



# Bulletin

## League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

4513 Vernon Boulevard, Ste 106, Madison, WI 53705 • (608) 232-9447

office@lwvdanecounty.org • www.lwvdanecounty.org

Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

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### Executive Committee:

Aileen Nettleton, President  
Brook Soltvedt, Vice President  
Helen Horn, Assistant Treasurer  
Mary Anglim, Program Director

## November Forum

Mary Anglim, [program@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:program@lwvdanecounty.org)

Worn out with election news fatigue? Clear your head with a refreshing and inspiring message put together by our Illinois LWV colleagues presented at our November 7 forum. The LWV has supported abolition of the Electoral College for decades. Learn how this feature of our constitution no longer serves us in an age of instant communication, speedy transportation, and big-media campaigning. The League supports alternative methods that might move us closer to one person, one vote in presidential elections. The League of Women Voters has supported direct election of the U.S. president by popular vote since 1970. The League believes strongly that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely “reformed.”

The 2010 Convention adopted—and the 2018 Convention reaffirmed—a concurrence to support the National Popular Vote Compact as one method of selecting the president until such time as the Electoral College is abolished. Read Karen's article below for more information on the National Popular Vote Compact.

## Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Program – 7:00 p.m.

### The Electoral College – Bad for Our Democracy?

**Joy Cardin**

Recently Retired Host of WPR Morning Show

**Aileen Nettleton**

President of LWV Dane County

**Capitol Lakes Grand Hall,  
333 West Main St., Madison**

(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

Study materials will be available at

[www.lwvdanecounty.org](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org).

**Forums are free and open to the public.**

## President's Message

Aileen Nettleton, [president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org), 608-238-6053

Connections between the community and the LWV of Dane County are alive and well this election season. Community groups have invited the LWVDC to provide volunteers for registration or voter information at numerous community events. Mount Zion Baptist Church requested assistance for a voter registration. The Black Student Union at Madison College hosted "Registration is a Piece of Cake" with League volunteers, and United Way included voter registration at their campaign kick-off at the Mallard's stadium. The League was invited to conduct voter registration at the Monona Community Festival. Black Women's Wellness Day at the Alliant Center asked League volunteers to register voters. The Urban League sponsored weekly voter registration events with the LWV. The League was invited to speak and register new citizens at the U.S. Naturalization Ceremony by Open Doors for Refugees. Even the HopCat Bar requested LWV volunteers for a registration event as a public service to the community! "A Benefit for the Heroes at the League of Women Voters" is being sponsored by the Civil Engineers Band at the High Noon Saloon on election night. And the League is being recognized for its community service by *Brava Magazine* as the non-profit of the month in November. The LWVDC has been invited to participate in the Activist Fair of the Wisconsin Junior State of America Convention for high school students.

The League also continues to reach out and collaborate with other community groups in our mission to promote voting and voter education. Volunteers have conducted many registration events from the ongoing farmers' markets and University of Wisconsin "Bus Pass" days and St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry to events at The Beacon and Epic Systems Corporation. The High School Voter Action Team has teamed with 7 area high schools to register 18-year-olds. The League is an active part of the Dane County Voter ID Coalition in its public relations campaign to get out the vote and provide support for people to get their Voter ID. Voter Services is teaming with the Madison City Clerk to assist with In-Person Absentee Voting at the University.

These are just a sample of the range of community links with the League this fall. I hope you share our pride in the impact the LWVDC is making in the community and the recognition from the community about how we serve to prepare eligible voters, young or old, rich or poor, to take part in our elections. You can share your enthusiasm and understanding of voting as a right and responsibility with your own community acquaintances, neighbors and relatives. Together we can make a difference. See you at the polls!

[Candidates' Answers  
is Currently Available  
Online.](#)

It was distributed on newsstands as a supplement to the October 18 edition of *Isthmus*.

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## State League Issues Briefing



**When:** Saturday, November 10, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Where:** Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton

**Who:** League members and nonmembers welcome

[Learn more and register online](#)

# School Safety: Challenges and Responses

Ann Niedermeier

Photos by Ingrid Rothe

The October 3 Forum featured the following speakers: Kristen Devitt, Director of the Office of School Safety, Wisconsin Department of Justice; Joe Balles, Coordinator of School Safety and Security, Madison Metropolitan School District; and Jack Larsen, UW-Madison student activist leading Badgers Demand Action.

