

# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
August 2024



2022 Annual Picnic

## Annual LWV ABC Potluck Picnic

**Monday, August 12**

**5:00 - 8:00**

**Lions Coon Creek Park  
1664 119th Ave NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
Shelter #2**

Bring a food item to share. Either signup in advance or just bring whatever you like on the day of the picnic.

Lemonade, plates and utensils will be provided.

Potluck Sign Up



Arlene Gillett volunteering as timer at a Candidate Forum in 2016.

## Primary Election Candidate Forums

We kicked off our 2024 candidate forum season with three candidate forums for the Primary Election. Thanks to all our volunteers!

Forum Captains **Sandy Connor** and **Marygrace Horner** were well organized and confident. **Jody Anderson** and **Sue Dergantz** made an effective timing team. **Carrie Bury** greeted and observed the whole process. **Sandy Connor** moderated the Ramsey City Council forum well, as usual, and new moderator **Karen Hulting of LWV Of Wayzata-Plymouth** moderated the two

County Commissioner forums like a pro.

Watch Forums on Website

Watch on our YouTube Playlist



Geri Nelson, Kathie Whelchel and Zilla Way volunteering at a Candidate Forum in 2014.

## General Election Candidate Forums

Our Forum Captains - **Kathy Aanerud, Sandy Connor, Laurie Cooper, Arlene Gillett, Marygrace Horner, Betsy Kiekhafer, Paula Mohr, Lora Oberle, Naomi Peterson, Bruce Pomerantz and Wes Volkenant** - have been busy organizing early 50 General Election forums with the help of **Geri Nelson** and **Linda Rodgers**, along with **Pat Kennedy** for technical

support. **Bettie Reuther of LWV New Brighton** has been working with LWV ABC for the Columbia Heights area forums.

***Now it is time for everyone else to step up to help with the Candidate Forums scheduled in September and October.***

For most forums, we will tape 4-5 forums in an evening at cable studios. The Ham Lake area forums on September 24, co-sponsored and co-financed by Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, will be a live forum at Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove. Coon Rapids area forums will be in person at the CTN studios on October 2. LWV New Brighton will be co-sponsoring the Columbia Heights area forums, which will be in person and staffed and live streamed by LWV New Brighton. All questions for all forums will submitted in advance.

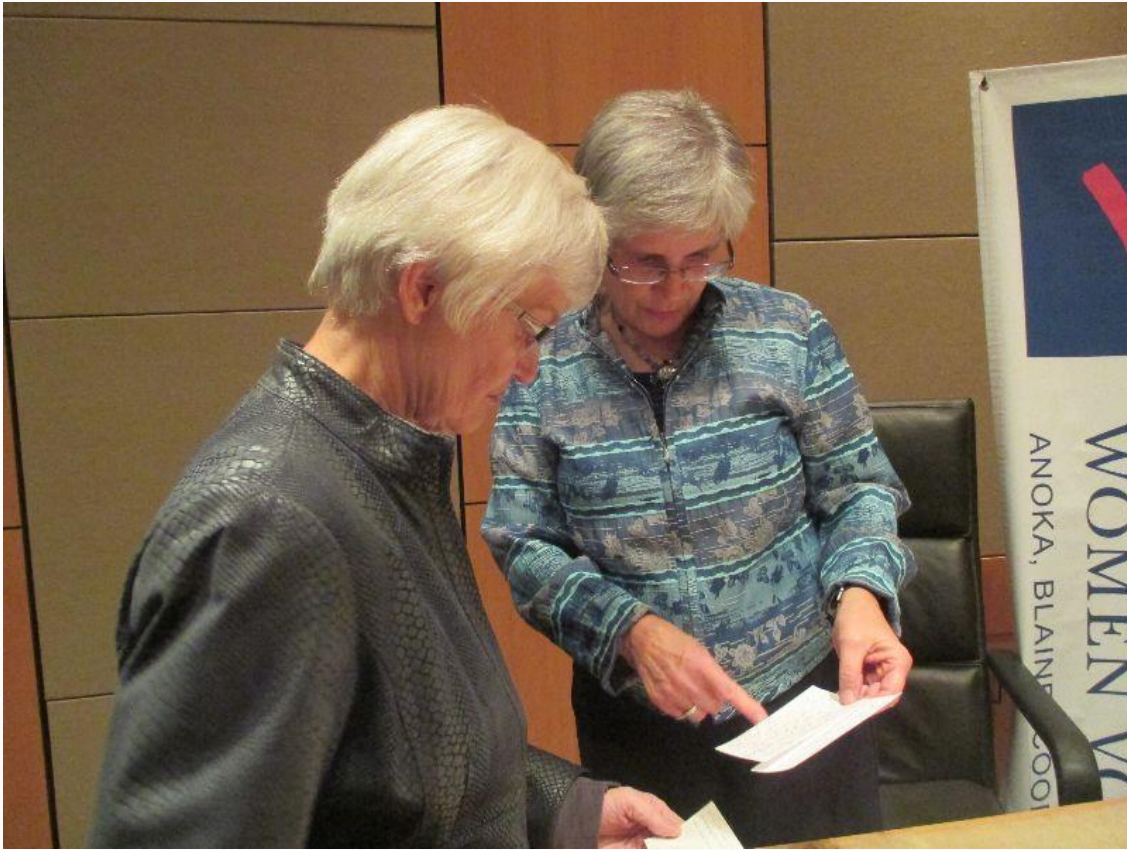
Voter Services Chair Geri Nelson will be contacting trained moderators for the forums to ensure moderators only moderate forums in which they cannot vote.

