

November 2022

The Voter

A newsletter from



Voter Registration at Discovery Park



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Non-partisanship and DEI: How to Engage

Barbara Tengtio, Second Vice President

How do we engage as League in this current polarized environment? The simplest answer is - the way we have always engaged - grounded in our well-considered positions, empowering voters and defending democracy. Yes, but others may still see us as partisan! What to do?

The best defense, has always been a good offense. We remind others of our long-standing principles and positions and that League has been steadfast in its mission, while political parties and candidates have changed over time — and will undoubtedly continue to change.

Let's review so we have information to share. First, League has in its bylaws a clear definition of non-partisanship. *The purposes of the LWVUS are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.*

In practice, the League has positions, promotes legislation, advocates, and lobbies. We center our mission and values and the rights of all voters at the center of these, not parties or candidates or office holders.

Further, League has a defined DEI policy: *LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.*

In practice, DEI exists on three levels: Individual (understanding the basics of DEI and analyzing our individual biases), Organizational (ways in which League can represent their community through the course of equitable and inclusive participation), and Community (ways in which Leagues are helpful to their partners by sharing their strengths that will uplift underrepresented voters).

So, Leagues may be supportive of many things that may seem partisan but are actually rooted in our non-partisanship bylaws and DEI policy. Some examples include: Black Lives Matter, Fair Maps, Voter ID laws, Support for LGBTQIA rights and protection Immigration Reform, Protection of transgender women in sports, and Criminal Justice Reform.

As an example, LWVSKC may partner with other organizations on the above-mentioned issues and other issues that relate to our positions, even though LWVSKC may not align

with the other organizations on all of their issues. We can and should partner on specific issues.

This is a great discussion to have at a Unit meeting, coffee get together or any other small group gathering. Some discussion questions to consider for an LWVSKC activity or event are:

- How much of your community is served by the work you are doing?
- How does it align with League's mission, vision and values?
- How was the decision made in who to partner with on this work?
- How was the DEI lens used?
- How does this align with where League has historically stood on this position?
- How does this emphasize the inclusion aspect of DEI?

The more we understand the relationship between being nonpartisan and DEI and how to engage this way in the current environment the more we will all be able to execute on our mission to empower voters and defend democracy.

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Designing for Democracy

Heather Kelley, President

When I was invited to speak at the 2022 AIGA Design Convention, I happily accepted, but wondered, "What does design have to do with our work as a League?" Well, I needn't have worried because it turns out design has *everything* to do with voter outreach.

As I learned, AIGA is the professional association for design. Their national convention, which took place at the Seattle Convention Center from October 20-22, attracted around 950 attendees. Coming up the escalator into the atrium, the first thing I noticed the dozens of original posters on display. Ranging from provocative to soothing to humorous, they communicated a single message: VOTE! As I got closer, I was thrilled to see that every poster mentioned VOTE411.org! It turns out AIGA partnered with LWVUS to create this incredible gallery. You can view all the designs [here](#).

The "Design Dialogue" that I participated in was just as eye-opening. Around 100 designers spoke with us about using design to overcome voter apathy, exhaustion, and anxiety. Combating mis- and disinformation was another priority for the group, as well as establishing trust with voters. We spoke about the threats to democracy and how we can come together by creating community.

I was really impressed with the candid sharing that took place. One attendee who moved here from Iran three years ago said that our democracy is functional compared to her former government. She reminded us that the right to vote is a privilege that we need to exercise even if we feel cynical or exhausted. Her words refocused the conversation back on taking action.

Overall, the group agreed that designing for democracy required really connecting people. In other words, we need to move beyond posters to designing actual *experiences* where people can assemble, share ideas, and inspire one another.

It was a fabulous opportunity to think creatively about our work in the community. And AIGA even donated all the posters to us at the end of the event!

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Shoreline Management Act at 50, Upcoming Events

Mary Taylor, First Vice President

November: No forum in November

In November and December: LWVSKC will join other leagues across the state to review a study completed by the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) on the **Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA)**.

The SMA was one of the first environmental laws passed in the state and came about from a citizens' initiative. The SMA applies to all areas of the state, since it covers virtually all the state's coastal shorelines, rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands. The SMA regulates the development and uses of shorelines and provides for public access to shorelines. It has been in effect for over 50 years and the LWVWA study analyzes how effective it has been. You can read and download the study here.

