



*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed, **diverse**, and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BELOIT December 2019-January 2020**

### **Upcoming League and Community Events:**

**December 6, 1:30 p.m. Beloit League Centennial Committee**

Bushel and Peck's, Beloit. Anyone is welcome!

**December 10, 6-7:30 p.m. Redistricting Reform: People Powered Fair Maps**

Speaker Erin Grunze, LWV-Wisconsin Executive Director

Allen Hall, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at Rock County, 2902 Kellogg Ave., Janesville

Co-sponsored by LWW - Janesville and the UW Whitewater-Rock County History Department

**December 14, 10-11:00 a.m. Beloit 200 Education Committee-Charter School Update**

Speaker Lisa Furseth, Beloit 200, and Hendricks Family Foundation

Beloit Public Library, Library Community Room, light refreshments provided

Sponsor LWV of Beloit Education Committee

**December 14, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Voter Services Workshop,**

Speaker Eileen Newcomer, Voter Services Coordinator LWVWI, and others

Basics Cooperative Community Room, 1711 Lodge Dr., Janesville.

Sponsored by the LWV Janesville (see article)

**December 19, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Local Education Study Committee meeting (see article)**

Home of Barb Seguin, 1107 Harrison, Beloit. Please let us know if you'd like to come!

**January 11, 10-11:30 a.m. "Dark Stores and Land Use Issues & LWV of Beloit Lively Issues"**

Speaker Drew Pennington, Planning and Building Services, Director, City of Beloit

Beloit Public Library, light refreshments provided

**January 11, 3-5:00 p.m. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration**

Blackhawk Technical College

**LWV Leadership Team/Board Meetings (members are always welcome)**

**December 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** United Church, 657 Bluff St., back door

**January 13, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** United Church, 657 Bluff St., back door

### **BELOIT LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Susan Adams, Bette Carr, Stephanie Dobson, Dave Dobson,*

*Sam Erickson, Gayle Hotchkiss, Beatrice McKenzie, Joyce Metter, Barb Porter, Pat Zody*

**On December 14, 10-11:00 a.m.,** Lisa Furseth, of the Beloit 200 Education Committee and Hendricks Family Foundation, will be presenting to the Beloit League information on the Beloit 200 proposal for a public charter school in Beloit. The League's Education Committee hopes that you will be able to attend to ask questions regarding this proposal.  
Beloit Public Library.



LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. (June 2019)

#### In This Issue:

- Calendar of Events
- Local Education Event
- League Action—Plastic Waste
- Book Study Proposed
- Beloit League Centennial
- Janesville League Invites (Voter service workshop) (Fair Maps)
- Centennial Luncheon (formerly the Susan B. Celebration)
- State Issues Briefing
- Local Education Committee
- Lively Issues  
Dark Stores/Land Use
- Martin Luther King Jr. Event
- Poll Worker Video
- Lawsuit Over Flawed Voter Purge
- **BEST FOR LAST!!**

Check out our

Beloit League of Women Voters web site: [www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org](http://www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org)

# LEAGUE ACTION

(League of Women Voters of Beloit, Beloit Daily News on Tuesday, November 12)

## End Plastic Waste—

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Beloit, I am writing to you about Wisconsin bill AB 177, which addresses the growing problem of plastic waste pollution.

Plastic waste pollution is a large, complex and thorny problem, and it is projected to get worse. It is not just the disposable bottles that are piling up, but also industrial wastes. The Center for International Environmental Law predicts that “just as the world is coming to realize the dangers of plastic pollution and take action to prevent it, the petrochemical industry is poised to invest billions to expand plastic production by 40 percent in the next few decades. If they succeed, plastic will outweigh fish in our oceans by 2050.”

Local units of government in Wisconsin are tasked by laws and regulations to manage Municipal Solid Waste, yet a state law passed in 2015 restricts the authority of local government units to regulate reusable or single-use disposable containers, especially waste plastics.

Fortunately, a bill has been introduced in the Wisconsin state legislature to address the growing problem of plastic waste pollution. On April 18 it was assigned to the Assembly Committee on Local Government, headed by Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville).

To effectively address and manage plastic waste pollution will require manufacturers, businesses, governmental and consumer policy-makers to work together. The first step is for Rep. Novak to schedule a hearing this fall on AB 177.

It is critically important for our community that this issue gets the attention of our local lawmakers. Please contact your legislators directly with regard to Wisconsin bill AB 177.