A Sign Up form has been is now available to sign up to help as timers and greeters. With only 15 minutes between tapings, we will need "greeters" to help efficiently move candidates on and off the set. We will also need timers who will work in pairs to keep candidates to one minute responses.

***Click button below to Sign Up to help with Candidate Forums.***

**Sign Up for Candidate Forums**

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Kay McCulley and Geri Nelson sorting questions the old school way at a Candidate Forum in 2013

## Submit Candidate Questions

Our Candidate Forum Webpage now contains the links to submit questions for all General Election Candidates. We encourage everyone to submit questions. It helps voters choose between candidates and lets candidates know which issues are important to you.

**Please note:** The candidate filing date is not until August 13 for cities that do not allow primaries. Forums are tentatively scheduled for these city races but will not be held if the races are uncontested.

***Submit your candidate questions by clicking on the button below.***

[Submit Candidate Questions for the General Election](#)

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Jody Anderson and Sue Dergantz, 2023

## Voter Registration

We had hoped to register voters at multiple community events in September but have had to cancel due to lack of volunteers.

**Naomi Peterson** has scheduled multiple voter registration events at senior housing residences in August. Additional events may be added.

***Sign up at the link below.***

**Sign Up for Senior Housing Events**

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Graphic from Sierra Club North Star Website

## **Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation**

By Diane Kroll, LWV ABC member

**Note:** LWV ABC member **Diane Kroll** joined a small number of individuals to form the Coalition to Reduce Plastics (CRP) in order to advocate for extended producer responsibility legislation. Many organizations supported the legislation but active advocacy was primarily conducted by the Coalition to Reduce Plastics, Partnership on Waste and Energy and Eureka Recycling. Diane is also a member of Sierra Club North Star and serves on the LWVMN Climate Change Taskforce.

Minnesota is only the 5th state to pass Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation.

The new Minnesota Packaging Waste bill will:

- Require packaging producers to pay the cost of recycling (90% by 2031)
- Expand recycling collection to the entire state
- Establish recycling collection lists to standardize recyclable material

- Require producers to redesign packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2032 (some Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approved extensions to 2040)
- Require the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to set targets for waste reduction, reuse, recycling and postconsumer recycled content after conducting a Needs Assessment

To advance the Packaging Waste bill, the 11 members of the Coalition to Reduce Plastics (CRP):

- Met with bill sponsors, Rep. Sidney Jordan and Senator Kelly Morrison, to voice CPRs policy desires and assist with moving bills forward
- Testified at hearings regarding SF3561 and HF3577
- Sent out Action Alerts to assist with passage of the EPR bills
- Called, emailed, and met one-on-one with elected representatives to communicate the EPR bill elements we felt were critical to include
- Developed social media campaign targeting college students with focus on educating and engaging the audience in plastic reduction.

