



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

## Summer 2022

President's Message	1
League Help Needed!	2
Membership Renewal Season Happening Now	2
Members: You're Invited!	3
Annual Meeting Held Online June 2	4
Advocacy: Join Our Letter Writing Campaign	4
Enjoy a Morning at a Farmers Market!	5
A Slice of Our Nation's History Revisited	6
Analysis: A Threat to Our Constitutional Order	8
New Members	8
Contributions	9
Discussion Units	10
Upcoming Events	11
2022 Elections	11

### Executive Committee

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

### Bulletin Editors

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

**Tuesday, September 13**

6 p.m.

Madison College South Campus

## LWVDC Forum

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

How does the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* affect Wisconsin residents? This forum will address the economic, medical, and legal impacts.

Attend in person or via Zoom. Details and registration information coming soon.

For more information visit us [on our website](#).

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

## President's Message

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

Bill Gates is often quoted as saying "Most people *overestimate* what they can do in one year and *underestimate* what they can do in 10 years." Right now, we are contemplating living with 10 more years of gerrymandered maps and are reeling from the enormous blow to women's bodily autonomy rendered by the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Furthermore, the effort to restrict the ability of every qualified citizen to cast a ballot is ongoing and relentless. There isn't much danger we will overestimate our ability to change the direction of the country in one year. Our challenge is to continue to forge ahead in the face of these setbacks.

There is one great weakness in the ultraconservative movement behind these devastating decisions: *the movement does not represent the views of a majority of Americans*. This movement to restrict human rights and render the voices of voters irrelevant or silence them altogether will not survive if good citizens have the courage and perseverance that is required.

At this moment, let us not underestimate what we can do in the next 10 years.

At LWVDC, we are building a team for the long haul. To succeed, we must have enough team members to pass the ball and keep it in play. Whether you have one hour a month to give or 20 hours, there is a place for you. Whether you thrive on person-to-person contact, or prefer to work behind the scenes, there is a place for you. Please visit our [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page on a regular basis to see if there is something there for you.

If you have no time to volunteer, your membership, extra donations, and your voice as a cheerleader for LWV are also valued.

The League of Women Voters is here for the long haul and we're hoping you are too!

### 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 and Observer 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.

---

## Membership Renewal Season Happening Now

LWVDC Membership, [membership@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:membership@lwvdanecounty.org)

Thank you to all the readers who joined or renewed their membership for the 2022-2023 year already!

As of July 31, 2022, we have **596** active members; this includes life members, student members, and **35** new members who joined since the beginning of June. Welcome!

Is your membership renewal packet still on your kitchen counter or in your email inbox? If so, please take a few minutes to renew your membership online or by mail.

### Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: Do I also have to join LWV Wisconsin or LWV US?*

A: No. When you become a member of LWV Dane County, you also become a member of our state and national Leagues.

Much of your dues (83% to be exact) go to LWVWI and LWVUS for their important work. That's why contributions beyond your minimum dues are so important to help LWVDC make a difference locally, right here in Dane County.

*Q: Why join or renew online instead of by mail?*

A: You can lower the League's environmental impact by completing your payment and your member interest survey online at [www.lwvdanecounty.org/join-renew](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/join-renew).

Have questions or need assistance? Email [office@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:office@lwvdanecounty.org) or call 608-232-9447.

*Q: What is the member interest survey and why should I fill it out?*

A: The [Membership Survey](#) helps us connect members with the many volunteer opportunities available across the League. It's also how we know who wants to be alerted about Book Discussions, Adopt-a-Highway projects, Advocacy Alerts, and so much more.

NEW: You can also browse a long list of varied Volunteer Opportunities on our website at [www.lwvdanecounty.org/volunteer](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/volunteer).

League leaders are continually posting new ways you can get involved—with as much or as little time as you have to give—so keep checking back regularly to find what's right for you.

### **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:

#### [Capital Brewery Beer Garden](#)

7734 Terrace Ave, Middleton

Friday, August 5

5–8 p.m.

