

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER**

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Calendar of Events

09/13	Redistricting Process in Manitowoc County
09/16	Redistricting: Mary Lynne Donohue - Presenter
09/28	National Voters' Registration Day

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Dear League Members:

A very special thank you goes to Donna Firman and Steve Lankton for opening up their home to welcome League members for our first summer social and kick-off of the 2021-22 Year. Those who attended had such a wonderful time listening to music, eating great food, and visiting with friends that we have not seen in a very long time.

Welcome back to all who have renewed their membership with the League. Our very first issues program will be held on the third Thursday of this month, September 16th at 7 PM at Manitowoc City Hall. This will be the first time that we will get together in person since March 2020. Please read the rest of the bulletin for further information.

Let's enjoy the beautiful fall weather that has come to the area. It is a great relief from all the heat and humidity that we have experienced over the summer.

The board is looking forward to seeing many of you at our first presentation.

Cathy

REDISTRICTING

The first issues meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 16th at 7 PM at Manitowoc City Hall on Redistricting**. Our presenter is Mary Lynne Donohue who is a retired attorney and community activist in Sheboygan. She has varied and extensive community and political involvement and experience. She served on Sheboygan Common Council for nine years and is a former president of the

Sheboygan Area School District Board of Education. She has also served on the Sheboygan Police and Fire Commission, and she was a candidate for the Wisconsin Assembly for the 26th Assembly District in 2020. Mary Lynne currently serves on the board of Wisconsin Humanities and is on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Mary Lynne is married to Tim Van Akkeren, a retired judge, and has two wonderful sons.

The LWV-US position on redistricting was adopted in June 2016. Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups and members of minority groups.

Redistricting occurs every ten years after the census is tallied and should be an interesting discussion. This is open to the public so members can bring friends, neighbors, and interested parties. Light refreshments will be served.

Redistricting Process in Manitowoc County since the 2020 census data was released.

The public is invited to the **5:30 pm Sept 13th meeting of the *Special Committee on Number and Apportionment of County Board Supervisory Districts*** at the **Manitowoc County Office Complex 4319 Expo Drive Room 300**. The prepared maps for the redistricting of Manitowoc County into population/geographical units for 25 supervisor districts, will be discussed and possibly voted upon.

The numbers of the 2020 various ‘census tracts’ of the cities, villages and towns are available and were used to make a first draft based on the last census, 2010, by Manitowoc County Associate Planner and GIS Specialist Andrea Raymaker, and GIS Coordinator Matt Randerson. That draft, which had 25 supervisory districts with the 10 Manitowoc City aldermanic geographical districts mirrored by 10 county supervisory districts, was presented at the 8/31/2021 meeting of the Manitowoc County *Special Committee on Number and Apportionment of County Board Supervisory Districts*.

A discussion at the earlier 8/10 meeting, discussed the five stages of the mapping process. **One** is geometry errors or annexation fixes, **Two** is the supervisory district plan, **Three** is the municipal ward plans, **Four** is reconciliation between the

supervisory districts and ward plans. The **Fifth** stage is the aldermanic plans. The principles for drawing the district lines are based on a combination of contiguity, compactness, population variance, and preservation of communities of interest. Jessica Backhaus, Manitowoc County Clerk reported at the 8/10 meeting, that a majority of the towns and villages, including City of Two Rivers and the City of Kiel, would like assistance from the County Planning and Zoning Department with drawing the boundaries of their wards and/or aldermanic districts. The City of Manitowoc will draw their own aldermanic districts after they receive the tentative county supervisory district plan. The City of Manitowoc will make their decision about the number of city aldermanic seats hopefully before this Sept 13, 2021 county meeting.

At the 8/10 meeting, Associate Planner Raymaker gave a printout of the definitions of these principles and explained apportionment; **If the maximum population deviation between the largest and smallest district is less than ten percent**, a state or local legislative map presumptively **complies with the one-person, one-vote rules**.

Note: In the 2010 maps the number deviation of the population was lowest in District #17 with a total of 3091 and highest in District #8 with 3469

The upcoming 9/13/2021 *Special Committee on Number and Apportionment of County Board Supervisory Districts* agenda will be posted on the Manitowoc County web site. Public input was not listed on their previous agendas, though the public was invited to hear the discussion. It is likely to be the same for 9/13 according to my understanding after speaking to County Board Chairman Jim Brey. This web link: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/summary-files.html> is available with all US census information. The county has not given out a detailed list of the 2020 census data by towns, cities or villages. Those can be searched for on the web link above or ask your supervisor for that information.

