



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

November 2019

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Executive Committee:

Aileen Nettleton, President

Brook Soltvedt, Vice President

Mary Anglim, Program Director

Christine Clements, Fundraising Director

Bulletin Editor

Maria Spinozzi, bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org

Join Us for a DEI Café

DEI Cafés are a time for members to get together and reflect on issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion within our community. Discussions are informal. Groups are kept small to allow for comfortable conversation. [Sign up to join one our upcoming DEI Cafés.](#)

Nov. 14, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Sequoya Library

Nov. 19, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Sally's

Dec. 6, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at Metcalfe's West

Contact [Maria](#) if you have any questions.

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Climate Crisis Program: Why Local Governments Matter

Ralph Petersen, Ph.D., UW–Madison Space Science and Engineering Center and former NASA and NOAA scientist

Keith Reopelle, Director, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change

Sherrie Gruder, Sustainable Design Specialist, Energy Program Manager, LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design and Construction, UW-Extension

Stacie Reece, Sustainability Program Coordinator, City of Madison

Capitol Lakes

**Health Center Auditorium,
333 West Main St., Madison**

(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

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

Forums are free and open to the public.

Welcome to Our New Student Interns

Marian Matthews, mmatthews@lwvdanecounty.org

Photos by Jim Rogers

We are very excited to introduce the new LWVDC UW voting interns, Angela Maloney and Makayla Pesch. Angela and Makayla are based in the Social Justice Hub at Union South and will be working with the Voter Service Committee to educate and engage students in the voting process. The voting intern positions were made possible through the generous donations of two LWVDC members.



LWVDC UW Voting Interns Makayla Pesch (left) and Angela Maloney (right)

Angela is a freshman with a double major in International Studies and Community and Nonprofit Leadership, with a certificate in Afro-American Studies. She graduated from West High in Madison and her older sister and brother are graduates of UW–Madison. Angela’s interest in voter service work developed primarily through her history classes in high school, where her teachers emphasized how the power of voting within a community of people can create change. As an LWVDC intern, Angela is helping to form a campus-wide voting team by drawing on other campus organizations and clubs. She plans to provide training to the voting team members on how to register voters and to encourage them to work at the polls on Election Day and at in-person absentee voting locations. Last year Angela was part of the United Way of Dane County *By Youth For Youth* program that builds leadership skills among high school students. She is a long-distance runner who is training to run in the Milwaukee Marathon next April.

Makayla is a sophomore with a double major in Human Development & Family Studies and Rhetoric, with a certificate in Public Policy. Her family is from Racine and her older sister currently attends UW–LaCrosse. Makayla’s interest in voter service stems from her belief that all people should have equal access to education and “resources to create the life they strive for.” She seeks to understand others’ points of view and life experiences, something she has done from a young age. Makayla recognizes that not everyone has had the same support and opportunities that she has had. This motivates her to work for equality and social justice through her chosen studies and now through her work as an LWVDC intern. In her new intern position Makayla plans to engage other students in structured dialogue sessions about the importance of civic engagement and voting. During her spare time, Makayla volunteers at the River Food Pantry and enjoys reading and journaling.

Welcome, Angela and Makayla!



Census 2020

Karen Gunderson, jokarjen@gmail.com

Our October 2, 2019 forum, 'Census 2020', presented to a packed room at the downtown library, was informative and fact-filled. After enjoying a social period with snacks, we all settled in to listen to three very capable presenters. The presenters each brought unique perspectives, experiences and expertise to the topic of the census.

Dr. Margo Anderson, professor emerita, UW–Milwaukee, has spent many years studying and writing about the U.S. census. She was able to provide a quick and interesting history and overview of the census, told us what to expect in the 2020 census and answered many questions from the audience.

The census count, collected every ten years, is always done by household; one person in the household fills out the information for all members of the household. Certain questions have been and continue to be asked in some form on the census: age, sex, race, ethnicity, location and household composition. The citizenship question that the current administration wanted to include this year was ruled unconstitutional, so it is not included.

