

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
November 2023



Julie Jeppson, Dave Rudolph, LaChelle Williams and David Frei

Hungry and Homeless in Anoka County

Monday, November 13

Andover City Council Chambers and via Zoom
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW

6:30 - online and in person socializing

7:00 - program begins

Learn more about those who face hunger and homelessness in Anoka County, despite holding jobs or having Social Security income. Does anyone keep track of numbers? Where does funding come from? How can one person make a difference? Hear from our local leaders - Julie Jeppson, Anoka County Commissioner; David Frei, Family Promise; LaChelle Williams, Hope4Youth; and Dave Rudolph, South Anoka County Area food shelf.

[Click here to join the meeting on Nov 13](#)



Air Source Heat Pump Technology

Our October guest speaker Arbor Otalora-Fadner, a representative of the Minnesota Air Source Heat Pump Collaborative, discussed air source heat pump technology as an energy efficient and green upgrade for your home. Information includes what heat pump technology is, how it can benefit your home, and when it is a good time to make the switch. LWV ABC President Gretchen Sabel shared her recent experience with having an air-source heat pump installed at her house.

The presentation provides the latest news regarding government rebates that may be available for home energy-saving-items.

[Watch Program Video](#)



AHSD District 1 Candidate Forum.

Be an informed Voter!

LWV ABC's candidate forums have been viewed by hundreds of voters, with more views expected as Election Day approaches. Our letters to the editor, published in the *Northeaster*, the *Union Herald*, the *Life* and ABC Newspapers online helped get the word out. For the first time, even MPR linked to LWV ABC candidate forums on their website, after identifying the Anoka-Hennepin School District as one of six school board races to watch.

Our non-partisan candidate forums are available on the [LWV ABC YouTube Candidate Forum 2023 Playlist](#) as well as our Candidate Forum webpage. Vote411 includes complete voter information as well as candidate responses to candidate questionnaires sent to all candidates by LWVUS.

[Candidate Forum Webpage](#)



Take Action!

In February, LWVUS joined nearly 650 other groups on a [letter](#) to House and Senate agriculture committee leadership urging that they protect investments in climate-smart agriculture and conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill.

Now, LWVMN and the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization have made it even easier to express your personal support to your federal legislators. Simply click the button below and enter your contact information to send an email to both your Senators and your Representative. The prewritten email can be sent as written or be edited for your personal comments. With one click you can contact all your federal legislators!

Your voice matters! Take a minute to "Take Action" on this important issue - click the link below!



Clean Water Act Restrictions after Sackett

**LWV UMRR webinar
November 6, 4 pm
Registration Required**

Join LWV UMRR to discuss the implications of the May 2023 Supreme Court decision in Sackett vs. EPA. The Sackett decision restricts implementation of the Clean Water Act, removing 'discontinuous' wetlands and ephemeral streams from Clean Water Act jurisdiction. The decision will have far-reaching consequences in states that depended on federal regulations for this protection.

Rob Lee, attorney for Midwest Environmental Advocates, will cover a brief history of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 2015 regulations defining Water of the US (WOTUS), and the 2020 Navigable Water Protection Rule. He will discuss the May 2023 Supreme Court Ruling and the now revised regulations just issued by US EPA and the Corps of Engineers. Following Rob, **Gretchen Sabel**, LWV ABC President and UMRR Communications Chair, will present information on the status of wetland regulation in the UMRR states based on a 2022 analysis by the Environmental Law

Institute, followed by a look at LWV positions that relate to actions supporting strong implementation of the CWA. A discussion period led by LWV UMRR Chair Mary Ellen Miller will round out the webinar.

For more background information on the Sackett Decision, visit the LWV UMRR Blog.

[Register for Webinar](#)

[UMRR Sackett Decision Blog](#)



Program Co-Chairs (and Board Members) **Kathleen Sehkon** and **Kathy Tinglestad** at October Program Meeting.

