

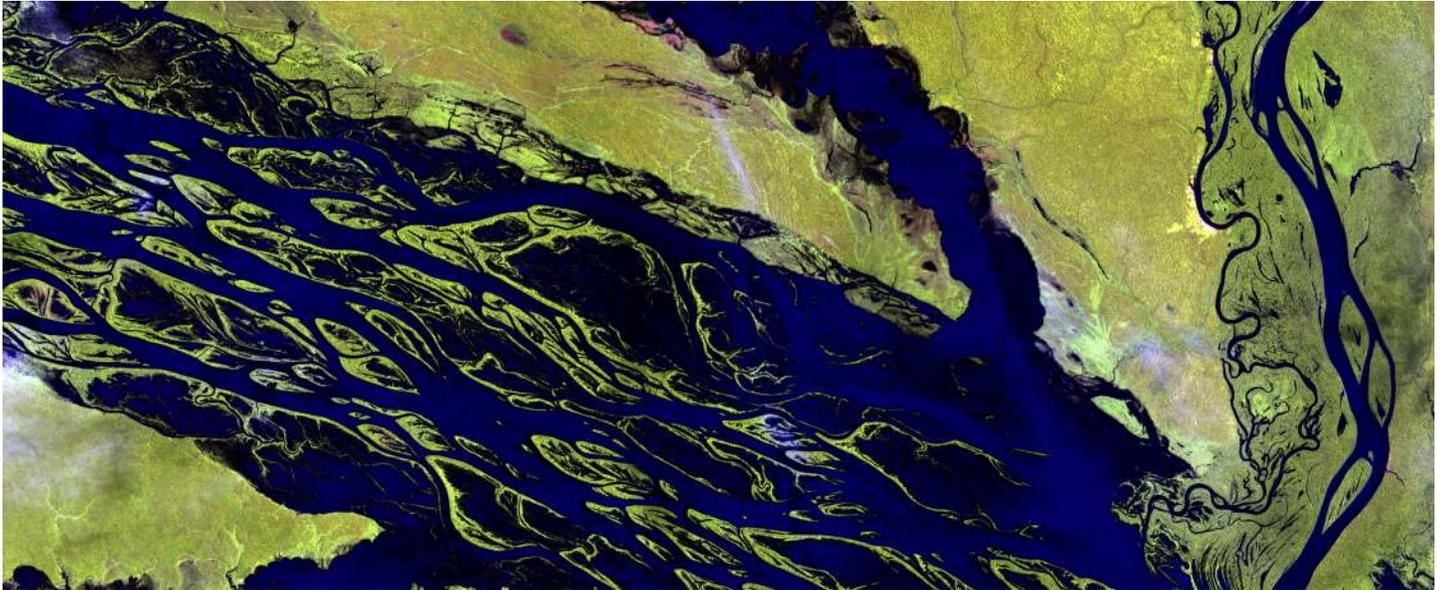
THE VOTER

News for League of Women Voters Minneapolis Members and Friends



Climate Action

BY KITTY WESTIN



The League of Women Voters Minneapolis (LWVMpls) is excited to announce the formation of a Climate Action Committee that will bring together members who are interested in working on climate change issues in Minneapolis. We join with the LWVUS and the LWVMN in our commitment to addressing issues that affect our air, water, land, and overall quality of life in our city, our state, and across the United States and the world. We believe that climate change is a nonpartisan issue that affects all people in far-reaching ways. Climate change is impacting our health, our agriculture and food security, our water supplies, ecosystems, and much more. Climate action is about preserving our 10,000 lakes and rivers. It is about protecting our land and the air we breathe and our “right” to live in an environment that sustains us, all of us, no matter your political party affiliation. These are not partisan issues, and it will take the collective efforts of us all to address them.

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From the President

COLLEEN MORIARTY, PRESIDENT



The air is thick with the anticipation of the mid-term elections. However, I must admit that after the brutal attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, my mood turned quite grim. During the past weeks, I have heard my fellow members from around the state report that they have

encountered real resistance to forums, voting security and just conducting those nonpartisan activities of the League of Women Voters in rural and metro areas.

