


## Minutes

### League of Women Voters Dane County

#### December 14, 2022 Board Meeting (on Zoom)

Attendees: Sue Fulks, Sue Jennik, Lili Crane, Mara Eisch, Barb Feeney, Wendy Hathaway, Jean Jacobson, Jill Jokela, Marjorie Schuett

Guests: Kimmy Rooney, Mckenzie Zdrale, Lisa Janairo, Sally Gleason

- A. Call to Order and Welcome Guests (5:45 p.m.)
- B. Approval of Agenda. **Motion to approve agenda** made by Jennik, seconded by Jacobson. All are in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- C. Group Norms: Please review [Group Norms Agreement](#)
  - D. [Approval of Minutes](#) September, October and November Minutes were not attached to December agenda. Vote on the minutes to occur by email next week.
    - Link to [November Minutes](#)
    - Link to [October Minutes](#)
    - Link to [September Minutes](#)
- E. New Business
  - 1. Governance Planning Presentation - Mckenzie Zdrale (link to presentation)
  - 2. Member Engagement Initiative - Kimmy Rooney
    - a. Link to Presentation:  LWVDC\_Semester 1 Report\_KRooney\_Dec 2022.pdf
    - b. Link to [Membership and Leadership Projects and Initiatives PDF](#)
  - [Membership Initiatives](#)
  - 3. Proposal for Nominating Process - Lisa Janairo
    - a. Link to [Nominating Committee Recommendations](#)
    - b. Discussion of Communications Director Board position (see BF email of 12/12/22). Schuett believes our leadership initiative shows we need to avoid leadership burnout by sharing the load and that reducing the number of board members goes against those findings. **Motion to not fill Communications board member for 2023-24** made by Eisch, seconded by Jennik. Seven in favor, Schuett opposed. Motion carries.
      - c. **Motion to make the Fund Development chair an elected position** made by Eisch, seconded by Schuett. All are in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
  - 4. Look ahead to budget planning process - Jacobson

a. In January, the Board needs to discuss initiatives for next year.

b. Talking points to be developed about the budget

5. Look ahead to Feb/April election season - Jennik

a. **Motion to approve Dustin Brown as a speaker for the January forum** made by Fulks, seconded by Eisch. All are in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

b. **Motion to approve slate of speakers for February forum** made by Fulks, seconded by Schuett. All are in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

6. President's Report (Feeney)

a. It would be helpful to allow paid staff to give trusted member volunteers access to the Member Directory and to Little Green Light for business purposes to assist with administrative tasks. Those volunteers would not be able to view donation information and would be required to sign a confidentiality agreement. The board is comfortable with this procedure. No Motion requested.

b. Barb will be working on year-end thank you notes. Please add suggested names to the Google Drive folder, particularly names of new members who are first-time volunteers.

G. **Motion to adjourn** made by Eisch, seconded by Jennik. All are in favor. Motion carries.

## Reports Section

### Minutes

LINK:

### Treasurer's report

#### [November Financials](#)

Revenue is \$12k for the month, largely driven by the Fall Campaign donations of \$9k. Year-to-date revenue totals \$88k which included \$4k in billings under the Dane County Contract. Operational expenses total \$13k for the month and \$98k year to date. The resulting net operating loss \$1k for the month and \$10k year to date.

Rent and payroll expenses continue to be the primary ongoing expenses, totaling \$11k for the month. Other November expenses included event refreshments related to the New Immigrants Town Hall gathering (funded by the New Citizens grant) and the purchase of a table for the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner (partially funded by a donation and ticket purchases by attendees).

For the remainder of the year, our budget projects revenue of \$70k versus expenses of \$155k resulting in a deficit of \$85k which is planned to be covered by withdrawals from the Memorial Trust Fund. A concern the Board needs to consider is that revenue may fall

significantly short of the \$70k budget. A revenue shortfall will require a similar reduction in expenses. Planning should begin to address both revenue and expenses for the balance of the year.

