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Firearms Safety Update – Our March meeting – Learn the results of surveys conducted by LWV members across Minnesota

Date: Monday evening, March 14

Time: 6:30 Social Time, 7:00 Program

Where: It's a virtual meeting, via Zoom. [Click this link to join the meeting on March 14 at 6:30.](#) QCTV will record the event for later cablecast as well.



The LWV MN Firearms Safety Update Committee interviewed sheriffs and police chiefs across Minnesota to learn about the impact of firearms in our communities. The survey consisted of 20 questions addressing each of the issues in the League's 1990 position on firearms and included questions about enforcement and the respondents' opinions on the efficacy of existing laws and regulations. Survey interviews were conducted by League members in person, by phone or Zoom between October 2020 and July 2021. A total of 39 law enforcement officers participated.

To read the *Report on League Interviews of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs in Minnesota*, visit our website, www.lwvabc@gmail.com and click on our Calendar page for the March 14 program.

Our Guest Speaker: Marti Micks, LWV Golden Valley, Firearms Safety Update Committee Co-Chair. Marti Micks is retired from the Osseo School District as a social studies teacher. She served eight years on the Golden Valley City Council and Housing & Redevelopment Authority and was a civilian management analyst for the U.S. Army in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. A LWV member since 1976, Micks served as President of LWVMN (2018-2019). She currently is president of LWV Golden Valley and Secretary of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL). She has served on several local studies, as well as county, CMAL, and state studies.

Can't be in attendance? QCTV, will record this event and make it available for on-demand viewing. Watch the YouTube video:

- On our LWV ABC website, www.lwvabcmn.org, under *Spotlight on Issues*
- Or, watch it on QCTV's website at <http://qctv.org/league-of-women-voters/>

Last Month's Program – County Government Study

CMAL Study Reviewed at February Meeting

At our February meeting, LWV ABC members voted in support of all the consensus questions developed following the new CMAL Study of County Government. Vice President Julie Trude (one of LWV ABC's representative to CMAL) shared a presentation of the study facts, linked at the end of this article.

LWV County Similarities, Most Counties or All	County Differences: Few Counties or One
All post agenda, board meeting recordings, board minutes	Only Carver posts commissioner salaries
All allow public to subscribe to notices, agendas, minutes	Only Anoka Co. has not adopted Code of Ethics
Use of websites & virtual meetings has improved transparency/accountability of all since last study	Board Workshops handled differently (posting of agendas, minutes vary; meeting info. availability)
Most allow public comments at reg. & workshop meetings	Anoka Co. completely disallows public comment at Board meetings and workshops; Ramsey Co. usually disallows at both [but has citizens on their committees]
Advisory Comm.s quite transparent/accessible	Dakota Co. allows public comments at all meetings; Washington Co. does at many
All but Anoka & Carver post the number of members on each advisory comm.	Anoka Co. alone, not involve public in budget process, policy-setting, long-term capital planning.
	Relationships w/ Met Council differ between urban, exurban & suburban counties
	Recording of board workshops/advisory comm. meetings varies (about half record)
	Dakota alone, posts members of advisory comm.s

Key take-aways discussed by members: Anoka County shares less with the public than other Metro counties, and gives fewer opportunities for public input. Members directed the President to send a letter with the study to the Anoka County Board Chair, requesting a meeting to review the study findings.

League members of CMAL are submitting votes on the statements this month. New positions are formally adopted at the annual meeting, occurring on May 14. Widespread press releases are planned afterwards.

Here's the link to the Power Point presentation used by Julie in her overview of the study: <https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog/cm-al-study-of-county-governance>

Results of the LWV ABC vote are included on page 11 of this newsletter.

Voter Service--Candidate Forums and Training

Our Voter Service Committee is busy making plans for an ambitious schedule of candidate forums. We will need a full roster of moderators, question facilitators and event planners to fulfill our schedule. Check out these training opportunities, and click on registration link below:



- | | |
|---|--|
| – March 16 (Moderator) | – April 9 (Event Planner & Question Facilitator) |
| – March 19 (Moderator) | – April 19 (Moderator) |
| – March 21 (Event Planner & Question Facilitator) | – April 20 (Question Facilitator) |
| – March 24 (Question Facilitator) | – May 18 (Event Planner & Question Facilitator) |
| | – May 24 (Moderator) |

Register and get more information here: www.lwvmn.org/voter-service-training **Registration closes 1 week ahead** to allow time for mailing handbooks. Materials will not be available online. Handbook will be sent to the address you provide in the registration form.

