

Dear League Members

This is the time of year when we gather in community to share a meal, enjoy light-hearted conversations, and raffle off some treasures and holiday treats to raise a little money for League. We are missing that a lot this year! Another tradition at our winter brunch is to invite a non-profit organization to tell us what they do and how they help the community through their important work. Then we pass the hat to support their cause.

In the spirit of the season of giving, while we are being wise to stay at home, let's turn the luxury of our past meals together and fundraising for League to supporting the many adults and children in need who have had a rough year due to the economic downturn, educational disruptions, COVID, and wildfires. Please consider giving an extra gift this December to the charity of your choice that serves our community well. This is building common cause where civic life can thrive.

This election saw a record-breaking turnout of voters with millions of new participants. Our institutions have held, but the fragility of our democracy is clearly evident. This is what the League of Women Voters is about: promoting and defending our democracy and the right to vote.

Of course, the League is not alone in seeking ways to shore up our democracy. After conducting forty-seven listening sessions in 2019 with hundreds of Americans from all walks of life, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has issued a report to reinvent democracy for the 21st Century. The report identifies six broad strategies that provide a hope-filled framework for the future. Each strategy comes with specific recommendations that exemplify "outside the box" thinking. If your interest is piqued, we encourage you to read the report. You can google *Our Common Purpose* to learn what we can change to strengthen our democracy. The ideas are intriguing and doable. League has a role to play in this.

On behalf of the board of directors, we wish you and your loved ones a holiday month filled with gratefulness for our many blessings.

Marge Easley
Nancy Murray