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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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November 2021

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President's Message

Christine Clements,
president@lwvdanecounty.org

By the time you read this message, our advocacy volunteers will have harnessed the people power of the League to show up at the State Capitol and fight for Fair Maps and a non-partisan redistricting process, and the fight will continue. In November, our Voter Service Steering Committee will be evaluating fall activities and considering future

League initiatives in getting all potential voters

Tuesday, November 9

7:00-8:15 p.m.

Kicking Carbon to the Curb: *Ordinary People Doing Ordinary Things*

A LWVDC Virtual Public Issues Forum

Do you feel that nagging climate anxiety? Then join us to act with the solutions already in our grasp! Topping the list? Changing how we get where we want to go. Join the LWVDC on Nov. 9 as we learn how to use and trust our continually improving public transit options, bike paths, and sidewalks. Planners with the City of Madison and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are promoting rideshare, bike routes, walking paths, and bus routes—all designed to help us leave our cars behind whenever possible. The more we use them, the more accessible, affordable, comfortable, and secure these alternate transportation options will become. Our speakers will lead the way. Our climate team will introduce a way to drive change in our own households with an invitation to join our **Transportation Options Challenge**. This is citizen science at its best: try the alternatives, share your experiences, recommend the improvements that really matter. We're not going back to the horse and buggy—we are ordinary people taking ordinary steps to create an extraordinary energy future!

Forum registration, resource materials, and **Transportation Options Challenge** are available [here](#).

Forums are free and open to the public.

registered and to the polls in a constantly changing and often hostile landscape. Our Programs volunteers will be offering their November Forum on [*Kicking Carbon to the Curb*](#) and planning for the next forum as well as our late winter Lively Issues Forum. We will be getting ready to bring our new executive director on board and preparing our fall fundraising appeal, and the nominating committee will begin thinking about developing next year's leadership slate.

November is a busy month, but it is also a month of gratitude for me. As life around us prepares for winter, League members continue to meet, plan, innovate and act to make a difference. Your untiring commitment to defending our democracy inspires me. I am thankful to the volunteers of the League, in particular our Voter Service volunteers and Program and Advocacy volunteers, and all those who are fighting so hard for Fair Maps. Your efforts remind me of the words of poet Amanda Gorman, "The new dawn blooms as we free it, for there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it." There will always be plenty to do. I hope you will also find time to reflect and be grateful for the League's many accomplishments as we move toward the close of a wild and crazy year.



Update from the Executive Director Search Committee

Maria Spinozzi, mspinozzi@gmail.com

The search for an executive director led to a lot of activity in October. The search committee reviewed all candidate resumes and conducted virtual interviews with three candidates. After conducting interviews, the search committee brought recommendations to the Board. The Board chose to move the two top candidates forward to the next round, which consists of interviews with the Board of Directors. By the time you're reading this, the Board hopes to have selected a candidate and sent an offer. We look forward to notifying the membership once a candidate accepts an offer to be our next executive director.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

LWVDC Leadership Opportunities

Christine Clements, president@lwvdanecounty.org

We are soon moving into nominations season for the 2022-2023 LWVDC Board of Directors. Many of members have served in leadership positions in the past and for that, I would like to express my gratitude. You have built a strong and durable League that has made a profound difference throughout Dane County. I know this by the long list of accomplishments and because, whenever I make known in the community my involvement with the League, I am thanked for the work we do and the positive impact we have.

For those who have not yet taken on a leadership role, including our newest members, let me encourage you to consider this commitment. I am in my fourth year as a member of the board and currently serve as its president. When I first joined the board as a League member of less than one year, I wasn't certain what my contributions could be or if it was an appropriate role for me. What I found was a leadership board of both experienced and relatively new members, and a tremendous opportunity to learn and to share. Everyone brings a unique perspective and set of experiences and skills that makes the League more representative of the diverse community in which we act.

