



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

SEPTEMBER 2021

President's Message	1
Board Director Opportunity	2
Amplifying the Good, Learning from the Inexcusable	3
Still Opportunities to Join the Observer Corps	4
Legal Update on Redistricting, Voting, and Elections	4
Book Report: <i>Predisposed</i>	7
New Members	8
Contributions	8
Discussion Units	9
Upcoming Events	9

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President's Message

Christine Clements,

president@lwvdanecounty.org

Let me begin this month's message with a correction to the Summer Bulletin President's Message. I mistakenly said Amber Rottier was the co-director of Membership with Mary Ellen Schmit last year. While Amber was an active committee member, the very active and very able Membership co-director was Joan Schwarz. Because Joan

Tuesday, October 5

7:00-8:15 p.m.

via Zoom

Protect the Vote!

**The Fight for Voting Rights is the
Fight for Democracy**



*A League of Women Voters of Dane County
Virtual Public Issues Forum*

Having all citizens' votes count has been the defining struggle of our country and today our entire voting system is in peril. Whose votes are counted and how those votes are counted are under attack. With all the noise, it is difficult to understand current arguments around these important issues. On Oct. 5, join the League of Women Voters of Dane County as **Debra Cronmiller**, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, **Atiba Ellis**, Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School, and **Jay Heck**, Executive Director of Common Cause, offer the latest information about national and state voter suppression and election security efforts. You can register for the event [here](#).

Forums are free and open to the public.

additionally took on Advocacy leadership in the spring, I got ahead of myself. My apologies to Joan, and my thanks to her for her generous gift of leadership across domains.

Among the many ongoing LWVDC initiatives, it is also membership renewal season. The efforts of the League have never been more important. Voter rights are being challenged in states across the country, including Wisconsin, and the redistricting process and fight for Fair Maps continues in our state throughout the fall. Don't miss LWVDC's September 1 forum on Fair Maps, or the Fair Maps Lobby Day co-sponsored by LWVWI on September 27. Our Voter Service team continues the important work of getting voters registered from communities where voter registration faces greater challenges, and education and advocacy efforts from our Programs and Advocacy committees stay on top of issues, gather information and share insights with members. Your participation as a League member provides the feet on the ground, contributing to meaningful change and a brighter future. Please share your talents and gifts, [renew your membership](#), and get involved in our many initiatives and leadership opportunities. **We need you.**



Board Director Opportunity

Christine Clements, president@lwvdanecounty.org

The search for a Fund Development Director continues. This position is an excellent development opportunity for someone early in their career. It does **not** require past experience in fund development. It also does **not** involve calling members and asking for money. The primary responsibilities are calling monthly meetings of the committee, facilitating creative discussion about how to achieve goals, and working with a team to develop messaging. The committee consists of enthusiastic, experienced, and supportive League members. You will also be working closely with the new executive director once they come on board and represent the Fund Development domain as a board director. Please consider stepping into this leadership role for the remainder of the 2021-2022 year. League leadership is such an important part of our success and sustainability. With your help, our ability to empower voters and defend democracy is strengthened. If you are interested, please contact president@lwvdanecounty.org.

In Case You Missed It...

Did you happen to miss the League's [September Forum](#),
Where are Wisconsin's Fair Maps?

END GERRYMANDERING

MAPS FOR PEOPLE, NOT POLITICIANS

Made for by the League of Women Voters of Dane County

In case you weren't able to attend this event, study materials related to the important topic of gerrymandering and creating fair maps can still be found [online](#) through the League website.

Banner image created by Shirley Smith.

Amplifying the Good, Learning from the Inexcusable

Lisa Janairo, ljanairo129@gmail.com

Last month, I reported on the LWVDC Board accepting the recommendations of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee for actions the League should take to implement our [DEI Policy](#). This month, I'll provide more detail on the recommendation to appropriately address the contributions of Carrie Chapman Catt to women's suffrage and the LWV's existence while acknowledging her contributions to the League's historical lack of diversity and lack of support for suffrage for all women.

Like many icons from the past, Catt is a complicated figure. She was a visionary and a tireless champion of women's suffrage. It's easy for us to admire and respect these qualities in our founding leader. The "hidden history" of Catt's achievements, however, shows that her determination to secure the vote for women extended only to white women. Perhaps most controversial by today's standards, in her zeal to get the 19th Amendment passed in southern states, Catt wrote, "White supremacy will be strengthened, not weakened, by woman suffrage." (See [this 2018 LWVUS blog post](#) by then-President Chris Carson and CEO Virginia Kase for a brief but important commentary on the League's early history.)



