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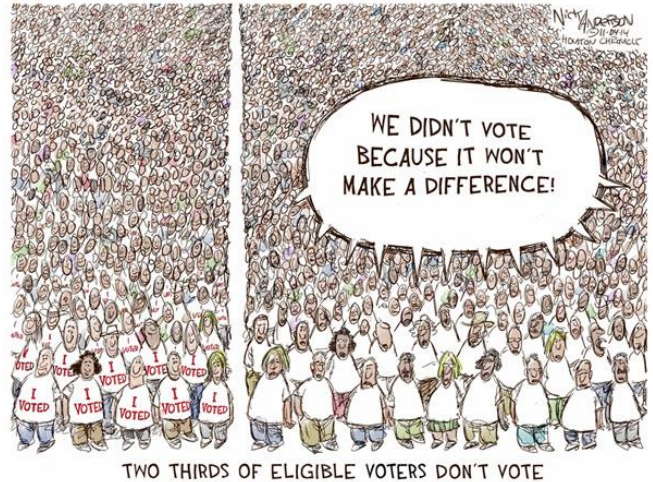
Take a moment to answer – *I will vote because...*

Join us in sharing your passion for voting to support get out the vote efforts. It's easy to be part of our public service efforts:

Record a message:

- Prepare a sentence or two, not more than 30 seconds, beginning with "I will vote because.... "
- Record your response on **Thursday, August 7, anytime between 9:00 and 10:00** on this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8919935208>
- You don't have to give your name, you can just use "Voter" as your Zoom name if you want to be anonymous.

QCTV will use these snippets in public service announcements throughout their programming. We will also use them in our voting promotions on Facebook.



And/or participate with a written message:

We will be doing a "*I will vote because ...*" series on Instagram:

- Submit your personal reasons for voting on this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYU0e3TODF06u8bZcfTGGjYXrncZThQCyz4R8w0_fmIp0wmQ/viewform
- Your personal reason for voting may resonate with someone else and encourage them to vote. These personal commitment statements are more effective than our just telling people it's important to vote.
- The link to the form is also on the homepage of our website: www.lwvabcmn.org (scroll down).

Thank you for your support of these activities. **Have your friends and family participate in these activities too!**

**Our July Program with Secretary of State Steve Simon
And Anoka County Elections Manager Paul Linnell**

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We were honored to welcome these two highly regarded election officials to our July 27 program meeting on Zoom *and to have generous amounts of time to ask questions following their presentations.*

QCTV recorded the program. If you missed the event, would like to share it with someone, or want to watch the resulting recorded program, click on this link that's posted to the *Videos* section of our website: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abcs-spotlight-issues>.

Three quick take-aways:

1. **Vote early from home if at all possible.** If you haven't already requested an absentee ballot (also known as *vote early by mail*): Click on this link to print or request a ballot www.anokacounty.us/224/Vote-Early or request your ballot by phone at 763-324-1300.
2. **Election judges are needed to staff polling places.** If your health permits, contact your city to ask about their staffing needs.
3. **Voters can vote early in person at the County Elections Office at the Anoka County Courthouse or in all city offices in Anoka County.** For more info: https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/cities-and-towns-with-in-person-absentee-voting/?fbclid=IwAR3Tj1i97n1xBq4RX0RLqDLQNWqGuNuePzJ5_409yroFEUIZsqkrwppDYI

Learn about all aspects of Vote Early by Mail on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/

Check out LWV Minnesota's web page, Vote Early by Mail, with some nicely-illustrated steps: www.lwvmn.org/vote-from-home

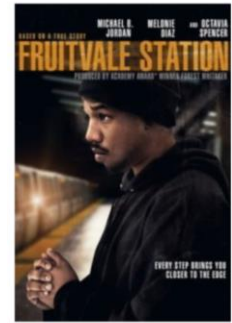
Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon and Anoka County Elections Manager Paul Linnell



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Book Club and Film Club -- Starting Up for LWV ABC
August 12 and August 26

LWV ABC will be starting a Film Club and a Book Club to foster conversation about race, racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion. Discussions will be conducted via Zoom due to social distancing needs.



