



*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed, **diverse**, and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BELOIT

January-February 2019

THE LWV IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES A PROFESSIONAL JOB

Upcoming League and Community Events:

January 12, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Blackhawk Technical College

January 14, 5:00 p.m. Lively Issues-Homelessness Presentation
Beloit Public Library

January 21, 8:00 a.m. MLK Breakfast
Eclipse Center

January 21, 4:30 p.m. MLK Convocation 4:30 p.m.
Eaton Chapel, Beloit College Campus

January 31, 6:30 p.m. Consensus Meeting for the Homelessness Study
Beloit Public Library, Riverside Room

February 9, 11:30 a.m. Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration
Boundaries Bar and Grill

February 11, 5:00 p.m. LWV Leadership Team/Board Meeting
United Church, 657 Bluff St., back door

March 13, Candidate Forum
City Hall Forum

April 27, Annual Meeting—save the date!
Beloit Historical Society, 845 Hackett St. Beloit

BELOIT LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Susan Adams, Bette Carr, Stephanie Dobson, Deb Fallon,
Gayle Hotchkiss, Beatrice McKenzie, Joyce Metter,
Dalynda Owens, Barb Porter, Dorothy Stroud, Pat Zody*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration, January 12, 2019

Attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration on January 12, 2019 at Blackhawk Technical College from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Let's come together and renew our commitment to compassion and social justice values learned from King's example. Together, let's show courage to stand up for human rights and equality for everyone. Immediately following the program, join us for a meaningful time to get to know one another at the Ethnic Food Fest.

January 21, 2019

MLK, Jr. Breakfast
8:00 am
Eclipse Center, Beloit

January 21, 2019

MLK, Jr. Convocation
4:30 pm
Beloit College, Eaton Chapel
700 College St., Beloit

LIVELY ISSUES—HOMELESSNESS PRESENTATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 5:00 p.m. at the BELOIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

PLEASE COME AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!



League of Women Voters of Beloit

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

In This Issue:

- Calendar of League Events
- MLK Events
- Lively Issues--
Homelessness Study
- Lively Issues Extended
- Voter Service Activity
- Susan B. Anthony
- League Stance on DEI

Check out our

Beloit League of Women Voters web site: www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org

League of Women Voters of Beloit invites you to the *Lively Issues Meeting*

January 14, 5:00 p.m.
Beloit Public Library

CASINO

LAND USE

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE
POLICE
LIAISON

HOMELESSNESS

This year, the League's Lively Issues will take a different look, as we first tackle a final look at homelessness and then dive into other areas that members would like the League to review as part of the Lively Issues process.

As the League of Women Voters of Beloit finishes up its study on Homelessness, Jessica Locher, from ECHO and the Homelessness Intervention Task Force, will speak starting at 5:00 pm at the Beloit Public Library. She will talk about how the task force works with multiple organizations to receive funding and provide various services to those who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and also address current unmet service needs in Rock County. ***

Following Jessica's presentation, the League's positions on Casino Negotiations, Land Use, and the School District's Student Discipline and Police Liaison Program--areas requested by members for review, will be discussed in preparation for the Annual Meeting. Other suggestions for issues that the League should be involved in can be brought up, as well.

*Since this is the supper hour, food
will be provided to keep you lively!!!*

*****Participants may bring non-perishable food items and toiletries to be given to area homeless resource centers.**



Lively Issues Extended

The following position statements will be posted for members to review and give suggestions for further opinion:

- SOCIAL POLICY –

Homelessness:

The LWV of Beloit recommends:

- that the City of Beloit seek and secure available funds to be directed to administering and funding housing for homeless people.
- that the City of Beloit support programs which provide housing for homeless people. Such programs would include: transitional housing focusing on those with special needs such as single women, teenagers, and families with children, transitional or group homes for mentally ill people, released prisoners, recovering addicts, or others who are unable to manage on their own, and emergency housing for newly homeless families and individuals.
- that the City of Beloit actively participate in regional efforts to serve the needs of homeless individuals and families through direct financial assistance, transitional housing, employment/ career education, money management education, navigating social service systems, and advocacy for newly homeless residents.

