

THE VOTER

News for LWV Minneapolis Members and Friends



Listen, Learn, Act LWVMpls Programming for 2020-21

BY DYAN VENTERS AND ANNE McLAUGHLIN, PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

We the People is LWVMpls' interview program of informed voices on timely topics, hosted by member Catherine Shreves. For our fall programming, we will feature a Special Edition Series on Policing. Two online events are also being recorded, one on Elections and Voting and one on the Census and Redistricting. As we go to press we have a tentative schedule of speakers that we hope to bring to you.

POLICING

We reached out to the community to secure interviews with those on the frontline of this issue and those with knowledge of policing.

The *We the People* series on policing issues include the following interviews, which are each one-hour programs, all via Zoom and available on lwvmpls.org.

Overview of Minnesota Laws on Policing and Police Reform Legislation Passed July 2020

JULY 23, 2020

The first interview in the series featured Minneapolis civil rights attorney and activist Nekima Levy Armstrong.

[WATCH](#) ▶

Minneapolis City Council Proposal to "Defund" the Police

AUGUST 12, 2020

Community activists on both sides of the defund issue were interviewed.

- Kandace Montgomery, Black Visions Collective
- Don Samuels, former board member, Minneapolis City Council and Minneapolis Public Schools

[WATCH](#) ▶



What It Means to Reform and Change Police Culture

DATE TO BE DETERMINED (TBD)

Former police officers and academics share their perspectives.

- Laura Goodman, international police advisor with Education for Critical Thinking (confirmed)
- Dr. Tanya Gladney, University of St. Thomas professor (invited)

State Laws and Police Union Contracts: Limits on Police Accountability

DATE TBD

- Carlos Mariani, MN Representative, Dist. 65B; Chair, Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Division Committee (invited)
- Stephen Rushin, author and professor of criminal law, evidence and police accountability, Loyola University Chicago School of Law.
- Linnea Palmisano, Minneapolis City Council, Ward 13, one of three council members who did not sign a formal pledge to defund the Minneapolis Police Department (confirmed)

...continued on page 3

2020-21 PROGRAM TOPICS:

POLICING | ELECTIONS AND VOTING | MINNEAPOLIS COMPREHENSIVE 2040 PLAN | EDUCATION

From the President

ANITA NEWHOUSE, PRESIDENT



Rhetorical questions are a dangerous proposition in 2020. A few months back, the idea that things could not reach an even greater level of chaos, confusion, or difficulty than what a world-wide pandemic had wrought on our daily lives was plausible. But isn't that the overarching lesson we're confronted with in 2020,

over and over again — that probable assumptions are not serving us well?

Regardless of where you live, work, or play in Minneapolis, the death of George Floyd has opened a deep wound in the social fabric, pulling threads from every corner of the city. A rising awareness of what that means for us individually, and as a community, is still taking shape. As I walked into the space at 38th Street and Chicago Avenue to bring materials to the various groups of neighbors tabling to conduct voter registration, there was an overwhelming sense of unease. Groups of people huddled in quiet conversations with music from speakers playing overhead. People milled about and silently acknowledged each other only with eye contact. The social dissonance was palpable — anger, mistrust, and pain filled the space. As a white woman, I had never been more aware of the boundaries of my assumptions of safety and comfort as I was in those moments. I understand why people want to visit that space. To be there and be wholly present is a kind of baptism and an almost inescapable shedding of assumptions.

I could never have imagined how this year would unfold and yet, in many ways, I'm grateful to be exactly where I am. Losing assumptions about what makes us vital to our community, while uncomfortable and unsettling, presents opportunities we wouldn't have noticed otherwise. Because the pandemic has upended daily routines and vocations for many of us, we suddenly have time to reflect and consider. Those of us working even

longer hours as essential workers are too exhausted for pretense, having become acclimated to stark realities. Without those layers of social assumptions, which are employed in place of purposeful consideration and outreach, we see things differently.

Losing assumptions about what makes us vital to our community, while uncomfortable and unsettling, presents opportunities we wouldn't have noticed otherwise.

