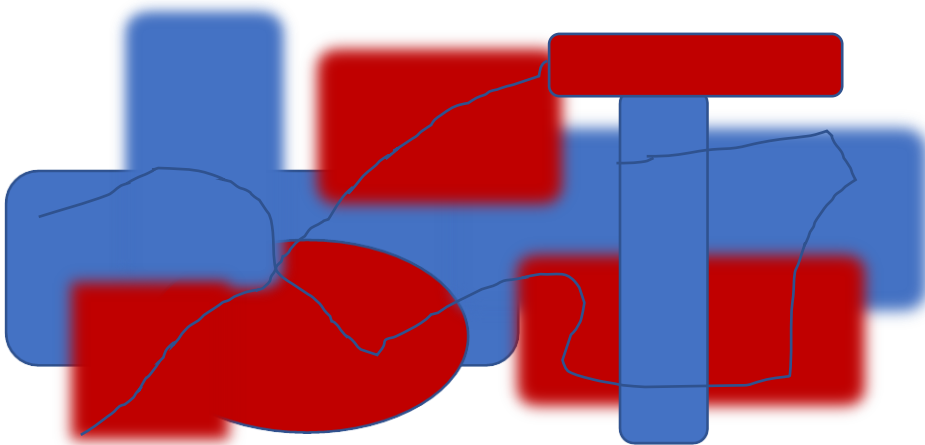

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Monday, March 9, Andover City Hall

LWVABC regular monthly programs resume with guest Paul Huffman

Redistricting and Gerrymandering

As Census and Redistricting Coordinator for LWV Minnesota, Paul will unmask the redistricting process and how gerrymandering occurs. He'll also introduce the

People Powered Fair Maps Campaign and [Action Kit](#) designed to

- increase awareness and support of legislators to implement non-partisan redistricting in the 2020 legislative session
- engage and educate the public in understanding and supporting redistricting reform

6:00 pm Light supper and socializing, announcements follow

6:30 pm Redistricting and Gerrymandering program

Location

Andover City Hall's Senior Center at 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW

Enter from Crosstown Boulevard,

proceed to the north end of the parking lot to the last door of the building.



**Celebrate the LWV ABC New Year
Annual Meeting
Monday, April 13, Andover City Hall**

Join us at 6:00 pm for a special supper provided by members of our board of directors, followed by an agenda that includes time to

- Celebrate our accomplishments over the past year
- Gather members' input to adopt a program of governmental issues reflecting their interests
- Adopt a budget, review and act on our local positions, review and update bylaws as needed
- Elect officers^{*}; renew interest in future League activities
- Visit with fellow League members and welcome new members

An Annual Report will be emailed to all members at the end of March and will be posted to our website.

***New Leaders– New Opportunities!** ★

Our April 13 meeting includes election of officers. Offices are staggered as itemized below so that there's a carry-over of experience on the board . . .

Elected Offices to be filled this year -- Even Numbered Years:

- Vice President • Treasurer • Voter Service Chair • Program and Action Chair • Communications Chair
- Nominating Committee Chair (off board) • Nominating Committee member (off board)

Elections Next Year -- Odd Numbered Years: • President • Secretary • Membership Chair • Nominating Committee Chair (off board) • Nominating Committee member (off board)

Our Nominating Committee, led by Mary Jo Truchon, will be contacting members to discuss opportunities to serve our organization– and experience personal growth.

- Learn more about these positions on page 25 of our [Handbook](#)
- See [who](#) currently holds these positions. They will be very willing mentors to new board members!
- Contact Nominating Committee Chair, Mary Jo Truchon at 763-757-2084 with any questions, or contact any Board member.



Welcome to our new members:

*Ann Essling, Fridley
John Hoffman, Champlin
Thomas Holker Jr., Anoka
Paula Mohr, Anoka*

You all have joined at a great time! We will be kicking off new activities and moving ahead with much exciting new work, especially in the voter services area as the 2016 election approaches! The Annual Meeting (April 13) will be a great place to start!

