



Mason County VOTES

**EMPOWERING VOTERS.
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

**League of Women Voters Mason
County
April 2018**

Calendar of Events

April 17, 2018

Membership Meeting and Program
ACES & Building Healing
Communities Speaker: Laura Porter
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Olympic College – Shelton Campus

April 24, 2018

Special Election, City Council
Positions
City of Shelton

May 4, 2018

Board Meeting, Lynn Busacca's
House
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Neighbors 4 Immigrants March
4:00 PM
Downtown Shelton

May 15, 2018

Membership Meeting and Program
"Mason County's Financial Health"
Speaker: Elizabeth (Lisa) Frazier
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Olympic College – Shelton Campus

June 1 – 3, 2018

LWVWA Council 2018
Shiloh Inn & Suites – Richland, WA

June 22, 2018

Annual Meeting & Program
Planned Parenthood
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Harmony Hill – Union

ACT NOW

Our March 2018 meeting topic was "Immigrants R Us" and here are some actions to take now:

- **Research:** The Immigration Syllabus Website at as.cornell.edu; or the WA Attorney General website at www.atg.wa.gov for information on immigration guidance, human trafficking, immigration services fraud, and current cases related to immigration.
- **Watch:** "The missing – consequences of Trump's immigration crackdown" and subsequent deportations in Long Beach, WA; view at www.bbc.com/news.
- **Contact:** LWV member Pat Kevin to find out more about the immigrants with whom she works and ways you can help; email her at helixpak2aol.com.
- **Learn More:** About CIELO on their website www.cieloprograms.org by contacting Carolina Gutierrez at 360-868-2431 or visiting her at 2505 Olympic Hwy N, Suite 140. The teens who gather at the center would like after school snacks – cookies anyone? Their website lists a variety of volunteer opportunities.
- **Participate:** On May 4, 2018 in the Neighbors 4 Immigrants March organized by Elevate Mason County. Organizers need the following: 70 pairs of chopsticks, 1" x 2' stock wood for banners, second-hand cotton sheets in orange or white and second-hand cotton shirts, black or orange, in good condition and in all sizes.
- **Advocate:** Contact your U. S. Senators: Patty Murray at 866-481-9186 and Maria Cantwell at 206-220-6400 and your U.S. Representatives: Derek Kilmer at 202-225-5916 and Denny Heck at 202-225-9740 to talk about national immigration reform and DACA.

Contributor: Cindy Shotts, Co-Vice President

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.
- **Candidates' Forum** – On March 29, seven of the eight candidates for the four new Shelton City Council seats participated in the speed-dating format to meet and answer questions from interested voters. There were approximately 50 participants and most expressed positive comments on the format and appreciated the opportunity to ask direct questions.
- **Young Voter Registration Project** – In May, members will 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

- **Counting the Problems with the Census** – In 2020, as required by the constitution, the United States will once again set out to count all the people living within our borders. The census is critical for funding everything from education to trash collection. An incomplete or poorly done population count has repercussions throughout our government, economy, infrastructure and communities. The LWVWA April Newsletter article states that including a question pertaining to citizenship is bad for the census, bad for our communities, and bad for America. Let your representatives know you are against this decision to include a question about citizenship.
- **Universal Health Care for Washington State** – On March 16 the LWVWA board endorsed I-1600, the initiative that would require the establishment of a comprehensive state program to pay for health care for all Washington residents. If approved, this coverage will be effective by November 2019. Learn more about this initiative at www.yeson1600.org.
- **Council 2018** – The biannual gathering is coming up this June in Richland, WA. Council is open to members and nonmembers and is a great chance to meet with other civic-minded citizens here in Washington State. A draft agenda is available at www.lwvwa.org.
- **The League's New Civics Textbook** – This colorful 8th edition of *The State We're In: Washington. Your Guide to state, tribal and local government* is hot off the press and ready for all to explore. Developed for 7th-12th grade classes and designed to help students learn the basics about our governments, how they work and why we should care about them, this is the only civics/history text that describes both historic and current Tribal governments in our state. A free online version is available at www.lwvwa.org; hard copies are also available for purchase.

Recommended Reading

(provided by your fellow league members)

The Second Amendment, A Biography

Author: Michael Waldman

The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote

Author: Elaine Weiss

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.