A film club is similar to a book club. Interested members will watch the films independently on their own schedule and then we will get together, via zoom to discuss. *Films will be a mix of documentaries and commercial films.*

Anyone who would like to choose a book or film and lead the discussion, **contact Pat Kennedy** at lwwabc@gmail.com, or directly at patkenn12@gmail.com, to be added to the schedule. Upcoming books and films will be posted to our LWV ABC website Calendar page.

Zoom links for our discussions will be posted on our website calendar. Need assistance with Zoom set-up? Send an email to lwwabc@gmail.com

The Film Club will usually be on the first Wednesday of the month, and the Book Club will generally be held every other month on the 3rd Wednesday, at **6:00 for socializing and 6:30 for discussion**. If there is sufficient interest and members are willing to volunteer to lead discussions, we can increase the frequency of the Book Club meetings.

Due to the short notice, in August, the Film Club will be on the 2nd Wednesday and Book Club will be on the 4th Wednesday.

Weds, August 12 Film Club:

Fruitvale Station

- Watch for free (with commercials) at IMDb (you will need to create a free account): www.imdb.com/registration/signin?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.imdb.com%2Ftv%2Fwatch%2Ftt2334649%3Fref%3Dtt_wbr_fdv&ux_page_id=freedive
- Or you can watch for free if you have an Amazon Prime Video account

Weds, August 26 Book Club:

***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* by Sun Yung Shin**

- Electronic version is available for free on Biblioboard from eBookMinnesota until August 23, through the One Book One Minnesota program at this link: <https://library.biblioboard.com/welcome> (More details about using Biblioboard on our LWV ABC website calendar

- You can also access the book through the Anoka County Library homepage or online catalog.

In the future, we intend to publish the schedule far enough in advance to allow people to request books or DVDs from the library. Availability at local libraries and free online sources will be considered when choosing books and films. If you borrow from the library, please return as soon as you are finished, so another member may borrow the book or DVD.

For those of us near a Hennepin County Library, remember that Anoka County Library Cards can be registered with the Hennepin County Library system to borrow directly from Hennepin libraries. Registering your Anoka Library Card with Hennepin is especially helpful if you want to borrow Kindle eBooks.

Invitation to an Outdoor Gathering Monday, August 11, 6:30 pm

Our president, Gretchen Sabel, invites members and friends to her big, shady back yard, to say hello and socialize --all while physical distancing. This is not an official LWV ABC event, just an opportunity to see each other in person in the good old summertime.

- Bring your own lawn chair -- and a beverage. Wear a mask if you wish.
- We will be gathering at 6:30", after-supper"; but if you haven't eaten yet, bring your sandwich or salad.
- Questions? Need the address? See the email from Gretchen Sabel on July 31 – or send a request to lwvabc@gmail.com

No white circles, but plenty of space to maintain social distance!





THE VOTER

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Meet the Candidates Forums Our Work Continues!

Primary Election Forums
Election Day: August 11, 2020
Early Voting Underway

Our Voter Service volunteers have been ambitiously organizing and conducting *Meet the Candidates* forums for the Primary Election on August 11. Within the current requirements of social distancing, forums are filmed without live audiences and then made available on-demand on our LWV ABC website as well as frequent playbacks on cable television stations. Questions for candidates are submitted for candidates via the form on our website.

You'll find videos for the following forums on our website at www.lwvabcmn.org. Choose *Meet the Candidates* from the menu, then select a video: Anoka Mayor; Anoka County Commissioner; District 6; Columbia Heights City Council; and Coon Rapids City Council

The Blaine *Meet the Candidates* forum was cancelled due to insufficient response from city council and mayoral candidates. The North Metro TV website has some candidate information at www.northmetro.com, and the North Metro TV YouTube Local Decision 2020 Playlist has some candidate interviews.

General Election Forums
Election Day: November 3, 2020
Early voting begins September 18, 2020

Volunteers are at work making arrangements for filming 13 *Meet the Candidates* forums that will include legislators, county commissioners, Anoka Conservation District 1, mayors, and city council members in Anoka County and 1 more forum in Champlin in Hennepin County for legislators and city council.

