



# Bulletin

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

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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

## All Welcome Info-Social

New Member Orientation

**Saturday, October 27, 2018**

**10 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Goodwill Community Room, 2901 North Sherman Ave., Madison**

(Located at the Northside Town Center complex at the corner of Sherman Ave. and Northport Dr. [See Map.](#))

Calling all new members! Come for the coffee; stay for the sweets. Treat yourself to a welcoming community with discussion of the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Our many faces will trace the League's wide and deep impact on Dane County. Have fun meeting new and old League members and those interested in joining, while learning about the League's work.

## Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Program – 7:00 p.m.

### School Safety: Challenges and Responses

**Kristen A. Devitt**

Director of the Office of School Safety  
Wisconsin Department of Justice

**Joe Balles**

Coordinator of School Safety and Security  
Madison Metropolitan School District

**Jack Hansen**

Student  
UW Madison

**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.**

*Planning Committee: Mary Anglim, Gail Shea, Ellen Hadidian*

## What Is the Canvass?

Brook Soltvedt, Vice President, [soltvedtbrook@gmail.com](mailto:soltvedtbrook@gmail.com)

The City of Madison Board of Canvassers meets at 4 p.m. on the Friday after each election to certify the results of the election. The Board of Canvassers is made up of two election officials, Jean MacCubbin and Anne Habel, both experienced poll workers. An MMSD employee represents the school district if the election involved a school board election or referendum. The Clerk and other staff from the Clerk's office also participate. This open meeting provides transparency into the conduct of elections in our city. City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl encourages election officials to attend and allows one hour of attendance to count as election official training.

Provisional ballots that have been "cured"—meaning that the voter provided the voter ID required for the ballot to be counted—are tallied at the canvass. The voter's name and address are announced (as they would be at the poll book), the provisional ballot is opened and the votes are tallied on tally sheets for the city and county. Watching this is a stark reminder that provisional ballots are not private. After each election, LWV Dane County members work with the Clerk's office to contact voters who cast provisional ballots. Leaguers remind voters with voter photo ID to provide a copy to the Clerk's office by the deadline, and they offer those who don't have voter photo ID assistance in obtaining it. Attending the canvass is a way to check how successful our efforts have been.

In addition to tallying provisional votes, the canvassers read through the inspector statements from each of the 85 polling places in the city. Because the exercise is also intended to educate election officials, anyone attending can request review of their statement while they are there, so they can get feedback and ask or answer questions. The canvassers read aloud any passages they consider to be instructive for either positive or negative reasons. Were all the appropriate items signed? Did the number of ballots match the number of voting slips? If not, is there an explanation? Were remade ballots documented properly? The canvassers give kudos to clear documentation of incidents. Mistakes will happen, but they should be clearly documented and the notes should indicate how the incident was resolved. Staff take notes and share pertinent information with election officials through their newsletter.

As a poll worker, and now as a chief inspector, I have found attending the canvass an unparalleled opportunity to learn how to do my job better. I not only get feedback on my own work, but I learn how to handle snafus I may not have encountered yet. Tabulators fail, emergencies occur at or near the polling place, disruptive people come in and voters with dementia insist they didn't turn in an absentee ballot. I have learned about creative chiefs who have used footprint decals on the floor to direct voter traffic or helium balloons to identify the tabulator. I have learned tips for reconciling poll books, processing absentee ballots and the likeliest explanations if the number of ballots cast exceeds the number of voter slips (and vice versa).

I guarantee that attending the canvass will leave you with an even greater appreciation for our City of Madison Clerk's office staff! They truly go to great lengths to ensure the integrity of our elections.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

# Protecting Wisconsin Elections

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

The League of Women Voters of Dane County kicked off the 2018-2019 forum season on September 5 with three speakers addressing the issue of *Protecting Wisconsin Elections*. Dee J. Hall, Co-founder and Managing Editor of Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism; Barry C. Burden, UW-Madison Professor of Political Science and Director of the Elections Research Center; and Richard Rydecki, Assistant Administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), provided distinct views on the subject.

The forum was well-attended, as was the social which preceded the forum. Special thanks go to our new Program Chair, Mary Anglim, and the other members who planned this forum: Karen McKim, Ellen Rosborough and Brook Soltvedt.

