



*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

October-November 2018

THE LWV IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES A PROFESSIONAL JOB

Upcoming League and Community Events:

October 8, 5:30-7:30 Domestic Violence and Family Law

Beloit Public Library

October 10, 6:30 p.m. Candidate Forum for WI Assembly 31, 45

Beloit City Hall Forum

October 11, 6-7:30 p.m. Early Head Start Family Night, LWV to assist voter registration

1221 Henry Avenue

October 19, 1:00 p.m. Homelessness Study Committee meeting

Beloit Public Library Café

October 19, 7:30 p.m. 1st Congressional Debate Watch Party

LWV-Janesville UW-Rock- Allen Hall

October 25, 6:00 p.m. Freedom Fund Banquet

Eclipse Center—NAACP, Contact Dorothy Harrell, drthyharrell@yahoo.com

October 27, 10:00 a.m. Beloit Community Freedom March 2018, LWV to assist Lori Stottler

Beloit College - Aldrich Field

November 6, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. VOTE

November 10 Issues Briefing—LWVWI

Middleton

November 12 5:00-6:00 p.m. Members Meeting on Homelessness

Beloit Public Library

LWV Leadership Team/Board Meetings (members are welcome)

October 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m. United Church, 657 Bluff St., back door

November 12, 6-7:00 p.m. Beloit Public Library, Meeting Room

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

Assembly 31st and Assembly 45th Candidate Forum

On October 10, the LWV-Beloit will team up with LWV-Janesville, the Beloit NAACP, Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB), Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce and Forward Janesville to host a candidate forum for the 31st and 45th Assembly Districts. The candidate forum will be held at the Beloit City Hall Forum starting at 6:30 p.m.

The League of Women Voters of Janesville will host a watch party in Janesville to watch the 1st District Congressional debate to be held in Oak Creek on Friday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Candidates are Randy Bryce, Bryan Steil, and Ken Yorgan. The event will be held at UW-Rock County in Allen Hall, 2909 Kellogg Ave. The debate will be broadcast live at wiseye.org and jsonline.com.

https://www.gazettextra.com/news/local/st-district-debate-watch-party-set-for-oct/article_e98758a0-1373-59f5-800d-b035258cabbc.html

Summer Events League free membership was donated by Anne Reece, with the winner being Lynn Malott!! Welcome Lynn! Also, welcome to Harry Wiersgalla, husband of Kedron Wiersgalla. We appreciate you joining this wonderful organization!! 😊



League of Women Voters of Beloit

The League of Women Voters of Beloit subscribes to the belief that diverse perspectives and inclusiveness are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The Beloit LWV affirms this belief in diversity and pluralism through its values and practices.

The Beloit LWV is, therefore, committed to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, and programs, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the Beloit LWV on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, political activity or disability.

In This Issue:

- Calendar of League Events
- Candidate Forum
- **Renew Membership NOW**
- Voter Service Activity
- Homelessness Study
- Domestic Violence Event
- League Stance on ICE
- Electoral Security Review
- LWVWI Issues Briefing
- Susan B. Anthony

Check out our

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

The LWV of Beloit membership dues are renewed in October.

It's that time of year to stand up, be counted and be proud as a **MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**. League members are encouraged to be as active in League activities as their time and interest allows, but it is essential that you be a dues paying member to receive the information and benefits that your membership brings from the local, state and national leagues.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please send this form and a check payable to **LWV of Beloit**: Deb Fallon, 1232 Elm St., Beloit, WI 53511.

Don't let this form get lost in the holiday chaos--Please **send your check no later than November 16, 2018**.

The dues categories include basic membership and additional categories which recognize that many members are passionate about the League. Therefore, they want to acknowledge the bravery and leadership provided by women who worked and suffered to achieve the rights we now often take for granted.

____ \$65 Individual Membership ____ \$98 2 person household ____ \$10 Student

____ Additional \$ to specifically support dues scholarships in the amount of \$ _____

____ \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt, LWVUS Founder, reorganized the National American Woman Suffrage Association, then after the 19th Amendment, reconstituted the group as the League of Women Voters.

