



Mason County VOTES

**EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

**League of Women Voters Mason
County**

February 15, 2018

Calendar of Events

February 20, 2018

"Making Cents of Support Services"

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Olympic College – Shelton Campus

March 13, 2018

"Civics 101"

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

William G. Reed Library

March 20, 2018

"Immigrants R Us"

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Olympic College – Shelton Campus

March 29, 2018

Shelton City Council Candidates'
Forum

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

PUD 3 Headquarters Building

League President's Message

It's my honor to introduce the inaugural edition of Mason County VOTES, published by the League of Women Voters of Mason County.

We have a lot planned for this year:

- a Vote Local presentation that focuses on civics and voting rights
- a Candidates' Forum to allow voters to ask questions of the eight successful candidates vying for four newly created seats to change the City of Shelton from a three-member Commission (the last of that type of government in the state) to a seven-member Council, and
- an update to our 2011 Mason County budget study to spotlight where our tax dollars go and why.

Those are just a few things...and that's just during the first quarter! Please stay tuned...

Cheryl Williams

About us...we envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. Membership is open to citizens, male and female, of voting age.

What's Up with LWV – Local

- **Commission Watch** – Members continue to attend the Board of Mason County Commissioners Briefing Meetings held every Monday. These meetings provide a "first hearing" of issues that may affect the budget process. After the meeting, members regroup at the Brilliant Moon Bookstore for discussion and refreshments.
- **Mason County Budget Task Force** – Members are researching and analyzing the current Mason County budget process with the goal of making the process transparent to voters and identifying wasteful spending.
- **Vote Local Task Force** – Members are working hard to register voters by the March 26, 2018 deadline (before the April election to fill the four newly-created Shelton City Council seats). They have been invited to speak to a group at the William G. Reed Library on the topic of "Civics 101." Voter

registration drives are planned for March at various locations in Shelton. Efforts are also being made to include our local immigrant population.

- **Young Voter Registration Project** – Members continue to visit local high school civics and government classes to provide information on the LWV, explain the need to be an informed voter and register eligible students. So far this school year members have registered 57 students at Shelton High School and 4 at CHOICE.

What's Up with LWV – Statewide

- **Supreme Civics Summit** – The Civic Learning Initiative Summit, held in Seattle and sponsored by The Council on Public Legal Education, brought together league members and civics educators to promote civics education. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor spoke about the importance of teaching civics in Washington state's public schools.

What's Up with LWV – National

- **'Election Integrity' Commission Dissolved** – The League was involved in legal challenges in Texas, Utah and Indiana to prevent voters' private data from being shared with this Commission. They collected more than 20,000 comments and petition signatures opposing the work of the Commission leading to President Trump shutting it down in early January.
- **U.S. Supreme Court Hears Voter Purge Case** – the Supreme Court heard arguments in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, Ohio's voter purge case. The League supports the plaintiffs, stating it's unreasonable, and therefore unlawful, to infer that failing to vote in an election makes a voter ineligible to vote in future elections. The right to vote is not use-it-or-lose-it.
- **Anti-Gerrymandering Wins Across the Nation** – Victories were declared in North Carolina and Pennsylvania as courts struck down congressional districts as partisan gerrymanders and ordered new maps drawn. Additional battles are ongoing in Michigan and Ohio.
- **Florida Takes Rights Restoration to the Ballot** – Floridians will be able to vote in November for a constitutional amendment to restore the right to vote to those citizens with a felony conviction who have paid their debt to society.

Legislative Update

Amy Davis, State Lobby Team

We are at the halfway point in the legislative session and the record-setting pace has sent bills flying through committees, many to the floor of both chambers for a vote and many with a fiscal note sent to Ways & Means, Appropriations, Transportation or Rules Committees.

The LWV of Washington supports the following legislation: Opioid Treatment and Prevention, Barrier Free Access to Birth Control, Automatic Voter Registration, Reproductive Parity, the Disclosure Act to Increase Transparency of Contributions, the Ban on Bump Stocks, the Ban on the Death Penalty, Equal Pay Act and a Carbon Tax.

Act now and make a difference! Go to www.lvwva.org and click on "Read Our Legislative Newsletter." Open the most recent newsletter and select 'click here' to show your support for the legislation and 'read more here' to find 'ACTION ALERT' notifications for those bills that are very close to passage. Your support communicates directly to your representatives and sends the specifically prepared text on the bill you wish to support. Keep up with what's going on in Olympia because you will see those policies reflected at the local level, not only in your county and city government, but also **in your community**.

Additional information about the League of Women Voters Mason County (LWVMC) is available at our web site: www.lwvmasoncounty.org or by email to lwvmasoncountywa@gmail.com. LWVMC meets on the third Tuesday of the month (no meetings in July and August) from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM in the Johnson Library of the Shelton Campus, Olympic College.