

# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

March 2024



## Who Manages our Watersheds?

CMAL Watershed Study Update

Monday, March 11

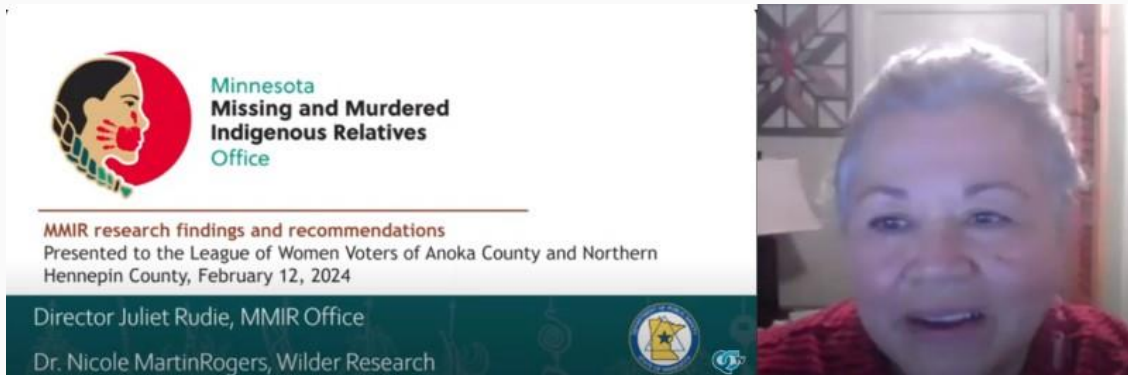
Zoom

**6:30** - online socializing

**7:00** - program begins

**Wes Volkenant**, LWV ABC CMAL Representative, will update us on the CMAL ongoing study of watersheds. The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) study is an informational study on how our watersheds are managed.

[March Zoom Link](#)



## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

In February, guest speakers Dr. Nicole MartinRogers of the Wilder Foundation and Juliet Rudie, Director of the Office of Murdered and Indigenous Relatives, presented recent research findings on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. Senator Mary Kunesch, author of the legislation creating the MMIR office, introduced our speakers.

[Watch Program Video](#)

# Welcome New Members

Welcome to our new members  
**Angela Forsell** of Ramsey  
**Joyce Gudding** of Fridley  
**Rex Hamann** of Andover



## Domestic Violence Services Advocacy

Vice President **Julie Trude** continues to lead our advocacy for domestic violence services, in cooperation with Connie Moore, Alexandra House Executive Director. Julie, **Leslie Waterhouse and Gretchen Sable** sent personalized letters to all legislators in our service area. Response was mixed, in part due to budget concerns.

Julie submitted our letter supporting \$20M in state funds for victims of crime to be part of the official record for hearings in the House/Senate. Julie also procured letters of support from Blaine Police Chief Podany and Anoka County Sheriff Wise. Senator Michael Kreun of Blaine read both letters into the record at the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. Sheriff Wise also attended the House hearing.

On Thursday, the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget released the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 biennium, projected to end with a \$3.7 billion surplus, which is \$1.3 billion more than the projections in November of 2023.

Please contact your legislator in support of the consistent funding for domestic

violence services.

LWV ABC letter of support

Sheriff Wise Letter of Support

Blaine Police Chief Letter of Support



Annual Membership Meeting 2023.

## Nominations

Elections will be held at our April Annual Membership Meeting. Our Nominations Committee is actively seeking members to fill multiple Board positions:

- Voter Services
- Membership
- Program

If you are interested in any of these positions, or helping with any these committees, please contact the Nomination Committee - **Geri Nelson, Arlene Gillett or Kathie Whelchel** - or email us at **[lwwabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwabc@gmail.com)**.