____ \$100 Susan B. Anthony, Suffragette Susan B. Anthony was arrested twice just for trying to vote!

____ \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Suffragette, often credited with initiating the first organized woman's rights and suffrage movements in the U.S.

____ \$200 June Swannack, a LWV Beloit founder and a lifelong member and supporter

____ Additional support for LWV of Beloit (general fund) \$ _____

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of the Beloit League! Total enclosed \$ _____.

LWV Dues Scholarships are available where member responsibility is to pay at least \$25.00 of the annual dues. For more information, please contact a Board member.

With revisions to the By-Laws of the LWV of Beloit in 2011, LWV of Beloit is recognized as a 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code where dues and contributions are charitable and can be tax deductible. Receipts for tax purposes will be provided.

Voter Service Activities

Joyce Metter and Pat Zody have kept our members busy with many planned voter service activities this fall. League members have been assisting voter registrations at Rock the Pride, Community Action Day at Beloit College, the Beloit Public Library, the Farmer's Market, BMHS football and soccer games, Stateline Literacy Council, and then many places on National Voter Registration Day--, BMHS senior lunch, Latino Service Providers-Even Start-Brother Dutton, Blackhawk Technical College, the Beloit Public Library, and Beloit College. More than 12 events have been completed, as well as ongoing assistance at Beloit College and the Beloit Public Library and more than 120 people have registered!!

On September 10, Lori Stottler presented to League members about the newest information on voter services and gave interesting statistics on Beloit voters.

We thank our many League members and partners for their participation in this important service: Joyce Metter, Pat Zody, Barb Porter, Barb Seguin, Kedron Wiersgalla, Bette Carr, Deb Fallon, Lynn Malott, Dorothy Stroud, Beatrice McKenzie, Shelly Mueller, Susan Adams, Alice Lamont, Stephanie and Dave Dobson, Betty Magnus, Anne Bua-Demus, Danielle Clifton, BPL staff, Mr. Kaminski, Daksha Howard, Daisy, Jackie Jackson, Megan Miller, and Sheryl Hooker. Please forgive us if we have forgotten anyone else. There were many assisting and we appreciate you all.

Upcoming events include:

October 10, 6:30 p.m. Candidate Forum, City Hall Forum

October 11, 6-7:30 p.m. Early Head Start Family Night, 1221 Henry Avenue

October 27, 10:00 a.m. Beloit Community Freedom March 2018, Beloit College - Aldrich Field

Caritas is also looking for League to assist voters at the following times:

Monday, October 8 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday, October 15 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 16 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Contact Pat Zody, zody@rocketmail.com or Joyce Metter jmetter23@charter.net if you want to get involved.



CANDIDATE FORUM
— for the —
Wisconsin Assembly

WHEN:
Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE:
Beloit City Hall Forum

CANDIDATES:

Assembly District 31
Brittany Keyes – Democrat
Amy Loudenbeck – Republican

Assembly District 45
Mark Spreitzer – Democrat
Reese Wood – Libertarian



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS'

Janesville & Beloit



ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
NAACP
founded
1909



JUSTICE OVERCOMING BORDERS
JUSTITIA SUPERANDO BARBARAS



FORWARD
JANESVILLE
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



GREATER BELOIT
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

LWV Beloit Homelessness Study (2nd and final year)

In August many of us went to the **There's No Place**, an original play by Jim Lyke. The play was about many of the issues that cause homelessness, as well as the stories of those who became homeless.

The next meeting of the Homelessness Study committee will be on October 19th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Beloit Public Library Café. If you are interested in helping the committee plan final events for this year, please come and assist the committee. This has been a study to review our League's current position statement to see if it needs expansion or can continue to stand.



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)

Please contact Co-chairs Gayle Hotchkiss or Stephanie Dobson for further information.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Please see the attached flyer for information on an event on October 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.at the Beloit Public Library sponsored by Family Services, Beloit Legal Access Program, and the Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center.