<https://lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/Studies/Shorelines/Final%20Study%20pdf%2002.pdf>

The League will use the study as the basis for the consensus process that will inform LWVWA positions on shoreline management. Each local league will have the opportunity to review the study and submit a consensus form to the board for the position statement.

Stay tuned for more information on the process for completion of the consensus form among LWVSKC members.

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New to LWVSKC Members!

Voter Registration After Naturalization Ceremonies

Barbara Tengtio, Second Vice President

LWVSKC applied and was recently approved to provide voter registration at in-house USCIS Seattle naturalization ceremonies. This is an honor for LWVSKC and a special opportunity for LWVSKC members to welcome new USA citizens to voting in America.

Each month, LWVSKC will receive dates of the naturalization ceremonies. If you are interested in registering new voters and are available, you will be required to sign up in advance as LWVSKC is required to provide names of all volunteers ahead of naturalization ceremonies.

Specific monthly details will be provided in LWVSKC weekly communications. Additionally, you will be provided with some guidance ahead of providing voter registration services at USCIS Seattle naturalization ceremonies.

The location for this volunteering is 12500 Tukwila International Blvd, Seattle WA 98168.

Currently, the Oath of Allegiance is administered throughout the day as needed to small groups of naturalization candidates. They have small ad hoc “ceremonies” every 45 min – 1 hour. As a LWVSKC volunteer, you are welcome to stay throughout the day in the ceremony room and provide services, or you can opt to provide services during a specific window of time that day. Please note that you need to bring your own voter registration supplies - just like you do for any other voter registration event.

Again, this is quite an honor for LWVSKC and we are grateful to have the opportunity to provide this service to new citizens. Please look for specific volunteer signup opportunities in future communications.

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Family, Friends and Mis/Disinformation

Barbara Tengtio, Second Vice President

In last month's *The Voter* we learned about mis and disinformation and what you can do about it.

To recap, we learned that **misinformation** is inadvertently sharing false information without the intent to harm and that **disinformation** is creating and sharing false

information with the intent to harm. You were encouraged to take action with the various tips provided and be a difference maker — a LWVSKC advocate for truth!

But what do you do when talking with your family and friends? This can seem a bit more daunting and certainly more sensitive. Here are a few things you can proactively do when **engaging with loved ones**:

1. Avoid hasty and emotional reactions and instead **verify** the content is misleading or false **before** you engage. Suspecting that content is misleading or false is different from having confirmed it, so take the time to fact-check it yourself.

Some fact-checking tools include: Factcheck.org; politifact.com; snopes.com. If it is an image do a reverse image search images.google.com; search on credible outlets.

2. To comment on a post or not to comment? **Don't engage** on the posted content to avoid giving them the oxygen needed to go viral.

3. **Privately approach** the person. Send them a private message or meet up or call them. People are more receptive when they don't feel like they have been publicly shamed and called out.

4. **Consider the perspective** of the person that shared the content. Instead of shaming and risk alienating them, show empathy and use supportive and positive tones. Possibly share a personal story of when you fell in the top of mis/disinformation, share the fact-checked sources, and ask them to remove the content.

5. **Avoid Escalation.** If the person gets defensive and the conversation is no longer constructive, offer them tools to fact-check themselves. Also, continue to saturate your social media with content to inoculate and keep your networks accurately informed.

6. **Get them involved!** Share the work you are doing as a LWVSKC member.

7. Continue being the **trusted messenger** with your family and friends! Remember, LWVSKC is a non-partisan, grassroots civic organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. **LWVSKC'S been a trusted source for over 100 years!** Let's celebrate that and **continue to spread truth!**

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Building a 'Web' of Volunteers and Voters

Sarah Miller, Unit Liaison

This month I've been highly motivated to take an active role in the LWV. Right now, I'm doing exactly what I wanted to do when I joined up in 2019: Register voters!

Voter registration might seem like a straight-forward activity. It can be accomplished with simple tools: a clip board, voter registration forms (or QR Code!) and a basic knowledge of WA state voter registration guidelines.

