



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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

Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 11–3

office@lwvdanecounty.org | www.lwvdanecounty.org

Winter (Jan/Feb) 2023

President's Message	1
Collaboration and Canvassing Highlights	2
Badgers Vote!	3
Calling All Prospective Leaders!	5
Get Involved! WI Supreme Court Elections	6
February Book Discussion	7
Volunteer Profile: Carole Blemker	7
An Economy for All	8
State Constitution: Are Changes Necessary?	10
Good News on the Climate Front	11
Welcome to Jill Jokela	12
LWVDC Strategic Planning	13
Jan. 2023 Board Meeting Highlights	14
Contributions	14
New Members	15
Discussion Units	16
Upcoming Events	16
2023 Elections	17
The League in the News	17

Executive Committee

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

Bulletin Staff

Amanda Hingst, Editor

President's Message

Barb Feeney (she/they),
president@lwvdanecounty.org

As we enter a new year without a Fall election, you might think LWVDC is pausing to take a break this year. Not so. We are full steam ahead raising

Thursday, February 9

6:30–8:00 p.m.

LWVDC Virtual Forum

Wisconsin Supreme Court: Why Your Vote Matters

The League of Women Voters supports a system of justice that assures adults and juveniles prompt and equal treatment under the law. Join us for a forum discussing how the upcoming elections for a new Wisconsin Supreme Court justice might affect the court's structure, decisions, and future. Our panelists are:

Christa Westerberg, Pines Bach LLP: Westerberg is a Partner with the firm's Litigation Practice Group. She concentrates her practice in environmental and land use law, as well as open government law. Westerberg frequently presents on environmental and open government issues.

Robert Yablon, UW Law School, Associate Professor: 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. Yablon's publications have appeared in several law reviews.

Registration details and resource materials are available on [our website](#).

This event is free and open to the public.

awareness and engaging voters to be ready to vote in the February 21 primary and April 4 general election. This quarter, the LWVDC Program Committee is focusing educational forums on Wisconsin courts and possible referenda questions that would make changes in the Wisconsin State Constitution. The Book Discussion committee is finding new and interesting reads, and the Voter Service volunteers are at it again, doing outreach wherever possible to help bring voters out for the critical Wisconsin Supreme Court race and many competitive local races. And of course, our finance people are keeping the wheels turning by leading the budget planning efforts, processing transactions, and managing the Memorial Trust Fund.

But that is not all. A strategic planning effort is underway to chart a course for the next few years, the Membership team is making changes in its processes to help members find their place, the Advocacy team is growing, and the Fund Development team is expanding its toolbox to fund our work. From the outside, it might look a bit like a Rube Goldberg machine but really, it does all work!

Some of you have joined LWVDC because you support our mission, even if you do not have time to give as volunteers. We appreciate and value you as champions and supporters.

If you have time to give and have not found your place yet, we want to help you do that. This year, we are going to be focused like a laser on helping our members discover the joys and rewards of being a League volunteer. There are thoughtful, well-informed people to meet, meaningful and important tasks to be done. I hope you are ready to jump in!

Collaboration and Canvassing Highlights

Barb Feeney (she/they), president@lwvdanecounty.org

Research on voter engagement shows that the most effective way to reach potential voters is through personal conversations. In addition to voter outreach through tabling at in-person events, LWVDC puts a high priority on supporting canvassing efforts whenever possible. Canvassing involves giving each volunteer canvasser a map (referred to as a “turf” in canvassing lingo) and sending canvassers out in pairs to knock on doors, looking to have personal conversations with people who will answer their doors.

The **Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign (WIVEC)**, which is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches and Interfaith Voices for Justice, has become a valued canvassing partner. They make connections with congregations to help people of faith align their faith-based values with the work of citizen engagement. Learn more about the WIVEC at <https://wivec.wichurches.org/>.



