

# **The Voter**

**The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter**  
**December 2023**



## **LWV ABC Monthly Program Meeting**

### **Ice Cream Social and Redistricting Call to Action**

**Monday, December 11**  
**Andover Community Center and via Zoom**  
15200 Hanson Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304  
**Members Only Meeting**  
**Note Location**

6:30 - Ice Cream Social and online socializing  
6:45 - Book Club Survey Drawing  
6:50 - Minnesota Flag Quiz (with prizes) and Activity  
7:20 - Program with guest Paul Huffman  
8:00 - Demonstration of Action Alerts

### **Enter Our Drawing Now**

***Complete our Book Club Survey before midnight Sunday December 10 to be entered in a drawing for a door prize.***

## Book Club Survey

### Paul Huffman

**LWVMN Elections and Redistricting Policy Coordinator**



**Paul Huffman** will provide an overview of the 2022 redistricting results both in Minnesota and nationally.

Paul will address the key elements of the redistricting reform bill which LWVMN and Common Cause MN hope to have introduced in the next legislative session.

Meeting Zoom Link



**Action Alert**

### Support Redistricting Reform

For the last 60 years, courts have had to draw Minnesota maps to after the Legislature and Governor could not agree. In states like Wisconsin or Maryland,

where a single party had control of all branches of government, that party has drawn maps to their advantage, resulting in extreme gerrymandering that does not represent the majority of voters.

As legislators prepare for the 2024 session, tell them to make redistricting reform a priority, including:

- creation of an independent citizen redistricting commission
- prioritization of redistricting principles that place minority representation and communities of interest above geographic and political considerations
- a transparent redistricting process that includes public input and review for the redistricting plan

***Click the button below to use the LWVMN Action Alert system. A fast and easy way to reach out to your legislators!***

**Contact Your Legislators**



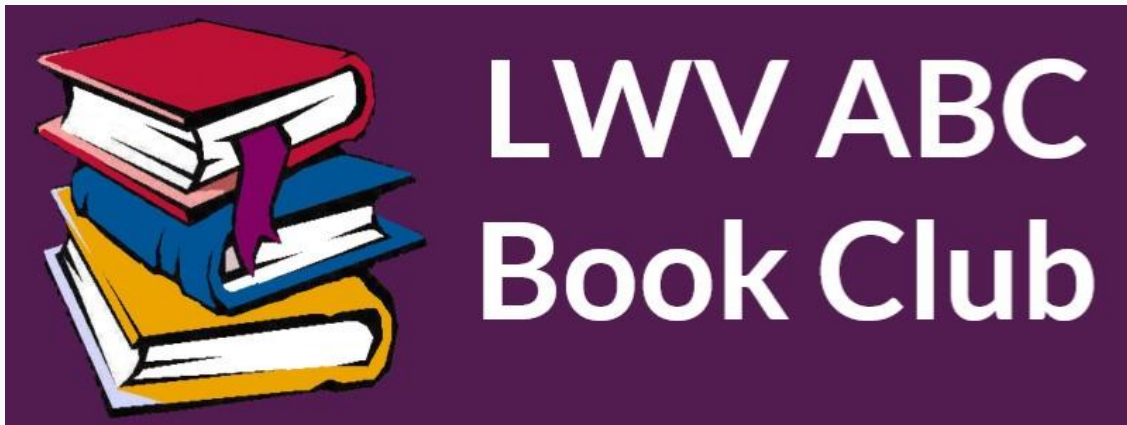
Dave Rudolph, LaChelle Williams, Julie Jeppson, David Frei

## Hungry and Homeless in Anoka County

Our November guests Julie Jeppson, Anoka County Commissioner; David Frei, Family Promise; LaChelle Williams, Hope4Youth; and Dave Rudolph, South Anoka County Area food shelf discussed hunger and homelessness in Anoka County.

***Click the button below to watch video of the meeting.***

**Watch Program Video**



### Book Club Survey

With an emphasis on amplifying diverse voices and experiences, our book club is a great opportunity to learn new perspectives and engage in discussion on important issues.

Since 2020, we have held Book Club on the third Wednesday of the month via zoom. As we plan for 2024, we would like your input in hopes of increasing participation. Should we continue using Zoom? Is another day better? Is evening the best time?

***Click the button below to take our book club survey to provide your input***

## Book Club Survey

**Members who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for a door prize to be awarded at the December meeting.**

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## Election 2023

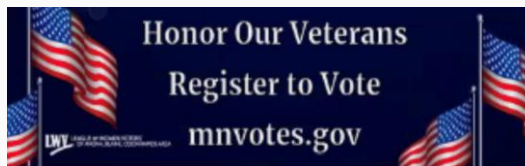
**Thanks to everyone who participated in our democracy** this election season - as voters, candidates, poll workers and election officials.

LWV ABC Candidate Forums proved popular this year with voters. In addition to views on local cable television broadcasts, we had **2,493 views of our school board candidate forums on YouTube** prior to the election. The most popular forum was Anoka-Hennepin School Board District 1 with 878 views, nearly 20% of the voter turnout for that race.

