

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
September 2024



LWV ABC Monthly Program Meeting

A Conversation with Matt DeBow

Monday, September 9, 2024

Andover City Council Chambers (and Zoom)

1685 Crosstown Blvd NW

Andover, MN 55304

6:30 - online and in person socializing

7:00 - program begins

Gretchen Sabel will be interviewing Matt DeBow, ABC Newspaper Managing Editor and Ian Reisner, Community Editor, on the decline of local/community newspapers and importance of local news sources to communities. Audience members will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

[Zoom Link](#)



LWV Position on Local News and Democracy

In 2023, LWV Washington completed a two year study entitled "The Decline of Local Newspapers and Its Impact on Democracy". The study found that the number of local newspapers and staffing of remaining newspapers continues to decline. Research links the decline of newspapers with a drop in voter participation, as well as less community engagement and greater political partisanship.

Following completion of the study, using the League consensus process, LWV Washington adopted a position on local news. In short, the position states that it is the responsibility of government to provide support under which credible local journalism can survive and thrive.

Since then, through the League concurrence process, the Washington position was adopted by first LWV Minnesota and then by LWV United States at the June 2024 Convention.

Once a position is adopted by League, League members may advocate for the

position.

Find out more:

LWV Position on Local News and Democracy

News Article

LWV Washington Study

YouTube - LWVWA Local News Study in 20 Minutes



Volunteer for Candidate Forums

LWV ABC begins taping candidate forums this week! In addition to our trained moderators, we need timers and greeters for our forums which continue through October 3. We still have some open spots so please sign up if you can.

[Sign Up for Forums](#)

Submit Candidate Questions

You can still submit questions for candidates for many of our forums!

Video of completed forums will be available to watch within a week of the question deadline.

[Submit Candidate Questions/Watch Forums](#)

Welcome New Members

Welcome to our new members

Lori Davolos of Anoka
Robert Maurer of Anoka



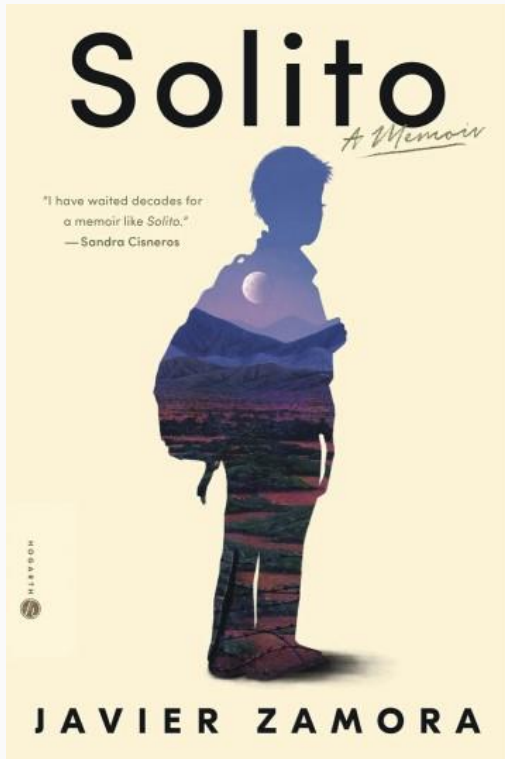
Board members Jody Anderson, Wes Volkenant and Geri Nelson, May 2024.

Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Nominees for our annual Friend of League Award were discussed and unanimous selection was made. Presentation will be made at November meeting in conjunction with a program topic.
- Pat Kennedy has updated our website with links to submit questions for all forums, has posted primary forum videos to our YouTube and Vote 411, is communicating with candidates about participating in Vote 411, posted link to forums on our restored Facebook page, and more.
- Geri Nelson reviewed finalized forum arrangements, identified volunteer positions still needing to be filled, identified the link where past forum questions have been accumulated, and appealed for more forum questions to be submitted.
- Leslie Waterhouse confirmed that the September 9 program will be Matt DeBow of Anoka County Union Herald discussing local newspaper issues. Gretchen Sabel will conduct the program in an interview format and still needs questions. October program with Tom Hunt, Anoka County Elections Manager is confirmed for October, and content is being finalized.

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



LWV ABC Book Club

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

7:00 pm on Zoom

***Solito: A Memoir (2022)* by Javier Zamora**

At age nine, Javier Zamora's makes a three-thousand-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He will leave behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks. Two weeks will expand into two life-altering months.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Books](#)



SaltSmart

Salt from winter deicing practices, potassium chloride fertilizer and water softening equipment can contaminate drinking water, endanger wildlife and damage property.

Once salts containing chloride come in contact with water, that chloride is very strongly bound to the water. There is no natural or feasible way to pull existing salt out of our water bodies or to mitigate pollution once salt is put down. There is promise in collectively working toward best practices as individuals, communities and regions.

UMRR recently hosted experts on this topic. Learn more by reading the LWV UMRR blog post, watch the video "A View from Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin on SaltSmart Practices" or check out the SaltSmart Collaborative website.

[LWV UMRR Blog](#)

[UMRR Video](#)

[SaltSmart](#)



Vote Early

September 20, 2024 - November 4, 2024

- In person - at city and county election offices during business hours
- By mail - request ballot online
- By hand delivering completed Absentee Ballot (including completed envelopes) to your city or county Election Office

New This Year: Anyone can apply for *permanent* absentee voting, Simply complete a new voter registration and check the box requesting permanent absentee voting.

[Request Absentee Ballot](#)

[Update Voter Registration](#)

[Anoka Early Voting Locations](#)

Learn more about Absentee Voting from our short Public Service Announcement videos:

[Watch Absentee Voting Pt 1](#)

[Watch Absentee Voting Pt 2](#)



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 - October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month initially began as a weeklong celebration in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson. In 1988 President Ronald Reagan extended the week to a full 31 days — through Oct. 15 — keeping the Sept. 15 start date because it coincides with national independence day of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador,

Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Mexico celebrates independence on the 16th, Chile on the 18th and Belize on the 21st.

Hispanic Heritage Month was enacted into law on August 17, 1988.

Find out more about Hispanic Heritage and Hispanic Heritage Month:

[Take LWV ABC's Quiz](#)

[National Park Service](#)

[60 Second Civics Playlist](#)

Coming Next Month...

Oct 14 - Program with Anoka County Elections Manager Tom Hunt

Oct 15 - Last Day to Pre-Register to Vote

Oct 28 - LWV ABC Board Meeting

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

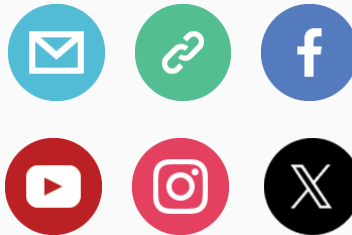
and federal government.

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

More About LWV ABC



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

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