

# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
January 2025



## Recycling

Monday, January 13  
Online via Zoom only

**6:30** - online socializing

**7:00** - program begins

Colleen Sinclair, recycling coordinator with the city of Coon Rapids, will share information on the recycling process, center and programs in the Coon Rapids.

[Program Zoom Link](#)



ABOVE: Audience concentrating on presentation. Linda Rogers & Paula Mohr.  
BELOW: MaryJo Truchon & Mary VanderLaan. Cindy and Jim DeRuyter with their neighbor Emily.



## Ice Cream Social

In December, we enjoyed ice cream and door prizes while learning about our voter services successes from Geri Nelson and Naomi Peterson.

We also had our first look at the new membership system. Stay tuned for updates as the system rolls out February 1.

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# Welcome New Members

## Welcome New Member

**Vonda Atkinson** of Blaine



## No RSVP Lunch

**Tuesday January 11, 2025**

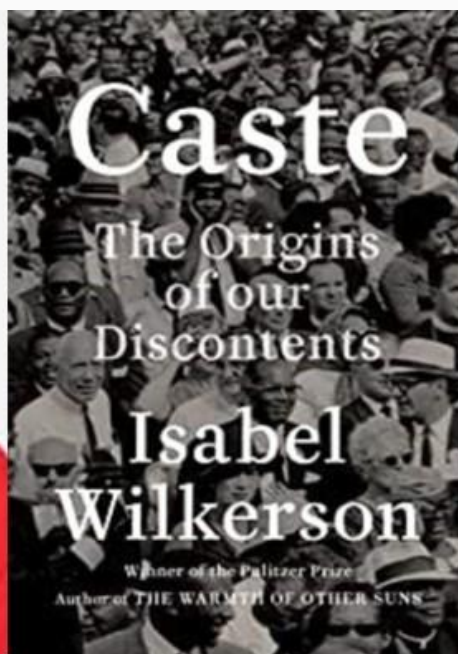
**11:00 am**

**Wheelhouse**  
**227 Jackson Street**  
**Anoka, MN, United States, 55303**

Join us for our second No-RSVP lunch on January 7 at the Wheelhouse in Anoka. Stop by to chat with LWV friends over lunch (food purchase on your own). No RSVP necessary, just stop in.

After lunch, several of us will go to the archives in the County Courthouse to store more LWV ABC paraphernalia. Space is limited in the archive, but we can take up to five people on this after-lunch trip.

**Wheelhouse Menu**



## **LWV ABC Book Club**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2024**

**7:00 pm on Zoom**

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents (2020)***  
**by Isabel Wilkerson**

Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball’s Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

**Library Availability:** Multiple books, ebooks and audiobooks available at Hennepin County and Anoka County libraries.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

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**CMAL Quarterly  
Program Meeting**



# Metro Cities

## CMAL Quarterly Meeting

### Wednesday, January 29

### 6:30 pm via Zoom

Patricia Nauman, Executive Director of Metro Cities, the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, will be the featured speaker at the CMAL quarterly meeting.

Metro Cities is a membership organization representing cities in the seven-county metropolitan area at the Legislature, Executive Branch and Metropolitan Council. Nauman will describe her organization's purpose, share her members' hopes for the future, and their plans for the 2025 legislative session.

Nauman participated in CMAL's 2018-2019 [Study of Metro Council Governance](#) by giving an interview.

[CMAL Quarterly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

[Metro Cities Legislative Agenda](#)

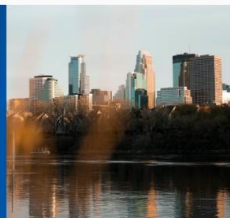
***All members of LWV ABC are also members of the Council of Metro Area Leagues (CMAL). Learn more about CMAL in their recent newsletter.***

[CMAL December 2024 Newsletter](#)

Post-pandemic  
Demographic Trends:  
Imagining 2050

Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster

October 30, 2024 [metrocouncil.org/forecasts/](http://metrocouncil.org/forecasts/)



## Imagining 2050

In October, CMAL hosted Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster for the Met Council who presented the "Imagining 2050: Post-Pandemic Demographic Trends in Greater Minnesota and the Metro Area."

