

**MARCH 2021**

# WYOMING VOTER



## Letter from Your State League President

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The Wyoming League of Women Voters published the advertisement [shown on page 8] in all newspapers of members of the Wyoming Press Association the week of March 8. The WPA says it should have run in member papers March 9-13, depending on the paper's publication date. All the bills mentioned make voting harder for people. Voter

fraud is not an issue in Wyoming or in the United States. Inaccurate information is.

The legislature is still in session, so all outcomes are not clear, but here is an update as of March 21:

HB0075: Voter Identification (formerly called Voter Fraud-Protection): This bill requires voters to show an ID at the polls to vote after having shown an ID to register. Originally, the list of IDs differed from the list used when registering. After revision, the lists are consistent, and people can get a state ID to vote without paying \$10 if voting is the only reason to have it. This bill has 41 reps and 15 senators as sponsors (out of 60 and 30). It is in the Senate Corporations committee having passed the House. Even the fraud we do have in Wyoming is not voter impersonation: Fraudulent registration is the most common—people claiming to live where they did not.

There's better news for HB0178 Voter Registration Requirements, HB0194 Ballot Harvesting, and HB0234

Party Affiliation Changes. None were considered for introduction.

A bill we did not mention, SF0145 Election Runoff, is up for second reading the Senate. It moves primaries to the Tuesday after the first Monday in May and requires a runoff election in August if no candidate for the legislature or the top five elected officials gets 50% of the vote. Why cling to winner take all elections and have an expensive runoff when we know there was other ways to select winning candidates? We've seen that in action at convention and at programs across the state. Our election equipment can be programmed to use them, and they would save expense and stress on our county clerks, their staffs, and even the candidates and theirs.

**Senate vote to reconsider failed 3/24**

Voting rights are our primary issue. Members of the legislative observers team are following others. We welcome new members

Thanks to everyone who contributed material to this newsletter. We look forward to seeing many of you at state convention. Remember that we need candidates for president, secretary, and state board. It's a great way to learn more about League and work with people across the state to make Wyoming a better place to live.

*Susan Simpson*

President, League of Women Voters of Wyoming

## Know What's Happening

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- April 7 2021 Wyoming Legislature ends at midnight (as of 3/28/21)
- April 22 LWWVY State board meets by Zoom (tentative)
- April 29 National Day of Action
- May 1 Deadline for Making Democracy Word nominations
- May 29 Deadline for convention book material, including resolutions
- May 29 Deadline for convention registration
- June 12 State convention, by Zoom
- June 24-27 LWWVUS Council by Zoom
- July 4 Bar-b-ques in our back yards with family and friends

The state board meets by Zoom on the fourth Thursday of the month this fiscal year. All members are welcome. Email [info@wyominglww.org](mailto:info@wyominglww.org) for access codes.

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# Native Returns to State as Wyoming Historian



Kylie Louise McCormick, Wyoming Historian and member of Casper LWV.

Last year Kylie Louise McCormick joined the Casper Chapter of the League of Women Voters after researching some of their earliest activities in Wyoming. She was born and raised in Casper before leaving to study History and English/Creative Writing from Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia where she graduated with summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa honors. She also received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which recognizes an individual's commitment to community service and engagement, as well as their strength of character. The values represented in this award are values that she carried with her as she worked toward her Master of Arts degree in History from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and that she carries with her today as she continues her work, now as an independent historian in Wyoming.

After moving back home to Wyoming in 2016, Kylie stumbled across one of Verna Keays Keyes' anecdotes about designing the Wyoming State Flag and how Grace Raymond Hebard, PhD, changed the direction of the bison from the original design. Curious for more, Kylie began her research in earnest and by 2019 started her own business, KLM Wyoming Historian, in an attempt to dedicate more of her time to the research and study of Wyoming History. She has presented her research in libraries across Wyoming and most recently at the 2021 Casper College Humanities Festival. Kylie has also used her research to develop in-person and online courses for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Casper College. She hopes now to use her research to restore the integrity of Wyoming's most beloved symbols, our Great Seal and Flag. Meanwhile, Kylie's groundbreaking research on women's suffrage is the first to offer a serious challenge to T.A. Larson's argument that Esther Morris does not deserve the title of "Mother of Woman Suffrage." In her presentation, "Fifty-One Years of Freedom: Wyoming's Suffrage Story from 1869-1920," Kylie argues that Esther Morris can most accurately be described as the first successful advocate for woman suffrage in the United States. A firm believer in the power of history to inspire and to shape our communities for the better, Kylie is excited to now be a member of her local LWV chapter.