Live Friday music featuring local Madison band YOUR MOM

#### [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.*

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

## Annual Meeting Held Online June 2

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

The 2022 **Annual Meeting** was held online via Zoom on Thursday, June 2, 2022.

Fifty-seven members attended, including speakers from across the organization who shared highlights from the previous year's activities in the areas of Finance (Treasurer Jean Jacobson), Voter Service (Barb Feeney), Program/Advocacy (Sue Jennik), and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) (Mary Ellen Schmidt). Louise Robbins shared a land acknowledgment crafted in collaboration with members of the DEI committee. Outgoing Board President Chris Clements reflected on the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as the successes we collectively achieved through teamwork and a dedication to defending democracy. Cheryl Daniels served as Parliamentarian. Outgoing Nominating Committee Chair Jan Van Vleck presented the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. Brook Soltvedt and Helen Horn served as readers of the Annual Meeting Minutes, recorded by incoming Board Secretary Marjorie Schuett.

We also had the chance to recognize two new 50-year (life) members—Nancy Jensen and Kathy Johnson—and honor our two Defender of Democracy Award recipients, Cindy Lindquist and Paul Lindquist, as presented by Bonnie Chang and Marian Matthews. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the League!

I also want to extend a personal thank you to everyone who attended and to those who helped with planning, especially Chris Clements, Kerry Helmer, and Julia Gilden.



---

## The Advocacy Corps Invites Members to Join Our Letter Writing Campaign on Election Integrity

Advocacy Corps, [advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org)

The LWVDC is committed to making democracy work. The Advocacy Corps responds to critical activities and events by engaging members in timely, action-oriented campaigns on election and judicial issues, campaign finance reform, and civil discourse. At this time, the Advocacy Corps is developing a letter writing campaign about election integrity. To that end, we are recruiting members who can engage in writing letters to newspaper editors and government officials to keep these issues in front of the public as we work to strengthen our democracy.

We welcome you in one of two ways: join the Advocacy Corps to help develop our outreach campaigns; or join one of the five Working Groups on the issues listed above and participate in our letter-writing

campaign. Contact Lili Crane at [advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org) for more information. We are providing members with background information, talking points, and training.

Advocacy is crucial to preserve our democracy!

## *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

---

### **Enjoy a Morning at a Farmers Market!**

Gail Bliss, [gail3511@gmail.com](mailto:gail3511@gmail.com), and Marjorie Schuett, [mschuett@hootcom.com](mailto:mschuett@hootcom.com)

Voter registration at farmers' markets has been a mainstay of LWVDC outreach for decades. Currently we staff a table at the Dane County Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square and the Westside Community Market at 750 University Row behind UW Digestive Health. Both are held on Saturday mornings.

The table at the downtown market is at the King Street corner. For at least six years, Arch Apothecary has allowed us to store our table and supplies in their salon after each market. This saves our volunteers the difficulty of hauling the table long distances each week. While we start at 9 a.m., traffic picks up throughout the morning with 10 a.m. to noon as the peak hours. Early shoppers tend to be there for the food. Later shoppers are more likely to stop with questions.

We reach lots of students, people new to Madison, and folks from out of town. Now that [MyVote.wi.gov](http://MyVote.wi.gov) is available, most people ask questions and get a bookmark so that they can complete the registration on their own. The volunteers at the Square talk to 40-50 people most Saturdays, with a sharp uptick during August through October of even-numbered (fall election) years. In the past, we have provided registration information to about 100 people on the second Saturday in October (just before the close of the registration period).

At the Westside Community Market, we have more time to talk with individuals due to a lower volume of foot traffic. Market attendees often reside in nearby apartments, graduate student areas or senior housing. Volunteers assist voters by providing election bookmarks and through [MyVote.wi.gov](http://MyVote.wi.gov) using our internet-connected tablet or the voter's own smartphone. We show people how to update their voting address, register to vote, request absentee ballots and/or find their polling place. Both markets provide lots of Future Voter stickers to the little ones!

