The North Unit stepped up to plan our annual League anniversary meeting, and we owe them gratitude and congratulations for a great job! The Jackson Center at Everett Community College (once we all found parking and the place) was a great venue for the job, a light-filled location with ample room for our nearly 80 attendees, and with great audiovisual facilities. The luncheon of several salads and two choices of soup was quite delicious. There was plenty of time for mingling and connecting with other members, those we already know well and those we’re just getting acquainted with.

The Centennial theme was reflected in the decorations of sunflowers and the colors white, gold and purple that defined much of the woman suffrage movement that led up to the founding of the League. Sunflowers became the flower associated with the movement when Kansas considered giving women the vote in 1867, although unfortunately that measure did not pass in spite of the mobilization of women at that time. The North Unit provided those delightful table decorations with sunflowers. (Yellow roses were also associated with the movement, especially when the 19th Amendment was being ratified in the necessary three-quarters of the states.) Purple stood for loyalty, white for purity and gold for light and life. For more about these colors, see https://recollections.biz/blog/colors-womens-suffrage/

The members of the Centennial Committee hope you enjoyed the readers’ theatre play, which we had a lot of fun putting together. We especially thank the staff at the Jackson Center for their extremely helpful technical assistance.

Above all, thank you Marian Harrison, truly one of our Legends of the League, and your wonderful North Unit for all your organizational and logistic work that made this a smooth-running occasion, worthy of our 100th birthday.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler

Find other Centennial Events on LWVWA events page.
**What’s Happening**

**Calendar**

**March 3, 10, 17** - Legislative Discussion Group, 4:00 – 5:30 PM, Food Court, Alderwood Mall, Lynnwood. Discuss what is happening in our Legislature! Contact Jody Trautwein for more information.

**March 4** - Transportation Committee meeting 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, contact Eva Mehaffey for more info., join us!

**March 4** - Health Care Committee, March 4, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Quail Park of Lynnwood, 4015 164th St SW, Lynnwood, contact Stephanie Woerfel for more information.

**March 5** - LWVSC Board meeting, 10 AM – 12 PM, Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California St, Everett.

**March 5** - North Unit Meeting, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Wrobliski Manor Day Room, 1210 E 5th St, Arlington.

**March 5** - Census 2020: Everyone Counts 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Lynnwood Library, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood. An informative forum about the 2020 census.

**March 6** - Children’s Services Committee, 10 AM – 12 PM, often meet at Verdant in Lynnwood, 4710 196th St SW, contact Janet Robertson.

**March 6** - LWVSC table at International Women’s Day Celebration, 1:00 – 4:30PM, Jackson Center, Everett Community College, contact Jody Trautwein for more information.

**March 9** - LWVSC Magazine On the Air, 6 – 7 PM, KSER-FM Everett.

**March 9** - Centennial Committee Meeting, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Lynnwood Library, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, see Vicki Roberts-Gassler for more information.

**March 10** - Civil Discourse meeting, 11 AM, The Pointe, Harbor Pointe Golf Club, Mukilteo

**March 16** - Diversity Outreach Committee 11:30AM – 1:00PM, Lynnwood Library 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, contact Jeanne Crevier.

**March 18** - Central Unit meeting, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Everett Public Library, Activity Room, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett, Contact Julie Langabeer for more info.

**March 19** - South Unit meeting, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Pancake Haus, 530 5th Ave S, Edmonds

**March 20** - Natural Resources Committee, 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood

**March 23** - Voter Service Meeting, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Mountlake Terrace Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 23300 58th Ave W, Mountlake Terrace contact Jody Trautwein.

**March 28** - Climate Conversations: Creating Our Clean Energy Future Together, 9 AM – 1:00 PM, Edmonds Library Plaza Room, 1st of 4 workshops in Snohomish County. Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson will be joined by other local experts for a panel discussion around efforts in Edmonds and Lynnwood to move quickly to address the climate change crisis.

**April 1** - Transportation Committee meeting 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, contact Eva Mehaffey for more info., join us!

