



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

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Executive Committee:

Christine Clements, President
Jean Jacobson, Vice President
Barb Feeney, Voter Service Chair
Wendy Hathaway, Executive Director

Bulletin Editor

Lauren Surovi, bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org

President's Message

Christine Clements, president@lwvdanecounty.org

I am sometimes asked about the work of the LWVDC Board of Directors. Many of you are active with voter registration efforts or participate in program forums but are less certain about initiatives at the board level. While a primary responsibility of the board is to meet the mission of the League of Women Voters by supporting the work of our members in these areas of direct impact, developing, and maintaining an infrastructure that will strengthen and sustain the work of the League is also an important responsibility. This year, an area of focus has been formalizing communication processes for greater impact.

Since last spring, effort has been put into our League external communications. Before leaving, our former executive director Kate Vickery met with our communication tool coordinators to create a map that articulated

Saturday, January 8

1:00 p.m.

Lively Issues Forum

Saving Democracy: What's Next for Wisconsin?

Worried about our democracy and wondering what you can do? **Matt Rothschild**, this year's Lively Issues speaker, knows a lot about the problems and solutions to make democracy work for all of us. Join the conversation in January as Matt Rothschild and **Joy Cardin** discuss voter protections, election security, fair maps, and campaign finance reform. They'll also highlight actions you can take to make our government work for everyone.

Look for more details in the upcoming announcement in the LWVDC E-News!

Study materials will be available at www.lwvdanecounty.org.

Forums are free and open to the public.

the League's perceived audience and purpose, editorial content decision-making, and review processes, among other factors, for each tool. Critical LWVDC external communication tools include the Bulletin, weekly E-news, Program publicity and research discussion materials, League e-mails, web pages, social media, speaking for the League, and voter service materials.

An ad hoc committee of individuals currently involved with League communications reviewed the map and began the process of developing and reviewing editorial guidelines. Once completed, these guidelines will clarify for users and readers the appropriate content and process for publishing, allowing us to utilize and manage our communications strategically.

Next steps include the development of the Communications Domain, the selection of a communications director in our next election, and the establishment of the Communications Committee. The committee will likely include those volunteers who have editorial responsibility for each of these tools. The director will co-direct with our new executive director, Wendy Hathaway, who has extensive career experience in this area.

While improving communications is a major focus, the board has also recently updated the League's partnership policy to better reflect the approach at the National League level. We also developed an employee handbook, reviewed our vendor policy and nominating process, and we are in the process of evaluating our technology systems against Club Express, a system being promoted by the National League. Our reason to exist and what brings us to the table will always be empowering voters and defending democracy. The need to do so with as much impact as possible in a changing ecosystem sometimes requires a broader array of initiatives.

This has been an exciting and challenging year, and we look forward to moving our League forward with you all in 2022!

Fall Appeal

Christine Clements, president@lwvdanecounty.org

The League of Women Voters of Dane County kicked off its Fall Giving Appeal on November 16 with a \$5000 challenge gift from an anonymous and generous member. This appeal, like last fall's appeal, is focused on our Making Democracy Work initiatives, including:

- Funding campaigns to inform citizens about efforts to silence their voices.
- Broadening our outreach to marginalized communities by providing them with timely information about voter registration and voter photo ID requirements.
- Developing, printing, and distributing materials in both English and Spanish.
- Producing and distributing Candidates' Answers to thousands of Dane County residents.

In Case You Missed It...

Missed November's Virtual Public Issues Forum?

You can view the recording online on the League's website!

Click here:

[Kicking Carbon to the Curb](#)

Supplementary resource materials can also be found [online](#).

As you prepare for your end-of-year giving, please consider a gift to the League of Women Voters of Dane County. The challenges to our freedom to vote and the threats to our democratic processes have never been greater. Please help us to empower voters and defend democracy by making a gift today.