Voter Service--Voter Registration Activities and Training

The Voter Service Committee is also engaged in planning an active schedule of voter registration activities this summer and fall, including participation in National Voter Registration Day on September 20.

Watch for training opportunities – and the sign-ups for registration activities. It will be amazing!

Book and Film Discussions – Join us on Zoom!

Gather with LWV ABC members and friends on selected **Wednesday evenings** to delve into conversations from the comfort of your home. Expand your knowledge on topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Stimulating conversations about good books and films on important topics – a great resource for any isolation you're feeling!

Upcoming Films:

March 2 - *Made in L.A. (Hecho en Los Angeles)* (2007)
for Women's History Month

April 6 – *Kumu Hina* The true meaning of aloha

Upcoming Book:

March 16 (Part 1) and **April 20** (Part 2) *White Rage - The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (2016) By Carol Anderson, Ph.D.

All events at 7:00 pm

For a book/film description and where to obtain: Link to the calendar on our website

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>

Membership Dues in April

The month of April is when we renew membership in LWVABC. Our annual membership dues now cover a fiscal year of May 1 through April 30. Watch for a billing by postal mail later this month. Or you may renew online at <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/join-lwv-abc-or-renew-your-membership>

Dues remain the same as last year; \$60, and we will continue to include a Flexible Dues Membership (Pay what you can): \$5-\$55. *New members joining in January, February, or March do not pay dues again until the following year.*

We are 78 members strong and look forward to keeping or exceeding that number in the coming year. Thank you for renewing promptly

Livable Communities Grant Program -- Analyzed

Learn how it works, how funds are used and get answers to your questions in this upcoming CMAL program

The Council of Metropolitan Area leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) will present a program on the Livable Communities program of the Metropolitan Council on **Saturday March 19, 2022, at 10 am, via Zoom**. QCTV will record this program for later viewing.

Met Council's Tara Beard, who manages the Livable Communities program along with housing policy will be one of the featured speakers. Jennifer Faulkner, Burnsville's Community Development Director will provide insights on how cities use the grants and view the program.

Topics include:

- How does the Livable Communities Grant Program work?
- Where does the money come from and what can grants be used for?
- How are grantees determined?
- How do cities use the grants and what do they think about the program?
- Are grants evaluated for effectiveness?

All LWV members and the general public are invited to this Zoom program. Connection information:

<https://lwvmnorg.zoom.us/j/86537230504?pwd=OWRvR29jWXVnMnZBVHdLUWUzeEU2UT9>

Meeting ID: 865 3723 0504 Passcode: 885092 / +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



Photo from Met Council website

LWV MN Council – April 30, 2022

Note from Newsletter Editor: LWV ABC can send 6 delegates to this meeting, and more as observers. We will include more information to our members in an upcoming member email with information about the LWV ABC Annual Meeting as well.

From LWV MN: LWV Minnesota is proud to announce our Council meeting, scheduled for April 30, 2022. Per our bylaws, a meeting of the Council will be held in the interim year between Conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding Convention at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. At this annual meeting, we will review our activities and impact from the past year, as well as our budget. The Council is also authorized to modify the Program for Action, provided that two-thirds of the Council delegates who are present and voting adopt any modifications brought forward. There will be two modifications brought before the voting delegates at Council this year.

Council will be virtual this year via Zoom, and is only \$10 for voting delegates and observers as well. Visit the Council page for delegate counts for each League, the agenda, the packet, and the Program for Action items.

Registration will open on Monday, March 14. At that time, you can also register for an additional session on Thursday, April 28, to learn more about our Concurrence and Study Resolution items.

Save the Date for our LWV ABC Annual Meeting

Monday evening April 11 – via Zoom

- Updates about past year's activities
- Share ideas for the coming months
- Vote on proposed budget
- Learn how to help register and inform voters
- Learn how you can make a difference

Members will receive an email later in March with the link to the virtual annual meeting and instructions to download the e-packet.

