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## **A Primer on the Presidential Primary, featuring Anoka County Elections Manager Paul Linnell**

Saturday afternoon, 1:30-2:30, January 4  
Northtown Library, 711 County Hwy 10 Frontage Rd. Blaine

Join us for a discussion with Anoka County Elections Manager Paul Linnell for information, discussion, and answers to your questions on the upcoming Presidential Primary. Bring your friends and neighbors. The event is free and open to the public

There is much to learn about this process. Early voting begins January 17, 2020 for the March 3 Presidential Nomination Primary. Check out the Voter Information menu on our LWV ABC website for links to voter registration information and an overview of the Presidential Primary.



**Speaking of the Presidential Primary – Take a look at this video!** Our president, Gretchen Sabel, conducted a discussion with Paul Linnell, Anoka County Elections Manager at QCTV studios in early December on important highlights of the Presidential Primary.

Watch the half-hour video produced by QCTV at this link: <http://reflect-qctv.cablecast.tv/vod/10152-LWV-A-Primer-on-the-Presidential-Primary-High-v1.mp4> Share it with your friends and neighbors too – just send them to qctv.org, and the video is highlighted on their home page.

We are grateful for our partnership with QCTV and their enthusiasm for bringing civic education to our communities.

**REMINDER: There will be NO regular LWV ABC monthly meetings at the Andover Senior Center in January or February. There are lots of other upcoming events, however, so read on! And lots of help needed! Get involved!**

## Legislative Interviews

### Meet Local Legislators in Round Table Format on January 9

League of Women Voters ABC is again sponsoring legislative interviews for LWV members and the public to meet our local legislators in an informal roundtable question and answer format. This year, rather than having one huge event, we have divided the area covered by LWV ABC so that people don't have to drive as far. Here is the schedule:

Date	Day	Time	Place	Districts covered	LQV ABC Chairs
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	6-8:00 PM	Ramsey City Hall in the Alexander Ramsey Room	Districts 35, 35A, 35B, 36, 36A, and 36B	Paul Sitz and Leslie Waterhouse
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	10-12 noon	Mississippi Library community room in Fridley	Districts 41 and 41A	Bruce Pomeranz and Lora Oberle
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1:30-3:30 PM	Columbia Heights Library community room	Districts 41 and 41B	Bruce Pomeranz and Lora Oberle
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1-3 PM	Blaine City Hall	Districts 31, 31A, 31B, 37, 37A, and 37B	Karen Varian, Belinda Lawrence, Arlene Gillett, and Jane Arndt

We are getting good response from legislators confirming that they will attend. The chairs will need help with spreading the word, registration, food, and serving as table captains and recorders at the event. LWV ABC members were sent a "Sign Up Genius" request on Dec 27 – please plan to sign up to help with these events if you have not already done so. Lots of help is needed!

Hope you can all come! It's a great way to establish or strengthen your relationship with your legislators and hear their priorities and how they respond to issues of concern to voters in a friendly, respectful environment. (The photo to the right is from our 2018 Interviews.)



**History Display Opening Events – January 13 at 6:30 and February 1 at 11am**

**LWV MN Historical Displays at our local libraries**

[LWV MN Historical displays](#) are coming to our local libraries this winter: January 13-28 at the Northtown Library, and February 1-15 at the Rum River Library. We are going to kick off each of these events with an opening ceremony, so mark your calendars now! Here's the plan:

**January 13 at 6:30 pm – Northtown;**  
**February 1 at 11 am – Rum River.**

Representative Erin Koegel will speak at the Northtown event, and Representative Peggy Scott will speak at Rum River. Both events will feature a Scout flag ceremony, music from high school choirs and “take your picture with a Suffragist” selfie booth. We will have tables there for voter registration and disseminating information on Census and the Presidential Primary.

Many thanks to Leaguer’s Sandy Connor and Susan Anderson for taking the helm on planning these events!



**Bring a friend to the Grand Opening event near you!**

(Ann Essling will be portraying Suffragist Sarah Colvin and will be available for pictures. This isn't a picture of her on the left, but she will be quite authentic.)



You can be a suffragist, too. We will have sashes on hand for our members to wear at the event. Dress like a Suffragist for extra fun – long dark skirt and white shirt with a hat, like this. We will have sashes and signs on hand to complete the look.

The following page is the event notice prepared by the Anoka County Library.



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

# THE VOTER

January 2020



A CENTURY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:  
The League of Women Voters Minnesota

Women's Suffrage Movement, St. Paul MN circa 1919. loc.gov/pictures/item/3016866204/



## Women and Men Making Democracy Work

In an historic vote on September 8, 1919, the Minnesota Legislature voted YES to ratify the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, granting women the right to vote and ending the 72-year struggle for women's suffrage.

But as distinguished Minnesota suffragist Clara Ueland said that day, "Today is the commencement rather than the end of our work." The League of Women Voters Minnesota was born, with Ms. Ueland as its first President, to help carry out the new work of empowering voters and defending democracy, with women now at the table – and in the voting booth. One hundred years later, LWW Minnesota continues to thrive as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization promoting good government and civic engagement throughout Minnesota.

