

In this issue:

Your Ballot, Your Vote –1

Meet the Candidates Forums - 2

Track your Absentee Ballot - 2

LWV ABC Postcard Project – 3

Book and Film Clubs – 3

People Powered Fair Maps Team – 4

Welcome Mary Mueller – 5

Highlights of Board Meeting –5

Help Needed for Program Planning - 6

Keep LWV emails out of Spam! - 6

Did you notice something different? - 7

Contact LWV ABC – 7

Your Vote, Your Ballot – How Secure is it?

Monday, October 12 at 6:30 - LWV ABC will host a Zoom discussion where we talk about election security. We'll focus on absentee voting and the many ways voters can cast their ballots this year. Anoka County Elections Supervisor Paul Linnell will join us, and we'll also talk some about how the US Postal Service is planning to handle the expected crush of ballots. The session will be recorded by QCTV for cablecast and will be available on LWV ABC's website and YouTube channel.

**YOUR VOTE
YOUR BALLOT
HOW SECURE IS IT?**

Oct 12, 2020



We'll start the evening with *Friend of League* award presentations to Northtown Library, Rum River Library, and Columbia Heights Library – for providing generous spaces for the traveling League of Women Voters exhibit, hospitality, and many related civic engagement activities.

The Zoom link and telephone option for our October 12 program will be sent to members on October 6; non-members can request the link by emailing lwwabc@gmail.com. Note: The Zoom room will open at 6:00 pm for socializing.



Our Meet the Candidates Forums – all posted to our website!

Have you been keeping up with all the good work of our LWV ABC volunteers as they conduct candidate forums for local legislators, city council members, mayors, county commissioners, and conservation district?

Our thanks to Linda Rodgers, Bruce Pomerantz, and Geri Nelson, along with the forum moderators for providing voters with these side-by-side opportunities to Meet the Candidates. We thank the LWV members who chaired the forums – making room reservations, arranging cable television coverage, sending candidate invitations and more – and the timekeepers who kept candidates on task. Special thanks to Pat Kennedy for her work posting and sharing - this is how voters will access our forums this year!

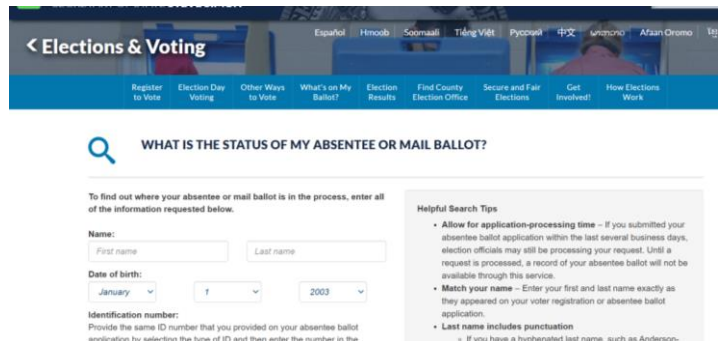


You can view all our forums - more than 40 electoral races - on our website [at this link](#). We also have them posted on our YouTube channel [at this link](#). LWV Minnesota is also uploading the videos to the Vote411 website, so our forums will get very good coverage!

Be sure to let your friends and neighbors know about the forums! This is how voters can become educated about their options this election season! Now that our forum videos are on YouTube, you can easily add the video to a Facebook post to encourage friends and family to watch. Closed captions are available on YouTube, too!

Have you already returned your completed absentee ballot?

Some absentee ballots end up being rejected due to missing signatures or other problems. You can verify that your ballot has been accepted at the County election offices. Go to <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/> and click on the **Track Your Ballot** option.



Postage, Pens, and Postcards -- Voter Registration in the Time of COVID

Many of our LWV voter registration activities have been idled with the need for social distancing. However, you can't keep League members down for long!

President Gretchen Sabel and Membership Chair Pat Kennedy designed an eye-catching postcard to be sent to persons on lists of unregistered voters providing clear, helpful steps for voter registration – including helpful phone numbers, outreach for those without computers, and of course, *why* to register to vote.



Arlene Gillett recruited 10 LWV volunteers (8 members and 2 outside volunteers) to address postcards. LWV ABC's Youth Civic Engagement Fellow, Hailey Shaiger, led a group of Coon Rapids High School National Honor Society students in this project. All together, the volunteers mailed 750 postcards to addresses in Anoka County.

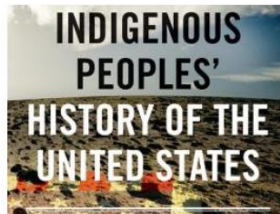
Book and Film Discussions via Zoom! with LWV ABC

Expand your knowledge, participate in interesting discussions via Zoom. Member Pat Kennedy has organized some more noteworthy and relevant selections. Here are dates and descriptions for some of the upcoming titles.

Click on our website Calendar for the Zoom link and more information.

- Wednesday, October 7 – The film, *The Hate U Give***

Director George Tillman, Jr presents the story, based on a young adult novel, of Starr who witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right. (PG13)



- Wednesday, October 21 – The book, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States***

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz challenges the founding myth of the US and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. Spanning more than 400 years, this peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.

Time is 6:15 pm Socializing, 6:30 Discussion for all book and film discussions!

**People Powered Fair Maps Campaign –
Team Members Wanted**

Request for help from Paul Huffman
LWV MN ADVOCACY AND PROGRAM ACTION TEAM



Join the PPFM team!

