

# LWW<sup>®</sup> Bulletin

**February/March 2024**

## **League of Women Voters of Dane County**

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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## Save the Dates!

The **Lively Issues Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at the Overture Center. Forward Theater Director Jennifer Uphoff Grey will be our featured speaker. Stay for the 2 p.m. showing of *What the Constitution Means to Me*, presented by Forward Theater. Watch for a postcard to arrive in the mail soon! Registration will begin on March 1.

The **Annual Meeting** will be on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. online and at Capitol Lakes!



# President's Message

*Barbara Feeney, [president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org)*

If you read the Tuesday Enews regularly, you already know that the search for members to serve on the 2024-2025 LWVDC Board is underway. During the Strategic Planning initiative conducted in 2023, one of the top priorities identified was for the Board to pivot from being “down in the details” to providing leadership to the organization at the 10,000 foot level. The goal has been to delegate the detailed work to our very capable leadership teams and to keep the Board focused on the long-term goals. A driving reason for this change is to make service on the Board possible for more of our members by lightening the load.

I joined the board in 2022 as Director of Voter Service after spending some time as a volunteer in the voter service area. That first year plunged me into the nuts and bolts of LWVDC. One year later I was invited to serve as president. I am so grateful for these opportunities, where I have met many wonderful people and had a lot of fun along the way.

If you have volunteered with LWVDC, consider whether this might be the time for you to step up to a LWVDC leadership role on the board. The article below by Chris Clements has details about the positions that will be open and how to nominate yourself or someone else. It is a place to learn with others, and leave your stamp on a world so in need of leaders dedicated to democracy.

And, speaking of making a difference, it is with sadness that we learned of the unexpected passing of LWVUS President Deborah Ann Turner. She was an amazing woman who has been leading LWV during a time of great turmoil for our democracy. She will be greatly missed. Learn more about Dr. Turner [here](#).

Seize your moment when it arrives!

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## Call for 2024-2025 LWVDC Leadership

*Chris Clements, [chris.clements@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:chris.clements@lwvdanecounty.org) (she/her)*

**Welcome to nominations season for the 2024-2025 LWVDC Board of Directors!** Our past and current Boards of Directors have built a strong and durable League that makes a significant difference in Dane County. Now is the time to bring your experiences and skills to the board to carry forward the important work of the League by participating as a board member!

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For those who have not yet taken on a League leadership role, let me encourage you to consider this commitment. I spent four years as a board member, two as fund development director and two as president. When I first joined the board, I wasn't certain what my contributions could be or if it was an appropriate role for me. What I found was a leadership board of both experienced and relatively new board members willing to work together to sustain and grow the impact of LWVDC. The friends I made and the things I learned made this an incredibly edifying and rewarding experience.

Some of you may be concerned about the time commitment involved in being a board member. Over the last several years, significant changes have been introduced to better manage the time required. Board meetings now take place every other month rather than monthly, and board members are no longer required to chair steering committees. This allows more time to lead strategically. Most meetings are in person with a Zoom option for times when road conditions, family illness, etc., would make in-person attendance difficult.

The 2024-2025 open board positions include five officer positions and three director positions: President, Vice President-Governance, Vice President-Operations, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Program and two at-large positions. **The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations now through February 28** using this very simple [Nominations Form](#).

Please consider nominating yourself or another League member for any of the positions open for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. The Nominating Committee will review information on all nominees, will be speaking with every nominee and then recommend a slate of candidates for members to vote on at this year's Annual Meeting.

To learn more about the positions, what they entail, and what to expect if you're nominated, visit [Board Nominations 2024-2025](#). If you have questions about the nominating process or the various positions, don't hesitate to email me at [chris.clements@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:chris.clements@lwvdanecounty.org). I'm happy to put you in touch with current or past Board members who can help you learn more about specific positions that might be of interest. I hope many of you will embrace this opportunity to shape your League!

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## State Constitution Amendments on the April 2 Ballot

*Sue Jennik, Program Director, [program@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:program@lwvdanecounty.org)*

When you vote on April 2, 2024, there will be two questions proposing to amend the state constitution.

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The first question would prohibit the use of private funds for election administration. It will state:

**Question 1: “Use of private funds in election administration.** *Shall section 7(1) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that private donations and grants may not be applied for, accepted, expended, or used in connection with the conduct of any primary, election, or referendum?”*

This proposal is drafted in response to the \$10 million provided by the Center for Tech and Civic Life to over 200 municipalities in Wisconsin and other states to assist in election administration during the pandemic. The Center was funded primarily by Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan. Legal challenges to the grants have failed.

The League favors local control of election administration funding. Each municipality should have the prerogative to either accept or deny private funding according to need in each election. Adoption of this amendment would eliminate an important source of needed funding for local governments to use for election administration.