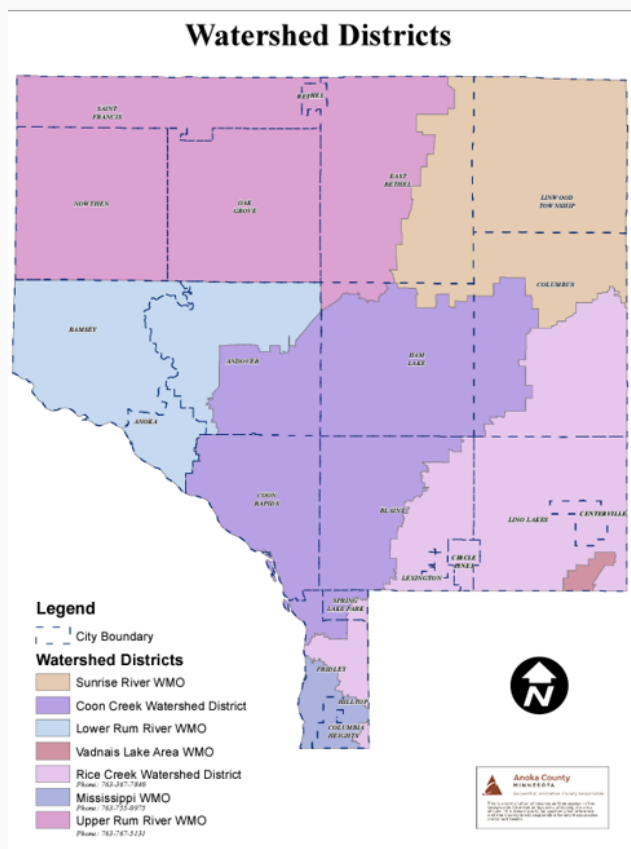
October Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

Agenda items covered at our monthly board meeting on October 23 included:

- Arrangements are being finalized for community speakers at our November 13 meeting on topics of food and shelter insecurity

- Julie and Gretchen are assisting Program Committee with upcoming meetings.
- Discussed a program on ERA to inform and plan advocacy for upcoming legislative session. This could be a special Zoom program or our monthly program in January. Contacts are being made to consider options.
- Reviewed YouTube views to date of school board candidate forums and our members' Letters to Editor recently published about availability of the forums.
- Agreed that the monthly programs in January and February will be Zoom only, no in-person. Will determine if this extends to March at a later date.
- Agreed that December 25 board meeting will be cancelled due to holiday.



Close up of
Anoka
County
Watershed
Districts

Your Input Needed!

CMAL Watershed Study

Since 1982, local government in the metro area have been required to prepare and implement comprehensive surface water management plans through membership in

a Watershed Management Organization (WMO). In the metro area, these Watershed Management Organization take various forms, resulting in 33 watershed entities. The Watershed Study Committee has decided that to help understand Watershed Districts in the seven county metro area, we need to take on all 33 Watershed entities.

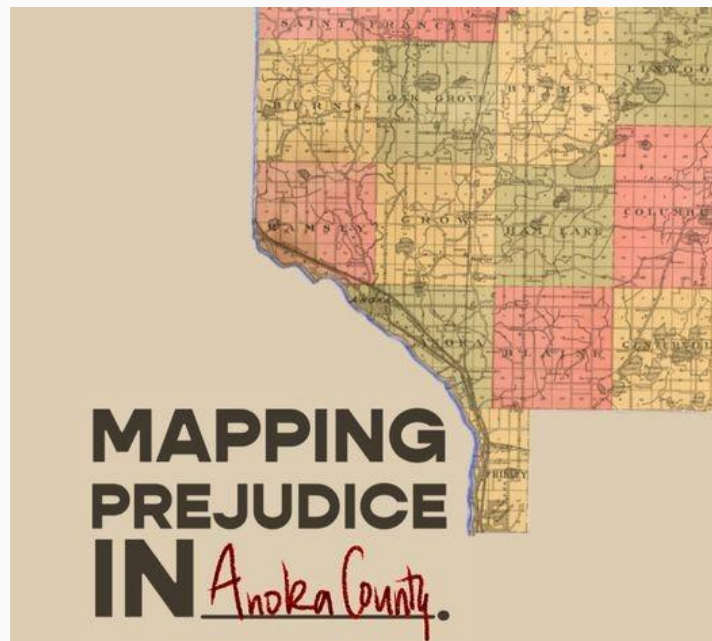
As the study moves forward, the Committee needs your help with research, determining focus and determining what officials to interview.