**Thank you to the members of the planning committee for the October Forum: Mary Anglim, Gail Shea and Ellen Hadidian.**

The planning committee, Gail Shea, Mary Anglim and Ellen Hadidian, narrowed the topic by asking speakers to address recent efforts tackling school violence. Attendees appreciated the committee's planning and organization.

Kristen DeVitt, who has a background in child welfare, policing and education, spoke first. She explained WI Act 143, created by the state legislature on March 22, 2018, in response to the Parkland School shooting in Florida and aimed at improving Wisconsin's school safety. As the leader of this new state office, Kristin guides the work by asking, "What is in the best interest of the child?" Kristin described the granting process for new state school safety funds, including the requirements schools must address in their funding applications. Grant recipients submit plans to upgrade the physical safety of their buildings, to strengthen cooperation between schools, the police and mental health professionals and to implement training programs for school-based personnel so that they better understand student mental health issues, threat assessment protocols and crisis management. The first rounds of funds have been disbursed and the agency will soon award grants for the second round.



Joe Balles, also with a background in social work and policing, is the third person to serve as the Madison Metropolitan School District's Safety and Security Coordinator, a position the district created in the 1990s. He summarized how the new state funds are helping improve both existing school facilities and practices for safety. Facility upgrades include installing better door locks, hardening glass and increasing video surveillance. With the second round of grants, the district will strengthen school safety plans and fund staff training in the areas of mental health, threat assessment and crisis intervention. The Board of Education recently voted to supplement the state safety grant, approximately \$1.5 million, with \$5 million more in district funds.



Jack Larsen, University of Wisconsin student, activist and gun-owner, emphasized that gun safety legislation provides the key to school safety and violence prevention. Larsen enjoys owning guns and hunting, but believes current gun regulation is inadequate. As an activist and student leader, he advocates for electing officials who will act on common-sense gun legislation and support public education. Larsen states that legislators need to fix problems of gun safety, building safety and school climate so that students can study in supportive learning environments where they feel safe. He encourages students everywhere to apply political pressure in favor of universal background checks on all gun sales, more control over the types of weapons available for purchase and improved gun safety practices for gun owners.



After the presentations, a representative from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America explained the organization's two main goals: advocate for gun sense and for candidates supporting gun sense. Check online to find those candidates at [gunsensevoter.org](http://gunsensevoter.org).

During the question-and-answer period, Joe Balles restated the school district's goal of building staff members' crisis response skills and knowledge so that they feel confident and competent as first responders. He agreed that poll workers could build their crisis response skills, too. When queried about the emphasis on the police side of preparation over the educational side, DeVitt reminded the audience of her agency's overarching goals of support for children and violence prevention. In response to a question about arming teachers, Larsen summed up the panel's attitude with the words, "More guns don't make situations better. They just end up with more active shooters."



# National Popular Vote Compact

Karen Gunderson, [jokarjen@gmail.com](mailto:jokarjen@gmail.com)

At our November forum, when we hear about the Electoral College, we will hear about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC).

In the 2000 U.S. presidential election, George W. Bush won with 271 electoral votes, though Al Gore actually had over 500,000 more of the popular votes. In the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Hillary Clinton had almost 3 million more actual votes than Donald Trump, yet Trump won with 304 electoral votes.

For almost as long as the Electoral College has existed, there has been controversy surrounding it. The elections of 2000 and 2016 contributed to that controversy, with some people suggesting that we abolish the Electoral College. The League of Women Voters (LWVUS) has advocated for direct election of the U.S. president and abolition of the Electoral College since the 1970s. This would require a constitutional amendment.

The goal of the NPVIC is not to abolish the Electoral College, but to have the votes in the Electoral College more closely adhere to the popular vote. It is an agreement between U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Essentially, the agreement is that the states in the NPVIC will give all of their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who secures the nation-wide popular vote. This would be regardless of which candidate won the popular vote in each individual state.

The NPVIC would go into effect only if enough states have adopted the NPVIC to have a majority of electoral votes, which is currently 270. Until then, all of the states will continue to assign the electoral votes as they have in the past. As of September 2018, the NPVIC has been adopted by 11 states and the District of Columbia, representing 172 electoral votes. Wisconsin has not joined the NPVIC.

Along with aligning the electoral votes to the actual popular vote, the people supporting NPVIC expect that implementation of it will encourage candidates to engage with residents of all states instead of focusing on just a handful of states as they do now.