(2011 - Carr, Lamont, Metter, Schoenfield, Seguin, Williams)

- NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT -

Land Use

The LWV of Beloit supports:

1. comprehensive development planning at the local, county, and regional levels and zoning policies which implement the planning. (rev. '84)
2. coordination of land use planning by the city, county, and regional agencies. (rev. '83)
3. periodic review and revision of Beloit's Comprehensive Master Plan, taking into consideration rezoning and new growth directions because of annexations. (rev. '80)
4. encouraging the consideration of alternative routes when planning arterials or major collectors so as not to disturb existing residential areas. (rev. '83)
5. consideration of zoning limitations and fully assessing development costs to developers in order to curb urban sprawl.

(Questions have arisen in the past as to whether developers are subsidized by taxpayers for the streets, sewers, and water extensions, erection of new neighborhood school facilities, etc. on city bonding items. Beloit should explore how other communities handle development costs and exercise control over urban sprawl. For example, requiring performance bonds, staging the development based on finances available, and initiating zoning change if the developer does not co-operate, and/or assessing the developer with municipal improvement costs.) (rev. '83) (1980)

6. confining development to existing city limits with special emphasis on confining commercial and industrial development to existing zones.

7. curbing urban sprawl by encouraging building upon vacant land parcels on the developing city-side of I-90 before city services are extended to the farmland east of I-90.
8. adoption of an annexation policy by the city of Beloit.
9. a separate agricultural zoning district with a minimum of 35 acres.
10. preservation of large acreages of productive prime agricultural soils, even though annexed to the city, by withholding capital improvements.
11. preservation of agricultural and conservancy land around local urban/suburban centers.
12. purchasing more parkland with emphasis on neighborhood open space needs and the preservation of the Turtle Creek Valley.
13. a comprehensive land asset and natural resources inventory. (rev. '83)
14. uniform county assessments and reaffirming our support for professional county assessors.
15. encouraging local, county, and regional efforts to improve air and water quality with emphasis on Bad Fish Creek.
16. (1983 - revised) (1980 - revised) (1978, 1975 - Stoner, Forbeck, Straffin)

- SOCIAL POLICY –

Proposed Casino

The League of Women Voters of Beloit opposes a casino for the Beloit area.

(In coming to this position, the Beloit LWV examined the following research: National Gambling Impact Study Commission, National Opinion Research Center at the Univ. of Chicago, National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, Wisconsin Policy Research Institute Reports: Apr. '95, July '96, Nov. '96, Sept. '97; GVA Marquette Advisors, Crowe Chizek LLP, and William N. Thompson)

The League of Women Voters of Beloit supports planned development of the I-90 Wisconsin Stateline area.

(The Beloit LWV recommends that each development proposal be evaluated for and meet specific criteria related to factors such as economic viability, zoning concerns, infrastructure costs, and economic, social and environmental impacts.)

(2001 - revised) (1999)

Casino Negotiations

Should a casino negotiation process begin in the Beloit area, the League of Women Voters of Beloit recommends incorporating the following points into the agreement process and compact with the tribe and developer:

1. establish the willingness of all participants to take time to come to a decision;
2. require the tribe /developer to bear the costs of an attorney well versed in Indian law chosen by the city to represent /advise the city;
3. invite representatives from the town of Turtle, surrounding municipalities, Rock County, and local school districts to participate and provide input regarding the casino development;
4. enact a limited year renegotiable contract;

5. guarantee waiver of sovereign immunity to allow non-tribal court processes;
 6. guarantee that the city may withdraw from negotiations at any point without penalty;
 7. include a penalty clause in case of lack of quality development according to the agreed upon plan;
 8. include specific agreement as to use of the land in trust if the casino were to fail;
 9. earmark the annual casino payment to the city for specific enhancement opportunities in order not to become dependent on it for operating costs;
 10. maintain city control of the types of retail sales and promotional incentives permitted at the casino in order to protect local businesses;
 11. maintain city control in regulating the site, including zoning, site development, code enforcement, and the right to enter at any time, as well as regulating the development of the surrounding area;
 12. require the tribe/developer to bear the costs of infrastructure and maintenance of the surrounding area (i.e. roads, bridges, sewer extension, etc.) as well as costs of increased police and fire protection;
 13. require hiring of local citizens and minorities and the implementation of state and federal fair labor practices;
 14. require funding from the tribe/developer for research, prevention, and treatment of problem gambling, and education of the community regarding gambling risks, etc. Estimates of adequate funding for these increased social costs should be obtained through consultation with local social service providers.
 15. set up a reserve fund for long-term social costs such as criminal activity, poverty, homelessness, family abuse, suicide, and the associated addictive behaviors (drugs /alcohol) etc.;
 16. plan and implement use of a casino for promoting cultural events and related Native American heritage; and
 17. specify amount of tribal donations to non-profits, charities, and schools.
- (2001 - revised) (1999)