Join us for an educational session
on the intersection of

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & FAMILY LAW

This presentation
will cover how to
communicate with
the court and
discuss available
resources

Presenters will include:

- A Rock County Family Court Commissioner
- A Rock County Guardian ad Litem
- An attorney from Tre Foundations Beloit Legal Access Program



beloit public library

Monday October 8th, 2018

5:30PM- 7:30PM



Beloit Legal
Access Program



Family Services
Helping to restore, sustain & enhance lives



Beloit Domestic Violence
Survivor Center

League of Women Voters Stance on Recent ICE Activities

LWVWI: Statement of opposition to ICE arrests in Wisconsin

Madison - The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes the dozens of arrests across Wisconsin this past weekend by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. The individuals targeted for arrest were not criminals, but rather family members who were taken from their homes, vehicles, and jobs. These individuals were often given misleading information indicating that the ICE agents were local police officials.

The League condemns the use of intimidation and force in ICE agents' invasions on Latinx communities. This causes grief, communal trauma, family separations, and the loss of contributing neighbors within Wisconsin communities. We value all residents.

We must treat those wishing to come to this country with dignity and resist the urge to militarize the border, criminalize immigrants, or threaten the right of due process for all persons.

We stand in unity with individuals and organizations who oppose these tactics. And we look to assist those citizens who want to turn fear into power by going to the polls on November 6.

The League of Women Voters Wisconsin, a grassroots organization, bases this statement on the following national position, adopted by our membership in 2008:

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

LWVWI: ELECTORAL SECURITY REVIEW (from LWVWI)

A review of existing and potential vulnerabilities in Wisconsin and how to confront them

In response to recent reports surrounding election security, attempts by Russian actors to influence federal and state elections in the United States, and potential vulnerabilities to election equipment, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin seeks to investigate:

- *What are the security risks to the integrity and accuracy of the election process?*
- *What strategies are being conceptualized and implemented to mitigate these risks?*
- *And which of these strategies is the League capable of supporting and advancing in order to safeguard our elections?*

SECURITY VULNERABILITIES AND THE WISCONSIN ELECTORAL PROCESS

Wisconsin has a long history of well run elections. Numerous studies, recounts and audits have shown that we can have confidence in our electoral system. We must, however, continue to improve and evolve election administration to keep up with a changing environment. When people discuss election security, it can be difficult to identify what is at risk and understand which parts of our electoral process could be affected. While researching election security, the League identified four threats of “what could happen” if our elections were infiltrated:

Threats to Citizens’ Right to Vote: Fear around election security and election integrity in the past have led government officials to adopt harmful policies, like voter ID laws, that are known to disenfranchise voters in the name of securing our elections. Many of these policies are particularly harmful to our communities of color and other marginalized communities.

Threat to Voter Registration: Hackers could infiltrate the voter registration system (WisVote) and purge people from the rolls or interfere with their recorded data making it difficult for voters to cast their ballot. In addition, large number of voters not being found on the poll list and being directed to re-register on Election Day could cause long wait times to vote and cause disruptions during the day. Those without a proof of residence document available to them on Election Day could be disenfranchised.

Threat to Final Vote Counts: Hackers could manipulate the software or introduce new code to alter the vote count. Ex. making every 100th vote for candidate “X” a vote for candidate “Y.” This could lead to inaccuracies in the final vote numbers being reported to the public.

Threat to Voter Confidence: The threat of attack on our electoral system and misinformation campaigns undermine voter confidence. That lack of voter confidence in the system can lead to lower turnouts in elections. Communities of color have been hard hit by a history of attacks to undermine their voter confidence.

ACTIVE MEASURES TO MITIGATE VULNERABILITIES

After identifying the risks, League asks - What is being done to mitigate them?