Along with the census of all United States citizens every 10 years, since 2000 there has been an American Community Survey, which gathers much more detailed information from a percentage of households—approximately 3.5 million people. The Census Bureau has a wealth of information about the census on its website at www.census.gov.

This year, for the first time, people will be able to respond to the census electronically. In March 2020, all U.S. households will receive a mailing requesting that they reply to the census. They will be able to reply electronically, by phone or on paper. For those households that do not respond, census workers will visit in person to obtain the information.

It turns out that not everybody gets counted in the census. That is a concern for several reasons including:

Our representation at the federal level of government is based on our population. If everybody is not counted, we may lose a representative seat, as happened to Illinois, Iowa and six other states after the results of the 2010 census were in. Ohio and New York each lost two seats. Eight states gained one or more seats due to those census results—Florida gained two seats and Texas gained four seats.

Have you noticed a new apartment building leasing in your community?

Contact Shirley Haidinger, haidis@aol.com. She will get the address entered into myvote.wi.gov to facilitate the residents' voter registration.

Writers Wanted

Would you like to be involved in the writing, editing, or production of the **Bulletin**? Contact Maria to share your interests.

Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019

[Register](#) to attend.

[Watch it live on Facebook.](#)

Save the Dates from State

Annual Meeting: June 12-13, 2020
Appleton, WI

LWVUS 2020 Convention: June 25-28, 2020
Washington, DC

Certain federal funds, such as Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8 housing, Head Start, education and highway funding are allocated based on population. If a state's population is undercounted, the state's share of federal funds will be less than it should be.

Ben Zellers from the Madison City Planning Department, the primary contact for Madison's Complete Count Committee, brought us up-to-date on the planning and coordination that the city has already done and continues to do to ensure that all Madisonians are counted in the 2020 census. Along with the Complete Count Committee, the city has formed a city staff team consisting of representatives from the mayor's office and eight city departments. The team is working with UW-Madison and the Madison Metropolitan Schools on outreach, has developed a city census webpage and email list, is working to include census information on Metro buses, has provided funding for local neighborhood groups to perform census outreach work, is engaging with residents at community events, has developed inserts for water and property tax bills, and continues to work on other steps to let people know about the census. The city is also making sure that all Madison residences are included in the census database. It was fascinating to hear how much work has already been done and how much more there is to do.

Certain populations have often been undercounted in the census. Madison is working to ensure that those groups are counted in 2020. Those who have often been undercounted include people of color, college students, renters, low income households, recent immigrants, non-English households, homeless, and households with no Internet access. It is estimated that over one million children under the age of 5 were not counted in the 2010 census and it is predicted that this will occur again in the 2020 census.

Abha Thakkar, Executive Director of Madison's Northside Planning Council (NPC) gave us an in-depth look at what her organization and other north side organizations are doing to make sure that everyone on the north side of Madison is counted. Thakkar has been involved with the NPC for many years. She is very familiar with the neighborhood and residents and has been very involved in numerous projects for the north side. She was able to give us insight into how local neighborhood groups can help ensure that everyone is counted. The NPC was one of several neighborhood organizations awarded funding from the city of Madison to provide census outreach to their community members. NPC is hiring people from the neighborhood as Census Navigators, to encourage their neighbors to participate in the census.

Abha realizes that there are people on the north side who distrust the federal government and will be resistant to replying to the census. She and the navigators will encourage these people to participate, but understand why they might be reluctant to share their personal information with the government. The NPC is organizing community events that will take place every night for two weeks after the initial census mailings go out. People will be encouraged to respond to the census during these events.

The questions from the audience indicated that people have already been thinking about the census and some of its complications. One question was how to have prisoners counted at their home address instead of in the prison where they are housed. There are census rules for counting people in institutions as residents of the institution. This is an issue that many people feel strongly about, including the league. We have gone on record in favor of prisoners being counted in their home community for the census. That will not happen with this census.

Will indigenous people be counted accurately? Professor Anderson assured us that there are methods used to ensure that they are counted accurately.

