

# THE VOTER



This Newsletter published by and for the League of Women Voters of Yakima County  
PO Box 723, Yakima WA 98907 509-452-3419

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## VISION

To empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

## Officers

*Co-Presidents:* Cynthia Garrick and  
Criss Bardill

*Secretary:* Karen Pilon

*Treasurer:* Janis Luvaas

## Board of Directors

Kathy Lambert

Rhonda Hauff,

Kitty Jubran

Elaine Smith

*Voter Editor:* Criss Bardill  
965-2351 or cbardill@gmail.com

The Board meets at noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday of each month at the League office.  
**All members are welcome to attend.**

## Calendar

Thursday, November 9, LWVYCC Board meeting, noon,  
League office at YUU Church

Tuesday, November 28, *League Conversation*, 5:30-7:30,  
Ann Ingham Room, UUCY.

## Notes From Cynthia and Criss

Ever wonder what the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments does? Larry Mattson, Executive Director, will be our speaker at the next *League Conversations*, see calendar above.

Please be sure to vote! Ballots are due November 7.

The WA State League is asking us to take individual action on two important issues; a lobbying effort for the Dreamers, and support for WA State Initiative 940. (See following articles). This is where League members can make their voices heard – we urge you to take action to support both these important efforts!

## **ACTION ALERT FROM ANN MURPHY, LWVWA PRESIDENT**

### **Please Stand up for Dreamers**

Last month the Trump administration abruptly rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program leaving almost a million young immigrants - commonly referred to as "Dreamers" without protection or work authorization. Now is the time to stand up for the passage of a Clean Dream Act that provides a permanent solution for almost a million immigrant families.

A member of the LWVUS Lobby Corps recently visited your Congressional Representative's office in DC and asked him to co-sponsor the bill. Based on the response she heard, we need you to follow up with your Representative and strongly urge him to co-sponsor the bill and support bringing it to the floor for a vote.

Please send a message to your Representative, Dan Newhouse. His contact info is available at <https://newhouse.house.gov>

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### **Initiative 940 (See Following Article)**

In August, the League of Women Voters of Washington endorsed **Initiative 940 De-escalate Washington** and encouraged league members to help collect the required signatures.

This initiative:

- Requires training for law enforcement in violence de-escalation, mental health and first aid.
- Provides that police should render first-aid at the crime scene.
- Applies a good faith standard for use of deadly force and removes de-facto immunity.
- Requires investigation of use of deadly force when there is death or injury.
- Brings diverse community stakeholders for development of standards.
- Includes Tribal governments when a Tribal person.

Please call Criss at 965-2351 if you would like a copy of the Initiative signature page. We will also have copies at the Board meeting and November *League Conversations*.

## **Report From October *League Conversations***

On October 24th, a group of League members met with Lieutenant Chance Belton of the Yakima Police Department at the monthly *League Conversations* to discuss Initiative 940, which has been endorsed by the Washington state League of Women Voters. Initiative 940 proposes De-escalation Training for all Washington state police departments including Tribal Police. To learn more about the initiative and how it might affect us locally, Cynthia Garrick, Yakima League Co-President, had invited League members to a conversation with a representative of the Yakima Police Force.

The opening remark of our guest, Lieutenant Belton, was surprising. He said that the Initiative would have little effect on the Yakima Police Department. As it turned out, however, the reason for this opinion was much more encouraging than it appeared at first. According to Lieutenant Belton, the Yakima Police Department, under its current chief and with the cooperation of the current city manager, has been instituting the reforms recommended by Initiative 940 since 2014.

The local reforms began in response to President Obama's 2014 Executive Order for a Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Lieut. Belton was very positive about the retraining and the refocusing of effort in policing time and effort. The Yakima Police Dept. has already initiated many of the steps outlined in the Task Force Initiative using successful national models. With the cooperation of the city manager, funding was reallocated to allow for inhouse retraining as well as the development of leadership within the department through partnership and participation in national training seminars.

Lt. Belton was decidedly positive about the effect of retraining police officers in threat situations. Much of the effort is to retrain police officers to distinguish between threat situations requiring de-escalation because of mental illness, addiction and homelessness versus threat situations where there is an Imminent threat of violence to the police officer or to others.

One of the most positive local outcomes has been to link policing with local mental health resources. Comprehensive Mental Health and Neighborhood Health are assisting police with identifying and managing repeat offenders who are known to be non-threatening. This program saves policing time. Once a non-violent offender is taken into custody, that individual must be held in protective custody until he or she can be entered into judicial processing. With the appointment of a full time professional mental health officer to the police department, such individuals can be more appropriately evaluated and treated.

In response to a question about police safety in threat situations, Lt. Belton described the retraining required of local police in Active Shooter Response training as well as the

requirement that local police be qualified as Emergency Medical Technicians. In the opinion of Lt. Belton, many police departments in the state are in need of the reforms which Initiative 940 would require.

In response to a question about gun safety, Lt. Beltran pointed out that his new post would be in Australia. Gun ownership is legal in Australia; however, there is active enforcement by law of gun safety and guns can be confiscated if they are found to be improperly stored by owners.

League members present appreciated the informative and frank discussion, and wish Lt. Belton well in his pending move to Australia, where he has a position waiting for him with the Perth Police Department.

Submitted by Elaine Smith

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA COUNTY  
Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!**

Name: _____	<b>Membership Categories:</b>
Address: _____	_____ \$10 Student Associate
_____	_____ \$60 Basic
Phone: _____	_____ \$70 Contributing
E-Mail: _____	_____ \$80 Supporting
	_____ \$40 Each additional family member at the same residence

**Note:→ Student Associate is not a voting member**

**Make checks payable to:** LWVYC, PO Box 723, YAKIMA WA 98907

VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

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

LWVWA- Vote 411  
[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

Yakima County Auditor  
<http://yakimacounty.us/170/Elections>