According to the Aug 10 minutes posted on the county web site, the process will continue as such: *Clerk Backus and Planning and Zoning would work together to send the ward boundaries map along with a resolution to each municipal clerk after the tentative county supervisory district plan is passed by the County Board at the September 21 meeting. The municipal clerks would then present it to the Town or Village Board, or City Council for discussion and hopefully approval at their late September/early October meetings. The municipal clerk would then send*

a copy of the signed resolutions back to the County Clerk's office by October 15. This would allow Planning and Zoning a week to make any changes before the final supervisory district plan is presented to the County Board at the October 25 meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

I am still waiting for some of you to renew your membership and complete the interest form. When I receive this information, I will be sending out the membership list and committee selections. We have three new members to our league: Darian Kadorbek, LuAnn Lonergan, and Chuck Ritger. Welcome!!

For those still thinking of joining the league, we usually have meetings on the third Thursday of the month. The Great Decisions series is always held on the first of Monday of February and last for eight weeks at the Manitowoc Public Library. Since most of our meetings are to educate and inform, we invite the public to attend.

LWV – WI Save the Dates for These Other Upcoming Events

September 13th-17th, [National Disability Voter Registration Week](#)

September 27th, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and the [Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition](#) will be hosting a virtual Legislative Lobby Day to talk to legislators and encourage them to support AB 395 / SB 389 — the fair maps bills introduced by Sen. Smith and Rep. Andraca.

This event will be all virtual, and FMC will host training sessions to make sure everyone feels comfortable, no matter their experience.

If you'd like to participate, [you can RSVP here](#) or email Carlene Bechen at carlene@fairmapswi.com.

September 29th, Save the date for a LWVUS Twitter Town Hall

September 30th, Save the date for a LWVUS Districting FaceBook Live Event featuring Dr. Deborah Turner, President, LWVUS Board of Directors

October 4th-8th, [National Voter Education Week](#)

HISTORICAL NOTE: RECYCLING

In the 1970's the League of Women Voters of the United States realized that solid waste was becoming a problem of pollution as serious as water and air pollution. Members completed a two year study of solid waste management and resource recovery in 1973 and recognized there was a need to establish governmental policies and programs to encourage recycling.

Manitowoc League members had been active in recycling since before the first Earth Day in 1970. They joined volunteers from the University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc Center and several community groups to do newspaper recycling. Volunteers collected newspapers from street corners and brought them to the Center to be picked up and recycled. This continued for years and established a core of citizens in our community that were committed to the concept of recycling.

In 1974 the Manitowoc County Board established the Sanitary Landfill Study Committee to make recommendations regarding solid waste management for the county. League testified at the County Board meeting in support of a strong emphasis on recycling and a resource recovery program. One recommendation of the committee was to hire a solid Waste Manager.

Another group in Manitowoc supporting recycling was People for Improved Environment (PIE). The goal of this group was to see a county wide recycling program for glass, metal and paper. They had public programs about the recycling efforts in Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Kiel, Two Rivers and Holiday House (a rehabilitation center for physically and mentally challenged people). PIE, along with 5 community groups, sponsored a newspaper salvage project in 1972. PIE also sponsored four radio broadcasts for the community about landfills and recycling. They opposed the building of an incinerator in Chilton and was opposed to the building of a commercial incinerator in the Manitowoc-Two Rivers area based on concerns for air pollution and the cost of incineration compared to landfill costs.

In 1976 the Manitowoc County Solid Waste Board was established by the Manitowoc County Board. There was a growing concern about the disposal of waste in numerous landfills in the county and evidence of well water contamination affecting the health of rural residents. The Lemberger landfill, near the Village of Whitelaw, had operated since 1969 and their license expired

in 1976. Industrial waste was also disposed at the site. According to the DNR, the site was never closed down. By 1980 resident complaints about leachate on their property and the DNR recommended corrective action that was never carried out. In 1982 the Lemberger site was purchased by Waste Management and renamed the Ridgeview Landfill. (The Environmental Protection Agency placed the Lemberger site on a national priorities list in 1983. Cleanup was completed in 1995. According to the law a review is done every five years with the next review set for 2025).

