

ZILLA J. (SHERRITT) WAY

b. 1929



Zilla J. Sherritt was born in 1929 in North Dakota. Growing up both there and in Canada, she later attended Macalester College in St. Paul. She graduated in 1950, after just three years in school. Through a roommate, Zilla met Marshall S. Way of Anoka, whom she married in 1951. They settled in Anoka, and had four children.

Zilla joined the League of Women Voters around 1956, on the suggestion of a friend. Much of her early participation involved the LWV “observer” project, which had members attend local government meetings to observe and take accurate notes. She served as the LWV President from 1961-1963. This experience helped Zilla become familiar with the City of Anoka’s government. By the mid-1960s, it had become clear that the city needed a new charter, which the League encouraged. Zilla was appointed to the commission that wrote an updated charter. In 1967, she became the first woman elected to the Anoka City Commission (later the Anoka City Council). She served on the Council until 1971. While she did not run for political office again, she later served on the Anoka Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the Metropolitan Council Criminal Justice Committee, and worked on the Anoka City Charter Commission again starting in 1997, serving as president from 2002-2015.

Zilla has been a member of the LWV for 62 years and is also a published poet.