Wisconsin has a number of good things already in place to keep our elections secure:

- The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) designed a custom voter registration system that has security measures in place to prevent malicious actors from infiltrating it and limiting the damage they could cause within the system.
- Wisconsin has Election Day Registration which acts as a failsafe for voters in case the voter registration system is hacked.
- Every ballot cast in Wisconsin has a paper record, so if there is an issue with the tabulation machines, election officials can go to the paper for a recount.
- Wisconsin municipalities publicly test voting equipment before every election.
- After every November election, state law requires election officials to conduct audits of the voting equipment used in the state to ensure that it is counting ballots accurately.
- And Wisconsin has voting rights groups, like the League of Women Voters, monitoring whether election procedures are being followed, giving voters information they can trust, and tracking the latest developments around election security.

The WEC, our state election agency, has been working to address immediate election security concerns. Their efforts have been enhanced with a recent influx of federal funding in the form of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant funding to be used to secure elections. Wisconsin was awarded \$6,978,318 in HAVA grant funding. The funding was released by the U.S. Congress in March of 2018 and states will have five years to spend the funding. Initial funds will be used for security software, principally a multi-factor verification system for WisVote, additional security training for clerks including implementing in-person training using regional leads as well as interactive online training, 6 staff positions (IT, Security Trainer, Grants Manager, WisVote Data Specialist, and Voting Equipment Specialist), hiring 2 additional IT contractors, and relocating WisVote and related applications to the highest security tier available with the state Division of Enterprise Technology (DET). Working with election security partners on every level of government, the WEC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Wisconsin DET to test Wisconsin's election systems, identify vulnerabilities, and offer suggestions of how those vulnerabilities can be addressed.¹

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ELECTORAL SECURITY AND INTEGRITY

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. We value fairness, transparency, accountability and accessibility in every election to ensure that citizens in our state can participate effectively in their government. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is continuing to investigate what more could and should be done to secure Wisconsin's election, and will continue to monitor the issue of election security as it evolves. That being said, here are our current recommendations:

Funding: The HAVA funds Wisconsin was awarded will help make our elections more secure, but they are not a sustainable source of funding. We need consistent, ongoing funding allocated by our own state legislature to ensure the WEC has the tools and staff required to respond to changing election security needs. We also need to ensure that our county and municipal clerks have the funding they need to securely administer our elections - from being able to phase out outdated equipment and invest in new technology to having the resources to effectively train poll workers to implement best practices (like post-election audits of election results).

Audits: Post-election audits should be included among the many needs that both the WEC and local governments need to address in order to ensure that Wisconsin elections remain free, fair and accessible to all eligible citizens. Recently the WEC gave county clerks direction that they can conduct post-election audits of election results at the county level.² Post-election audits of this type are optional, but should be encouraged. LWVWI supports the WEC's inquiry into how to bolster the auditing process, and know this must be considered among the mix of needed reforms.

Communication: Maintaining communication between election security officials, clerks, election workers, and the public during an election is challenging and important. Investigating and responding to incidents are best handled when a communication plan is

¹ [Wisconsin Elections Commission: Draft of the 2018 Election Security Plan \(pgs 14-20\)](#)

² [Wisconsin Elections Commission: County-Level Post-Election Audit Options following Partisan Primary](#)

implemented for all involved to follow to ensure the incident is handled quickly and effectively. WEC has invested time and resources into the development and training of a comprehensive communication plan that looks to correct past shortcomings and addresses real time concerns. LWVWI supports the fluidity of communication for all involved with the implementation and monitoring of election security situations on Election Day and throughout the year.

Training: Up to date and accessible training for all involved in the election process is vital for the implementation of enhanced security measures. The League supports the WEC's training modules for municipal and county clerks to give them the confidence and tools to address election security threats they may encounter in their roles. The League will continue to urge lawmakers to provide the WEC and local election officials with sufficient funding for the many factors involved with election administration and security as well as voter education about photo ID and voter registration.

WHAT NEXT?: ACTIONS FOR LEAGUES AND MEMBERS

To build voter confidence, Leagues and individual voters can encourage their county clerks to perform post-election audits of election results as directed by the WEC. Additionally, Leagues can encourage their members and other voters to attend public tests of voting equipment before each election. Municipal clerks are required by law to test the voting equipment for accuracy before each election, and rarely do members of the public come to observe the tests.

