



November 2021

## LETTER FROM THE STATE LEAGUE PRESIDENT

For a non-election year in the state of Wyoming, this summer into fall have been busy for the state board. Most significantly, just a week ago, the state board sent a statement to our legislators opposing the proposed special rules for the special session of our state legislature. With only a few days from the time the proposed rules were posted and the first day of the special session when the rules were to be voted on, Marguerite Herman, our state lobbyist and Cheyenne league member, drafted the statement which was sent out the State Board Executive Committee for review. The Executive Committee approved the letter, with minor revisions, and I emailed it to the legislators and the media the day before the start of the session. We were not the only ones opposing the rules and our voices were heard as the special rules were voted down by both the house and the senate, a victory for our citizens and an affirmation of the democratic process.



This is but one example of how our league's actions have a positive impact in empowering voters and defending democracy. There are many others. The state board also approved signing a contract to allow our state to receive grant funds from the National League initiative, People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM) working to ensure equity and transparency in the redistricting process. Laramie League president, Lynne Ipiña is heading up this project. Our legislative committee, under the leadership of Margaret Brown, remains ever vigilant in following the work of the various legislative committees that are meeting to discuss proposed legislation for the 2022 budget session and Kate Foster and Kate Swistowicz and their committee are hard at work on the State approved Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's study.

I am proud to be the leader of the League of Women Voters of Wyoming whose members are actively engaged in promoting our principles and positions.

*Nancy Lockwood*, LWVWY President  
president@wyominglww.org

## What's Happening

2nd Monday of the month: Committee reports, draft minutes, and draft monthly financial report to state league due to [president@wyominglww.org](mailto:president@wyominglww.org)

2nd Thursday of the month: Fremont County League board meeting, 6:30

3rd Monday of the month: State board meets by Zoom, 6 p.m.

3rd Wednesday of the month: Campbell County League meets

4th Tuesday of the month: Laramie League board meets, 6 p.m.

1-17-22 Next state board meeting

2-14-22 Wyoming Legislature convenes for budget session

5-12 to 5-27-22 Candidates file for the primary election

6-23 to 27-22 LWWUS National Convention, Denver, CO

8-16-22 Primary Election Day

11-8-2022 General Election Day

## ORIENTATION AND PLANNING BEGUN

The state board held an orientation session for all board members in October, then held two planning sessions in October and November. It approved the Strategic Plan on the next page at its November meeting. You can see what the clear Goals (priorities) are. This plan is designed to be reviewed and updated regularly, a work in progress so to speak, and is a guide for State activities for this year. Tools mentioned in the discussion include encouraging civil conversations and remembering to view all our work through the lens of Diversity, equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

If you're a member of a local league, you also belong to the state and the national leagues. You are encouraged to work with members of your league and members of other local leagues in the state on these state-wide goals.

State Board President, Nancy Lockwood and Vice-president Susan Simpson put together an "Orientation to the League" booklet for the Orientation session. This orientation booklet will be posted shortly on the [LWWY.org](http://LWWY.org) website for all members.

Of note, the LWWUS is over 100 years old. There are over 700 leagues in all 50 states.

## DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN – 2022

Board Approved November 15, 2021

Goals	Strategies	Activities	Timeline	Person(s) responsible	Anticipated outcomes	~ In process ~ Completed
1-Voter Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the public receives relevant information to make informed voting decisions.</li> <li>• Emphasize new rules focused on voter suppression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create marketing materials early and send out often.</li> <li>• Use technology i.e. Facebook, Instagram, website, radio spots for dissemination, print</li> <li>• Candidate information (forums/guides, Vote411.org)</li> <li>• Judicial Retention Info</li> </ul>	Early 2022.	Voter Service Committee: Knight, Morgan, Simpson, Ipina, Eakins, Lockwood,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More voters will be ready to make informed decisions with the information supplied by LWVWY</li> <li>2. Increase in voting—measure by turnout or percentage</li> </ol>	
2-Legislative Issues	<p>Redistricting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in discussions with legislature</li> <li>– Use the lobbyist.</li> <li>• Work with county clerks</li> <li>• Voter Suppression Laws:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Medicaid Expansion:</li> <li>– Women’s Right to Choose:</li> <li>– Juv. Justice—better reporting</li> <li>– Education: Funding and CRT/censorship</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a fact sheet with talking points</li> <li>• Post on website and social media</li> </ul> <p>TBD by board TBD by board TBD by board TBD by board</p>		Margaret Brown and wyoleg committee; also a person from each league		
3-MMIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with FC to be ready for submission of the resolution for 2022 LWV Convention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the literature reviews and report back to the committee</li> <li>• Participate in writing the resolution</li> </ul>	January 2022	MMIP State Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resolution accepted by LWV at the national convention 2022</li> </ol>	