## Executive Director

### [Strategic Planning](#) updates:

- Strategic Planning 2022-23 (UW-Extension)
  - Two surveys are live and out in the world right now:
    - The first Organizational Assessment survey was sent to a targeted list of ~50 highly engaged members on Nov. 30
    - The second survey went to all members on Dec. 5
  - Four focus groups took place in person the week of Dec. 5 (two additional virtual focus groups are happening the week of Dec. 12, for those who couldn't attend in person)
  - SAVE THE DATE! Calendar invitations will be going out soon. Strategic Planning Retreats are scheduled for:
    - Sunday, January 29, 2023 | 1-5 p.m.
      - From 3-5 p.m., a larger group will convene for a visioning exercise, along with the Board
    - Monday, February 13, 2023 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
    - Monday, March 6, 2023 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- External Analysis (UW-Madison Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies/Co-Create)
  - The survey launched November 16.
  - Focus groups are being conducted by the UW the week of Dec. 12
  - We can expect a final report by early-mid January 2023.
- In case you missed it: I highly recommend you check out the [summary of Strategic Planning from 1993](#).

Annual LWVUS survey was submitted on 12/10. Thank you to everyone who provided helpful information from your areas!

LWVDC is in talks with UW-Madison's Center for Humanities about applying for a fully funded fellow position in the '23-'24 school year. (The same program that granted us current LWVDC Leadership Development Fellow Kimmy Rooney.) The job description is still being worked on but is tentatively focused on civic engagement and community partnerships.

I'll be collaborating with members of VSSC and Program/Advocacy to staff a LWVDC table at the UW-Madison Public Service fair January 2023. We hope to promote student memberships as well as share information about the importance of the upcoming Supreme Court race in April.

In collaboration with Paul Lindquist and Kimmy Rooney, and including input from volunteers from the Membership Committee, working on streamlining the process for entering member data and building out member profiles in Little Green Light database.

Staff/Office Holiday Schedule:

- The office will be closed December 13-15 for cleaning and organizing. (You can, of course, still reach Kerry and I via email or by phone if it's urgent.)
- The office will be closed at the end of the year December 23 through January 2. Kerry and Wendy will be back on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.
- The office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Priorities for November/December:**

[Wendy Task List \(Working Doc\)](#)

- Strategic Planning (and research project) logistics
  - Wrap up Fall Appeal and plan out FD calendar/budget for the rest of '22-23 - including grant survey and applications
  - Continue working with Kimmy on member engagement and leadership development
  - Center for Humanities Fellowship
  - Collaborate on new member orientation (zoom) refresh
  - Member data project (process and training)
  - Find/hire a Marketing/Communications intern for Spring 2023 + build out Comms team(s)
- **President's Report**

Barb and Wendy have been discussing a way to improve our processes for thanking those who support the League, as a volunteer or giving materials support. Wendy has created a folder where names can be added and some sample language. Thank you Wendy!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/4/folders/1phKwOoCKtlyNJfxJ8rotE4A6KNTUi62H>

We are doing end-of-the-year thank yous in the next few weeks. Please add names of those you intend to send a note to or would like me to do this. We want these notes to be as personal as possible so please make sure you note why they are being thanked.

Barb is going to start the practice of writing notes to new members who volunteer for the first time. Please help with this by adding names of people who have volunteered for the first time, in any way. She will check the folder regularly.

Jean and Kerry met to discuss how people who donate are thanked. Everyone who donates in any amount gets an automated thank you email. We decided that at the end of the year, anyone who gives \$250 or more should get a handwritten thank you message. After discussing this, we decided volunteers should not be writing thank yous and adding in someone else's signature (but they could write thank yous that are signed "LWVDC"). Any Board member who writes these cards should sign with their own name and Board title. Please let Barb know if this is your jam and would like to help - but no pressure.

Barb met with Jill Jokela for an onboarding meeting.

Thank you to the Finance Committee/Financial Advisory Committee for holding a pop-up event at Capitol Lakes, and to Aileen Nettleton who helped make arrangements to hold the meeting there. It was very successful, and Jean Jacobson did a great job as the host.

**Discussion/Action time:**

At times, it will be helpful if trusted member volunteers have access to the Member Directory to look up addresses and phone numbers. It may also be helpful for a small number of non-Board members and volunteers to have access to Little Green Light to enter data about members and organizations (in the Community Organizations section). Member volunteers who have access to LGL will not be able to view donations information.

**Motion:** to allow paid staff to give select volunteers access to the Member Directory and Little Green Light for business purposes to assist with administrative tasks.