The September forum was also [featured in an article](#) by Hibah Ansari for the UW's student newspaper *The Badger Herald*.

Dee Hall started the conversation, introducing us to [www.WisconsinWatch.org](http://www.WisconsinWatch.org), which is produced by the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism. She discussed an article on their webpage written by Grigor Atanesian that claims Wisconsin voting systems can be hacked. That article also includes quotes from Karen McKim, of Wisconsin Election Integrity, a group that advocates for audits of election results to be done before those elections are certified.

An example of how easily voting systems can be hacked was demonstrated at DEFCON 2017 (a hacking conference) where every piece of voting equipment in the 'Voting Village' was breached in some way during the four days of the conference.

Ms. Hall stressed two points: paper ballots help ensure accurate elections and even machines not connected to the internet can still be hacked.

Barry Burden shared results of research performed at UW-Madison on two Wisconsin recounts – the 2011 Wisconsin Supreme Court and the 2016 Presidential elections. The research showed that the outcome of a recount understates the amount of error, because some errors cancel out other errors.

They found that the most errors involved write-in votes. Also, the error rate was highest for hand-counted ballots. Their research showed that more errors occur when there is more human involvement in the vote counting.

He mentioned a report, *Securing the Vote, Protecting American Democracy*, which has recommendations for ensuring secure voting results. This report can be downloaded as a free pdf or read online at [www.nap.edu/catalog/25120/securing-the-vote-protecting-american-democracy](http://www.nap.edu/catalog/25120/securing-the-vote-protecting-american-democracy).

The Elections Research Center will host an Election Symposium 2018 on December 7, 2018. This all-day event is free. Information on the event can be found at [elections.wisc.edu/election-symposium/](http://elections.wisc.edu/election-symposium/).

In summary, Burden said that Wisconsin is doing many things correctly such as using paper ballots, using machines to scan the ballots and having local control over the voting process.

Our third speaker, Richard Rydecki, explained the role of WEC. Wisconsin Election Commission was created in 2015 to replace the Government Accountability Board. WEC oversees the administration of state and federal

elections in Wisconsin, trains and supports county clerks, ensures compliance with state and federal laws and determines eligibility of candidates for state and federal offices. WEC maintains the website MyVote Wisconsin ([myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)) and the WisVote database for use by trained election employees.

Rydecki stressed that our Wisconsin election systems were not hacked during the 2016 election. He listed risks we face if our systems are hacked: release of personal data like name and birthdate, compromised poll books, confusion and/or delays at the polling places and lack of confidence in election results.

In March, 2018, WEC received over \$6.5 million from a federal grant to improve the administration of elections for federal office. WEC has used the money to upgrade their hosting infrastructure, update the user confidentiality agreement for WisVote, create a series of cyber hygiene videos and develop multi-factor authentication. WEC has provided training to all 72 Wisconsin county clerks, enabling those clerks to train the municipal clerks in their counties.

WEC is planning a post-election voting equipment audit after the November 2018 election. This is legally required every two years. WEC is looking for input on this audit.

As usual, there were many good questions for our presenters. Some of what we learned from the questions and answers:

- The WI legislature made straight party ticket voting illegal in 2012.
- There is no research that shows that photo ID increases the security of elections.
- There was a bit of disagreement among our presenters and audience as to whether we can be confident that our vote counts are completely accurate.

This forum presented a lot to think about. The discussions in the unit groups this month should be very interesting!

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## State League Issues Briefing

Make plans now to attend the 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

**What:** Tentative guest speaker topics include:

- Protecting the Great Lakes
- Election security in Wisconsin
- United against hate and prejudice: art and activism
- The League's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative
- The role of media in democracy



Also, the LWVWI Board and staff will provide updates on the work from the State Office.

[Learn more and register online](#)

# Candidates' Answers Q&A

Maria Spinozzi, [bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org); Brook Soltvedt, [soltvedtbrook@gmail.com](mailto:soltvedtbrook@gmail.com)

Interested in knowing more about the process of collecting and distributing *Candidates' Answers*? Here are some common questions and answers about the process.