New Website! Same address—
lwvabcmn.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®

Serving the people of Anoka and northern Hennepin Counties

- ★ LWV ABC HOME
- ★ ABOUT US
- ★ CALENDAR
- ★ NEWSLETTER
- ★ CENSUS 2020
- ★ VOTER INFORMATION
- ★ ACTION AND ADVOCACY
- ★ VIDEO
- ★ LWV ABC IN THE NEWS
- ★ LINKS
- ★ JOIN
- ★ DONATE



LWV ABC members participate in community events

We express our appreciation to Paul Sitz and Patricia Kennedy for sharing their technical skills and many hours of thoughtful time to migrate our organization to this new, very much improved website!

Check out the helpful menu on the left, the eye-catching photos that illustrate examples of our work, embedded videos and the updated and expanded information on each webpage. The website is continuously updated and is still a work in progress, so check back for new updates!

Information such as our Membership Roster is protected in the Members Only section, along with Board agendas and Board minutes. You will also find forms, templates, training material and other resources needed to perform your LWV ABC volunteer activities, all organized by committee.

Don't see the Members Only section on your menu? Having difficulty accessing it from information sent to each member via email? Send an email to us at lwvabc@gmail.org so we can connect you to our webmaster.



We all need to complete the Census.

Please share these facts with people you know . . . You will be receiving census information in the mail soon and it's really important that each household responds. The purpose of the Census is to count all people, regardless of age, race, gender, citizenship, who live in the U.S. Once you receive the Census information, you can complete the Census either online or by phone. If you prefer to respond by mail, call the Census Bureau and request a paper questionnaire be sent. Those who have not responded by the first week in April will receive a paper questionnaire in mid-April.

Some people have concerns about privacy and the Census. These concerns are unfounded. The Census has provisions to address privacy concerns. Under federal law, the Census Bureau must not release any information that identifies specific individuals or households. Census data is required to be kept confidential for 72 years, so 2020 Census information will not be accessible until 2092. Census survey responses must only be used for statistical purposes, not for other purposes, including immigration enforcement agencies or determining eligibility for government benefits. Census does not include a question about citizenship status. There was a lot of talk about that last year, but it is not the case. There is no such question.

This count - conducted every ten years as required in the US Constitution - forms the basis for determining federal funding that comes to our area. At least 55 federal programs use census data to distribute federal funds - Minnesota received over \$15 billion in federal funds in 2016 alone through these programs. These funds included over \$6 billion for Medical Assistance (Medicaid), \$3 billion for Federal Direct Student Loans, \$650 million for highway planning and construction, and \$475 million for low-to-moderate income housing loans. For each person not counted in the 2020 census, Minnesota will lose about \$2,800 in federal funding per year.

Our representation in the US Congress is also at stake. Because Minnesota is growing slower than other states, we are at risk of losing one of our eight congressional representatives. This will give Minnesotans less of a voice in Congress and the national government. A recent estimate is that we are about 22,000 people short of retaining that eighth congressional seat. That 22,000 people is less than 1/2% of the population of Minnesota, so it's critical that everyone is counted. Because the Census is so critical to Minnesota, there will be follow up canvassers coming around to visit households that do not respond. If you respond to the Census it is very unlikely you will get a visit by a Census worker. But if you do not respond to the Census, it is almost certain that a Census worker will contact you.

Review: Interviews kick off 2020 Legislative Session

Members of LWV ABC used a “roundtable discussion” format this year to conduct legislative interviews in Ramsey, Blaine, Columbia Heights and Fridley, with members of the public invited to participate.

Legislators accepting our invitations to the roundtables included Senators Jim Abeler, John Hoffman, Carolyn Laine, and Jerry Newton, and Representatives Zack Stephenson, Melissa Hortman, Connie Bernardy, Mary Kunesh-Podein, and Erin Koegel.