~Patricia Zody

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### ***Book Study Proposed by Member Betsy Brewer***

[This book](#) , *Cooler, Smarter*, published by the Union of Concerned Scientists might be good reading as it combines science with practical tips for action at both the individual and community level regarding Climate Change.

***Would you like to be part of a book study?***

***Have you ever led a book study?***

***Please contact Bette if you would like to start a book study on this issue;***

***[bclwv2010@gmail.com](mailto:bclwv2010@gmail.com)***

## League of Women Voters of the United States 1920-2020 Celebrating 100 years

*The Centennial Committee will be meeting on **Friday, December 6 at 1:30 p.m. at Bushel and Peck's**, Beloit. The Committee will be looking at ways to celebrate the founding of the League of Women Voters (February 2020) and the passage of the 19th Amendment (August 2020). Anyone who would like to join the planning committee, please come and join the fun.*

**As we explore to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters in February 2020, let's look back at some snippets from various sources to frame what life was like in 1920.**

The 1920s were an age of dramatic social and political change. For the first time, more Americans lived in cities than on farms. The 1920s was a decade of change, when many Americans owned cars, radios, and telephones for the first time. The cars brought the need for good roads. The radio brought the world closer to home.

In 1920 the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed, creating the era of Prohibition. The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted American women the right to vote, a right known as women's suffrage, and was ratified on August 18, 1920, ending almost a century of protest.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, women and women's organizations not only worked to gain the right to vote, they also worked for broad-based economic and political equality and for social reforms. Between 1880 and 1910, the number of women employed in the United States increased by millions.

Certain occupations had always been weighted towards women -- teachers, social workers, nurses, and librarians. And for those who were working-class, textile mills had been the one type of factory where jobs could be found. Women worked in rural and farm related jobs, and moved into a more assorted array of jobs in cities and factories.

Pop culture during the 1920s was characterized by the flapper, automobiles, nightclubs, movies, and jazz. Life moved fast as a new sense of prosperity and freedom emerged at the end of World War I.

The flapper—with her short skirts, short hair, noticeable makeup, and fun-loving attitude—represented a new freedom for women. The old restrictions on dress and behavior were being overthrown.





## Wanted: Sponsors for Student/Teacher Groups Attending Centennial Luncheon (formerly the Susan B. Anthony Celebration)

For \$100 you can sponsor a group of THREE high school/college students and ONE teacher to attend our LWV Centennial Luncheon on Saturday, February 8.

Members have purchased luncheon tickets for students in past years, but experience has led us to believe that high school students will be more likely to attend if they are part of a group of students accompanied by a teacher.

If you know teachers/advisors who you think would be interested in participating in this event, please give us their names and contact information so we can be sure to reach out to them.

For \$10, you can sponsor a one-year Student membership in the League of Women Voters of Beloit. Depending on the number of sponsors, we can give these memberships to some or all of the students who attend—or award them to students who help League members in voter registration efforts on their campus.

If you can help, contact Barb Porter, [barbporter317@gmail.com](mailto:barbporter317@gmail.com) BEFORE CHRISTMAS. Once we know how many groups we can sponsor, we will approach teachers soon after the first of the year.



100 YEARS STRONG  
LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
**LWV**  
1920 - 2020

*Commemorating Our Legacy,  
Expanding Our Impact.*

**Save the Date!**  
**February 8, 2020**

**Centennial Luncheon**  
*Guest Speaker: Meagan Wolfe*  
*Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator*

**Topic: Election Security**

Saturday, February 8 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.,  
at Cargill Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave., Janesville, WI

*"If you don't vote, you don't count!"*

Formally known as the Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party

Sponsored by:  
The Leagues of  
Women Voters  
of Beloit and  
Janesville

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## More from the October 2019 State Issues Briefing

--Betty Magnus

In the Oct/Nov Beloit League Newsletter, Susan Adams gave an account of the State Issues Briefings of Oct 19, 2019. She reported on the sessions that we all attended and noted that Dave Dobson, herself, and I attended different breakout sessions. The breakout sessions that I attended were both on voting and the electoral process. The first was on the **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**. As you may recall, in the last few elections, the candidate who won the national popular vote did not win the election; two examples are Hilary Clinton and Al Gore.

Polls have shown that many people would prefer that the candidate who wins the popular vote would win the election. However, up until now, it has been assumed that to change to a popular vote, there would have to be a constitutional amendment.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is a way to change to the popular vote while working within the electoral system. Each state has to pass legislation that would instruct the electors in the state to vote for the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote in the nation, not the popular vote in the state. Each state would keep the number of electors they have; Wisconsin has 10 based on two senators and eight representatives. Wisconsin does have legislation introduced in the spring of 2019 (AB 185/SB197) that has had a hearing but has not been voted on yet.

