



office@lwvdanecounty.org www.lwvdanecounty.org  
Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 11–3

# Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

720 Hill Street, Ste 200, Madison, WI 53705 (608) 232-9447

## September 2022

President's Message	1
League Help Needed!	2
Executive Director's Letter	2
Members: You're Invited!	3
The Power of Personal Connection	4
Memorial for Mary Bean	4
Volunteers Help Seniors Vote	5
New Members	6
Contributions	6
Discussion Units	7
Upcoming Events	7
2022 Elections	7

### Executive Committee

Barb Feeney, President  
Mara Eisch, Vice President  
Jean Jacobson, Treasurer  
Sue Jennik, Program Director  
Wendy Hathaway, Executive Director

### Bulletin Editor

Lauren Surovi, [bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org)

## President's Message

Barb Feeney (she/they)  
[president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org)

As I write, we are less than halfway through the intensive outreach effort that happens prior to the fall election, and what I am seeing is an organization that is nimbly adapting to a changing environment.

It was only a few years ago that voter registration was occurring on paper forms, and partisan groups and LWV were the biggest advocates, along with municipal clerks. Today, online registration is available to a majority of potential voters—though not to all. Voting regulations are complex and detailed.

**Tuesday, September 13**

6-7:30 p.m.

## LWVDC Forum

### *Why Vote? Reproductive & Civil Rights*

The League of Women Voters believes that all people deserve access to abortion care when they need it, on a timeline of their choosing, and in a community and an environment they trust and feel safe in. Join us for a forum on what the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* means for the future of reproductive rights and healthcare for people in Wisconsin. Panelists **Cynthia Lin** of Women's Medical Fund (WMF) Wisconsin, **Katrina Morrison** of The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, **Nicole Safar** of Law Forward, and **Amy Williamson** of UW Collaborative for Reproductive Equity will discuss the current legal situation, its effects on the physical, mental, economic, and social health of people in the state, what the future might hold, and how you can get involved. The Forum will be moderated by **Joy Cardin**, League member and former Wisconsin Public Radio host.

**Registration details and study materials  
available on [our website](#).**

**This event is free and open to the public.**

There are also many other organizations who have gotten into the voter outreach realm. We are excited to collaborate with other nonpartisan groups in carrying out the mission we share: to alert voters to upcoming elections and to help them get to the polls and cast their ballots.

We're also exploring new ways of reaching out to Dane County residents to help them understand WHY they should vote and how to get involved in other aspects of government. We're adapting our outreach efforts to reach those who might not yet be convinced that their vote is connected to the issues that affect their daily lives and the lives of people they care about.

## League Help Needed!

- Events planners/event hosts
- Button-makers
- Spanish-speaking outreach volunteers
- Help with bookkeeping
- Help with tax preparation
- Zoom support
- Photographers
- Writers for resource materials
- Editor for Voting Volunteers weekly email
- Forum planners
- Advocacy Corps members

Visit [www.lwvdanecounty.org/volunteer](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/volunteer) for details and contact information. And be sure to share with your fellow members looking for ways to support the League.

We're also starting to staff outreach events with volunteers who can engage with people in a more general way by talking about the League and about the many reasons people may be motivated to vote—rather than asking all volunteers to be trained on the intricacies of voting.

The LWV was founded more than 100 years ago to help women with newly minted rights become informed voters. That mission still exists: to help all voters become informed citizens, ready to advocate on issues they care about and vote for the candidates whose views align with their own. LWVDC's Program and Advocacy domain is hard at work creating opportunities to learn and take action, and our many outreach events throughout the community provide face-to-face venues for meaningful discussion.

Change is the watchword of our time. LWVDC is poised to adapt and meet voters where they're at so we can continue our mission of civic education and engagement for the next century.

---

## Executive Director's Letter

Wendy Hathaway (she/her), [wendy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:wendy@lwvdanecounty.org)

As I write this, there are only 12 weeks before the Fall Election and we as a League have much work ahead, helping voters register for the first time or update their registration, assembling the *Candidates' Answers* guide our community relies on for nonpartisan information, and the many other efforts of the League to get out the vote. I am so grateful for the hard work and passion of our voter outreach volunteers.

For four years, before I was hired as LWVDC staff, I was one of those volunteers and Election Day was always top of mind. But as Executive Director, I've come to learn there is so much more happening both in community outreach and programming as well as behind-the-scenes. I applaud the creativity and dedication of volunteers and leaders in programming and advocacy; the warmth of those who welcome new members and connect with less-new members; the boldness of those encouraging our organization to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive; and the expertise of those working to make the League stronger and smarter, from fund development and finance to governance and strategic planning to communications and technology.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new 2022-23 Board members. We gathered at the Fitchburg Library for two onboarding sessions this summer and I plan to facilitate more training opportunities for all members in technology and data, leadership, community outreach, and more throughout the year. Watch your email inbox for details!