## **Who determines what questions to send to candidates?**

For city and school districts in Dane County the questions are developed by League members with an understanding of League positions and government service. LWVUS provides guidelines for writing unbiased questions. For state-level offices the questions are provided by LWVWI in a similar manner. Each candidate for a given office receives the same questions.

## **Which candidates receive questionnaires?**

All candidates that have filed for candidacy by the filing deadline for that election receive the questionnaire. Certified write-in candidates cannot be included since certification of a write-in candidate could happen as late as the Friday before an election.

## **How is the questionnaire delivered to candidates?**

A paper invitation to answer our questionnaire is sent by postal mail to the address provided by the Wisconsin Elections Commission, the county or the school district. The outside of the envelope is stamped in red "Candidate Questionnaire Enclosed" to ensure the letter isn't just discarded. A copy of the stamped envelope for each questionnaire mailed is retained to confirm that a letter was sent and to what address. On the same day that the letters are mailed, a substantially similar email invitation is sent with a link to the questionnaire.

## **How long are candidates given to answer the questionnaire?**

Candidates usually have only about ten days to respond so that we can publish the answers for primary candidates by the time absentee ballots are sent out for the primary election.

## **How are the candidates' responses returned?**

The candidate, or a surrogate for the candidate, completes the questionnaire online. Using an electronic questionnaire allows for automatic feedback regarding receipt of the responses and ensures that the response that is ultimately printed by the League is exactly what the candidate submitted on the questionnaire.

## **What if a candidate's answer to a question exceeds the length limit?**

Length limits on answers are enforced. If a candidate's response exceeds the length limit, a notification is sent to that candidate. The candidate then has an opportunity to edit the response to fit within the allowed length. If an edited response is not submitted by the deadline, then the response is truncated.

## **Is *Candidates' Answers* distributed on paper?**

For all primary and general elections, *Candidates' Answers* is published on our website. For general elections, a print edition is published in *Isthmus*, a free weekly newspaper that has widespread distribution. The League pays for extra copies to be printed for distribution to libraries, senior centers, and community centers. Copies are also sent to clerks, candidates and League members.

## **Other questions?**

If you have other questions about *Candidates' Answers* or would like to be involved in the future, contact [Brook Soltvedt](mailto:BrookSoltvedt@lwv.org). Members can help with proofreading the website and/or the *Isthmus* galleys. They can also help distribute copies to locations in their neighborhood where they might be appreciated.

## From the Archives

Maria Spinozzi, [Bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:Bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org)

With the League's upcoming Centennial in 2020, now is an opportune time to take a look back at Bulletins from our League's past. Here's a page from the April 1961 Bulletin from LWV Madison. We can see from the front-page article that even before our local Leagues merged into LWV Dane County, the Middleton and Madison League were working together.

If you'd like to be a part of our Centennial Planning Committee, contact Vice President Brook Soltvedt, [soltvedtbrook@gmail.com](mailto:soltvedtbrook@gmail.com), to let her know of your interest, or contact the League office.

# League bulletin

APRIL 1961

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MADISON, WISCONSIN

General Meeting, Monday April 24

FOCUS on

Regional Planning

The Middleton League joins forces with Madison on Monday evening April 24 to inaugurate our study (under Dane County Council auspices) of Regional Planning in the Madison Metropolitan Area. Inasmuch as the winds of change have blown up some evidence of planning interest in Dane County, our subject has become more complex - and more interesting.

We have invited three gentlemen whom we consider particularly suited to discussion of the thorny sort of questions we have in mind, to be with us. There will, we hope, be plenty of time for your questions too. This should be a must for May discussions.

What region?  
Who would do the planning?  
How could this help  
Madison?  
Monona Village  
the Town of Dunn?  
You and me?

Resource panel:

J. A. Beuscher	Prof. of Law, member Madison Metropolitan Devel. Comm.
J. W. (Bill) Clark	Dane County Agricultural Agent
Walter K. Johnson	Director of Planning, State Dept. of Resources & Devel.

Moderator - Marygold Melli

Monday, April 24 at 8:00 P. M. Cherokee School



## Statement to the Dane County Board

*Kathleen Fullin provided this testimony on behalf of the LWVDC to the Dane County Board. The statement was delivered during the public hearing on the budget held on September 13, 2018. The entire meeting can be viewed online [here](#). Fullin's 3-minute presentation occurs at 20:43.*

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Dane County. As you probably know, the League believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government.