Practically speaking, there are a few steps to follow when organizing a Voter Registration drive. One must: Locate and select community events where potential voters are likely to be; connect with event coordinators to work out logistics; gain access to well-trained volunteers to (wo)man a table or booth at the event; deliver the necessary Voter Registration materials to the event site; check that the tabling 'kit' is supplied with signs, banners, posters, swag, informational pamphlets and-let's not forget (as I did recently) - Voter Registration forms!

But as mundane as these practical matters are, they're nothing compared to the joy you'll experience when you register new voters! I've come to feel joy in delivering the League's mission: We are out there empowering voters & defending democracy! More joy comes from working with volunteers who seem like old friends, even though you just met them! Joy comes from the thrill of seeing our unwieldy, blue LWV banner unfurled to it's full & distinguished height. It comes, too, from being "real troupers" who can be ready to set up shop at a moment's notice and reach out to potential voters.

There is also joy in seeing things *differently* because you're out there in the field. This past week, a team of volunteers and I covered quite a lot of territory! Arriving early on a Tuesday morning, we spoke to and registered close to 100 high school students at Chief Sealth High School. This opportunity gave us a keyhole view into the world that these young people experience. Their awareness of critical issues is different than our own, but it is growing daily. These students are in the process of making sense of the world before it becomes theirs to manage.

Later that week, there was even more "joy-of-seeing-things-differently" in store. Another small group of volunteers and I attended an event at a community college, hosted by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion there. As we set up to do our usual tabling/voter registration routine, we were disarmed by the seductive rhythms of a live Afro-Peruvian band, and the smell of delicious Mexican food. As we canvased the tables of staff and families, we were slightly disappointed (but glad) to learn that most of the crowd was already registered to vote. For a moment or two we felt stymied from delivering our usual product, new voter registrations. But this group of staff and their families turned the tables on us; they invited us into their world via music, dance &

celebration! We LWV ladies had no alternative but to shed our inhibitions and - literally - join in the dance. Maybe we didn't register any voters that day. But we did learn to connect with a diverse group of voters in joyful new ways ...which is really what democracy is all about.

(And, we were invited back again to register as many new students as we can!)

Thanks to the excellent volunteers: Julie Sarkissian, Lee Rolfe, Keela Williams, Adele Reynolds, and Kimberly Albert.

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Board Brief - October

Heather Kelly, President

Our October board meeting was short(er) and sweet, as we wanted to conserve our energy for field activities ahead of Election Day. We are still busy bees, so I'll keep this brief.

First off, a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers. We have been brought visibility to the League at over 20 different voter registration events in the last six weeks!

Connecting with voters where they live, work, and play is a much-needed breath of (literal and figurative) fresh air for our volunteers. We've registered teens, people who've just moved to the state, and other new voters. We've also recruited new volunteers and donors! It was a great reminder that tabling achieves many goals at once.

The board is continuing to refine our outreach strategy to our target demographic - youth voters. Volunteers went out to high schools and community colleges to collect information on voters' needs and interests. Our youth survey lead, a position funded by LWVUS, is drafting a set of questions for us to circulate to this audience so we can serve them better. Hopefully, we will see them voting in higher numbers this November!

Volunteer recruitment continues to be a top priority. Communication Lead, Program Lead, and Voter Services Lead are all vacant. With a slimmer team and some people ill or traveling, we reached a limit on what we could do this election season. To keep our work sustainable, I made the tough call to eliminate the in-person Ballots and Baristas events planned across the County. Hopefully, our remaining virtual events will be well attended!

Despite the challenges, we doing incredible work in the community. I am so proud of our organization!

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Can You Help?

Barbara Tengtio, Second Vice President

LWVSKC has open volunteer positions - can you help? Share your skills and your time and lift up LWVSKC's work, and make some new friends along the way!

The Voter Editor

The Voter is our monthly newsletter. It reaches over 1500 members, friends, and supporters of the League each month! **The Voter** is one of the primary ways we educate and empower voters in our community and keep our League connected.

As Editor, you'll be collecting, editing, and reviewing articles to make sure they meet our non-partisanship and DEI standards, working with writers to make changes if needed. You'll also add images and graphics (with permissions) and assist with layout of final newsletter.