Volunteers get the chance to talk with interesting people who sometimes have challenging questions. This summer we talked to a new citizen, interested in *Candidates' Answers*, and how the August 9 primary works. She was also interested in LWV's outreach to new citizens. We also talked to a 17-year-old who turns 18 in late October. We advised her to go to a branch of the Madison Public Library, because MyVote won't allow her to



*At the Dane County Farmers' Market on the Square*



register until she turns 18, at which point she wouldn't be allowed to register because it would be during the 20 days before the election when online registration is unavailable.

If you want to recommend another market where we can provide voter information, we have some suggestions for you:

- Volunteer at one of the existing markets to see how things work: [Outreach Sign-up Calendar](#).
- Find out the requirements for getting permission to have a table at the site.
- If you are willing to organize the event, we can help get volunteers, as long as we have a lead volunteer.
- Watch for Voter Outreach trainings listed on the [Outreach Sign-up Calendar](#) and in the Voting Volunteer Weekly emails. (Haven't been receiving these emails? Email [office@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:office@lwvdanecounty.org) to sign up!)



---

## A Slice of Our Nation's History Revisited

Janie Riebe, [jkriebe@frontier.com](mailto:jkriebe@frontier.com)

During our May campaign to "Own Our Past, Chart Our Future," LWVDC co-hosted a powerful and timely presentation by Reggie Jackson, founder of Nurturing Diversity Partners in Milwaukee. What a gift attendees received with Jackson's moving and descriptive review of historical events related to immigration and slavery.

Jackson talked about the Indigenous people who called this land their home long before European settlers arrived and how they were taken to be slaves by the European colonists. I knew of the many atrocities that these First People suffered, but it was news to me that our nation's Indigenous people were enslaved during colonial times.

Then there were the people who were forced to come to America as involuntary, unpaid laborers for white landowners. Enslaved Africans could not own land, vote, receive an education, or accumulate assets. They were beaten. They were sold as commodities. Long hours of physical work earned no pay. They had no way to reap the benefits or wealth that their forced labor created.

Jackson took us through stories, photographs, and newspaper accounts of how immigrants of many races and ethnicities were shunned when they arrived in the United States seeking better lives. We were reminded of how Jewish, Chinese, Japanese, and Mexican Americans were treated. Even German, Irish, and Italian immigrants were not accepted for a long time after they arrived here. National or global events

### HOW WE GOT HERE: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF DIVERSITY IN AMERICA

#### Speaker

Reggie Jackson has been a much sought-after speaker and published writer for over a decade. Reggie specializes in sharing seldom-told stories and facts about the experiences of African-Americans and other peoples of color past and present.



SPONSORED BY: the League of Women Voters of Dane, Milwaukee, and Ozaukee Counties and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

VIRTUAL | 6 PM | MAY 12, 2022

impacted the treatment of certain racial groups, like the Japanese Americans who were rounded up and sent to internment camps after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

As I listened to Reggie Jackson, I could see how our nation's history has repeated itself time and time again. Our culture continues to treat certain groups with disrespect, just as in the past. Today, Asian Americans and Mexican Americans and those who are seeking asylum from South and Central America are vilified. Jewish people have once again become targets of vandalism, hatred, and violence. It hit me like a brick that we never learned from the mistakes of the past when Jackson evoked the image of the children in cages who had been separated from their parents on the southern border. Many of us were outraged when we learned of that injustice, which called to mind the splitting up and separating of families of African descent at slave auctions—families who likely never found each other again. And let us never forget that Indigenous children were separated forcible from their families to attend government boarding schools and strip them of their native culture.

My question for League members is, how can we prevent the mistakes of the past if we do not talk about them openly, evaluate what happened, acknowledge these histories and their relationships, and vow never to allow these things to happen again? What can we do collectively to prevent committing similar mistakes in the future? It seems to me that owning our past and charting our future need to be continuous, year-round activities instead of being confined to one month.