WIVEC Canvas

Before the August primary and November general election, WIVEC rallied members of congregations around the state to knock on doors and hand out flyers about voting. LWVDC partnered with them by

creating turfs, providing handouts, and training canvassers for Dane County congregations. The results of three canvassing events were outstanding, with **a total of 641 doors knocked and 299 conversations** with potential voters. Many of the canvassers were new to the world of door-knocking. Overwhelmingly, they reported having a positive experience engaging in non-partisan conversations with many voters. Our thanks to **Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Peter Bakken**, and WIVEC staff member **Rhonda Linder** for including us in this effort.

A canvassing effort sponsored by the **Voter ID Coalition** (of which LWVDC is a founding member) knocked over 400 doors. Thanks to **Julia Gilden** who led that effort and special thanks are owed to two volunteers, **Beth Cox** and **Beth Whittemore**, who completed the majority of the turfs over a period of a couple of weeks.

Fitchburg Alder Joe Maldonado, Madison Alder Yanette Figueroa Cole, and UW-Madison's Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity led two canvasses in the Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood in September and October. They were joined by a dozen LWVDC members, who knocked nearly 300 doors.

And finally, LWVDC was pleased to co-sponsor two canvass events held by the **Urban League of Greater Madison (UGLM)**, and also to co-sponsor WIVEC. Here again LWVDC's role was to provide turf maps, flyers, and training. Canvassers came back with smiles and reports of good interactions with residents. A total of 795 doors were knocked, with 335 interactions. Thank you to **Michelle Heitzinger** from ULGM and **Rabbi Bonnie Margulis** from WIVEC for including LWVDC in these successful events.



Allied Dunn's Marsh Canvas

If you have never canvassed before or have only participated in partisan canvasses, consider being part of a non-partisan canvass in the future. This form of reaching voters is effective and rewarding.

Badgers Vote!

Amanjot Kaur (she/her), League of Women Voters Intern and BadgersVote, akaur24@wisc.edu

LWVDC Voter Service funds two UW-Madison student internships. The League interns, along with other students, are part of the BadgersVote team based at the UW's Morgridge Center for Public Service. Last fall, interns Tabitha Houghton and Amanjot Kaur, along with their BadgersVote team members, used in-person events, social media campaigns, and much more to help register students and get them to the polls on election day. In this article, Kuar describes many of their activities and the impact on student turnout.

When walking around campus the first week of November, the only thing I could think about was the upcoming election, not just because of my passion for voting, but because of the tables, signs, and conversations about voting on every corner of the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus.

The 2022 midterm elections were an opportunity for students to share their voices and engage with democracy. Leading up to the election, students participated in activities to show their passion for voting, and they turned out at the polls with an unprecedented passion on Election Day.

BadgersVote Events Leading up to Election Day

As students prepared to cast their votes, the BadgersVote team worked to ensure that civic engagement among students remained high and that people felt prepared for the election. From workshops to social media to fun prizes and swag, BadgersVote used every opportunity to help students get involved in civic engagement, creating an exciting environment with events such as debate watch parties, voter education trivia, vote plans with Democracy Dino, and cameos on our Instagram from the Davis Brothers and Charlie Berens.



*Democracy Dino Roars for the Vote
Credit: Morgridge Center Communications
Team*

The campus watch parties for the Senate and Gubernatorial debates allowed BadgersVote to partner with other groups on campus, such as the Tommy Thompson Center on Public Leadership and the Social Justice Hub. These watch parties ensured that students knew the stances of candidates and offered an opportunity to register to vote.

BadgersVote events also included voter education trivia, where students answered questions about voting rights and history for the chance to win prizes. As the election approached, a friendly inflatable dinosaur named Democracy Dino (a.k.a. Shelby Fosco, our Co-Curricular Program Manager) appeared on campus to help students make plans to vote.

The excitement students showed when participating in these events was unlike anything I had experienced. It was truly exciting seeing the passion that students had for civic engagement leading up to Election Day.

Exceptional Turnout on Election Day

Student dedication to voting was exceptionally clear at the polls throughout early voting and on November 8. Lines at the polls stretched through buildings, and many students came prepared and excited to vote.