Meet our new Executive Director

Christine Clements, president@lwvdanecounty.org

I am delighted to introduce to you our new executive director, Wendy Hathaway. Wendy is a lifelong Wisconsinite. She grew up in Eau Claire and has lived in Dane County since 2000. She graduated from UW–Madison with degrees in journalism and communication arts and spent the first several years of her career as a television news producer and internet director at WKOW-TV.



Wendy is a successful entrepreneur, having managed her own thriving freelance writing business since 2014. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Women's Medical Fund of Wisconsin and volunteers with Meals on Wheels.

Wendy has been a member of LWVDC since 2018 and has been active in many Voter Service efforts including voter registration, Apartment Outreach, and the Voter Helpline. She credits her lifelong passion for civic engagement and upholding democracy to her grandmother, a dedicated election worker, and her mom and dad, who regularly brought her into the voting booth with them.

We are very excited to have Wendy join us in the executive director role. She brings a full portfolio of relevant experience and essential skills to our organization. Wendy began her work with us on November 15, and we look forward to the opportunity to introduce her to those of you who have not yet met her. Please join me in welcoming Wendy in this new role!

Wendy welcomes the opportunity to get to know more League members. Please feel free to reach out to her at wendy@lwvdanecounty.org.

Board Member Exit

I am very sorry to report that Maria Spinozzi, our vice president of governance, has resigned from the Board of Directors. Maria has been an outstanding board member, joining 3.5 years ago as the Bulletin chair. In addition to her board responsibilities, she spent much of last year spearheading the research and study group on different electoral systems, including ranked choice voting. Her work in this area inspired efforts in the State League, including the presentation and discussion in this fall's Issues Briefing.

Maria took over Marilyn Stephen's role as VP of governance when Marilyn moved to Michigan last spring. While serving in this position, Maria served on the Executive Committee, chaired the Executive Director Search Committee (having also served on the committee for the first search), fostered the changes in our Bylaws through our annual meeting, oversaw revision of the partnership policy and vendor policy, and as a final contribution, developed and submitted a Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship request on behalf of the League.

Her straightforward and pragmatic approach, the clarity of her objective and insightful voice, and her amazing productivity will be a huge loss for us. Though we will miss her, I know we all wish her the best as she manages her growing business and increases time available for family.

Voter Service Success at UW–Madison and Madison College

Tabitha Houghton (thoughton2@wisc.edu) and Barb Feeney (barb.feeney@lwvdanecounty.org)

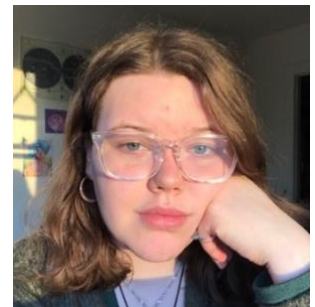
In early November, LWVDC learned that UW–Madison and Madison College each received two awards by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. Each campus was honored with the Highest Voter Registration Award and the Highest Voter Turnout award in Wisconsin. The [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) is a national awards program that recognizes colleges and universities for their commitment to increasing student voting rates. The goal is to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, make democratic participation a core value on their campus, and cultivate generations of engaged citizens who are essential to a healthy democracy. A total of 23 campuses in Wisconsin participated in the ALL IN Challenge in 2020, among 800 campuses nationwide.

The success at Madison College and UW–Madison is due to outstanding cooperative efforts by the administration at UW and Madison College, as well as by the City of Madison Clerk's office and the League of Women Voters of Dane County. League volunteers who led the efforts on both campuses include Marian Matthews, Paul Lindquist, and Kathy Fullin. Bonnie Chang led the involvement of the City of Madison Clerk's office. Many members of the League and the Voter ID Coalition supported the effort as well.

As evidence of this work, in 2020 the voting rate on the UW–Madison campus was 72.8%, an increase of 7.4% compared to 2016!

LWVDC has a special involvement on the UW–Madison campus, with two League-funded intern positions that work out of the UW Morgridge Center for Public Service. In 2020, interns **Makyala Pesch** and **Angela Maloney** were part of the campus voting outreach. This year, **Tabitha Houghton** and **Kayla Schwartz** continue this work.

