

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02/14	LWV-US League Birthday Rally
02/17	GD: The Future of NATO & European Security
02/18	Primary Election Day
02/24	GD: International Cooperation on Climate Change
03/03	GD: AI & American National Security
03/06	Two Rivers Candidates forum
03/10	GD: U. S. – China Relations
03/13	Manitowoc Mayoral Forum
03/15	General Meeting – League Members only

Dear League Members,

The first Great Decisions program was very well received. We had over 100 people in attendance and another 200 were watching it live streamed in the comforts of their home. The topics that have been chosen reflect the news of today. For those of you who have never attended, please put these dates on your calendar and give it a try. You will not be disappointed!!

A special thank you goes to Jennifer Balma and Arah Schmidt for arranging to have Kole Torres, DEI Coordinator from the State Office in Madison. She gave us a variety of ways to implement best practices of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion here in Manitowoc County in our programming and events. We had over 35 members joining us that evening.

Early voting has begun!! For those of you in District 1 and those who are interested in the candidates for the Board of Education, interviews have been made by each candidate. Please read the Newsletter for further information on how to get this information.

Cathy

VOTER SERVICES

Manitowoc School Board Interviews online

Have you checked out the taped interviews for the candidates running for the School Board Primary Election, February 18th? Please share via personal email. For Facebook users, the link is on our page for you to share from there. If you see the candidates, thank them for participating.

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/manitowoc-county/candidate-forums-and-interviews>

FORUMS:

The LWV-MC will hold a Candidate Forum at Two Rivers City Hall, 1717 East Park Street on Thursday, March 6th at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. There are 5 candidates seeking the three Council positions.

On Thursday, March 13, 6:00pm to 7:30pm, at the Manitowoc City Hall, 900 Quay Street, the Manitowoc Mayoral Candidate Forum will be held with incumbent Justin Nickels and candidate, Jason Prigge. Co-hosted by Manitowoc County Chamber of Commerce.

March 18th, Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors to vote on creating a Task Force for the Opioid Settlement. Public comment before the meeting. *Check the web site for agenda and location as location may be changed.*

<https://manitowocountywi.gov/departments/county-board-of-supervisors/meeting-announcements/>

District 1 and District 3 Candidate Forums TBA.

MEMBERSHIP

On Saturday, March 15th, the League will have another General Meeting for members only on: “What the League has done in the Past and New Initiatives for the Future. It will be held at the Manitowoc Library in the Balkansky Room from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

LWV-WISCONSIN EVENTS

02/25: WI Supreme Court Election: Judging Judicial Candidates at 6 pm.
Register for this event by going to the state's website and type in events.

LWV-NATIONAL STUDY ON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

At the LWVUS June 2024 Convention, Leagues overwhelmingly agreed to conduct a new **national study on the Federal Judiciary**. Lots of material is available to us thru this next link titled [All Resources Fed Judiciary Study](#) some of which is described below.

2024-2025 Federal Judiciary Study Process, Committee and Resources

The study will be completed in a shortened time frame — conducted in just one year, with the final position set to be announced at LWVUS Council in June 2025.

If you are interested in being part of the local group working on this please email Nancy Slattery President at slatterynancy927@gmail.com Thank you !

WHY and the Scope:

The study is to develop a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US democracy.

The study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics.

The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN? Through participation you can:

- contribute to your community
 - gain knowledge, experience, and skills
 - make contacts and develop friendships

"HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?"

It's up to you! Help with advocacy, serve on a board, attend meetings, read newsletters/social media, or just pay your dues. No matter how you participate, your membership contributes to the political influence needed to build a voice for citizens and a force for change." Most recent presentation was on Feb 4. This is the link to the Virtual Town Hall [2/4/2025 Town Hall](#) **Speakers start 10 mins in continuing till 1hr 32 mins.**

Understanding Federal Courts: This publication is from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. It provides an introduction to the federal justice system, including how it is organized and how it relates to the legislative and administrative branches of government = **This is a total 50 pages with the last 17 being definitions of legal terms.**

U.S Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges: This document includes the ethical principles that apply to federal judges and provides guidance on the official duties and engagements related to outside activities for federal judges. **A deep dive into everything.**

Congressional Research Service Paper, The Supreme Court Adopts a Code of Conduct: This document was published following the announcement of the US Supreme Court's adoption of the Code of Conduct and provides a legal sidebar with background information on federal judicial ethics rules before the adoption of the code and briefly outlines the substance of the code adopted. **A 4 page explanation .**

Policy Briefs

The Federal Judiciary Study Committee has prepared a series of briefs on particular, specific topics designed to help spark discussion among League members as we work toward a LWVUS position on the federal judiciary. **Each of the following are live links**

Judicial Ethics and Enforcement

Judge Shopping

Recusal

Representation

Structural Reforms for the Supreme Court

League to which this content belongs:

Rhode Island

Upcoming National LWV Celebrations

February 14, 2025, starting at 10 AM CT live-streamed and archived:

celebrating our LWV Birthday. Join us as we lift up our vision of a more equitable democracy, and this includes abolishing the Electoral College to allow One Person, One Vote! More information and registration links to the rally, as well as a toolkit with useful guidance, will be shared soon!

March 6 – 10, 2025

Selma Jubilee League members are invited to join us at Selma, AL, as we join the Civil Rights movement to commemorate "Bloody Sunday" and honor the legacy of civil rights leaders. RSVP link to come; check out www.selmajubilee.com For more info, contact organizing@lwv.org

GREAT DECISIONS:

02/17: The Future of NATO with Martin Farrell, Phd.
02/24: International Cooperation on Climate Change with Elizabeth Wheat, Phd.
03/03: AI and American National Security with Dave Schroeder
03/10: U.S. China Relations with Judd Kinzley, Phd.
03/17: India: Between China, the West, and the Global South with Amit Pat
03/24: American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads with Martin Farrell, Phd.

IMMIGRATION

The Manitowoc LWV has accepted an offer from the interfaith justice group RUTH to co-sponsor a public presentation in late April of Immigration 101 with local and national updates since the new administration took office. Date and location YTBD.

If interested in the planning, contact ruth4justice@gmail.com and you will be contacted. There are many opportunities to attend ZOOM webinars with accurate sources which we will share with interested persons. Thank you for considering this education opportunity. This link to the US LWV information will give you their official position. <https://www.lwv.org/other-issues/immigration>

RUTH is an acronym for **-Responding with understanding, truth and hope**. It is an interfaith justice group in Manitowoc County. Individuals, Faith, communities and organizations are all welcomed to work with others supporting their values in the community