The final bill did NOT include:

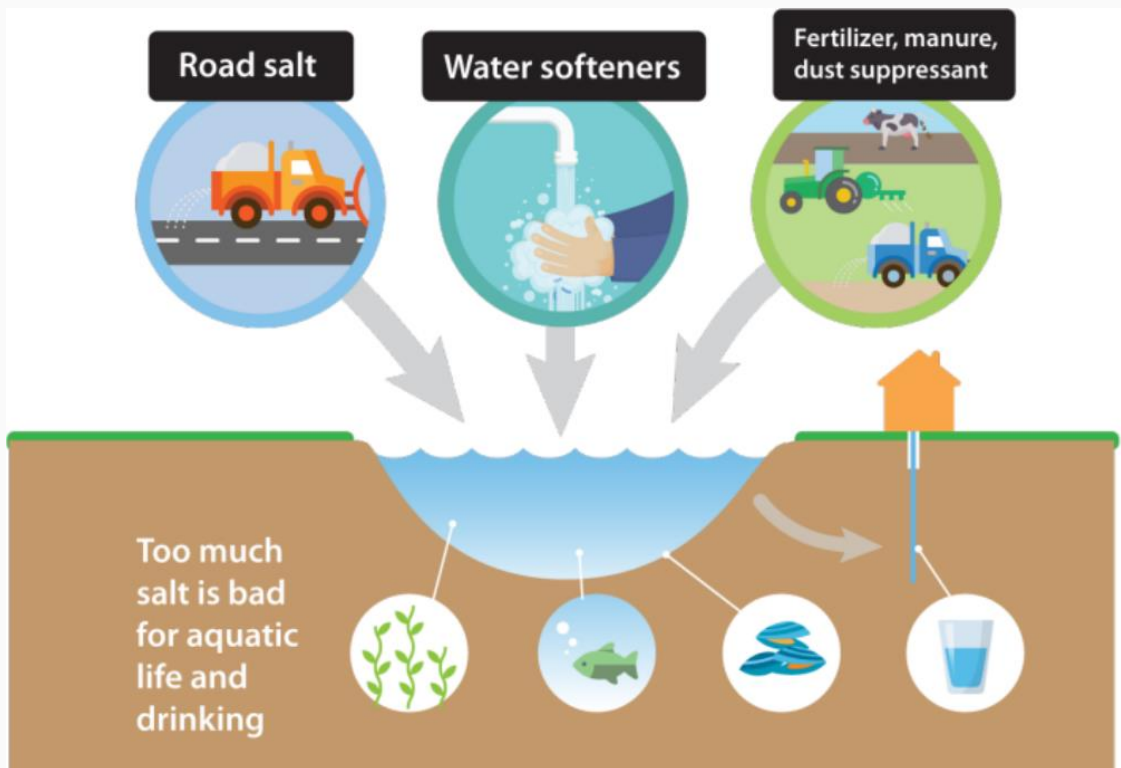
- a ban on toxic substances
- a ban on chemical recycling
- language regarding plastic reduction

The Coalition to Reduce Plastics will continue to work towards a policy to ban toxic substances in packaging. CRP will also continue to support a bottle deposit bill, which is considered integral to packaging and plastic reduction.

***Learn more about the legislation, zero waste and plastics***

**Minn Post Article on the Legislation**





Graphic from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## SaltSmart and SmartWise Panel

**August 15, 2024**

**7:00 pm via Zoom**

Once salt goes down on roads or sidewalks, it doesn't go away. Salt levels are rising in lakes, streams, and rivers. Overuse of salt during the winter can damage both our built and natural environments. We can protect our natural resources and reduce road salt without sacrificing safety.

Join LWV Upper Mississippi River Region for a panel discussion with state-level salt-reduction program specialists to learn what can be done. Panel speakers will be

Hannah Miller, Watershed Program Manager with The Conservation Foundation in Illinois; Allison Madison, Manager of the Wisconsin Salt Wise Program; and Brooke Aslesen, Watershed Specialist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

It is important for advocates to understand the background of current practice as we move into the 2025 session. Both the Minnesota and Wisconsin legislatures had bills on salt management in the 2024 sessions. The Minnesota bill (HF3565 and SF3954) died in the 2024 legislature, and Governor Evers vetoed the Wisconsin bill (SF52).

[Register for Panel Discussion](#)

[More Info at UMRR](#)



## **Poll Workers Needed**

Volunteer to be a Poll worker! Poll workers (AKA Election Judges) are essential for ensuring that everyone is able to vote. Any citizen age 16 or older may volunteer.

In many Anoka County cities, volunteers file applications (usually online) directly with your city elections office. Click on your city to find out more:

- [Blaine](#)
- [Circle Pines](#)
- [Columbia Heights](#)
- [Coon Rapids](#)
- [East Bethel](#)
- [Fridley](#)
- [Lino Lakes](#)
- [Saint Francis](#)
- [Spring Lake Park](#)

If you do not live in a city listed above, complete the [election judge interest form \(PDF\)](#) and email it to your [county election office](#).

