

# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
June 2024



## Ice Cream Social and Legislative Session Update

Monday, June 10

Andover Community Center and Zoom

15200 Hanson Blvd NW, Andover

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

**7:00** - program begins

Before the Legislative Session began, LWVMN identified our top priorities as Redistricting Reform, the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, Climate Change, Ranked Choice Voting, Money in Politics and End of Life Options.

Sam Streukens, LWVMN Civic Engagement Director, will share our successes and failures, and plans for the future.

[June Program Zoom Link](#)



## North Suburban Center for the Arts

In May, we met at the new home of the North Suburban Center for the Arts in Fridley. Executive Director Aly Rhodes updated us on how they have continued their mission after losing county funding. A successful capital fundraising effort allowed NSCA to purchase their new home in a former firehouse station. They continue to operate on shoe string budget from grants and creative fundraising, including obtaining much of the fixtures for the classroom through Amazon Marketplace.

Following her short presentation, we unleashed our own creativity using clay. Most of us followed Gretchen's lead and made trolls.

NSCA's biggest fundraising event of the year - Burbfest Art Festival and Market - is July 13 from 10:00 to 4:00 at Moore Lake Park in Fridley.

[Watch Program Video](#)

[North Suburban Center for the Arts](#)



## Member Renewals

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership and to everyone who donated to LWV ABC!

Renewals are still outstanding from 26 people. If you have not paid membership dues in 2024, you can still pay your dues renewal at the June meeting, use PayPal

to pay by credit card or mail a check.

[Renew Membership by Check](#)

[Renew Membership by PayPal](#)



NorthMetroTV Forum Captain Betsy Kiekhafer and Ham Lake Area Forum Co-Captain Kathy Aanerud

## Voter Services Reorganization

**Voter Service Chair Geri Nelson** will be overseeing all our Voter Services activities, with help from **President Gretchen Sable** and **Vice President Julie Trude**. As required by our Non-Partisan Policy, they will all refrain from any partisan political activity, including donations.

### Forum Cable Captains

Due to our change to taped Candidate Forums, as well as the sheer volume of Candidate Forums hosted by LWV ABC, we will now have "Forum Cable Captains" to organize the forums. The Voter Service Forum Cable Captains will schedule forums

with our cable television partners, our volunteers and the candidates. There will be a Forum Cable Captain or Co-Captains for each of the five public television cable stations in our service area. When a political district overlaps one or more cable service area, the cable company will share the video for broadcast on other appropriate cable broadcasts.

**QCTV Forum Captains: Marygrace Horner, Sandy Connor**

**North Metro TV Forum Captains: Betsy Kiekhafer, Lora Oberle**

**CTN Forum Captains: Naomi Peterson**

**Fridley Forum Captain: Bruce Pomerantz**

**Columbia Heights Forum Captains: Laurie Cooper, Wes Volkenant**

**Kathy Aanerud** and **Arlene Gillette** will Captain the forums co-sponsored with the Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Paula Mohr** will captain the forums co-sponsored with the city of Nowthen.

## **Voter Engagement and Registration**

**Cindy Wetzell** has agreed to lead our voter registration efforts at community events until the November elections.

***Sign up for help with voter registration on SignUp Genius.***

**Sign Up for Voter Registration Events**

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Forum Captain Paula Mohr and Voter Services Chair Geri Nelson at North Suburban Center for the Arts.

## Candidate Forums

The deadline for candidate filing is June 4 for 2024 state and county offices, as well as city offices where a primary is possible. Candidates have until June 6 to withdraw.

State tuned on our Candidate Forum webpage for any Primary Candidate Forums. The form for submitting questions will be added to the Candidate Forum webpage as soon as forums are scheduled. This a great opportunity to ask your candidates about issues that are important to you!

The need for any primary election forums will be determined after June 6. Although most forum will be taped in studio, we will need additional members to help as greeters and timers.

***Keep an eye out for an email later this month to sign up to help with primary forums.***

***The 2024 Candidate Forum webpage will be posted next week.***

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## **Have confidence in the security of your vote**

**From Northeaster, May 26, 2024 issue (vol. 46, No. 11)**

"Minnesota uses ballot counting machines to tabulate the votes. Absentee ballots are kept in secured storage until 18 days before the election. Then they're opened and reviewed by a team of two board members from different parties. These teams process these ballots together, using the same type of counting machines used to count in-person ballots on Election Day.

What happens to your paper ballot after it is counted? Ballots are placed in ballot transfer cases and sealed with two certification seals. All of this is done by two election judges (one must be either the head election judge or the assistant head election judge) who sign forms throughout the process. The sealed ballot boxes are transferred to your county elections office and stored for 22 months."

[\*\*Read Full Article from the Northeaster\*\*](#)

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Voter Services Chair Geri Nelson, Secretary Kathy Aanerud and President Gretchen Sabel at May Board Meeting.

## **Board Highlights**

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

This was the first meeting of the LWV ABC 2024-25 program year.