## COVID Realities in Gillette

Sherry Lowell, LWV Campbell County President and LWVWY Secretary

LWV Campbell County President Sherry Lowell sent the following text message to all seven Campbell County Legislators during the special session in October 2021 to encourage their support of expanding Medicare in Wyoming:

The fact of the matter is even though vaccinated people can get COVID our local hospital is full of unvaccinated people with COVID. And we are out of beds and out of supplies. To the point that the hospital has asked for community donations of oxygen containers people might have in their homes. My daughter is a physician and what she actually sees every day is far more compelling than any article you'd like to cite from the safety of your desk. If you feel so strongly about COVID being simply a personal choice debate, then please show up at the front lines as a volunteer. Spend a weekend at the sides of the doctors and nurses who watch patient after patient die. Look in the faces of those with "good outcomes" who survived COVID only to be permanently disabled and requiring supplemental oxygen for the rest of their lives. Those people feel duped. They do not feel like a good outcome at all. The economic toll this will take on our society will be huge as young healthy workers need disability payments to make ends meet. The mental health crisis from community members and health care workers is already looming as psychiatric providers are stretched to their limits. The sad truth is that people have to find out for themselves how bad of an illness COVID really is. However, they are costing the rest of us dearly in terms of scarce resources becoming scarcer and the future disabled population that the healthy folk have to fund. This won't be over for a long time.

[Sherry reports that Senator Wasserburger voted for Medicaid expansion in committee, but the motion to send the bill to the floor failed.]

## Sixth Penny on the Ballot in Laramie County

Roz Schliske, League of Women Voters Cheyenne Secretary

The Cheyenne League of Women Voters reported more than 3,500 views of its 14 informational videos created to educate Laramie County voters about the sixth penny propositions on the November ballot.

State law allows counties in cooperation with cities and towns to fund specific project through a voluntary sales tax. The sales tax will begin on April 1, 2022, and will stop when the specific amount is collected. The county has used this 1 percent specific purpose sales and use tax since 1986.

Only one of the 14 propositions, which would have provided \$2 million to construct a multicourt gymnasium and gymnastics facility, failed by 112 votes in a recount. It also received the most views of 718. A proposition to ensure guaranteed minimum revenue for the Cheyenne Regional Airport received the second highest viewership of 353 but won by 88 votes in a recount.

Laramie County Clerk Debra Lee, who is also a member of the Cheyenne LWV, said 13,346 residents voted or 29.5 percent of those registered.

Dr. Mark Rinne, representing the Cheyenne City Council, and Gunnar Malm, representing the Laramie County Commission, explained the propositions, which fell broadly into four categories: public safety, roads, infrastructure, and community enhancements.

Rosalind Schliske, secretary of the Cheyenne League, who moderated the discussion, said, "Each video focused on a different proposition so that voters could watch all or just the ones for which they need more information." In addition, Dr. Keren Meister-Emerich, vice chair of the Cheyenne League and Zoom master for the videos, interviewed Malm on how the ballot propositions were developed and what percentage of revenue raised was directed toward communities and county projects.

The videos can be seen on the Cheyenne League's Facebook page at <https://bit.ly/CLWV-videos> or the Cheyenne LWV's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/CLWV-YouTube>.

## Working for Democracy in Different Ways

Susan Simpson, LWVWY VP

How to encourage civil discourse is an ongoing question these days. Two events, coordinated with Braver Angles and Democracy Lab, show ways to address this question.

The first was a program on voting methods the state league cohosted with Braver Angles (BA) last month. Here's an excerpt from a summary Of the event in a BA email:

The Voting Methods Educational event sponsored by Braver Angles Wyoming /Montana, the Wyoming League of Women Voters, and the Wyoming Tribune Eagle was attended by 42 participants last Sunday [Oct. 24].