We thank our roundtable coordinators, Paul Sitz, Leslie Waterhouse, Bruce Pomerantz, Laura Oberle, Karen Varian, Brenda Lawrence, and Arlene Gillett for the success of these events.

Legislative interviews are prescribed by LWV Minnesota to encourage members to meet and learn about their local legislators. Legislators can share their perspectives on issues that are important locally and statewide. The activity allows LWV Minnesota to better understand and plan for the upcoming legislative session. A legislative interview isn’t used to pursue a personal or partisan agenda.

Photos from Legislative Interviews



Columbia Heights session – roundtables can happen with rectangular tables, too.

More photos from Legislative Interviews



Fridley roundtable needed no table at all– just good conversation.



In the middle of interviews at Ramsey.

Review: Primer on the Presidential Nomination Primary Encouraging Informed and Active Participation in Government

We had a good turnout of community members on Saturday, January 4 at Northtown Library for our Primer on the Presidential Primary with Anoka County Elections Manager Paul Linnell. Following Linnell's description of the history and processes that result in Minnesota being part of "Super Tuesday" on March 3, he fielded questions from attendees. Linnell provided information about who will be on the ballot, party declaration, early voting, and how voter data will be protected.

Our LWV ABC website has helpful information about the Presidential Primary at: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/event/march-3-2020-presidential-nomination-primary-election>. There you'll find links to sample ballots, polling places, voter registration and more.



Left: Community members listened to background information and processes for the Presidential Nominating Primary, then utilized the opportunity to ask many questions. **Right:** Gretchen Sabel, LWV ABC's president, welcomed and helped field questions for Anoka County Elections Manager Paul Linnell.

Highlights from our Board Meeting, February 24, 2020

Our League has applied for a "Youth Civic Engagement Fellowship", offered by the state League for local leagues to give to students who are interested in learning how government works. These grants give them a small stipend to do hands-on work for candidates and legislators. The Board discussed sources where we might come up with names of students, age 16+ who are not in their senior year. Suggestions to the state are due by April 31st.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on April 13, our regular meeting night. The agenda will include the Nominating Committee's report for officers' election/appointment, go over bylaws, decide on the budget, and pass out Milestone Certificates. Board members will bring the food. We decided not to have a speaker in addition to all the business we have to accomplish.

Board meeting highlights continued

At the State League's Anniversary Gala last October, our League won the auction for an event to be held with Lori Sturdevant/Dave Durenberger as speakers. We discussed how and when to hold this event. We could make it into a big event, perhaps invite the public, perhaps have a Silent Auction as a fundraiser. We will contact the two speakers and find out their availability in May or June.

Review: Lively Discussions at CMAL Future of the Metro Area and where CMAL should focus

Metro area forecast from Todd Graham

On January 11, 2020, Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) hosted Todd Graham, principal forecaster of the Metro Council, at Autumn Grove Park Gathering Center in Roseville. Over 40 LWV members attended from around the metro. Graham forecasted population, households, housing and employment in the metro area from the present to 2040. He discussed metro population growth (2,642,000 in 2000 to 3,410,000 in 2030), household formation (1,020,000 in 2000 to 1,351,000 in 2030) and employment (1,608,000 in 2000 to 1,900,000 in 2030). He also informed us of birth trends (low for native born whites and higher for black, Asian, and Latino populations) as well as likely sources of future employees (remote workers, older workers delaying retirement, immigrants from other states and other countries) to meet demands of metro area employers.

When pressed, Graham stated that his #1 concern was the disconnect between the growth of household income and the run-up of housing prices. He declined to offer a magic bullet solution to the affordable housing problem. He also acknowledged the need for the metro area (and Minnesota) to attract workers from outside our state to meet employers' needs for workers.

