



## 2022 Defender of Democracy Award Winner

### Paul Lindquist

Paul Lindquist is an incredibly dedicated defender of democracy. From his tireless work of co-chairing the League of Women Voters of Dane County's busy Voter Service Steering Committee to supporting the Dane County Voter ID Coalition helpline to the overwhelming task of modernizing the Dane County League's infrastructure, Paul has helped hundreds of League members and thousands of voters throughout many years of service.

Paul's endless knowledge of voting laws and ability to translate them into teachable resources helped modernize the League's Voter Service training materials. With the updated training, volunteers made fewer errors that would otherwise delay a voter in registering. Paul, with others on the Voter Service team, also helped create the urgently needed DEI training that teaches volunteers to be more empathetic, and reduces the micro and macro-aggressions that occur. Always with an eye on equity and making the world a more inclusive place, Paul has worked around the clock in the background and on the frontlines ensuring that voters who face the highest barriers are able to find the tools and help they need to participate in democracy. His work includes significant, meaningful partnerships with the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition, NAACP Dane County, the Urban League of Greater Madison, and Open Doors for Refugees, just to name a few.

Paul's tech savvy built the robust infrastructure for the Dane County Voter ID Coalition helpline so voters requesting help are able to match up with volunteers who can best provide them with guidance and service. And the challenge for voters to provide proof of residence when registering became less burdensome with Paul's work of creating a fillable pdf to easily document the details. Paul has made endless improvements to all aspects of voter outreach:

- overhauled the Dane County Voter ID Coalition Helpline website,
- built from scratch the Dane County League's member survey database,
- reformatted the community organizations excel file to Little Green Light's more functional platform,
- reorganized the Voter Service Steering Committee's budget to include supporting spaces for inclusive community collaboration.

All of these efforts and others made outreach events more enjoyable for voters and volunteers alike. Paul's input consistently elevated all of our work to the next level which we would not have achieved on our own.

Throughout his tenure as the Voter Service Steering Committee co-chair and member of the Dane County Voter ID Coalition leadership team, Paul continually supported the League's mission of "Empowering voters. Defending democracy." His head and heart are always working in service of others. He is an indefatigable tinkerer and advocate, never satisfied with the status quo, and always seeking ways to improve access for citizens to participate in our democracy.

We are honored to name Paul Lindquist as a 2022 Defender of Democracy award winner.