Dr. Kal Munis shared how changing elections in Montana could lead to better government by having a primary system that are more competitive, less divisive, more open to third party candidates, increase voter turnout and ensure candidates are elected by a majority of the vote. He is a proponent of having open primaries (ending partisan primaries) and having the top four candidates move on to the general election via a rank choice vote. He concluded, "In other words, we don't have anything to lose but there's potentially a lot to gain from pursuing these" (alternative voting methods: plurality, approval voting, instant runoff, Borda Count, and score voting. The highlight of his presentation was having all attendees participate in a real time, interactive mock election and vote for the dessert of their choice using each voting method. This was engaging and reinforced understanding of each method. A shout out to Matthew and the League of Women Voters of WY (LWVW) who spent quite a bit of time creating and testing an innovative mechanism for online participation in a mock election. Before COVID, The LWV did this simulation in person.

The session is recorded at <https://tinyurl.com/votingmethodsvideo>. A Braver Angles debate followed on Nov. 14. It was not recorded.

Braver Angeles, originally Better Angels describes itself this way:

At Braver Angels, our work is about building a house united. Our mission is to bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic. We do so by observing the Braver Angels Way: We state ours views freely and fully, without fear. We welcome opportunities to engage with

 **Braver Angles**

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RESEARCH

those with whom we disagree. We treat people who disagree with us with honesty and respect. We seek to disagree accurately, avoiding exaggeration and stereotypes. We look for common ground where it exists, and if possible, find way to work together. We believe that all of us have blind spots and none of us are not worth talking to (<https://braverangels.org/> downloaded 11/16/21).

The second event was the Laramie League's annual luncheon, held on Zoom this year. Scott Henkel, director of the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research (WIHR), the Wyoming Excellence Chair in the Humanities, and associate professor in the Departments of English and African American and Diaspora Studies at the University of Wyoming, described the WIHR's Democracy Laboratory's goals. His remarks are on the LWVWY YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S40Vu3ny\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S40Vu3ny_0).

Here are some of the material recommended in his talk:

<https://www.amacad.org/project/practice-democratic-citizenship>

<https://www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report>

The Turnout Myth: Voting Rates And Partisan Outcomes In American National Elections. by Daron Shaw and John Petrocik, Oxford University Press, 2020 (not in UW libraries or WYLD CAT 11/17/21).

Matthew Link suggested this in the chat:

[https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/mgilens/files/gilens\\_and\\_page\\_2014\\_-testing\\_theories\\_of\\_american\\_politics.doc.pdf](https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/mgilens/files/gilens_and_page_2014_-testing_theories_of_american_politics.doc.pdf)

## Days of Dedication on Wyoming Public Media

Roz Schliske

League of Women Voter Cheyenne Secretary



As a longtime listener and Leadership Circle member of Wyoming Public Media, Wyoming's National Public Radio affiliate, I had literally heard the Days of Dedication and then found myself really looking forward to the informational quality of the American Heritage Center's minutes when they first started. Suddenly, it occurred to me I might be able to combine the concepts of the two. So I was walking in Lions Park in Cheyenne with Cheyenne League of Women Voters' chair and Leadership Circle member Mary Guthrie and told her about my idea. We also knew LWV lobbyist Marguerite Herman was a Leadership Circle member. After all agreed I could use their Days, I had enough for one monthly Cheyenne League Day of Dedication for a year.

At first, I wrote the copy about the "usual suspects" in Wyoming suffrage history. Then in the summer during a visit with Bev Holmes, a Wyoming Historical Society member and the driving force in the creation of the Wyoming National Guard Historical Society, I discovered that for years she has been keeping a notebook of published stories about women "firsts" in Wyoming. Now I use this four-inch binder as the gold mine for my source material and am also less hung up on the Day of Dedication being the actual date.

As we began the project, we publicized our Days of Dedication within the Cheyenne LWV, and it was fun to read the email thread as members wrote in real time that they had heard the dedication at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. When the Cheyenne LWV treasurer, Joan Anderson, increased her giving to the Leadership Circle level, she asked whether she could contribute to our cause. I dove back into the binder for more copy inspiration. Our only hiccup was the recent maintenance work on the tower powering 91.9. When members lamented they hadn't heard the Day of Dedication because of static or low power, I knew everyone was as hooked as I was on listening for our Day.

In the end, I love the synergy of two nonprofits—Cheyenne League of Women Voters and Wyoming Public Media—working together.

