

# **The Voter**

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
**September 2023**



## **LWV ABC Monthly Program Meeting**



### **Impacts to Education and the Environment: Legislators' Update to the Community**

**Monday, September 11**

Andover City Council Chambers and via Zoom  
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW

**6:30** - online and in person socializing

**7:00** - program begins

State Senator Jim Abeler (Republican from Anoka) and State Representative Zack Stephenson (Democrat from Coon Rapids) will discuss budgeting and laws that impact education and the environment.

[Zoom Link](#)

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## August Program Meeting

### Anoka County Groundwater - Valuable and Vulnerable



Chris Lord, Manager of the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) was our speaker on August 14. ACD is requesting an increase in funding from Anoka County to add a Groundwater Specialist to their staff in 2024. Currently, there is no Anoka employee dedicated full-time to groundwater. This meeting features LWV ABC member Colleen Werdien's comments and is moderated by LWV ABC's Kathy Tinglestadt.

Find out more about the proposed groundwater specialist on the [ACD blog](#) or download this [ACD Groundwater Specialist Request](#) PDF. Click the button below to

watch the video.

[Watch Program Video](#)

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## School Board Elections - Submit Your Questions Online NOW!

LWV ABC plans to tape candidate forums for contested seats in mid-September. This year four Anoka County school districts - Anoka-Hennepin, Columbia Heights, Fridley and Spring Lake Park - will hold elections. Forums will be taped without a live audience using questions submitted online.

***Deadline to submit questions for candidates is September 11 for Anoka-Hennepin and September 17 for Columbia Heights, Fridley and Spring Lake Park.***

Video will be available to view approximately one week after deadline for questions on our website and YouTube Channel. Video will also air on local cable access channels.

Moderators have been scheduled for the forums but members interested in helping with other forum tasks, such as being timers, should email [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) or email **Linda Rodgers** directly.

[Submit Candidate Questions](#)

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# Welcome New Members

Welcome to new members **Cindy Langanki** of Lino Lakes and **Theresa Jensen** of Cedar!

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## Training Opportunity - Youth Involvement

LWVMN has a new Youth Development specialist, **Heidi Kloempken**. Following is an email from Heidi, inviting us to participate in a series of webinars. While we don't have a student fellow yet, we do have contacts with students in several high schools and may find a student or two who may be a good fit to work with our League in a more formal way. It would be wonderful if some members would step forward to work with students

*"...As part of my role with the High School Collaborative, I have scheduled a series of webinars related to civic engagement and voting. I would like to invite you and your students to sign up and attend the webinars. They will be once a month on the third Tuesday (except November and December) from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. The first is Tuesday, September 19 (National Voter Registration Day!) and will feature Secretary of State Steve Simon and Representative Dean Urdahl. They will discuss legislation passed this spring that impacts young people - like pre-registration and civics education. [You can learn more and register on our website.](#)*

*Please share with others engaged with youth civic education and engagement. Let me know if you have any questions! "*

*-Heidi Kloempken [hkloempken@lwvmn.org](mailto:hkloempken@lwvmn.org) or 651-224-5445*

**LWV MN High School Collaborative**

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## **Remembering Lonni McCauley**

Lonni McCauley passed away August 4, 2023, leaving a big hole in the work of League and our hearts.

Lonni was an active member of LWV ABC since 2010, most recently serving as Program Committee Co-chair, a moderator for candidate forums and the LWV ABC representative to the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO. A former Mayor of Coon Rapids and founder of Anoka County Mediation Services, Lonni was a strong advocate in her community, most recently serving on the Coon Rapids Regenerative Energy Taskforce.

[\*\*UMRR Blog Post on Lonni\*\*](#)

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## **Voter Registration**

Voter Registration season has been successful! We just have one open slot left - September 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 in Nowthen. Please consider signing up for this shift. Registration materials, tent, and table are supplied. Just BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR. Please click on the button below to view the online signup sheet.

[\*\*SignUp to Register Voters\*\*](#)



## **Board Highlights**

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

Agenda items covered at our August 28, 2023 meeting via Zoom included:

- Plans were presented for our September 11 program meeting with Senator Jim Abeler and Representative Zack Stephenson.
- The LWV ABC Friend of League award will also be presented at this program.
- Gretchen shared information about LWVMN's new Youth Development Specialist and her interest in assembling LWV ABC volunteers to engage youth in our area.
- Moderators have been arranged for school board candidate forums. Website has been updated for submission of questions by public. Publicity for submitting questions is underway.



- Forum arrangements finalized with: (1) QCTV for recording Anoka-Hennepin School Board candidates at their studios and (2) North Metro TV for recording Columbia Heights, Fridley and Spring Lake Park at their studios.
- Membership renewals continue; and there were two new member households in July and August.
- Publicity for National Voter Registration Day on September 19 is underway.

For complete approved board meeting minutes, see the Members Only section of our website.

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### Special Board Meeting on August 21, 2022 Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

This special board meeting was called to consider LWV ABC support and advocacy for adding the position of a Ground Water Specialist for Anoka Conservation District to the Anoka County Budget for 2024, in advance of the County August 23 budget discussions. Board members concurred with the importance of broadly supporting water as a health and safety priority for the county. Motion made, seconded and all in favor of LWV ABC support and advocacy. President Gretchen Sabel sent a letter to Anoka County Commissioners and spoke at the August 21 meeting in support of budgeting the Ground Water Specialist position.