The second question provides:

**Question 2: “Election officials.** *Shall section 7(2) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that only election officials designated by law may perform tasks in the conduct of primaries, elections, and referendums?”*

This proposal is unnecessary and vague. State statute 7.3(2a) provides: “Only election officials appointed under this section or s. [6.875](#) may conduct an election.” It is not clear why a constitutional amendment is needed to repeat the language of the statute. Chapter 7 of the state statutes is a long and detailed description of the requirements for election administration. There is no need for additional language in the state constitution.

References:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/proposals/sjr78>

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/sjr78>

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## Formerly or Currently Incarcerated Voter Registration Project

*Earnestine Moss, [emosse@aol.com](mailto:emosse@aol.com)*

The League of Women Voters of Dane County received \$1,000 in funding from the 2023 Former and Currently Incarcerated Voter Registration project from the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Our goal is to register 50 people to vote. Many people who have been incarcerated are not aware that once they have completed their parole period and are “off papers” they are eligible to vote. Currently incarcerated people who have not been convicted of a felony are also eligible to vote.

The League is working with the Dane County Voter ID Coalition/Jail Voting Subcommittee and other community partners to engage currently and formerly incarcerated persons. We present at partner-sponsored events, such as breakfast, lunch, and supper programs for the homeless populations, and established programs known to work with ex-felons, such as Just Dane, Porchlight, and EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing).

League volunteers continue to work with the Dane County Jail staff, the Department of Corrections, churches, and other community organizations to reach formerly incarcerated persons.

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## Ways You Can Help!

- Become our eyes and ears in your neighborhood or community by notifying us about and inviting us to public events, including social, sports, business, service, or religious events where outreach to formerly incarcerated people might fit in, especially if you live in one of Dane County's smaller communities.
- Invite our committee to attend and co-sponsor programs that you plan so we can provide services to formerly incarcerated persons, or let us train you to act as an information source.
- Share with our committee information from other organizations providing services to current and formerly incarcerated persons that may be interested in inviting us to reach out to their clients/associates.
- Share information from our committee on your social media outlets and encourage others to join us in this effort.

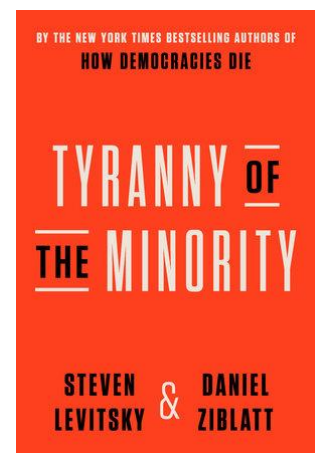
The League of Women of Dane County invites you to be a part of our outreach to the currently and formerly incarcerated! If interested, please contact Earnestine Moss, Grant Administrator, at [emosse@aol.com](mailto:emosse@aol.com) or (608) 244-0422. The project must be completed by Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

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## BOOK DISCUSSION

***Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point*, Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt**

From the *New York Times* bestselling authors of *How Democracies Die*, this book is a call to reform our antiquated political institutions that give unfair advantage to those in the minority. Levitsky and Ziblatt argue that the move toward a multiracial democracy in the United States has sparked an authoritarian backlash that threatens the foundations of our political system. The authors explain why and how political parties turn against democracy and suggest commonsense, though difficult-to-achieve, changes to our Constitution to prevent partisan minorities from ruling over popular majorities in our country.



## **Discussion Dates & Times:**

- Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:00am-11:30am via Zoom
- Saturday, March 2, 2024, 10:00am-11:30am via Zoom

Contact [books@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:books@lwvdanecounty.org) if you're interested in attending. The Zoom link and discussion questions will be emailed prior to the discussion. Email [office@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:office@lwvdanecounty.org) to find out if copies of the book are available at the Dane County League office.

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## **Discussion Units**

*Aileen Nettleton, Discussion Unit Coordinator*

Discussion Unit Meetings give members the opportunity to discuss the issues presented in our Forums with a small group and make recommendations to the League about positions and actions. After watching the "Voting Rights and the Criminal Justice System" video (January), participants weighed in on the importance of this topic, pointing out the need to reach eligible voters who are in jails and expressing concern for the racial discrimination of the high percentage of African-Americans who are felons and cannot vote until they have completed not only their prison term, but also all conditions of parole. They encouraged the state League to continue to work to be sure ex-felons know they CAN vote after they are "off-paper" and at the same time work to give felons the right to vote immediately upon release from prison (as in many neighboring states) and explore the possibility of changes in the law to allow voting while they are incarcerated.

You are invited to join one of our Discussion Unit Meetings in February or March and add your voice to our discussions. Contact the leader of a group that fits your schedule for details.

### ***February Discussion Units***

**Unit: Prairie Ridge Oakwood East**

**Time:** Monday, February 19, 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Dr.

**Leader:** [Alan Zuckerman](#)

**Unit: West / Middleton**

**Time:** Monday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

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**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Leaders:** [Helen Horn](#) and [Ralph Petersen](#)

**Unit: Central West**

**Time:** Tuesday, February 20, 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Leader:** [Kathy Johnson](#)

**Unit: Virtual Dane County**

**Time:** Wednesday, February 21, 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Leader:** [Karen Gunderson](#)

**Unit: Downtown**

**Time:** Wednesday, February 21, 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Premier Room at Capitol Lakes, 333 West Main St.