Email Karen Schaffer at schafferka@gmail.com and let her know:

- questions you want to ask officials
- suggestions for the study of the 33 watershed districts
- whether or not you would like volunteer for one or more aspects of this project

Learn More about the Watershed Study by clicking the button below

[Watershed Study Powerpoint](#)



Mapping Prejudice in Anoka County

Tuesday, November 14

6:30-8:00pm

Coon Rapids Civic Center

11155 Robinson Drive

Anoka County Library and Transformative Circle are hosting a presentation by the Mapping Prejudice project on the history of racial covenants. Following the presentation, there will be a hands on tutorial on how to find racial covenants in Anoka County property records and how to transcribe deeds.

Please bring a personal electronic device that can connect to Wi-Fi to participate in the deed transcription session.

Based at the University of Minnesota, Mapping Prejudice identifies and maps racial covenants, clauses that were inserted into property deeds to keep people who were not White from buying or occupying homes. The resulting maps, initially focused on Hennepin County, have helped to change popular understandings of structural racism in Minnesota.

[More about Mapping Prejudice](#)



Book Club

Wednesday, November 15

7:00 pm on Zoom

We Are Meant to Rise: Voices for Justice from Minneapolis to the World (2021)

by Carolyn Holbrook and David Mura

In this collection, Indigenous writers and writers of color bear witness to one of the most unsettling years in the history of the United States. Essays and poems vividly reflect and comment on the traumas we endured in 2020, beginning with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, deepened by the blatant murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers and the uprisings that immersed Minneapolis into the epicenter of passionate, worldwide demands for justice.

From authors with international reputations to newly emerging voices, *We are Meant to Rise* features people from many cultures and perspectives, including Indigenous Dakota and Anishinaabe, African American, Hmong, Somali, Afghani, Lebanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Puerto Rican, Colombian, Mexican, transracial adoptees, mixed race, and LGBTQ+.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Books](#)



**IMMIGRATION
AND THE
PATHWAY TO
CITIZENSHIP**

Presented by the
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA


Micaela Schuneman
*Sr. Director of Refugee &
Immigrant Services*
**International Institute
of Minnesota**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
6:30 GATHERING | 6:45 PROGRAM
MAHTOMEDI DISTRICT CENTER
1520 MAHTOMEDI AVENUE

Immigration and the Pathway to Citizenship

November 9, 6:45 PM

Mahtomedi District Center and via Zoom
1520 Mahtomedi Avenue

LWV WBL guest speakers Micaela Schuneman, director of Immigration & Refugee Services for the International Institute, and Blaine Joseph, Citizenship Case Aide, also of the Institute, will explore the complexities and challenges surrounding immigration and the process of obtaining citizenship. Julio Cabrera, an immigrant from El Salvador, will offer personal reflections on his journey to citizenship.

[Register to Attend in Person](#)

[LWV WBL Zoom Link](#)



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.

Morning and afternoon time slots are available for the **November 15** citizenship ceremony in the north metro area at

Earle Brown Heritage Center

6155 Earle Brown Drive
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Location of the December 18 citizenship ceremony is to be determined

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.

Coming in December...

- Ice Cream Social with special guest Paul Huffman of LWVMN

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

[LWV ABC Calendar](#)

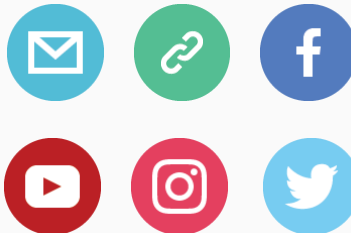
The League of Women voters is a non-partisan civic organization which promotes good government and active, informed participation in local, state and federal government.

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

[Become a Member](#)

[Support Our Work](#)

More About LWV ABC



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