- EDUCATION -

Student Discipline

The LWV supports:

- periodic evaluation and review of the *Student Disciplinary Code* by teachers, administrators, counselors, police liaison officers, parents, and students, to determine whether the (original) goals, objectives, and criteria are being met, and whether changes should be implemented.
- uniform enforcement of the Student Disciplinary Code regardless of race, sex, or family background.
- the inclusion of a section outlining student rights as part of the Student Disciplinary Code and a code of ethics for staff members dealing with students.

(2002 - Boutelle, Henderson, Kades, Schneider) (1989 - revised) (1982 - Driggins, Mueller, McNamee, Seguin, Schoenfield, Hotchkiss)

Police Liaison Program

The LWV of Beloit supports:

- maintaining the Police Liaison Program at the secondary school level in the School District of Beloit.
- adequate funding for the Police Liaison Program so that the full-time authorized strength of the Beloit Police Department is not weakened by its participation in the liaison program.
- the equitable sharing of financial support for the Police Liaison Program by both the City of Beloit and the Beloit Public Schools.

(2002 - Boutelle, Henderson, Kades, Schneider)

(1989 - revised) (1982 - Driggins, Mueller, McNamee, Seguin, Schoenfield, Hotchkiss)

Pat Zody, Joyce Metter, Susan Adams and Bette Carr reviewed the above position papers and did interviews and have their suggestions of possible responses to these position statements for the future:

Land Use:

After talking with Drew Pennington of the Planning Division in the City of Beloit, it is suggested that we do a more intensive study on our land use position. It was last updated in 1983 and encompasses 15 points. Many of these points have been addressed by state statute in the Comprehensive Planning Law (1999), or in the 20 -year boundary agreement with the Town of Turtle. The boundary agreement will expire in 2021. It would be a timely study so we can make a well thought out statement on a new agreement for 2021.

When asked if there was anything missing that we should include, Mr. Pennington immediately suggested that the dark store taxation issue should be included. This is the loophole addressed in the advisory referendum on the November 2018 ballot. This loophole currently allows occupied for-profit companies to be assessed as though they are vacant. Law firms began using this provision two to three years ago. Kerry Foods has an application to have its property reassessed. Walmart has used it elsewhere, but has not done so here yet. When companies are assessed at a lower rate, then the cost is shifted to residential property owners. We need to make our position clear on this matter, probably at the state level.

Position Paper – Casino Negotiations, 1999 (Revised in 2001)

Reviewed by Joyce Metter and Patricia Zody. In our review of the position paper, “Casino Negotiations,” we carefully read through the position paper, and met with key players involved with the current casino project—Collin Price, the Public Relations Office for the Ho-Chunk Nation, on December 10, 2018; and Lori S. Curtis Luther, City Manager of Beloit, and Sarah Millard, Director of Strategic Communications, on December 20, 2018. We were able to conduct productive meetings with these two groups to learn more about the current state of the casino project; review specific parts of the position papers pertinent to either one or both groups; and receive materials available for our review. These materials involved online access to a videotape and the following downloadable documents: an Economic Impact Review, and the Intergovernmental Agreement (Ho-Chunk Nation, City of Beloit, Rock County). We also attended the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Public Hearing Meeting for the Ho-Chunk Nation Beloit Fee-to-Trust and Casino Project at Aldrich Middle School on December 11, 2018.



League of Women Voters of Beloit

After careful review of the materials provided, not to mention our meetings with the Ho-Chunk Nation and City of Beloit, we feel that the LWV of Beloit no longer needs a position paper on this issue for several reasons. Most important, a significant number of issues raised in the position paper have been covered through the Intergovernmental Agreement, which is a binding contract among the Ho-Chunk Nation, the City of Beloit, and Rock County. The Ho-Chunk Nation, which took over the casino project six years ago, has much more experience creating, building, and managing casinos—both positive and negative effects—than the Bad River Tribe that started the project in 1999. In addition, the Ho-Chunk Nation, the City of Beloit, and Rock County view this project as an entertainment center, with a hotel, convention center, indoor water park, and restaurants along with the casino. Finally, in attending the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Public Hearing Meeting, we learned that the support for this project has changed significantly since 1999, and that this project has complete support from the City of Beloit, Rock County, and local governmental officials.

