of routine immunization and promotes trust in vaccination as a safe and effective measure to prevent disease and protect our health.

Input from community members gathered at recent clinics and outreach events helped guide our campaign strategies and messaging. Because healthcare providers routinely rank as the most

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trusted source of vaccination information, we worked with a diverse group of local healthcare professionals to share their personal perspectives on immunization.

Our campaign website — HealthyKitsap.org — provides easy-to-use vaccination information and highlights full statements from campaign participants. Scroll down to learn more about the campaign and how you can participate.



Kitsap County Electronic Notification System

Kitsap County Electronic Notification System

PORT ORCHARD – Voters in most of Kitsap County will begin receiving Special Election ballots this week for ballot measures in four school districts.

Voters in the Bremerton, Bainbridge Island, North Kitsap and Central Kitsap school districts will consider funding measures put forward by the districts.

Drop boxes within those districts will be open by Friday, January 26.

Kitsap County Elections recommends using ballot drop boxes to return ballots, but voters can also do so by mail without postage. Voters returning their ballots by mail should do so by February 6, a week ahead of the election.

Online and mail registrations and address changes must be received by February 5th. Residents can register to vote in person at the Kitsap County Auditor's Office, 619 Division Street in Port Orchard from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents also can register to vote at one of three vote centers from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, February 13th.

For special elections, the vote centers are open on Election Day only. The locations are:

- Kitsap County Administration Building, 619 Division St., Port Orchard, WA 98366
- Marvin Williams Recreation Center, 725 Park Ave., Bremerton, WA 98337
- Poulsbo Fire Station, 911 Liberty Road, Poulsbo, WA, 98370.

Ballots must be returned to one of the county's drop boxes by 8 p.m. on February 13th or postmarked by that day.

Voter Team

Editor: Katie Pratt

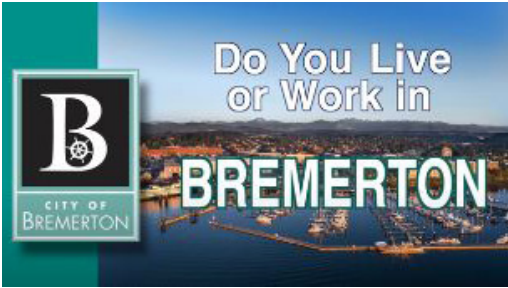
Layout: Barb Willock

Content: Cat Freudenberg

If you have questions or want to submit an article for a future issue of the Voter, please reach out to Cat. The Voter team welcomes your feedback! As we are working with a short deadline, please send your Voter content in article format — if you want assistance, please reach out to Cat before the 21st — she is happy to help!

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Comprehensive Plan Update — Bremerton 2044



We want to hear how you travel around Bremerton!

The City of Bremerton is working to update its Transportation Plan, as part of a larger Comprehensive Plan update, to meet the community's future needs. By sharing how you get around Bremerton, you will make your voice heard and help improve travel for you and others in the Bremerton area.

This voluntary survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your answers are confidential, and you can quit at any time. Survey link can be found on the Bremerton 2044 website:

[Comprehensive Plan Update - Bremerton2044 | Bremerton, WA - Official Website \(bremertonwa.gov\)](https://www.bremertonwa.gov/2044).

The last day to complete the survey is February 15, 2024!

The City hired an independent firm, PRR, to conduct the survey. For questions or comments, contact Vicki Grover at vicki.grover@ci.bremerton.wa.us.

Unit News

Bainbridge Island Unit

Plans for the upcoming Unit meetings are in the works. February topic will be the Washington state legislative cycle for 2024 and how lobbying week went. The March/April topic will be Bainbridge Island Senior Center re-development plans. Watch for more details and zoom information in your unit mailing. Contact the unit chairs for more information.

Delight Willing and Colette Crosby, Unit Co-Chairs

Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit

The next BR/CK Unit meeting will be on Saturday, February 17. We have invited Katie Seiple to be our guest. Katie is the Bremerton School District social worker assigned to Armin Jahr Elementary School. The school district has five social workers, and we have asked Katie to discuss her work at the elementary school including with children in the school district experiencing homelessness.

At our January meeting, Kathleen Cahall shared the results of our book group survey. Our unit has decided to have a book discussion in the spring, summer and fall. Our next book is "So You Want to Solve Homelessness? Start Here" by Andrew Hening. We plan to discuss the book over a brown bag lunch in March (date to be determined).

While Hening's book will be the basis for our conversation, Kathleen recommended several other books for those of us who would like to take a deeper dive. We'll be posting additional information on the unit webpage. Kathleen has been leading our book group since its inception, and while she enjoys the work, she welcomes others to take the lead, especially since we are moving from one book/year to three. If you enjoy shopping locally, Ballast Books in Bremerton gives a 10% discount for book groups. All League members are invited to join us.

The Bremerton/CK Unit meetings are hybrid and are held in-person, on the third Saturday of the month, at the Kitsap United Way conference room, [645 4th Street](#), in Bremerton, from 10 a.m. to noon. Those wanting to attend remotely may join via Zoom. For information, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

Maureen Cervinsky, Unit Chair

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NK Unit planned to meet on January 22 for a presentation by David Smith. The discussion was about his project and the challenges of keeping housing affordable while also addressing environmental concerns.

KITSAP PROJECT CONNECT SERVICES & INFORMATION RESOURCE FAIRS

JANUARY
23, 24, & 25
2024

way Fellowship Church in Poulsbo hoping to registering voters and answering any questions about League activities.

Kitsap Project Connect is a series of annual services and information resource fairs that bring together local organizations all under one roof. More information about Project Connect can be found here [PROJECT CONNECT \(google.com\)](#)



South Kitsap Unit

Janet Stegemeyer, Unit Chair

Sat Jan 27, 2004

11:00am to 2pm LWVK Program Planning Day – All Member Meeting (Hybrid)

Where: Kitsap Regional Library, 700 NE Lincoln Rd, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Zoom information sent via MailChimp.

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Sat Feb 3, 2024

10am-Noon LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Where: Kitsap Regional Library, Salish Meeting Room, Silverdale

Fri Feb 9, 2024

12:30pm Healthcare Committee

Where: Zoom

Tue Feb 13, 2024

10:30am SK Unit Meeting

Where: Zoom

Sat Feb 17, 2024

10am LWV CK/BR Unit Meeting

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 4th St Unit 101, Bremerton

Mon Feb 26, 2024

10:30 NK Unit Meeting

Where: Kitsap Regional Library community room.

Sat Mar 2, 2024

10am LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting

Where: TBD

Fri Mar 8, 2024

12:30pm Healthcare Committee

Tue Mar 12, 2024

10:30am SK Unit Meeting

Sat Mar 16, 2024

10am CK/BR Unit Meeting

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 4th St., Unit 101, Bremerton