



PFLAG Southwest Washington Chapter

October 2020 Newsletter



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Website: www.pflagswwa.org • WSC Website: www.pflagwsc.org

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Voting Begins

September 18 ballots are mailed out: The 18-day voting period (through Election Day) begins. Accessible Voting Units are available at voting centers.

October 26 online and mail registrations must be received: That's 8 days before Election Day. Register to vote in person during business hours and any time before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

November 3 Election Day. And also deadline for voter registration or updates (in person only).

If you want to protect progress made in LGBTQ+ rights to its essential that you vote

Have questions? Call 1-800-448-4881 Monday-Friday between 8AM-5PM or email elections@sos.wa.gov.



PFLAG NNECTS

meeting where you are.



Our work continues. PFLAG Southwest Washington is here to support you, so you can support your LGBTQ+ loved ones.

Please Sign-up for Our Virtual Chapter Support Meetings

There are two sessions each month

- Chapter support and education meetings will be held via **Zoom**.
- PFLAG Connects is a virtual meeting space for the PFLAG Chapter Network. You can join by video, audio, or chat - whatever you're comfortable with.
- PFLAG offers peer support that is available at no cost and is open to all who wish to participate. All of our groups are led and facilitated by PFLAG Southwest Washington volunteers.
- Safety is of our utmost priority for all of our virtual support group meetings. We will discuss privacy, confidentiality, and group agreements at the start of the meeting.

Date	Times	Program
Tuesday, October 13 Vancouver	7-9 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Step by Step Advocacy for Referendum 90 • Followed by our caring and sharing support session
Thursday, October 15 Battle Ground	7-9 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Learning to Tell Your Story for Advocacy • Followed by our caring and sharing support session

Sign-up for virtual support meetings at our website

www.pflagswwa.org



Website information about R-90:

- <https://www.approve90wa.org>
- www.facebook.com/approve90WA
- www.R90InTheCommunity.com



Video Information about R-90:

- Go to Rainbow Support Clark County's YouTube channel and search for WA R-90 Town Hall.
 - https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1M1LffUi4znqseANSPNitySY5nQVt8q07ArLadL43fY9xMw-uQYvOcReM&list=PLj4uiwQaqrFonx18Aw53x3xl4YezlqwTn&v=eg0E2nOO_Q4
- Go to Basic Rights Oregon's YouTube channel and search for Queer Town Hall: Sex Ed Saves Lives.
 - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xkX11czOW4I&t=8s>



The Columbian Supports Referendum 90

In Our View: We recommend vote in favor of Referendum 90

The Columbian

Published: September 24, 2020, 6:03am (Reprinted with permission of The Columbian)

When it comes to sex education, a lack of information leads to predictable — and undesirable — results. The Columbian's Editorial Board recommends that voters approve Referendum 90 on the November ballot.

As always, this is merely a recommendation. The Columbian trusts that voters will examine the issue before casting an informed ballot. Especially for a hot-button issue that has generated much misinformation, it is important for voters to understand exactly what the referendum will do rather than relying on partisan assertions from either side of the debate.

This year, the Legislature approved — and Gov. Jay Inslee signed — a bill (Senate Bill 5395) requiring school districts to provide medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education to students. Most school districts already do this, but the new law would require holdout districts to develop their own state-approved curriculum.

Referendum 90 appears on the ballot after opponents of the law collected enough signatures to send the bill to a vote of the people. An “approved” vote would enact the law; a “rejected” vote would leave Washington's current sex ed law in place.

The benefits of sex education are clear. Multiple studies have demonstrated that comprehensive education results in reduced rates of teen pregnancies and sexually transmissible infections while contributing to students' physical and mental health. As the National Association of School Nurses writes: “Evidence-based sexual health education can improve academic success; prevent dating violence, and bullying; help youth develop healthier relationships; delay sexual initiation; reduce

unplanned pregnancy, HIV, and other STIs; and reduce sexual health disparities among LGBTQ youth.”

The fact is that children and teens will seek out information about their bodies and about sex. It is imperative that such information come from reliable sources in a safe environment rather than from friends or the internet. Rep. Monica Stonier, D-Vancouver, who supported the bill, said, “Teaching students how to be good friends, how to say no to unwanted touches, and how to develop healthy, respectful relationships are all building blocks of public education.”