- Check our website, below, for a full list of dates and offices being filmed
- Submit questions for candidates within each of the forums on the website
- Watch videos of forums when they're posted following the filming of each forum

www.lwbabcmn.org
Choose "Meet the Candidates" from the menu

Voter Registration Activities

National Voter registration Day is September 22. LWV US has asked all Leagues to work to promote voter registration; we have committed to registering 50 new voters on that day. To that end, LWV ABC Voter Registration leader Arlene Gillett is working with Jane Dunn (member of our VS Committee) to assist our local high schools in online voter registration; they have developed a cadre of social studies teachers from all high schools in Anoka County and gotten their agreement to work on providing information to students on online voter registration. Additionally, Membership Chair Pat Kennedy has written to all senior housing facilities in Anoka County, offering LWV ABC as a resource for registration and voting questions.



LWV MN continues to work to register new citizens to vote. Here's an email from LWV MN seeking volunteers to work at outdoor citizenship ceremonies this fall:

"The ceremonies will be outside on the plaza on the south side of the US District Court, 300 S 4th St in Minneapolis. Two volunteers will be needed for each of two shifts each day. Masks are required, we will have plenty of hand sanitizer, and social distancing will be in order!

Scheduled ceremonies in September and October:

- Tuesday, September 8
 - 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM
 - 10:15 AM - 12 PM
- Thursday, September 10
 - 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM
 - 10:15 AM - 12 PM
- Monday, October 5
 - 8:30 AM - 11 AM
 - 12 PM - 2 PM
- Wednesday, October 7
 - 8:30 AM - 11 AM
 - 12 PM - 2 PM
- Wednesday, October 14
 - 8:30 AM - 11 AM
 - 12 PM - 2 PM

Also, be sure to take individual action to make sure your neighbors, friends, family, and anyone you can converse with are registered. www.Vote411.org is the LWV on-line resource for all voter information, including how to register. Another good resource for Voter Registration in Minnesota is the Secretary of State's web page at www.mnvotes.org or by phone at 651-215-1440.

If you will be able to help please email Judy Stuthman at jastuthman@aol.com . Thank you for your help. Judy says that LWV volunteers have been registering approximately 100% of the new citizens at the last two days of "rolling ceremonies."



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News of our Board Meetings

Next Monthly Board Meeting for LWV ABC is Monday, August 24: We will continue to conduct our meeting on Zoom. Submit your agenda items to Gretchen a couple of days in advance of the meeting. *Watch for announcement of agenda, meeting time, and Zoom link.*

Highlights of our July 27 Board Meeting:

The Diversity Committee said that we should include more diversity items in our regular meetings to meet our diversity goals. We could have programs on Immigration, on policing in Anoka County, diversity, equity and inclusion in our local schools or a speaker from the Muslim Center. We decided to work with the Program Committee to study these topics, and work to set up programs based on them.

Board member Pat Kennedy would like to start a Book Club in our organization. She would be willing to lead the first month, and then have others become the leader for their book of the month. She also suggested that we could have a Film Club as well, where we would all watch the same film, and then meet to discuss it. Films can be more accessible than books perhaps. We could do one book and one movie a month.

The Communications Committee said we should make sure the forum chairs know where forum dates can be posted in communities, perhaps in to each city's Facebook page and also post flyers about it, since local newsletters only come out once a month. We would also want to get questions for the forum submitted to our gmail from the each city.

Arlene Gillett, Secretary

:

More Ways to be Involved! Community programs to plan

We want to form a couple of committees to plan programs and activities on important community involvement issues: (1) community policing and (2) school diversity issues. Can you help our program committee define the topics and find speakers to help our members understand the issues? We want to have these programs for our late fall and winter meetings, so this is a short-term effort.

To learn more and discuss how you could be involved, contact Gretchen Sabel at lwvabc@gmail.com.