The League uses AP Style, and both LWVUS and LWVWA have style guides that can help. The ideal volunteer would have experience with Microsoft Word or other word processing software and 8-10 hours per month to spare. Seeking a minimum one-year commitment.

Please contact 2ndvp@lwvskc.org to express your interest.

Social Media Makers

Join the group creating content for our social media channels!

Our aim is to share information about the League, including events, articles relevant to the League's mission, and engage with our community. We try to post daily on Twitter, 3-5 times per week on Facebook, and would like to develop our Instagram and TikTok.

Members interested in helping LWVSKC explore new channels are welcome too! As a content creator you would agree to abide by our social media guidelines and LWV brand standards.

Also, we need special focus on upcoming appeals - Giving Tuesday, End of Year appeal, Give Big, etc. Even if you can only help for a few months that would work fine. Thank you!

Please contact 2ndvp@lwvskc.org to express your interest.

Communications Lead

Do you have experience in communications and marketing and an interest in supporting our local democracy? LWVSKC seeks a volunteer to lead our communications team.

Specific duties include:

- Facilitating a weekly communications meeting for our other Comms volunteers
- Recruiting and supporting social media volunteer(s)
- Drafting a LWVSKC weekly email communication to members
- Contributing articles to LWVSKC monthly newsletter

There's also an opportunity to grow in this role through participation in meetings of the board of directors, events, and other features of our grassroots volunteer organization. These additional tasks are entirely optional. If there are other ways you were looking to learn and grow, personally or professionally, we will work together to find options for you to do that!

Please contact 2ndvp@lwvskc.org to express your interest.

Voter Services Director

LWVSKC conducts voter registration events throughout the year and provides voter education outreach in a variety of ways. While this year's election is just around the corner, LWVSKC needs someone interested in organizing plans for future elections. How to organize voter education, when in the year to conduct outreach, what communities to focus in, what voter education content should look like, and much more. If you are a planner this position should speak to you! We have members ready to volunteer for events, outreach - but we need someone to organize them. Are you that someone?

Please contact 2ndvp@lwvskcorg to express your interest.

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Education Committee Update

Joanna Cullen, Education Committee

The LWVSKC Education Committee meets every third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

Please contact Joanna Cullen at jfxocullen@gmail.com for more information.

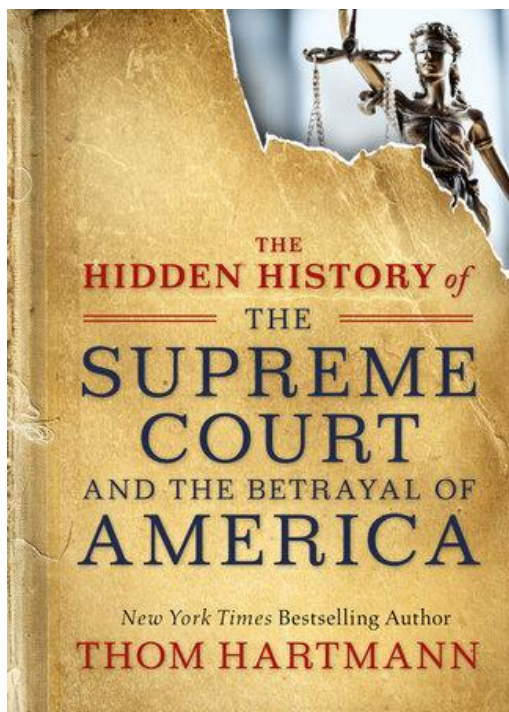
K-12 education policy and advocacy in Seattle-King County is the main focus. But, pre-K and higher ed are sometimes topics of interest. Currently we have been concentrating on school board governance policies around the county. Please join our discussions and bring your ideas and comments.

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The Hidden History of the Supreme Court and the Betrayal of America

By Thom Hartmann

Review by Vicky Downs



Is it fair that the rich are allowed to out-spend everyone else in order to urge people to vote for their candidates? How can this happen? Years ago, in 1803, “The Supreme Court set itself above Congress and the President, with the power to review, strike down or rewrite laws based on its own interpretation of the Constitution.”

