

THE VOTER

News for League of Women Voters Minneapolis Members and Friends



LWVMpls Program: Focus on Policing Continues

BY DEBORAH JINDRA, THE VOTER EDITOR

The focus on Minneapolis policing continues with January’s Civic Buzz. After the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis last spring and the subsequent social unrest, there has been much discussion around the country about how taxpayer dollars are allocated to promote justice while maintaining safe communities. January’s topic is the Minneapolis Police Department Budget. Our focus will be on the issues surrounding reductions in the police budget and the expansion of the Co-responders Mental Health Teams Program.

This is a continuation of our fall focus. We monitored possible changes to the City Charter and talked to those with varying perspectives about what needs to be done to heal Minneapolis after riots, injustice and competing priorities.

If you have not seen the excellent *We the People* Special Edition Series of fall programs or want to recommend them to others, find them on lwwmpls.org/category/we-the-people/



SPECIAL EDITION SERIES— Policing: Reform, Dismantle, Defund?

Part 1

Conversation with
Nekima Levy Armstrong
JULY 30, 2020
[WATCH](#)

Part 3

Laws, contracts and
police accountability
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
[WATCH](#)

Part 2

Conversation with
Kandace Montgomery
and Don Samuels
AUGUST 17, 2020
[WATCH](#)

Part 4

Women on force;
mental health training
NOVEMBER 9, 2020
[WATCH](#)

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From the President COLLEEN MORIARTY, PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Whether you are a first-time voter or have a decades-long election day tradition, the act of casting a ballot and knowing your voice will be heard is a thrilling and essential part of our democracy. Now as much as ever, the need to engage all members

of our community in the democratic process is critical to our future and fuels my enthusiasm for the work of League of Women Voters Minneapolis (LWVMpls).

I am honored to take on the position of president of LWVMpls. As I step into this role I would like to thank our outgoing president, Anita Newhouse, for her tremendous contributions to our organization and passion for voter services. We all thank you and look forward to your continuing role in LWVMpls.

I was asked to share a bit about my background with you, so here goes.

I am a lifelong resident of Minneapolis. I grew up here and was educated in the public schools, skated at the park, swam in the lakes and walked the trails of our park system. I repeated all those things with my three sons. Colin, Ryan and Joe all played T-ball at the park and rode their bikes and skateboarded their way through childhood. As a single mother, I depended on the tremendous assets of our city and the strength and kindness of my community to remain connected and supported through good and bad times. I am proud of the fact that two of my three grandchildren, Louis (age 14) and Eleanor (10), live in Minneapolis, attend the public schools and are regulars at their neighborhood park.

My professional opportunities have taken me from organizing for childcare with the Southside Child Care community to working for community programs at KARE TV, to City Hall as the chief of staff to Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, to election to the Minneapolis School Board, to advocating on a local and national platform for hunger relief. Along the way I have been mentored by some amazing colleagues. Each of those experiences has deepened my resolve to continuously examine our

commitment to justice issues and the effects that race and privilege play in our community.

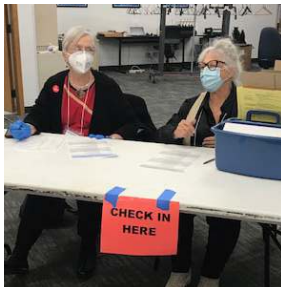
These have been such polarizing times in our civic life. We have witnessed the unrest that resulted from the murder of George Floyd, and we are heartbroken as a people that we have such a divided city in terms of income, opportunity and safety. We have seen the outcomes of these issues play out in the lives of those who were overly represented by the devastating effects of the COVID-19 virus. There is much work to be done.

“...the act of casting a ballot and knowing your voice will be heard is a thrilling and essential part of our democracy. Now as much as ever, the need to engage all members of our community in the democratic process is critical to our future and fuels my enthusiasm for the work of LWVMpls.”

LWVMpls is an organization built by passionate volunteers and activists. In that spirit, I look forward to growing our reach and welcoming and supporting even more women as we join together to make democracy work for all citizens. Thank you to my fellow LWVMpls members for your commitment to our mission and for the opportunity to serve our community in this extraordinary way. Please reach out to me with any thoughts, concerns, ideas. I can be reached at colleenmoriarty9@gmail.com or 612-226-0988. I look forward to working with you all.