Over one hundred years ago, a group of women decided to challenge deeply held social assumptions by having the audacity to ask for the vote. As the most significant achievement for women of the Progressive Era, ratification of the 19th Amendment required defining new narratives as part of community conversations about individuals and society. As with all social movements, not everyone moved forward equally or equitably and ramifications are evident today. LWV advocates for democratic process, institutions, and voting access for all in 2020, working to overcome barriers rooted in assumptions of the past. The social fabric of our city will heal with new narratives about the value and role of all residents in the pursuit of full democratic representation and access to their governance. LWV has spent 100 years working to change narratives, personal stories, and opportunity for inclusion. Rather than making a rhetorical assumption about what may lie ahead, I invite you to join us, committing to LWV principles of representation in governance without barriers and a new inclusive narrative for every resident of Minneapolis.

DEI Action Plan

BY ALICE MOORMANN

The Board reviewed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Action Plan for LWVMpls at the August meeting. The goal of the plan is to have a stronger representative voice in Minneapolis by diversifying our membership and leadership. As a grassroots organization the experiences and voices of the members are most effective when our membership is more diverse.

Action Plan

The five action plans are based on initiatives already in place for our fiscal year:

1. Introduce the concept of diversity, equity and inclusion to the new Board.
2. Continue education and discussion on DEI and racial justice in programming.

3. Evaluate and develop a communications plan to reach a diverse audience.
4. Continue to develop partnerships with organizations led by people of color.
5. Develop new discussion groups for diverse groups.

The action plans include the how and when, barriers and how to overcome them, and evaluation to revise and plan for the next year.

The action plan is a result of the LWVUS DEI grant training program offered to all Leagues.

LWVMpls Programming for 2020-21, continued from page 1

Charter Commission Meeting

AUGUST 5, 2020

View the Charter Commission meeting on August 5, 2020. This meeting informs you of the Charter Commission discussion and decision on the proposed amendment. Each commissioner spoke to the issues and it was a very thorough informative discussion from the point of view of the Commission proposed amendment to remove the police department from the Minneapolis Charter.

[WATCH](#) ▶

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

AUGUST 19, 2020

Secretary of State Steve Simon was featured on a live Zoom meeting and Facebook Live presentation on Elections and Voting.

[WATCH](#) ▶

CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING

DATE TBD

The Census and Redistricting is another topic we plan to address for an update. City Clerk, Casey Carl has been invited.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, details for public events will be published and confirmed on the [LWVMpls website](#). Please check there or on Facebook before making plans to watch.



LWV
CIVIC BUZZ
MINNEAPOLIS

SCHEDULE 2020-2021

These topics will be developed by committees and information will be publicized prior to each Civic Buzz.

October 6
Elections and Voting

December 1
Policing

February 2
Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan
(Climate and Parks)

April 6
Education and the Proposed Amendment to
the State Constitution

Voter Services Update

MARILYN CANTISANO, VOTER SERVICES DIRECTOR

A lot is going on from now until the November 3rd election, and I know you are asking yourself, “How can I help?” Here are some of the things we are working on right now.



VOTE FROM HOME CAMPAIGN WITH THE LWVMN

Absentee Ballot Applications

Applications are available at MNVOTES.org. LWVMN is providing us with yard signs and posters. Dates and locations of pick up will be sent out when the signs arrive.

Vote Safely from Home

Call 10 of your friends and encourage them to vote from home. Stop by or call the senior center near your home and be sure it offers this option to its residents. If you are a member of a church congregation, share this information. Ask a store or restaurant nearby to display the poster.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Volunteer to Register Voters

Voter registration is SO important! We are offering online trainings or access LWVMN's 30-minute video training. If you would then like to help register voters, contact Miriam Maples at registervotes@lwvmpls.org, and she will add you to our volunteer list. We are going to try to do in-person registration, where possible, following all COVID-19 health guidelines.



Voter Registration Day— September 22, 2020

If you would like to help us register voters on this day, let us know. If you can't get out to register voters, there are other ways you can help. Call friends, family and young

people to be sure they are registered. Instruct them how to register online at Vote411.org or MNVOTES.org. Post voting reminders on social media.

Voter Education

Voter education helps you determine which candidates to support. The Voter Services Committee is planning candidate forums. We need a coordinator and a few volunteers for this. The forums will be held without an audience but will be available live streamed and taped for later use. We are also working on producing a Voter Guide. Want to help with this? Let us know.