**April 2** - LWVSC Board meeting, 10 AM – 12 PM, Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California St, Everett.
I’m breathing a sigh of relief that our Centennial Birthday Luncheon is behind us. I hope all attending found it half as much fun as I did. Now onward to the work of the spring. As the short off-year session of the Washington State Legislature comes to its rapid close, many of our members have been very engaged, attending the workshops and League lobby day, and studying the issues being considered. Weekly meetings at the Alderwood Mall have given them a framework for looking more deeply into proposals and the opportunity to learn from each other. Meetings are scheduled for the first three weeks of March, and the tradition is bound to continue next year when the Legislature has its longer session. Some of our work during March involves getting ready for the Census, official date April 1. We had a visitor at our Birthday Luncheon who is recruiting census workers, the Central Unit had a guest speaker from the Census at their February meeting, and our members are participating in ‘get out the count’ activities. Check the calendar for dates and times of events, especially at our local libraries. The Transportation Committee and the Natural Resources Committee have been following relevant issues closely. They have visited local and state elected officials to find out more about the details of action being taken to improve transportation and preserve our natural resources. Once the Children’s Services Committee’s study report on “Homelessness of Children, Youth and Families in Snohomish County” has been accepted by the board, the Committee will be presenting it to the units together with consensus questions aimed at updating our LWVSC position on homelessness. Then the Committee will be ready for public meetings and possibly for advocating activities. All committees are involved in learning more about the issues that concern them, and many members observe at public meetings with their League badges, or advocate in accordance with official League positions with the permission of the President.

Some Recollections on my Friendship with Jim Chalupnik

(Excerpts from remarks at his memorial service)

I just retired from 20 years engineering our “Magazine on the Air” monthly radio program on KSER FM. Jim Chalupnik and I really connected when our radio team agreed that we needed more equipment for our increasing recordings of general meetings and forums and town halls for use in future programs. That’s when I found out that Jim was an audiofile, but I didn’t realize until the Everett Herald obituary how thorough an expert he was (https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?n=james-d-chalupnik&pid=195427280)! It was during this time that I first learned about this amazing couple! Janet was a long-time League member and on the boards for clean air as well. She served as our LWVSC president and continued with her current specialty – membership development and support. Jim was always with her at meetings but didn’t speak much. Now I developed a lasting friendship with him through sound.

We met at their home, and I explained what I thought we needed given the paucity of equipment at various venues we had been using – a speaker, a couple of wired microphones, a couple of cordless mics, and a sound board. As a pharmacist, of course I knew nothing about types of audio equipment, sources, or costs. I think Jim saw this as a fun challenge for himself and as a member of League, his contribution to its operation. Very quickly he produced a comprehensive listing of equipment needs, costs, and training. I presented this to our Board who approved it completely.

There were many visits initially and then periodically to see Jim for training and troubleshooting with this audio neophyte. He even gave me a spool of various colored plastic tapes to use to keep cords straight during events!

We usually communicated on small issues by email. That’s when I discovered our mutual love and devotion to maps! Any maps, of real or imagined places, they always had to be on-line, extra special if they were interactive. It was fascinating to get an unexpected email from Jim with a new map discovery! We traded favorites. On occasion Jim would slip in a posting, not map related, but too good not to share. Always in the spirit of League non-partisanship, equal skewering occurred!

Jim was always there to help cart stuff to my car, or solve my last minute mis-hooked up cords, or to give me a thumbs up when the sound was just perfect! He’s always in my mind when I listen to field interviews or forum recordings. Thank you for sharing Jim with us.

Michelle Valentine
Natural Resources Meeting

The Natural Resources Committee held its regular meeting on February 21 from 10-12 at the Lynnwood Library. Sally Lider reported on forestry bill legislation in Olympia. Wendy Wyatt reviewed the meeting with Council Megan Dunn. Joan reported on a meeting held by Council member Sam Low with Livable Snohomish County, which has some Natural Resource members.

