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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

# MEMBERSHIP TRANSFORMATION

Guide for the members of **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SKAGIT COUNTY

In February 2025, the national League of Women Voters is transitioning to a new membership structure to get more people around the country involved in empowering voters and defending democracy.

This guide will help you understand what these changes mean for you – and what we'll need you to do. For most members for now, you'll just get an email asking you to [update your member profile](#).



**You'll still be a LWV Skagit County member.** While membership dues and types are changing, benefits mostly remain the same. Check out the [summary of changes](#).



**If you move, your membership can follow you wherever you go.** While Skagit County will be sad to say goodbye, you can switch your membership to another local League.



**There may be bumps along the way.** We appreciate your patience and understanding as we go through this national membership transformation.

**Empowering voters. Defending democracy.**

League of Women Voters of Skagit County

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**Questions or problems?** If something comes up, we're here to help! Contact LWV Skagit's Treasurer, Bev Herbst (bh\_busi@comcast.net or 360-420-3098).

## Contents

Summary of changes

Update your member profile

Member benefits

Membership types and dues

Membership dues split

When it's time to renew

Renewal reminders

Auto renewals

Payment methods

Online

Check

Tax deductibility

Privacy

## Summary of changes

- Members will get an email the first week of February about how to update their [member profile](#).
- If you usually [renew](#) in February or March 2025 we have extended your renewal date to April to avoid any transition problems that might occur. You will receive a renewal reminder email from the new system later in February.
- Your [member benefits](#) remain mostly the same.

- Everyone's [member dues](#) are changing. Recommended individual member dues are now \$75 a year, with a pay-what-you-can option. If you've been a household or student, your [membership type and dues](#) will be different.
- When it's time to [renew your annual membership](#), you'll do that somewhere new.
- Donations to LWV Skagit, need to be made separately from your League membership dues.

## Update your member profile

During the week of February 3-7, 2025, every LWV Skagit member we have an email address for will get an email with instructions to log in to **ChapterSpot**, the new membership platform. **Watch for this email! It is not a request for donation or dues payment!**

The email will ask you to "claim your membership." This just means you'll create your ChapterSpot login and review your member profile. You'll also be asked to take a short (3-5 questions) survey. This information helps us provide you with the best member experience.

Even if your renewal isn't due soon, it's important you make sure your information is correct. You won't change your [membership type or dues](#) until it's time to renew.

**Can't access the internet or don't want to use ChapterSpot?** To update your information so your years of membership and contact information are accurately recorded, contact LWV Skagit's Treasurer, Bev Herbst (bh\_busi@comcast.net or 360-420-3098). She will be happy to help you.

**Questions about what happens with your information?** Learn about your [data privacy](#).

## Member benefits

Your LWV Skagit member benefits remain mostly the same. You'll still have many opportunities to support, vote, and lead!

## Membership types and dues



**Want to give more? We appreciate you!** For 100% of your gift above \$75 to go to LWV Skagit, do not choose higher dues. Instead, make a separate donation to LWV Skagit either in the ChapterSpot “Contribution” step, online at [Skagitlww.org/Donate](https://Skagitlww.org/Donate), or by check with the form at [Skagitlww.org/Check](https://Skagitlww.org/Check).

You don’t need to change your membership type or dues until it’s time to renew. Beginning in February 2025, the League’s annual membership types and dues are:

### **Individual member** – *\$75 recommended or pay what you can (\$20 minimum)*

Dues are per year. You can add a second member (\$150 total for both recommended, \$40 for both minimum), but they need a unique email address. 20% of dues supports LWV Skagit, with the rest [split](#) between the state and national Leagues.

### **Life member**

In appreciation of their dedication to democracy, a person who has been a member for 50 years or more is a Life member. Their dues are waived.

League membership dues only [partly go to LWV Skagit](#). If you’d like to donate to support our voter education and advocacy in Skagit County, be sure to give that as a separate donation to LWV Skagit at [Skagitlww.org/Donate](https://Skagitlww.org/Donate).



**Keep things simple by automatically renewing each year!** That way, your League membership will never be interrupted. Just select auto renewal in ChapterSpot. Learn more about [auto renewals](#).

These membership types are no longer available:

- X Household:** Instead, join for yourself and a second member for \$150 (recommended for both) or pay-what-you-can (\$40 minimum for both). Decide the total amount you want to pay and divide it in half. The amount

entered will be charged for each member. If more than two people in your household want to be members, the others need to join separately.

- X **Student:** Instead, join as an [individual member](#) and pay what you can (\$20 minimum).

## Membership dues split



**Make your donation separate from dues!** If you want to donate to support LWV of Skagit County, please make a donation to LWV Skagit separate from your League membership dues. Donate today at [Skagitlww.org/Donate](https://Skagitlww.org/Donate).

