

## Education Committee Report, January 2025

Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Chair

Next meeting: January 16, 2025, 3:30-5:00 via zoom

The Education Committee met on December 19 via Zoom. The chair provided updates on the status of public school referendum outcomes throughout the state of Wisconsin with a specific focus on the Green Bay, DePere, Ashwaubenon and Kaukauna referendum efforts. They all had very good outcomes. Denise explained the challenge with funding public schools by referenda as opposed to consistent funding from the state of Wisconsin. She also explained about the new reading bill that was funded in the 2024 budget; the funds have yet to be released from the legislature. The committee discussed the importance of sharing opinions with newly-elected and returning legislators about the importance of "spendable funding" for public schools. It was decided that the Education Committee should consider hosting a voucher/school funding presentation for all League members and supporting organizations.

Some follow-up was provided by Dotty regarding the AAUW meeting on DEI and the status of Title IX initiatives in schools throughout Wisconsin and the US. More to come on this subject. The committee had a great discussion about the new book, *The Privateers* by Josh Cowen. Lynn Gerlach has done an extensive summary and analysis of the book, and she asked for some committee members to review it for her. Her article is now posted on her blog, [The Speakeasy](#). Josh Cowen will be speaking in Milwaukee at the Wisconsin State School Convention on Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 4:30-7:00 at the Baird Convention Center in downtown Milwaukee. League members are invited to attend.

Following a robust discussion, committee members finalized our question for the League's new scholarship application. All members are invited to consider donating to the League of Women Voters of Greater Green Bay scholarship, as consideration will be offered to high school seniors at Green Bay Area Public Schools this year. If the effort goes well, the League will consider expanding the scope of the scholarship in future years.

As plans come together for school board candidate forums, be prepared to meet the candidates in your community for school board. As we all know, our local elections are so important...be educated as you prepare to vote.