It is more commonplace not to allow a live audience at forums or to see blocks of candidates refusing to appear if they disagree with other candidates' views. We should do everything we can to resist the temptation to assume this will be the norm as we move forward. Claims of

“Claims of rigged elections and refusal to accept election results are tactics that are intolerable.”

rigged elections and refusal to accept election results are tactics that are intolerable. We have provided voter services with integrity and adherence to the nonpartisan principles which have been the foundation of our organization since 1919.

I know that we all stand united on these principles, and this strength is a valuable part of our democracy.

Editor's Note

BY DEBORAH JINDRA

I recently attended a memorial service for an acquaintance. Kim Martinson was a retired educator who was instrumental in establishing Braver Angels in Minnesota. I wrote about this organization in a previous *Voter* and hoped to partner with them at that time. The pandemic got in the way, but she kept carrying on with her goal to “practice your purpose.” She touched so many lives, and her sudden diagnosis of glioblastoma was a blow to her family, friends, former students, and the community at large. She truly believed in talking through our disagreements, and she worked to bring people of all political persuasions together. During the service, photos of her life were presented in a slide show, and many of her signs and favorite aphorisms were displayed. One caught my eye: Action is the antidote to despair.

One of our speakers during the November Civic Buzz used a similar phrase, and I realized that both of these women had found a positive outlet for the frustration and fear we all seem to be feeling the last few years. Sometimes it seems better to tune out the news, turn to self-care,

and hope for the best. However, I am encouraged by the members of LWVMpls who continue to work for democracy despite those who want to sow the seeds of distrust in our election system. Many think about politics as a winner-take-all version of a television reality show. We know that those who run for office should participate in candidate forums, make their views on policy known to voters, and truly believe in the democratic process they hope to join. Having a famous name or one pet cause shouldn't be enough to qualify someone for an elected office that should ultimately serve all of their constituents.

I salute all of our members who took action this fall when despair was all around us and those who will continue to do so no matter what the outcome of the election. Please continue to document your activities and submit them for a future issue of *The Voter*. Our readers will thank you.



Program Planning

BY ELLEN VAN IWAARDEN

Ah, January. The election is over. The holidays have come and gone. Minnesota is at its darkest and most likely coldest, so what is there to look forward to? Getting together with LWV friends to chart our programs in 2023, of course.

Join the discussion as we decide which direction LWVMpls will take in the coming program year. Each year we look at our Program for Action, decide if anything should be dropped or reviewed, and cull new ideas from members for future study.

Too cold to venture outside much? Prepare yourself for program planning by accessing our website lwvmpls.org. Under *Where We Stand* you can see our *Positions in Brief*, or take a deep dive by reviewing the full document of our *Program for Action*. Even if you have been a long-time member, but especially if you are new, this document is where you can see what we stand for and how much thought and study has gone into our programs over the years. It is an amazing compilation that references studies going back 100 years.

We are proud that we are a grassroots organization and don't just talk about problems and complain. We act. Over the years study committees have researched, interviewed and written in-depth analyses and recommendations on a variety of topics to make our city run better and serve its people wisely. After looking at our positions and studies, you may decide we need to focus on a new topic. This year our program topics are: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Voting and Democracy; Climate Change; Public Safety; Health Care; Education; and Housing and



Homelessness. Is there something at the top of your list that you would like to focus on next year and want to share with us? Make a plan to present it at the meeting. Items brought up during Program Planning are then voted on at the Annual Meeting in June 2023.

Selected topics provide the framework for LWVMpls programs for the coming year. Members then get information through Civic Buzz and unit meetings. This can lead to lobbying, systemic change backed up by research and feedback, and even legislation. You can accomplish a lot by starting the ball rolling on January 21.

Contact Ellen van Iwaarden at vote@lwvmpls.org if you'd like to help plan the meeting.

The Program Planning meeting will be held on Saturday morning, January 21, on Zoom, from 9-11:30 AM. Watch for more details to come.