Carrie Chapman Catt

In January, former LWVUS president Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins observed at this year's "Lively Issues Forum" that, despite her flaws, Catt was a visionary. Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins encouraged us to "amplify the good and learn from the inexcusable" in Catt's life. The DEI Committee took this message to heart. After a great deal of discussion and self reflection, the committee recommended that, to better reflect our values as an organization, LWVDC change the name of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award.

Each year, the award is "presented as a tribute to years of excellence in contributing to the community [and] in making a sustained commitment to the League and to its governing principles." The award is a tribute to members who fulfill some inspirational words from Catt: "What should be done can be done; what can be done let us do."

This award is one of our League's highest honors. The members who have earned it truly deserve our respect, admiration, and appreciation. Changing the award's name will not reflect in any way on the incredible accomplishments and dedication of past award winners. Beginning in 2022, LWVDC members who are chosen to be so honored will receive a newly renamed award.

What will the new name be? We don't know yet. The Board is interested in suggestions from members, as well as in your reactions to the pending change. To share your feedback and your ideas for a new name, please [email me](#) or fill out this [two-question form](#). Watch for a future *Bulletin* article for an update on progress in identifying a new name for the award.

Still Opportunities to Join the Observer Corps

The Observer Corps of the Dane County League is recruiting new members. Observer Corps members alert the League's leadership to actions taken during city and Dane County Committee meetings. This is how our leadership can step in to support (or oppose) pending local government actions. The League needs observers in the three thematic areas established by the Program Committee: Making Democracy Work; Climate Change; and Social Equity.

After observing a monthly meeting, filling out an online report form on the League's web site is all it takes to complete your role as an observer. The Observer Corps is flexible—if you decide that observing a different committee would be more productive, you can always change your committee.

Training for individuals is available on [the Observer Corps web page](#). Group training will also be provided if needed. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Egge, Observer Corps Coordinator, at laurieegge@gmail.com.

Please [sign up here](#) you are interested in becoming a part of the Observer Corps.

Legal Update on Redistricting, Voting, and Elections

Joan I. Schwarz, schwarzjoan111@gmail.com

Attorney; Advocacy Director for the LWVDC

Member of the Dane County Redistricting Commission

Member of the Madison Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee

REDISTRICTING IN WISCONSIN

Condensed Timeline for Dane County and Municipalities in Dane County:

At the time of the August Bulletin, it was an open question as to what would occur in the counties and municipalities after Governor Evers vetoed legislative bills AB 369 and SB 385. Without a veto, the gerrymandered maps established in 2011 would have been used for the municipal maps in the 2023 spring election and the county maps in the 2024 spring primary and subsequent election. Governor Evers vetoed this legislation because use of the 2011 gerrymandered maps—rather than using maps updated with data from the 2020 Census—would have violated the constitutional principle of “one person, one vote.” Because the Legislature chose not to adjust the statutory requirements for redistricting for the local governmental, there is now no current statutory guidance for counties and municipalities in Wisconsin to complete the redistricting process based on delayed Census data.

In order to rectify this problem, Dane County decided to compress the timeline of redistricting. The shortened timeline means that instead of counties having 60 days to complete the temporary county map and municipalities having 60 days to draw their ward maps—and then the county having 60 days to draw its final supervisory maps—the process has been compressed to 30 days for each phase. These local governmental maps are intended to provide important data for congressional and legislative maps and will serve as evidence in the already-filed court challenges.

The projected result is that Dane County Redistricting Commission will submit in mid-October three proposed maps to the County Board, which will select one map for use by the municipalities to work on their ward plans to be submitted back to Dane County by November 5. At that time, a public hearing will be held and the final supervisory plan will be adopted via resolution on November 18. If all municipalities in Dane County complete their ward and aldermanic maps in a timely manner, the deadline for the nomination papers for next year's elections can be met. There is no guarantee, however, that all municipalities in Dane County will adhere to the condensed timeline or that the rest of Wisconsin will shorten its timeline. If this condensed-timeline scenario does not occur, the Legislature can and most likely will draw the congressional and legislative maps without input from the local jurisdictions. If so, pursuant to Act 39 passed in 2011, the local jurisdictions will have to adjust to the maps drawn by the Legislature, which is the reverse of the normal redistricting procedure.