## Other LWVUS Resources for Local Leagues

The LWVEF Clearing House lists studies and positions of other leagues. Do you want to know if a League has studied an issue when [Impact on Issues](https://www.wyominglww.org/StateMaterials/ProgramRecord/ProgramRecord2019.pdf) and the state program (<https://www.wyominglww.org/StateMaterials/ProgramRecord/ProgramRecord2019.pdf>) don't have it? Look here: <https://www.lww.org/league-management/recruitment-engagement/lwvef-clearinghouse>

LWVUS has listed how it can help your local league: <https://www.lww.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/guide-lwvus-services-leagues>

If you want to do more or start new with social media, here is some guidance: <https://www.lww.org/league-management/guides/social-media-tool-kit>

## Want to Know What's Happening Nationally?

Sign up for the biweekly [League Update](http://participate.lww.org/signup_page/league-update) by LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner. It has announcements, information, and general encouragement: [http://participate.lww.org/signup\\_page/league-update](http://participate.lww.org/signup_page/league-update).



# Setting the Record Straight about Women's Suffrage

Judy Knight

Utah Territory gave women the right to vote on February 12, 1870, and two days later, Seraph Young and a number of other Salt Lake City women voted. They beat out Wyoming's Louisa Swain (often mistakenly credited as the first woman in the world to vote) by almost seven months. But then Utah women lost the right to vote in 1887 through an act of Congress but got it back again in 1896 when Utah became a state (and after polygamy had been outlawed in Utah).

There was a major difference, however. In Utah, suffrage meant women could vote, with some qualifications. In Wyoming, women received the right to vote, hold

office, or do almost anything as citizens that men could do. Therefore, we can say Louisa Swain was the first woman to vote under Wyoming's strong Suffrage Act, and that her right was continuous through today as compared to Utah, where women's suffrage was legal, then illegal, then legal again.

We can also say that women in Wyoming were the first in the U.S. to gain women's suffrage on Dec. 10, 1869. It was just unfortunate that there was no election right away—women of Wyoming had to wait nearly 7 months to exercise their right.

## Why Don't More Wyoming Women Run?

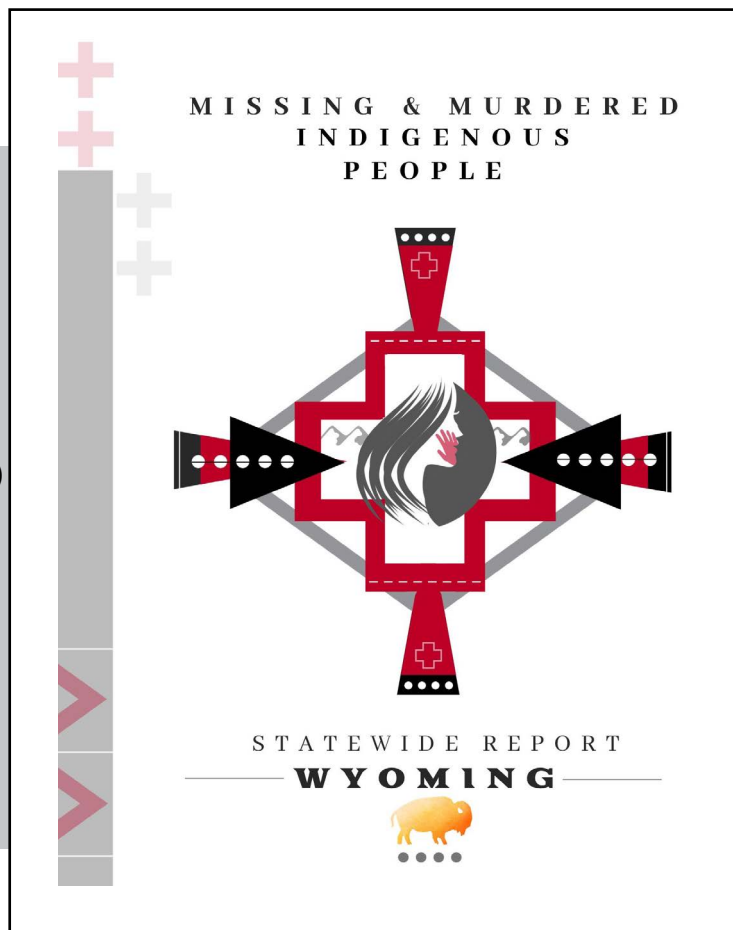
Here's a report from the Equality State Policy Center and the Wyoming Women's Foundation with suggestions on what would help more Wyoming women run for office: <https://equalitystate.org/new-report-policy-changes-would-help-more-wyoming-women-run-for-elected-office-and-win/>

