

LWVUS

LWVLMR

LWVWI

LWVGGB

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Greetings!

Circle these dates on your calendar:

Fair Elections Team meeting: April 28, 2020 at 4:45 pm.

to access contact: mccutcheon@new.rr.com

LWVGGB Annual Meeting Scheduling Up-date

Due to the uncertainty of the impact of Covid-19 on a gathering of LWVGGB members for conduction of business at the annual meeting scheduled for May 12, 2020, the board has decided to postpone the annual meeting. As conditions unfold with more certainty on the safety of such a gathering, the board will keep the membership informed in the normal course of business. The board is looking at options on how to conduct the business of the annual meeting without meeting in person. Stay tuned. Watch for emails tagged "LWVGGB Annual Meeting Update".

IMPORTANT YEAR FOR ELECTIONS

August 11, 2020---Fall Partisan Primary

Nov, 3, 2020---Fall Presidential Election

Please mark these important dates on your calendar and VOTE!!!

FAIR ELECTIONS TEAM

The "Fair Maps Committee" recently changed names to the "Fair Elections Team" in order to broaden their scope. The team, led by Cheryl McCutcheon, is currently focused on ensuring Non-Partisan Redistricting (NPR) (i.e. preventing gerrymandering) and National Popular Vote (NPV), but will include efforts to improve the voting process (vote by mail, election security, rank choice voting, etc.) in the future.

In the short term, the team will focus their energy in 3 areas.

1. The Team will continue to follow and support the development of a county citizens committee formed by the county executive tasked with establishing new district maps following the 2020 census. The purpose is to assure that all voters in the county have a voice.
2. There is a coalition of organizations in Congressional District 8 formed to push for fair maps within the district. The Team will take part in and support their efforts. Each Congressional district in the state has a similar group with some coordination from Wisconsin Voices.
3. The Team will continue to explore issues around legislation that may

establish a better process for designing and approving district maps in Wisconsin that will make it possible for everyone in the state to have their vote count.

Additionally, the Team will assist the members of the National Popular Vote committee in the planning executing an event in the fall.

Although the Team cannot gather for meetings and do miss the experience of bonding in their planning, meetings occur in the form of phone conferences. The Team is not missing the opportunity to move forward.

HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL IN WISCONSIN, AND HAVE YOUR VOTE COUNTED

We have a very good system for voting by mail in Wisconsin. The problems we saw in the April election were mainly due to people requesting their ballots too close to the election day, and lawsuits that changed the rules that normally apply. For the August and November elections, we can make sure it goes more smoothly. Please share this information with your fellow Wisconsites.

Since we don't know if the virus will spike again in the fall, I'm encouraging everyone to request your absentee ballot now for the August election. Here's how to do it, and make it count:

1. Request your absentee ballot on [MyVote.WI.Gov](https://www.myvote.wi.gov). Do it today. It takes around 2 minutes.
2. If this is your first time requesting an absentee ballot, you'll have to upload a picture of your PHOTO ID. This is the same ID you would use to show at the polls, usually a driver license. It's easiest to use a smart phone or a tablet to do this. We've prepared a video that may help you: <https://bit.ly/3agKiZx>
3. After you request your ballot, go back to [MyVote.WI.Gov](https://www.myvote.wi.gov) and track the status. It should show that you have requested a ballot. If it doesn't show within a few days, call your clerk (you can find your clerk under MyVoterInfo on the MyVote website.)
4. Your local clerk will mail you the ballot when it's available, usually 3-4 weeks before the election. You can go to MyVote and see whether it's been mailed. If you don't receive it 2 weeks before the election, call your clerk.
5. If you decide to vote in person, you can do that, as long as you haven't already mailed back your ballot. It helps to bring the ballot back with you, but it's not necessary.
6. If you're worried about the return mail, many municipalities have a drop box available, or you can bring it to the early voting hours that your clerk provides. This is still safer than the crowds on election day.
7. Your ballot must be RECEIVED by the clerk by 8 pm on election day. If you're mailing it, allow at least a week for it to get to your clerk. Under normal Wisconsin law, postmarks don't matter. It simply has to be received by election day. Again, the problems with the spring election were due to lawsuits that pushed out the return deadline, but then required a postmark. For the August and November elections, we will back to normal rules.
8. When you seal your ballot envelope make sure it has three things: your signature, your witness' signature, and your witness' address. Your witness can be any adult U.S. citizen.