Joan Smith led a discussion of LWVWA and LWVUS Natural Resource positions and emphasized that those positions gave the foundation to the committee itself. Those present agreed that two LWVWA positions could be used to further our study efforts on tree canopy as a mitigation for climate change.

a. Protect our forests from wildfires and preserve as important carbon sinks. Protect our free-flowing rivers from dams, disturbance, and depletion. LWVWA

b. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enact measures to promote climate resiliency. LWVWA

Joan shared the Climate Conversations March 28th forum poster. The remainder of the meeting members planned for the Natural Resources Committee initiated October 24th forum. Using a planning document proved helpful. Members shared contacting participants and will report by email and at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: March 27th, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Lynnwood Library, large meeting room

Joan Smith

Central Unit Meeting

Our February meeting featured Vanessa Gutierrez (a LWVSC member!), head of the Complete Count Committee for Snohomish County, telling us about the County’s efforts regarding the 2020 Census. We were all impressed by her energy and enthusiasm, which will surely result in a good response in Snohomish County. She warned, however, that a substantial undercount is expected. We also learned that, because the Census is underfunded by the federal government, our state & local governments and many community organizations have stepped up with a coordinated effort to educate the public about the importance of participating.

The Communities of Color Coalition is a major supporter of this effort.

Much is at stake, including the distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds to states, counties and communities each year for the next 10 years. In Snohomish County this means around $2000 per person, per year. Our representation in the United States House of Representatives also depends on the Census results.

At our March 18 meeting we will welcome our Diversity Committee members Jeanne Crevier and Michelle Valentine plus Consultant Meryl Tsukiji to talk with us about their Applied DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Discovery Pilot Project. Please see Jeanne’s articles in this Voter and the January Voter for background on this project. We will also have a presentation from the Everett School District Citizens Committee supporting the bond issue which will be on our April 28th ballot.

IMPORTANT: NEW LOCATION FOR CENTRAL UNIT MARCH and APRIL MEETINGS!

Citrine Health, 2940 W. Marine View Dr. (corner of W. Marine View Dr. and Wall St.), Everett

Ample parking is available on the north side of the building.

Julie Langabeer, Chair

Transportation Committee Report

Meeting transportation needs is one major area of concern. There are 20 cities that are members of SCT.

As of February 23, 2020, there were five House bills and two Senate bills that the league supports still “alive.” HB 2913 and HB 2914 both address the Fish Passage Barrier Removal. The Tribal lawsuit against the State of Washington mandates removal of fish barriers by 2030. SCCIT members continued to voice concern that this deadline must be met regardless of the cost. There were six House bills and three Senate bills supported by the League that did not make it out of committee by the cut-off date.

At this writing, the passage of Senate bill 6606 is not known. It would require Sound Transit to use new depreciation schedules for the motor vehicle excise taxes. The bill appears to be tied to the transportation budget.

The I-976 initiative passage continues to be the elephant in the room. Hopefully deferred transportation projects will be reinstated with the passage of the state budget.

Eva Mehaffey
A search of Impact on Issues 2018-2020 turns up only one instance of the word “homeless”, but in fact we have positions in support of very robust solutions to homelessness. In the section on Housing Supply under the heading of Basic Human Needs the following appears: “As a member of the Low-Income Housing Coalition’s Women and Housing Task Force, LWVUS endorsed recommendations predicated on the conviction that every person and family should have decent, safe, and affordable housing.” This strong statement goes on: “State and local Leagues have worked to increase the supply of low and moderate-income housing through efforts to change zoning laws and to set up shared housing services.” The League further believes that “one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty.” The primary responsibility for poverty mitigation, including housing supports, should be at the federal level, with the states playing a secondary role.

The only explicit mention of homelessness is within the Health Care section; we support “Access to safe and stable housing for people with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless.”

Our Washington State position as stated in Program in Action 2019-2021 likewise does not specifically address homelessness by name, but does address housing. We advocate equal access to housing, and “action to obtain measures that provide basic human needs for those unable to provide for themselves.” Furthermore, under Basic Human Needs we “Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable environment for every American family.”

Our Snohomish County League’s position on homelessness states: “Support of local efforts to alleviate the housing shortage, including cooperative efforts between private and nonprofit agencies and the housing authorities, to provide low-income housing.” In line with its study, “Homeless Children, Youth and Families in Snohomish County,” the Children’s Services Committee may propose an expanded position on the issue for discussion and possible consensus.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler

One of the many women of the suffrage movement that we should know more about is Mary Church Terrell. As Black History Month has just ended, it seems fitting to share a little bit about this remarkable woman.

