



# IN LEAGUE



*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**

**February-March 2020**

## Upcoming League and Community Events:

**February 8, 11:30—1:30 p.m. Centennial Luncheon--“Election Security”**

Speaker: Meagan Wolfe, Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator  
Cargill United Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave., Janesville, Tickets:  
<https://www.lwvjvl.org/news-1>

**February 12, 2020, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Even Start Meeting - Voter Service Presentation**  
Even Start Program, Brother Dutton, 717 Hackett

**February 12, anytime between 2-6:00 p.m. Power the Vote Day!!**  
Bushel and Peck’s, 328 State St., Beloit. Have a cup of tea and pick up your Centennial gift!

**February 13, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Local Education Study Committee meeting (see article)**  
Home of Gregg Schneider, 703 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit. Please let us know if you’d like to come!

**February 14, 1:30 p.m. Beloit LWV Centennial Committee Meeting**  
Beloit Historical Society, 845 Hackett St., Beloit.  
Come join the LWV of Beloit’s Centennial Committee. Come see what is being planned.

**February 17, 2020, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Concerned Black Citizens Public Forum**  
New Zion Baptist Church; Voter Service Education

**February 18, 2020, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.: 2020 Spring Primary**  
visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyPollingPlace> to find your polling place.

**March 7, 10:00 a.m. Legalize Equality (film)**  
Beloit Public Library, 605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit.

**March 11, 6:30 p.m. City of Beloit Council Candidate Forum**  
Beloit City Hall, 100 State St., Beloit

**March 18, 6:30 p.m. School District of Beloit School Board Candidate Forum**  
Kolak Education Center, 1500 4th St., Beloit

**LWV Leadership Team/Board Meetings (members are always welcome; please call us ahead of time)**

**February 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** United Church, 657 Bluff St., back door

**March 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** United Church, 657 Bluff St., back door

## BELOIT LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Susan Adams, Bette Carr, Stephanie Dobson, Dave Dobson,  
Sam Erickson, Gayle Hotchkiss, Beatrice McKenzie, Joyce Metter, Barb Porter, Pat Zody*

**PLAN to ATTEND:**

**April 25, 9:30 a.m.** Annual Meeting: Speaker Deb Cronmiller, LWVWI  
Beloit Historical Society, 845 Hackett St., Beloit.  
Breakfast, speaker, annual meeting (more details to follow)

**August 22, 1-4:00 p.m.** Beloit League's Centennial Event with Beloit Area Women's Organizations  
Beloit Historical Society, 845 Hackett St., Beloit.



LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. 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.

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. (June 2019)

**In This Issue:**

- *Calendar of Events*
- Beloit League Centennial
- Martin Luther King Jr. Event
- Book Study Proposed
- Fair Maps Review
- Local Education Committee
- Parks
- Voter Service
- Request from LWVWI
- Lively Issues
- NEW MEMBERS!!

Check out our

Beloit League of Women Voters web site: [www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org](http://www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org)

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## League of Women Voters of the United States 1920-2020 Celebrating 100 years

### *Creating a More Perfect Democracy*

~Gayle Hotchkiss

Across the nation, citizens will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States on February 14, 2020. The League of Women Voters was formally organized in 1920 in Chicago as the national League of Women Voters, founded by Carrie Chapman Catt.



Catt described the purpose of the new organization: "The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"

It took time, but women and men across the nation seized the opportunity. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin held its first convention in 1921. The League of Women Voters of Beloit was organized in March 1945.

There are 700 League chapters in the United States. League members are involved in projects and education to promote citizen education and participation in government. There is probably no other national organization in America that inspires such a great degree of commitment from its members. The LWV is successful because its members know their efforts do shape our way of life--in the greater Beloit area, Wisconsin, and in the United States.

Please join in the upcoming activities to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League:

**Saturday, February 8,** 11:30 a.m. Centennial Luncheon, joint event with LWV-Janesville.

**Wednesday, February 12,** anytime between 2-6:00 p.m. Join Beloit members for coffee, tea or cider and participate in the *Women Power the Vote Day of Action* (Bushel and Peck's, Beloit) and pick up a celebration gift!