News From our National Organization LWV US

So much news, so many ways to be involved. Check out this latest *League Update* from our national organization. The work that LWV US does is critical to the success of LWV throughout our country – it’s good to pay attention and participate where you can – like attending this Facebook Live session on August 12 where Dr. Turner and LWV US CEO Virginia Kase discuss the new “Women Power the Vote” campaign.

First, here’s a letter from the new LWV US President, Dr. Deborah Turner. Dr. Turner also discusses here LWV positions on policing in the wake of the George Floyd murder.

“{LWVUS is} launching Women Power the Vote: Defining the Next 100 Years, a discussion series to explore the work we need to do over the next 100 years to ensure fair elections with participation by all, particularly those who have been disenfranchised in the past.

Continuing the #WomenPowertheVote movement, we will kick off the series on August 12th with a conversation between Chief Executive Officer Virginia Kase and me on [Facebook Live at 1 p.m. EDT](#). We will be discussing what lies ahead for democracy in America, and how all women can be active participants.

It is important for us to explore the ways in which we can ensure that all voices are heard as we move forward. The voices of many Americans—particularly women of color—are still not heard in choosing their representation. As our nation’s demographics change, diversity, equity, and inclusion in the electoral process have never been more important to ensure fair representation.

This brings me to an important conversation that many people are having about defunding the police in light of the continued violence against Black communities. We have heard from several Leagues looking for guidance around the issue of defunding the police and wanting to be good allies to Black Lives Matter and other organizations on the issue of racial justice. This movement and message mean very different things for communities across the country, and even the phrase ‘defund the police’ has different meanings for people inside and outside the racial justice movement.

Because police budgets are localized and the cry to ‘defund the police’ means different things in different communities, it would not be appropriate for the national office to take a position on this issue. State and local Leagues can use existing League positions to formulate a localized stance on the subject. [Our positions](#) on militarization of federal forces, human rights, and civil rights can be applied to issues like police brutality or the militarization of cities with the presence of federal troops we have seen. For some communities, the desire to remove police officers from schools could relate to our positions on education and mental health.

We empower Leagues to take positions based on our existing policies as it relates to your community and conversations with local partners in the racial justice movement.



More items from LWW US:

Voter Registration Tips During COVID

Leagues are thinking outside the box and reaching voters where they are to encourage everyone to get registered and update their registration ahead of time. Whether you plan to share registration info virtually or safely in person this year, every one of us can help make sure our communities are registered. Here are a few of our favorite ideas:

1. Cover your community in VOTE411. The word is out – 2 million voters, dozens of partners, corporations, and even the Webbys agree that VOTE411 is THE place for voters to go this year. [Print posters!](#) Make leaflets! Ask local businesses & organizations to include VOTE411 messages in takeout packages and food bank deliveries. Set up shop at a socially distant farmers' market using the [VOTE411 QR code](#) for easy access – the opportunities to promote online registration are endless, even in uncertain times.
2. Join the over 300 Leagues who have already signed up as a National Voter Registration Day partner! We're thrilled to once again be a huge part of this national holiday – the NVRD leaders are even sharing our VOTE411 QR code with thousands of partners to ensure a ["COVID-proof" voter registration drive!](#)
3. Team up with partners and contact voters directly! We're hearing that lots of Leagues are pulling together virtual postcard parties, phonebanks, and texting circles to get the word out about looming voter registration deadlines. Get in touch with the people you've helped register or work with a community group serving lots of likely unregistered people to get the word out now. Use our [GOTV toolkit](#) for help. Check out the OutreachCircle info below for another way to reach out to voters.
4. Figure out how to tap into schools, even virtually. Our [youth voter registration guide](#) and [virtual voter registration](#) PowerPoint have tips for reaching the youngest eligible voters.

Guidance and Considerations for the 2020 General Election

Each election the League plays a key role in providing voters with the information and resources they need to participate in elections. This includes



educating the public about the process, fighting against voter suppression tactics, and expanding access to the ballot. In the face of COVID-19, the 2020 state and federal primaries increased vote-by-mail and made changes to in-person voting--resulting in unique challenges expected to be faced in the 2020 General Election. Read our overview of [key considerations for vote-by-mail and in-person voting](#) in preparation for the 2020 General Election.