According to our preliminary data on voting at UW-Madison, between September 1 and November 8, 6,980 voting-compliant ID cards were issued for our students. Preliminary data from the Dane County Clerk's Office reports that over 10,400 individuals voted at on-campus voting locations on November 8, 2022. Student turnout at UW-Madison has long been above the national average, but this year was truly exceptional.

As a member of BadgersVote, I feel a true excitement and sense of pride in knowing that my fellow students turned out in such an incredible way for the 2022 midterm elections. UW-Madison students have shown the power of their voice and their dedication to civic engagement.

Calling All Prospective Leaders!

Lisa Janairo, Nominating Committee Chair, ljanairo129@gmail.com

Are you passionate about the League's mission to empower voters and defend democracy? If so, then I hope you'll consider running for a leadership position in LWVDC!

My own experience demonstrates that even new members can contribute a great deal to the League. I was recruited to chair the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee just three months after joining the League in 2020. I wound up chairing the committee for nearly two years and serving on the Board of Directors for six months. My short tenure on the Board ended in January 2022 when I decided to run for a seat on Middleton's Common Council. I feel strongly that the time I spent as a LWVDC leader helped me to run a successful campaign for a position in local government.



Photo credit [rob walsh](#) on [Unsplash](#)

In addition to starting me on an exciting "second chapter" of my life, being a League leader was an incredibly rewarding experience. I made a difference in how the League functions, I made friends, and I learned a lot about how we encourage informed and active participation in government. I can't speak highly enough of my experience as a League leader.

Some people worry about the time commitment of serving as a leader, and that's completely understandable. But a position on the League's Board or on the Nominating Committee is like any volunteer gig—it'll take as much time as you

choose to give it. One of the key skills that all prospective leaders need, therefore, is the ability to manage time well so that you can maintain a work/life balance that meets your needs.

The Nominating Committee has reworked our position descriptions to reflect that the League wants leadership to be accessible to all members, even those who hold full-time jobs or have young or school-aged children at home. In other words, we want leadership positions to fit our members instead of making our members conform to expectations that may seem excessive.

We're accepting nominations now through February 28 using a very simple Google form. You can nominate yourself or another League member for any of the positions that will be open for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2023. The Nominating Committee will review information on all the nominees 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 the [Board Nominations 2023-24](#) web page.

If you have questions about the nominating process or the various positions, don't hesitate to email me at ljanairo129@gmail.com. I'd be 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!

Get Involved! Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections This Spring

Joan I. Schwarz

Now is the time to get engaged in the crucial 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court election. Turnout is highest when people perceive that the stakes are high, and the stakes for the Supreme Court election could not be any higher.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court primary is February 21. Turnout is usually quite low for February elections, but we all need to vote in this election. While the Wisconsin Supreme Court is a nonpartisan election, the money flowing into the judicial campaigns is highly partisan, especially from sources outside of Wisconsin, and based on the money spent in previous judicial elections, it is estimated that at least \$10 million will be spent on this year's elections.



The news is filled with information about judicial philosophy of the candidates, with Waukesha County Judge Jennifer Dorow and Former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Dan Kelly characterized as conservatives and Dane County Judge Everett Mitchell and Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz characterized as progressives.

The primary election on February 21 is key because the two candidates who receive the most votes will advance to the election on April 4, so two candidates with the same judicial philosophy could face off in the April 4 election. The choice of the two judicial candidates who will advance to the spring election depends on how many people vote.

In the primary, we must select an experienced, non-ideological, non-political, and ethical justice. The Advocacy Corps is ready for your active engagement!

On the [LWVDC's Advocacy page](#), you can find links to the following resources:

- A slide presentation with information about how to write an effective letter to newspapers, the governor, the legislature, and other government entities.
- A Letter Writing folder with a welcome letter, resource page, and the slide presentation.
- A Judicial Integrity and Campaign Finance folder that contains:
 - A complete guide about concerns with the current Wisconsin State Supreme Court, including background, talking points, and articles about the Wisconsin State Supreme Court election
 - Sample letters
 - Email addresses for letters to the editor, the governor, the legislature, and other government officials

If you want to get involved with the LWVDC's Judicial Integrity and Campaign Finance Advocacy, email us at advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org. If you have questions about writing a letter or want your draft edited, we are available to help you. When you write a letter, please email a copy of your letter to us and include the name of the newspaper. Remember that all letters to the editor must be ONLY 200 WORDS.