With the exception of one of the three at large candidates in Fridley, all the newly elected school board members participated in LWV ABC candidate forums.

## Official Election Results





## LWV ABC Billboards

In 2023, LWV ABC sponsored electronic Blip billboard campaigns near Memorial Day, July 4th and National Voter Registration Day. Our message played in rotation with other ads, with each "blip" of our message displaying for 8 seconds. **Our National Voter registration Day campaign was seen by an estimated 24,410 people.** At a cost of less than \$40 per day, half of which is paid by matching Blip funds, Blip billboards are a very cost effective way to remind people to register to vote.

Thanks to **Rachel Mero** for her expertise in designing and managing our Blip billboards.



Vice President and board member Julie Trude hosting the November Program Meeting.

## **November Board Highlights**

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

Agenda items covered at our monthly board meeting on November 27 included:

- Arrangements were finalized for December 11 program at Andover Community Center with ice cream social followed by informal (not recorded) program with Paul Huffman, Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator for LWVMN. Zoom option will be available.
- Members who participated in LWV ABC voter registration activities are being invited to a December 4 meeting to begin strategizing ongoing voter engagement activities in light of the significant changes to voter laws in 2023 legislative sessions.
- Board members heard from Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director for LWVMN, on the status of the Equal Rights Amendment in Minnesota, partnerships, next steps in the legislative session, and member involvement.



### **CO2 Pipelines**

**December 4**

**7:00 pm via Zoom**

UMRR's December 4 program will focus on Carbon Dioxide Pipelines. Panelists Peg Furshong from CURE, Pam Richert from the Eco-Justice Collaborative and Jan Norris, activist from Montgomery County Iowa, will discuss the status of approvals and other issues here in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

[Register for Pipeline Webinar](#)

## Clean Water Act After Sackett

Did you miss last month's UMRR program? Watch video of "The Clean Water Act Implementation after Sackett" program by clicking the button below.

[Watch Clean Water Act Webinar](#)



## LWVMN Strategic Plan



## **2024-2026**

### **LWVMN VISION**

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

### **LWVMN MISSION**

Empowering voters and defending democracy through voter education and engagement, advocating for democracy, encouraging civic participation, and supporting local League leaders and members.

### **LWVMN VALUES**

- Empowering
- Nonpartisan
- Fact Based
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Collaborative

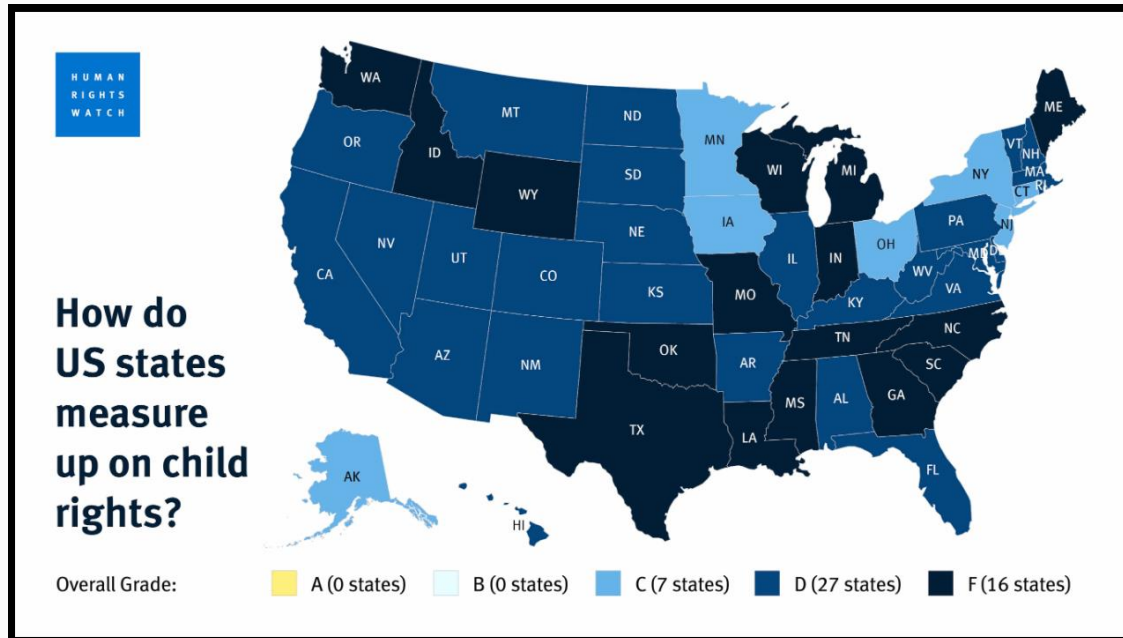
### **LWVMN AREAS OF FOCUS**

- Voter Education/Engagement
- Advocate for Democracy
- Civic Participation
- Local League Support
- State League Operations

***View/download one page PDFs of the Strategic Plan and the Summary of LWVMN Services by clicking on the buttons below.***

**Strategic Plan PDF**

**Summary of LWVMN Services PDF**



## Human Rights of Children

As we celebrate International Human Rights Day on December 10th, take some time to learn more about the status of human rights of children in Minnesota.

