

**MANITOWOC COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10/10	MEMBERSHIP TRIVIA NIGHT
10/16	Private School Vouchers
10/22	Early Voting Begins
11/05	Election Day

Dear League Members,

WELCOME one and all to the League's fiscal year of 2024-25. We have a very interesting and busy year ahead of us; starting with a new subcommittee, Membership Drive. It will have its first all League meeting on Thursday, October 10th. Look for more details in this Newsletter.

Our first informative meeting will be on **Private School Vouchers and how it impacts our Schools and taxes**. Again, more details in this newsletter.

Great Decisions has posted its new topics for our February and March programs that will be held at the Manitowoc Public Library. Speakers have not been assigned as of yet, but the topics are up to date on issues that we have discussed with friends and families.

So, let's get started!!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE COMMITTEE

The **Membership Drive Committee** is gearing up for a fun **recruitment event**. We recruited Betsy Maliborski and Joan Geiger to help us reach younger potential members. They came up with the idea of a **Trivia Night**, which will be held **October 10th at Tapped on the Lakeshore from 6:30** (warm up/get drinks/form teams) **to 9:00**. Members should come with a potential new member, preferably of the next generation. Don't know anyone? Daughters, friends of daughters, church members, other volunteer organizations you belong to, someone you chat with at the grocery checkout. Remember we are non-partisan, so the requirement is

interest in the civic life of our community. Contact committee members for more info: Ginny Finnel, Jennifer Balma, Angela Zar, Suzanne Zipperer. Help us get a great turn out by "friending" LWV Manitowoc on Facebook and Instagram and sharing the posts. Please forward on the email information you will receive to your contacts. Thank you for spreading the word.

VOTER SERVICES

I have recently stepped down from chairing Voter Services which has been very near and dear to me. I became chair when I decided to register voters in the area and was certified at a State League convention. From there, I was able to interest local league members to help out, by getting them certified through the Manitowoc City Clerk. It has been a joy to be chair of this committee. I still will be a member of this committee and will be working at the Two Rivers Library to help and assist people to register to vote and to inform the public on the candidates.

Suzanne Zipperer has stepped in to chair this position and I am grateful for her enthusiasm. However, we still have hurdles to overcome. The League has reconnected with Manitowoc County Chamber of Commerce to host panel discussions as it did in the past. Linda Gratz and Suzanne Zipperer met with the Chamber's legislative committee. We tried to have a candidate panel for the Republican primary in Representative Tittl's district. He did not reply to numerous attempts to reach him. The NEW Conservatives hosted a debate and several of us attended. President Nancy Slattery spoke with Tittl and Dave Wage, his opponent. We will work to have Tittl at a panel with Democratic opponent Steve Welch. Both candidates will be given the opportunity to record answers to our questions that we will share via social media. Steve Lankton wrote a letter to the editor in regards to Tittl's lack of participation to be part of a forum. Thank you, Steve for this well written letter.

Suzanne Zipperer is the chair, and this committee needs members to assist at voter registration tables at the Manitowoc library and to help with candidate panels and other activities. Please consider giving your time to this important task of registering voters for this election.

Again, the legislation has proposed another inane amendment to the constitution. If this amendment is approved, voters may be required to show additional documents to establish their citizenship, such as proof of birth in this country.

Many people don't have a birth certificate and those who do, especially women, may now have a different name. Would women be required to show marital documents to establish their right to vote as a citizen?

The proposed change is unnecessary!!! It is another form of **Voter Suppression!**
VOTE NO on this Constitutional Amendment.

October 16, 2024: "Private School Vouchers: How They Impact Local Taxes and The Public Schools"

We are all set for a room at the **Manitowoc Public Library** for **October 16th** for our meeting on **"Private School Vouchers: How They Impact Local Taxes And The Public Schools"**. **The program will run from 6:00-7:30 in the Balkansky room of the library.**

Our guest speaker is Denise Gaumer Hutchinson from the Wisconsin Public Education Network. The Wisconsin Public Education Network is a non-partisan grassroots coalition to support our public schools. Denise is also a member of the LWV in Brown County. We are also thinking about having the finance person from one of the local school districts present specifics on what is happening because of vouchers for their district. In addition to our speakers, we will also have a 30-minute question and answer period.