Democracy Prevailed in 2022 – A Message from LWVUS

This year, our freedoms were on the ballot, from reproductive rights to equal access to the vote.

Despite anti-voter laws, mis- and disinformation, election deniers, and poll worker shortages, American voters showed up to make their voices heard. We saw record-breaking voter turnout in many states across the nation, particularly related to early voting.

This is in no small part thanks to Leagues of Women Voters across the country, who worked tirelessly to empower voters during this pivotal midterm season. Throughout 2022, 750+ state and local LWVs registered voters, trained volunteers, served as poll workers, and organized to get out the vote!

Look for a full report on the election and the impact of Vote411, which celebrates 15 years of providing personalized voting information online at www.lwv.org/elections.

2022 Election Report: At a Glance

The 2022 midterm elections demonstrated the power of women, young people, people of color, and all voters who care about democracy.

Across the country, the League of Women Voters powered the elections. 750+ state and local Leagues registered voters, trained volunteers, served as poll workers, and organized to get out the vote!

The following data represents a snapshot of our impact in the 2022 midterm elections as of November 10, 2022.

Contacted
22+ million
voters
with election info

Protected
17.7+ million
voters through
legal action

Shared election info with
4.6+ million
voters
via VOTE411.org

Reached
3+ million voters
with English and Spanish-
language ads

Drove
225k+ visits
to VOTE411's
Spanish-language pages

Covered
52k+ candidates
in voter guides



The Gift of Democracy

BY LIBBY BOTTEM

Making a list and checking it twice? Worried about supply chain issues or overcrowded stores as we head into the holidays? Now is the time to give the gift of democracy to someone you care about. Purchasing an LWVMpls membership for a family member or friend is a great way to introduce them to our favorite organization.

For over a century, after winning the vote for women, LWV has helped make democracy work. Some of the benefits of membership include amazing friendships, quality information through forums, meetings, digital communications, and feel-good volunteer opportunities.

For those on your gift list, who wouldn't want to share how great LWV is, for both members and the community? Wrap up a membership along with your favorite book or a copy of *The Voter* and you've got a unique present that will keep on giving all year long. It always fits and may just be the most important gift they receive.

2022 Midterm Elections Voter Services Update

BY JUDY ZAUNBRECHER

The midterm election cycle has drawn to a close. The LWVMpls Voter Services Committee focused our work in a variety of communities throughout Minneapolis. We worked to eliminate barriers and encourage participation in elections for first-time voters, communities of color, new citizens, and low income voters. Our most effective way of reaching voters is by working with community-based, nonpartisan civic and neighborhood organizations.

Here is a summary of the 2022 Voter Services work:

- We registered over 500 voters at community and school events. Over 35 voter registration events were held around the city.
- We partnered with several local civic organizations including the Native American Community Development Institute, the Central and East Lake Libraries, and Hawthorne, Bancroft, and Heritage Park Neighborhood Associations.
- Young voters were registered at Minneapolis Community Technical College and the University of Minnesota during Freshman Week. LWV volunteers registered over 200 high school students at eight area high schools.
- Eight thousand copies of the LWV Minneapolis Voter Guide were printed and distributed around the city through voter registration and GOTV events and through civic organizations.
- Three thousand voting reminder postcards were mailed to voters in precincts with lower-than-average turnout.
- LWV Minneapolis conducted or co-sponsored five candidate forums. All were held with a live audience, live-streamed, and recorded for later viewing.
- Six newspaper articles educating voters on elections, redistricting, and why voting is important were published in several community newspapers.



Members of LWVMpls and A Mother's Love at the Broadway billboard

- LWVMpls sponsored a billboard for the month of October at 1821 W. Broadway to encourage voting.
- Paid ads encouraging voting in the general election were published in five community newspapers in September and October.

The Voter Services Committee is taking a well-deserved break after the election. However, we will start our planning for the 2023 local election cycle in January 2023. If you are interested in learning more about the Voter Services Committee and how you can volunteer, contact Judy Zaunbrecher (jrzaunbrecher@gmail.com) or Marilyn Cantisano (marilyncantisano@gmail.com).