Today women AND men age 16 and over participate in LWW's mission to inform voters and encourage voting by registering voters at high schools, citizenship ceremonies, and other venues; holding candidate forums for a variety of offices; lobbying legislators of all parties on issues of importance to our communities; monitoring public meetings to encourage openness and transparency; and other civic engagement activities.

Voting is your voice in government. Becoming informed about candidates and issues and voting makes democracy work in the United States. To celebrate the 19th Amendment's centennial year, League of Women Voters Minnesota created a traveling exhibit to recognize the organization's mission and history over the past century.

Submitted by Kathy Aanerud  
League of Women Voters - Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids

## TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Visit the exhibit that features Minnesota's suffrage story and highlights those who continue through the League of Women Voters to make democracy work for all. Also included are artifacts from the local Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids chapter of the League.

**JANUARY 13-29**  
**NORTHTOWN LIBRARY**  
Opening Celebration  
January 13th 6:30pm-7:30pm

**JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 14**  
**RUM RIVER LIBRARY**  
Opening Celebration  
February 1 11:30am-1:30pm

**BECAUSE  
A HEALTHY COMMUNITY  
IS ONE WHERE  
EVERYONE HAS  
A VOICE.**

MINNESOTA  
LIBRARIES  
**TRANSFORM**  
AN Affiliated Library Association



## Transformative Circle Events

LWV ABC members – let's expand our connections with Transformative Circle, the initiative in Coon Rapids that brings together people of diverse backgrounds and cultures to build community relationships.

The values demonstrated through Transformative Circle's activities are values shared by LWV ABC; and we honored their good work with our *Friend of League* award at our October program meeting.

Some of our members already connected to Transformative Circle include Betsy Kiekhafer, Luanne Koskinen, and Belinda Lawrence who all serve on their board, and Kathie Whelchel and Sue Dergantz who are frequent event attendees.

**Check out these upcoming events** shared by Lori Anderson, Chairperson and Founder of Transformative Circle:

- **Thursday January 2:** Dinner-provided conversation on the environment "Mother Nature & Me"; 6:00 - 8:30 pm, Coon Rapids Civic Center
- **Tuesday January 15:** Book Club: "Transforming Worldviews" by Paul G Hiebert 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Burger King Riverdale (Book Club meets the second Tuesday of every month and you don't have to have read the book to join the discussion.)
- **Sunday January 12:** Human Trafficking Summit 2:00 - 4:00 Coon Rapids Civic Center
- **Thursday February 6:** Dinner-provided conversation on Black and Brown women in history (no title yet) 6:00 - 8:30 pm Coon Rapids Civic Center

Keep up with Transformative Circle via their Facebook page (@TransformativeCircle) and website (<http://transformativecircle.org/>).



## Census 2020

### Important, Easy-to-Attend Event -- via Webcast

Thank you, Wes Volkenant, for sharing this information about an important upcoming webcast:

#### **2020 Census and Complete Count Committees – and other supporters**

The Minnesota State Demographic Center invites you to participate in a **statewide livestream** to prepare for the 2020 Census. The special broadcast will feature resources and strategies to support the success of Complete Count Committees.

This event is highly recommended for Complete Count Committee members as well as local leaders supporting the 2020 Census. It is jointly offered on behalf of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, the Minnesota Service Cooperatives, the Association of Minnesota Counties, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota School Boards Association, and the Minnesota Association of Townships.

**Presenters:** Susan Brower, Minnesota State Demographer and Andrew Virden, Director of Census Operations and Engagement

**Register**, via the link below, for this interactive opportunity to connect with the Minnesota State Demographic Center and statewide colleague to ensure an accurate count for Minnesota on Census Day on April 1, 2020.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Register for this webcast:**

[http://www.mncounties.org/meetings\\_and\\_education/census\\_2020-prep\\_for\\_cities\\_and\\_counties\\_state\\_demographer.php](http://www.mncounties.org/meetings_and_education/census_2020-prep_for_cities_and_counties_state_demographer.php)

This photo is from our September program on the Census. You can see video from this event on CTN's website at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiWVCap51Ks>



## Interested in Legislative Activity? Join LWV MN Lobby Corps & Observer Corps!

If individual members are interested in the legislative session, lobbying the state government, or participating in advocacy, this is a great way to get involved and develop leadership skills! Please join Lobby Corps or Observer Corps this year to amplify the League's advocacy efforts through lobbying, Action Alerts, and the Capitol Letter, a regular publication for members and the public to learn about what is happening at the Capitol.

Lobby Corps members learn how the legislature works, get advice about how to draft Action Alerts and lobbying materials for the League, and take action in effective ways to advocate for policy changes.

Observer Corps members will also learn the basics of the legislative process, receive training on how to watch legislative committee hearings, and then use that knowledge to submit reports to our Capitol Letter.