Take action! Now is not the time to sit on the sidelines.

February Book Discussion: *On the Line* by Daisy Pitkin

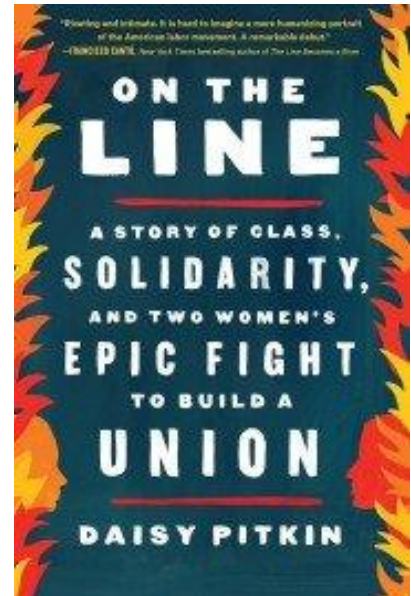
Louise Robbins, louise.s.robbs@gmail.com

This memoir was a Wisconsin Book Festival book, and the League of Women Voters will be discussing it in February. The author is a young labor organizer who is learning the ropes on the fly; the second woman is the commercial laundry worker who risks her health going to work and her job for helping organize. Needless to say, one has a bigger stake in the process than the other, but the women—so far as I have gotten—manage to maintain a relationship. How will it end? I don't know yet. But it is worth finding out.

Join us in discussing *On the Line* via Zoom:

- **Saturday, Feb. 11**, from 10–11:30 a.m.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 16**, from 10–11:30 a.m.

Sign up and indicate your session preference by emailing books@lwvdanecounty.org and let us know if you are interested in leading one or both of the discussions.



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.

Volunteer Profile: Carole Blemker

Barb Feeney (she/they), president@lwvdanecounty.org

LWVDC proudly wears its identity as a grassroots and volunteer-led organization. Our ability to carry out our mission of “empowering voters and defending democracy” rests on the willingness of our members to take on tasks and carry them out, often without notice or fanfare. We are happy to use this space to introduce you to Carole Blemker, one of our volunteers.

Carole Blemker is a food pantry liaison for the Voter ID Coalition (LWVDC is a founding member of the Coalition), providing the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry with information about voting that can be shared with pantry clients. Carole is also a dedicated volunteer with Literacy Network of Dane County. Literacy Network is a trusted organization for its clients who are learning to speak, read, and write in English. In 2022, Carole brought information about voting to 10 class cohorts. She led the students through mock voter registration and voting exercises so the students are ready to register when they achieve citizenship. Carole has also been spotted as a volunteer at voter registration events.

How did you get involved with LWVDC?

I think I joined after I attended a voting workshop at Sequoia Library somewhere around that time. It might have been 2017. I started waking up to the fact that if you want a democracy you have to work for it and not take for granted that it's going to be there. I questioned what small thing can I do that might be helpful? There is definitely a risk that democracy can be taken away, as has been the case for millions of people around the world. I just thought, "It Can't Happen Here" (a nod to the 1935 title by Sinclair Lewis). Yes...it can.

What inspires you?

What inspires me is when I meet people who are interested in voting, and enthusiastic about registering to vote, maybe for the first time! That is exciting.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I've been learning to play the guitar for about nine years. I still feel like a beginner. I enjoy gardening, until I get overwhelmed in late summer by the size and quantity of "uninvited garden guests." I like cooking, but a good pie crust is still a great mystery to me. I've recently discovered the joys of the genre of historical fiction (but, am convinced that truth is often stranger than fiction). And, last but not least, I am owned by my adorable Corgi, Lewis, a very distinguished gentleman of 11 years and counting! He gets lots of walks and love.



Voting advocate Lewis the Corgi

An Economy for All—How Can Dane County Excel?