Wasn't census data used to round up Japanese-Americans during WWII? Yes, it was, and that is a shameful note in our history. Even though the Census Bureau assures us that our individual data is confidential and will not be released for 72 years, this is an example of the Census Bureau releasing personal data to the federal government. This fact is alarming to all of us who would like to think that the data we supply will be kept confidential and not used against us.

Where should snowbirds be counted? They should be counted at their primary residence, not their winter home.

What about ID theft? The Census Bureau has never had an outside data breach. They have many safeguards in place to protect personal data.

If this summary leaves you wanting more information, check out the links in our study materials, see slides from the presentations on our website, watch for the video and audio recordings to be posted on our website and go to the census website. The more you know, the more fascinating the census becomes.

Why Do We Fundraise?

Christine Clements, clementschristine5@gmail.com

Most league members understand that fundraising takes place throughout each year to meet annual budget commitments. But beyond that basic commitment, our Dane County fundraising is driven by a deep belief in the work of the League of Women Voters and an understanding that making a difference requires financial resources. The league is the strongest grassroots organization working on voting rights and voter education. The organization provides hope, a vision and legal standing to expand democracy and mitigate the growing influence of voter suppression and money in politics. Fundraising allows this work to happen.

The LWV of Dane County Fundraising Committee is here to provide sustainable resources that support a strong local organization and programs that meet our mission. We do this in a variety of ways. Most of you are familiar with our annual drives, including the general member drive that occurs in tandem with the annual membership drive and our yearly February 14 birthday appeal. In recent years, the Dane County League has also organized a May challenge appeal, but a decision has been made to suspend this end-of-fiscal-year drive for 2019-2020, increasing the importance of a successful Valentine appeal.

In addition to appeals, league fundraising offers opportunities to support particular strategic priorities and to engage in planned giving. Perhaps the most visible ongoing priority-based fundraising is that fundraising directed to the publication and distribution of *Candidates' Answers*. This year, targeted fundraising and generous giving also supported the creation of two student internships dedicated to expanding Voter Services on the UW campus. As we begin strategic planning for 2020-2021, you will hear more about the ways members can invest in particular priorities to enhance the impact of LWVDC.

In addition, the league enthusiastically supports planned giving opportunities including bequests or estate gifts and gifts of retirement plan assets (for example, IRA withdrawals at age 70.5). Over the years, a number of members have contributed in this manner. Planned giving allows members to become partners in building a sound foundation for the League of Women Voters of Dane County, thereby assuring that the critical work of enabling informed and active engagement in government and the democratic process will continue well into the future.

Fundraising takes place to support member engagement in creating and implementing activities of impact, activities undertaken to assure every citizen's right to vote and be informed and to promote responsible government that is responsive to the will of the people. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference in achieving these ends.