From COVO leaders: H James Smet and Charlotte Goska Email: COVOBCWI@gmail.com

Documentary Films to Watch at Home

While we are staying home during the pandemic, it's possible to watch some documentary films that are relevant for the issues that League members care about. Here are several suggestions:

Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook, a 72-minute film about how voting rights have been suppressed by purges of voter rolls, etc. Google it to find out more, or find it on Amazon, where it can be streamed for free if you have Amazon Prime, or rented for about \$3.00.

Another, shorter film on a similar topic is

Suppressed: The Fight to Vote, a 38-minute film from Brave New Films, which can be streamed for free on YouTube at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03DGjnIkTdl>,

or by doing a google search and finding the Brave New Films website.

On gerrymandering, there is a brand new film, *Slay the Dragon*, which can be rented on Amazon. Also, on gerrymandering, you can view a recent series of virtual town halls: *Fixing Bugs in Democracy*, at

https://mediacentral.princeton.edu/playlist/details/1_hfwhl2ah.

A third film, with an environmental focus, is entitled *Sustainable* and is about the economic and environmental instability of America's food system. The League Environment Committee had planned a showing of this film, along with a panel discussion, but it had to be canceled due to Covid19. See the film's website, sustainablefoodfilm.com for how to watch, or find it on Amazon. The Environment Committee hopes to reschedule the film and panel discussion for a future date, so if you watch it at home, plan to also attend the rescheduled program because the panel discussion will still be valuable!

RECYCLING RECOMMENDATIONS

HOW TO DISPOSE OF MEDICINE RESPONSIBLY

Do not flush, pour, or trash unused medications. Pharmaceutical waste can create a risk to the public health through poisoning, drug abuse, and drinking water contamination. The medicine can also harm the animals who use the water. Be sure to keep your medications hidden if you have children in the home.

HERE ARE SOME GUIDELINES

If the pills are in a blister pack, remove the pills from the pack.

Put unused pills into sandwich-sized seal-able plastic bags.

Keep liquids, creams, and powder in original containers. (Please note: some locations will not accept these items.) In that case, do not flush. Put the liquid in a seal-able container with used coffee grounds or pet litter. This keeps people away from touching a nasty mix. Then throw the container away in the trash.

Recycle empty pill bottles and paper boxes in curb recycling.

Go to local drop off point. Each town, village, and county should have a place for you to go.

Accepted items: Prescriptions; over-the-counter medicine, pills, and pet medications.

Not Accepted: Sharps, Needles, Syringes, Lancets, Biological waste, Mercury Devices.

WHERE TO GO TO DROP OFF MEDICINES.

Most towns, counties, or villages have a drop off location run by the police or fire department.

Howard Village Hall, 2456 Glendale Ave. Go to the front desk first, and they will escort you to the fire department.

Hobart Village Hall, 2990 S. Pine Tree Road. Box is in business lobby. M-F 8-5

De Pere Police Department, 325 S. Broadway, St. Box in lobby. M-F 8-4:30

Green Bay Police Department, 307 S Adams St. Box in lobby. 7 days of week, 7 am-10pm

Watch for Drop Off events in the spring and fall.

For more information go to < Browncountyrecycling.org >

Note: the collection of medicines may currently not be available due to the COVID-19 issue.

Nancy Wakefield nancywake65@hotmail.com

USE OUR LWVGGB FACEBOOK PAGE AS A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY!

League members are encouraged to “Like” our local League Facebook page and set Facebook news feed preferences so that new posts from the page will be easier to see. The photo shows our page’s cover photo. To “Like” the page, click on “Like” and “Follow,” and those words should change from black to blue. If it is already blue, you have already done this in the past.



Liking the page doesn't guarantee that you will always see posts from the League page in your news feed, because new posts will get buried far down in your news feed unless you are on Facebook very frequently. But Facebook gives you several ways to set your news feed preferences so you can "See First" the pages you have liked, or posts from certain friends. Go to your Facebook settings by clicking on the small inverted triangle in the top right corner of your profile page or home page. Find "News Feed Settings" and/or "News Feed Preferences." You will see icons of pages you have liked, and pictures of your Facebook friends. Find the logo or icon for our local League page and choose it as one of the pages or friends that you want to "See First." You can also do this by going to the League page, click "Follow," or "Following," and choose "See First" from the drop-down menu. If this is too complicated or doesn't seem to work, you can always just go to the search bar at the top of your Facebook home page, and type our page's name (LWVGGB should work, or the entire name if that doesn't work). That is an easy way to see our entire page, and you can scroll down to see the most recent posts at the top, and older posts farther down.

Members only

To create your own account on our website simply click on the Register link at the top right in the red bar. You will be instructed to create a username and password. Once you have done this, email me at lbartlett097@gmail.com with your username. I will add you to the list of members with access to the Members Only tab.

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