Did you miss some past programs?

Watch them now on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHj6veDBtjM5Y_9AUyYrnPg?app=desktop

Our 2022 Legislative Interviews – Watch them here!

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/legislative-interviews>

Farewell to Darby Nelson

Learning from a Life Well Lived

Darby Miles Nelson was a legislator, an educator, an author, a family man and a member of LWV ABC. His funeral was held on March 5, and can be viewed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/vdmlcR_RldE.



The speakers at the event gave a good recounting of Darby's life and passions. Former Senator Gene Merriam and Conservation Minnesota head Paul Austin talked about Darby's activism, particularly for environmental causes from testifying in Congress to get the Boundary Waters Canoe Area set aside as a wilderness to going door to door supporting the Clean Water and Land Legacy amendment. Their talks showed how Darby was an effective advocate, and make a good primer for anyone wanting to learn to become a stronger influencer in the areas you are passionate about. This is highly recommended viewing, and a good way to remember a true leader in our community. *Left, Senator Merriam speaking at Darby's Memorial*

Highlights of the LWV ABC Board Meeting

February 28, 2022, Arlene Gillett, Secretary

The Board discussed joining Transformative Circle in a Juneteenth celebration. We could offer our services in planning the event, as well as offering our financial help. We would then be listed as a co-sponsor of the event. DeeAnn Christensen will talk to their representative about it and get back to us at our next Board meeting.

We talked about the need to keep the information on our website up to date. Also, we should all look at our job descriptions in our LWV ABC Handbook, and make any necessary additions or corrections.

The Board discussed CMAL consensus questions, and how to make the process more visible and accessible. Do we need a special consensus meeting of the membership to approve any additions to our position or not. We decided that we do not need to have this process done by the Annual Meeting.

The preparations for voter registration work were discussed. We looked at drafts of a poster to be used in the lobby of apartment buildings and a flyer to be placed in new resident packets, and approved funding their printing. We plan to have registration tables at many community events this summer, and to support that effort at many area high schools.

Meet the Candidates forums will be occurring for both Primary and General elections this year, and will be handled like we have done in the last two years - on zoom with no live audiences.

The Program Committee told us about their ideas for upcoming programs. Our Annual Meeting is in April, and we would like to look into environmental programming. Andover High School has an organization called "DROP", or "different races organizing for peace," which we could do in May.

End of Life Options – An LWV Study

Our thanks to member Pat Kennedy for compiling this information.

LWV Utah completed a study on medical aid in dying in 2016. LWV *Minneapolis* completed an update to this study and adopted the LWV Utah position in 2021 by concurrence. **LWV Minneapolis will be asking the delegates to the 2022 LWVMN Council to adopt this position by concurrence. If the delegates to LWVMN Council adopts the position, it will allow LWV members to advocate for the position with the Minnesota legislature.**

The LWV Utah position we will be asked to adopt by concurrence:

1. The League of Women Voters of Utah believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.
2. The League of Women Voters of Utah believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

The Minnesota legislature has held hearings in both 2016 and 2019 on the Minnesota End-of-Life Options Act, modeled after the [Oregon Death with Dignity law](#) and is likely to be introduced again. A [2016 Minnesota statewide survey](#) showed, by a 51-point margin (73% to 22%), that likely voters in Minnesota “support legislation that would authorize medical aid in dying” for mentally capable people age 18 or older with less than six months to live so they could request medication from their doctor that they could decide to take to shorten the dying process.

To find out more about the proposed position concurrence:

- Watch the January 2022 [Minnesota End-of-Life Options Act: What it would do](#) presentation by LWV Minneapolis
- Read the [LWV Utah Death with Dignity Study Report \(2016\)](#)
- Read the [LWV Utah Positions on Death with Dignity](#)
- Read the [LWV Minneapolis Addendum to LWV Utah Death with Dignity Study Report \(2021\)](#)

Learn more about both sides of the issues around the Minnesota End-of-Life Options Act by watching the two part series sponsored by the Bioethics Department of the University of Minnesota:

- [The Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act: Medical Aid in Dying is a Compassionate Option for Terminally Ill Patients](#) - January 28, 2022
- [The Minnesota Assisted Suicide Bill: Bad Medicine, Bad Ethics, Bad Law](#) – February 11, 2022

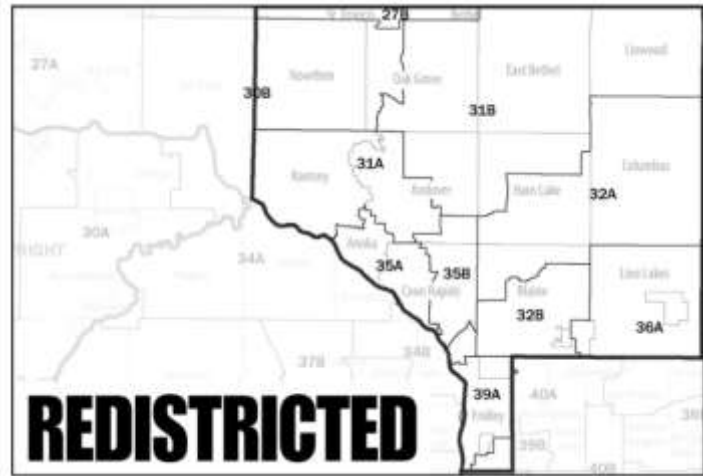


photo from [internet](#)

An Update on Redistricting

--Compiled by Wes Volkenant, Treasurer,
LWV ABC

I was asked to share my observations about the impact of redistricting in the Anoka County and northern Hennepin County areas that our League of Women Voters - Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids serves. The number of legislative districts in our area has increased, and many incumbent legislators have been impacted: I have a detailed description of the changes later in this article.



1. Graphic from Anoka County Union Herald 2-22-22

The next step in redistricting is local redistricting.

LWV-ABC has a small committee composed of myself, Mel Aanerud and Colleen Werdien working on creating one or two draft Anoka County Commissioner district maps to submit to the County Board by early-April, as Cities prepare their new precinct lines by March 29, and the County Board and School Boards prepare their new maps by April 26.

Looking at the new lines... the judicial panel that issued new Congressional and Legislative maps clearly stated that substantial re-drawing of the district lines is the job of the Legislature; as a judicial panel, they tweaked existing lines to account for population shifts only. In our area, we see that the one Congressional change was moving Anoka and a sliver of Ramsey (south of Highway 10), to the 3rd Congressional District.

The principle of tweaking the existing districts continued at the Legislative level, but led to, what I would characterize as, considerable change. The first thing I would point out is that versus the six partial or full Senate Districts Anoka County was previously divided into, it will now be divided into eight full or partial districts - 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36 and 39.

Many incumbent legislators have been impacted: Sen. John Hoffman will be solely in Hennepin County, Sen. Jim Abeler adds most of Coon Rapids, Sen. Jerry Newton will unretire to campaign in 35B House seat; DFLer Zack Stevenson and Republican John Heinrich were paired Representatives in 35A; Rep. Nolan West will run in the more northerly 32A; and with Republicans Peggy Scott and Cal Bahr paired in 31B, Rep. Bahr filed for the open Senate seat. Contests that will have neither a current Senator or Representative running are House seats 31A and 32B, and Senate 32.

Are you still unsure about your new District? **Use this handy informative tool that was developed by MPR:** <https://dhmontgomery.shinyapps.io/redistricting-widget-final/>. Interactive House and Senate maps of the Districts are located at: <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/redist2020/plans.php?pname=L2022&pltype=court>.

(Continued on page 9)

Here's a more detailed discussion of the changes to the line for our new legislative districts:

Champlin, which was formerly part of a district with Brooklyn Park that crossed the river to cover western and southeastern Coon Rapids, is now in District 34, a westward-facing House District, that extends along the Mississippi River through Dayton and across Rogers to the Hennepin County west border.

Parts of the old District 31 will be in the new District 31; parts of the old District 35 will be in the new District 35. The new District 31 will cover Ramsey, much of Andover, northern Ham Lake, eastern Oak Grove, East Bethel and Athens Township in Isanti County.

