

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

03/10	U.S. – China Relations
03/12	PBS/7 Pm Crawford & Shimel Forum
03/13	Mayoral Forum
03/15	ALL MEMBERS MEETING – 10 AM
03/17	India: Between China, the West & the Global South
03/18	Walk- In Voting Begins
03/20	Common Council Districts 1 & 3 Forum
03/24	American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads
03/26	School Board Forum at Lincoln High School
04/01	Election Day

Dear League Members,

March comes in like a lion when it comes to Great Decisions and Forums. This is the time when you should be talking to your friends and neighbors to attend the Forums in Manitowoc. They will be able to ask questions that concern their neighborhoods and City. Also, talk about **Voting No** on the latest Amendment change since it is a form of voter suppression. The legislation will try to make it more difficult for women to vote.

Great Decisions has topics that relate to the changes that are being made with our allies and other foreign policies. Marty Farrell will be coming back for the last Great Decision gathering on American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads. It should be a very interesting and informative evening.

Please take the time to read the Newsletter since there is a lot of information in it on the various dates and times of the forums and on **Saturday, March 15th at 10:00 AM**

Thank you,

Cathy

GREAT DECISIONS:

Great Decisions is still going on and will be at the Manitowoc Public Library all through March. It meets on Monday at 6:00 pm until 7:45 pm. All are welcomed. The following topics to be discussed are as follows.

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.

MANITOWOC FORUMS:

March 13th Mayoral Forum. Co-sponsored with The Chamber of Manitowoc County. 6 to 7:30 PM, City Hall Common Council Room. *Candidates: Justin Nickels and Jason Prigge*

March 20th Common Council Districts 1 and 3 Forum. 6 to 7:30 PM, City Hall Common Council Room. *Candidates: Andrew Dunbar and Brett Vanderkin (District 1), Michael Commings and Angela Myers (District 3).*

March 26th Manitowoc District School Board, Lincoln High School Auditorium 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Sponsored by Lincoln Student Council. *Six candidates for three seats: Mary Lofy Blahnik, David Bowman, Ann Holsen, Lisa Ann Krueger, Brayden Myer, Chrystal Myer.* Visit the League of Women Voters Manitowoc County website for **recorded candidate interviews**.

Also on the Ballot: Wisconsin Supreme Court Judge.

Candidates: Susan Crawford and Brad Schimel. The LWV Wisconsin has recorded a webinar reviewing the candidates. See the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2Y9al8Uyr4>

Crawford and Schimel Forum on ABC, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 12TH, 7 PM.

VOTE NO ON THE APRIL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Shall section 1M of Article III of the constitution be created to require that voters present valid photographic identification verifying their identity in order to vote in any election, subject to exceptions which may be established bylaw?

Wisconsin's strict photo ID law is among the most restrictive in the nation. Research from the Brennan Center for Justice revealed 14.5% of eligible voters lack an unexpired photo ID with their current name and address on it and face difficulties voting. The Center surveyed 23.5 million voters across 42 jurisdictions regarding the 2016 election and determined improper noncitizen votes accounted for 0.0001% of the vote. Wisconsin already has a state law requiring voters to provide a valid photo identification to vote. This law passed in 2011 has been implemented in every Wisconsin election since 2016. The law identifies acceptable photo ID, exceptions, and the use of provisional ballots. These things are clearly identified in the law.

A Yes vote means adding language to the constitution to require valid photo identification to vote and authorizing the state legislature to pass laws to determine what qualifies as valid photo identification and exceptions to the requirement. Voters passed a law in 2011 that already did what this amendment will accomplish. Wisconsin has safe and secure elections with safeguards in place to ensure only eligible voters are voting. Is this amendment solving a problem that doesn't exist?



People in Wisconsin have had to vote on 6 confusing constitutional amendments on the ballot in the last year. Is there that much wrong with our state Constitution? Over 20 organizations oppose this amendment. It is not needed since we have a strict law already in place. Visit the website My Vote WI (myvote.wi.gov) April 1 Amendment for further information.

LWV OF MANITOWOC COUNTY

There will be a **General Meeting on Saturday, 10 am until noon** to discuss the Federal Judiciary Study at the Manitowoc Public Library. The meeting will cover information regarding the current study on the Federal Judiciary system and we

will vote on our response. An agenda was sent to all members on March 7th. This is a summary of what will be covered.