Some citizens still had a growing interest in the recycling of waste rather than the dumping of potential recyclables in the landfills. In 1981 the Solid Waste Board hired Joan Birchler to be the first Solid Waste Manager for the county. She was one of 9 managers in the state and the only woman. By that time state-wide recycling programs had grown from 70 in 1979 to over 300 in 1981. The Manitowoc County Ad Hoc Committee on Recycling was formed in 1981 and was made up of 9 members representing villages, towns, cities and four citizen members. Darlene Wellner was chairperson of that group which included league members Kate Schuette, Marilyn Kern, and Edith Pfaffenbach. Meetings were held in the County Courthouse. One or more county board members also served on the committee.

In 1982 the county produced 60,000 tons of refuse each year and spent \$780,000 to bury it. It was estimated that 65% of municipal waste was recyclable. At that time, state regulations regarding landfills created concern about safe disposal at the Lemberger Landfill. The Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors considered transporting waste to approved landfills out of the county, possible Germantown, pending a long-term solution.

Nationally, it was estimated that a household generated 1400 pounds of products that could be recycled each year. That included cans, bottles, cardboard, newspapers and waste oil. At that time 25% of aluminum cans were being recycled. Locally, Holiday House was recycling cardboard, Kiel was recycling glass, the towns of Kossuth and Manitowoc Rapids were starting recycling and the recycling project in Two Rivers was expanding to include plastics. The Ad Hoc committee planned a 6 month recycling project operated by volunteers to begin in July of 1982. The goal was to conserve valuable landfill space and extend the life of the Lemberger and town landfills.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Project was held every Saturday morning at the Manitowoc County Highway Department building on Waldo Boulevard. It was a joint effort sponsored by the Manitowoc County Ad Hoc Committee on Recycling and the county's Solid Waste Board. Every Saturday an average of 300 cars brought in products to recycle. During the first year of the project 187 tons of solid waste and 490 gallons of oil were recycled at the county shops. Money received from recycling was used for county projects at Expo and at county parks.

In April, 1982 the Ad Hoc Recycling Committee cited the citizen support and participation in recycling and recommended these efforts be mandatory. (When recycling is voluntary, 10%-30% of waste is recycled but when recycling is mandatory this increases to 75% to 90% and 50% of waste can be recycled). The Manitowoc County Board decided to put a mandatory recycling referendum on the ballot. It was advisory and the first referendum in the state to seek citizen support for recycling.

Some counties in the state had voluntary recycling but no county had established mandatory recycling. Manitowoc would be the first. This was an opportunity for the county to be a pioneer in recycling. Members of the Manitowoc League were responsible for community education and wrote newspaper articles and letters to the community about the benefits of recycling. Due to citizen efforts, the referendum passed with strong support from the citizens of the county.

By 1989 there were 100 dump sites in Wisconsin down from 850 due to federal regulations. In Manitowoc County there were 7 town dumps and the state approved Ridgeview landfill site in the Whitelaw area. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, there were over 600 community collection recycling programs in the state and 25 of that number were operating in Manitowoc County.

Wisconsin had more recycling programs than any other state and the success in Manitowoc was due to the volunteer efforts of citizens to operate the early sites which included separate bins for clear glass, colored glass, tin, plastic and waste oil.

In 1991 the Manitowoc League continued its recognition of recycling efforts when it honored 5 local companies and organizations at a luncheon at the Coach Lite Inn. Industries were invited to explain how their companies recycled metal,

plastic and industrial wastes. Jeff Beyer explained how the county was implementing the state recycling law.

Today the Manitowoc Recycling Center is a large facility for the recycling of cardboard, paper, glass bottles, cans and #1 and #2 plastic bottles. Waste handlers collect recyclables throughout the cities and county and bring them to the Center. All county residents can drop off recyclables and yard waste at no charge. The Center manages 2 compost sites in the county. Electronics are also collected because of the potential hazard to the environment. The Center is operated through a contract with Ascend Services, Inc. (formerly Holiday House of Manitowoc Inc.).

In addition the Towns of Gibson, Newton/Centerville, Liberty, Kossuth, Maple Grove, and Two Rivers have established recycling centers for rural citizen use. (Information taken from newspaper articles, league newsletters, committee reports, websites)

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County continues to support county-wide recycling.

Julie Grinde, Secretary
And Historian of LWV-MC

