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*We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Yakama People.*

This Newsletter published by and for the

League of Women Voters of Yakima County

PO Box 723 Yakima WA 98907 509-452-3419

June, 2020

Vol.20, No 6

**CALENDAR**

*Online:* Monday, June 15, 4:30 PM**. LWVYC Annual Meeting**. Via Zoom. ***See article on Page 5.* All members encouraged to participate!**

*Online:* Monday, July 6, 4:30 PM. **Leadership Team Meeting.** Via Zoom. NOTE: Members are welcome to attend Leadership Team Meetings, and it’s a good way to learn more about our organization and the decisions we make. Let Criss know you are interested, and she will email information to you so you can “attend” via Zoom.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

**VISION**

We envision a democracy

where every person has the desire,

the right, the knowledge, and the confidence

to participate.

**VALUE STATEMENT**

The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

March 26

April1, 4 PM

***LWVYC President’s Column…***

**NOTES FROM CRISS**

 As I write this, the State League 2020 Council is wrapping up after a very successful week-long online Zoom event. About 250 League members across the State registered for the Council, at least 3 times as many as would have been expected in Yakima if we had not been shut-down by the pandemic.

 I attended several of the sessions and was a panelist in one session on Local League advocacy efforts, in which I described our work with Censo 2020 (which we hope to resume later this summer if we ever get opened up) and the hanging of the Census 2020 banner in downtown Yakima.

 We are blessed with many League members across the State having great technical skills, augmented by Amy Peloff, the Administrative Director in the State office.  It was amazing to see how sessions could be attended by 60-80 participants and function well. It increased my confidence that we can have a successful Annual Meeting on Zoom on June 15.

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**Officers**

 *President:*  Criss Bardill

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*Voter Editor:* Susan Kaphammer

949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board meets at 4:00 PM the 1st Monday of each month at the League Office at the UUCY Church, 225 N 2nd Street, Yakima

**All members are welcome to attend.**

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**NOTES FROM CRISS** *Continued from Page 1*

Speaking of which, the Leadership Team is reaching out to every member about the Annual Meeting and what members need to be able to attend online or by phone.  We have local members who can assist with some preceding training as well as at the time of the meeting. I hope to “see” many of you at the Annual Meeting.

I want to draw your attention to the two statements below from LWV US, as well as some reading suggestions on becoming more informed on the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.  These are difficult times in our Country, with terribly strong political divisions, severe health threats under the pandemic, widespread hardship with high unemployment, and a continuing and heightened concern about racial justice. I can feel overwhelmed, but I take council from a recent remark from Lunell Haught, our state League president, “I can do one thing and be joined by others who share my concern and energy."  That makes the League my place for action, and I hope the same is true for you.

***LWVUS Statement…***

**NATIONAL LEAGUE RESPONDS TO**

**POLICE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD**

WASHINGTON, 5/29/2020 – The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement in reference to the murder of George Floyd:

The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions.

We also mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of America’s pervasive culture of anti-blackness. The systems of oppression that have perpetuated the myth of white supremacy in our country must be dismantled if we are ever to become the nation we pledge to be*—indivisible, with liberty and justice for all*.

As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.

The League acknowledges, painfully, that America is a nation founded on racism. Therefore, all who live in this country must contribute to and participate in organizations actively working to achieve full liberation and inclusive freedom. We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government.

We join the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in calling on law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for George Floyd, his family, and his community.

Finally, we echo the call of our partners at the NAACP: we must all vote in November – the road to change lies at the ballot box.

Rest in Peace, George Floyd.

But may we not rest in our work for justice

Until there be peace for all.

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***LWV Messages …***

**STANDING IN SOLIDARITY**

**WITH THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

Virginia Kase, LWV Blog, June 3, 2020: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/standing-solidarity-black-community>

This week, people from all over this country have exercised their First Amendment rights as they protested the killing of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been taken at the hands of police. We have seen peaceful demonstrators take to the streets demanding change. We have seen people of every race, religion, and ethnic background stand and kneel in solidarity with the Black community with the same message—**Black Lives Matter.**

We’ve also seen civil unrest in some places and, sadly, acts of police violence against protestors. We must not let those images derail the fight against systemic racial injustice and inequality. Speaking out is an important first step, but this moment requires more than words—it requires us to change. We must do the work of introspection and make real, lasting change within our organization.

As a democracy and voting rights organization, we must be part of the progress that is catalyzed at this moment. In the coming weeks and months, we will be supporting our partners in the civil rights community who are working on legislation and policy reforms focused on creating systemic change in our government institutions, starting with unjust policing. We have been invited to do this work, but we must remember that we come to the table as allies. We will listen to civil rights leaders spearheading this effort, and we will use our power, our talents, and our collective voices to support and amplify their work.

Now, more than ever, it’s clear that our work to inform voters and hold government accountable on the local and state level is where real potential for change lies. As we saw yesterday, throughout the month of June states are still holding important primaries, delayed due to COVID-19. Voters need to know where candidates stand on the issues, how their votes will directly impact their communities in the immediate and the long term. We must also remain dedicated to our advocacy work that is focused on dismantling racism within our electoral system: *People Powered Fair Maps*, voting rights restoration for formerly incarcerated people, combating unfair voter purging, and fighting voter ID laws and polling place closures.

