



# Mason County VOTES

**EMPOWERING VOTERS.  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

**League of Women Voters of Mason County  
Winter Edition 2019**

Joanne Brown, Editor

## Calendar of Events

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>
<p><b><u>Tuesday, January 15</u></b> 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Membership Meeting and Program Report by the Mason County Budget Study Committee; Q&amp;A with the County Commissioners Olympic College – Shelton Campus 937 W Alpine Way, Shelton</p> <p><b><u>Saturday, January 19</u></b> 11:00 AM Women’s March in Olympia (Carpooling may be available.)</p> <p><b><u>Thursday, January 31</u></b> 5:30 PM “The People’s State of the Union” Shelton Timberland Library 710 W Alder Street, Shelton For more info: 360-426-1362</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, January 29</u></b> 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day United Churches 110 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Olympia</p>	<p><b><u>Friday, February 1</u></b> 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM Board Meeting and Lunch Sister’s Restaurant 116 W Railroad Avenue, Shelton <b>New Members are Encouraged to Attend</b></p> <p><b><u>Friday, February 15</u></b> 5:30 PM Reception and Performance, “Many Maps, One Voice” co-sponsored by LWV of Thurston and Mason Counties WA Center for the Performing Arts 512 Washington Street SE, Olympia Ticket Information: 360-753-8586</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, February 19</u></b> 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Membership Meeting and Program “Adapting to a Changing Climate” Presenter: John Bolender Olympic College – Shelton Campus 937 W Alpine Way, Shelton</p> <p><b><u>Thursday, February 21</u></b> LWVWA Democracy Lobby Day Capitol Campus, Olympia Register online at <a href="http://lwvwa.org">lwvwa.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Friday, March 1</u></b> 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM Board Meeting Shelton Timberland Library 710 W Alder Street, Shelton <b>New Members are Encouraged to Attend</b></p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, March 19</u></b> 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Membership Meeting and Program “Climate Justice” Olympic College – Shelton Campus 937 W Alpine Way, Shelton</p>
		<p><b><u>SAVE THE DATE</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Friday, April 5</u></b> 12:30 – 2:30 PM Board Meeting</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, April 16</u></b> 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Membership Meeting</p> <p><b><u>Friday, May 3</u></b> 12:30 – 2:30 PM Board Meeting</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, May 21</u></b> 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Membership Meeting</p>

***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 all citizens of voting age.***

## What's Up with LWV – Local

- **December Membership Meeting** – Thanks to all of you who attended our holiday luncheon at Salish Cliffs. We had a wonderful time visiting and enjoying great food. Also, thanks to those of you who bid on and/or purchased a gift basket during our silent auction or bought a book or DVD. Funds raised, almost \$350, will be used to offset printing costs for the TRY brochure, newsletter and other documents. We also enjoyed a lively and thought-provoking discussion of the book “Democracy in Chains” by Nancy MacLean.
- **2019 Women+ March in Olympia** – Grab your pussy hat and join in the fun for this peaceful demonstration of the power of Women+More as we Rise, Organize, and Roar!!
- **Commission Watch** – Volunteers are needed to attend the Board of County Commissioners’ meetings held at the Commission Chambers, Mason County Building 1, 411 N Fifth Street, Shelton on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM, except the fourth Tuesday of the month when the meeting is at 6:00 PM. Commission meeting agendas and minutes are available at [www.co.mason.wa.us](http://www.co.mason.wa.us).
- **Young Voter Registration Project** – Plans are underway for members 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. If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Michelle Bell ([majgbell2@aol.com](mailto:majgbell2@aol.com)) or Bobbie Stady ([wilstady@wavecable.com](mailto:wilstady@wavecable.com)).

## What's Up with LWV – State

- **Washington State Legislature opens the 2019 session on January 14 in Olympia** – It’s a budget year and revenue issues include a proposal to close the tax break on Capital Gains income, an adjustment to the Real Estate Excise tax to be more progressive, and a move to increase the business and occupation tax on service businesses. Campaign finance and postage-paid ballots are issues to be addressed in the democracy arena.
- **Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day** – Join the Environmental Priorities Coalition and hundreds of activists to push for key environmental legislation on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM at United Churches, 110 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE in Olympia. Sign up now by registering online at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org) or <https://envirolobby.brownpapertickets.com>.
- **Democracy Lobby Day 2019** – Last year LWVWA and Fix Democracy First sponsored the first Democracy Lobby Day and it was a terrific success as Washington state expanded voting opportunities and passed powerful protections for voting rights, disclosure and audits. This year’s event will be on Thursday, February 21 and will work to lobby legislators in support of bills that will strengthen our democracy. Sign up now by registering online at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org).
- **Save the Date** – Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9: State Convention at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma.

## What's Up with LWV – National

- **Support National Democracy Reform** – Join League members and concerned citizens nationwide in support of HR1: For the People Act. This resolution includes comprehensive reforms including restoring the Voting Rights Act, improving Automatic Voter Registration, creating a public financing system through small donor matching funds, overturning Citizens United, ending partisan gerrymandering, and more! Show your support by sending a message to your representative by a link provided by LWVWA at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org).

## **Please Support Our Local Media**

The Shelton-Mason County Journal, iFiberOne NewsRadio and Mason WebTV are valuable resources for local news and information.

“Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy.” *Walter Cronkite*

### ***Recommended Reading***

(provided by your fellow league members)

#### **Land on Fire: The New Reality of Wildfire in the West**

Author: Gary Ferguson

#### **The Fifth Risk**

Author: Michael Lewis

### **Mason County Voter Registration and Voter Turnout We Still Have Work to Do**

Voter turnout for the 2018 midterm election reached 70 percent, just short of the 77.7 percent who voted in the 2017 general election but much better than the 59.5 percent voter turnout for the 2014 midterm election. Mason County received 27,435 ballots cast out of 39,191 registered voters. With an estimated population of 46,075 in Mason County (those 18 years of age and older as of 2017) that means approximately 85 percent are registered to vote. The next two years will see a big push by LWVMC members to identify under-represented groups, and to target voter education to increase both registration and voter turnout.

Content suggestions may be sent via email to [jebrown1121@gmail.com](mailto:jebrown1121@gmail.com). The editorial board is responsible for content and reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Additional information about the League of Women Voters Mason County (LWVMC) is available at our web site: [www.lwvmasoncounty.org](http://www.lwvmasoncounty.org) or by email to [lwvmasoncountywa@gmail.com](mailto: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, 937 W Alpine Way, Shelton. All meetings are open to the public. Our business meeting takes place from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM and our program runs from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.