The idea of the NPVIC was suggested in a 2006 book, “Every Vote Equal”, written by John Koza and his colleagues. Their website, <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com>, has a lot more details about NPVIC, including the status of each individual state in the adoption of the NPVIC. The LWVUS agreed to support the NPVIC at its 2010 Convention.

The November forum should lead to some lively discussions about the Electoral College and the NPVIC.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

## Spotlight on Voter Services

*We'd like to take this month to shine a spotlight on all of the work Voter Services has accomplished. In the past 2 months, Voter Services has conducted 145 voter outreach events, filling 594 volunteer shifts. We asked Shirley Haidinger, a long-time Voter Services volunteer, to share a personal account of her experiences, past and present.*

### Voter Services – A Personal Account

Shirley Haidinger, [haidis@aol.com](mailto:haidis@aol.com)

My first experience with doing voter registration was several years ago with a group that was doing voter outreach in some of Madison's lower income neighborhoods. The process was much simpler back then. Voters did have to fill out a form, but they did not have to provide proof of residence. They were sent a postcard, and if the card was delivered to them, it was assumed that they lived at the address they had provided. Of course, there was no requirement for showing a Voter Photo ID at the polls.

I got involved in other election issues and groups after the 2000 presidential election. One of those groups was Fair Elections Wisconsin, where I learned a lot about the political process from Paul Malischke, one of its founders. Paul was also a member of the LWVDC. I started out by working with him doing voter registrations at the downtown farmers' market and other venues. From there I joined the League, and we just kept finding ways to register people through all the changes to voting laws that were made over the years.

In 2013, proof of residence (POR) was required as part of the registration application. Special Registration Deputies (SRDs) could verify POR, but we had to be trained and deputized for each municipality where we wanted to do voter registration activities. By 2015 I was an SRD for 23 municipalities, which was very handy when doing voter registrations at the downtown farmers' market.

The League advocated for online voter registration, and we were all happy when it was implemented in 2017, but were very disappointed that the SRD position was then eliminated. This meant that we could no longer verify the voter's POR, and it made the voter application process much more complicated for those folks who did not have a Wisconsin driver's license or ID. My hope is that we can get the SRD program back at some point – it truly is needed. One of our challenges now is making sure that people who register have a photo ID that they can use for voting and explaining how they can get a free ID from the DMV.

I enjoy doing voter outreach at the downtown farmers' market because the questions we get and the people we talk to are so varied and interesting. It allows me to use the information and skills I have gained over the years. I have also volunteered at several other venues including Epic, Madison high schools and the UW campus. Each situation is somewhat different with unique requirements.

*There are busy seasons for Voter Services, but there is no off-season. If you are a Voter Services volunteer, THANK YOU for all you do.*

The High School Voter Education Action Team has also been busy educating and training students. The team has been active in Madison's Memorial, Shabazz, and West High Schools this past month, with plans to be at Madison's East High School, Monona Grove High School, and Cambridge High School in the near future.

# October Unit Meeting Report

Diane Liebert, [dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com](mailto:dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com), 608-698-4143

The October unit meetings were attended by 35 members. While discussing the September forum topic of election security, most of the units agree that we feel fairly secure with our Wisconsin elections. Wisconsin's system, with the paper ballot backups, ensures a secure system. One problem discussed was the misinformation provided by the press. Wisconsin's 2016 election was NOT hacked!! Unit attendees agreed that the best way to ensure that our system does not get hacked is to train poll workers and to be aware of what is occurring at the polls by signing up to become observers. One unit suggested that we petition to make voting day a holiday, and another unit discussed concerns about voter suppression.

## Unit Meetings Schedule

Diane Liebert, [dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com](mailto:dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com), 608-698-4143

### Unit Meeting Changes

- We are setting up a Unit for **Southern Dane County** members. I have reserved a room at the Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14. This will be our set-up meeting. We will discuss other venues and times at this initial meeting. Please contact Diane at [dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com](mailto:dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com) or call 608-698-4143 with any questions.
- The **West/Middleton Unit** is now holding their meetings at the League office, 4513 Vernon Blvd. Madison.
- The **Oakwood** unit will now meet in the Tower in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor café, the Garden Terrace Bistro.
- The **Wednesday Dinner Unit** meeting is getting too large and will need to be split up somehow. Please contact Diane at [dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com](mailto:dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com) if you would be able to meet at a different time and suggest a different location.