**Saturday, March 7,** 10 a.m., co-sponsored with the Beloit Public Library -watch "*Legalize Equality*" and participate in discussion.



## People Powered Fair Maps/Redistricting Reform in WI

~Barb Porter 1-2-20

On Dec. 10, 2019, Pat Zody and I attended The Janesville League of Women Voters (and co-sponsor History Department of UW Whitewater at Rock County), event with Erin Grunze, WI LWV executive director, speaking on LWUS People Powered Fair Maps™ Campaign and specifically on Redistricting Reform in Wisconsin. The event was well attended with many people asking questions and talking about their experiences in working towards ending gerrymandering.

Since the federal courts are not intervening in addressing this issue, our state league has decided to work through the state legislature to pass redistricting reform. Currently there are two bills with bipartisan support, AB303 and SB288, that are currently held up in committee and deserve to get a public hearing and receive serious consideration by Wisconsin lawmakers. Erin encouraged us to contact all committee members even though we do not reside in their district, by pointing out to them that they are members of a state-wide committee, and as such they are responsible to all citizens of the state. I can provide a list of these committee members if anyone is interested.

Seventy percent of Wisconsin citizens support fair redistricting, eight counties have passed a referendum for reform, and 50 county boards have passed resolutions supporting fair maps. So why is the legislature not on board? Erin suggests that we focus our efforts for reform by doing grassroots activities such as increasing public awareness through presentations, writing letters to editors, spreading the word to acquaintances and friends, working with other grassroots organizations, and anything else we can think of. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign has put together lots of information, including a Tool Kit, that she suggested we access:

<https://www.wisd.org/reforms/support-fair-voting-maps>

Another part of the presentation discussed Iowa's non-partisan redistricting method to develop fair maps. In Iowa, legislative and congressional district lines are decided by a nonpartisan committee called the Legislative Services Agency. Each decade, a temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission is created and advises the Agency when asked. Erin suggested this could be a method for Wisconsin to consider (see the wisdc.org website for more information). Erin concluded the presentation saying, **"We don't want red maps. We don't want blue maps. We want fair maps."**

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## Beloit League's Education Study Committee welcomes others to be part of the committee!!



Committee members are still in the data gathering phase of reviewing the Beloit League's education positions. Interviews are being done by our committee members on budgetary processes and long-range planning in school districts. Our committee members also

have been trying to be observers at the school board committee and business meetings. If you would like to join this committee, please email [bclwv2010@gmail.com](mailto:bclwv2010@gmail.com). The next committee meeting is coming up on February 13, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the home of Gregg Schneider, 703 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit.

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**LWV of Beloit and Janesville Rock County Parks Joint Position can be found here:**  
<https://www.lwvjvl.org/rock-county-parks-lwv-beloit-lwv-ja>



**Update from the Janesville LWV:**

The 2020 Rock County budget passed in early November 2019 and the position of Community Coordinator was fully funded.

The Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee November 13, 2019 say it best:

*“Community Coordinator Position - Mr. Traynor expressed gratitude for the fully funded Community*

*Coordinator position. Ms. Friend has accomplished receiving over \$103,000 for the Department by completing grant reimbursements in under nine months in her new position.”*

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**Election Observers Needed**

We need your help. LWVWI is recruiting volunteers from across the state to serve as election observers during the April 7 Election. Volunteer election observers help ensure we have a fair election by watching for signs of voter disenfranchisement and intimidation and by monitoring the way Wisconsin’s election laws and procedures are being applied. Even if you only have a couple of hours on Election Day, you can still make a difference.

You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this - although we'd love to have you join us. Sign up to be an election observer today!

[Learn more and sign up to volunteer](#)



## 2020 Elections

### Spring Primary

February 18, 2020

### Spring Election/Presidential Primary

April 7, 2020

### Fall Primary

August 11, 2020

### Fall Election

November 3, 2020

**Online Voter Registration Available at:**  
[myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

#### Complete registration online if:

- You have a valid, unexpired WI driver license or WI ID card.
- Your current name and address are in the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) database.