Susan Dragston at Timberwolves event



Susan Dragston, Tenna Keiser & Marty Jones



Marcia Murray, Lezlie Taylor, Marilyn Cantisano, Tonya Branford

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LWVUS has a tool kit for climate action that we will use to inform our action, and we plan to partner and collaborate with other organizations and groups who are working to address climate change issues. We will also commit to looking at climate change/climate action through a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens.

Climate change is having a dramatic impact in our city and state, and it is imperative that we act now and in meaningful ways to do our part to stop it. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reports, “Minnesota is getting warmer, especially winter nights in the northern parts of the state. Daily average minimum temperatures during winter (Dec-Feb) have increased 7.3 degrees from 1895-2021 in northern Minnesota, 6.0 degrees in central Minnesota, and 4.9 degrees in southern Minnesota.” The Minnesota Department of Health explains, “While climate change impacts everyone, certain populations are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change.” The health impacts are real and are deadly; air pollution, extreme heat, floods, and drought are affecting the health of our citizens. LWVUS takes the position that state and local LWVs and individual LWV members have a critical role to play in helping to limit climate change and to protect the planet.

We are in the process of recruiting members and plan to have our first meeting in January 2023. Climate change is a big topic, of course, and we expect that the priorities of our committee will also guide our action. Please email vote@lwvmpls.org if you are interested in being part of this exciting new committee.

Kudos to The Voter Team

BY DEBORAH JINDRA



While most of this publication relies on volunteer writers, editors, and our terrific proofreading duo Jennifer Johnson and Jane Papageorgiou, we are lucky to retain Becca Tripp for layout.

She is a visual designer in Minneapolis specializing in branding, web design, and print design. She provides expertise to other LWV projects besides *The Voter* and recently worked on *The People's Guide to the Polls* created by Pillsbury United Communities, which was included in *North News*, online, and other venues. Thank you, Becca.

Top 10 Public Safety Questions

BY JANE LANSING

The Reimagining Public Safety Committee developed the Top 10 Public Safety Questions on voters' minds as an update to its study published last year. This was done before the election, but the issues will be relevant and important for years to come. There is much work needed: functional systems for transparency and accountability (these have had several failures over the years); police contract changes (the contract expires this December); improved police officer training and recruiting; and the development and execution of a consent decree based on the state and federal investigation findings.

But there are also reasons to be hopeful:

- There is a new Office of Community Safety that is focused on providing a balanced approach to public safety, including violence prevention and improved mental health support.
- We have a new chief of police who has already demonstrated his commitment to the community to engage and listen. (Look for an opportunity to meet him in your neighborhood.)
- The city has petitioned to split supervisors from officers in the police union.

Note: A department with a comprehensive approach to public safety and splitting the union were positions LWVmpls adopted last year and for which we advocated.

Take the opportunity to thank the mayor and your City Council member for working together to make these important foundational changes this past year.



Thank You to Donors (July - September 2022)

Susan Anderson	Ellen Dean	Patricia Harlan-Marks	Margaret Lucas	Jane Olmstead	Marie Schwartz
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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.

2022-2023 LWV Minneapolis Board of Directors

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Welcome New Members (July - September 2022)

Margaret Bogue-Harper	Nan Kari
Lizbeth Brown	Julie Mulvahill
Ellen Dean	Kathryn Nelson
Nicole Donoso	Kara Pfister
Theresa Harvath	Brittany Rudquist
Lucy Kapp	

Important Dates

November 2022 - January 2023

LWVMpls Board of Directors

Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 7 PM
To be held remotely

LWVMpls Board of Directors

Wednesday, December 28, 2022, 7 PM
To be held remotely

LWVMpls Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 7 PM
To be held remotely

Program Planning

Saturday, January 21, 2023, 9-11:30 AM
To be held on Zoom

There will be two Zoom meetings for members to discuss and vote on the LWVMN Firearms Study. Attend evening or daytime option. Meeting dates: Tuesday, January 3 at 7 PM or Wednesday, January 4 at 10 AM.