Experienced and New Members Fill Ranks for Election Night

BY JANET MIDTBO AND ROSEMARY LAWRENCE, ELECTION NIGHT PROJECT CO-CHAIRS



In this exceptional year during a pandemic and with high turnout expected in the presidential contest, the citizens of Minneapolis stepped up in many ways, eager to do their parts to help the elections of 2020 run smoothly. The City of Minneapolis reported that thousands of people applied to be election judges.

More than 100 LWV members and friends volunteered for at least one of the three election night projects in 2020. In this unique partnership, LWVMpls works with Minneapolis Elections and Voter Services as a Charitable Organizations Recruitment for Elections (CORE) organization, staffing two locations, 980 E Hennepin and Bethel Lutheran Church, where more where more than a dozen items from each of Minneapolis' 134 precincts were carefully checked in and sorted by ward and precinct — ready for election officials' work in the days following elections. Many volunteers used the words "happy to be part of the project" as they responded to the request for help. One new volunteer declared, "It's an honor be part of this project," and a returning volunteer said, "It wouldn't be an election night without being there." The most heartwarming application came from a prospective volunteer who "gave the opportunity to work on the project to her spouse as a birthday gift." The new volunteer's birthday was Election Day.

Safety measures were visible and appreciated.

Minneapolis provided masks, gloves, hand and surface sanitizers for all volunteers, and face shields were available. Check-in areas had increased spacing and provided more distance between volunteers and precinct judges, who remained in their cars while waiting to check in. This limited the number of people in each facility.

As leaders of this project, we also express our appreciation to more than 40 LWV members and friends who gently let us know that they were not able to participate this time because of the 2020 pandemic. The project could not have continued for all these years without the dedication of so many people. We gratefully accept everyone's support whether in person or in the spirit of a functioning democracy.

Note: LWVMpls is paid by the city for each volunteer's time, providing more than \$20,000 income to LWV Minneapolis during the 2020 triple election year.

FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Pictured election night at 980 E Hennepin and March 3 at Bethel Lutheran Church. Ashley Marek, Cathy Milota and Dot Lilja work a sorting station; Lisa Reed and Marie Schwartz accept and sort registration books and ballots, Hugh Dean checks in materials, Mary Eichinger & Pat Werner welcome Precinct Judges into check in; Peggy Pluimer greets election judges coming to Bethel; volunteers ensure forms are filled out correctly.

Amazing Work by Voter Services

BY MARILYN CANTISANO, VOTER SERVICES DIRECTOR



League volunteers at voter registration events at People's Center Clinic in Cedar-Riverside and Cub Foods in North Minneapolis

The election cycle for 2020 is over... and what a challenging yet energizing cycle it was! So many volunteers contributed to making sure democracy works for all.

I especially want to thank the hard working and committed Voter Services Committee—Barb Kimer, Binky Wood Rockwell, Miriam Maples, Erin Harvey, Anita Newhouse, Kim Rosenfield, Anne Kruger, Saralyn Romanishan, Gay Clapp, Deborah Sugerman, Janet Emerson, Maddie Moran and, of course, Janet Midtbo and Rosemary Lawrence for the always successful Election Night Project. Special thanks go to Carla Jacobson, Traia Thiel, and Katie Heit Gardner for technical support.

Thanks to a Thomson Reuters grant, we exceeded our projected goals. With their generous support of our efforts, especially focused on the North Broadway and East Lake Street areas, we were able to:

- not only have a digital copy of our Voter Guide, but publish and distribute 7000 print copies
- offer Voter Registration and Difficult Voting classes to more than 164 volunteers
- support our postcard writing campaign by purchasing stamps and postcards for our volunteers
- provide a Minneapolis Public Schools Board candidate forum
- increase voter awareness and LWV visibility through social media and newspaper ads

Our energized volunteers registered 213 voters, provided 58 absentee ballots and talked to more than 2,170 community members at 68 events.

To get out the vote (GOTV), we sent out 1000 postcards to registered voters and texts to 2000 young voters in traditionally low turnout areas to encourage them to vote.

After a last minute court decision affecting the date of acceptance of mail-in ballots, we offered absentee ballot pick up and drop off to those who were not able to do so themselves.

Let's not forget the Vote From Home yard signs and posters. Volunteers placed 300 signs and 500 posters throughout the City of Minneapolis.

More than 300 LWV and community members, rallied together to make voting in Minneapolis a success.

What's next?