**Leaders:** [Aileen Nettleton](#) and [Ingrid Rothe](#)

### ***March Discussion Units***

**Unit: Prairie Ridge Oakwood East**

**Time:** Monday, March 18, 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Dr.

**Leader:** [Alan Zuckerman](#)

**Unit: West / Middleton**

**Time:** Monday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Leaders:** [Helen Horn](#) and [Ralph Petersen](#)

**Unit: Central West**

**Time:** Tuesday, March 19, 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Leader:** [Kathy Johnson](#)

**Unit: Virtual Dane County**

**Time:** Wednesday, March 20, 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Leader:** [Karen Gunderson](#)

**Unit: Downtown**

**Time:** Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.

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**Location:** Premier Room at Capitol Lakes, 333 West Main St.

**Leaders:** [Aileen Nettleton](#) and [Ingrid Rothe](#)

**There is a lot going on with LWVDC these days!**

*Want to stay on top of the most current happenings?*

Look for our weekly Enews in your email every Tuesday,  
or [subscribe here](#) if you don't receive it.

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## League News & Updates

### Contributions

#### Fall Appeal Donations

Julie Allen

Jan Anderson

Mary Anglim

Mary Bauhs

Dorit Bergen

Suzanne & Paul Buckner

Harriette Burkhalter

Barbara Carr

Lori Cayton

Laura Chern

Philippa Claude

Christine Clements

Carol Cohen

Elizabeth Conklin

John Craig

Prof. Kathy Cramer

Lili Crane

Mary Crist

Susie Dietzel

Carol Kiemel

Maureen Kind

Mary Kunkel

Jeremy Levin

Rita Lloyd

Richard Lovell

Marie Louise Mares

Holly McEntee & Eric Sandgren

Phyllis Menne

Debby Meyer

Karen Michael

Kim Miller

Millie Moffett

Earnestine Moss

Mary Clare Murphy

Mary Murrell

Brook Soltvedt & Dave Nelson

Aileen & Al Nettleton

Network For Good

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Christopher Dolan  
Sandy Drew  
Carol and Robert Dutton  
Hildy Feen  
Barbara Feeney  
Don Ferber  
Margaret Fuguitt  
Sue Fulks  
Kathy Fullin  
Beth Fultz  
Eve Galanter  
Sally Gleason  
Joseph Goss  
Laura & Peter Gottlieb  
Shirley Haidinger  
Kelly Haslam  
Ilse Hecht  
Ronnie Hess  
Amanda Hingst  
Susan Hoffman  
Carol Hollar-Zwick & Ken Zwick  
Laura Jasper  
Susan Jennik  
Nancy Jensen  
Mary Juckem  
Andrea Kaminski  
Janet & Michael Kane  
Tom Karls

Barbara Olson  
Judy Peppard  
Robert Persons  
Charles Peters  
Gordon Ridley  
Patricia & Raymond Roder  
Kimberly Rooney  
Ingrid Rothe & Melissa Keyes  
Andrew Ruis  
Lois Sater  
Mary Ellen & Tim Schmit  
Peter Schroedl  
Jane Schug  
Rose Sime  
Miriam Simmons  
Jane A. Smith  
Suzanne Smith  
Diane Stone  
Mark Sundquist  
Marjorie Sutton  
Ruth Sybers  
Steve Tanner  
Priscilla Thain  
Lindsey Thomas  
Bruce Tulloch  
Janet Van Vleck  
Gerilyn West  
Debra Zillmer

**Additional Gift with Membership Renewal**

Rebecca Alwin  
Julie Andersen  
Pamela Clinkenbeard  
Charlene Denys  
Martha Frey  
Mary Fulton

Debora Kennedy  
Michael Leaderman  
Marje Murray  
Sandra Pfahler  
Gretchen Post  
Louise Robbins  
Karil Walther

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## Sustaining Donations

Zachary Levin

Luke Sackash

## Grant

Evjue Foundation

## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us recently. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website.

Do you want to join the League? [Sign up for a membership online](#)

Andrea Andrews

Jon Beers

Nancy Gores

William Holland

Trudi Jenny

Wendy Kvale

Michael Leaderman

Sophia McGinnis

Marje Murray

Mary Niederehe

Karen Nelson

Gretchen Post

Laurel Rice

Mary Spoerl

Claudia Vlisides

Karil Walther

## Upcoming Events

Check out [the calendar](#) on the League website for upcoming events.

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### Executive Committee

Barb Feeney, President

Lili Crane, Vice President-  
Governance

Jill Jokela, Fund Development  
Director

Sue Jennik, Program Director

### Bulletin Staff

Amanda Hingst, Editor

Brook Soltvedt, Webmaster

Andy Rubsam, Copyeditor

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