#### \*New Unit\*

##### **Southern Dane County**

**Time:** 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 14

**Location:** Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road

**Leader:** See notes above

##### **West / Middleton**

**Time:** 6 p.m., third Monday of the month

**Location:** \*New Location\*

LWVDC Office

4513 Vernon Boulevard, Ste 106

**Leaders:** [Priscilla Thain](#) (233-5578)

and [Marilyn Kupferberg](#) (831-3269)

##### **Oakwood West**

**Time:** 12:45 p.m., third Tuesday of the month

**Location:** 6205 Mineral Point Road Parking on grounds. Enter through the unlocked doors in the Tower, located near the intersection of

Mineral Point Road and Island Drive. Take the elevator to 2nd floor and turn right, following signs to the Garden Terrace Bistro.

**Leader:** [Kathy Johnson](#) (238-1785)

##### **Northeast Side**

**Time:** 3:30 p.m., third Wednesday of the month

\*Meeting Wednesday, November 28 this month due to Thanksgiving\*

**Location:** Lakeview Public Library

**Leaders:** [Karen Gunderson](#) (729-4351)

and [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (244-4711)

##### **Downtown Dinner**

**Time:** 5:15 p.m., third Wednesday of the month

**Location:** Capitol Lakes Retirement Center private dining room

**Leader:** [Ingrid Rothe](#) (556-3174)

## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in September. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website. If you have forgotten the password, there is a link to contact the webmaster for help.

Carol Barford  
Mary Bauhs  
Joan Burstyn  
Monica Bykowski  
Bonnie Chang  
Christine Einerson  
Barbara Hughes

Colin Koffel  
Kathleen Krusiec  
Ellen Lindgren  
Jody McCann  
Mel Morgenbesser  
Caitlin Schaer  
Susan Sweet

Erica Throneburg  
Donna Van Bogaert  
Shelley Joan Weiss  
Karen Young  
Nan Youngerman  
Jim Youngerman

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## Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these members (bold) and nonmember supporters who donated in September.

### Memorials

Doug Knudson in memory of Lyn Knudson

### General or Other Donations

Mary Bauhs  
Angela Deutsch  
Claire Dick  
Barbara Feeney  
W. Emy Gartzke

Florence Lederman  
Patricia Levin  
Elizabeth Magnuson  
Marilyn Mussallem  
Karen Peterson

Ellen Rosborough  
Peggy Smelser  
Lauren Surovi  
The Madison Institute

### Candidates' Answers

Sarah Arbaje  
Sheila Coyle  
Susan Dottl  
Susan Glad-Anderson

Ilse Hecht  
**Ellen Lindgren**  
Kirk Malnor  
Nancy Price

Sara Richards  
Anna Siferd  
**Brook Soltvedt**

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## Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to the following members for volunteering their time and resources in the office and as part of LWV Dane County's highway cleanup crew!

Sally Carpenter  
Doug Egge  
Philip Heckman

Doug Johnson  
Andrea Kaminski  
Maureen Kind

Joyce Knutson  
Caryl Terrell  
Jan Van Vleck

We would also like to send a big **thank you** to all of our voter service volunteers.



## September *Candidates' Answers* Fundraiser

Christine Clements, [fundraising@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:fundraising@lwvdanecounty.org)

The League is grateful to the many non-member contributors who supported the printing and distribution of *Candidates' Answers* during our September fundraising drive, as well as the anonymous League member who provided a generous matching gift. In total, over \$2,600 was raised. The support of members and non-members alike allows the League to make *Candidates' Answers* available to an increasing audience. *Candidates' Answers* is the most tangible product of our work for those who aren't members of the League and is recognized by all of us as an important tool to help voters evaluate issues and candidates in a rational and even-handed manner.

[\*Candidates' Answers\* is Currently Available Online.](#)

Print copies are available at public libraries and many other locations.

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## Upcoming Events

Nov. 6	General Election
Nov. 7	Forum: <i>The Electoral College – Bad for Our Democracy?</i> , 7 p.m. (Capitol Lakes)
Nov. 10	State League Issue Briefing, 9 a.m.
Nov. 14	Board Meeting, 2 p.m.
Dec. 12	Board Meeting, 2 p.m.
Jan. 12	Lively Issues Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

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## 2018 Elections

November 6 General Election

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Watch your email each Monday for a weekly update from LWV Dane County with a roundup of action alerts and upcoming events.