By the time she was born in 1863, Mrs. Terrell’s parents were free; her father was one of the first Black millionaires, and her mother owned a beauty parlor. Mrs. Terrell was an active suffragist starting when she studied at Oberlin College, the first college in the US to admit Black students and women. She studied classics, earning a B.A. and an M.A., then taught Latin in Washington, D.C. During two years of study in Europe she became very fluent in French, German and Italian. As a member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, she addressed the national convention in 1898 with a speech called “The Progress of Colored Women”. In 1904 she attended the International Congress of Women in Berlin, the only Black woman there. She gave a speech in German and in French.

Historians note that most Black women had to work outside their homes for economic reasons, and were therefore more aware than their more privileged white peers that women needed the vote. Doubly discriminated against both for their race and their sex, they were aware of the concept of intersectionality before there was a word for it.

In her speeches Mrs. Terrell advocated for her race in numerous ways, promoting kindergartens, for example. She worked with Ida B. Wells in the anti-lynching campaign, but, in the words of the National Women’s History Museum, “Terrell’s life work focused on the notion of racial uplift, the belief that blacks would help end racial discrimination by advancing themselves and other members of the race through education, work, and community activism.”

She presided over the National Association of Colored Women and was a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1940 her autobiography A Colored Woman in a White World was published. She continued to work for civil rights until her death in 1954.

Mary Church Terrell

Click the link above to check out action items from the March 3rd legislative newsletter
Our national organization called for action to commemorate our 100th Anniversary, and a few of us answered that call. Six members met at Karen Madsen’s home to enjoy a “pink tea” and write postcards in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. We enjoyed our tea, served by our gracious hostess with assorted dried fruit and nuts, as was the tradition for pink teas. We know that although many suffragists had husbands who enthusiastically supported their activism, some had to disguise their work as attendance at harmless tea parties. Cookies, jello shots and candy with a Valentine’s day theme rounded out the refreshments.

We sent a hand-written postcard to each member of Virginia’s General Assembly, to the House of Delegates and the Senate, thanking them for ratifying the ERA, thus becoming the 38th state to do so. Then each of us wrote a postcard to our Washington State Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, urging them to do whatever it takes to see that the ERA becomes part of the Constitution. On February 13, 2020, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution removing the deadline for ratification.

The League of Women Voters has supported the ERA since it first passed in the Congress, and we would be delighted if the barriers to its ratification were removed. For future postcard writing activities, please contact Vicki—we have a few hundred attractive postage-paid cards ready to go, as well as 100 postcard stamps.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler

The League of Women Voters has supported the ERA since it first passed in the Congress, and we would be delighted if the barriers to its ratification were removed. The League of Women Voters has supported the ERA since it first passed in the Congress, and we would be delighted if the barriers to its ratification were removed. The League of Women Voters has supported the ERA since it first passed in the Congress, and we would be delighted if the barriers to its ratification were removed.
The Committee met on February 11. Karen Crowley opened with a report that the Board accepted a co-sponsorship with Better Angels for a Civil Discourse training on how to interact with people of different political persuasions. What proved difficult was finding a date for a League event with numerous commitments already calendared. The target date is Sunday, May 3rd, 1-4 PM. We will work to confirm that date with Better Angels as well as find a suitable location. Plan A is to ask about the Snohomish Senior Center. Plan B is the Sno-Isle Library in Monroe. Joan thanked Karen C. for her excellent article on Better Angels in February’s The Voter. Both Karens are attending The Righteous Mind book talk among Reds and Blues at Everett Library on February 12th.

The Board said that the committee should submit an item for the printing costs of the bi-fold during the 2020-21 budget planning. Some committee money may be available for copies this year. Sno-Isle Library welcomed the brochure but not any printing costs. Many of the mayors said the same. We will work to place copies in the libraries and city halls. We will contact Jody Trautwein and Carolyn Walker about coordinating distribution of the bi-fold with the TRYs. Karen Madsen also suggested school district offices for school board meetings. Committee members would distribute those. Our test will be this coming year with about 10 copies at each spot. We will contact Mary Ross about the bi-fold placement on our webpage.