- Business included filling our appointed positions.
- Jody Anderson volunteered to provide some Diversity, Equity, Inclusion programs as part of our monthly program meetings.
- There was discussion of conducting voter registration at the two community events in June that are on our calendar: Spring Lake Park and Columbia Heights. Gretchen Sabel will take the lead on getting these set-up. Sign-up Genius notices will be sent to members to recruit volunteers.
- Next-up for voter registration tables will be Ramsey and Nowthen in September. Leadership for these events will need to be discussed at future meetings.
- Geri Nelson reported on continuing plans for conducting candidate forums in-studio in partnership with our community cable partners.
- Discussed monthly programs. Leslie Waterhouse will contact Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director for LWVMN, to speak at our June 10 program with a summary of the legislative session. No formal programs in July or August.



- For September and October, program suggestions were: (1) Anoka County Elections Manager; (2) Local newspaper speaker, such as Anoka County Union Herald or their parent organization.

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

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May 6 ERA rally at the Capitol.

## **2024 Legislative Highlights**

By Jody Anderson, Action and Advocacy Chair

Many **Election Policy** changes passed in the Elections Omnibus Bill including:

- Deep Fakes (A/I) Protections
- Timeline Changes that comply with Electoral Count Laws
- Additional funds for local election officials
- Money for Restore the Vote and Campus Voting Locations

Some positive steps regarding **Climate Change**:

- Zero waste and Cost Reduction Act passed along with forming an Electronic Waste Task Force
- Clean Water concerning Road salt and nitrogen fertilizer reductions goals passed
- Inventory of Public water and PFAS strategies
- \$4.5 million to address nitrates in southeast Minnesota
- Permitting reform and geothermal grants
- \$12 million for tree planting

**Firearms:** tougher penalties for straw purchases and ban on binary triggers

The **ERA** did NOT pass. The new language did pass in the House but did NOT get a hearing in the Senate. Therefore the amendment will have to start all over in the next legislative season.

**Other items that did NOT Pass:**

- Bipartisan Redistricting Commission
  - End of Life Options Bill
  - Ranked Choice Voting Options for Local elections
  - Equal access to Broadband
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 Braver Angels

# SKILLS FOR DISAGREEING BETTER

A BRAVER ANGELS WORKSHOP

In this workshop you will try out specific skills for listening in a way the other person feels heard and other skills for sharing viewpoints in a way the other person might hear — even if they disagree. To disagree better in polarized times is to accurately see where we differ and where we share common ground.



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WHITE BEAR AREA  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
Serving the Northeast Metro

Club of White Bear Lake  
  
Rotary

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA

**TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024**  
**6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

BOARD ROOM 112  
WHITE BEAR LAKE SCHOOLS DISTRICT CENTER  
4855 BLOOM AVENUE, WHITE BEAR LAKE

 REGISTER NOW

## **Skills for Disagreeing Better** **Braver Angels Workshop** **White Bear Lake Schools District Center** **4855 Bloom Avenue White Bear Lake, MN** **Tuesday, June 11, 2024** **6:30 -8:00 pm**

Do you want to have better conversations with people you disagree with about politics? Do you wish that family members and friends on the other political side would listen to your views about politics?

This 90-minute workshop provides the tools to help this happen. You will practice skills for listening in a way another person feels heard, as well as skills for sharing your views in a way someone else might hear you — even if they disagree.

Goals:

- More understanding of the values and concerns of people who differ from you politically
- Better skills for listening in a way so that the other person feels heard
- Better skills for sharing viewpoints in a way the other person might hear -- even if they disagree

***This Braver Angels event is sponsored by the White Bear Lake League of Women Voters, White Bear Lake Rotary and the White Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce.***

**Register for Braver Angels Workshop**

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**Pride Month Celebrations**

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## Post-Election Review

Minnesota's post-election review (PER), also called a post-election audit, refers to election officials hand counting votes on randomly selected paper ballots and comparing the totals to the corresponding Election Day voting machine totals. In 2022, Anoka County audited six precincts, two more than mandated by state statute.

The League of Women Voters Minnesota (LWVMN) has partnered with Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota (CEIMN) in organizing post-election review observation throughout the state. In 2022, CEIMN and LWVMN had 40 non-partisan volunteers to observe the review in 11 counties. LWVMN hopes to increase this number in 2024.

***If you are interested in becoming part of a LWVMN observer team after the 2024 general election, submit the LWVMN volunteer form by clicking on the button below.***

[Volunteer with LWVMN](#)

CEIMN Website

2022 Post Election Review Report



## Unpacking a History of Systemic Racism in the American Education System with Tiffany Jewell

Thursday, June 20th  
1:00 PM CDT on Zoom

Join Watonwan library and bestselling author Tiffany Jewell. In her new book, *Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School*, Jewell highlights the inequities Black and Brown students face from preschool through college.

[Register for Tiffany Jewell Event](#)



## 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

- June 5 - Mount Zion Temple, St. Paul
- June 18 - Union Depot, St. Paul
- July 18 - Union Depot, St. Paul

***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 July...

July 13 - Burbfest Art Festival & Market

July 17 - LWV ABC Book Club

July 23 - Last Day to Pre-register to Vote for Primary Election

***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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