



SANDRA L. (YOUNGDAHL) SHANLEY

1942-2017

Sandra L. Youngdahl was born in Chicago in 1942, and spent much of her childhood on farms in Iowa and Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. She received her B.A. in History and M.A. in Library Science from the University of Minnesota, and spent her career as a librarian in Wisconsin and Minnesota libraries, including the Anoka County Library. She married Dennis M. Shanley in Ramsey County on February 11, 1967.

Sandra was a League of Women Voters member for more than 30 years. In 1987, she brought attention to the difficulties that permanently ill or disabled people faced in getting to polling places in order to vote. Following in the lead of other states, Sandra urged Minnesota lawmakers to pass legislation creating a list of permanently disabled persons who would automatically receive an absentee ballot application before each election. After three years of work on the part of Sandra and others, the legislation passed in the spring of 1990. This made voting more accessible for those with permanent mobility problems; Sandra herself suffered from Multiple Sclerosis. In addition to the League of Women Voters, Sandra also volunteered with Meals on Wheels, Family Table, and the Zion Lutheran Blood Drive.

She passed away in 2017 at the age of 75.

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