Join our Voter Services Committee and help shape our involvement in the 2021 local election cycle. The committee will take a well-deserved break in December and begin meeting on the second Wednesday of each month from 7-8:15 PM beginning in January. Please let me know if you would like to join our Zoom meetings: marilyncantisano@gmail.com

2020 LWVMLS ELECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ORGANIZED

300

volunteers and members in voter service efforts



TRAINED

164

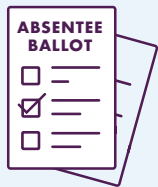
people in voter registration



HELD

20

registration trainings



PROVIDED

58

absentee ballot applications



REGISTERED

213

new voters

DISTRIBUTED

300

Vote From Home yard signs and 500 posters across the city



SENT

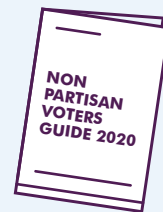
1,000

handwritten postcards reminding registered voters to vote

DISTRIBUTED

7,000

nonpartisan voter guides



ENGAGED IN

2,170 at **68**

conversations with community members

events

VOLUNTEERED

756

hours securing, tabulating and transporting ballots on election nights



Program Planning

BY DEBORAH JINDRA

At the beginning of each year LWVMpls meets as a whole to find out what is on the minds of our members. We usually have a speaker and lively discussions in a fun atmosphere. This time may be different but we still need to hear from you about hot topics, concerns that we should be looking at for future discussions, and possibly reexamining our existing positions.

By presenting your idea at our Program Planning meeting, you can gauge the level of support from other members as well as find people to work with you on a topic. Even if you don't have some burning issue, by attending you can get a preview of what is on our horizon. Only items that are brought up at Program Planning or sent in to our office during this time period are eligible for consideration at our annual meeting in late spring.

We will meet on January 30, 2021, most likely online. Watch for more information about format and special features and how you can make sure your voice is heard.

Your voice is important. Please join us as we decide what we will focus on in 2021-22.

#1 Voter Turnout in the Country!

The Minnesota Secretary of State's Office reported that Minnesota voter turnout was 79.4%, and we are still holding the #1 spot for voter turnout in the country.

Minneapolis reported a new record for voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election with 80.6% of the city's registered voters casting a ballot. City officials say an official total of 237,689 ballots were cast in this election, breaking the previous record of 219,832 ballots cast in 2016.

LWVMN Legal Victory in Voter Intimidation Case

On October 20, LWVMN and the Council on American-Islamic Relations of Minnesota (CAIR-MN) were proud to file a lawsuit against Atlas Aegis, a private mercenary contractor, for voter intimidation and violation of the Voting Rights Act in Minnesota.

Atlas Aegis, a Tennessee-based corporation with no ties to Minnesota, had planned to hire and deploy armed paramilitia to polling sites through an advertisement for armed security on Election Day in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. The ad appeared on job posting websites on October 6, 2020, and was mentioned in interviews with Anthony Caudle, the company's chairman, in *The Washington Post*. However, a federal district court judge ruled in our favor on October 29, granting a preliminary injunction in a move that prohibited private mercenary contractor Atlas Aegis and Caudle from moving forward with its illegal voter intimidation plans in the state.

We're especially grateful for our legal representation by Free Speech for People, a nonpartisan nonprofit legal advocacy organization, and law firms Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP and Lathrop GPM LLP.

Get to Know Our Website!

Everything you wanted to know about our Member Resources page

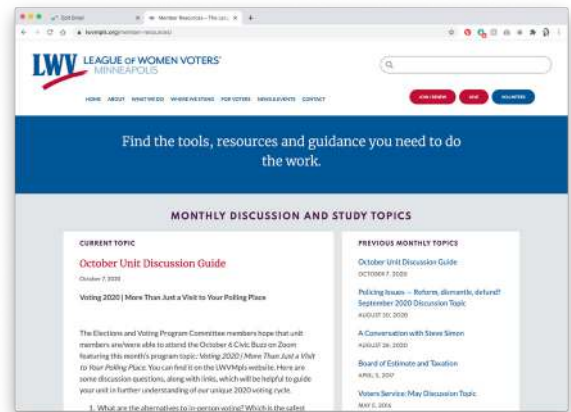
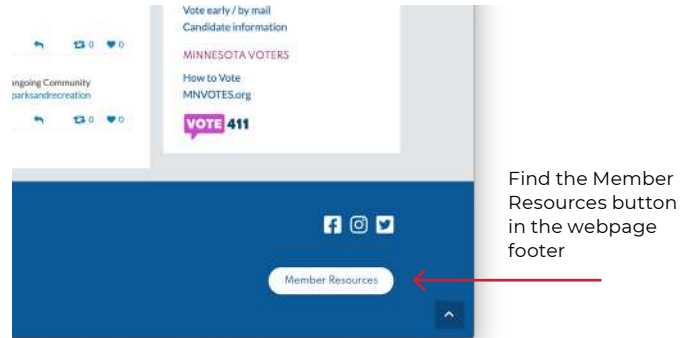
BY DEBORAH TOLMACH SUGERMAN