*Comments from “How We Got Here: The Hidden History of Diversity in America” presented virtually by Reggie Jackson on May 12, 2022.*

*Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Café discussion of the presentation was held on May 19, 2022.*

### **Key Takeaways from “The Hidden History of Diversity in America”**

During this forum, Reggie Jackson shared some ideas for deepening our understanding of diversity and becoming better allies in the process.

- Stop trying to prove that you're colorblind.
- Be aware of friends, family members, co-workers, etc. prejudiced and discriminatory behavior.
- Recognize that our personal biases come from our lived experiences.
- Replace your automatic judgements of others.
- Create a strategy to build your own personal understanding of others.
- Study alternative sources written by people from other groups that you are not familiar with.
- Get out of your bubble.
- Pay attention to your habits.
- Become aware of biased behavior.
- Develop a strong desire and motivation to seek positive change.
- Make a concerted effort to build real genuine friendships with people from other groups.
- See for yourself, listen for yourself, and think for yourself.
- Create belonging spaces instead of welcoming spaces.

*Thank you to many individual members of the Program Advocacy subcommittees, discussion unit leaders, book discussion unit leaders, tech support people, and organizers of advocacy activities who gave generously of their time, imagination, and skills to make our very busy year go so smoothly. And thank you to all the members (and nonmembers) who attended or read the materials the Program/Advocacy Committee developed. We hope to see you in the fall!*

—Pat Patterson, outgoing Program Chair

# “The Independent State Legislature Theory”: A Threat to Our Constitutional Order

Joan I. Schwarz, [schwarzjoan111@gmail.com](mailto:schwarzjoan111@gmail.com)

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear [Moore v. Harper](#) in its fall term. At issue is the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 4, Clause 1, the Elections Clause, which states that “the Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof.” Of concern is four of the justices’ interpretation of this clause in light of their mutual support of what is called the Independent State Legislature (ISL) theory.

In March 2022, the Supreme Court of North Carolina had ruled in *Moore* that the NC legislature’s congressional maps were unfair and had them redrawn. The Republican-majority legislature appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court for a stay, which the Court denied because of the proximity of an election. However, in a concurring opinion, Justice Brett Kavanaugh invited the NC legislature to file a petition for *certiorari*, stating that it had presented “serious arguments on the merits,” and the issue could be “definitively resolved” by the Court.

Likewise, in a dissenting opinion, Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, and Neil Gorsuch stated that the “State Supreme Court [. . .] usurped the power that the Elections Clause confines to the ‘Legislature’ . . . [and] there must be *some* limit on the authority of state courts to countermand actions taken by state legislatures when they are prescribing rules for the conduct of federal elections.”

If the Court holds the ISL theory as federal law, it is expected to have a significant impact on future elections. In Wisconsin, the legislature would have the sole responsibility and authority for redistricting the state, and it could create election rules and choose state electors without the checks and balances provided by court oversight—an important component of a healthy democracy included in the U.S. Constitution.

Under the second half of the Elections Clause, however, “Congress may by law at any time make or alter such [election] Regulations.” Congress could override any state policies about congressional elections with which it disagrees, and such federal laws would trump a legislature’s preferences. Because state constitutions give regulatory roles to many nonlegislative actors (e.g., gubernatorial vetoes, state court decisions, and state agency rules), Congress could also pass a law that would immunize state actors against legislative actions. Before the Supreme Court rules in *Moore*, voters need to advocate for congressional preemption that would, as a matter of federal law, prevent state legislatures from having plenary power over elections.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*



## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in April, May, and June 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.](#)

Nico Bartholomew  
EB Baumer  
Molly Carmichael  
Melinda Certain  
Colleen Duffie  
Neil Duffie  
Karen Faster  
Peter Gottlieb  
Gail Jordan

Magen Knuth  
Sheila Lynch  
Julie Maas  
Nina Moyer  
Susan Nossal  
Margaret Riggs  
Jocelyn Riley  
Brad Schweiger  
Jane Selegue

Megan Severson  
Tori Sheldon  
Ben Sousa  
Brad Stamper  
Daniel Stapleton  
Mary Strait  
Stuart Utley  
Shanda Wells  
Dawn Zimmerman

---

## Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these supporters who donated in April, May, and June 2022.