**Old structure:** LWV Skagit sent a fixed amount per member to the national and state Leagues. People became members of those two organizations as well as LWV Skagit. Individual member dues were \$65 a year, with household and student options.

**New structure:** Each League member’s dues are split between the national, state and a local League selected by the member. People become members of all three organizations. Individual member dues are \$75 a year (recommended), with a pay-what-you-can option (\$20 minimum).

### Old versus new dues split for individual members

	Old structure	New structure
Individual member dues ( <i>recommended</i> )	<b>\$65.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
LWV of Skagit County portion	<b>\$14.00</b>	<b>\$15.00 (20%)</b>
LWV of Washington portion	\$19.00	\$35.25 (47%)
LWV of the U.S. portion	\$32.00	\$24.75 (33%)

*Amounts do not reflect processing fees, such as those charged for ACH and credit card transactions.*



When [paying online](#), your membership dues will show up as three transactions — one each to Skagit County, Washington, and the national Leagues. You'll be a member of all three!

## When it's time to renew

### Renewal reminders

You'll get emails before your membership expiration date, reminding you to renew through ChapterSpot. You'll also be able to find a link to renew at [Skagitlww.org](https://Skagitlww.org).

Remember, if you want to support our Skagit County work, please make a donation to LWV Skagit separate from your membership dues. Visit [Skagitlww.org/Donate](https://Skagitlww.org/Donate).

### Auto renewals

**Keep things simple by auto renewing!** It's a great option so your League membership is never interrupted. Just select auto renewal in ChapterSpot. You can choose to auto renew your annual membership or donation to LWV Skagit — or both.

You can also use PayPal for annual donations to LWV Skagit. Donate today at [Skagitlww.org/Donate](https://Skagitlww.org/Donate).

## Payment methods

**Want more of your dues or donation to support LWV Skagit's work?** Pay with ACH, which has lower fees — and give a donation to LWV Skagit separate from your League membership dues.

## Online

### ChapterSpot – *membership dues and annual donations*

★ **BEST METHOD!** **ACH:** This moves money electronically from your account. You'll need your financial institution's routing number and your account number.

- Credit card
- Debit card



**Your membership dues will show up as three transactions – one each to Skagit, Washington, and the national Leagues. You'll be a member of all three!**

### PayPal – *annual donations*

Anyone may donate to LWV Skagit using PayPal by visiting [Skagitlww.org/Donate](https://Skagitlww.org/Donate).

Beginning February 2025, membership dues are no longer accepted through PayPal.

## Check

While LWVUS prefers online payments, checks for dues or donations are welcome.

Beginning February 2025, membership dues and donations must be paid with separate checks.

- **Membership dues checks:** make out to **LWVUS**
- **Donation checks:** make out to **LWV Skagit**

Fill out the form at [Skagitlww.org/Check](https://Skagitlww.org/Check) and mail with your checks to: **Bev Herbst, Skagit LWV, 3817 Carpenter St., Mount Vernon WA 98274**

## **LWV Skagit donation tax deductibility**

Donations made directly to LWV Skagit County are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Donations to our Education Fund (held at LWV Washington for our use) are tax deductible. If you want to make a tax deductible donation to LWV Skagit County, please contact our treasurer, Bev Herbst ([bh\\_busi@comcast.net](mailto:bh_busi@comcast.net) or 360-420-3098), for more information.

Your generous gift to LWV Skagit supports our important voter education and advocacy work in Skagit County. Donate at [Skagitlwv.org/Donate](https://Skagitlwv.org/Donate)

## **Privacy**

This is not a privacy policy. It is information related to the League's national membership transformation. Please review the privacy policies of [LWV of the U.S.](#) These policies may be modified during the membership transformation.

### **ChapterSpot**

The national League's contract with ChapterSpot affirms that all data is owned and exclusively safeguarded for League purposes only. ChapterSpot is not authorized to use your information for anything other than fulfilling its service to the League. For more information see [LWV of the U.S.'s ChapterSpot Data Use FAQ](#).

**Member contact information in ChapterSpot** is shared by multiple Leagues. Please review each League's privacy policy, which may be modified during the membership transformation.

**Member demographic information in ChapterSpot** is only shared in aggregate when it can reasonably be kept anonymous. An individual's demographics are not shared with local Leagues.

**Payment information in ChapterSpot** is stored by Stripe, a trusted payment processor. Your payment information is not visible to anyone at the League. See [Stripe's privacy policy](#).



## PayPal

Donor contact information and payment details entered in PayPal fall under [PayPal's privacy policy](#).