I also want to welcome two new consultants:

- Kimmy Rooney started August 23 as our Leadership Development Fellow (revisit the [May 2022 issue of Bulletin](#) to learn more about her position).
- Angie Wright joined us in June to begin work as a grant consultant. The initial phase of her work consists of in-depth grant prospect research exploring potential funding sources; a summary of our fund development situation and recommendations for a grant strategy; and a prospecting database, including information needed to apply.

Finally, I want to do more to personally reach out to our more than 600 members (that's right; as of this writing, we have 609 members, including 19 student members and 28 50-year life members!). There are a host of opportunities to engage as a League member and volunteer, and I, along with our League leadership, are on a mission to help all 609 members find a place within the League that fits with their interests, skills, and time capacity. We know some folks can only commit to paying membership fees; we're glad to have your support. We know some folks only have a few hours to spare here and there; we understand. For others who want to do more, let's talk and find your place in the League of Women Voters of Dane County.

By working together, all 609 of us can empower voters and defend democracy.

## Members: You're Invited!

Before the weather turns colder and we all move indoors, join LWVDC for one of a series of informal "pop-up" gatherings for members! Catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Next up:

[The Mill](#)

6890 Paoli Road, Belleville

Thursday, September 8

5–8 p.m.

Enjoy live music from Jesse Bauman and Michael Mikrut (classic rock/country)

No RSVP necessary; just look for an LWVDC table sign and folks wearing nametags.

*Want to host your own "pop-up" event? Email Wendy Hathaway at [wendy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:wendy@lwvdanecounty.org) to get started.*



# The Power of Personal Connection

Barb Feeney (she/they), [president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org)

For the past couple of months, a few of our members have been researching the question “what are the most effective methods of reaching potential voters, to encourage them to register and then to actually get to the polls to vote?” GIMME THAT MAGIC WAND!

The most complete resource was “Get out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout” by Donald Green and Alan Gerber. Thank you to the research team members: Jill Jokela, Earnestine Moss, Magan Knuth, Beth Fultz, and Kathy Fullin (who summarized the results presented here).

- The hands-down winner for effectiveness is canvassing: going door to door and having personal conversations. **One additional vote is produced for every 16 people successfully contacted by canvassers**, and there is an impact on housemates, as well.
- A well-run high school voter registration program increased turnout 10%. Similar programs in colleges raised turnout rates 2.6%, with 40% of those registering going on to vote.
- Nonpartisan leaflets may generate votes at a rate of one vote per 189 residents receiving leaflets (this is a conclusion with low confidence; they may have no effect at all). Door hangers with information about polling locations and local candidates may be more effective.
- Nonpartisan email designed to encourage voter participation has negligible effects on voter registration and turnout.
- Text messaging can add one vote per 312 targeted phone numbers. Providing information on how to find your polling place is helpful. All the experiments targeted a younger (under 40) demographic.
- Signs promoting voting may have a small positive effect.
- Ads on social media produce little or no increase, but friend-to-friend communication is effective.
- Conversations resulting from phone banking average one vote per 36 contacts.

**There are no results reported for the conversations that happen at voter outreach events. But it seems fair to say that voter outreach that occurs at events is more similar to door-to-door canvassing than any other technique listed above, in terms of effectiveness.**

An important benefit of our voter outreach activities is raising the profile of LWVDC, resulting in new members and increased financial support, which help us expand our reach and effectiveness.

No question: in-person voter outreach is labor-intensive! The volunteers who staff our events, and work behind the scenes—coordinating with event hosts, creating volunteer sign-ups, stocking voter outreach kits, making buttons that help draw people to our table, creating literature and signs, communicating with outreach volunteers, staff the Voter Helpline, and produce and distribute *Candidates’ Answers*—together put in HUNDREDS of hours. And let’s not overlook the generosity of members who donate funds to pay for all of this—and the paid staff who help keep the show running smoothly. All of this is work whose impact can’t always be measured but are critical pieces of the voter outreach puzzle.

There is no real substitute for the personal connections our volunteers make with potential voters. Thank you to them, and to all who support their work!

## Memorial for Mary Bean

We are pleased to announce the memorial for Mary Bean, long-time League volunteer and LWVDC president from 1974–1978, who passed away in 2020. We look forward to celebrating her with music and scripture on **October 8 at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church (203 Wisconsin Ave in Madison)**. The concert will feature the Quadrilateral vocal quartet, organist Ross Cowing, and members of the FUMC choir. A live-stream link will be available by request; contact [Marcia Bean](#) for more information.

## Volunteers Help Seniors Vote

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

Senior Liaison Coordinator

The senior liaison program matches LWVDC volunteers with several types of senior facilities—from senior centers to senior housing complexes, independent living apartments, and city-owned low-income housing. Our primary goal is to help seniors and disabled residents register and vote. We do this by providing information and assistance to the people who frequent the senior centers or live in senior or special housing. Liaisons play a large part in this by working directly with a center or facility and providing election-related materials to them.