Its neighbor to the south, District 35, retains Anoka and most of Coon Rapids, as well as the southeast corner of Andover. Parts of this area were in the former 35A and 35B and 36A.

Northwestern Anoka County has been spliced into portions of two new Districts that primarily lie outside of Anoka County. The western portion of Oak Grove and the city of Nowthen have been placed into House District 30B, while the remainder of District 30 is in northern Wright County, in the St. Michael-Albertville area.

St. Francis and Bethel have been drawn into strongly Republican district 27B, which goes west to Zimmerman in Sherburne County and then north to Princeton, which straddles Sherburne and Mille Lacs Counties. The A side of the District extends up to the outskirts of St. Cloud.

The new District 32 will extend from Blaine northward through southern Ham Lake, Columbus and Linwood Township. At its southeast end, Lexington is also included in District 32. This new District covers much of the former District 37 and a portion of the former District 31.

The former District 41 in southern Anoka County and northwestern Ramsey County remains mostly unchanged as new District 39, but all of Spring Lake Park was added and the A, B house lines were drawn differently. The former lines put Fridley and northern New Brighton in one House seat and Columbia Heights and southern New Brighton and St. Anthony in the other. The new District 39A extends from Spring Lake Park through Fridley and Hilltop to northern Columbia Heights, as far south as 44th Ave NE.

Finally, the former District 38A in eastern Anoka County, has been incorporated into a newly shaped District 36. Eastern Anoka County - Lino Lakes, Circle Pines, Centerville form a portion of the District with Gem Lake, North Oaks and White Bear Township. The 36B side of the district is in White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights and a portion of White Bear Township.

Help Register New Citizens to Vote!

In 2022, Citizenship Ceremonies continue to be held at RiverCentre in St. Paul. Each Citizenship Ceremony day, approximately 1,200-1,400 people became citizens through numerous 15-20 minute ceremonies of about 65 citizens each. The League of Women Voter will have to have 8 tables for League members to register voters out in the hall where new citizens exit following their ceremony. Masks are required.



Citizenship Ceremony

Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies :

Thursday, March 17

Morning session, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Afternoon session, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Friday, March 18

Morning session, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Afternoon session, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Sixteen volunteers are needed for each shift. If you are able to volunteer for a morning shift or an afternoon shift (or both), please send an email to citizenshipceremonies@lwvmn.org with the date and shift(s) you are available to help.

Get 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.

Check out the **LWV ABC blog**:

<https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog>



We're on Facebook: Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook". **Instagram, too!**

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.

LWV ABC Vote on CMAL Study Consensus Questions, February 2022. Includes both members voting at the February meeting and those voting online after the meeting.

CMAL Study Consensus Questions and Votes by Our Members

1. County government should provide ample and easily accessible notice of and background information regarding county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions/workshops, and advisory committee/commission meetings. Yes: 26 No: 0
2. County government should post on its website minutes or discussion notes from
 - a. county board meetings Yes: 26 No: 0
 - b. county board committee meetings Yes: 26 No: 0
 - c. county board work sessions/workshops Yes: 26 No: 0
 - d. advisory committee/commission meetings Yes: 26 No: 0
3. County government should video record and post on its website [member joined meeting]
 - a. county board meetings Yes: 25 No: 1
 - b. county board committee meetings Yes: 25 No: 1
 - c. county board work sessions/workshops Yes: 23 No: 3
 - d. advisory committee/commission meetings Yes: 23 No: 3
4. County government should post on its website the number of members for each advisory committee/commission and list the current appointees. Yes: 26 No: 0
5. County government should offer the opportunity for public comment at
 - a. county board meetings Yes: 26 No: 0
 - b. county board committee meetings Yes: 26 No: 0
 - c. county board work sessions/workshops Yes: 23 No: 2 Abstain: 1
 - d. advisory committee/commission meetings Yes: 23 No: 1; Abstain: 1
6. County government should offer members of the public opportunities to give timely and meaningful input into the county budget, policy development, county initiatives, and capital projects. Options could include one-on-one meetings with county commissioners, virtual and in- person town meetings, open houses, etc.
Yes: 26 No: 0
7. County government should post general information on its website about funds received from or through the Metropolitan Council and how such funds are used. Yes: 26 No: 0