From a recent email: Road to Run is a virtual event series that provides women with a starting place for considering and exploring a future run for office as well as a baseline knowledge of what goes into running for public office. Skills gained through this series are not only relevant to running for office, but also as women grow professionally and personally as leaders. We would love for you to share about this event (recording of event linked) and the rest of our Road to Run series with your community as we believe they are primed leaders to start exploring what running for office could look like for them. Our next stop on the series is on April 1st and we'll be covering networking and fundraising. Women from Wyoming are speaking at the June event on *Building Your Brand*.

## Fremont County to Bring Issue to Convention

Former LWVUS President Chris Carson says we should use our DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) lens when looking at all issues. An obvious one in Wyoming is summarized in the recent report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (<https://wysac.uwyo.edu/wysac/reports/View/7713>).

What steps could and should LWVWY take? Fremont County plans on bringing the issue to convention





## Legislative “Groupies”

A new group has been formed, and we’re always looking for more folks to join! League members from across the state are meeting online to watch or follow various issues in the Legislature. We are meeting on Wednesday evenings at 5 PM when we compare notes about what bills we’re following. Then we report on responses from various legislators to the messages being sent. We compare information about which committee meetings are happening, and how to testify.

The Legislative Service Office (LSO) website is very useful but it takes some effort to learn the nooks and crannies! The members who are participating are becoming adept in finding information and being advocates for League positions. Some of these support a given bill; some are opposed to another bill.

Please let me know if you would like to participate—we don’t have enough folks to ‘cover’ all the possible League positions and the bills involved. More is always merrier! Please contact me if you want to join in!

Margaret Brown, [margaretbrown@bresnan.net](mailto:margaretbrown@bresnan.net)

## Vote Yes Medicaid Expansion



photo by Sherry Lowell

Members of Healthy Wyoming in Gillette made posters and demonstrated on Highway 59 for Medicaid expansion and also took thank you notes to Senate McKeown’s business to thank him for his support of moving SF0154 out of committee. They also distributed shamrocks with contact information for the Senate President.

## Tech Report

*Robin Hill*

The LWVWY Tech Team now has a mailing address: [techteam@wyominglwwv.org](mailto:techteam@wyominglwwv.org)  
Please use this for web requests, problems, suggestions, and so forth.

Members should know that we maintain a members-only file service on our website, for State Board materials, local League documents, instructions, and so forth. To upload something requires help from the Tech Team, but any LWVWY member can reach these files at <https://www.wyominglwwv.org/private>, or by clicking on the “Private” link shown on the right side menu on all of our website pages. The username and password are available from State Board members or the Tech Team.

We are working to get all dues payments online, for the greater convenience of new and renewing members. Local League officers should work with Treasurer Katie Morgan on connecting to their bank accounts.

**League of Women Voters  
of the United States**

**Wyoming State  
Government**

Support the League of  
Women Voters of  
Wyoming:

**Donate**

**Join Us**

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

Email us at:  
[info@wyominglwwv.org](mailto:info@wyominglwwv.org)

 Members-only site: **Private**

## Ruth Garrett

Long time League Member Ruth Garrett died in Casper in January. She was last on the roster in December 2019. Both Sue Knesel and Sid Walter remember working with her on LOOK with pleasure. Her son Richard posted about her on Facebook, saying, “She co-wrote several editions of the League of Women Voters legislative guide. Loved skiing on Casper Mountain. Begged me to take her to NC football games (lived one block away). Devils Half Acre astonished her, Castle Gardens too. She loved Mike Sullivan and said Matt Mead was a Wyoming hero. She was a librarian and worked at the Star Tribune with Sally Ann, Joann Barron, Dick Hyde and Rob Hurless. . . .” The CST obituary added that she twice ran for Natrona County Commissioner and “authored A Look at Wyoming State Government.”



## FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION 2021

When? **Saturday, June 12, 2021**

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. AND 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where? Via **Zoom**

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All reports—local leagues, committees, resolutions, motions, etc. in Word--go to Vice-President Linda Barton [Lbarton1949@gmailcom] for the convention book by May 29, 2021. *Submissions will not be accepted after that date.* The book will be distributed electronically to all members. Zoom access information and hints will be sent to all registrants shortly before the event.

The agenda is stripped down and will include resolutions, reports, directions to the board, election of officers, amendments to bylaws, budget, and next convention location. Speakers, if any, are not set.

### Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

_____ League Member(s) @	\$35 each	Total Fees* \$ _____
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You can register by mail, email, or phone: Registration deadline is **May 29**.

\*Payment may be made by check or credit card (you may call, text or mail your card numbers):

LWV of Wyoming  
Katie Morgan, 412 S 10th St. #A, Laramie WY 82070  
307-399-3881 or [pksmorgan@msn.com](mailto:pksmorgan@msn.com)

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_



## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD NOMINATION

DATE:

NAME OF NOMINEE:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

Please provide the following information on separate sheets:

- \* Action, Project, or Program That Makes Democracy Work and Its Results (Description, years in place, numbers of participants, community support, its effects, etc.)
- \* Nominee's Contribution to the Action, Project, or Program (is this a volunteer or paid participation, years involved, improvements implemented, etc.)
- \* Documentation (newspaper articles, letters of support for the nomination, if any, etc.—not required)
- \* Nominee's Biographical Information

Please submit nomination by May 1, 2021, 2021, to [info@WyomingLWV.org](mailto:info@WyomingLWV.org).

Note: The nominee should **not** be a League member or currently holding elective or appointed office.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Local League President or Member at Large

# WYOMING LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – STATE BOARD FY2021

Office/Term	NAME	EMAIL
Pres. 2019-21	Susan Simpson *	president@wyominglww.org
VP 2020-22	Linda Barton*	vp@wyominglww.org
Sec. 2019-21	Judy Knight*	secretary@wyominglww.org
Trea. 2018-2022	Katie Morgan*	treasurer@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2019-2021	Jim Brown *	casper@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2020-2022	Margaret Brown	mld@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2019-2021	Marguerite Herman	legliaison@wyoming.org
Dir. Elected 2020-2022	Sherry Lowell	campbellcty@wyominglww.org
Dir. Appt. 2020-21	Sid Walter	
Dir. Appt. 2020-21	Jamie Egolf	
Dir. Appt. 2020-21	Kate Foster	
Dir. Appt. 2020-21 Member at Large Rep.	Dee Buckstaff	
Campbell Cty President/Representative	Liz Victor	campbellcty@wyominglww.org
Casper President/Representative	Betsy O'Neil	casper@wyominglww.org
Cheyenne President/Representatives	Kelley Pelissier, Mary Guthrie	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Fremont County President/ Representative	Linda Barton	info@leagueofwomenvotersfc.org
Laramie President (co-presidents)	Lynne Ipiña/Nancy Lockwood	laramie@wyominglww.org

\*Members of the Executive Committee 2020-21

Board@wyominglww.org reaches all board members.

wyoleg@wyominglww.org reaches all legislative observers.

techteam@wyominglww.org reaches the state tech team.

## Off-Board Observers

Robin Hill – Information Technology

Amy Williamson—International Relations

Matthew Link—Voting Methods

## Social Media

Facebook: @WyoLWV

Website: [wyominglww.org](http://wyominglww.org)

Twitter: #LWVWY

## LWVUS Pages and Contacts

Website: [lww.org](http://lww.org)

Member website: <https://www.lww.org/league-management>

Twitter:@LWV

Facebook: LWV Equal right amendment Group

LWV New Media Group

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/leagueofwomenvoters/>

Jessica Rohloff, [jrohloff@lww.org](mailto:jrohloff@lww.org), our board liaison

Anne Hefter, [hefterach@aol.com](mailto:hefterach@aol.com), Lobby Corps rep for Wyoming