The LWV interns are part of the BadgersVote team, a group of ten student interns from several organizations, including LWVDC, the Campus Vote Project, Campus Election Education Engagement Project, and the Andrew Goodman Foundation. Team members all work out of the Morgridge Center and collaborate on a variety of projects with advising from their supervisors. Most of the project ideas and goals are generated by the interns. Some of the work this team has done includes scheduling a week of events for Voter Education Week, making contacts with students residing in campus housing, and creating an information podcast called Podcast Your Vote. The team is planning to do voter outreach for the 2022 elections in February and April, informed by the detailed data collected during the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.



Tabitha Houghton, one of the LWVDC interns from UW–Madison. She also serves as Lead Intern for BadgersVote.



The student-to-student outreach made possible by the university's commitment to supporting the BadgersVote Team is a big win for democracy. Likewise, Madison College's support for voter outreach efforts on campus has paid off with outstanding voter registration and turnout results. LWVDC greatly values these partnerships along with all of our members who made these campus successes possible.

DEI Committee Update

Lisa Janairo (ljana129@gmail.com), DEI Committee Chair

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee assists the Board and the various domains by making recommendations for implementing our [DEI Policy](#); providing guidance, when needed, to implement those recommendations; and leading the implementation of specific recommendations.

One very active role has been organizing a group of members to take the “Black History for a New Day” online course offered by the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development. A group of eight LWVDC members started this virtual course on September 27 and wrapped up with a “virtual potluck” on November 29. I facilitated the weekly sessions for the members and truly enjoyed our discussions, which were rich, impactful, and often directly relevant to the League’s work.

The League offered scholarships to members to attend this session. The DEI Committee soon will recommend to the Board whether to again offer scholarships and organize a group to attend [the next course, scheduled for February 7-April 11](#). If you might be interested in being part of a LWVDC group, [email me](#) so I can put you on the distribution list for information. Even if the League doesn’t organize another group course, I encourage all members to take the Nehemiah course. You’ll learn things about American history that you didn’t learn in school.

The DEI Committee also is actively working on three other recommendations:

- We provided input into the Community Alliances Committee’s (CAC) recommended **guidance for conducting land acknowledgements**. The LWVWI Board accepted the recommendation, so now the guidance will go to the LWVDC Board for discussion and adoption.
- No League in Wisconsin has a **process for reporting incidents of bias** of any kind or for resolving reports that are received. Not even the LWVUS has a recommended approach. The CAC has organized an ad hoc committee to develop such guidance. I’ll be representing Dane County on that committee.
- At our November 19 meeting, the DEI Committee agreed on a **new name for the Carrie Chapman Catt Award**. We’ll make our recommendation to the Board in December.

We’ll also be hosting DEI Cafés more frequently, beginning December 2. The cafés are reverting to their original format of providing an unstructured, safe space for LWVDC members to share their questions, ideas, and experiences. If you’re on the journey to gaining a better understanding of issues related to discrimination of all kinds — and unlearning the things it took a lifetime to learn — please consider joining us at one of the cafés in 2022.

In December and January, I’ll be having conversations with individual domain leaders to find ways that the DEI Committee can assist them in transforming our organization into a more welcoming space for all our members and a better partner for all our allies — both existing and prospective new ones.

We always welcome new members. If you’d like to attend a DEI Committee meeting to see whether the committee might be a good fit for you, please [email me](#) to be added to the list to receive meeting information.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

I Love My Car: LWVDC Transportation Options Challenge Gets in Gear

Meg Gordon (mbgordon721@gmail.com)

I love my car: quick and efficient, freedom to get where I want to go when I want to go and carry the heavy stuff I need — think 40 lb. bag of dog food or water softener salt. What's not to love?

Um—how 'bout seeing other vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and wildlife as obstacles in my way instead of as friends, neighbors, someone's parent or kid. Stop lights. Intersections that don't clear after a single light change. Salty dust in the air and brine on the roads that now flavor our drinking water.