December Forum Recap

Susan Stein, slinck@charter.net

LWVDC Program Director Sue Jennik opened the December 2022 forum by describing how, while strictly non-partisan, the League supports economic equity that leads to social good for all, and opposes public policy that leads to an unhealthy concentration of money and power in the hands of a few.

Madison Region Economic Partnership

Jason Fields is President and CEO of the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP), an economic development organization with a mission of attracting business to the region and fostering community development.

MadREP is currently focused on three issues impeding economic development in both urban and rural areas in our region: transportation, childcare, and housing. Specifically, MadREP:

- Helps get workers to jobs where transportation is a barrier.
- Supports employers to help employees find and afford childcare.

- Works to analyze access to the internet for workers, their families and, most importantly, their school-age children.

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

Ruth Schmidt is the CEO of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), which advocates for children in childcare centers and their teachers.



Photo credit: [nattanan23](#) on Pixabay

Wisconsin has a significant need for qualified teachers because early childhood educators often don't earn a living wage, despite the required education and credentials. Yet many families can't afford childcare in a licensed, regulated center, where children are safest and taught by quality professionals.

It is estimated that the economic cost in Dane County alone for childcare failure is at least \$300 million. And we are heading toward an economic cliff in January of 2024 when federal Child Care Counts funding is exhausted.

WECA works for adoption of its Raising Wisconsin program, which was created to draw attention to the budget crisis in quality early childhood education. It calls for a \$300 million investment in childcare in 2023. Schmidt recommends being an advocate for this initiative and following it on Facebook.

Madison Forward Fund

Blake Roberts is Program Manager of the Madison Forward Fund, which runs Madison's Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, an experimental research project that provides \$500 per month to 155 Madison families for one year. There is no work requirement and some participating families choose education over work while in the program.

Roberts explained the rationale behind "guaranteed income." Existing programs give a little bit of help in many different areas, but the restrictions hurt working families and sometimes prevent families from helping themselves. Roberts pointed out that a family's needs change month to month but welfare programs are not flexible.

Participants agreed to participate in the research and there is a control group of families that are not in the program. Final payments will be made to participants in August 2023 with final data collected in February 2024.

Results to date include increased family financial stability, increased participation in the labor market, and better educational outcomes for children. There is still resistance to the program, which Roberts attributes to stereotypes about who is worthy of help.

State Constitution: Are Changes Necessary?

January Forum Recap

Dan Stapleton, stapleton.dan@gmail.com, and Tori Sheldon, vgs2943@gmail.com

This forum explored amendments proposed to the Wisconsin Constitution by the Wisconsin State Legislature and their potential effect on our elections, justice system, and government.

Governor's Authority

Dustin Brown, Senior Staff Attorney, State Democracy Research Initiative at UW Law School

The Wisconsin Constitution gives the governor authority to distribute federal funds. Most states allow governors to spend federal dollars because these funds are often needed to manage crises. The proposed amendment would transfer that power from the executive to the legislature.

The legislature says that it should control all state monies, not just the budget, while the governor says that these funds must be delivered quickly, pointing out that the legislature didn't come into session for 300 days during the pandemic.

Pretrial Detention and Bail Criteria

Jerome Dillard, Executive Director, EXPO (EX-Incarcerated People Organizing)

When people can't pay bail, they're detained awaiting a hearing. Over 60% of the jail population in the U.S. has not been convicted.

This proposed amendment would change two concepts in the Wisconsin Constitution relating to bail:

- Currently, the court may impose reasonable conditions designed to protect the community from serious bodily harm. Under the proposed amendment, the court may impose reasonable conditions designed to protect the community from serious harm as defined by the legislature by law.
- Currently, the court may impose bail for pretrial release only as necessary to assure a defendant's appearance in court. The proposed amendment would authorize the court to impose bail for pretrial release for various other reasons when the defendant is accused of a violent offense as defined by the legislature by law.

While some states are moving away from bail in favor of other risk predictors, the legislature clearly supports the bail system. However, it is unclear how they will define violent crime and serious harm.