You may also know that over the past decades, League members have observed meetings of the County Board and some county committees, and we occasionally contact county officials and committees about issues important to our members.

You may also know that in the last few years, we have encouraged members to attend a county, school district, or local government meeting at least once a year, and have researched and publicized some meeting opportunities to make it easier for our members to participate.

Based on our experience, we have some ideas on how Dane County could make it easier for its citizens to become involved in county issues. Some of our ideas would involve some expense, while others have minimal fiscal impact.

We applaud Chair Corrigan's creation of a team of Board Supervisors, Engage Dane, to develop strategies to further citizen participation in County government. We urge you to appropriate some funding that can be available in 2019 to implement those strategies, including the following:

1) A pilot project to video record most meetings of at least one standing committee. Rooms 201 and 354 in the City-County Building already have the equipment needed for video recording, and a standing committee could choose to meet in one of those rooms for those meetings it holds in the City-County Building.

This would require an arrangement with City Channel for staff to manage the recording. Similarly, an arrangement with the City of Madison about more regular access to room 354 would be needed, which should be easier now that several of the rooms in the renovated Municipal Building are equipped for video recording.

Committee meetings, particularly meetings of standing committees, are where the work that citizens need to see is done. The League believes that video access to the deliberations of these committees is necessary to engage citizens who cannot attend in person due to family, health, or work commitments, especially rural citizens who would need significant travel time to attend. City Channel recordings are available on demand on the City Channel website.

The goal should be to make available video recordings of all standing committees within several years.

2) A method for the public to communicate with all citizens who serve on committees and boards. Currently, the email addresses of most county staff and elected officials are identified on Legistar committee listings. However there is no contact information for most other members or for the committee staff.

There are several methods that could be used to enable citizens to contact committee members. The county email address for committee staff could be provided on Legistar, with an explanation that all committee members can be contacted by sending an email to that staff address with a request to forward. An email such as “allmembersXYZCommittee@countyofdane.gov” could be established for each committee. Or, all committee members could be asked to provide an email address on Legistar.

3) Meeting dates, times and locations should be published more than a few days in advance. Some committees make this information available well in advance, but some committees do not publish this information until the Friday before the meeting. Such abbreviated notice gives citizens and even other supervisors very little time to arrange schedules for child care, work, other meetings, or personal matters, and makes attendance less feasible.

We understand that agendas may not be finalized until shortly before the meetings, but when the dates, times, and locations are known they should be published on Legistar so that citizens who care about that committee’s issues have an opportunity to plan to attend.

If you choose to implement these three strategies, your constituents would be better able to communicate their opinions about issues to the appropriate committees and boards in a timely and effective way.

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## Consider a Planned Gift to the League

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

**What is a planned gift?** Planned giving is a way to make a large, meaningful gift to an organization that reflects your beliefs and values. A planned gift leaves a personal legacy to sustain those values and beliefs during your lifetime and beyond.

**Why the League?** In the case of the League of Women Voters, your planned gift reflects a profound commitment to principles, behaviors and activities that promote the informed and active participation of citizens in the democratic process. The League believes in representative government, in every citizen’s right to vote and to be informed and in a government that is responsive to the will of the people.

**How?** The League operates as a non-profit organization, which means that the League relies on fundraising activities and gifts to support its work. Planned gifts include bequest or estate gifts, gifts of retirement plan assets (for example, IRA withdrawals at age 70.5), and charitable gift annuities. These options can offer tax advantages for you during your life and may reduce estate and income taxes for heirs. More information can be found on the League’s website at [www.lwvdanecounty.org/planned-giving](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/planned-giving). You may also email [fundraising@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:fundraising@lwvdanecounty.org) for additional information.

Planned giving allows you to become a valued and essential partner in building a sound foundation for the League of Women Voters of Dane County today and tomorrow. This foundation assures that the critical work of enabling informed and active engagement in government and the democratic process will continue throughout and beyond your lifetime.