## Notes from Council Continued

Kate Swistowicz, LWV Fremont County and state board member

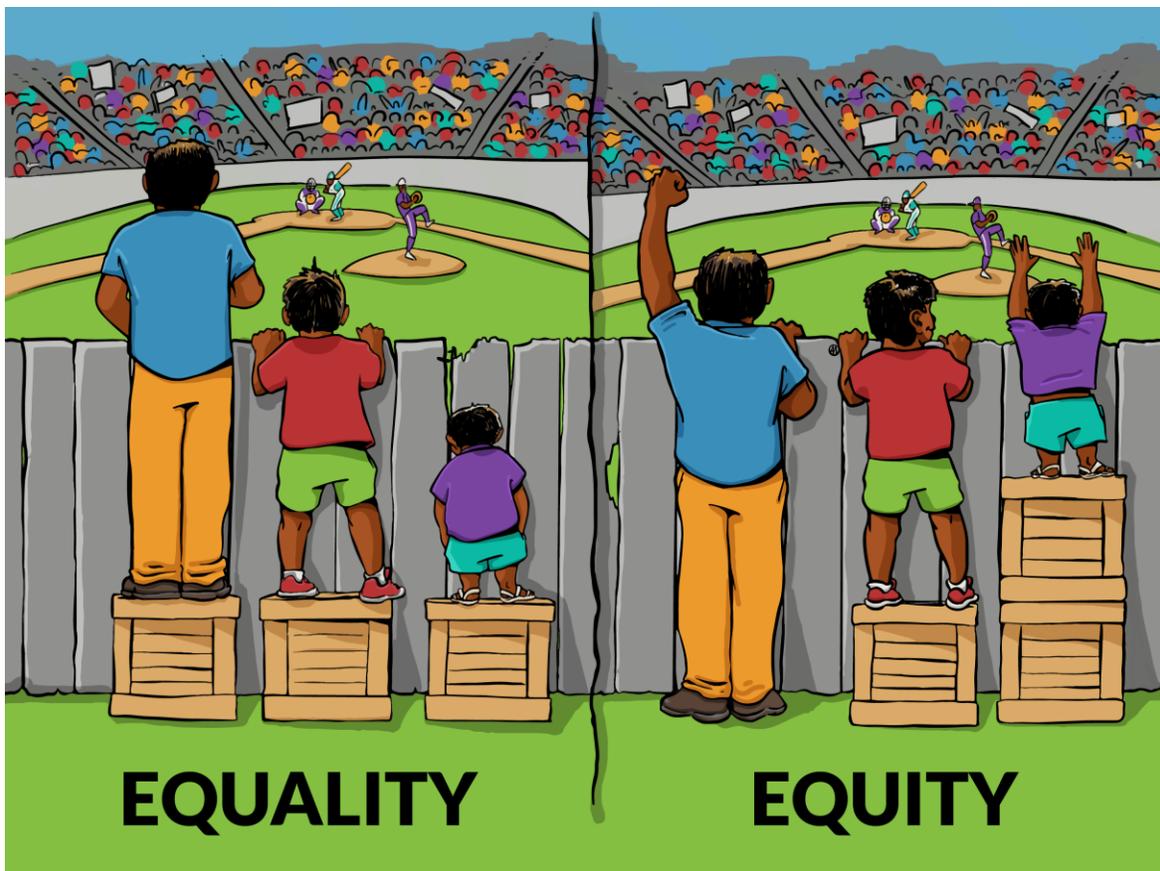
As a new state board member I was lucky enough to attend the LWV National Council. This is a bi-annual meeting (not the national conference) that focuses on deepening "our strategic planning and thinking as leaders in the organization."

Of all the sessions I attended, I took the most from the DEI, or Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion focused sessions. The leaders of these sessions focused on using the DEI Lens, and initially, what exactly a DEI Lens looks like in our state and local leagues.

"A DEI lens is a way of examining a program, a process, a product, etc. with regards to how it is perceived by a variety of communities, voices, and perspectives, and what, if any, barriers may exist that is preventing it from being equitable or inclusive of everyone."

At the heart of embracing DEI within LWV work, we must commit to individual learning and internal evaluation. This is uncomfortable work to take as an individual and as a group. The LWVUS has a whole series of materials that state and local leagues can use to begin the learning and evaluation process. While Wyoming appears to be homogenous on the surface, it has quite a lot of diversity that we need to embrace, include and leverage with our work as a league.

