



Council of Metropolitan Area  
Leagues

Established in 1962 as an ILO  
and composed of the  
members of local LWVs  
in the seven metro counties  
Anoka, Carver, Dakota,  
Hennepin, Ramsey,  
Scott and Washington

CMAL  
Board of Directors

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**Greetings to Metro Area League Members & Friends**

I congratulate all of you who worked so diligently  
to make the election in Minnesota a success.

This includes everyone who planned and took part  
in the large number of candidate forums  
throughout the metro area and who attended the  
Post Election Review (PER) program organized by  
LWVMN. It was an exhausting but rewarding time.

Fast forward. Thanksgiving is over and we await the  
December holidays, knowing that CMAL is well  
organized for 2025.

Our January Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for  
January 29<sup>th</sup> via zoom.

Our CMAL Annual Meeting is scheduled for April  
30<sup>th</sup>, which for the first time in a few years, the  
meeting will be in-person.

I hope your December holiday season is filled with family, fun and relaxation. See  
you in January!

Warmly,

*Karen*

Karen Schaffer, Chair - Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

## OCTOBER QUARTERLY PROGRAM REVIEW

By Karen Schaffer

We were pleased to have Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster for the Met Council who presented the *Demographic Trends in Greater Minnesota and the Metro Area*. Several dozen League members were in attendance via Zoom and, as usual, asked great questions.

Graham gave a mini-seminar in “forecasting through models”- how it works, and how it changes. He followed up with **Highlights of Current Forecasts in Greater MN and the Metro Area**. This showed how forecasting population, households and jobs informs state, metro, local and business leaders so that they can plan and respond to expected changes.

Graham explained that there are three models used by Met Council: regional economic, land, and travel demand. The Met Council contracts with REMI-PI as its model. Graham emphasized that models are not crystal balls - but projections built upon historical data. That means if something dramatically different occurs than in the past, forecasts will show the change.

Such different occurrences include pandemics (excess death rates), low birth rates, migration patterns and changes in economic competitiveness. For example, a precipitous decline in green cards/naturalizations will affect the size of the workforce available to employers.

**What does modeling show?** Modeling shows slowing population growth in the Metro Area and more steady growth in greater Minnesota. It also shows growing diversity in both areas. These trends mirror national trends. While 70% of job growth is in the Metro Area, population, household and employment trends in Greater Minnesota follow similar patterns.

The greatest growth in Metro Area households is in the 65+ households, followed by households under 65 with 3+ persons - but the latter group is not growing as fast as it had in prior years. Population trends affect the nature of housing demand and economic growth. Slow growth over the past 20 years in the working-age population has been a drag on business, holding employers back. The growth in population 65+ leads to increased housing demand that meets their needs though there also is a lot of “aging in place.”

Mr. Graham told me that our questions about demand for senior housing had not come up in other venues and gave him some something to consider going forward.

The foreign-born workforce is growing faster than the U.S. born workforce. International immigrants are an important component of the workforce growth, but climate refugees are not, as they tend not to move too far from home - they just move inland, therefore Minnesota should not expect a lot of immigration from hurricane zones

The PowerPoint presentation is attached to this newsletter. Check out page 19 for an image of the future. If you have further questions, Graham is an accessible public servant. Contact him directly at [todd.graham@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:todd.graham@metc.state.mn.us).

## WATERSHED STUDY UPDATE ZOOM MEETING - JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> - 3:30 PM

We realize that this has been an extremely busy election season for all leagues and with the holidays, we are hoping to get back on track to finish the study by May and have a report ready to present at our Annual Meeting in April.

We hope to see everyone that has worked on the study giving advice to those who could use some help getting started or finished. Also, if there is anyone that would like to participate, please feel free to attend the meeting.

We have received 11 completed studies so far - yeah!

In the meantime, if you have questions feel free to contact Peg at [peg.dubord@gmail.com](mailto:peg.dubord@gmail.com) or Karen at [schafferka@gmail.com](mailto:schafferka@gmail.com).

### CMAL Watershed Study Update Zoom Meeting

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/85331078633?pwd=avF5Y7y5XKCCjlSYsfHil3Kpcmjl1b.1>

**MEETING ID: 853 3107 8633**

**PASSCODE: 150530**

## JANUARY QUARTERLY MEETING - JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> - 6:30-8:00 PM

As the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, we are excited to have Patricia Nauman from Metro Cities Association of Metropolitan Municipalities serving the seven county metropolitan area.

Patricia is a well-known municipal advocate at the legislature and extremely knowledgeable regarding the Metropolitan Council. After her remarks, she will take questions from attendees.

She will provide an overview of Metro Cities as an organization; perspectives of metropolitan area cities on the Met Council, including its governance and policies, updates on bills proposed to the 2025 legislative session bills about Met Council governance or municipalities and share the concerns of the metropolitan area municipalities.

For more background you can check out Metro Cities' website at [Metro Cities](http://MetroCities.org).

- There will also be an update on the Watershed Study.

**The meeting is open to all League Members and the General Public.**

### CMAL Quarterly Zoom Meeting

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/85120951000?pwd=yjeY5V8Synu9A3urJL8gwCYl8fkbP.1>

**MEETING ID: 851 2095 1000**

**PASSCODE: 529268**

## CMAL ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> - 5:30PM - SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce that our annual meeting will be held in person at the Capitol Region Watershed District in St. Paul found at 595 Aldine Street in St. Paul - near Hamline University.

This building has been converted from a prior industrial use to a renovated watershed district headquarters using green building principles, including stormwater management and energy-saving practices.

Please plan to join your CMAL colleagues (and all League members) at this beautiful venue in the Midway Area of St. Paul. This will be CMAL's first in-person meeting since the pandemic. We hope that you will venture out on this 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of April 2025! Program details will be announced as soon as they are available - but it will include a tour of the building and light refreshments.

### Preliminary Schedule

5:30 - 6:00 PM: Tour of the building and social time

6:00 - 8:00 PM: Program & Annual Meeting

### Metro League Leadership

#### Please let us know...

1. Send the contact information for the President/Co President(s) for your league.
2. Send the contact information for the Delegates that will represent your league on CMAL
3. If there are any interested parties wishing to be included in the CMAL mailings, please email your contact information to CMAL at: [lwvcmal@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvcmal@lwvmn.org).

### CMAL Calendar for 2025

In response to the discussion held on at the Annual Meeting, the CMAL Board has decided on a new and different approach to the meeting schedule. We are switching the meetings to the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of a month.

#### Quarterly Meetings via Zoom

Wednesday January 29, 2025      6:30 p.m. Zoom - Patricia Nauman, Metro Cities

#### Annual Meeting

Wednesday April 30, 2025      5:30 p.m. In Person - Program TBD.