You may be still exploring our new and improved website, rolled out in September 2020. Thus, you may not have noticed the Member Resources button in the lower right-hand corner of the footer. Clicking on this little button will open the door to a treasure trove of information. Member Resources — organized into Monthly Discussion and Study Topics, a Meeting/Event Calendar, Resources, and an Archive — contains the tools, resources and guidance to do the work. Here you'll find myriad facts and figures, including the all-important calendar.

Learn about LWVMpls' policies on issues such as non-partisanship and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Find out more about our various committees and how to become more active. You can also access resources on topics ranging from COVID-19 to grant applications, as well as a directory of member names.

Keep checking back, as much more will be available in the Archive, a section that's still under construction.

If you do not have the password for this page, or have other questions, email communications@lwvmpls.org.



Welcome New Members

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2020

Gretchen and Robert Amis
 Catherine Borbas
 Libby Bottem
 Marsha Carlson
 Cristina Florencia Castro
 Linda Conley
 Robin Cooper
 Barbara Crosby
 Carol Dines
 Linda Foreman
 Camille Gage
 Patricia Gale
 Kathryn Garner

Judy Grant
 Katherine Hanson
 Erin Harvey
 Mary Harvey
 Susan Hellstrom
 Amanda Holmes
 Judy Hornbacher
 Nancy Joseph-Goldfarb
 Jane Lansing
 Heidi Lemke
 Ashley Marek
 Dana Meade
 Claudia Melbye

Eric Miller
 Karen Miller
 Suzanne Moseman
 Emily Nachtigal
 Sheila O'Dougherty
 Terry Pearson
 Michaela Samoudi
 Diane Marie Savino
 Nancy Schaefer
 Natalie Schmidt
 Karen Schneider
 Anne Seltz
 Mary Small

Brenda Smeby
 Sonja Somdahl
 Myra Starkenburg
 Katelyn Streeter
 Brittany Swanson
 Darla Tufto
 Jan Wagner
 Kate Walker
 Susan Westerman
 Elaine Wilson
 Jennifer Wilson



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Mailing:

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Minneapolis, MN
55407-7570

612.333.6319 | vote@lwvmpls.org | 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

- Colleen Moriarty, President
- Alice Moormann, Past President
- 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 (August - October 2020)

Individual Contributions:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Susan Anderson | Meg Grove |
| Jenny Bender | Marion Hall |
| Sharon Bigot | Carolyn Hendrixson |
| Esther Brokaw | Ellen Hughes |
| Jane and Carl Brookins | Vicki Kunerth |
| Kathie Cerra | Patricia Mack |
| Gay Clapp | Mary Maher |
| Virginia Craig | Ann Manning |
| Nancy Duffy | Colleen Moriarty |
| Sharon Emery | Suzanne Moseman |
| Susan Foote | Joan Niemiec |
| Meg Forney | Sheila O'Dougherty |
| Janet Gendler | Jane Papageorgiou |
| Carol Greene | Debra Rappaport |

Time is running out

If you haven't renewed for the 2020-2021 program year, please do so today. Renew online by clicking the "Join/Renew" button on lwvmpls.org. 2021 is an important municipal election year. Help support LWVMpls in our efforts to educate voters.

Important Dates

CIVIC BUZZ

Rescheduled to the first Tuesday of January
January 5, 2021, 7 PM - 8:30 PM

LWVMpls Board of Directors

Thursday, December 17, 6 PM
Thursday, January 21, 2021, 6 PM
To be held remotely

CMAL Meeting on County Government

Saturday, January 9, 2021, 10 AM-11:30 AM
Hear a panel of county officials discuss the latest developments in county government followed by Q & A with the audience

Click here to Join Zoom

or for phone dial in: 312-626-6799,
Meeting ID: 937 5814 8664 Passcode: 975443

Program Planning

January 30, 2021
Details to come by email and on our website