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## **February Board Highlights**

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

Agenda items covered at our monthly board meeting on February 26, 224 included:

- Arrangements have been finalized for March 11 program, via Zoom, with member Wes Volkenant on topic of metro area watersheds and water management organizations.
- Continued planning was conducted for our annual meeting on Monday evening April 8 at Andover Community Center, led by Vice President Julie Trude.
- Committee chair reports are due to Julie by March 15 to allow time for preparing the annual meeting packets for members.
- The Nominating Committee's candidates to date for 2024-25 board positions, for elections at our annual meeting, were presented by Geri Nelson. Further work needed to identify volunteers for Program Chair and Voter Service and Voter Registration chairs.
- Co-Chair of Advocacy and Action Committee, Jody Anderson: acknowledged the advocacy work of LWV ABC on behalf of establishing consistent funding for

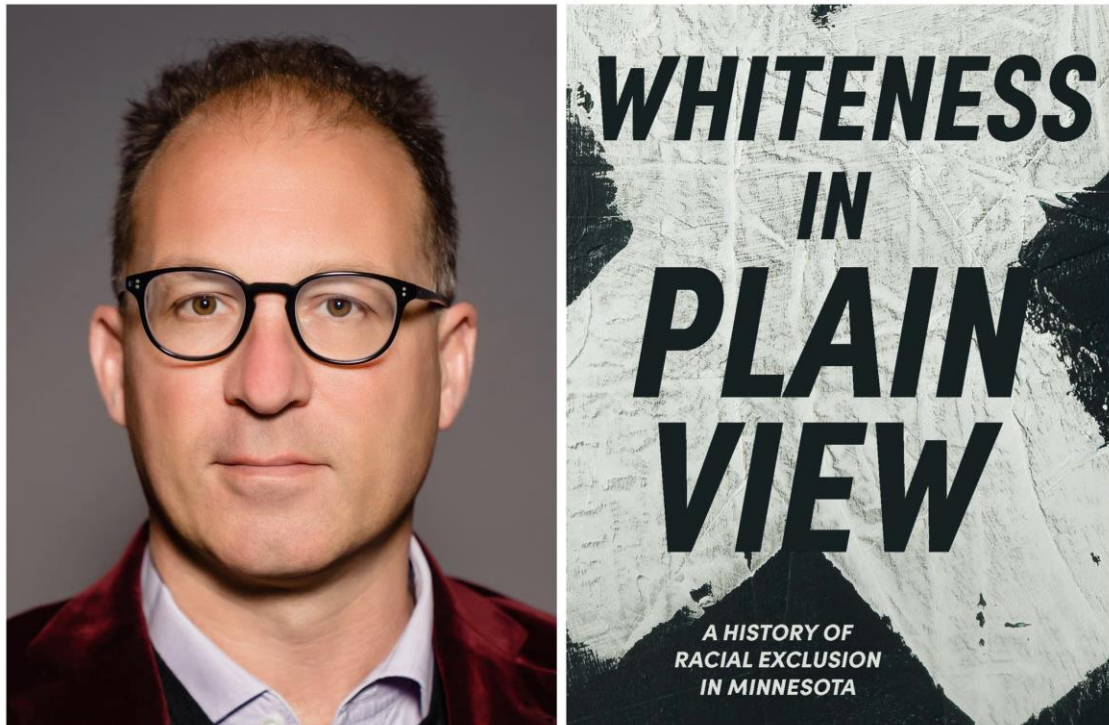
Alexandra House and domestic violence shelters; reviewed LWVMN's Legislative priorities, overall strategies for 2024 and other statewide priorities; and urged members to become involved in Lobby and Observer Corps.

- Voter Service chair, Linda Rodgers, presented a list of 2024 Primary and General Elections in the communities in our service area.

Next board meeting is March 25 at 3:30 via Zoom. A special board meeting will be held on March 18 at 3:30 to finalize our annual budget for presentation at annual meeting

***Members can find Board Agendas and approved Board Minutes in the Members Only section of our website***

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### **Book Club**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
7:00 pm on Zoom**

***Whiteness in Plain View: A History of Racial Exclusion in Minnesota***

**(2022)**  
**by Chad Montrie**

Widely seen as a progressive stronghold of the Midwest, Minnesota also has some of the greatest racial disparities in the nation. Those disparities have their roots in Minnesota's earliest days as a territory and in the decades that followed.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

Our book club host for March is Gretchen Sabel. Read her blog post on the impact of redlining today.