The Board approved doing a “Speak Up” training for Redistricting after the 2020 Census. We will coordinate with that committee to help with the materials and the training. American University has a booklet entitled “Building Your Voice” for campus use. Some of it may apply to the general public and the work of the Civil Discourse Committee. As Civil Discourse is a subset of Voters Service Committee efforts, Jody Trautwein receives reports. We will place the reports on that Committee’s agenda.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 10th, 11 AM, The Pointe, Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo
Joan Smith, Chair

By now, everyone should know that for every Census form NOT completed, our federally-supported Snohomish County programs will lose more than $20,000 over the next ten years. Doing the math, we find that if only 100 people, from infants to seniors, are not counted, Snohomish County will lose over $2 million in federal grants until 2030.

The Census Bureau currently estimates that there are more than 67,000 people who live in hard-to-count neighborhoods in Snohomish County. That means that the Census Bureau will need to resort to more costly means, like door-to-door personal contact, to locate and count these people. Clearly that’s a huge amount of lost funding for Snohomish County if everyone isn’t counted.

So let’s talk up the Census to our family, friends, and neighbors to support Snohomish County!

Here’s the upcoming Census calendar:

• March 12 - 20: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

• March 30 - April 1: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.

• April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you’ll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

Jeanne Crevier
HELP WANTED – LET’S WALK OUR TALK!

Hostess/Host with the Mostest/Most –
This is the easiest job you’ll ever love! We need Co-Leads in all three units – North, Central, and South – meaning that you get to join with a like-minded Leaguer for planning. Those sessions are like having afternoon tea, something we all deserve. Then host a party (unit meeting) once a month, and for only 6-7 months of the year due to our League celebrations and summer break.
Another bonus: you gain a friend with your Co-Lead. You can’t help it; friendship just happens that way. What could be better? To sign up to be a Co-Host…er, I mean… Co-Lead, contact Marian Harrison at the North unit, Julie Langabeer in the Central unit, and Jeanne Crevier for the South unit.

Lead the Action! – as exciting as it sounds! We’re looking for two people to be Co-Action Chairs. You get to engage in surveillance of the League landscape (legislative actions, upcoming town halls, lectures, events), review field intelligence reports (requests from committees and unit leads), and spur us to action (tell us when to contact legislators, send postcards, write letters/emails, attend events). To build the excitement, you can make up and hum your own action theme song while you work! (I like the one that goes, “Tan tan tan tan, ta-tan tan TAN…” yeah, you know it.) See Kate Lunceford to get started.

Get Face Time – If you’re on Facebook a lot anyway, this one is easy-peasy. Paula Townsell has been doing this job by herself, but rumor has it that between her work and other commitments, she would like to get some sleep on occasion. Learning how to post events and alerts on Facebook takes about 10 minutes, and it’s pretty nifty how it works with features galore. See Jeanne Crevier if you’re interested.

Roving Correspondent, On the Scene in Mukilteo – I don’t know if you get to carry a microphone and wear one of those cool earpieces, but we do need someone to distribute voter registration forms to libraries and community centers in the Mukilteo area. It involves getting enough voter registration forms for the demand placed in these distribution points, and by doing this job, you help to ensure an income stream for the League of Snohomish County. You build measurable revenue! How important is that?! If you get lost, you can always act like you’re receiving further instructions through your earpiece from the Control Booth. See Carolyn Walker to sign up for Mukilteo voter registration courier-ship.

Catering Chef – Okay, this job title might be a little overblown, unlike all the others, right? (kidding!) The amazing League members who pick up pizza, fruit, vegetables, and dessert for the homeless kids at Cocoon House’s U-Turn Drop-In Center really need a lot of help for a very short time of commitment each month. It’s literally just teaming up with one other person (here comes that friendship thing!), picking up the food, dropping it off at U-Turn, and leaving with that warm glow you get when you’ve helped young people who have received so little in their lives. Wow, tough to resist this one. By the way, if you cannot help out, you can send a donation to be used toward the cost of helping these kids. Ask Vicki Roberts-Gassler or Sue Renhard to see how you can help.