Forecasts and modeling help plan for future employment, economic, housing and transportation needs. Projections are built upon historical data. If something dramatic occurs, such as a pandemic or a precipitous decline in green cards, forecasts will need to be adjusted. The newest projections are slightly modified from previous forecasts, reflecting demographic changes related to the pandemic.

Population is expected to increase steadily with an expected population of 3,820,000 in the Twin Cities by 2050. In the Twin Cities, the over 65 population, as a percent of total population, will double from 11% in 2010 to 22% in 2050, changing the type of housing, transportation and services that will be in demand.

After the current recovery, an economic slowdown will be forced by a workforce shortage. Minnesota will need international immigrants to grow the work force. Birth rate has declined, especially since 2020. Rate of domestic migration to Minnesota has slowed since other metro areas now have equally low unemployment rates. Hurricane or other climate migrants do not tend to move to Minnesota, often just moving inland in the same general area.

***Learn more from the presentation slides and a MinnPost article.***

[Metro Council Presentation](#)

[MinnPost Article](#)

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## **Author Book Discussion**

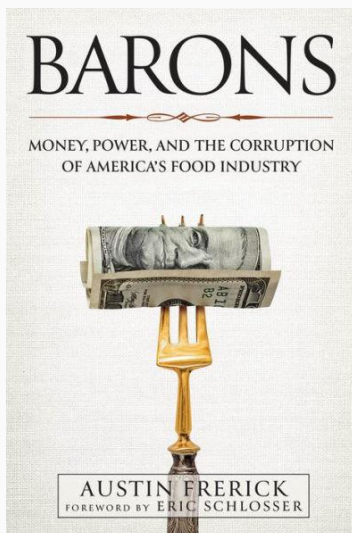
**Author Austin Frerick**

**January 11**

**10:00**

**Via Zoom**

Join with LWV'ers for a discussion of "Barons - Money, Power and the Corruption of America's Food Industry", led by the author, Austin Frerick.



"Barons: Money, Power and the Corruption of America's Food Industry" is the story of seven corporate titans, their rise to power, and the consequences for everyone else. These men benefitted from deregulation of the American food industry, a phenomenon that has consolidated wealth in the hands of select tycoons, and along the way, hollowed out the nation's rural towns and local businesses.

**[Zoom Link for Author Book Discussion](#)**

Read the LWV UMRR Blog to learn more about environmental issues in the upper Mississippi river region and beyond.



# January Jumpstart



## January Jumpstart LWVMN Training

Every January, LWVMN offers training via zoom for current and future leaders. All members are welcome to register for training. While some training is of interest to a limited number of members, some of the upcoming training may be of interest to all members:

- Jan 22 @ 4:30 pm - LWVUS New Membership Program
- Jan 24 @ 2:00 pm - 2025 Legislative Preview
- Jan 28 @ 12:00 pm - Social Media / Technology
- Jan 29 @ 4:30 pm - Youth Civic Engagement Fellows

***Click the button below to learn more and register.***

**Register for January Jumpstart**

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## **2025 Legislative Session**

The 94th Minnesota legislative session convenes at 12:00 noon, Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

### **LWVMN Priorities in 2025**

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

### **Observer and Lobby Corps**

Join the 2025 LWVMN Observer and Lobby Corps (OCLC) every Monday at lunchtime on zoom, beginning January 13, during session. All members are encouraged to attend, whether you consider yourself an experienced lobbyist or you would like to just "observe the observers". You will learn more about the legislative process and how to become a stronger advocate on the issues important to you.

### **Volunteer**

Members are needed to observe and report on legislative committee meetings. Many legislative meetings are available online, so observation may be done from the comfort of your own home.