While simple, the (attached) graphic represents the heart of DEI work. In order for everyone to watch the baseball game, some need more help than others. The uncomfortable part is acknowledging that equal resources are not equity in opportunity. Not everyone needs a box to see the game, but some need 1, others 2. The end goal is the important part, not the equal distribution of boxes.



## Tech Team Update

The tech team is meeting weekly now and recently updated the Cheyenne and Campbell County web pages at their direction. It is working on some website reorganization and welcomes suggestions and comments. Visitors or new members are welcome. The tech team can be contacted at [techteam@wyominglww.org](mailto:techteam@wyominglww.org).

Watch for information on redistricting.

## LWVUS Video on Redistricting

This just in from the People Powered Fair Maps campaign:

We are excited to launch 'What is Redistricting?', a 60-second video which explains the process, how it impacts us, and how people can get involved. This is a new tool for Leagues to use and can be found on the [League of Women Voters YouTube channel](#).

Additionally, we have created a social media toolkit that includes a link to the video and sample social media posts to use when sharing it online. The toolkit can be [found here](#)!

## Those Days of Dedication

All the Cheyenne League's Days of Dedication have played on WPM (see p. 6), but the events they highlighted deserve notice:

- **In honor of Estelle Reel**, who was elected Wyoming's superintendent of public instruction in 1894, the first woman elected to statewide office in Wyoming and the second in the nation.
- In honor of Mary Bellamy, the first woman elected in 1910 to the Wyoming Legislature and whose geologist husband named Lake Marie after her.
- To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Amalia Post's successful campaign against the repeal of the state's suffrage law on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- In honor of Gertrude Huntington, 24, and her sister, Laura, 22, who in 1890 were the first women to own a newspaper in Wyoming, the Platte Valley Lyre in Saratoga.
- On the anniversary of its creation as Wyoming's first League on October 21, 1951, 70 years ago
- In honor of all the unnamed female homesteaders in Wyoming, one of the states where women could own property. Crook County had the largest number.
- To mark the 1926 election on November 5 of Wyoming's Nellie Tayloe Ross as the first female governor in the U.S.
- In honor of Peggy Simson Curry, the first person appointed honorary poet laureate in Wyoming from 1981 to 1987.
- In honor of Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day, December 10, when Gov. Campbell signed the bill in 1869.

## Final: An Addition to the Democracy Lab article on p. 5:

Danielle Allen, MacArthur Fellow and the Director of the Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard, Political Theorist, Public Intellectual, Cultural Commentator, spoke on "Our Common Purpose" at the lab's kickoff event in October. It's available at <https://youtu.be/Ty6iFghc14o> . She suggests expanding the House of Representatives.

## **Committees/Forwarding Lists**

### **Oct. 27, 2021**

- \* **Archivist: Lead - Susan Simpson**
- \* **Bylaws (informal): Nancy Lockwood will convene** Robin Hill, Katie Morgan, Mary Guthrie.
- \* **Fundraising: Lead - Margaret Brown** Lynne Ipiña
- \* **Legislative Observers/Groupies** (meets during legislative /special sessions), [wyoleg@wyominglww.org](mailto:wyoleg@wyominglww.org):  
**Lead - Margaret Brown** Linda Barton, Jim Brown, Dee Buckstaff, Reade Dornan, Jamie Egolf, Marguerite Herman, Lynne Ipiña, Sarah Jane Johnson, Sue Knesel, Judy Knight, Nancy Lockwood, Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan, Devon O'Connell, Susan Simpson, **Amy Williamson**. Also [info@wyominglww.org](mailto:info@wyominglww.org).
- \* **LOOK** (set up in 2016): Knight: **Lead for publication decisions- Judy Knight** Katie Morgan, Judy Semple, Robin Hill,
- \* **Membership Recruitment: Lead - Kylie McCormick.** Margaret Brown
- \* **Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP): Leads - Kate Foster and Kate Swistowicz** Jamie Egolf, Liz Victor, Kylie McCormick, Linda Barton.
- \* **Newsletter: Lead - Susan Simpson**
- \* **Procedures and Policies (proposed): No Lead** Standing Rules would be a part of this and are being worked on by Judy Knight and Sid Walter; Nancy Lockwood
- \* **Publication** (set up in 2016): **No Lead** Sue Knesel has a draft in Google Docs. Sid Walter, Lynne Ipiña, Susan Simpson, Nancy Lockwood.
- \* **Redistricting: Lead - Lynne Ipiña** Reade Dornan, Jamie Egolf, Sherry Lowell, Dee Buckstaff, Keren Meister-Emerich, Nancy Lockwood as time permits.
- \* **Tech Front End (Website "appearance"): Lead - Lynne Ipiña** Dee Buckstaff, Keren Emerich, Kate Foster, , Matthew Link, Katie Morgan, Linda Barton, Nancy Lockwood
- \* **Tech Team (back end), [techteam@wyominglww.org](mailto:techteam@wyominglww.org) : Lead - Rotates among members:** Kate Foster, Lynne Ipiña, Matthew Link, Nancy Lockwood, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson, Kate Swistowicz.
- \* **2022 Voter Service: [2022VoterService@wyominglww.org](mailto:2022VoterService@wyominglww.org): Convener - Susan Simpson** Lynne Ipiña, Judy Knight, Katie Morgan, Nancy Lockwood, Kari Eakins if no one else.
- \* **Voter Girl : [VOTERGirl@wyominglww.org](mailto:VOTERGirl@wyominglww.org): Lead - Susan Simpson** Reade Dornan, Margaret Brown, Mary Guthrie, Lynne Ipiña, Nancy Lockwood, Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan, Sid Walter.
- \* **Voting Methods: - Lead - Matthew Link** Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson.
- \* **Women Power Democracy:** Need more direction from LWVUS. On Hold.

