

# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
February 2025



## Community Cable Television: Understanding Public, Educational and Government TV

Monday, February 10, 2025  
Online via Zoom

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

**7:00** - program begins

Representatives of location cable providers will discuss the public mission of our local community cable stations, their roles in the communities they serve, how

stations are governed, how programming is decided, and more.

We will have a Q&A time so come with your questions. We are looking forward to great discussion and learning more about our local cable providers and the important role they play in our community.

[Zoom Link](#)



## **Recycling in Anoka County**

In January, we were joined by Coon Rapids Recycling Coordinator Colleen Sinclair. Watch the video to learn more about recycling services available to all county residents.

[Watch Program Video](#)

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# Welcome New Members

## Welcome New Members

**Jennifer Geisler** of Coon Rapids

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## New Membership Dues System

### ChapterSpot

The new membership dues system went into effect on February 1, 2025.

Recommended dues are now \$75. The LWV ABC board has chosen to supplement "Pay What You Can" Dues, allowing people to pay less than the minimum of \$20 prescribed by LWVUS. LWV ABC will supplement dues up to the \$20 LWVUS minimum dues amount for any current or new member who requests it.

All members should receive an email during February asking you to sign into the new ChapterSpot webpage to verify your contact information.

Most members of LWV ABC have a membership expiration date of April 30. You

should receive your first email reminder to renew by March 1.

The LWV ABC Join/Renew webpage has been updated to reflect the new membership dues system.

[LWV ABC Join/Renew Webpage](#)

[ChapterSpot FAQ](#)



On Tuesday, January 7, board members **Leslie Waterhouse and Geri Nelson** helped **Gretchen Sabel** sort our archives which are stored at the Anoka County Court House.

## **Board Highlights**

**January 20, 2025**

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Note that there was no Board meeting in December due to the holidays; and the January board meeting was moved up a week due to Gretchen's travels.
- Finalized arrangements for February 10 program via Zoom with Karen George, Executive Director at QCTV. Looking March program topic on Minnesota's Non-Game Wildlife. Other future topics were brainstormed and recorded.
- Current membership count is 70. Databases have been updated. Significant planning and coordination underway to conform to the new LWVUS membership platform which will be in place for our April 2025 membership dues.
- Began planning for April annual meeting, including an eye to simplification of arrangements and paperwork. Planning will continue at February board meeting.
- There's much to track with the legislative session, and members encouraged to be signed up for communications from LWVMN.