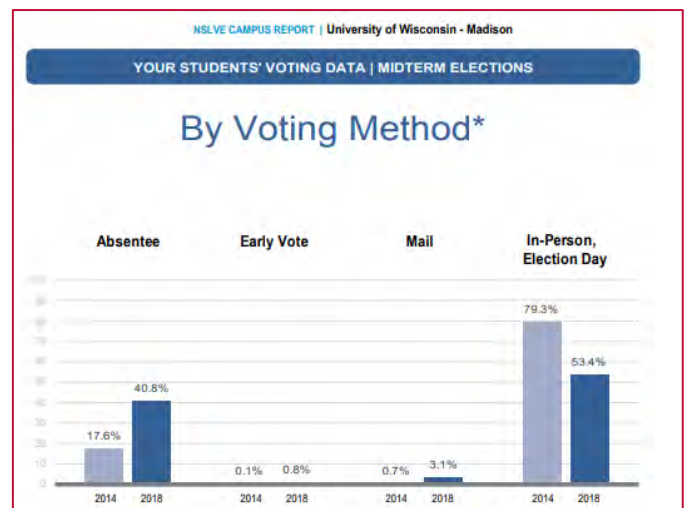
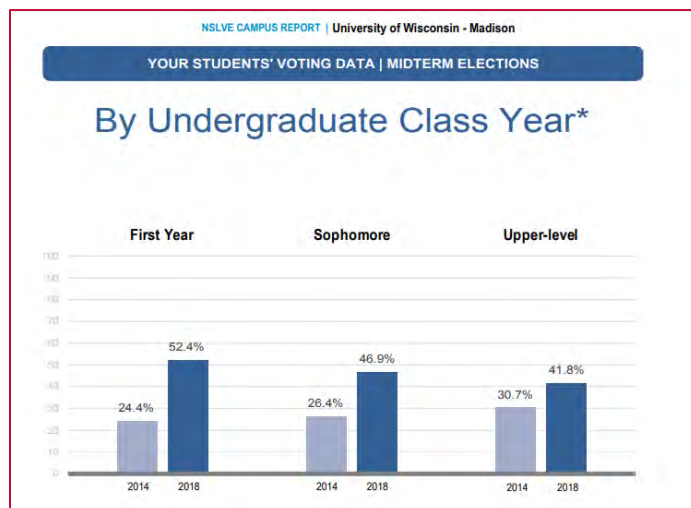
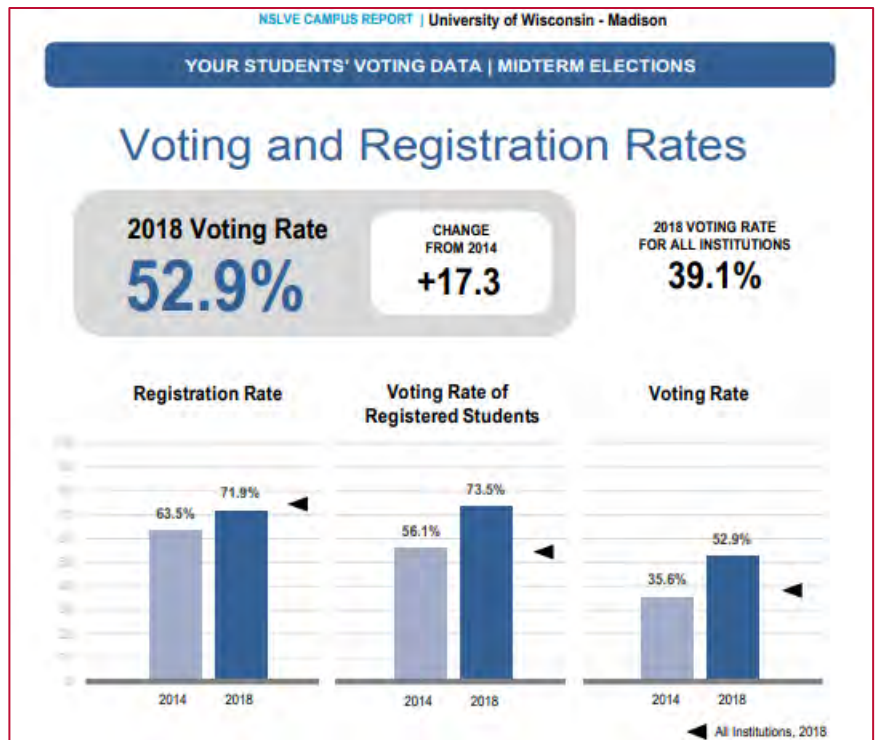
If you have questions about fundraising activities, would like to be involved or are interested in making a gift, please contact the league office or current fundraising chair [Christine Clements](#).

UW–Madison Student Voting Statistics

These graphics show some highlights from the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2019). 2014 and 2018 report for UW–Madison.

Read the full report by the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement [here](#).

Read a related article written by Mike Klein for news.wisc.edu [here](#).



Committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Maria Spinozzi, bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org

LWVDC is committed to applying a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion to all of our work. As part of this effort, we hope to encourage our members to seek out a variety of sources of news, information and ideas. Maybe that's a community paper you haven't had the opportunity to read yet, a new type of media, a topic or issue that doesn't directly affect you, a perspective or experience that differs from your own or an author that is dissimilar to most of those

Read

[City of Madison declares racism a public health crisis](#)- Channel3000

[Music Venue The Winnebago to Change Name](#) – Madison365

[UW pays respect to Ho-Chunk history with indigenous people's textiles exhibit](#)- Badger Herald

[UW Student Inclusion Coalition releases 'Home is Where WI Aren't' video](#) – Badger Herald

[The Uninsured Rises in 2018, Racial Disparities Persist](#) – Capital City Hues

[Will Green celebrates 15 years of Mentoring Positives](#) – Madison.com

[Ask Amy: Family wrestles with accusation of racism](#) – Washington Post

Attend

Now – Dec. 6 Visit the [Intersections: Indigenous Textiles of the Americas](#) exhibit in the UW School of Ecology. The exhibit includes a panel being held on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Nov. 5 - 6 [UW–Madison Diversity Forum 2019](#)

Nov. 7 [Madison College Talks: Yusef Salaam](#)

Nov. 15, 8 p.m. Centro Hispano presents [4th Annual Evening of Dreaming](#)

Nov. 19, 6 p.m. [UW–Madison Presents: Ada Deer — Making a Difference](#)

Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 [YWCA Racial Justice Workshops](#)

Listen

CodeSwitch - [Political Prisoners?](#) (29 minutes)

In "**Prison City**" **Wisconsin**, white elected officials are representing voting districts made up mostly of prisoners. Those prisoners are disproportionately black and brown. Oh, and they can't actually vote.

Rough Translation - [Mom in Translation](#) (28 minutes)

Sometimes you feel like a stranger in the place you're from. But what if you were to visit a foreign country and realize you fit in so much better there? This is a story about a 6-year-old American boy who moved with his family to Japan, and felt at home for the first time. But the more Japanese he tried to become, the more his American mom struggled to figure out her new role in his life.

The Nod - [Fearing the Black Body](#) (31 minutes)

What if we told you that every fad diet, fashion editorial, and #fitspo post on social media could all be traced back to racist pseudoscience? In this episode, Brittany is joined by Sabrina Strings, sociologist and author of *Fearing the Black Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobia*, whose groundbreaking research parses the intersection of thinness, whiteness, and beauty ideals.

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.

Ariana Aguilar
Maribel Barrera
Maya Bernstein
Brigid Billing
Barbara Carr
Katie Connor
Isabella Costanzo
Dana Craig
Allison Czora
Mae Edwards
Allyson Fergot
Rachel Fielkow
Andrea Fisher
Soumika Gaddameedi
Trinity Giese

Alanna Goldstein
Abby Hammes
Nancy Hoekman
May Jagodzinski
May Kohler
Jenn Kowalkowski
Daniel Ledin
Allison Lee
Emily Loizzo
Emma McClure
Jessica Melnik
Rianna Mukherjee
Sara Mulrooney
Anne Murphy-Lom
Mary Murrell

India-Bleu Niehoff
MaryAnn Olson
Katie Pollock
Kathleen Rasmussen
Kathleen Rause
Sally Reed
Michael Rehani
Alea Sabry
Peg Schmidt
Marissa Sherman
Amy Shircel
Jenna Turdo
Marcia Vandercook
Susan White
Erin Wruk

Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these members (bold) and nonmember supporters who donated in September.

General or Other Donations

Robert DeMars
Susan Fadness
Barbara Feeney
Edith First
Mary Fulton

Debra Hanrahan
Ilse Hecht
Helen Horn
Rita Kades
Michael Kane

Ralph Petersen
Mary and Steve Ploeser
Sylvia Poppelbaum

Thank You to Volunteers

Thank you to the following members who volunteered in the office in September.

Margaret Fuguitt

Thank you to our members who volunteered with the Adopt-A-Highway project.

Phillip Heckman
Doug Johnson

Janet Kane
Louise Lund

Rose Sime

Thank you to **Reta Haring, Margaret Fuguitt, Pat Kippert, Karen Michael, Kathy Schurts** and **Dorothy Wheeler** for calling 75 people to remind them to renew their membership. Many of those contacted expressed appreciation for the reminder to pay their dues rather than allowing their membership to lapse.