Become an Election Judge

Election judges are needed. Yes, we are encouraging mail-in voting, but the state wants to keep all polling places open and as free of lines as possible. Encourage a young person in your family to become an election judge.

...continued on page 5

Voter Services Update, continued from page 4

There are even opportunities for students age 16 and 17. What a great learning experience and it pays a little, too! Go to the [Secretary of State of MN website](#) for more information.

Increase Voter Turnout in Underserved Populations

As part of our Thomson Reuters Grant, our goal is to increase voting for traditionally underserved populations, especially targeting the areas of East Lake Street and North Broadway. LWVMpls is partnering with community and neighborhood organizations, churches, and schools in these areas to register voters and encourage voting from home.

Another target population is people who are homeless, especially those who are now in park encampments. We are working on strategies to be sure this population has access to vote. Youth engagement and registration is always a priority. COVID-19 is forcing us to come up with some innovative ideas because tabling at schools will probably not be possible.



Volunteer
WE NEED YOU!

WAYS TO HELP:

- Register Voters
- Become an Election Judge
- Coordinate Candidate Forums
- Produce a Voter Guide
- Work with Youth and Homeless Voter Engagement

JOIN THE VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Contact marilyncantisano@gmail.com

We meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month until mid-November, 7-8 PM, via Zoom.

CONTACT US | LEARN MORE

Email: registervotes@lwwmpls.org

Website: lwwmpls.org



August 11, 2020 primary election night looked a little different this year! FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Holly Lewis and Alice Moormann help election judges with their returns; Steve Pundt and Jim Lichtenberg check in electronic poll books; Sally Pundt helps precinct judges find their way to check in; and Polly Keppel and Susan Reinhart are on top of sorting election materials.

International Voter Outreach

BY KARLYNN FRONEK AND PAM TELLEEN

On September 11, 2001, a group of Tanzanian women were in Minneapolis to observe our voting process and the work LWVMpls does to support the mission of the Elections Department. On that historic day when the world changed forever, a bond was formed. In February 2002, LWVMpls sent members to Tanzania as part of the exchange program called Women Power in Politics, Grassroot Democracy in Africa, sponsored by LWVUS and the State Department.

In Africa, we facilitated workshops with women who had visited Minneapolis. They recruited participants, found locations and provided materials. We spent about a week with them as they brainstormed and discussed ways to get more women involved in the political process.

The goals of the project were to:

1. Empower trainees with tools to conduct educational programs to enhance democratic principles among grassroots communities.
2. Inspire trainees to encourage other women to participate in the democratic process.
3. Facilitate good governance to create an environment conducive to economic development.
4. Prepare women to deal adequately with human rights issues.

After we left, our African friends continued with their plans. We have been in touch with one of them throughout the years, Martha Lyimo, who is involved

with the Arusha Women Legal Aid and Human Rights Organization. She recently sent us the following request for financial support for voter outreach to women. They received a “permit” to provide voter information but only if they garner outside support.

“Thank you very much for your understanding about our National Election. Your in our mind about methods we intend to use to educate community about voters education. Apart from that we intend to use Local radio, T-shirts, women groups which is our most target groups. What is important is to take all precautions from Ministry of health like to put on Masks, wash hands and social distance etc. Due to the traditional and cultural which discriminate women, Patriarchal system, misleading information, etc. Most of the time women fear to show up on election day, to participate in election campaigns, to vote for their choice, etc.” ~ Martha Lyimo

We were pleased when the LWVMpls Board of Directors voted to match our gifts to the effort. In mid-July, Treasurer Carrie Lichtenberg, Karlynn Fronek and Pam Telleen wired \$500 (which included an additional gift from Nadia Smith, participant in the African exchange and host to Ms. Lyimo) to the Arusha organization to further its efforts to engage women in this basic human right, voting.

Development Update

BY REBECCA THOMAN

Congratulations to us! LWVMpls received a \$20,000 matching grant from Thompson Reuters for the 2020 election-year cycle. This funding will:

- support and expand voter outreach and education services targeting underserved and disenfranchised communities
- allow us to hire a student intern who will educate and mobilize young voters

- produce a Minneapolis Voter Guide
- engage our community in the important public conversation about the future of policing in Minneapolis

Volunteers are needed! Please help make this project a success. If you are willing to help with voter education and outreach, disseminate voter guides, or organize candidate forums, please email vote@lwvmpls.org and let us know your interest and availability. Thanks in advance.