Recently the WEC posted a survey for election officials and the public to give comments about election security and to give suggestions about how to spend the remaining HAVA funds. The online survey asks respondents how they think the WEC can best use the grant funds to continue to improve and enhance election security beyond 2018. Respondents will also be asked, in their own words, how they would like to see the WEC spend the grant monies to help ensure elections remain safe in Wisconsin. The League encourages the public to submit comments.³

Leagues should continue to advocate for *informed* voting through voter registration and assistance drives, VOTE411 or other "candidates' answers" voter guides, candidate interviews, and candidate forums. Leagues should also continue to host educational forums on understanding the media, encouraging civil discourse, and that address the concerns outlined above. This is especially important in communities of color and other marginalized groups who are being targeted by misinformation and other attacks on voter confidence. The League will continue our advocacy to oppose laws that reduce eligible citizens' right to vote and assist voters who are negatively impacted by voting barriers. The League encourages informed voting. Our voice is loudest when we all go to the polls. The best way to protect the right to vote is by exercising that right and voting.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Wisconsin Elections Commission: Election Security in Wisconsin](#)
- [Wisconsin Elections Commission: Draft of the 2018 Election Security Plan \(pg 14-20\)](#)
- [Wisconsin Elections Commission: County-Level Post-Election Audit Options following Partisan Primary](#)
- [Wisconsin Elections Commission: Voting Equipment Audits](#)

³ [WEC Seeks Public Input on Election Security Funding Plans](#)

- [Center for American Progress: Election Security in All 50 States](#)
- [Brennan Center for Justice: Securing the Nation's Voting Machines: A Toolkit for Advocates and Election Officials](#)
- [Brennan Center for Justice: A Smart and Effective Way to Safeguard Elections](#)
- [LWVUS Report of the Election Audits Task Force](#)
- [Principles and Best Practices for Post-Election Audits](#)
- [National Conference of State Legislatures: Post-Election Audits](#)
- [LWVWI 9.25.18 Statement to the WEC on Election Security and Audits](#)
- [WEC Seeks Public Input on Election Security Funding Plans](#)
- [WEC Open Meeting Agenda for September 25, 2018](#)
- [What Is the Canvass?](#) (How election results are certified.)

**League of Women Voters of WI
Issues Briefing
DATE AND TIME**

**Sat, November 10, 2018
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST**

LOCATION

Holy Wisdom Monastery
4200 County Road M
Middleton, WI 53562

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/issues-briefing>

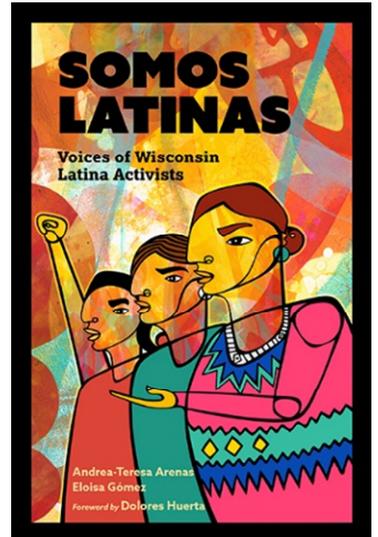
Tentative guest speaker topics include:

- Protecting the Great Lakes
- Election security in Wisconsin
- United against hate and prejudice: art and activism
- The League's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative
- The role of media in democracy

Any League member may attend. If you wish to have financial assistance please contact a board member.

Susan B. Anthony Event

The annual Susan B. Anthony Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, February 9, 2019, at Boundaries, 3807 S Riverside Dr., Beloit. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m, with food and program beginning at 11:30 a.m. The speaker for this event is **Eloisa Gomez**, author of *Somos Latinas*. Ms. Gomez is also a Milwaukee County League member and member of the Comité por el Voto, assisting the Latinx community to register to vote. Please plan to attend.





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

* * * * *

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 _____