- **Governance/Vice President (Mara Eisch)**

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#### **4. Finance Committees**

The [990 tax return](#) has been completed and has been made available to the Finance Committee and the Board to review by December 13th. Questions or concerns may be directed to either the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer (Julie Allen). **Many thanks** to Julie for putting together all of the preparatory documents for Wegner CPA, the firm completing the tax return. The cost to complete the tax return is \$1,500 which was provided for in the budget.

Paul Lindquist is finalizing the final modifications to the Purchase Request Tool which was introduced during the summer. The updated model will be available in December or early January. The team requests that Domain Chairs invite the Treasurer or Executive Director to their January monthly meetings for a short training session on the Tool. Again, **many thanks to Paul** for his work in building this Tool which will provide better visibility and control over League expenditures.

The person identified as a potential candidate for performing the FY21-22 Financial Review declined to move forward after meeting with the Treasurer and discussing the project. Have created a list of Review expectations/tasks and shared with Assistant Treasurer and Susan Dietzel to gather their input. Once finalized, the Assistant Treasurer (Julie Allen) will share the document with persons in her financial networking circle and hopefully identify a volunteer.

Susan Dietzel has asked eCIO, our Investment Advisory firm to give a short presentation to the Board at the February meeting outlining the League's performance as well as a short recap of the market.

The Treasurer and the Finance Advisory Committee hosted a pop-up event at Capitol Lakes Retirement Community on December 7. While held at Capitol Lakes all League members were invited to attend. Not only was it a chance to meet new and old League friends but it was an opportunity to learn more about the Memorial Trust Fund. Lots of good conversation and questions amongst the 15-20 attendees. **Thanks to** Aileen Nettleton for arranging availability at Capitol Lakes **and to Barb Feeney** for coming up with the great idea.

## **5. DEI Report**

On December 1, Barb Feeney and Wendy Hathaway met with the DEI committee to discuss the way forward. Here is a summary of conclusions/next steps.

DEI Committee will meet quarterly to plan for the upcoming quarter. The role of the committee is to seek out opportunities for LWVDC members to learn more and become aware of issues facing non-white, middle-class people. Help us “wake up”.

There are many people who have an interest in DEI matters who aren’t likely to serve on the DEI committee but form a larger “interest group” (maybe that is not the right term to use.) These people can suggest ideas of things to pursue and be kept informed on upcoming opportunities.

We want to make connections with diverse communities but not in the way of “we are here to register voters” but in the way of supporting them, learning what they need, and “showing up”.

On a quarterly basis, the DEI Director (when we have one) will lead a board discussion on how we are doing in implementing the DEi Recommendations.

DEI Cafes were worthwhile events and we can do more.

Note: Barb F. will convene the DEI committee until we have a DEI Director.

## **6. Fund Development**

Fall Appeal, as of Dec. 10:

- Total dollars: \$26,554
  - Includes \$13,150 in match dollars
- Goal by 12/31/22: \$30,000 (including match)

Team projects:

- Evaluating/updating donor acknowledgments (Barb, Jean, Kerry)
- Evaluating grant prospects to apply for in Q3 (Wendy lead)—includes working with grant consultant Angie Wright on strategy and proposals/applications.
- Kick off February Valentine’s Day (League Birthday) appeal (Wendy lead)

## **7. Program/Advocacy**

**Program - Sue Jennik**

**Spring, 2023**

January 9 - State Constitution: Are Changes Necessary?

January 10 - Imbalance of Power: How Shifts in State Government Undermine Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy, co-sponsored with 18 state Leagues

February 9 - Wisconsin Supreme Court: Why Does Your Vote Matter?

March 9 - Should Judges Decide Cases Involving their Campaign Contributors?