We currently have liaisons at several facilities, and our volunteers have been doing a good job of keeping seniors informed. More information about the program, along with a list of current liaison facilities and volunteers, can be found here: [Senior Liaisons](#). We still have locations where we need volunteers and would be happy to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming a senior liaison. We are also happy to add more senior apartments or other senior housing to the list if there is someone who wants to adopt a facility in their area or where they live. There is a lot of new senior housing being built in the area so there are quite a lot of opportunities for volunteering with facilities that may not yet be part of our list.

For anyone who lives in Fitchburg, we have an important upcoming vacancy that will need to be filled. We will be looking for a new liaison for the Fitchburg Senior Center starting after the November election. Our current liaison would be happy to work with the new volunteer during the next couple of months to make the transition easy. We are also always open to adding new facilities in Dane County if we have someone interested in working with a specific housing facility.

I send emails periodically to keep liaisons informed of changes or updates to voting laws and procedures and am happy to respond to questions that may come up. We also work closely with the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition to make sure we have the latest information relating to voting issues for disabled individuals. To volunteer as a liaison or to find out more about the program, you can contact me at [haidis@aol.com](mailto:haidis@aol.com).

*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 Monday,  
or [subscribe here](#), if you don't receive it.*



## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in July 2022. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website. NOTE: The password for the directory page was changed on April 26, 2022. If you need the new password, contact the webmaster for help.

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

Martine Batson  
Melanie Cain  
Whitney Cook  
Chelsea Crane  
Pamela Crapp  
Erin Everett  
Jan Fullenwider

Jim Houge  
John Knapp  
Kathleen Krchnavek  
Lil Larson  
Lynn Maki  
Catherine Marler  
Debby Meyer

Mary Salisbury  
Carrie Valentine  
Amanda Weiss  
Amy Whitehead  
Mary Woodward

---

## Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these supporters who donated in July 2022.

### General Donations

Barbara B Arnold  
Cathy Berndt  
Marty Fox & Catherine Briggs  
Wally Brinkmann  
Harriette Burkhalter  
Lori Cayton  
Viv Chappell  
Betty Cohen  
James Cory  
Debra & James Cronmiller  
Leslie DeMuth & Steve  
Bower  
Judi Dilks  
Robin Downs  
Laurie Elwell & Richard Niess  
Sue Goldwomon  
Alice & Dan Gould  
Janice Grant

Erin Grunze  
Nancy Gunder  
Ellen Hadidian  
Wendy Hathaway  
Betsy Jensen  
Elizabeth & Jeffrey Kanne  
Judie Kleinmaier  
Karyn Knaak  
Sarah Koeppen  
Ann Lacy  
Pat Levin  
Caroline Liedtke  
Sara Markham  
Joan Martin  
Marta Meyers  
Christine Milligan-Ciha  
Aileen & Al Nettleton  
Joan Niebauer

Stacey Olikier & Lew  
Friedland  
Judy Peppard  
Sandra Pfahler  
Robert Pfauth  
Joan Provencher  
Anna Purnell & Greg Smith  
Louise Robbins  
Luke Sackash  
Mary Ellen & Tim Schmit  
Joan Schwarz  
Rose Sime  
Priscilla Thain  
Marilyn Townsend & Fred  
Wade  
Thelma Wells

## Discussion Units

Many League members meet in one of five units to discuss the topic of each forum, using the resource/study materials provided by the program planners to guide the conversation. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Units meet regularly at different times and locations, including via Zoom. All in-person meetings occur in Madison unless otherwise noted. Find a unit meeting that's convenient for you and participate! Details below.

**Currently, each discussion unit decides whether to meet virtually or in person. If you are planning to attend a meeting for the first time, please contact the unit leader ahead of time. [Consult the calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information about specific meetings.**

**Unit: Prairie Ridge** (*For Prairie Ridge residents only*)  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m., third Monday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual  
**Leaders:** [Dot Whiting](#)

**Unit: West / Middleton**  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m., third Monday of the month  
**Location:** Lussier Community Center  
55 S. Gammon Rd.  
**Leader:** [Ralph Petersen](#), [Helen Horn](#) (608) 231-1807

**New Unit for Members outside of Madison**  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m., third Thursday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, Via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Karen Michael](#)

**Unit: Central West**  
**Time:** 12:45 p.m., third Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Kathy Johnson](#) (608) 238-1785

**Unit: Northeast Side**  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m., third Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** TBD; contact Karen to learn more  
**Leaders:** [Karen Gunderson](#) (608) 729-4351

**Unit: Downtown Dinner**  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Aileen Nettleton](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 8	Member Pop-Up Event at The Mill Paoli, 5 p.m.
Sept. 12	Voter Service Steering Committee, 3 p.m.
Sept. 12	Program/Advocacy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.
Sept. 13	Forum: Why Vote? Reproductive & Civil Rights, 6 p.m.
Sept. 14	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	September Book Discussion, 7 p.m.
Sept. 17	September Book Discussion, 10 a.m.
Sept. 19	Membership Team, 12 p.m.
Sept. 20	Advocacy Corps Meeting, 5 p.m.

## 2022 Elections

Nov. 8                      Fall General Election