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

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*Katie Garvey (photo ELPC)*



*Besier-Gadient farm (photo Chicago Tribune)*



*Elle Gadient (photo Forbes)*

## **Federal Lawsuit to Abolish Swampbuster**

**LWV UMRR Zoom Webinar**

**February 4, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

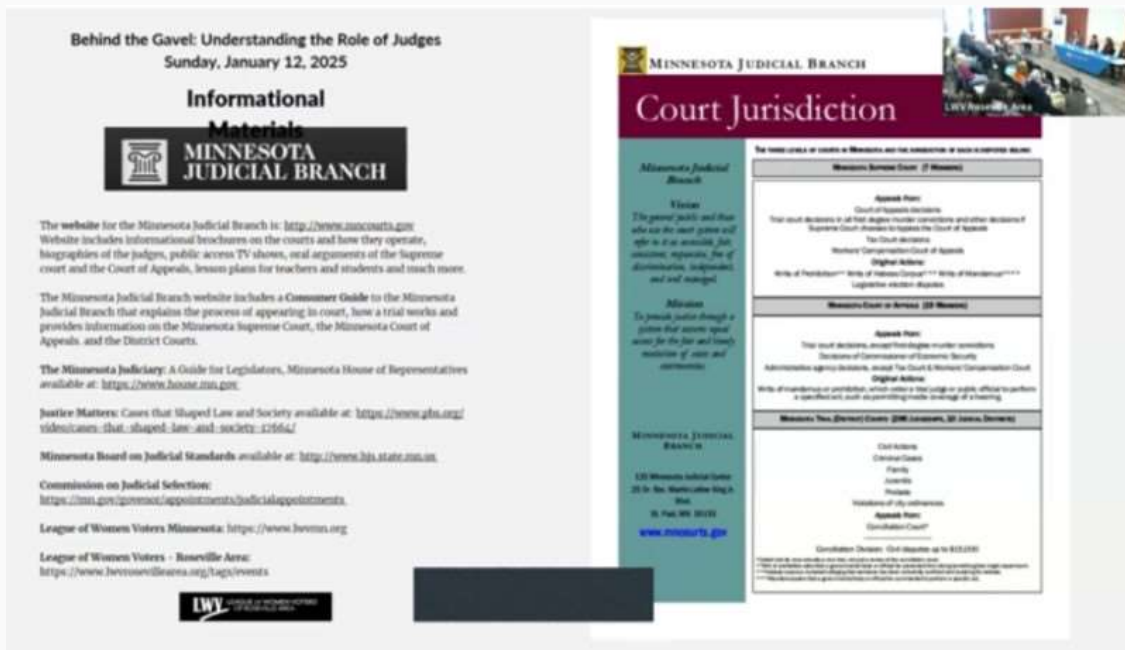
**Registration Required**

Join LWV Upper Mississippi River Region for a discussion of a federal lawsuit aimed at abolishing the Swampbuster provisions that protect wetlands on agricultural lands. Guest speakers will be attorney Katie Garvey from the Environmental Law and Policy Center and Elle Gadiant, Delaware County Farmer & Iowa Farmers Union Beginning Farmer Representative.

This program will look at this last bulwark of protection remaining after the Sackett decision gutted wetland protections in the Clean Water Act.

**Register for UMRR Webinar**

**UMRR Blog**



## Behind the Gavel

Last month LWV Roseville hosted Second Judicial District Judge Kelly Olmstead (criminal focus), Second Judicial District Judge Leonardo Castro (civil focus), Chief Judge Jennifer Frisch of the Court of Appeals, and Justice Theodora Gaitas of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Learn more about this crucial part of our democracy.

Note: The beginning of the event was not recorded, which included the officials introducing themselves.

[Watch Behind the Gavel](#)

The poster features the LWV logo (League of Women Voters of White Bear Lake Area) and the text 'February Virtual Program'. The main title is 'H2O for Life' with the tagline 'Engaging, educating, and inspiring students to take action to solve the global water crisis'. It includes a date badge for '13 FEB AT 6:30 PM' with a video camera icon, and circular portraits of speakers 'Doug Niemela, Executive Director' and 'Mitchell LeGrand, Educational Programs Manager'. The H2O for Life logo is also present.

**H2O For Life**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2025**  
**6:30 PM via Zoom**  
**Registration Required**

H2O for Life offers a service-learning opportunity designed to engage, educate and inspire youth to take action to solve the global water crisis by raising awareness and funds to support implementation of water, sanitation and hygiene education projects for global partner schools. Learn more about this fantastic global organization with local roots from Doug Niemela, Executive Director, and Mitchell LeGrand, Educational Programs Manager.

This program is sponsored by LWV WBL.

[Register for H2O for Life](#)

[H2O for Life Website](#)



## **LWVMN Legislative Advocacy**

Capitol Pathways Intern Sheridyn Runs After will be working with Sam Streukens, our Civic Engagement Director.

Sheridyn is a Justice Administration major at Southwest Minnesota State University, with minors in Political Science, Indigenous and Dakota Studies, Literature, and Pre-Law. Originally from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota, she is passionate about advocating for Indigenous and marginalized communities. As a Capitol Pathways intern with the League of Women Voters, Sheridyn focuses on empowering communities through education and advocacy.

Learn more about LWVMN's early efforts regarding the current legislative session in the recent Capitol News published by LWVMN.

[Capitol News](#)

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## **Observer and Lobby Corps**

LWVMN is still seeking the Observer and Lobby Corps volunteers. Being a member of the Observer and Lobby Corps (OCLC) is an opportunity to learn more about the legislative process and advocate for the issues that are most important to you.