April - Lively Issues Luncheon

May - Neighborhoods for Social and Racial Equity

### **Book Discussions**

*On the Line: A Story of Class, Solidarity, and Two Women's Epic Fight to Build a Union* by Daisy Pitkin

February 11 and 16, 10-11:30 a.m. via zoom

**Discussion Units** - meeting this week

### **For Approval:**

**Miriam Seifter, a speaker who was previously approved by the Board for the January 9, 2023 forum is not available and proposes Professor Dustin Brown in her place. I ask that the Board approve him tonight.**

### **DUSTIN BROWN**

Senior Staff Attorney, State Democracy Research Initiative



### **CONTACT**

[dustin.brown@wisc.edu](mailto:dustin.brown@wisc.edu)

### **EDUCATION**

B.A., Yale University

J.D., New York University School of Law

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Dustin Brown is a Senior Staff Attorney with the [State Democracy Research Initiative](#) at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Dustin joined the Initiative following four years on the law school's [Legal Research and Writing faculty](#) and nearly a decade in private practice, most recently with Godfrey & Kahn in Madison. He has litigated in state and federal courts on matters ranging from electoral redistricting, public records access, and defamation to insurance coverage, products liability, and deceptive trade practices.

Dustin clerked for the Hon. John M. Walker, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York, and the Hon. Thelton E. Henderson of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in San Francisco. He began his legal career at Bingham McCutchen in San Francisco.

Dustin earned his Bachelor's degree in English from Yale University and his law degree from New York University School of Law, both *magna cum laude*. As a law student, he was a member of NYU Law's Immigrant Rights Clinic, and he interned with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and Make the Road New York. He also served as an executive editor of the *NYU Law Review*.

Before practicing law, Dustin worked as a reporter for a chain of weekly newspapers in Queens, New York, and he taught English in Quito, Ecuador.

## Potential Speakers for 2/9/23 Forum

### Wisconsin Supreme Court: Why Does Your Vote Matter?

**Moderator: Marjorie Schuett,**  
LWVDC Secretary  
Former Circuit Court Judge

**Daniel Tokaji**  
UW Law School, Fred W. & Vi Miller Dean and Professor of Law



**Contact Information:** [tokaji@wisc.edu](mailto:tokaji@wisc.edu) 608-263-3341

**Media:** <https://secure.law.wisc.edu/profiles/tokaji@wisc.edu#media-tab>

**Additional Speaking Example:**

<https://cha.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/elections-clause-constitutional-interpretation-and-congressional> 36min 56sec in

#### **EDUCATION**

A.B., Harvard University

J.D., Yale Law School

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

Dan Tokaji is the Fred W. & Vi Miller Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School. As Dean, he serves as the chief academic and executive officer of the school, with responsibility for faculty and staff development, personnel oversight,



strategic planning and institutional vision, fundraising, budget planning and management, curriculum, and student academic affairs

Dean Tokaji became Dean of the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2020. From 2003 to 2020, he was on the faculty at Ohio State University, where he served as Associate Dean for Faculty and Charles W. Ebersold & Florence Whitcomb Ebersold Professor of Constitutional Law. He has taught a wide variety of courses, including Civil Procedure, Civil Rights Lawyering, Comparative Constitutional Law, Election Law and Voting Rights, Federal Courts, First Amendment, Legal Analysis and Writing, Legislation and Regulation, and the U.S. Legal System. He has also taught at Harvard Law School, Hong Kong University, and Oxford University.

A leading authority in the field of Election Law, Dean Tokaji's scholarship addresses questions of voting rights, free speech, and democratic inclusion. He has published over 50 law review articles, book chapters, and other scholarly papers on a wide range of topics. Media have frequently relied on Dean Tokaji's expertise on election law, voting rights, and free speech issues. He has been quoted or interviewed by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and National Public Radio, and many other outlets.

Dean Tokaji graduated *summa cum laude* from Harvard College, with an A.B. degree in English and American Literature and Language and Philosophy, then earned a J.D. from Yale Law School. Dean Tokaji clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A former civil rights lawyer, he has brought many free speech, racial justice, and voting rights cases over his career.

## **MIRIAM SEIFTER**

**UW Law School, Associate Professor of Law**



### **CONTACT**

[miriam.seifter@wisc.edu](mailto:miriam.seifter@wisc.edu)

### **EDUCATION**

B.A., Yale University

M.Sc., University of Oxford

J.D., Harvard Law School

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Miriam Seifter is an Associate Professor of Law, Co-Director of the [State Democracy Research Initiative](#), and Rowe Faculty Fellow in Regulatory Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Her research interests include federalism, administrative and constitutional law, and state and local government law, with a focus on challenges affecting democracy at the state level. She also teaches courses in Administrative Law, Property Law, and State and Local Government Law.