League Joins Partners Asking Presidential Candidates to Disclose Bundlers

As campaigns prepare to file their latest campaign finance reports, the League has signed onto a letter along with its partners, asking candidates to publicly disclose information about bundlers. Bundlers are individuals who gather multiple contributions for the campaign and present it as a single campaign contribution. The letter, sent to both Presidential campaigns, also cited prior precedence for disclosing bundler information. Read [the letters](#).

League Calls on Senate Rules Committee to Fund Elections

The League has joined a letter addressing the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, urging the Senate to make additional investments in state and local elections. The letter calls for \$3.6 billion in elections funding to ensure safe voting during the global pandemic through expanded early voting, expanding absentee voting, providing personal protective equipment at polling sites, and the sanitization of polling locations. As a result of the pandemic, voters have faced significant barriers in voting, and it is time to invest in our democracy to keep access to the ballot box safe. Read the [DFAD elections funding](#) letter.

League Joins Letter in Honoring Legacy of Congressman John Lewis

With the recent passing of Congressman John Lewis, the [League has signed onto a letter](#) through the Leadership Conference, asking members of Congress to honor his legacy by passing the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Additionally, the letter emphasizes the coalition's current ask for \$3.6 billion in elections funding to ensure all Americans can vote safely this November, as a way to honor Congressman Lewis's work in fighting for the right to vote.



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Contact Your Senators and Urge Them to Move Forward with \$3.6 Billion in Elections Funding

The League is [continuing its push for elections funding](#) in Congress. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices as final negotiations for the next COVID stimulus bill continue. We are also asking Leagues to consider sending their own letters to their Senators [using our template](#) available on the League Management Site. Members and supporters can also use our action alert to [contact their Senators](#).

Messaging Toolkit: Responding to the Lack of Election Funding in the Senate's Stimulus Bill

LWV is a member of the Declaration for American Democracy coalition, which created a digital toolkit for messaging around the Senate's proposed stimulus bill that does not allocate any resources for elections. LWVUS has adapted the toolkit specifically for League use, and it can be found on the [League Management Site](#). The toolkit includes social media tools, a letter to the editor template, an email blast template, and more.

Where Leagues Are Litigating, A Review of FY20

Leagues across the country engaged in more than double the litigation than that of FY19. With more than half the country engaged in litigation in federal and state court due to COVID-19, to combat purging, and to proactively protect upcoming redistricting processes, we have received a notable number of requests from Leagues wanting a comprehensive review of our growing portfolio. Check out our new article outlining the impressive work Leagues have done nationwide between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. You'll be more than wow'd, you'll be straight up amazed. Read about the [more than 50 cases](#).

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Monthly Webinars

Join us for our next monthly webinar on August 20. This webinar will feature a presentation and discussion on the more inclusive timeline of all women winning



the right to vote.

Registration information for this webinar and recordings of past webinars are available on the [League Management Site](#).

DEI Training Modules

If your League is looking for resources to connect on DEI remotely consider reviewing the 5 DEI Modules produced last year for the Making Democracy grant program. Each of these modules includes a short-recorded webinar with discussion prompts and additional reading and viewing materials.

The modules can be viewed on the [League Management Site](#).

News of the Week

- Virginia Kase was interviewed by 2020 Talks last week discussing the violence being used against protestors. [Check out the interview!](#)
- Exercising the right to petition has been threatened by the pandemic as stay-home and social distancing orders remain in place. Read about [how the pandemic has impacted](#) the ballot initiative process for redistricting reform.
- The LWV of Maine wrote an op-ed to their senators urging them to invest in safeguarding the general election amid the pandemic. Read their [call for election security](#).

Webinar Follow-Up: LWVUS Litigation and Legislative Yearly Wrap Up

The Advocacy and Litigation team held an annual wrap up about litigation, legislation, and new for 2020, the People Powered Fair Maps campaign. You can [find the recording and slides available](#) on the League Management Site under the past webinars heading.