If you are interested, complete the Observer & Lobby Corps Interest Form. Check out the Observer Report Form to see what type of information LWVMN would like to see from observers

[\*\*2025 Observer & Lobby Corps Interest Form\*\*](#)

[\*\*Observer Report Form\*\*](#)

## **Watch Legislative Activities from Home**

The Senate and House make both livestream and video of past events available on their YouTube Channels. The Legislature post a combined calendar on their website.

## Legislative Calendar

Minnesota Senate Media Services

Minnesota House Media Services



## Columbia Heights Joins the Just Deeds Coalition

In January, the City of Columbia Heights joined 29 Minnesota cities participating in the Just Deeds Coalition to address discriminatory covenants. Columbia Heights, working with [Mapping Prejudice](#), has identified 181 properties with discriminatory covenants. The City of Columbia Heights, and its partners, will work

with the impacted property owners to discharge (legally remove) the discriminatory clauses from property deeds.

In 2019, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law to allow property owners to renounce discriminatory covenants on their properties. In the spring of 2020, Just Deeds was launched by the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission to provide free legal assistance to homeowners who want to research and discharge (remove) discriminatory covenants from their property titles. The Coalition now includes many cities in the metro area as well as some greater Minnesota cities. Columbia Heights is the first city in Anoka County to join the coalition. Champlin became a member in August 2024.

Click below to find how to remove a covenant if you live in Columbia Heights or Champlin.

[\*\*Columbia Heights Covenant Removal\*\*](#)

[\*\*Champlin Covenant Removal\*\*](#)

The Just Deeds website includes educational resources (video, articles, books) for everyone, as well as a toolkit for cities who wish to join the coalition.

[\*\*Just Deeds Website\*\*](#)

[\*\*Learn More About Covenants\*\*](#)

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LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart.

## The League's Oath to Democracy

On Inauguration Day, LWVUS took the opportunity to take an oath to democracy:

***"We do solemnly swear that we will empower voters and defend our democracy;***

***That we will faithfully execute our civic responsibility as nonpartisan advocates;***

***We do this fearlessly, reflectively, and collectively.***

***We act from a place of hope and collective power.***

***We affirm that we will work to provide democracy education and election administration support, restore and defend voting rights protections, abolish the Electoral College, protect democracy organizations, and fight for reproductive freedoms. We will not be deterred from these tasks."***

League's Oath to Democracy



## **Women Defend Democracy**

"Women Defend Democracy" is the new programmatic focus for the League in 2025, centering people power and moving our country towards a stronger, multi-racial democracy.

This campaign kicks off for the first 100 days of the new administration and beyond. Through the "Women Defend Democracy" campaign, the League will work to:

- Provide Democracy Education & Election Administration Support
- Restore and Defend Voting Rights Protections
- Abolish the Electoral College
- Protect Democracy Organizations & Institutions
- Fight for Reproductive Freedoms

***See the "10 Ways You Can Help Defend Democracy" blog post***

## 10 Ways to Defend Democracy



### 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:

February 14 - Both St. Paul and Minneapolis Federal Courthouses

February 24 - Earle Brown Heritage Center

March 21 - Minneapolis Federal Courthouse

March 28 - Earle Brown Heritage Center

April 18 - St. Paul Federal Courthouse

April 21 - Earle Brown Heritage Center

***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.



## **Name a Snowplow!**

**Voting Deadline: Noon on Friday, Feb. 7**

Help name MnDOT's Snowplows. You can vote once and select up to eight names from the 50 finalists.

Last year's winners included Fast and Flurrious, Barbie's Dream Plow and Taylor Drift.

**Vote for Snowplow Name**

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## Coming in March ...

**All Month** - National Women's History Month

**March 10** - Program Meeting

**March 18** - Journey to the Immigrant Experience - LWV Roseville

**March 24** - Board 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.*

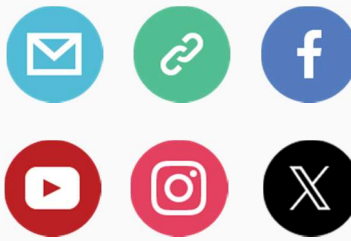
[Become a Member](#)

[Support Our Work](#)

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**More About LWV ABC**





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