Professor Seifter received a B.A. *magna cum laude* from Yale University, an M.Sc. with distinction from Oxford University, and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where she was the Environmental Fellow and an Articles Editor on the *Harvard Law Review*. After law school, she served as a law clerk for Chief Judge Merrick Garland on the D.C. Circuit and for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the Supreme Court of the United States. Prior to joining the UW Law faculty, she was a Visiting Researcher and Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center and worked in private practice at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP in San Francisco.

**Christa Westerberg**  
**Pines Bach LLP**



Christa Westerberg is a Partner with the firm's Litigation Practice Group. While experienced in a variety of civil litigation, Christa concentrates her practice in environmental and land use law, as well as open government law. She has represented individuals, non-profit groups, businesses, municipalities, and others in their efforts to protect environmental resources. Christa has obtained judgments and settlements for her clients in venues ranging from administrative agencies to federal court, and she has handled numerous appellate cases on a range of issues.

Christa's work on open government issues on behalf of media, individuals, and others has resulted in published court decisions protecting the public's right to know. *Lueders v. Krug*, 2019 WI App 36; *Juneau County Star-Times v. Juneau County*, 2013 WI 4; *State ex rel. Citizens for Open Government v. City of Milton*, 2007 WI App 114; *One Wis. Now v. Kremer*, 354 F. Supp. 3d 940 (W.D.Wis. 2019). Christa has also represented clients experiencing violations of their civil rights in public accommodation and free speech contexts. Christa frequently presents on environmental and open government issues. She is co-Vice President of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council, and a board member of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Administrative and Local Government Section.

## **Education**

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wisconsin  
J.D. - 2002, Honors: cum laude  
University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri  
B.A., Honors: summa cum laude

## **Honors and Awards**

Named to 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America® for Civil Rights Law, Land Use and Zoning Law, and Litigation – Environmental  
Charles Dunn Distinguished Author Award, State Bar of Wisconsin, for best article in Wisconsin Lawyer magazine, 2015  
Wisconsin Superlawyers “Rising Star,” 2008-2011

## **Mel Barnes**

### **Staff Counsel at Law Forward**



Mel has spent the length of her legal career at the intersection of law and advocacy in Wisconsin. She joined Law Forward from Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, where she was the Director of Legal Advocacy & Policy.

Mel Barnes is a staff attorney with Law Forward: a nonprofit, nonpartisan law firm focused on protecting democracy and good government in Wisconsin. She is a graduate of UW Law and previously worked for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, where she focused on litigation and state policy.

## **Experience**

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc.

Legal + Policy Director

Jan 2018 - Oct 2020 · 2 yrs 10 mos

Legal & Policy Associate

Jun 2015 - Jan 2018 · 2 yrs 8 mos

Legal Intern

Wisconsin Innocence Project

Jun 2013 - May 2015 · 2 yrs

## **Education**

University of Wisconsin Law School

Juris Doctorate 2015

Activities and societies: Moot Court, Law Students for Reproductive Justice, 2014 Public Interest Law Foundation Scholar.

Activities and societies: Moot Court, Law Students for Reproductive Justice, 2014 Public Interest Law Foundation Scholar.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

B.A., 2010, History, Spanish

## **ROBERT YABLON**

**UW Law School, Associate Professor of Law**



### **EDUCATION**

J.D., Yale Law School

M.Phil., University of Oxford

B.S., University of Wisconsin-Madison

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Robert Yablon is an Associate Professor of Law and Faculty Co-Director of the State Democracy Research Initiative. His research interests include political and election law, constitutional law, federal and state courts, and statutory interpretation. He teaches Civil Procedure, Federal Jurisdiction, and the Law of Democracy.

Professor Yablon's recent publications have appeared in the NYU Law Review, Northwestern University Law Review, Minnesota Law Review, and Iowa Law Review. In 2018, UW Law students honored Professor Yablon with the Classroom Teacher of the Year Award, and in 2019 he received a University Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Yablon received his bachelor's degree in economics and political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his master's degree in social policy from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He then earned his J.D. at Yale Law School, where he was an Articles Editor of the Yale Law Journal.