Advocacy and Litigation Announce Policy Webinar Schedule

Check our page on the [League Management Site](#) to see a listing of all future and past webinars from the LWVUS Advocacy and Litigation team! Webinars will cover everything from setting Legislative priorities, putting together action alerts, policy briefings on legislative issues, and preparing for your next legislative session. Currently, webinars are scheduled out through January 2021.

League Calls on Senate to Address Health and Economic Consequences of COVID-19

The League joined a letter calling on the U.S. Senate to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 by enacting legislation that achieves certain objectives. These objectives include ensuring equal access to quality health care, providing more relief for most marginalized communities, protecting the most vulnerable working people, safeguarding homes and financial health, and providing shelter to those most in need, reducing law enforcement responses and the risks to incarcerated people and corrections employees, combatting sharp increases in hate crimes, minimizing learning loss, ensuring equal educational opportunities, and protecting student loan borrowers, protecting our democracy, ensuring a fair and accurate census, and protecting immigrants and citizens alike. Read [the letter](#).

League Joins Letter Calling for Congress to Protect Basic Human Needs in Pandemic

The League joins its partners addressing Congress and asking for new pandemic relief legislation that protects and meetings basic human needs to reduce the effects of the pandemic on our population. The letter asks for



Congress to approve cash assistance for households; protections for a safe return to work; state and local aid for essential services; and funding for the post office, safe voting, and the decennial census. The letter can be [read online](#).

League asks for House of Representatives to Fund Public Transportation

The League of Women Voters signed onto a letter asking for House Leadership to allocate \$32 billion for public transit in additional, targeted, emergency operating support for public transit systems across the country to continue to safely provide essential services. Investing in critical infrastructure such as public transit is vital during this pandemic. It is essential to the economic well-being of communities of color and people with disabilities who are disproportionately impacted by this pandemic and rely on public transit as a way to get to work, go shopping, and meet their needs. The [letter can be read](#) online.

ORGANIZING

Bi-Weekly Organizing Trainings

On August 6th at 3pm ET, the LWVUS Advocacy and Organizing teams will host a joint training on how to use our own networks to maximize our impact and advocate for the VRAA. [Register to join](#) as we honor the legacy of John Lewis by equipping attendees with action steps to move the Voting Rights Advancement Act and build the base of support to create lasting change. View our [bi-weekly training schedule and resources!](#)

Monthly Community Calls

Each month the national office is inviting League members to convene to strengthen our community and solidarity! We want to continue to foster spaces for cross-learning and relationship building among leagues. All Community Calls will take place from 3-4pm ET on the second Tuesday of each month. Register for our [August 11th Community Call!](#) To see past recordings and register for upcoming community calls, visit our page on the [League Management Site!](#)



OutreachCircle

Want a digital way to recruit, engage, and activate your league and community members all from one place? Join the LWWUS OutreachCircle pilot program today to receive free access to this new digital organizing tool available to all Leagues! The LWWUS Organizing Team on **Monday, August 3, at 3pm ET** will be hosting an informational session about OutreachCircle to provide an overview of the platform and to answer any questions you may have. We encourage you to spread the news and share it with your fellow League members. [Register today!](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Technology & Communications Webinar: Updates to Working Virtually

After several months of working virtually, some best practices and technologies have changed. Join us for a follow up to our April webinar where we'll discuss options for hosting virtual meetings, public events, and group work. We'll also discuss best practices for doing League work remotely as well as other tips to make your League work the best it can be during this time. We'll hear from each other about what is working in the field and what elements we can help improve. Our webinar will be on Thursday, August 13, at 4:30pm ET. [Register now!](#)



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Do you have information to share with LWV ABC?
Four ways to stay in touch with LWV ABC

Visit our public website: www.lwvabcmn.org. If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com. We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

We're on Facebook: Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook". Like our page and share our posts to your Facebook contacts!

We're on Instagram: Go to: https://www.instagram.com/lwv_abc_mn/ . Be sure to follow us on Instagram, and share our posts!

Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*: Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, www.lwvabcmn.org .