## Renewal Deadline Approaching

Sally Gleason and Mary Ellen Schmit, [membership@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:membership@lwvdanecounty.org)

Did you forget to reply to our reminder email in August and our letter in September? To remain in our membership directory and as a member of the state and national LWV, please renew by the end of October. You can go to [lwvdanecounty.org/join-full-year](http://lwvdanecounty.org/join-full-year), pay with a credit card and submit your member interest form online. If you prefer to renew by mail, please use the form and envelope we sent with our September letter. You may also call the office to request a renewal form and envelope. We want you to stay with us!

The Dane County League offers you grassroots action opportunities and thoughtful, non-partisan information about many local government issues.

If you hesitate to renew because you are uncertain if the League is right for you, we'd love to hear more. Please email us or call Sally (608-238-6876) or Mary Ellen (608-257-1280).

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## Voter Services at UW

Paul Lindquist, [voterservice@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvdanecounty.org)

Voter services volunteers worked hard this September engaging students at the UW, especially during their bus pass distribution. During the three-week event, volunteers filled 718 shifts and helped over 1,700 students register to vote.



## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in August. 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.

Janet Anderson  
Thomas Behnke  
Sita Diehl  
Margaret Fuguitt  
Kate Gillespe  
Nancy Gunder

Maggie Immler  
Mary Ellen Marcus  
Tyler Novak  
Beth Pinkerton  
Robin Proud  
Kristin Rice

Julie Schwellenbach  
Christy Stewart  
Barbara Stiefvater  
Lauren Surovi  
William Swassing  
Leah Ujda

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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 August.

### General or Other Donations

Lois Bernbeck  
Sybil R. Better  
Robin S. Chapman  
Debra L. Cronmiller  
Sandra E. Drew  
Mary Anne Fulton  
Joseph Goss  
Shirley S. Inhorn

Jean Jacobson  
Nancy J. Jensen  
Janet Kane  
Patricia A. Kippert  
Christina Koch  
Karen M. Michael  
Ann M. Niedermeier  
Bonnie L. Orvick

Matilda W. Ripley  
Sue A. Salter  
Lois A. Sater  
Joan L. Schuette  
Mariam F. Simmons  
Lauren Surovi  
Caryl E. Terrell  
Patricia A. Watson

### Candidates' Answers

Mary K. O'Connor

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## Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to the following members for volunteering their time and resources to produce a spectacular September Open House and Forum.

Mary Bean  
Kathy Fullin  
Karen Gunderson  
Eileen Hanneman

Kathy Johnson  
Doug Johnson  
Rita Kades  
Terry Larson

Al Nettleton  
Ingrid Rothe  
Julie Weiser

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

# In Memory of Harriet Gorski

Carol Keimel

Harriet Gorski, a long time member of the LWVDC died in late July. During the years I was chair of the LWVDC Children and Family Committee, Harriet's positive presence at the meetings helped the whole committee succeed in its goals. Her enthusiasm for the League and its objectives brought many new members into League. It was where she could meet with others to learn about, discuss and advocate for the civic issues important to her.

A full obituary will appear in the newspaper and a service will be held in her memory on October 20.

## Unit Meetings

### West / Middleton

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

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

LWVDC Office

4513 Vernon Boulevard, Ste 106

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

### Oakwood

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

**Location:** Oakwood West, 6205 Mineral Point Rd.

*September's meeting will be held in the Oakwood Party Room. Following meetings are planned to be held in B39.*

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

Parking on grounds or in P1 Heritage Oaks

Parking Ramp.

### Northeast Side

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

**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)

## Upcoming Events

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 3  | Issues Forum: <i>School Safety: Challenges and Reponses</i> , 7 p.m. (Capitol Lakes) |
| Oct. 10 | Board Meeting, 2 p.m.  |
| Oct. 27 | All Welcome Info-Social 10 a.m. (Goodwill Community Room)                            |
| Nov. 6  | General Election   |
| Nov. 7  | Issues Forum: <i>The National Popular Vote Compact</i> , 7 p.m. (Capitol Lakes)      |
| Nov. 14 | Board Meeting, 2 p.m.  |
| Dec. 12 | Board Meeting, 2 p.m.  |

## 2018 Elections

November 6 General Election