Members interested in following allied organizations or LWVUS Project:

- Capital punishment, <https://www.facebook.com/WyoEndDP>: Reade Dornan, Katie Morgan
- Healthy Wyoming, <https://healthywyoming.org/> : Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan?
- Better Wyoming: Possible partner for PPFM?
- Lynne Ipiña in regards to redistricting and using Outreach Circles (communication/organizing on-line "tool"), People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM)

Note: Our new Lobby Corps rep is Colleen Fenlon-White, [cfenlonwhite@gmail.com](mailto:cfenlonwhite@gmail.com).

[Board@wyominglww.org](mailto:Board@wyominglww.org) reaches all board members.  
[wyoleg@wyominglww.org](mailto:wyoleg@wyominglww.org) reaches all legislative observers.  
[techteam@wyominglww.org](mailto:techteam@wyominglww.org) reaches the state tech team.

#### **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

## Wyoming League of Women Voters State Board November 2021

Office/Term	NAME	EMAIL
President, 2021-23	Nancy Lockwood **	president@wyominglww.org
VP, 2020-22	Susan Simpson**	vp@wyominglww.org Filling an unexpired term
Secretary, 2021-23	Sherry Lowell**	secretary@wyominglww.org
Treasurer, 2018-2022	Katie Morgan**	treasurer@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2021-2023	Kari Eakins	
Dir. Elected 2020-2022	Margaret Brown**	mld@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2021-2023	Kate Swistowicz	
Dir. Elected 2020-2022	To be appointed	Filling an unexpired term
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	Dee Buckstaff	
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	Jamie Egolf	
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	Kate Foster	
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	To be appointed	
Campbell Representative	Volunteer Needed	campbellcty@wyominglww.org
Casper President	Kylie McCormick	casper@wyominglww.org
Cheyenne Chair	Mary Guthrie	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Fremont County President	Linda Barton	info@leagueofwomensvotersfc.org
Laramie President	Lynne Ipiña	laramie@wyominglww.org

\* Fiscal year is April 1-March 31 \*\*Members of the Executive Committee 2021-22 board@wyominglww.org reaches all

### Off-Board Observers

Robin Hill – Information Technology  
 Judy Knight as time permits  
 Matthew Link—Voting Methods  
 Amy Williamson—International Relations

### Notes:

The 2021 bylaws as amended state “In the case of local leagues with co-presidents, the local league may designate one to be the voting member.”

Quorum is figured by voting directors and Local League representatives expected. If a position is vacant at the start of the meeting, that slot does not figure in the total.

As of 11/16/21

**Next Newsletter Deadline is to be determined:** Send your articles and photographs to  
[info@wyominglww.org](mailto:info@wyominglww.org)

## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE VOTING RIGHTS/DC STATEHOOD DEMONSTRATION AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 17.

Groups in addition to LWV participated. Look for our signs and our president Deborah Turner. These are from the LWV’s Flickr account