The LWV Wisconsin has a position on school funding which we will read before the event. Under Elementary and Secondary Education it states "Charter school authority given only to K-12 public school districts to maintain Wisconsin's commitment to local control of K-12 education. A system of school choice within the public school system, but which does not include any tax dollars being given to private or religious schools." Hope to see you on **October 16th**.

OBSERVER CORPS

The League is looking for an observer for the Manitowoc County Human Services Board meetings. Our current observer, Suzanne Zipperer has taken over responsibilities as our Voter Service Chair and is working on the Membership Drive event that will be taking place on Thursday, October 10th with these being

very important and demanding roles, she feels like she cannot do the reporting on this committee, too. The board usually meets monthly and you can use the minutes if you can't attend. If you are interested, please let me know at llgratz47@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to report that Paula Snyder has become a member of the League. She has been impressed with our forums and other events that we have offered during the past years. We welcome Paula into the League and look forward to seeing her at our events in October.

I will be preparing the membership list and interest form information that all of you sent in with your dues. This should be forthcoming by October. Thank you so very much for your interest and support.

GREAT DECISION TOPICS

American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads

This chapter will explore the contours of the U.S. foreign policy debate as it plays out in a world of multiple and escalating crises and domestic polarization.

Author: G. John Ikenberry

U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy

Under President Biden, the U.S. has advanced new ideas about trade, technology, industrial policy, competition with China, and the organization of the world economy. For most of the postwar era, the U.S. has tied its global leadership to cooperative agendas aimed at creating a more open world trading system, but that has apparently come to an end. What are America's options and opportunities as a leader of the world economy? How will America's "foreign policy for the middle class" and strategic competition with China impact its leadership role? How can

the postwar rules and institutions of the world economy be made safe for economic nationalism and great power competition?

Author: Daniel Drezner

U.S.-China Relations

Washington's relations with Beijing have reached an ominous low ebb. Both American political parties have identified China as the country's preeminent geopolitical challenger and, in the eyes of many, a systemic threat. What is driving this deterioration of Sino-American relations, and what are America's strategic options in the face of Chinese power and ambition?

Author: Thomas J. Christensen

International Cooperation on Climate Change

The 2015 Paris Agreement established a UN-sponsored framework for negotiations on climate change and global warming. In subsequent COP meetings, experts and political leaders have come together seeking common cause for this growing global crisis. What is the future of these efforts, and what have they yielded? What is the U.S. role in fostering cooperation on climate change? In a divided country, what are the possible futures for American policy leadership?

Author: Josh Busby

The Future of NATO and European Security

European security is more uncertain than it has been for decades. Putin's Russia has launched a war with Ukraine on its doorstep, and America's uncertain role as leader of NATO and security provider has been called into question with the failure of Congress to pass supplemental military support for Ukraine. What are Europe's options, and how might developments on both sides of Western Europe – in Ukraine and across the Atlantic – impact its choices? What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas?

Author: Kori Schake

AI and American National Security

The AI revolution is the leading edge of a larger high-tech revolution which promises to transform the world. Experts argue that international cooperation is needed to expand the opportunities these new technologies hold while protecting

societies from their dangers. What are the key policy debates in this area, and what are the opportunities and limits on global AI rules of the road? How will the AI revolution impact American national security? What are its policy options to secure the benefits of AI and guard against its dangers?

Author: Julie George

India: Between China, the West, and the Global South

India is an emerging major power in world affairs, occupying a pivotal position between China, the United States, and the Global South. Its population size, economy, and geopolitical location ensure that it will be an influential voice in debates and political struggles over global order. What are India's choices and opportunities for regional and global leadership? How will it maneuver between China and the United States, and what is its role as a voice of the Global South? What opportunities exist for Washington to work with India?

Author: Leslie Vinjamuri

After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East

The war in Gaza has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the United States use its influence to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are America's interests in the Middle East and how can it advance them?

Author: Daniel Kurtzer