Cold-starts and idling in traffic wastes lots of gas and pumps lots of carbon dioxide into the air — really bad for the climate. Lucky us, though, Dane County and the City of Madison offer alternatives, thanks to savvy public employees who design and operate that infrastructure. So, this winter, over 47 of us will be testing out our transportation options, fighting our first instinct to jump in the car. Putting what we learned from the recent ["Kicking Carbon to the Curb" forum](#) to use, we will (when appropriate) be riding the bus, taking our bikes, walking, combining car trips, testing out what works and what doesn't, and sharing our stories.



Swag bag, including bus passes, given by the League to all Challenge participants. Anyone can request one for free!

"The other day at Hildale, I walked from where I was parked at the north end of the parking lot to a store on the south end," says LWVDC Transportation Options Challenger Sally Gleason. "Prior to the forum, I would have moved my car."

"I am participating not because I want to turn my car into a planter but because I want to know how to use alternative transportation options today," says Challenger Cara Lee Mahany Braithwait. "Simple barriers, such as where, when, and how to ride the bus or navigate a topo map for bike routes without steep hills, become excuses. I want to know how to use these services today and seamlessly incorporate them into my daily life."

So why is a voting organization like the League spending time on transportation? Transportation means infrastructure. If our leaders in the public and private sectors are proactive in improving these assets, we will all be better prepared socially and economically to cope with climate fallout.

Advocating for the solutions that work for us and supporting innovative leadership aimed at liberation from a seductive car culture is a voter's job.

LWVWI Board President Dorothy Skye said it best: "Advocating for infrastructure improvements is a way to bring together people with disparate political leanings to make progress on issues of practical concern to all community residents. Supporting action on infrastructure issues can help Leagues build cross-party relationships, improve bipartisan participation in our candidate and issue forums and Vote 411, and elevate the League's standing in our communities."

Challenger Carol Barford says, "It's great to have many folks taking the challenge; I'll strive to keep up with them!"

Join the Challenge any time either with us (email me at mbgordon721@gmail.com) or on your own. With lots of ordinary people making these little changes, together we can make a big change. What's not to love!

Review: Kicking Carbon to the Curb

Bruce Kahn (bwkahn@gmail.com)

I attended the November Forum, “Kicking Carbon to the Curb: Ordinary People Doing Ordinary Things.” Moderator Carol Barford, director of the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment at UW–Madison, set the stage by talking about the impact of vehicle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on the climate and ways individuals, businesses, and organizations can reduce these emissions. Next, Philip Gritzmacher, Jr. (City of Madison transportation planner), Robbie Webber (retired from the UW–Madison State Smart Transportation Initiative and long-time bicycling advocate), and Zia Brucaya (Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation options program manager) all discussed Madison and Dane County’s transportation emissions mitigation strategies, some of which were new to me and many I plan to use.



The average American’s carbon footprint is 28% from transportation, 14% from food, 17% from home heating and cooling, 15% from other home energy uses, and 28% from stuff you buy. Now I can act by encouraging businesses and governments to act: “Hey Costco, use more recyclable packaging!” and by supporting more EV charging infrastructure and funding for low-income housing insulation retrofits. I also signed up for the Transportation Challenge to reduce my own vehicle miles travelled.

I learned a new concept, Transportation (or Transit) Demand Management (TDM), which are a set of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Growing up in Washington D.C., I saw a small beginning of TDM when the Metro system was built and metropolitan planners staggered start and end times for government workers. The strategy was to reduce traffic congestion.

Today’s TDM includes city planners encouraging developers to add transit options to reduce Single Occupant Vehicle miles, including childcare services in developments, and providing additional travel options (bikeshare, carpooling, walking, etc.). When Madison’s bus rapid transit (BRT) system starts in 2024, many proposed strategies will make it easier for riders to get on and off buses. Platform entry removes steps, making it easier for those who can’t climb steps, or who bring aboard strollers, wheelchairs, and bikes, to directly roll in.