Voting Eligibility

Jeff Mandell, President and Lead Counsel at Law Forward

Under the current U.S. Constitution and statutes, every U.S. citizen aged 18 or older is entitled to vote in national, state, and local elections. A proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution states that only a U.S. citizen aged 18 or older may vote in an election for national, state, or local office or in a statewide or local referendum.

Those younger than 18 or non-citizens can't currently vote in Wisconsin elections, but this amendment could be used to prevent municipalities from inviting non-citizens to participate in local elections as has been tried in other states.

Election Administration

Jeff Mandell, President and Lead Counsel at Law Forward

When Wisconsin held statewide elections in spring 2020, pandemic-related costs consumed the Election Commission's budget, with little left to administer the fall elections. Because of the lack of funding, over 200 Wisconsin municipalities received election administration grants from the non-profit Center for Tech and Civic Life.

This proposed amendment would prohibit state and local governments from using privately sourced money or equipment for elections and would specify who may perform election-related tasks. To date, the legislature has not made provisions to fund elections when extenuating circumstances arise, though they have the authority to guarantee funding through the Sum Sufficient Rule.

Good News on the Climate Front

Lili Crane, advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org

Although the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 is not a "silver bullet" in terms of combating the climate crisis in the United States or addressing environmental justice, the IRA addresses the climate crises by moving the American economy to run on less-polluting sources of energy. The package has approximately \$370 billion in federal climate investments.



Photo credit: [PublicDomainPictures](#) on Pixabay

This lengthy bill affects citizens, small businesses, and local communities in a number of ways:

- Clean energy tax credits
 - Provides a long-term extension and expansion of clean electricity tax credits.
 - Makes significant investments in curbing transportation pollution by addressing emissions from the most-polluting sources, such as light and heavy-duty vehicles.
- Electric vehicle tax credits
 - Allows eligible individuals to receive up to \$7,500 off the purchase of a new electric vehicle or \$4,000 off a used vehicle.
- Clean buildings
 - Provides rebates for home electrification and energy efficiency.
 - Offers residential energy efficiency tax credits.
 - Provides tax incentives for energy efficiency in commercial buildings and new homes.
 - Invests in the efficiency and resilience of affordable housing.

- Environmental and climate justice
 - The impact of pollution and climate change do not fall on all communities equally. Communities with a higher percentage of Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, and low-income people have suffered and continue to suffer the most. The IRA directs at least \$60 billion of investments for programs identified as priorities by environmental justice communities and advocates.
- State and local climate action
 - Awards competitive climate pollution reduction grants to states, municipalities, and tribes to support the establishment and implementation of plans to reduce climate pollution.
- Offers additional discretionary grants for states.

What can we do to take advantage of this legislation?

- ✓ Join the Advocacy Corp Climate-Environmental Justice Work Group by emailing advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org.
- ✓ Collaborate with nonpartisan climate groups such as Citizens' Climate Lobby at <http://madisonccl.info>.
- ✓ Support Dane County budget items that benefit the climate at <https://board.countyofdane.com/budget>.
- ✓ Educate your local municipalities about climate pollution reduction grants available under the IRA.

Welcome to Our Newest Board Member: Jill Jokela

Barb Feeney (she/they), president@lwvdanecounty.org

In November, Jill Jokela was appointed to the LWVDC Board to serve until June 30, 2023.

Tell us about your work background

I worked for the State of Wisconsin for 37 years in information technology at the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Workforce Development. The majority of my career was spent working with the IT systems that supported economic support programs—AFDC/W2, Child Care, FoodShare, and Medical Assistance. The last 10 years I was the IT manager for the Unemployment Insurance systems.

How did you get involved with LWVDC?

I've always appreciated the mission of the League of Women Voters and first joined the League several years ago to show support, but did not actively participate when I was still working. Once I retired in the fall of 2020, I had the time to become more involved and started working on committees and doing voter outreach events. Several of my former coworkers are active in the League, so it's been great to re-connect and also to meet a whole lot of new people who are all doing such great work!

What inspires you?