The next LWVDC election, which will be held at our May 2022 annual meeting, will have eight openings. Several board positions will also likely be appointed by the Board. Elected opportunities include my position as president, as well as two vice presidents (one as VP of Finance and one as VP of Governance), a Program & Advocacy Director, a Fund Development Director, a Communications Director (new position), and the Treasurer. Elected positions may be for one or two-year terms. Currently, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Director and Advocacy Director positions are one-year appointments. Appointed director positions may vary based on needs of the organization. **Descriptions of these positions may be viewed [here](#).**

Development of the slate of nominees will begin in the next few months. Between now and then, I encourage you to consider adding your name to the nominations. League leadership provides an opportunity to serve the mission of the League in a critical role. These positions are challenging and rewarding, allowing leaders to use creativity and problem-solving skills to influence the future of the League. No matter the role, you will find a supportive network of current and past leaders and have the privilege of serving an extraordinary and dedicated membership. Please contact me at president@lwvdanecounty.org if you would like to talk more about these opportunities.

In Case You Missed It...

Have you seen the League's Blog, *Swinging for the Fences*, lately?

Check out the [latest post](#):
"Car Free for the Climate:
A 350 Madison Event"

"Concerned citizens often wonder what they can do to help solve the climate crisis. We at 350 Madison, the local action group of the international organization 350.org, have an answer."

Check out the blog post to find out what 350 Madison is up to!

Hiring of Madison Police Monitor Nears

Mary Anglim, mtanglim@gmail.com

Kathleen Fullin, kathyfullin@gmail.com

The City of Madison Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB) has been conducting oral interviews for the finalists for the position of Independent Police Monitor, which is slated to begin in early 2022.

The recruitment of an Independent Police Monitor represents another step forward in a very long process that began in late 2015, when the Madison Police Department (MPD) Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee was formed. The LVWDC has been supporting efforts to implement civilian oversight of the Madison Police Department, beginning with our support for the resolution establishing the Policy and Procedure Review Committee. Impetus for this Committee included a number of police shooting deaths between 2012 and 2015, resulting in several multi-million-dollar settlements with families of the victims.

The Committee contracted with a consulting firm, OIR, to perform an extensive review of the MPD's policies and procedures. OIR specified 146 recommendations, the most central of which were establishment of a Police Civilian Oversight Board and the hiring of an Independent Police Monitor reporting to the Board.



League members Mary Anglim and Kathleen Fullin observed the majority of meetings of the Review Committee from 2016 through 2019. During those years, the League sent various [statements and emails](#) to relevant city committees in support of the Review Committee's work and establishment of the Board and Monitor position, and unfortunately, problematic instances of police conduct continued during this period,

including mistreatment of individuals with mental illness. The committee submitted a final report in 2019 with 177 recommendations. Again, establishment of a Police Civilian Oversight Board and an Independent Police Monitor were central. In 2020 the Madison City Council passed ordinances and provided funding for both.

With members nominated by various community organizations, the PCOB began meeting in late 2020, with the priority task of hiring an Independent Police Monitor. The ordinance creating the Board and Monitor position states that this civilian oversight is created to ensure that "the Madison Police Department is accountable and responsive to the needs and concerns of all segments of the community, thereby building and strengthening trust in the MPD throughout the community." The Board and

Monitor do not have authority over the hiring, firing, and discipline of police officers, but they can hear and investigate complaints from the public and recommend policy changes and possible discipline to the Chief of Police and the Police and Fire Commission.

Mary and Kathleen have observed the PCOB meetings, and the League has sent several [emails](#) to the Board encouraging effective procedures for public input and involvement.

The full PCOB will undertake Interviews for the Monitor position in early November. The PCOB Chair and Vice-Chair and representatives of the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, UNIDOS, and the Dane County NAACP will then interview the finalists. All interviews will be in closed sessions. The full PCOB will then deliberate in closed session to make a final hiring decision.

The League hopes that civilian oversight of Madison's police, along with several proposed community-based programs, help us become a more fair and more safe community.

Upcoming Programs

Mark your calendars for these exciting events in 2022! For more information, contact Program Chair Pat Patterson (patriciamilespatterson615@gmail.com).