Meet the New Board of Directors

Welcome to the new 2020-21 Board of Directors. Thanks to the diligent work of the Nominating Committee, led by Barb Kimer, LWVMpls has a great team willing and able to innovate, educate and pivot frequently to cope with the challenges of a pandemic, political and social upheaval, and a major election.



Anita Newhouse
President



Alice Moormann
Past President



Colleen Moriarty
President Elect



Lisa Reed
Secretary



Carrie Lichtenberg
Treasurer



Saralyn Romanishan
Community Engagement
Director



Nancy Albrecht
Membership Director



Rebecca Thoman
Development Director



Marilyn Cantisano
Voter Services Director



Anne McLaughlin
Program Co-Director



Dyan Venters
Program Co-Director



Katie Heit Gardner
Communications Director



IN MEMORIAM
**Vivian
Mason**

Vivian Mason, 50-year member of the League of Women Voters Minneapolis and a valued member of Unit 48, passed away on June 18, 2020, due to aplastic anemia. Vivian contributed leadership to LWVMpls as a board member for several years. We are thankful for her myriad contributions to our organization and the city. She coordinated our 20 LWV units as organization chair, chaired a study committee on equal opportunity and reported to our board on Minneapolis Park Board issues and activities, a board on which she served as commissioner. According to Unit 48 friends and colleagues, she was an active participant and graciously hosted meetings at her home. She was always reliable, professional, committed, and very generous to causes in our community and LWVMpls. She will be missed. For more about her life and good works, you will find her [obituary here](#).

Welcome New Members

APRIL - JULY 2020

Laura Bergren
Gus Braga
Shelby Cate
Melissa Croft
Susan Doherty
Catherine Egan
Ann Fromell-Theis
Kathleen Graber
Mary Grina
Susan Guzmich
Matthew Johannsen
Claire Johnson

Elizabeth Kristian
Anne McKinsey
Jane McMillan
Alyson Newquist
Mary Nord
Mary Elizabeth Pumphrey
Kimberly Rosenfield
Deborah Sugerman
Mary Sumpmann
Nan Upin
Ming-Yee Lee



310 East 38th Street, Suite 205
Minneapolis, MN 55409
p: 612.333.6319
e: vote@lwvmpls.org
w: www.lwvmpls.org

MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWV Minneapolis Board of Directors

- Anita Newhouse, President
- Alice Moormann, Past President
- Colleen Moriarty, President Elect
- Lisa Reed, Secretary
- Carrie Lichtenberg, Treasurer
- Nancy Albrecht, Membership Director
- Rebecca Thoman, Development Director
- Marilyn Cantisano, Voter Services Director
- Anne McLaughlin, Program Co-Director
- Dyan Venters, Program Co-Director
- Katie Heit Gardner, Communications Director
- Saralyn Romanishan, Community Engagement Director

Thank You to Donors (April-July 2020)

Individual Contributions:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Benevity Impact Fund (various donors) | Jane Papageorgiou |
| Nancy Albrecht | Keren and Peter Price |
| Marilyn Cantisano | Ann Pugliese |
| Susan Doherty | Peggy Pluimer |
| Nance Duffy | Sally Pundt |
| Catherine Egan | Sara (Lisa) Reed |
| Katie Fournier | Saralyn Romanishan |
| Karlynn Fronek | Marie Schwartz |
| Susan Gray | Pam and Bill Telleen |
| Polly Keppel | Nan Upin |
| Karen Michael | Ellen van Iwaarden |
| Alice Moormann | Judy Walter |
| | Carole Wiederhorn |

100th Anniversary Donors

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Doris Baylor | Gwen Myers |
| Carrie Lichtenberg | Dyan Venters |

Important Dates

LWVMpls Board of Directors
Thursday, September 17, 6 PM

CIVIC BUZZ
Tuesday, October 6, time TBD
Topic: Elections and Voting

LWVMpls Board of Directors
Thursday, October 15, 6 PM

Virtual meetings until further notice.