The mission of the League inspires me. I love doing voter outreach and helping people register to vote. I'm also inspired by the young people in our community and enjoy working with high school students on voter education.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I like to be active! I play soccer and volleyball, take pilates and yoga classes, and hike with friends every week. If we had better snow, I'd be snowshoeing and skiing more often this winter. My kids live in Denver, so I enjoy frequent trips to Colorado for hiking and skiing as well. I like to keep moving!



Hiking in Colorado

LWVDC Strategic Planning: Research and Retreats

Wendy Hathaway (she/her), wendy@lwvdanecounty.org

A Recap:

LWVDC is undergoing strategic planning over the next several months. The Board voted in September to approve funding of no more than \$10,000 to contract with two organizations to facilitate internal and external research and our internal planning process: Dane County Community Development (a division of UW–Extension) and UW–Madison's Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies at the School of Human Ecology.

Representatives from these organizations conducted surveys and focus groups throughout the month of December. We asked LWVDC members about member and volunteer engagement, the public-facing work and focus of the League, internal structure, culture, and more. Dozens of community leaders and partner organizations told us more about perception and where others see the League providing the most service to our community in the democracy and civic engagement space, now and in the future.

What's Next:

After the surveys and focus groups in December, the Board met for its first retreat in late January to discuss the results of the research and participate in a visioning exercise, pondering the question: "What do we want to see happen and who do we want to be in the next three to five years, as a result of our direct actions?" The Board will meet again in February and March to discuss potential challenges, actionable strategies, and an implementation plan. Watch future issues of Bulletin for updates and please feel free to contact me any time with questions.

January 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Wendy Hathaway (she/her), wendy@lwvदानecounty.org

- Planning is in the works around logistics and format for the LWVDC Annual Meeting. It's been difficult the last few years, not being able to gather together due to COVID safety precautions, and Board leaders are hard at work figuring out the best ways to conduct League business and also find time to socialize safely.
- Treasurer Jean Jacobson kicked off budget planning season with a mid-year check-in on the League's finances. At an upcoming Board meeting, leaders will discuss collective priorities and spend much of February and March working with fellow volunteers to identify revenue opportunities and budget needs for 2023-24. Members will be asked to vote on this budget at the Annual Meeting in late spring.
- Our Federal 990 tax return has been filed. Thanks to Julie Allen, Assistant Treasurer, for many hours of hard work on this report.

Contributions

Thank you to these supporters who donated in November and December 2022.

General Donations

Christopher Alfeld
Rebecca Alwin
Jan Anderson
Mary Bauhs
Jan Blakeslee
Gail Bliss
Jason Buck
James Cory
Mary Crist
Linda Dietrich
Christopher Dolan
Carol and Robert Dutton
Don Ferber
Martha Frey
Peggy & Carl Glassford

Sally Gleason
Nancy Gloe
Irene & Don
Golembiewski
Wava Haney
Madeleine Hayes
Susan Hoffman
Carol Hollar-Zwick
Penny & Keith Holste
Rita Honnold
Brian Huttenburg
Lisa Janairo
Susan Jennik
Andrea Kaminski
Alice Kavanagh

Debora Kennedy
Carol Kiemel
Paul Knitter
Doug Knudson
Jamie Krohn
Mary Kunkel
Sheila Leary
Florence Lederman
Madelyn Leopold &
Claude Kazanski
Helen LeRoy
Zachary Levin
Sharon Lezberg
Rita Lloyd
Justine Malinski

Fall Fundraising Campaign

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the League of Women Voters of Dane County during our Fall 2022 Fundraising Campaign! Thanks to the generosity of the community and our LWVDC members—including several League members who provided a seed gift toward this campaign—we exceeded our goal of raising \$30,000 to empower voters and defend democracy.

An additional thank you to everyone who worked on this appeal, including members of the Fund Development Committee and the Board of Directors, Office Administrator Kerry Helmer, Enews Editor Brook Soltvedt, and Connie Bakker, Pam Hennessy, Nancy Hochstetter, Joyce Knutson, Lil Larson, and Katrina V. Willis, who helped with the mailing.