The four states with the highest teenage birth rates as of 2017 — Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Louisiana — all stressed abstinence in sexual education. Researchers at the University of Georgia analyzed changing teen pregnancy rates among the states and concluded, “Abstinence-only sex education is ineffective in preventing teen pregnancy and may actually contribute to it.”

Washington’s new law requires information about abstinence and other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, but may not consist only of information about abstinence.

Critics of the bill argue that schools should focus on traditional academic subjects rather than sex education, but we see no reason why schools are not able to do both.

Critics also say that parents should be the primary source of sex education. We agree, but that does not mean that schools cannot add to that education with accurate information. It is unrealistic to think that all or most students are receiving a comprehensive education at home, and raising sensitive issues at school is more comfortable for many students.

In addition, parents will retain the ability to remove their students from required sex education.

Sex education is part of developing confident, secure adults. The Columbian recommends that voters approve Referendum 90.

Letter: Support Referendum 90

By Dale Clukey, Woodland

Published: September 29, 2020, 6:00am (Reprinted with permission of The Columbian)

My daughter reads the book “Super Duper Safety School” by Patti Fitzgerald to her young children. It tells them that they have the right to say no to any unwanted touch and what to do if it happens. This is affirmative consent. Affirmative consent is an integral part of comprehensive safe sexual health education for students in grades 4 through 12. They will be taught that they can say no to any unwanted sexual advances and also how to recognize and resist abusive or coercive behavior. This is just one good reason to vote “Yes” for Referendum 90. For additional reasons please go to <https://www.approve90wa.org>.

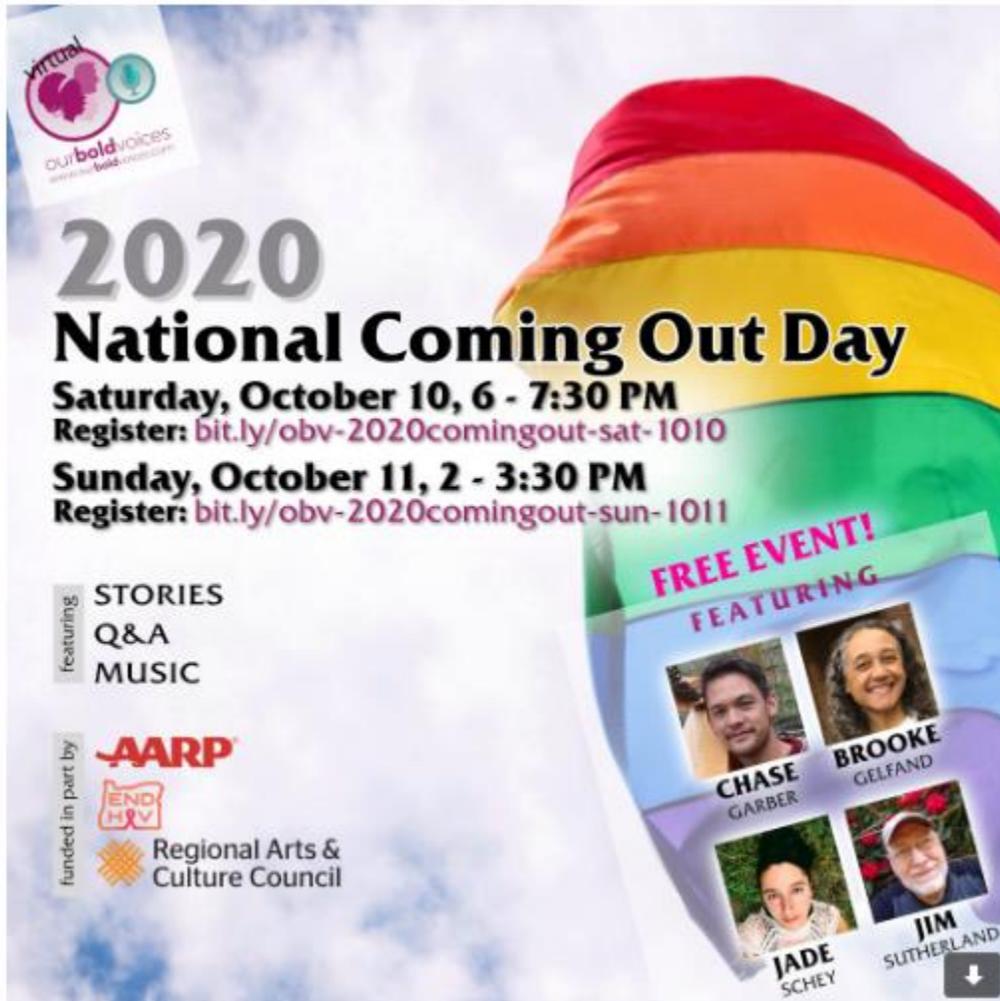
FOR SEX EDUCATION THAT IS LGBTQ INCLUSIVE