**Register for the LWVMN Monday Observer Zoom Meetings and/or sign-up for LWVMN Observer and Lobby Corp**

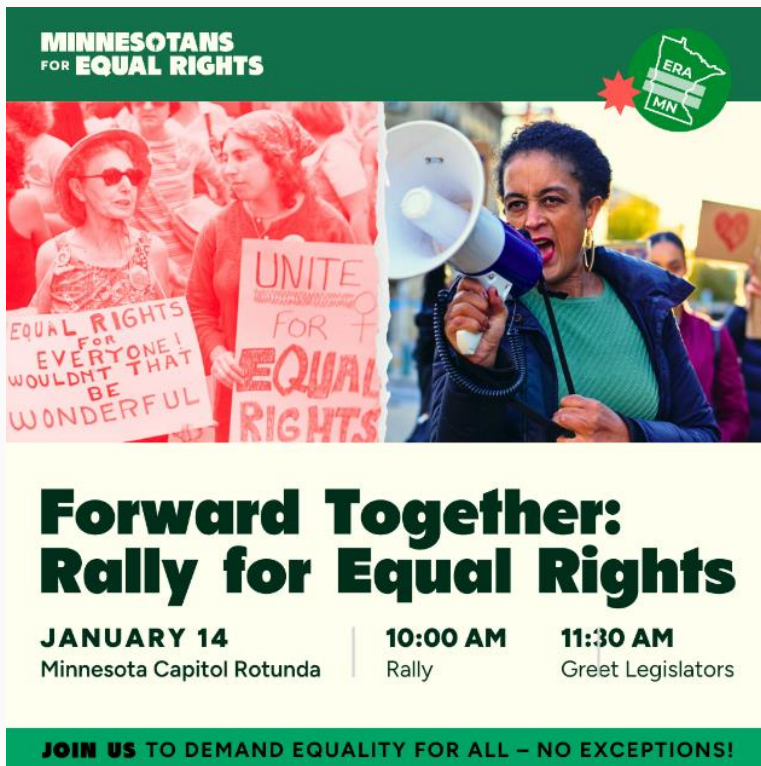
[LWVMN Observer Corp Sign-Up](#)

**Learn more about LWVMN action and advocacy during the legislative session.**

[LWVMN Legislative Session Webpage](#)

**Contact our Advocacy and Action Chair Jody Anderson at [lwwabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwabc@gmail.com) with any questions.**

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**MINNESOTANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**

ERA MN

**Forward Together:  
Rally for Equal Rights**

**JANUARY 14**  
Minnesota Capitol Rotunda

**10:00 AM**  
Rally

**11:30 AM**  
Greet Legislators

**JOIN US TO DEMAND EQUALITY FOR ALL – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

The poster features a collage of images: a woman with sunglasses holding a sign that says "EQUAL RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE! WOULDN'T THAT BE WONDERFUL", a woman holding a sign that says "UNITE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS", and a woman speaking into a megaphone. The background is a mix of red and white tones. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif fonts.

# ERA Rally

January 14, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda

**10 am:** Rally with bill authors, key leaders, and supporters in the Capitol rotunda and hear from equal rights leaders throughout the state.

**11:30 am:** Greet legislators as they enter the chambers, write notes in support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, and connect with other advocates.

**Email us at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) if you are interested in carpooling.**

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# MN Zero Waste Lobby Day

January 17, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda

Join LWVMN and other partners for a rally in the rotunda of the State Capitol sponsored by the Zero Waste Coalition. Come to show your support for Zero Waste, talk to your legislators, and connect with other Zero Waste champions!

If you would like to join a group of other activists to speak with your legislator and urge them to support Zero Waste policies this session - there will be an optional training during the rally that will prepare you for what to expect. Volunteers with the Zero Waste Coalition will be scheduling the meetings with legislators on the day of the rally, and they will reach out to you to give the time and location of your meeting based on the address you provide in the RSVP.

Since this lobby day is on a Friday - some legislators may be back home in their district for the weekend. The Zero Waste Coalition may ask them to still meet with folks in district. Let the coalition know in the RSVP form if you are able to meet with your legislator in St. Paul, or in your home district, and if either one of those options work for you. The Zero Waste Coalition will follow up with you to let know know where the meetings will be held.

[RSVP For Zero Waste Lobbying](#)



# LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

Coming soon

At the 2024 LWVUS Convention, delegates overwhelmingly agreed to conduct a new national study on the Federal Judiciary.

The study committee was charged with developing a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US democracy to be presented at LWVUS Council in June 2025.

The purpose of the study includes but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. The scope of the study is to address the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts.

LWV ABC members will be asked to address consensus questions sometime between February 7 and April 14.