Thanks in advance for considering these requests. This is how we “walk the talk”!
Jeanne Crevier

Click the link to find out important information about voting at LWVUS.
Action Alert for League members living in US Rep. Suzan DelBene, District 1:
LWVUS Lobby Chair, Jackie Coolidge will be visiting Rep. DelBene to lobby support for HR 1694, the Native American Voting Rights Act. She has asked constituents to contact Rep. DelBene in conjunction with her visit in the coming days. Please call or write Rep. DelBene at (202) 225-6311 or https://delbene.house.gov/contact/

Your comment may include:
The League of Women Voters urges you to support the Native American Voting Rights Act of 2019. The legislation takes significant steps towards achieving the equal opportunities for Native Americans. Each time any eligible voter is denied access or opportunity to participate in our elections, it hurts our country as a whole. Through the Native American Voting Rights Act of 2019 we can remove many of the barriers Native voters face. The legislation includes solutions like:

- Expanding in-person registration opportunities by designating federally funded facilities on reservations as voter registration sites under the National Voter Registration Act
- Mandating at least one polling place on tribal lands for each voting precinct
- Funding postage for mail-in and absentee ballots and allowing pick up and drop off of ballots at local tribal government buildings
- Accepting identification cards issued by tribal governments or other federal or tribal agencies
- Providing written translations in American Indian or Alaska Native languages if requested by their tribal government.
- Establishing a Native American Voting Rights Task Force to facilitate collaboration between tribes and election officials in making the voting process more accessible for Native Americans

Action Alert - Re: Support H.R. 1694, the Native American Voting Rights Act 2/26/20
From LWVWA President Lunell Haught

Magnifying our Voices – Lobbying and Advocating in League

LWVSC is full of well-informed, passionate members. We belong because we want to help guide good government. We are trusted in the community because League lobbying and advocacy is based on member study and agreement on selected issues and involves concerted efforts to achieve public policies consistent with League positions. As stated in Impact on Issues 2018-2020, “The process used in formulating positions and acting at the grassroots level makes the League unique and sets it apart from other organizations. … ‘Speaking with one voice’ is one of the most important tenets of the League. … [S]tate Leagues are responsible for a consistent state message, and local Leagues must cooperate with one another to ensure that regional issues are addressed in a manner consistent with neighboring Leagues.”

We are each responsible for protecting this process. According to Impact on Issues 2018-2020, “Typically, the President of the national, state, or local League is the only person who speaks for the League in an official capacity, unless another person has been designated as the official spokesperson on a specific issue. … The key is that this designation is explicitly made by the President. This helps to ensure that the League speaks with one voice, which is essential for our effectiveness as an advocacy and lobbying organization.” Details on League policy can be found here https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues.pdf Pg. 3.

Lobbying and advocacy is a great way to help shape policy. It is also great way to elevate the work LWV does in our communities. It is defined as an attempt to influence specific legislation, both legislation that has been introduced and specific legislation that has been proposed. Lobbying includes actions that transmit a point of view on a specific piece of legislation to elected officials or their staffs, as well as action urging the public to contact their legislators about a specific piece of legislation. It also includes communications to the general public expressing a view on a specific referenda or other ballot measure. When we meet as LWV with our representatives or with government officials we can do one of two things: quote from written League policy and leave material behind, or get specific approval for our questions and comments from the President. Otherwise we are all able to speak as individuals with no reference to LWV. When League members meet to “ask questions” of elected officials there is almost certainly lobbying happening. The questions usually come from a particular intended outcome. Also, it is very difficult not to react to an answer with follow-up questions or opinions that indicate a point of view. There is nothing wrong with these discussions - as long as they are consistent with a League position. A little preparation and approval can sanction these discussions if a League position exists. If a position does not exist, then the discussion will be about beginning a study.

Kate Lunceford, Action Chair

March 2020 VOTER

Committee Reports and More