Digest of September Unit Meeting Discussions

Pat Kippert, pkippert@yahoo.com

The forum topic discussed in September unit meetings was “Why Climate Change Is a Public Health Emergency.”

Fifty-two persons participated in five unit meetings in September. The speakers were knowledgeable and engaging. Some participants indicated that study materials seemed too lengthy. The slides and graphics all received positive responses. Having the forum at a new site with non-league members participating in the discussion was positive.

A special note: The staff at Prairie Ridge (Oakwood East) arranged to transport 13 persons to the forum. This unit is just getting established. That kind of support will be a big boon for them!

The league positions reinforce the serious threat Climate Change presents for human existence. The statistics are sobering.

Questions/Concerns:

1. How does the Green New Deal fit into this?
2. What does UW do for climate change? Have they closed the coal plants?
3. What are the City and County doing?
3. How do we reach groups like anti-vaccinations, alt-right, etc?
4. Pat Patterson participated and kept track of questions to use for the Climate Corner in the weekly email newsletter and to share with the Program Committee.

Advocacy Suggestions included attend the Climate Strike; carpool to forums; stop printing the forum study materials; encourage members to upload trainings to their devices; keep up with new rules and guidelines around recycling and reusing; investing in more efficient toilets, use washing machines that use less water; eat less beef (I can still see the little old lady at Wendy’s “Where’s the beef?”); encourage composting kitchen waste; use reusable grocery bags; bring reusable containers for leftovers at restaurants; carry one’s own fork and spoon for cart food and festivals.

Suggestions for Board Action: Cosponsor with environmental groups; communicate ahead of time how groups can access the live streaming of future events.

Suggestions for Program Committee: Members would like to have some programs on local issues and programs such as affordable housing, after-school programs for youth, what do neighborhood centers provide, and more.

Book Recommendation: “Facing Climate Change: An Integrated Path to the Future”, by Jeffrey T. Kiel. (Not listed on Library Linkcat)



Unit Meetings Schedule

Pat Kippert, Unit Coordinator, pkippert@yahoo.com

UW Campus

Time: 6:30 p.m., 11/17 (third Sundays)

Location: Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St.,
check Today in the Union for room

Leader: [Laura Grueneberg](#) (502-235-0023)

Prairie Ridge

Time: 3:30 p.m., 11/18 (third Mondays)

Location: Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood
Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Dr.,
Madison

Leaders: [Waltraud Brinkmann](#) (608-216-4201)
and [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (608-630-5163)

West / Middleton

Time: 6 p.m., 11/18 (third Mondays)

Location: Lussier Community Center
55 S. Gammon Rd., Madison

Leaders: [Merilyn Kupferberg](#) (608-831-3267)
and [Gloria Meyer](#) (608-288-8160)

Southern Dane County

This unit is postponed until further notice.

Oakwood West

Time: 12:45 p.m., 11/20 (third Wednesdays)

Location: 6205 Mineral Point Rd., Madison
Parking on grounds. Enter through the
unlocked doors in the Tower, located near the
intersection of Mineral Point Road and Island
Drive. Take the elevator to the 2nd floor and
turn right, following signs to the Garden
Terrace Bistro.

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

Northeast Side

Time: 3:30 p.m., 11/20 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Lakeview Public Library

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

Downtown Dinner

Time: 5:15 p.m., 11/20 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Capitol Lakes Retirement Center
private dining room

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

Upcoming Events

Nov. 4	Info-Social at Fitchburg Library, 6 p.m.
Nov. 6	Board Meeting at League Office, 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 14	DEI Café at Sequoya Library, 6 p.m.
Nov. 19	DEI Café hosted by Sally, 1:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	DEI Café at Metcalfe's West, 12 p.m.
Dec. 11	Board Meeting at League Office, 1:30 p.m.
Mar. 28	Centennial Gala at Park Hotel, 5:30 p.m.
Jun. 12-13	Annual Meeting for LWVWI in Appleton
Jun. 25-28	LWVUS 2020 Convention in Washington, DC

2020 Elections

Feb. 18	Spring Primary
Apr. 7	Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary
Aug. 11	Partisan Primary
Nov. 3	General Election