- A. Explanation of LWV studies and resulting positions process, presented by Julie Grinde.
- B. Video and discussion of LWVUS current study regarding the Federal Judiciary System and vote on our response. (See below for details)
- C. Input from members regarding local issues on which we will focus next fiscal year.
- D. Time for questions regarding registration and dues payment through membership portal. <https://portal.lwv.org>

FEDERAL JUDICIARY STUDY :

_Begin your review of the federal study here:

https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and?utm_source=salsa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FJS&utm_content=02.10.25&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=29a34d66-0643-4152-a1f2-b6f4c57ac811

Following are the study conclusion statements about which we are asked to respond:

1. Transparency is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.
2. Accountability is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.
3. Independence is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.
4. Ethics is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.
5. There should be binding universal standards of conduct for judges and Justices at all levels of the Federal courts.
6. Court hearings, documents filed in the court, and rulings for all federal cases should be open and available to the public.
7. There should be an effective enforcement mechanism for the Federal Judiciary code of ethics at all levels.
8. An enforcement mechanism should include a process to require a judge or Justice to recuse him or herself when a reasonable litigant would believe that the judge or Justice has a bias against any party or an issue raised in the case.
9. A judge or Justice's decision and rationale to recuse or not recuse should be publicly disclosed in writing.
10. Federal judges and Justices should be subject to rigorous financial disclosure requirements, enforcement, and penalties for all financial benefits, including but not limited to income, gifts, paid speaking engagements, and book deals.
11. Stability of law is a value that contributes to a strong democracy.

12. Public perception of the Supreme Court's legitimacy contributes to a strong democracy.

Multiple-choice options which each local chapter is asked to choose for above 12 statements.

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER: PAYING MEMBERSHIP DUES

The LWV at the National level has changed the format for paying annual membership dues. When it is time for you to pay your dues, we will no longer be accepting checks paid to the LWV of Manitowoc County. You will pay your dues online using a credit card at <http://www.portal.lwv>. Current dues are suggested at \$75 per year. However, if this is a hardship, dues will be accepted starting at \$20 per year. Your dues payment is automatically divided up between National, State and Manitowoc County. You can also make a donation to the LWV of Manitowoc County at the same time you pay your membership dues. The LWV of Manitowoc County will get your full donation minus a credit card fee. If you want your donation to avoid credit card fees you can still make donations by check to the LWV of Manitowoc County by mailing the check to our treasurer, Annette Kaminsky, at 6917 Forest Hills Drive, Two Rivers, WI. 54241.

Because the system is new and we have experienced some glitches, if you are a new member paying dues for the first time, please contact Virginia Finnel at amanuensis_vlf@yahoo.com and let her know that you have registered so she can confirm the system has correctly added you to our local league roster.

If you experience difficulty using the portal, please contact Annette Kaminsky at amkaminsky@yahoo.com or Virginia Finnel at amanuensis_vif@yahoo.com.

VOTING SERVICES

Denise Coffy, a new League member, is passionate about engaging the next generation of voters. She is garnishing support for a Young Adult Civic

Engagement event targeting ages 18 to 30. The event will have entertainment and activities on how and who to approach in making change within our local community. Denise will be meeting with local nonprofits, youth groups, and government leaders to ask for support.

LEGISLATION ACTION COMMITTEE

ALL MEMBERS are included in this committee. After attending Great Decisions, many of our speakers have said to write or phone their legislators on issues that they feel strongly should be addressed. I am listing some of our legislators to help you contact them. If I left someone out, please go to the Manitowoc County Courthouse and pick up “free of charge” a red booklet that list all of our government officials.

Ron Johnson, U. S. Senator
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Dis. Off. 219 Washington Ave./ R-100
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
W: 202-224-5323
O: 920-230-7250
ron_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov

Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senator
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Dis. Off.: 30 West Mifflin Str./R-700
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
W: 202-224-5653
M: 608-264-5338
Baldwin.tammy@mail.house.gov

Glen Grothman, U.S. 6th District Representative District Office
1511 Longworth H.O.B
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2476

525 N. Peters Avenue/ Rm.700
Fond du Lac, WI. 54937
920-907-0624

Andre Jacque, 1st Senate District
Room 7 South
Wisconsin State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
608-266-3512
Sen.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov
(Assembly Districts 1, 2, & 3)

Devin LeMahieu, 9th Senate District
Room 211 South
Wisconsin State Capitol
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, 53707-7882
608-266-2056
Sen.LeMahieu@legis.wisconsin.gov
Assembly Districts 25, 26, & 27

Shae Sortwell, Representative
2nd Assembly District
Wisconsin State Capitol, Rm 214 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8953
608-237-9102
Rep.Sortwell.@legis.wisconsin.gov

Paul Tittl, Representative
25th Assembly District
Wisconsin State Capitol, Rm. 22 West
P. O. Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8953
608-237-9125
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