November 9, 2022: *Kicking Carbon to the Curb* Virtual Issues Forum

January 2022: Lively Issues. Look for the announcement in the Enews!

February 1, 2022: Social Equity Forum

March 1, 2022: Climate Change Forum

April 5, 2022: Social Equity Forum



November Legal Updates

Joan I. Schwarz, schwarz.joan111@gmail.com

Attorney and Advocacy Director for the LWVDC

The Wisconsin Legislature has released its redistricting maps.

The Wisconsin Legislature released its 2021 draft of congressional and representative redistricting maps. Highly critical of the maps, Governor Evers has vowed to veto what he refers to as “**gerrymander 2.0**” because they “all but ensure Republicans will preserve their undemocratic majorities in the Legislature while increasing Republicans’ chances of disproportionately winning six of Wisconsin’s eight

congressional districts.” The Princeton Gerrymandering Project has graded the maps with an “F” rating, citing “significant Republican advantage, advantages incumbents, and very uncompetitive relative to other maps that could have been drawn.” Unlike the Dane County Redistricting Commission and the Madison Ad Hoc Committee, which did not factor in incumbency, the Legislature did factor partisan incumbents into its maps.

According to the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), the Legislature moved 138,753 voters from odd-numbered senate districts to even-numbered senate districts. Had these voters not been moved, they would have voted in a state senate election in the 2022 general election but will now not have the opportunity to vote in a state senate election until the 2024 general election. This movement from one district to another involved 14 senate districts. The congressional map split 10 counties and 24 municipalities. According to the Department of Administration’s Demographic Services, 57 municipalities are split between two or more counties. A public hearing was scheduled for October 28 at the Capital. On behalf of LWVDC, Joan Schwarz opposed the gerrymandered maps at the hearing.

Not only has the Legislature rejected the input of the People’s Map Commission’s, it has not scheduled a hearing for the companion bills, AB395 and SB389, which call for the establishment of the Wisconsin LRB as a nonpartisan, independent advisory commission rules for drawing district boundaries that would have ensured fair maps and avoided the costly litigation that will ensue [when Governor Evers vetoes](#) the Legislatures’ 2021 gerrymandered maps.

The Nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau has released the results of its audit of the 2020 Presidential Election.

Confirming President Biden’s roughly 21,000-vote win over Trump in Wisconsin, two Republican Co-Chairs of the Legislative Audit Bureau stated that [its audit confirmed](#) that the election was largely safe and secure, with valid voting machines and no widespread fraud. The report also issued 30 recommendations for consideration by the Wisconsin Election Commission in addition to 18 possible legal changes for the Legislature.

The official audit review thus contradicted the allegations of widespread election fraud that prompted Republican Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Rob Vos to order an audit presently conducted by conservative former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman. Democratic Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul taken legal action against the Vos audit and a Wisconsin court has ordered Vos and the Assembly under Wisconsin’s open records law to produce any records resulting from the audit. An order-to-show-cause hearing is set for November 5.

With the conclusions of this official audit by the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau, Wisconsin voters can finally be assured of the safety and security of our elections, which will help restore trust in our democratic processes.

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New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in September. 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.](#)

Cari DiTullio
Nancy Rau Heckman

Kelli Kahl
Emily Neis

Cami Spellman

Contributions

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

Fair Maps

Roger Diggle

Jean Jacobson

Jim Waeffler

50 year member

Claire Rider

General and Sustaining Donations

Ruth Brown
Debra & James Cronmiller
Irene Golembiewski
Jody McCann

Melanie Ramey
Peggy Smelser
Edith Sullivan
Linda Vahldieck

Julie Weiser
James Cory
Joan Schwarz



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.

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

Nov. 1	Election Hero Day
Nov. 8	Voter Service Steering Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.
Nov. 9	LWVDC Virtual Issues Forum, 7 p.m.
Nov. 10	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 15	Membership Committee Meeting, 12 p.m.
Nov. 30	Deadline to submit poll worker nominations to clerks