Following Graham's presentation, CMAL's committee reviewing the CMAL program for action engaged members in a lively discussion and prioritizing event. Among attendees, there was major support for CMAL research on county government, land use/environment, and housing. The CMAL board will digest the input and develop plans for future studies.

Counties Study

Also on January 11, delegates to the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL), following a prioritization process, supported as its first priority a CMAL study on county government in the metro area. CMAL last studied county government (and adopted its current position) in 1975. The study will enable review of the current position.

Counties Study continued

The CMAL Board set in motion a one-year study that will (in general) include the following elements:

- Comparison of county functions and methods
- Comparison of county governance (transparency, accountability, advisory bodies, etc.)
- Description of county interface with metropolitan government (Metro Council, etc.)

It will include an opportunity for all league members (not just CMAL delegates) in the metro area to interview county officials with a survey instrument provided for that purpose. League members who interviewed city officials during CMAL's 2019 Metro Council governance study were very enthusiastic about that interview process.

The study will launch May 9, 2020, at the CMAL annual meeting. Any metro area league member may participate on the study committee and/or conduct interviews. If you are interested in participating, contact CMAL Chair Karen Schaffer at schafferka@gmail.com.

Review:

Behind the Scenes at the 100th Anniversary of Women Voting Events at local libraries

Celebrating 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment has made 2020 an exciting year for LWV ABC. We partnered with the Anoka County Library system to co-sponsor the LWVMN traveling exhibit at the Northtown and Rum River branches of the Anoka County Libraries. Exhibit opening ceremonies were held at both libraries. Other exhibits showing the history and accomplishments of LWV ABC were also on display. Erin Straszewski, Community Engagement Manager for the Anoka County Library System, was our primary contact, and coordinated with the libraries, LWV ABC and LWVMN to make these events possible. The LWV ABC committee was Susan Anderson, Sandy Connor, and Gretchen Sabel. Still to come is a display at the Columbia Heights library, and possibly other area libraries.

- Exhibit set-up and Opening Ceremony at Northtown Library: On January 2, 2020 Lydia Potthoff from the Northtown Library and Sandy Connor from LWV ABC set up an exhibit about LWV ABC at the Northtown Library. We filled all the display cases, some with materials visible both coming and going. Even as the exhibit was being set up, library patrons were asking questions about LWV ABC. We had a table of exhibits, a voting booth with information, and the garbage can with signs explaining its significance. The LWVMN Traveling Exhibit was delivered to the Northtown Library on January 10. The representative from LWVMN was assisted by several members of LWV ABC and the Northtown staff in setting up and arranging the exhibit. An official Opening Ceremony

for the Traveling Exhibit was held on January 13. The event included an Opening and Closing Flag Ceremony by Girl Scout Troop 1469, patriotic songs by the Blaine High School Chamber Choir, a welcome by LWV ABC President, Gretchen Sabel, a talk by Representative Erin Koegel who represents Minnesota House district 37A, a talk on the history of the Suffragist Movement and LWV by Sandy Connor, and attendance of Minnesota Suffragist Sarah Colvin (Ann Essling). Refreshments were provided by Gretchen Sabel. The library staff reported that the exhibit received a lot of attention from their patrons who also availed themselves of many of the buttons and all of the book marks provided by LWVMN .

- Then onto Rum River Library for exhibit set-up and Opening Ceremony: Members Kathy Tingelstad, Leslie Waterhouse, Susan Anderson and Sandy Connor moved the Traveling Exhibit to the Rum River Library on January 29. It was set up with the assistance of Janet Kleckner, Branch Manager of the Rum River library. On January 31, members Wes Volkenant, Kathy Tingelstad, Geri Nelson, Darby Nelson, and Sandy Connor moved the LWV ABC exhibit to Rum River complete with voting booth and garbage can. Ruth Hemingson from the library staff assisted us. February 1 was the Opening Ceremony which included Opening and Closing Flag Ceremonies by Boy Scout Troop 406, Susan Witt of LWV ABC singing the Star Spangled Banner, welcome by LWV ABC member Kathy Tingelstad, talk by Representative Peggy Scott who represents Minnesota House District 35B, and talk by Sandy Connor. Refreshments were provided by Susan Anderson.