There will also be many opportunities to meet other Lobby Corps and Observer Corps members, including Day of Action and gatherings during session! Training will be by recorded video webinar in January, allowing members to watch the training at their convenience. **Please keep an eye out for the sign up in January's issue of All Member News.**

### Save the Dates!

LWVMN is planning not one, not two, but THREE opportunities for members to be engaged in at the Capitol this session! Please save the dates! Plans are still being finalized, but more details will come out in January and February.

- Day of Action - Friday, February 14
- Day at the Capitol - Monday, March 16
- Rally Day (in the Rotunda) - Wednesday, March 25

### FREE Civics Education Event!

Interested in the future of our country and civics education? Attend this free event co-hosted by Education Week, the Star Tribune, and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs! The event is on January 25 at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs in Minneapolis. The event is titled [Teaching Civics in Hyper-Partisan Times](#). While the event is primarily oriented toward educators and education administrators, any individual who cares about civics education is welcome to participate, **but please register at the link above**. Lunch is provided. By registering for the event and attending, you can:

- Inform the day by answering pre-event questions in the registration process,
- Actively participate to develop the content during the afternoon, and
- Connect more generally with Education Week while its newsroom reporters are there.

## Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, December 16, 2019

By Arlene Gillett, Secretary

Paul Linnell, Anoka County Elections Manager, is the speaker on the Presidential Primary for our January membership meeting. He filmed a video on that topic at QCTV studios in December. He will be showing the video on Saturday, January 4th at the Northtown Library and holding an informal question and answer session after the showing. Handouts with information about this event will be at local libraries.

-We worked on the details of our Grand Opening ceremonies of the LWV History Display at the Northtown and Rum River Libraries. We will attempt to dress as suffragettes, wearing long dark-colored skirts and white long sleeved blouses, and a hat! We agreed to the "Memorandum of Understanding" with the Anoka County Library, which covers our responsibilities in the event.

-Legislative interviews are being set up where we will meet with our local legislators in question and answer sessions. We decided to do the interviews at three different locations, to reduce travel time. Look for sign-up sheets to volunteer at a location near you, with many positions to be filled. The events will occur on January 9th in Ramsey, January 25th in Columbia Heights, and January 25th in Blaine .

## Other Event of Interest...

### Don't Fall For It: Assessing the Truth Online

We need a couple of members, or more, to attend this free two-hour, Saturday afternoon event at the Johnsville Library in Blaine. Based upon your evaluation, we may want to make this topic and the presenters a part of our programming in this election year.

- Register here: <https://anokacounty.libcal.com/event/5728547>
- Let Gretchen know you'll be there.

**Description:** The internet has dramatically increased our ability to access the information we need to increase our knowledge and make better decisions, but it has also enabled manipulation and misinformation that have adversely impacted our decision-making ability. In this class, you'll learn how to recognize suspicious or outright false information in your social media newsfeed and on websites.

Presented by Twin Cities Media Alliance and funded by MELSA.

**Saturday, January 18, 2020 -- 1:00-3:00 pm**  
**Johnsville Library, 12461 Oak Park Blvd, Blaine**





**REMINDER: There will be NO regular LWV ABC monthly meetings at the Andover Senior Center in January or February.**

***There are lots of other upcoming events, just look at this list below! And lots of help needed! Get involved!***

**Save the Dates:**

Saturday, January 4 – **Primer on the Presidential Primary** – Northtown Library, 711 Hwy 10 Frontage Rd, Blaine. 1:30 pm.

Thursday, January 9 – **Legislative Interviews** – Ramsey Municipal Building, 7550 Sunwood Dr. 6pm

Monday, January 13 – **Grand opening of the History Display** – Northtown Library, 711 Hwy 10 Frontage Rd, Blaine. 6:30 pm. No LWV ABC Monthly meeting in Andover – come to the Grand Opening instead.

Monday, January 27 - **LWV ABC Board meeting** cancelled due to travel by officers

Saturday, January 25 – **Legislative Interviews** – Mississippi Library, 410 Mississippi St NE, Fridley. 10am

Saturday, January 25 – **Legislative Interviews** – Columbia Heights Library, 3939 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights. 1:30 pm

Saturday, January 25 – **Legislative Interviews** – Blaine City Hall, 10801 Town Square Dr NE,. 1pm

Saturday, February 1 – **Grand opening of the History Display** – Rum River Library, 4201 6th Ave, Anoka. 11am

Monday, February 10 – **No LWV ABC Monthly meeting** – enjoy winter from your living room!

Monday, February 24 - **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni’s in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30. ]

Monday, March 10 – **LWV ABC Monthly Meeting**, Andover Senior Center. 6pm. It will be good to get back together!

**Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?**  
**Four ways to stay in touch with LWV ABC**

**Visit our public website:** [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org). If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com). We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

**We're on Facebook:** Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook".

**Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*:** Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org).

**Not a member of LWV ABC?**

**Help us Make Democracy Work!**

Join LWV ABC using [PayPal](#) or by using the [Membership Form](#).