[Gretchen's Blog Post on Redlining](#)



## **St Cloud's Circular Economy**

UMMR hosted Tracy Hodel, St. Cloud's Public Works Director in February. Tracy Hodel describes how St. Cloud met the goal of carbon neutrality in 2020 - ten years ahead of plan.

LWV ABC President Gretchen Sabel describes this program as "fantastic" and recommends everyone take the opportunity to watch the video.



## Legislature

### LWVMN 2024 Legislative Priorities

- Redistricting Reform
- Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment
- Climate Change
- Ranked Choice Voting
- Money in Politics
- End of Life Options

### Help Needed

During session, the LWVMN Observer Corp, including our own **Jody Anderson**, attend hearings on bills of priority to LWVMN.

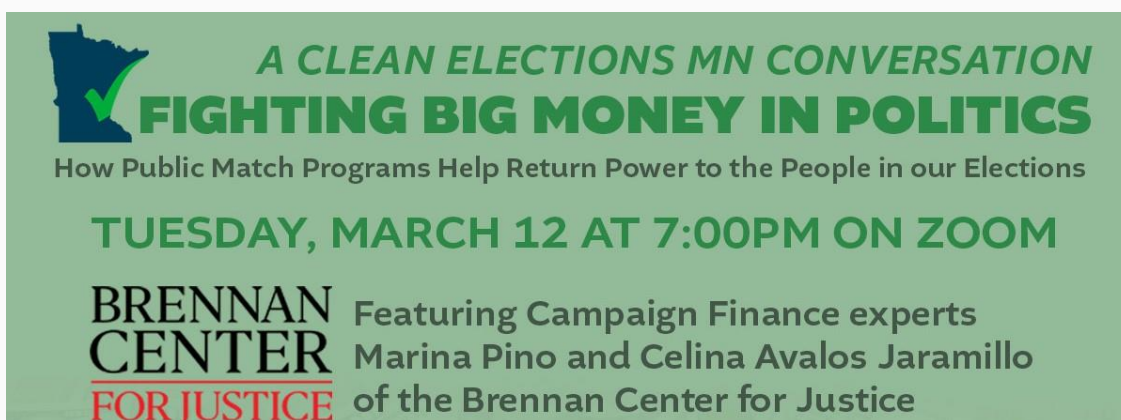
**Contact Jody or send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) if you are interested in**




**helping.** Since many hearings are available online, there is no need to go to the capitol.

***Keep update to date with LWVMN Legislative priorities by reading the Capitol Letter.***

**Capitol Letter**



 **A CLEAN ELECTIONS MN CONVERSATION**  
**FIGHTING BIG MONEY IN POLITICS**  
How Public Match Programs Help Return Power to the People in our Elections  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 12 AT 7:00PM ON ZOOM**  
**BRENNAN CENTER** Featuring Campaign Finance experts  
**FOR JUSTICE** Marina Pino and Celina Avalos Jaramillo  
of the Brennan Center for Justice

## **How Small Political Donors Can Get More Clout in Elections**

**March 12, 2024**

**7:00 pm on Zoom**

Learn more about fighting big money in politics!

Guest speakers will be two campaign finance experts from the Brennan Center for Justice, a national organization that works to craft and advance reforms to make American Democracy work for all. Marina Pino and Celina Avalos Jaramillo will explain how New York's new public match program works and how it came to be enacted. They will be interviewed by retired, Star-Tribune journalist, Dave Hage, a Pulitzer Prize winner.

The event is sponsored by Clean Elections Minnesota and co-sponsored by Minnesota League of Women Voters, We Choose Us, Common Cause MN and Fair

Vote Minnesota.

Register for Clean Elections MN Conversation



## 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

- **March 20** - Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center
- **April 17** - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mpls
- **April 18** - US District Court, St. Paul
- **April 25** - US District Court, Mpls

***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 Next Month...**

**April 8** - Annual Membership Meeting

*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.

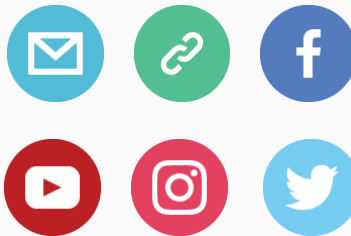
***We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.***

[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**

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