**We have embarked on this journey, and we will not and cannot turn back.**

**LEARNING MORE AND TAKING ACTION**

The League of Women Voters, along with many other organizations, has condemned recent events in the strongest terms. But what can we *do*? As individuals and as organizations what actions can we take to educate ourselves, work for peace and justice, and move toward fairness and equity among all the races and cultures that live here? Here, we offer some resources to become more informed on the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion:

* [Ten Things White People Can Do to Work for Racial Justice](https://lwvwa.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=741b01ca5b0b87432e97bbfc2&id=4509c48326&e=6fb9dd1b17), by Oren Jay Sofer. Website: <https://www.orenjaysofer.com/blog/racial-justice>. “So if you’re feeling stuck and helpless, here are ten things you can do to stand for justice, show solidarity, and take action to stop white- and state-sanctioned violence.” Includes extensive resource list.
* [Seventy-Five Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](https://lwvwa.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=741b01ca5b0b87432e97bbfc2&id=1f15a7ba1b&e=6fb9dd1b17), by Corinne Shutack. Website: <https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>. “Achieving racial justice is a marathon, not a sprint. Our work to fix what we broke and left broken isn’t done until Black folks tell us it’s done.” *Continued on Page 4*

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**LEARNING MORE AND TAKING ACTION** *Continued from Page 3*

* [Anti-Racism Resources](https://lwvwa.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=741b01ca5b0b87432e97bbfc2&id=1a5ca4a82f&e=6fb9dd1b17), compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein. Website: [bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES](http://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES). “This document is intended to serve as a resource to white people and parents to deepen our anti-racism work. If you haven’t engaged in anti-racism work in the past, start now.”

The League of Women Voters of the United States has joined with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in a [letter to our congressional leadership](https://lwvwa.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=741b01ca5b0b87432e97bbfc2&id=9d9f1ee979&e=6fb9dd1b17) (pdf: [http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/ policy/letters/2020/Coalition\_Letter\_to\_House\_and\_Senate\_Leadership\_on\_Federal\_Policing\_Priorites\_Final\_6.1.20.pdf](http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/%20policy/letters/2020/Coalition_Letter_to_House_and_Senate_Leadership_on_Federal_Policing_Priorites_Final_6.1.20.pdf)) urging Congress to "take swift and decisive legislative action in response to ongoing fatal police killings and other violence against Black people across our country."

-- Susan Fleming, 1st Vice President, LWV of WA (article excerpted from WA State *Voter)*

I am only one

But still I am one.

I cannot do everything,

But still I can do something.

And because I cannot do everything

I will not refuse to do the something

That I can do. – Edward Everett Hale

***LWV Election Resource…***



[VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org/ballot) Website: <https://www.vote411.org/ballot> is a national project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund. With a commitment to ensuring voters have the information they need to successfully participate in every election, VOTE411 enables the public to learn where candidates running for office in each community stand on the issues. Whether it's local, state or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities.

By entering your address, the site provides personalized ballot information. (What you entered will not be saved, and will be deleted when you leave the page.) In addition to seeing what’s on your ballot and upcoming debates and forums in your area, the site provides unedited candidate responses to questions.

Our LWVYC is forwarding questions for our local primary candidates, including WA State Representatives and County Commissioners. Mid-September is the target for posting of all candidate response and ballot information available for the election.

As League members, we can familiarize ourselves with and use this great resource for our information and decision-making. In addition, we can prepare ourselves to be advocates and promoters for its use by the public. As Virginia Kase expressed in the LWV Blog in the article above, “Now, more than ever, it’s clear that our work to inform voters and hold government accountable on the local and state level is where real potential for change lies.”

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***LWV YC Annual Meeting…***

**RSVP DUE FRIDAY, JUNE 12**

Our 2020 local League Annual Meeting will convene via Zoom at 4:30 on Monday, June 15. To verify a quorum, the Leadership Team asks you to email your plan to attend, yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com, or leave a message at 452-3419. Look for an email a few days before the meeting with the link to connect. And please contact Criss if you have any concerns about attending via Zoom; the Leadership Team will arrange to help you as needed. If you haven’t replied that you will attend yet find yourself able to participate, by all means do so!

 The Call to Annual Meeting was emailed to all members. Note that the agenda includes reports of committee work through the past year as well as financial update. Along with the call to the meeting, members received a copy of our League of Women Voters of Yakima County Consensus Positions. These identify and guide our advocacy in the areas of government, natural resources and social policy. Look these over, as members will be asked to re-adopt the statements.

Of particular importance at the meeting will be discussion of programs and goals for the coming year. The Leadership Team hopes to hear from as many members as possible as we move forward in these critical times for democracy in America.

 Our Annual Meeting is the chance to connect with each other and with our shared commitment to our Mission of “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy!”



**League of Women Voters of Yakima County**

 **Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_\_$60 Basic\_\_\_\_\_\_$40 Each additional family member at same residence

Sustaining Gift: $60 \_\_\_\_\_ $40 \_\_\_\_\_ $25\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**

LWVYC

 PO Box 723

YAKIMA WA 98907

Your Sustaining Gift provides additional support for our local activities.

**\*Please Note Annual Dues Distribution:** National: $32

 State: $19

 LWVYC retains: $ 9

## VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

Secretary of State [www.secstate.wa.gov/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/)

LWVWA- Vote 411 Yakima County Auditor

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.vote411.org) <http://yakimacounty.us/170/Elections>