As we enter Year 2 of the People Powered Fair Maps Campaign in Minnesota, we are updating our plan to reform the redistricting structure and process within Minnesota to prevent gerrymandering and ensure congressional and legislative maps represent the interests of voters. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were not able to make meaningful progress in the 2021 legislative session. As a result we now have a 2 year plan to support for the 2021 legislative session and redistricting cycle, as well as to advocate for a constitutional amendment in the 2022 legislative session. Ideally, this will lead to a constitutional amendment on the 2022 General Election ballot.

Local Leagues have many priorities and issues that they support and are limited in the effort and attention they can apply to any specific area. In order to develop the capability needed for the long-term sustained effort to support the PPFM campaign, we would like to establish a statewide PPFM team composed of LWV Minnesota members and non-members. The members of this team will become knowledgeable in redistricting and gerrymandering, and help to support education, outreach and advocacy efforts over the next 1 - 2 years. This will include the opportunity to be involved at both the state and local level as counties and some cities also must do redistricting after the Census results are received.

Each person's role and commitment will be dependent on their individual interest and capabilities. We will support team members in increasing their knowledge of redistricting and gerrymandering, and will offer them opportunities to play a meaningful role in this campaign consistent with their interest. We will also ask PPFM campaign team members to help shape our approach to achieving the campaign goals. Finally, we anticipate that team members will be a resource for local Leagues and the public on the PPFM campaign and the subject of redistricting.

If you or someone you know is interested in being part of this team, please contact Paul Huffman, Census and Redistricting Coordinator, by replying to this message or directly at phuffman@lwvmn.org, or call him at 651-295-0489.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome new member, Mary Mueller of Blaine. She joined us in August.

Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2020

-
The Board discussed a video project that our student intern, Hailey Shaiger, would like to do that all schools can use. Gretchen Sabel suggested that Hailey could do two videos, one about LWV ABC for the monthly Fridley Community Connections, and also another one for students about voting, "I will vote because....". Gretchen Sabel and Linda Rogers will contact Hailey about it.

-Par Kennedy suggested that our League bylaws, which are presently buried in our Handbook, should be in a separate booklet. Kathy Aanerud said that she will pass that idea on to Jeorgette Knoll and Kay McCulley, who are working on updating the bylaws. Others brought up the idea of keeping the bylaws in the handbook, but have it as a pull out section.

-We talked about our plans for the Monday, October 12th program on voting and election security. Our speaker could be Paul Linnell, from the Anoka County Elections office, talking about early voting and how ballots are handled. And we could also ask a representative from the Postal Service come speak with us about absentee ballots, and how they are handled by the post office. Sue Butler will do the contacts for this program.

Arlene Gillett, Secretary

Free, Online Events From Many Great Sources - Check our Website Calendar!

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

We continue to add free, online events sponsored by LWV, as well as community events presented by the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, libraries, Westminster Town Hall Forums and others. A sampling of upcoming events:

- Securing the Vote with Maria Theresa Kumar of Voto Latino – Oct 6
- The Embattled Vote in America – Oct 6
- Racism and Redistricting: How Unfair Maps Impact Communities of Color – Oct 8
- For the Ages: Election 2020 with Dr. Kathryn Pearson – Nov 5

More details for these events are available on the website calendar. Check back frequently for new events.



THE VOTER
October 2020

**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 lwwabc@gmail.com.

Check Your Spam Folder for Emails from LWV ABC

Didn't get the August 2020 newsletter email? Check your Spam folder. Many of the recent emails from LWV ABC went to email Spam folders.

There are two things you can do to prevent LWV ABC emails from going to your Spam folder.

1. Add LWV ABC email addresses to your "Contacts" or "Address Book" (name may vary by which program you use). LWV ABC actually has two email addresses - both should be added:

- lwwabc@gmail.com
- lwwabc@lwwmn.org

You may also want to add the email addresses of LWVMN and LWVUS:

- lww@lww.org
- info@lwwmn.org

2. Mark any LWV ABC emails in your Spam folder, as "Not Spam". To do this:

- Find the Spam folder in your email program menu. The email menu is usually located on the left side. The "Spam" folder is usually listed after folders such as "Inbox", "Sent" and "Trash"
- In Gmail, you will need to scroll down and may have to click "more" to see the Spam folder.
- Click on the Spam folder to open the folder.
- Click on the check box in front of any emails from LWV ABC.
- Click on the "Not Spam" button, usually located at the top.
- After clicking the "Not Spam" button, the email(s) should be in your inbox.

Did you notice anything different about this newsletter?

We are changing things up some in our communications. Our monthly email now links directly to easy-to-access posts for our three top stories. The look of our newsletter has changed - we've switched to all-black headers for our stories for clearer printing. And we still prepare the .pdf version of the newsletter which is posted on our website.

Why all these changes? Our members are diverse and access information in a great variety of ways. For those who read the newsletter on their phones, the quick links in our email will give them the information they need. For those who want to read all the details, the online newsletter is there like always. Finally, we have members who don't do email at all. For these, we print and mail via US Post a copy of the newsletter. We appreciate feedback on all this – email us at lwvabc@gmail.com with your comments and ideas!

And yes, there are a variety of fonts in this newsletter. Do you have a preference? Times New Roman or Calibri? Are you a serif fancier? Does our occasional use of **bold** annoy you? Let us know!

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".

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 .