The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted in 1989, is a 54 article international human rights treaty which has been ratified by all countries except the United States. Each year, the non-profit [Human Rights for Kids](#) evaluates state laws for compliance with the CRC in 12 areas, centered on child marriage, corporal punishment, child labor and juvenile justice.

**In the 2023 National State Ratings Report, Minnesota was designated the most improved state**, rising to being ranked second. Minnesota's improved rating is due to recent juvenile justice reforms, including eliminating juvenile life without parole sentences.

**At 72.5% compliance with international standards and a grade of "C", Minnesota** still has a long way to go. Some areas where Minnesota law still does not meet international standards:

- Corporal punishment is allowed in the home and in private schools

- 10 year-olds are subject to juvenile criminal jurisdiction
- 12 year-olds are allowed to work full-time in the agricultural industry
- 14 year-olds can be tried as an adult
- 16 year-olds are allowed to perform hazardous labor in the agriculture industry

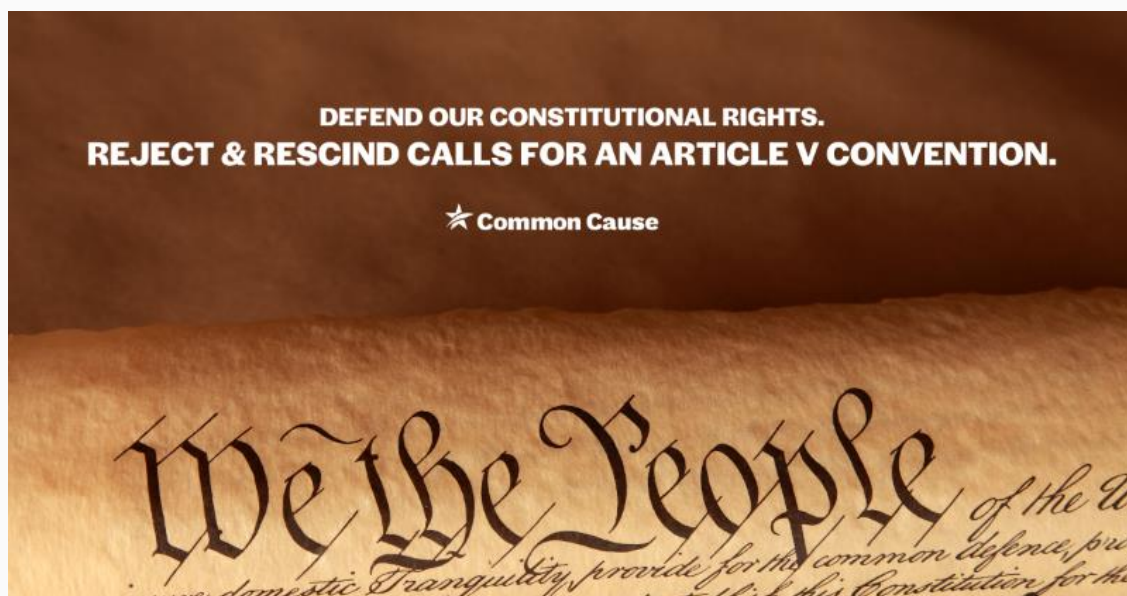
***Find out more by reading the article "How Do US States Measure Up on Child Rights?" at Human Rights Watch and watch the 2023 National State Ratings Report Launch Webinar.***

**How Do US States Measure Up on Child Rights?**

**State Ratings Webinar**

**Discussion of Minnesota begins at minute 43 with State Representative Sandra Feist 39B**

**Convention on the Rights of the Child Text**



## Article V Convention

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides two methods of proposing amendments to the Constitution. The second method, generally referred to as the “Article V Convention,” calls for Congress to call a Convention for proposing Amendments upon the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states.

The League is a member of a coalition opposing an Article V convention (see [Coalition Statement Opposing an Article V Convention](#)). Due to the lack of provisions in the Constitution and the lack of historical precedent, it is unknown how delegates to a convention would be chosen, what rules would be in place, what would happen in case of legal disputes, what issues could be raised, how the American people would be represented, and how to limit the influence of special interests in a convention.

Right now, there are four major campaigns for an Article V Convention: the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) campaign, the Convention of States (COS) campaign, the Wolf-PAC campaign and the term limits campaign. Together, they have already convinced 28 states to call for a convention. Only 6 additional states are needed to call a convention. Legislation has been introduced in multiple states including Minnesota. In February 2023, a call for an Article V Convention failed in Montana by only one vote.

***Get an update on recent Article V activity by watching the October 2023 Common Cause webinar.***

**Common Cause Webinar**

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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.

Morning and afternoon shifts are available on most dates.

### Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies

- **December 18** - Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center
- **January 15** - Mount Zion Temple, St Paul
- **January 23** - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis
- **January 24** - U.S District Courthouse, Minneapolis

***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 January...

- Program - What is Alexandria House?
- Book Club - *Until There is Justice: The Life of Anna Arnold Hedgeman*
- Early Voting Begins for the Presidential Primary

***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.

*We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.*

**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**