Redistricting Lawsuits filed in Wisconsin:

***Hunter et al v. Bostelmann*, filed by Attorney Marc Elias et al in the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Wisconsin, for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief**

Plaintiffs are six Democratic voters affected by Census data change and the Defendants are members in their official capacities of the Wisconsin Election Commission. Plaintiffs filed to declare Wisconsin's current legislative and congressional district plans unconstitutionally malapportioned because, according to the 2020 Census data, Wisconsin's population has "shifted significantly" due to the increase of 199,243 residents in Wisconsin over the the past decade, resulting in "obsolete" legislative and congressional districts.

Each of the plaintiffs has standing to sue since they reside in districts where populations shifts have "skew[ed] the current legislative and congressional districts far from population equality," rendering Wisconsin's 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Congressional Districts underpopulated and the 2nd and 8th Congressional Districts overpopulated, as well as shifting the state's legislative districts. The lawsuit relies on a 2001 federal precedent that held that "existing apportionment schemes become instantly unconstitutional upon the release of new decennial data." *Arizona v. Elections Board*, 173 F. Supp. 2nd 856 (E.D. Wis. 2001).

The Injunction that the plaintiffs are seeking is against the Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC). Plaintiffs argue that unless an injunction is granted, the WEC will have no choice but to carry out its statutory responsibilities to administer the upcoming 2022 legislative elections based on the now unconstitutional 2011 Senate and Assembly Districts. Plaintiffs are requesting the federal court to intervene "to ensure Plaintiffs' and other Wisconsinites' voting strength is not diluted," and to establish a schedule that will "enable the Court to adopt and implement new legislative and congressional district plans by a date certain should the political branches fail to enact such plan." If the plaintiffs prevail, the federal court can begin anew and draw the congressional and legislative maps based on the 2020 Census so that candidates in each district can collect signatures in a timely manner for their nomination papers for the 2022 elections.

***Johnson et al v. Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC)*, filed by WILL Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty) in the Wisconsin Supreme Court to Take Jurisdiction of an Original Action.**

Plaintiffs are four voters who filed a motion to intervene, alleging that the *Hunter* lawsuit "has the potential to prescribe new rules for the Legislature's ongoing redistricting efforts, to take away the Legislature's power to redistrict, and ultimately to alter the Legislature's very make-up." The federal court has granted the Legislature's motion to intervene. While the Plaintiffs acknowledge that "everyone agrees that new districts

are needed with the arrival of new census data” and that the “Legislature intends to provide them,” the Legislature did pass Bills AB 369 and SB 385 (now vetoed) that would have meant that the gerrymandered maps from 2011 would still be in use in 2023 and 2024. WILL requests that the Wisconsin Supreme Court make the “least number of changes” to the 2011 gerrymandered maps rather than starting anew. WILL had previously requested that the State Supreme Court grant an original action for a special statutory change for redistricting, thereby eliminating the usual adversarial procedures of the lower courts. While the Wisconsin Supreme Court denied WILL’s petition earlier this year, that decision does not preclude the Court from granting WILL’s lawsuit if it so elects to do so.

Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC) et al v. Spindell, filed by Law Forward and Campaign Legal Center in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

Plaintiffs are three nonpartisan groups—BLOC, Voces de la Frontera, and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. Plaintiffs in this case present legal arguments similar to the *Hunter v. Bostelmann* lawsuit, positing that an injunctive is needed so the WEC, including each of Wisconsin’s 72 counties and Wisconsin’s 1,850 municipal clerks and elections commissions, do not administer the upcoming 2022 legislative elections based on the 2011 maps. Plaintiffs’ rationale is that “the boundaries and the populations they define, unless modified, violate the principle of ‘one person, one vote’ and do not guarantee that the vote and representation in the Wisconsin legislature for every citizen is equivalent to the vote and representation of every other citizen.” Plaintiffs further claim that they are harmed because, until redistricting occurs, they cannot know in which “Senate and Assembly districts individuals will reside and vote” and therefore cannot “effectively hold their representatives accountable for their conduct and policy positions advocated in office.” The plaintiffs in both the *Hunter* and *BLOC* lawsuits are requesting that the federal court establish a schedule for Wisconsin because the federal court has established procedures for the task. Implicit in this decision is that federal judges, who are appointed for life, are more insulated from public pressure since they do not seek re-election as do state court judges. Such a schedule would enable the Court “in the absence of a constitutional state law, adopted by the Wisconsin Legislature and signed by the Governor in a timely fashion, to adopt and implement new State Senate and Assembly district plans with districts substantially equal in population and that otherwise meet the requirements of the U.S. Constitution and statutes and the Wisconsin Constitution and statutes.”