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## History21 Podcast



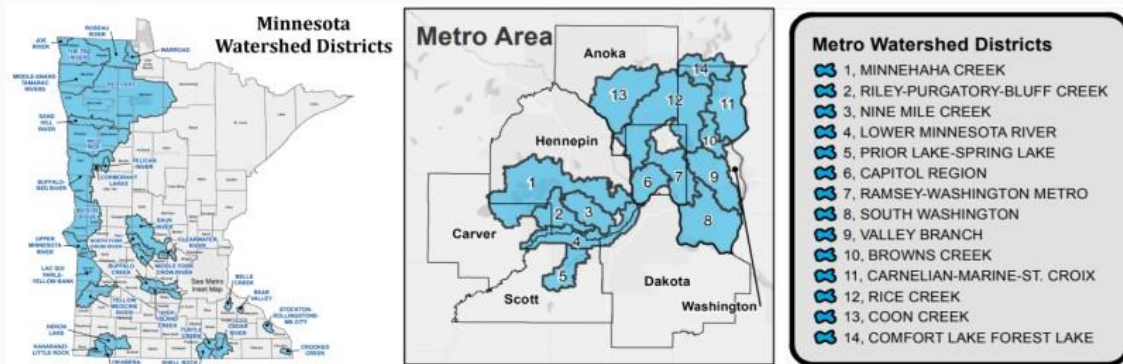
Voter Service Chair **Linda Rogers** and Friend of League Mel Aanerud (husband of Kathy Aanerud) are now podcast famous for their knowledge of local history! Listen online or through Apple Podcast to the ACHS History21 podcast.

- Episode 2.16: History of Cedar With Linda Lee Rodgers

- Episode 2.14 Ham Lake History with Mel Aanerud

Linda Rodger's Podcast

Mel Aanerud's Podcast



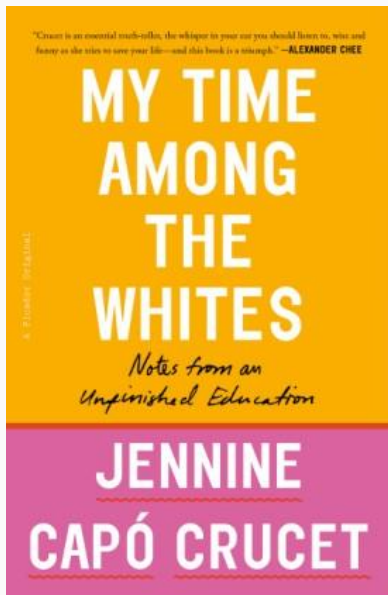
## New CMAL Study Minnesota Watershed Districts

The Board of the Council of the Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) has begun to outline a watershed district study. The study will be led by Wes Volkenant, Peg DuBord and Carol Barclay. As the study gets underway, there will be many opportunities for others to volunteer, including interviewing watershed district officials and/or staff.

***Email Wes Volkenant or LWV ABC if you are interested in working on the CMAL Watershed District Study.***

CMAL August Newsletter





## Book Club

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

7:00 pm on Zoom

### ***My Time among the Whites: Notes from an Unfinished Education* by Jennine Capó Crucet**

The daughter of Cuban refugees raised in Miami, Crucet examines the political and personal contours of American identity and the physical places where those contours find themselves smashed: be it a rodeo town in Nebraska, a university campus in upstate New York, or Disney World in Florida.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Books](#)

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TUESDAY  
**SEP  
19**  
2023

READY  
**SET  
VOTE**



# NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

## NVRD 2023

LWV ABC Voter Service has been busy preparing for National Voter Registration Day. Watch for our efforts to get the word out - articles in The Press, Quad News, Anoka County Union and The Life; a letter to the editor in the Northeaster; electronic billboards and a Public Service announcements on QCTV.

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## Register New Citizens

Join League members from throughout the Twin Cities area to help new citizens get registered to vote. Volunteers pass out pens before the ceremony, answer questions and collect the completed voter registration forms following the end of the ceremony.

### Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies

- **September 21** - RiverCentre - morning and afternoon
- **September 28** - Gammelgarden of Scandia - morning

***All volunteers, not just LWV members, are welcome and encouraged to sign up.***

**Sign-Up for Citizenship Ceremonies**

**Note the separate tabs across the top of the Sign-Up Genius form for each date.**

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## Coming in October...

***Click button below to get details and find more events on our online calendar.***

**LWV ABC Calendar**

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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.

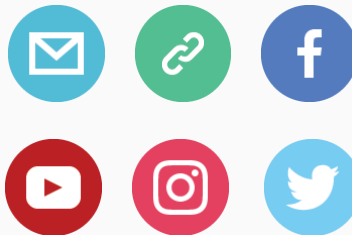
The League is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and practice.

[Become a Member](#)

[Support Our Work](#)

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## More About LWV ABC



**League of Women Voters ABC**  
**1482 158th LN NW**  
**Andover, MN 55304**

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*The Voter,  
The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*

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