APPROVE 90

Next Virtual Storytelling Events

Come Alive for National Coming Out Day



Virtual
our bold voices
www.obv.org

2020 National Coming Out Day

Saturday, October 10, 6 - 7:30 PM
Register: bit.ly/obv-2020comingout-sat-1010

Sunday, October 11, 2 - 3:30 PM
Register: bit.ly/obv-2020comingout-sun-1011

featuring: STORIES
Q&A
MUSIC

funded in part by
AARP
END
HIV
Regional Arts & Culture Council

FREE EVENT!
FEATURING

CHASE GARBER
BROOKE GELFAND
JADE SCHEY
JIM SUTHERLAND



Thursday, October 26 at 5:30 PM PT: **LGBTQ Sex Ed: Health, Rights, and Pleasure**

Sex education for LGBTQ youth tends to be very limited, both in formal and informal spaces. This workshop will raise awareness of the importance of providing LGBTQ youth with sex education that follows the “triangle approach” of linking sexual health, sexual rights and sexual pleasure, which was formulated by the Global Advisory Board for Sexual Health and Wellbeing (GAB). The workshop will also provide the opportunity to learn about specific online LGBTQ sex education resources. [Register at https://Pflag.org/onlineacademy](https://Pflag.org/onlineacademy)

It's That Time Again! Time to Renew Your Membership (or join, if you're not a member yet)

A dark red oval button with a white border and a slight shadow, containing the text "Join Now!" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The button is centered and has two thin, light-colored lines extending horizontally from its sides.

PFLAG's fiscal year runs October through September, so yes, it's time. Joining or renewing now helps us plan the budget and programs **to benefit you and yours** in the coming year, and **helps you** avoid extra spending during the holiday season.

To join, renew, and/or donate go to the chapter website www.pflagswwa.org or fill out the form on the last page of the newsletter and mail in a check

Here's How You and Those You Care About Benefit from Your Contributions

1. Access to monthly support and education meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future
2. Free educational booklets about LGBTQ topics
3. Access to information about other resources for youth, young adults, and adults, including medical professionals, counseling
4. Outreach and education through Informational booths at community events (we will resume when its safe to do so)
5. Presentations to school and college groups (we will resume when its safe to do so)
6. Legislative advocacy in support of LGBTQ issues
7. Support for LGBTQ youth involved in Children's Home Society's Triple Point
 - An annual summer picnic (because of Covid 19, for 2020 we gave the youth gift cards in lieu of the picnic)
 - Thanksgiving/Harvest dinner
 - Holiday candy bags (will probably provide gift cards)
7. Support for the Queer Youth Resource Center (QYRC)
8. Maintain our website at pflagswwa.org

You support this great work when you **join, renew**, and **generously donate** what your budget allows:
Every donation of any size gratefully accepted and put to good use.

Your contributions
Save lives
Save families
Create a more just world

Please join and/or donate to PFLAG



PFLAG
Southwest Washington Chapter

Membership and Donation Form

Because PFLAG Southwest Washington is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, dues and donations may be tax deductible.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP Code: _____

Membership Type:

New Renewal

Dues and Donations:

Family: \$45 includes PFLAG Southwest Washington Chapter and PFLAG National dues

Individual: \$30 includes PFLAG Southwest Washington Chapter and PFLAG National dues

Donation to PFLAG Southwest Washington Chapter in the amount of \$ _____

Please make checks out to: PFLAG SW WA

Check # _____ Dated _____ or Cash

Mail to:

PFLAG SW WA Chapter
PO Box 605
Vancouver, WA 98660

Office Use Only

Donation receipt provided

Finance record updated

If applicable:

Membership list updated

Mail Chimp updated

Chapter Hub updated

National dues paid