



The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2022



LWV ABC Monthly Program Meeting

October Program Meeting

Join us for a timely program on **Election Integrity**. Our presenters will be

- **Paul Linnell in his new position of Deputy Elections Director for the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State and**
- **Tom Hunt, Anoka County's Elections Manager, who succeeds Paul Linnell in this county position.**

Date: Monday evening, October 10

Time: 6:30 Gathering Time; 7:00 Welcome and Program

Where: Andover City Hall Council Chambers - 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover

(The entrance to the parking lot is now on the north side of city hall, off Tower Drive which runs between City Hall and the YMCA/Community Center. The parking lot has been under construction - it may not be done by the time of the meeting. If not, park in the adjoining YMCA/Community Center lot and walk

over.)

Or you can attend virtually. Watch for an email the day before the meeting with the Zoom link. The social time on Zoom will include another fun quiz game – this time *Quiz for Hispanic American Heritage*.

QCTV will also be on hand to record the event for later viewing

OCTOBER EVENTS

LWV ABC EVENTS

- Oct 3 - Question Deadline Ham Lake Area Forum
- Oct 6 - Ham Lake Meet the Candidates Forum
- Oct 10 - Program Meeting - *Election Security with Paul Linnell and Tom Hunt*
- Oct 12 - LWV ABC Film Club
- Oct 24 - LWV ABC Board Meeting

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Oct 4 - LWVMN: *2022 Elections - Will They Be Fair, Accurate and Secure?*
- Oct 6 - U of M: *How to Strengthen American Democracy*
- Oct 12 - U of M: *Control of Congress*
- Oct 14 - Secretary of State Virtual Fireside Chat
- Oct 17 - Citizenship Ceremony
- Oct 17 - U of M: *Latinx voters*
- Oct 18 - Last Day to Pre-Register to Vote
- Oct 19 - Secretary of State Lunch and Learn
- Oct 21 - Secretary of State Virtual Fireside Chat
- Oct 24 - U of M: *Minnesota State Elections*
- Oct 27 - CAN: *Violence in Our Communities*
- Oct 28 - Secretary of State Virtual Fireside Chat

The LWV ABC online calendar includes details for League events, as well as other free events of interest to LWV ABC members. Additional events may be added to the calendar during the month.

[See Calendar](#)



LWV ABC President Gretchen Sabel, LWVMN President Laura Helmer and LWV ABC member Sandy Connor at the Anoka City Council Work Session on September 26, 2022.

LWV Leaders Defend LWV Forum Policy

Recently, some members of the Anoka City Council made statements in a meeting about LWV that were concerning. LWV responded at the September 26 Council work session, explaining forum procedures, LWV's nonpartisan policy and how we ensure that our forums are objective and fair to all candidates.

The League of Women Voters was formed in the 1920's with a goal of educating voters on issues and candidates, and ensuring that voting is accessible to all adult citizens. We have continued with that work for more than 100 years, and won't be stopping anytime soon.

[Watch the 9/26/22 Anoka City Work Session](#)



Some of our many candidate forum volunteers - Karen Varian, Laurie Cooper, Susan Witt, Lonni McCauley, Kathy Tingelstad and Leslie Waterhouse.

Candidate Forums

LWV ABC members completed *Meet the Candidates* forums for 39 local races in September - with another seven scheduled the first week of October! Thanks to all our members who volunteered as organizers, moderators, greeters and time-keepers.

Some of the comments we received from the public:

- Thank you LWV for helping voters make informed decisions!
- Thank you for facilitating these forums, LWV! Very, very informative and helpful in making the right choice at the polls.
- Very good presentation!
- I am a newer resident to Coon Rapids and I really appreciate all the work that went into making the YouTube videos for the forums. I was able to vote in the primary this morning with confidence about both the mayor and city council races in Coon Rapids because I watched (and took notes on) the forum. Thank you for making democracy work!



[Watch Forums on Website](#)

[Watch Forums on YouTube](#)



LWV ABC Members Alyson Gullette and Marygrace Horner at Ramsey Happy Days.



LWV ABC members Kathie Whechel and Rachel Mero at Tower Days.

Community Voter Registration

LWV ABC has wrapped up our summer season of voter registration at outdoor community events. Our members registered voters and answered voter questions at Spring Lake Park Tower Days, Fridley 49ers Days, Columbia Heights Jamboree, Coon Rapids Multicultural Night to Unite and Ramsey Happy Days.

Thanks to **Cindy Wetzell** for organizing these events and to all our volunteers: **Jody Anderson, Sue Dergantz, Alyson Gullette, Marygrace Horner, Rachel Mero, Laura Moore, Geri Nelson, Jan Peterson, Gretchen Sabel, Paul Sitz, Wes Volkenant and Kathie Whelchel.**



National Voter Registration Day

Lead by Voter Registration Vice Chair **Cindy Wetzel**, LWV ABC had another successful National Voter Registration Day!

Through the efforts of **Alyson Gullette** and **Cindy Wetzell**, we partnered with four local high schools for National Voter Registration Day. Our in person registration at The Homestead in Anoka resulted in twelve voter registrations and an equal number of absentee ballot requests. Our voter registration efforts with senior housing residents and high schools will continue until the October 18 deadline for pre-registration.

Thanks to **Rachel Mero**, two digital Blip billboards on major Anoka County highways were activated about a week prior to NVRD (pictured above). The latest reports show the billboards were viewed by the passengers of 69,000 cars.

Our articles on NVRD appeared in three local newspapers and QCTV created, produced and aired a Public Service Announcement featuring an interview with **Cindy Wetzell** and live action shots of **Jody Anderson** registering voters.