Watch Our PSA on Election Judges



**LWVMN Open House**  
**Tuesday, August 20, 2024**  
**1:00 - 7:00 pm**  
**Landmark Center**  
**75 W 5th St, St Paul**

After several decades of growth and success near the State Capitol, LWVMN has moved to the Landmark Center. Thanks to lower nonprofit rental rates and an opportune 4-office availability, we are able to move to a destination that shares our

richness of historical tradition and civic engagement, and is still less than a mile from the MN State Capitol building.

## **Time For Women Performance**

**Tuesday, August 20, 2024**

**4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**O'Shaughnessy**

**2004 Randolph Ave, St Paul**

As part of the Open House event and in celebration of National Women's Equality Day on August 26, LWVMN is sponsoring "Time for Women" at the O'Shaughnessy.

"Time for Women" is an original play about notable women and suffragists in Minnesota history from 1870-1970. This traveling show features Southeast and Metro Minnesota women, from abolitionists to suffragists to protesters and lawyers.

***Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance.***

**Reserve Ticket for "Time for Women"**

**Parking at O'Shaughnessy**

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**Pure Iowa Water Exhibit**  
**Artist Reception for Christine Curry**  
**Sunday July 28, 2024, 1pm - 3pm**  
**Landmark Center, Saint Paul**  
**Exhibit runs from July 27 to August 4, 2024**

The LWV UMRR Pure Water exhibit is on the road!

The League of Women Voters St. Paul (LWVSP) is sponsoring the pop art exhibit focused on educating viewers on the problems -- and potential solutions -- surrounding the pollution of the rivers within the Upper Mississippi watershed. This exhibit explores the Mississippi River's purity and how people can positively impact the river.

Come hear from artist Christine Curry at an artist reception on Sunday July 28, 1-3pm on the north end of Landmark Center's first floor. Seating is limited so registration is required.

Register for Artist Reception

More Info on Exhibit



## Lawns to Legumes Grants

The Lawns to Legumes program, launched in August 2019, aims to increase habitat for at-risk pollinators in residential settings across the state by providing people with cost-share funding, workshops, coaching, and gardening resources.

Do you want your lawn to be more pollinator-friendly? Anyone can apply to be reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with establishing new pollinator habitats in their yards.

Funding is provided by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and the state General Fund. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

(BWSR) administers the Lawns to Legumes program, and Blue Thumb — Planting for Clean Water and Metro Blooms coordinates the Lawns to Legumes Individual Support grants.

All three websites offer a wide variety of resources and learning opportunities for gardeners.

***Applications for spring 2025 will be accepted at the Blue Thumb website through November 30, 2024.***

[Blue Thumb - Planting for Water](#)

[MN Board of Water and Soil Resources](#)

[Metro Blooms](#)

Minnesota Election Facts

**FACT:** *Minnesota's Voter Registration Database is continuously updated* through a rigorous maintenance and data-matching process.

## **Election Facts vs Fiction**

 **FICTION:** Ballots cast by voters with a birth year of 1900 are fraudulent.

✔ **FACT: Some valid Minnesota voter registrations include the birth year of 1900.**

Minnesota state law did not require voters who registered before 1983 to provide their date of birth. When the state moved to a digital voter registration system, the birth year of 1900 was added as a placeholder. Over the years, the majority of those who were grandfathered into the digital system with the 1900 birthdate have been updated. However, if a voter has not changed their address since they registered – they would not have an updated birthdate recorded.

***Learn more Election Facts vs Fiction at the Secretary of State Website***

**Election Facts vs Fiction**



**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**

- **August 15** - Union Depot, St Paul
- **September 17** - 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 Next Month...**

All month - Candidate Forums

Sept 9 - Program Meeting about Local Newspapers

Sept 15 - Oct 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept 17 - Citizenship Ceremony

Sept 17 - National Voter Registration Day

Sept 18 - LWV ABC Book Club -*Solito*

Sept 24 - Early Voting Begins

***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.

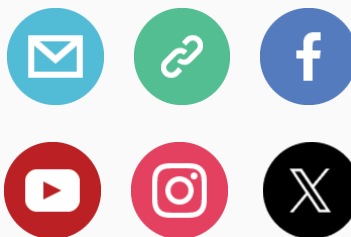
***We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.***

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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*The Voter  
The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*