Meetings Conducted by Joyce Metter and Patricia Zody:

Collin Price, Public Relations Officer, for the Ho-Chunk Nation Irontek, 2nd floor 2 p.m., December 10, 2018

Lori S. Curtis Luther, City Manager of Beloit, and Sarah Millard, Director of Strategic Communications City Hall 1:30 p.m., December 20, 2018

Meeting Attended by Patricia Zody: Bureau of Indian Affairs – Public Hearing Meeting Ho-Chunk Nation Beloit Fee-to-Trust and Casino Project Aldrich Middle School December 11, 2018

Materials Reviewed: -36-minute video about the project:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofBeloit/videos/10157109577633228/>

-Economic Impact Analysis, Ho-Chunk Casino Resort: Executive Summary

-Intergovernmental Agreement: Ho-Chunk Nation, City of Beloit, Rock County

Education—Student Discipline

The SDB Student Discipline Code is currently under review by a committee for the School Board. League will want to monitor the progress. Staff, parents, and others have been involved.

Police Liaison Program

Recommend that this needs to be reviewed as a new study as the current school district program is completely different than it was back in 2002 when our position was last reviewed.

Voter Service Information from LWVWI

As the League thinks about messaging for future elections, this Pew Research Center study offers some insights to voters' and nonvoters' views on voting - opportunities to keep voters engaged and getting nonvoters to become engaged.

<http://www.people-press.org/2018/12/17/most-voters-have-positive-views-of-their-midterm-voting-experiences/>



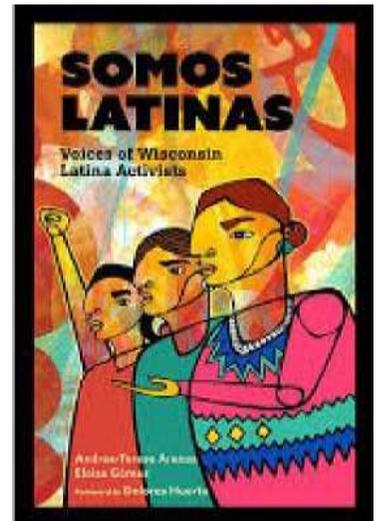
Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration!!

The annual Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration will be held February 9, 2019 by the League of Women Voters of Beloit and Janesville.

Plan to attend!



Event speaker is **Eloisa Gómez**, co-author of, *Somos Latinas: Voices of Wisconsin Latina Activists*, who will provide an overview presentation highlighting some takeaways on Latina Activists (50 years and older) and their community building efforts in Wisconsin. She will also engage the audience to strategize on building relationship and alliance opportunities with the Latinx/Latina communities to further civic engagement.



The Annual Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Boundaries, 3807 S Riverside Dr., Beloit, WI

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Tickets: \$25 (includes meal and event)

Questions?? Bclwv2010@gmail.com

Send payment to: Deb Fallon, 1232 Elm St., Beloit, WI 5351 OR PHONE: 608-362-4778

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

The LWVWI recently approved their new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement. The local Beloit board has approved this statement as well, for its documents, but a summarized version for the newsletter. Let us know if you have any questions or comments.

LWVWI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. *LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity or any other class protected by applicable state or federal laws. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. This policy is applicable to persons served by the organization, to staff employment, and to memberships on its governing board. (Approved by LWVWI Board, 2018-1109)*



Are YOU reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?
Joining the League of Women Voters is easy!

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Simply print out this page and cut off this form.

Write your check to the League of Women Voters of Beloit. **Dues are \$65. Student \$10.**

Mail it to the Beloit LWV Treasurer: Dorothy Stroud

2790 E. County Road (Phone: 815-988-2259)
Beloit, WI 53511

name _____ phone _____ date _____

street _____ city/state _____ zip _____

e-mail _____ signature _____

Amount enclosed for dues: _____ Donation: _____

Application for LWV Dues Scholarship: I hereby request consideration for a LWV Dues Scholarship for one year’s membership. I understand that it is my responsibility to pay a portion of the annual dues and that a Board member will be in contact with me regarding final completion.

Signature _____