[Watch the PSA](#)



Our new voter registration posters for high schools, libraries and senior housing residence - all with QRC codes for the mnvotes.gov website for easy phone registration.

A Worthwhile Community Program

Join Compassion Action Network for their next program on Thursday morning, October 27 in Fridley -- **Violence in our community: A Conversation and Resources**. Presenters will include law enforcement and social service organizations. [Click here for more information.](#)

This non-profit organization fosters collaborative opportunities to creatively address community needs in Anoka County



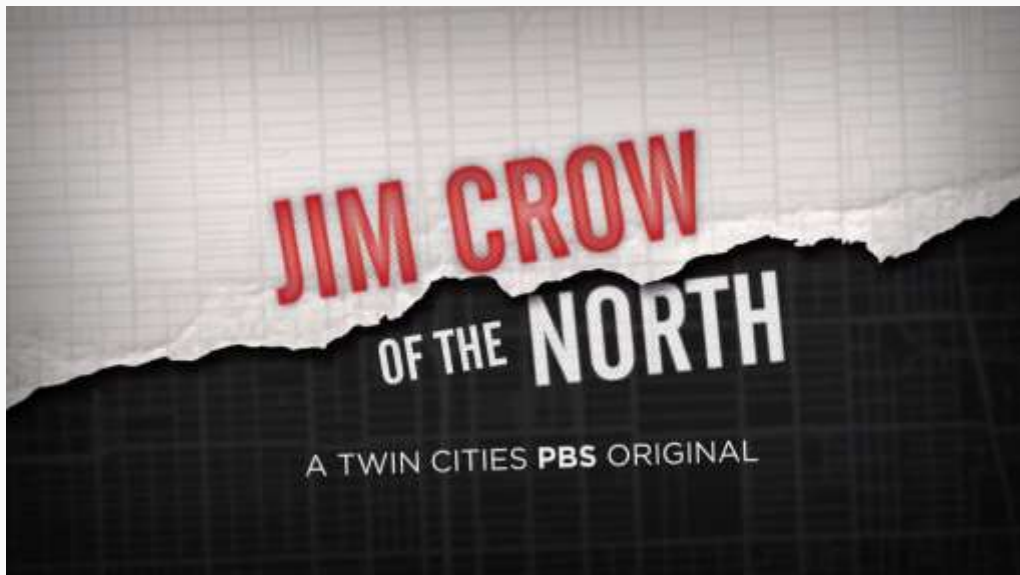
September 26, 2022 Board Meeting

We discussed the objections that were raised about our League using the Anoka City Hall for recent candidate forums with no live audience in attendance. There will be an Anoka City Council work session this evening, where we will explain our position. In our publicity regarding this event, we clearly state that we would have no live audience because of Covid-19 and also because of the general incivility of meetings today. Our LWV MN President, Laura Helmer, will be speaking at the event tonight. We talked about the possibility of moving future candidate forums to a different location. We want to protect our reputation as a non-profit, non-political organization.

We received a report from our Voter Registration Committee, which included our having registration tables at a Ramsey Festival this summer, and at senior housing complexes. We are working on having posters and registration materials at area high schools this Fall, and we had two digital Blip billboards activated for National Voter Registration Day.

The Program Committee reported on the topics for the upcoming membership meetings. We will have Paul Linnell and Tom Hunt speak on voting issues in October. Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Secretary of the Anoka County Historical Society will speak in November, and the topic for January's climate meeting will potentially be on how the Inflation Reduction Act will help cover the cost of making home efficiency upgrades.

Arlene Gillett, Secretary



October Film Discussion

Join us at 7:00 on Wednesday October 12 for a discussion of the documentary *Jim Crow of the North*. **Note change in date due to conflict with a candidate forum.**

Jim Crow of the North, produced by Twin Cities Public Television, delves into the complex history of racial covenants in Minneapolis and the lasting repercussions on housing inequities today.

The documentary highlights the work of [Mapping Prejudice](#), a University of Minnesota based project, which has located and mapped 30,000 covenants in Hennepin and Ramsey County.

Watch the documentary for free on

- [Twin Cities Public Television](#)
- [YouTube](#)

[Film Discussion Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Films](#)



LWV ABC member Nyakade Tot (first picture), a regular volunteer at citizenship ceremonies, is featured on the LWVMN "Naturalization Ceremonies" website.

Register New Citizens

At the 2022 National Convention, it was noted that the Minnesota League, under the leadership of Judy Struthman of LWV Roseville, has the most successful, most comprehensive League new citizen voter registration program in the country. Registering thousands of new citizen each year is only possible with the help of League members throughout the Twin Cities.

Upcoming citizenship ceremonies will be held at the River Centre in St. Paul, with 15 short ceremonies each day (with around 1,000 new citizens getting registered to vote in total). LWVMN will have eight tables for League out in the hall where new citizens exit following their ceremony. 12 Volunteers are needed for each shift.

Each day will be split into two shifts. You can volunteer for one shift or both, and a reminder will be sent one week before your date with more details.

Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies:

- Monday, October 17
- Tuesday, November 29
- Tuesday, December 13

If you are able to volunteer for a morning shift (8:30 to 11:30 AM) or an afternoon shift (11:30 AM - 2:30 PM) or both please **send an email to**

citizenshipceremonies@lwvmn.org

with the date and shift(s) you are available to help.

Masks are required.

MAIL YOUR BALLOT BY
OCTOBER 27



The League of Women voters is a non-partisan civic organization which promotes good government and active, informed participation in local, state and federal government.

The League is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principal and practice.

[Become a Member](#)

[Support Our Work](#)

**League of Women Voters ABC
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