Mary & Kirk Malnor
Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
Myrna McNatt
Mary & Donald Metz
Amy Moran
Kate Morand
Brent Nicastro & Nora
Cusack
Mitchell Nussbaum
Peg O'Donoghue
Stacey Olikier & Lew
Friedland
Jan O'Neill & Hank Kuehling

Pat Patterson & Bruce Kahn
Nancy Pekar
Judy Peppard
Anne Perrote
Sara Richards
Gordon Ridley
Janie Riebe
Blake Roberts
Terry Ross
Luke Sackash
Marjorie Schuett
Sylvie Schuresko
Rose Sime

Suzanne Smith
Rebecca Spithill
Daniel Stapleton
Susan Stein
Lauren Surovi
Joyce Tikalsky
Charles Uphoff
Josh Weber
Julia Weiser
Liz Wessel
Dorothy Wheeler
Sandra & Peter Williams

Memorial Donations

In memory of Joann Elder

Carol Carstensen
Dianne Greenley
Sue Hoffenberg
The Madison Institute

In memory of

Megan Marie Rosborough

Ellen & Michael Rosborough

In memory of

Connie Threinen

Marie Carter
The Madison Institute

Community & Corporate Donations

NAACP Dane County Branch

New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in November and December 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](#)

Cobi Czaplewski
Nick Famularo
Malena Johnson
Audrey McManigle
Maeve Moening

Jacqueline Mortell
Rachel Mullis
Linda Nelson
Jordan Nickell
Alyssa Rice

Amy Staffen
Lucy Wentink
McKenzie Zdrale

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Discussion Units

Many League members meet in one of six units to discuss the topic of each forum, using the resource 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.

Please contact the Unit Discussion Leader if interested in participating in a Unit Discussion so that you will get a Zoom link. Consult [the calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information about specific meetings.

Unit: Prairie Ridge (*For Prairie Ridge residents only*)

Time: 3:30 p.m., third Monday of month

Location: Virtual, via Zoom through fall/winter

Leaders: [Dot Whiting](#)

Unit: West / Middleton

Time: 6:30 p.m., third Monday of month

Location: Virtual, via Zoom through fall/winter

Leader: [Ralph Petersen](#), [Helen Horn](#) (608) 231-1807

Unit: Central West

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

Location: Virtual, via Zoom

Leader: [Kathy Johnson](#) (608) 238-1785

Unit: Northeast Side

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

Location: Virtual, via Zoom

Leaders: [Karen Gunderson](#) (608) 729-4351

Unit: Downtown (Capitol Lakes)

Time: 5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of month

Location: Virtual, via Zoom

Leader: [Aileen Nettleton](#)

Upcoming Events

Feb. 7	Advocacy Corps, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Member Pop-Up: Drumlin Ridge Winery, 2 p.m.
Feb. 9	Virtual Forum: Wisconsin Supreme Court, Why Your Vote Matters, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	February Book Discussion, 10 a.m.
Feb. 13	Voter Service Steering Committee, 2 p.m.
Feb. 14	February Book Discussion, 10 a.m.
Feb. 15	Northeast Side Discussion Unit, 3:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Downtown Discussion Unit, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	LWVDC Office Closed for Presidents' Day
Feb. 20	Membership Team, noon
Feb. 20	West/Middleton Discussion Unit, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Central West Discussion Unit, 12:45 p.m.
Feb. 27	Program/Advocacy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

2023 Elections

Feb. 21

Spring Primary ([voter deadlines](#))

Apr. 4

Spring Election

[Candidates' Answers](#), our League's voter guide, and [Vote411.org](#), the national League's voter website, which gives address-specific information, are available online. Both have election information and spring primary candidate responses to League questions. Be an informed voter!

The League in the News

Brian Standing interviewed Dustin Brown and Jerome Dillard, two of our January forum speakers, and Program Director Sue Jennik on WORT-FM's 8 O'clock Buzz on January 9. Read more and listen to their discussion on WORT's website: [Constitutional Amendments Could Be on The Spring Ballot. Our Guests Are Opposed To Them.](#)

The forum was also promoted in [the Isthmus](#) and [the Deforest Times-Tribune](#).