These three lawsuits are just the beginning of the legal challenges that will follow. More legal updates will be forthcoming in future Bulletins.



Book Report: *Predisposed*

by John R. Hibbing, Kevin B. Smith, and John R. Alford (pp. 304)

Report by Laurie Egge, laurieegre@gmail.com

Why do conservatives think the way they do? Why are liberals so scattered? “When liberals and conservatives look through the same window they see different worlds,” according to John Hibbing, professor of Political Science and Psychology at the University of Nebraska. Psychological experiments often focus on what *most* people do, but Hibbing and colleagues look into *why* we don’t all react the same way. He says differences in political temperament are based not only on life experiences and conscious thought, but also differences in brain structure, such as in the amygdala, home of the fight or flight response.

Hibbing suggests that perhaps people all over the world are actually dealing with the same big issues (for example, how government should work or how to punish transgressors). Differences in government structure and leadership may come from which type of people are dominant in a government at a particular time.

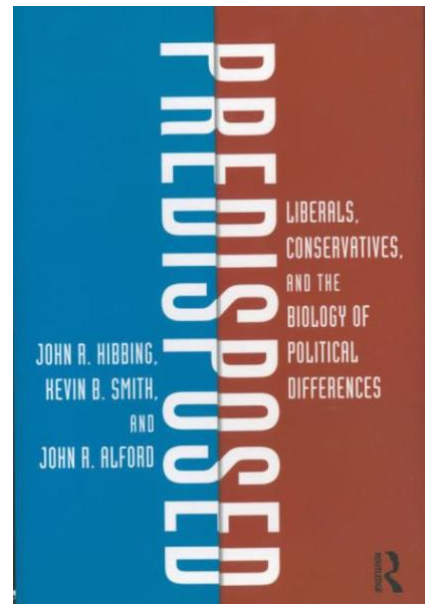
Hibbing bolsters his arguments with statistically significant data, twin studies, and humorous interludes such as a photo of a mouth full of worms. The photo was one of the tools used to measure people’s “disgust” reaction, which turns out to be a fairly good way to measure tolerance.

No time for more reading? Listen to the [NPR Hidden Brain podcast](#) (52 min)

Or read the 700-word [National Science Foundation Summary](#)

Hibbing is also the author of *The Securitarian Personality: What Really Motivates Trump's Base and Why It Matters for the Post-Trump Era*.

Interested in contributing a Book Report for our next Bulletin? Contact the Editor at bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org.



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

New Members

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

Bethany Choe
Larissa DeLain
Siti Hydara

Joy Sample
Shirley Senarighi
Wendy Weber

Betty Weynand
Lorna Will

Contributions

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

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May Challenge 2021

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Discussion Units

If you want to learn more about the current forum topics and get to know LWVDC members, joining a discussion unit is a great option. There are currently five Discussion Units, meeting the third week of the month virtually or in person at a library, neighborhood center or other public facility. Members select a unit meeting that fits their schedule. Find a unit meeting that's convenient for you and participate! Visit the [web page](#) for more information.

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. Please consult the [calendar](#) for details about specific meetings.

Unit: Prairie Ridge (Oakwood Village). *This group is open to Prairie Ridge residents only.*

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: TBD

Leader: [Ralph Petersen](#) (608-831-3267) and [Gloria Meyer](#) (608-288-8160)

Unit: West

Time: 12:45 p.m., third Wednesday of the month

Location: LWVDC office, 720 Hill St, Suite 200

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

Unit: Northeast Side

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

Location: Lakeview Public Library

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

Unit: Downtown Dinner

Time: 5:15 p.m., third Wednesday of the month

Location: Capitol Lakes Retirement Center private dining room; *space is limited*

Leader: [Ingrid Rothe](#) (608-556-3174)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Sep. 8 | Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. |
| Sep. 11 | Book Discussion, 10 a.m. |
| Sep. 13 | Voter Service Steering Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. |
| Sep. 13-17 | National Disability Voter Registration Week |
| Sep. 14 | Book Discussion (Virtual), 10 a.m. |
| Sep. 20 | Membership Committee Meeting, 12 p.m. |
| Sep. 28 | National Voter Registration Day |
| Oct. 5 | "Protect the Vote" Issues Forum, 7 p.m. |