Following law school, Professor Yablon served as a law clerk for Judge William Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and for U.S. Supreme Court Justices

Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor. He also worked in private practice at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. He has been the principal author of dozens of appellate and trial-level briefs, and has argued in a number of state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

## **Potential Speakers for March 9, 2023 Forum Judicial Integrity: Should Judges Decide Cases Involving their Campaign Contributors?**

### **Moderator - Erin Everett**

LWVDC Member, Copywriter for State Bar of Wisconsin

### **Janine Geske, Distinguished Professor of Law Marquette University Law School**



### **Director of the Andrew Center for Restorative Justice and Distinguished Professor of Law**

[janine.geske@marquette.edu](mailto:janine.geske@marquette.edu)

Justice Janine P. Geske currently serves as the Director of the Andrew Center for Restorative Justice and as a Distinguished Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School. She is on sabbatical as a member of the Marquette University Board of Trustees.

In the fall of 2011, she served as a Visiting Professor of law at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium in Restorative Justice at its Institute of Criminology. She served as interim dean of Marquette Law School from July 2002 to July 2003 and as interim Milwaukee County Executive from February 28 to May 6, 2002.

She previously served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court from 1993-1998. From 1981-1993, she was a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge. Prior to becoming a judge, she served as chief staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee and then as clinical director and assistant professor of law at Marquette University.

**Louis B. Butler**  
**Emeritus, DeWitt Law Firm**



Former Justice Louis Butler was the first African American to serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He participated in decisions that have had significant legal impacts in the State of Wisconsin. He spent a great portion of his career as a public servant, acting as a criminal defense attorney, an appellate attorney, a law instructor, a state court judge and city judge as well. Through his service he developed extensive knowledge of the various aspects affecting trial and appellate litigation, alternative dispute resolution, and court processes at all levels.

Since his time on the bench Louis focused his private practice on providing his clients with advice in several areas of the law, to include litigation, construction litigation, environmental issues and appellate matters. He had more than nine years of exclusive criminal appellate experience. Louis argued before the United States Supreme Court and is a permanent member of the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, where judges from across the nation and around the world take continuing judicial education classes.

**Paul B. Higginbotham**  
**Retired Court of Appeals Judge**



Appellate Judge, District IV Court of Appeals (2003-2017)  
Circuit Court Judge (1994-2003)  
City of Madison Municipal Judge (1992-93)  
Acting Executive Director, Madison Equal Opportunities Commission (1993-94)  
Dane County Minority Affairs Coordinator (1988-92)



Attorney, Reynolds, Gruber, Herrick, Flesch & Kasdorf and Borns, Macauley & Jacobson (1986-88)  
Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc. (1985-86); Adjunct Professor, University of Wisconsin Law School (1995, 1999)

**Matt Rothschild**  
**Executive Director, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign**



Matt Rothschild is researching and writing the most current authoritative report on campaign finance in regard to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Since coming to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign at the start of 2015, he's concentrated his work on raising public awareness of the need to ban gerrymandering, to limit big and dark money in our politics, to protect and expand the freedom to vote, and to oppose the anti-democracy movement in our state and in our country. He's the author of *12 Ways to Save Democracy in Wisconsin*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press (2021).

Prior to joining the Democracy Campaign at the start of 2015, Matt worked at The Progressive magazine for 32 years. For most of those, he was the editor and publisher of The Progressive. While there, he wrote a book entitled *You Have No Rights: Stories of America in an Age of Repression*. And he edited an anthology called *Democracy in Print: The Best of The Progressive, 1909-2009*.

His opinion pieces have run in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *LA Times*, the *Miami Herald* and a host of other newspapers. And he's appeared on *Nightline*, *NPR*, *C-SPAN* and *WISC-TV*, where he does election night commentary. If you live in Wisconsin, you may have heard him on *The Devils Advocates*, *WOJB*, *WORT* or *Wisconsin Public Radio*.

**Carlene Bechen**  
**Organizing Director, Fair Elections Project**



Carlene Bechen has been singularly successful in recruiting and leading the statewide campaign for nonpartisan redistricting for the previous four years. Currently she is the Coordinating Director of the Fair Maps Coalition, and she is leading her large team in campaigning for court integrity as well as redistricting. She is one of the members of the grass roots team leaders, which includes Debra Cronmiller as this year's captain. She puts forward other members of the leader team.