### General Donations

Julie Allen  
Connie Bakker  
Robert Beets  
John Boyer  
Suzanne and Paul Buckner  
Marsha Cannon  
Sally Carpenter  
Viv Chappell  
Christine Clements  
Betty Cohen  
Elizabeth Conklin  
James Cory  
Lili Crane  
Sally Davis  
Mary Detert  
Mary K Dick  
Linda Dietrich  
Susan Dietzel  
Susan Dinauer  
Marilyn Dodd  
Sandra Drew

Deb Drewek  
Jane Drewry  
Janine Edwards  
Maree Elowson  
Barbara Feeney  
Colleen Feist  
Margaret Fuguitt  
Kathleen Fullin  
Emy Gartzke  
Marc Germain  
Sally Gleason  
Erin Grunze  
Patricia Gundlach  
Shirley Haidinger  
Sharon Hamilton  
Kathleen Harker  
Lois Harr  
Barbara Henke  
Linda Holthaus  
Shirley Inhorn  
Jean Jacobson

Rod Jacobson  
Lisa Janairo  
Laura Jasper  
Susan Jennik  
Nancy Jensen  
Joan Johnston  
Jill Jokela  
Andrea Kaminski  
Josef Klafka  
Noël Klapper  
Magen Knuth  
Merilyn Kupferberg  
Ann Lacy  
Diane Lee  
Rosemary Lehman  
Caroline Liedtke  
Abigail Lowery  
Joan Lundin  
Cara Lee Mahany  
Justine Malinski

Holly McEntee and Eric  
Sandgren  
Nina Moyer  
Kathryn Mulligan  
Mary Murrell  
Gene Musser  
Helene Nelson  
Aileen and Al Nettleton  
Katharine Odell  
Karen Peterson  
Melissa Ratcliff  
Kathleen Remington

Louise Robbins  
Patricia and Raymond Roder  
Jim Rogers  
Amber Rottier  
Luke Sackash  
Norma Satter  
Mary Ellen Schmit  
Joan Schwarz  
Kathleen Shurts  
Judith Siegfried  
Brook Soltvedt  
Margaret Stine

Edith Sullivan  
Linda and Kent Syth  
Judith Topitzes  
Carol Toussaint  
Suzanne van Landingham  
Janet Van Vleck  
Sandi and Tom Vandervest  
Jim Waeffler  
Patricia Watson  
James Werlein  
Susan White  
Sarah Zutz



## 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** (*This group is open only to Prairie Ridge residents at this time.*)  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m., third Monday of the month  
**Location:** Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Dr.  
**Leaders:** [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (608) 630-5163

**Unit: West / Middleton**  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m., third Monday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Ralph Petersen](#) and [Helen Horn](#) (608) 231-1807 and [Gloria Meyer](#) (608) 288-8160

**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:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leaders:** [Karen Gunderson](#) (608) 729-4351

**Unit: Downtown Dinner**  
**Time:** 5:15 p.m., third Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Ingrid Rothe](#) (608) 556-3174

## Upcoming Events

Aug. 2	Advocacy Corps, 2 p.m.
Aug. 5	Member Pop-Up Event at Capital Brewery, 5 p.m.
Aug. 8	Program/Advocacy Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
Aug. 10	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 15	Membership Committee, 12 p.m.
Aug. 15	Voter Service Steering Committee, 3 p.m.
Aug. 16	Advocacy Corps, 2 p.m.
Aug. 30	Advocacy Corps, 2 p.m.
Sept. 8	Member Pop-Up Event at The Mill in Paoli, 5 p.m.

---

## 2022 Elections

Aug. 9	Fall Partisan Primary
Nov. 8	Fall General Election



*There is a lot going 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.*