***The best way to prepare to participate in discussion and answering the Consensus Questions is to read the recommended Study Resources by clicking on the buttons below.***

[Understanding the Federal Courts](#)

[Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges](#)

[Congressional Research Service Paper: The Supreme Court Adopts a Code of Conduct](#)

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## **Behind the Gavel**

### **Understanding the Role of Judges**

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**Maplewood Public Library & Zoom**

The courts impact every stage of our lives, from birth to death. As voters, we often see judges on our election ballots, but how can we become more informed about the Minnesota Judicial system and the vital role judges play? Join LWV Roseville to hear from representatives of the Minnesota Judicial Branch and get your questions answered about this crucial part of our democracy.

**[Behind the Gavel Zoom Link](#)**

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## **Chapter Spot Update**

### **The New LWVUS Membership System**

The **first week of February**, every current member of LWV will receive an **email invitation from LWVUS inviting them to log-in and set up a ChapterSpot account.**

You will log-in with your email. A code will be set to your email which you will then enter (instead of a password) to create your ChapterSpot account. Your contact information will already be in the system. **This is your opportunity to make sure that the correct information was imported from the old system and correct any errors.** You will be asked to submit some demographic information and answer a few interest questions.

The demographic questions will be the same for everyone in the country. The interest questions are specific to LWV ABC. These questions were primarily designed with new members in mind, but will also be helpful information for LWV ABC to help meet the needs and interests of all members.

The questions submitted by LWV ABC for inclusion in the new system are:

1. What is your primary reason(s) for joining the League of Women Voters?
2. Which league activities, if any, are you interested in becoming actively involved with (e.g. candidate forums, voter registration, observation of public meetings, advocacy for League public policy positions)?
3. What public policy issues are you interested in?



4. Do you have any communication interests or skills (e.g. graphic design, social media, film editing/producing, website management, public speaking, publicity) that you would like to use?
5. Do you belong to any non-partisan organizations that may be interested in partnering with LWV ABC for projects of mutual interest?
6. LWV ABC shares contact information with other LWV ABC members to facilitate collaboration on activities. Check this box if you grant permission to share your contact information.
- 7.

***Your participation in joining ChapterSpot is greatly appreciated by the LWV ABC board. It will in facilitate the transition.***



## **Environmental Injustice**

**Friday, February 7, 2025**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Zoom**

Our health is directly impacted by the location of oil and gas facilities, the amount of plastics and carcinogens in our drinking water and the air we breathe, and the number of yearly natural disasters. Not all people are equally affected by these environmental factors.

In this presentation, Keisha Ray, PhD discusses the realities of environmental injustice by demonstrating the clinical and ethical implications of our unhealthy environments. She will discuss the ethical decisions about health equity and class and racial disparities in health that environmental injustices forces us to make and

how they affect the number of clinical interventions available to remedy our poor health.

[Register for Webinar](#)



## 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 at Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center:

- January 27
- February 24
- March 28
- April 21

***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.

## LWVMN 2024 Accomplishments

### LWVMN - 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

<b>6,100</b> New Citizens Registered to Vote <i>(with 250 volunteers)</i>	<b>220</b> Candidate Forums supported with leader training and promotion	<b>41,000</b> 16-17 Year Olds Pre-Registered to Vote
<b>2,000</b> Formerly incarcerated people engaged to register to vote, through 20 events	<b>465,000</b> Estimated Minnesotans reached through 93 press pieces, public events and webinars	<b>140</b> High Schools participated in National Voter Registration Day
<b>62</b> Active Partners with LWVMN to advocate for an inclusive democracy	<b>160</b> Volunteers engaged to observe Post Election Reviews in 43 MN Counties	<b>25,000</b> Annual \$\$ Savings with State Office Move to Landmark Center in St. Paul
<b>626</b> Local League encounters to support membership, voter service and technology needs	<b>131,000</b> Vote411 Voter Guide Users, up 247%, representing 7,368 candidates	<b>33</b> Local Leagues across MN - providing MORE impact as together we Empower Voters & Defend Democracy!

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## Coming in February ...

**All Month** - Black History Month

**Feb 10** - Program 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.

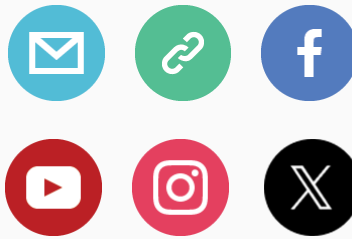
*We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.*

[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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*The Voter*  
*The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*

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