*The address printed on your ID does not matter.*

#### Don't have a WI driver license or ID card?

Complete a paper registration form or complete one online and print it out.

Proof of residence is required.

#### Go to [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) to:

- Print a voter registration form
- See your registration status
- Find your polling place
- Find your municipal clerk
- Update your address
- Request an absentee ballot

City of Beloit residents can register at the City of Beloit, City Clerk's office.

## VOTER ID

### Acceptable forms:

- WI driver license
  - WI ID card
  - U.S. Passport
- Must expire after the most recent election
  - Does not need current address

For other options of ID see  
[bringitwisconsin.com](http://bringitwisconsin.com)

The DMV issues free IDs for voting. Go to your local DMV office and request one. Need help with voter registration or voter ID?



Learn more here!







## Elecciones 2020/2020 Elections

**Primaria de Primavera/ Spring Primary**

**18 de Febrero/ February 18**

**Elección de Primavera/ Spring General**

**7 de Abril/ April 7**

**Primaria Partidista/ Partisan Primary**

**11 de Agosto/ August 11**

**Elección General/ General Election**

**3 de Noviembre/ November 3**

**Para registrarse para votar, actualizar dirección, ver su lugar y papeleta de votación  
ir a / To register to vote, change address, see polling place and sample ballot:**

[myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

**Para leer sobre los candidatos / To read candidates' stands on issues:**

[vote411.org](http://vote411.org)



<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/beloit>

## ***A message from Erin Grunze, LWVWI...***

Some of the many projects I have enjoyed working on most over the past several years and most recently are the Working Groups that have formed from the LWVWI Legislative Committee. These groups have been created, inspired, and active because of League members' interests, passions, and involvement.

The LWVWI Fair Maps and National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) Working Groups would like to share with you some resources they have created so that your League and members can make use of them. The links to these toolkits are below and are for members. These resources will be updated by the groups as needed so the contents may change as the League's strategies for education and advocacy change.

It is the interest of the LWVWI Legislative Committee to also add working groups for Natural Resources and Election Security in the near future. Stay tuned...

Any League member can join these working groups and there is always a variety of tasks and ways to be involved so to accommodate members with a lot of expertise or no expertise, a lot of time to devote or a little time to devote. Let the state office know if you'd like to join and please share with others in your League about these groups.

Finally, here are the links to the toolkits:

NPVIC: This toolkit is for making educational presentations about the National Popular Vote with information about League rooted positions and up-to-date information on the movement. If you would rather a member trained on this information come to your League / community to make this presentation, then someone can do so. You can reach out to LWVWI Legislative Committee member Barb Paterick to help coordinate, [bpaterick@gmail.com](mailto:bpaterick@gmail.com).

Fair Maps: This toolkit contains writing samples, study materials, and presentation slide decks that were created for League members to give these presentations and share with people within your communities that may not know much about gerrymandering and redistricting reform. The approach is to provide basic information that connects with all voters and not specifically with active voters who are already well informed on this issue. Questions about this toolkit can be directed to LWVWI Legislative Committee members, Susan Curran, [susankcurran@att.net](mailto:susankcurran@att.net) and Janine Edwards, [janine.c.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:janine.c.edwards@gmail.com).

Both these toolkits are [linked on the LWVWI website under Member Resources](#).

Please think about joining one of these state league work groups!!

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### Lively Issues Well Attended

The League of Women Voters of Beloit held its Annual Lively Issues on January 25<sup>th</sup> with **Drew** Pennington, City of Beloit, Director of Planning and Building, speaking on the Dark Stores Loophole and Land Use. The presentation was very interesting. A complete summary of his talk and the results of the Lively Issues topics will be in the next newsletter.

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## Newest League Members!! Welcome to Regina Dunkin and Carol Wickersham!!!

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### Renewing or Joining the League of Women Voters membership 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 Membership Chair: Deb Fallon

1232 Elm St., Beloit, WI 53511

name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street \_\_\_\_\_ city/state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ *In League is sent by email, please check your email for notices.*

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 \$25 of the annual dues and that a Board member will be in contact with me regarding final completion.

*Signature*

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