Hartmann says that some “rulings in the 1819-86 era and later in the 1976-2013 era were simply invented by the corporate-friendly Supreme Court.” The result has been a concentration of power in “the boardrooms of faceless corporations and the...homes of reclusive billionaires.”

“No legislature, governor or president ever suggested that corporations should be considered ‘persons’.” However, because the Supreme Court decided it should do so, the doctrines of ‘corporate

personhood’ and ‘money as speech’ guaranteed that wealth alone now has enormous political power. That means that fossil-fuel corporations, for example, have been “endangering every aspect of our modern world with its reckless pursuit of ever-increasing profits.”

Back in the 1930’s Depression, the Court supported Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal, which gave workers the right to organize into unions. At first, Republicans embraced unions, but by 1944 they began to change. They came “up with the notion that unions must provide ‘fair representation’” and then the corporations said they should decide

what was 'fair'. Since then, the Supreme Court has created over a dozen new regulations on unions that were written by the Court, not the U.S. Congress.

Hartmann believes climate change could very well end civilization as it currently exists. With a Supreme Court that seized power to decide what is constitutional, will it also decide how to deal with the "Earth Biosphere, not to mention abortion and other topics that are not in the Constitution?"

Originalists such as Roberts, Kavanaugh, Gorsuch, Thomas, Alito and Scalia "said their job was to view the Constitution through the eyes of the men who wrote it-full stop." Hartmann shows that to find an "individual right to bear arms," Scalia dug up a tract that had "nothing to do with guns" nor "the men who wrote the Constitution." He wanted such a decision, and found other sources to provide a ruling that would ensure individuals had access to guns.

In 1987 President Reagan nominated Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. Bork was famous for arguing that the framers of the Constitution would never have countenanced women getting abortions or gay people getting married. Fortunately, the Senate turned him down, but the other "originalists" were still suggesting that the founders believed in "white male power." The reason Bork was turned down was that he talked about specifics. If he had not, he quite likely would have been on the court. Ever since his nomination the originalists refused to give specific answers when asked about such topics

In this short and easily read book, Hartmann suggests ways to Democratize and Modernize the Supreme Court. He says it is time to change the number of Justices as well as term limits. I was surprised to read he also suggests there should be cameras in the Courtroom. That would certainly make it easier for each of us to see what the Supreme Court is up to!

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We'd Like to Hear From You!

Not sure who to reach? You can always find us at info@lwvskc.org or 206-329-4848!

Membership coordinator Saunatina Sanchez is at membership@lwvskc.org and holds in-person and virtual office hours. Check our [events calendar](#)!

Want to stop by our office? We have office hours every Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We're located at:

Melbourne Tower
1511 3rd Avenue
Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Executive Committee of the Board of LWVSKC

President	Heather Kelly	president@lwvskc.org
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Second Vice-President	Barbara Tengtio	2ndVP@lwvskc.org
Secretary	Barbara Erickson	secretary@lwvskc.org
Treasurer	Jennifer Pritchard	treasurer@lwvskc.org

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Program Chair	<i>open</i>	program@lwvskc.org
Unit Liaison	Sarah Beth Miller	unitliaison@lwvskc.org
Voter Services Chair	<i>open</i>	voterservices@lwvskc.org

Education Fund of LWVSKC

Board members listed above also serve as the Education Fund Board.

Education Fund Treasurer	Joanna Cullen	eftreasurer@lwvskc.org
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Committee Chairs for LWVSKC

Economics and Taxation	Nora Leech	nleech2002@yahoo.com
Education	Joanna Cullen	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
City Climate Action	Callie Ridolfi, interim	callie@ridolfi.com
Investment	Cindy Piennett	cindypiennett@gmail.com
Observer Corps	Mary Taylor	mary.taylor@lwvskc.org
Health Care	Mo Brinck-Lund	molunida@gmail.com

Nominating Committee for LWVSKC

Chair	Adele Reynolds	nominate@lwvskc.org
Member	Ellen Barton	nominate@lwvskc.org
Member	Cathy Dormaier	nominate@lwvskc.org

And if you're looking for the editor of *The Voter*, reach out to votereditor@lwvskc.org!

Find us on the web at lwvskc.org!

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Quick link for this page is: <https://www.lwvskc.org/thevoter>