Upcoming Program Events

Pat Patterson (patriciamiles Patterson615@gmail.com), Program Chair

Mark your calendars for these great events coming in 2022!

January 8, 2022: Lively Issues Forum. Look for the announcement in the E-News!

February 1, 2022: Social Equity Forum

March 1, 2022: Climate Change Forum

April 5, 2022: Social Equity Forum

For questions about these events or to get involved with LWVDC programming, contact Program Chair Pat Patterson.

DEI Reflections: First Trust, then Combined Efforts

Janie Riebe (jkriebe@frontier.com)

"Anti-racism work is never transactional.

If we want it to be transformational it has to be relational." [Brené Brown](#)

"Your relationship isn't transformational if it doesn't change you." [Benjamin Hardy](#)

Ever since I heard Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins speak to us at the "Lively Issues" forum back in January, I have been attending to one statement that she made in particular. In answering a question about how to achieve greater diversity in our League of Women Voters' membership, she said we need to adopt a transformational, rather than a transactional approach in our interactions and relationships with a wide diversity of individuals and groups.



Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins

In my notes from that "Lively Issues" forum I wrote, **"At what point do we invest in bringing people to us *as themselves*, as opposed to inviting people to us to *meet our purposes*?"** I wrote down examples of what our purposes might be, such as expanding outreach to potential voters, partnering on a special project where we share a common interest, or increasing diversity among our membership.

Since then, and particularly after a brief discussion of the meaning of these terms at a DEI Café, I have delved into this topic and discovered that the ideas of Transformational and Transactional relationships are commonly used in Leadership theory and education. There is a significant amount of research in that realm.

But in the arena of race relations, it is difficult to acquire much insight. Since this concept has come on my radar, I have recalled at least three experiences in the recent past where I took a transactional approach, sincerely believing that these interactions would be beneficial to all parties involved. The results were less than I had hoped for (although one may have been pandemic-related). I came to realize that mine was a transactional approach, not built on established relationships with the organizations.

One of the League members at the DEI Café suggested that we hold a League discussion on the meaning of these terms in relation to our organization's efforts to achieve a more diverse membership. DEI Cafés may be a good forum for those conversations — or maybe we'll hold a special event early in 2022. I encourage members to come up with your own examples of what a transformational relationship would look like compared to a transactional one. Let what you discover guide you toward building relationships that will change you.

These ideas are difficult to put into practice during a pandemic, but at least we can get started by discussing them, understanding them in the context of our organization, and setting goals to aspire to achieve more transformational relationships moving forward.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in October. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website. If you have forgotten the password, there is a link to contact the webmaster for help.

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

Tabitha Houghton
Julie Mead

Zak Rottier
Kayla Schwartz

Contributions

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

General Donations

James Cory
Lynn Glueck
Jeannette & Kenneth Golden
Lydie Hudson
Mary Kunkel

Julie Mead
Phyllis Menne
Kristin Meyer
Kate Morand
Judith Munger

Joanne & Guy Plunkett
Joan Schwarz
Rose Sime
Miriam Simmons

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 are 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. **Reminder: No discussion units will be held during the months of December and January! Discussion Units will resume at the regular dates and times in February.**

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](#) (608-831-3267), [Helen Horn](#), 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

Dec. 13	Membership Committee Meeting, 12 p.m.
Dec. 13	Voter Service Steering Committee, 4 p.m.
Dec. 23–Jan. 2	Office Closed
Jan. 4	Candidate Nomination Papers Deadline
Jan. 8	Lively Issues Forum, 1 p.m.
Jan. 11	Voter Service Steering Committee
Jan. 12	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	Membership Committee Meeting, 12 p.m.
Feb. 1	Early Voting for Spring Primary begins
Feb. 9	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Voter Service Steering Committee, 4 p.m.

2022 Elections

Feb. 15	Spring Primary
Apr. 5	Spring Election
Aug. 9	Fall Partisan Primary
Nov. 8	Fall General election