Carlene is a strong public speaker. She speaks with passion and conviction. Furthermore, she has worked closely with Matt Rothchild, who is the most authoritative voice about campaign finance in Wisconsin Supreme Court elections.

**Jay Heck**  
**Executive Director, Common Cause Wisconsin**



For the past 22 years, Jay Heck has been the Executive Director of Common Cause in Wisconsin. He is the chief spokesperson and leads the organization in all facets of its operation. In addition to lobbying for CC/WI, Jay devises and directs all fundraising, legislative and program strategy, media appearances, positions on issues (in consultation with the CC/WI Board), and all other activities, including supervision of staff and determining budget priorities and execution.

Prior to joining CC/WI in 1996, Jay spent eight years as a top adviser and legislative strategist for the Wisconsin State Senate Majority Leader and eight years as the legislative director and campaign director and chief fund raiser for a Member of the U.S.



House of Representatives. He also served as a state director and staff member for a U.S. Presidential candidate.

Jay holds a Bachelor of Arts with honors in political science and history.

### **Advocacy Corps - Lili Crane**

3 new members this last month

Work Groups are meeting regularly now. Specifically, each group is working on a mission statement and ideas for webpage updates. The web page draft will be completed and submitted by December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Judicial Integrity Work Group is gearing up with resource papers and talking points for letter-writing campaigns early next year.

## **8. Membership**

Membership volunteers continue to make onboarding calls to new members to find out how they might want to be involved, where their skills and passions lie. The team will be working on implementing the recommendations coming out of the work done by Kimmy Rooney, and setting up new member zoom meetings.

## **9. Voter Service**

**Voter Outreach Commitments** planned to-date:

- Voter Outreach at the DMV - January 2-30; February 22-March 15
- UW Bus Pass (Proposed) - January 24-February 1
- Girl Scout Day at the Capitol 2023 - March 11
- Epic TBD
- MLK Day at the Capitol - January 16 (Barb & Earnestine are planning)
- MLK Youth Recognition Breakfast - January 15 (Who is planning this?)

**Voter Service Event Scheduling Team** has been formed and will begin work in January

Marian Matthews is updating our **Voter Service Training Powerpoints** posted on our website. She and Paul Lindquist plan to redo the video segments in January.

**Materials** for our voter outreach have been ordered from LWVDC (including the Judicial Court brochures); spring bookmarks will be ordered

## **10. Communications**

Upcoming Communications projects in 2023 may include:

- LWVDC Style Guide
- Adding DEI guidance to our Editorial Guidelines

- Adding additional volunteers to our roster of copyeditors
- Kicking off a website redesign project with webmaster Brook Soltvedt and others

Several of you have asked whether the League should remain on Twitter. ED’s current recommendation is to continue pausing on posting any new content (have been on hold since the Fall Election) but not delete our account. Have downloaded an archive of our account as a backup. LWVWI and LWVUS continue to use Twitter as usual.

### Bulletin

ED Wendy Hathaway acted as interim *Bulletin* editor for the December issue. Member Amanda Hingst is set to join the editorial team for the Jan/Feb Winter issue. We are still recruiting for additional team members.

WINTER ISSUE (Jan/Feb 2023) Bulletin Deadlines				
Sunday	15-Jan	5pm	Article Commitments Due	Please confirm by this date what you plan to submit for the Bulletin. Email commitment to <a href="mailto:bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org">bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org</a>
Monday	23-Jan	5pm	Articles & Data Due	Please email articles to <a href="mailto:bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org">bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org</a>
Thursday	19-Jan	8am	Editing & Layout Begin	Layout & Editing
Tuesday	24-Jan	5pm	Editing & Layout End	
Wednesday	25-Jan	8am	Copy Editing & Board Review	Copy Editor Edits (Simultaneous Board Review for Content)
Monday	30-Jan	5pm	Copy Editing & Board Review End	
Wednesday	1-Feb	8am	Final Updates	Final Updates
Wednesday	1-Feb	5pm	Pre-publication	Editor will send Webmaster an email confirming the bulletin is finalized and ready for publication.
Thursday	2-Feb		Publication Date	Webmaster to publish