

Letter to the Editor of the Olympian, published August 2, 2020.

“Who Are You Going to Vote For?”

“You have your ballot. There are a lot of names on it — a lot! But how to choose who to vote for? That’s the hard part.

Do you go to each and every candidate’s website? That will take quite a bit of time. Can you truly trust the candidates’ websites to give you a balanced view? Or do these websites just trumpet the candidates’ virtues while leaving out anything unflattering?

What about the candidate interviews sponsored by political action groups or political parties? Those might be a good way to learn about a particular candidate but you’re certainly not going to see that candidate’s opponents or have a chance to evaluate all the candidates side-by-side.

So how ARE you going to find out who to vote for?

The League of Women Voters (LWV) has long had a reputation as a non-partisan, impartial group that delivers information for voters in a fair and measured way. 2020 is proving that the LWV still takes that reputation very seriously and the candidates have responded.

For the 2020 primary election races the LWV moderated a series of short, virtual candidate forums where you get to see all candidates of all political affiliations side-by-side and hear how all the candidates answer the questions.

All forums for all Thurston County races, including U.S. House Congressional District 10, are located at lwvthurston.org/forums. These individual forums are each clearly marked with the primary election race and the candidates attending so it is easy to find which ones you want to watch.

I urge you to check out the LWV forums at lwvthurston.org/forums. I have found them to be the best source of the information I needed for filling out my ballot.

Thank you”

Shari Silverman, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Thurston County