Many members of the library staff helped move furniture, set up chairs and equipment, and assisted in many ways. Everyone connected with the libraries has been wonderful! We are grateful to them for providing these opportunities to publicize LWVMN and LWV ABC. Thanks are due to all the members of LWV ABC who helped.

Voter registration at both events was arranged by Arlene Gillett with other LWV ABC staffers Cindy Wetzell and Pat Kennedy.

March 2, the exhibit will move to the Columbia Heights Library where Cortni O'Brien, Adult Services Librarian, will help set up an exhibit which will be on display through March. We hope to have the display at more libraries later this year. Stay tuned for dates and locations.

– Thanks to Sandy Connor for event coordination and summaries.

Photos from 100th Anniversary Exhibits at Northtown and Rum River Libraries



Votes for Women!



Voters now and into the future

Banner

The National Suffrage Campaign

In July of 1848 the first U.S. women's rights convention opened in Seneca Falls, New York. Participants included Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Frederick Douglass, and others committed to equality for the sexes. Their demand for voting rights, or suffrage, began a 72-year campaign for the ballot.

Women in the suffrage movement wrote letters, gave speeches, signed petitions, marched in parades, and protested at the White House. They organized the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, the

There are many arguments against it but NO REASONS

National Woman's Party, and dozens of other organizations to lead the fight.

The tactics of these organizations varied. Some fought state by state for voting rights. Others insisted on a federal amendment to the Constitution. This became the winning strategy and led to passage of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920. Votes for women became the law of the land. However, both men and women of color faced barriers to voting until the 1965 passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Early Suffrage Leaders

Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Abolitionist, organizer of the Seneca Falls Convention, author of the Declaration of Sentiments, co-founder of the National Woman Suffrage Association. 1815-1902

Susan B. Anthony
Ardent abolitionist and co-founder of the National Woman Suffrage Association. 1820-1906

Frederick Douglass
Abolitionist and suffrage supporter; attended Seneca Falls Convention and advocated for passage of the Declaration of Sentiments. 1818-1895

Alice Paul
Founder of Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage and the National Woman's Party, and author of the Equal Rights Amendment. 1855-1977

"Woman, however, like the colored man, will never be taken by her brother and lifted to a position. What she desires, she must fight for." — Frederick Douglass

The Opposition

Men and women worked together to support voting rights for women. They also worked together against them.

72 Years Later...

From 1848 until its passage in 1920, it took 72 years for women to win the right to vote.

The advancement of civil rights has always depended on people who work for change, even if they might not see it during their lifetime.

Learn More About Suffrage
Check out the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial at:
www.2020womensvote.org

2020 WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

Banner describing the Voting Campaign and our Suffrage Leaders

Upcoming Events from LWVMN

Day at the Capitol

Monday, March 16, begins 9:30 am

Get in on the action of the legislative session; meet with legislators; observe committee meetings; enjoy the architectural splendor of our Capitol. For details and registration click [here](#).

Council 2020

LWV MN Council is a day of training, updates and LWV networking. It is held in the year that we don't have a state Convention.

Saturday, April 25 at Brookview, Golden Valley, begins at 8:30 am

For more information and registration click [here](#).

Save the Dates:

Monday, March 9	Regular monthly meeting & program with Paul Huffman
Monday, March 16	LWVMN Day at the Capitol
Monday, March 23	LWVABC Board meeting at Davanni's
Monday, April 13	Annual meeting of LWVABC
Saturday, April 25	LWVMN Council 2020

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".

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.

Not a member of LWV ABC?

Membership is open to people of all genders, age 16 or older.

Join LWV ABC using [PayPal](#) or by using the [Membership Form](#).

Help us Make Democracy Work!