What is wrong with the current “winner take all” that is practiced in most states? Even if a candidate only wins by a couple hundred votes in the state, that candidate gets all of the electoral votes, depriving those who voted for the other candidate of their vote for president. If you live in a relatively blue state but are a red voter (or vice versa), your vote for president is essentially thrown out.

Currently NPVIC is law in 16 states- 196 electoral votes. To go into effect, 74 more electoral votes are needed. To learn more about this process and the reasoning behind it, you can go to the LWVWI website.

The other breakout session I attended was called **Fix the System: Electoral Innovation**. They stated that the current system is controlled by a “duopoly.” The core customers are partisan primary voters and special interests. Average voters have no influence. It tends to divide voters because there is no competition for the middle, it competes on ideology, not solutions, and tends to reward the industry invested in the duopoly. Instead of the current structure, they propose rank choice voting rather than the current system. If there are four candidates, you would rank your first, second, third and fourth choices. They used four Wisconsin sports teams as examples. Suppose in Round one, the Bucks were most popular with 35% of the vote, the Packers were second with 33%, the Brewers were third with 28% and the Admirals were fourth



with 4%. In the second round, the Admirals are dropped and the competition is between the Bucks, the Packers and the Brewers. The Bucks received 35%, the Packers 34%, and the Brewers 30%. When the Brewers are dropped, the Bucks get 42% and the Packers 58%. So even though the Packers didn't win at first, they picked up many more of the Brewers votes than the Bucks did. Some organizations use the rank choice voting such as the American Psychological Association but it would be a drastic change.

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## Beloit League's Education Study Committee has started...



To start off our education study, the new superintendent of the Beloit School District, Dr. Munro attended our Meet and Greet Event at Judy Robson's home on **November 4<sup>th</sup>**. Twenty-eight League members and other interested friends met Dr. Munro and heard his goals for the coming year, which centered on the public-school reconfiguration for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Munro feels that keeping the sixth graders as part of the elementary schools will strengthen them academically and socially and that the eighth graders will be better prepared for high school by ninth grade. So, a task force, made up of selected individuals, will work on hashing out the needs of the district and community in this endeavor. You can see the most recent meeting PowerPoint of the Task Force, as well as future meeting dates (open to the public) by going to <https://www.sdb.k12.wi.us/cms/lib/WI01919658/Centricity/Domain/992/Task%20Force%20Meeting%20November%2020%20-%20KCMG%20FINAL.pdf>

Over the past month, several League members have been attending the School District of Beloit School Board Meetings as observers. The School Board has not decided on the Citizen Participation policy and the League is monitoring this issue closely.

**January 11, 10-11:30 a.m. LWV of Beloit Lively Issues Speaker  
Drew Pennington, Planning and Building Services Director, City of Beloit  
"Dark Stores and Land Use Issues"**

*Followed by an opportunity for League members to voice issues that they are interested in the Beloit League discussing or studying.*

Light refreshments  
Beloit Public Library

**January 11, 2020 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Blackhawk Technical College  
Martin Luther King Commemoration**

We will be sharing a table with the Janesville LWV, providing 2020 Census and voter information. Please contact Barb Porter, at [barbporter317@gmail.com](mailto:barbporter317@gmail.com) or call 608-346-3562 if you would like to help. You can check out all that is planned for the event at the BTC website.



1-844-DIS-VOTE  
[www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org)

November 26, 2019

Contact: Barbara Beckert 414-292-2724 [barbara.beckert@drwi.org](mailto:barbara.beckert@drwi.org)

**Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition Announces new video encouraging Wisconsin voters to become poll workers.**

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (WDVC) is pleased to introduce a new video about becoming a poll worker. It also features people who live with disabilities and who serve as poll workers. Administrator/Clerk for the Town of Mukwonago, Kathy Karalewitz talks about the community impact of election workers and encourages voters with disabilities to consider becoming poll workers.

The video will be release on social media November 27, 2019. This will give viewers time to apply to be poll workers in their municipalities. In some municipalities applications to be poll workers must be submitted by the end of the year.

Voting is an important civil right. “A friendly knowledgeable poll worker can make a difference for a voter with a disability trying to make their voice heard at the polls,” says Jennifer Neugart of the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

“I want for someone to walk into their polling place and see themselves reflected, to know that this is a welcoming place for people with disabilities,” says Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired Executive Director, Denise Jess.

The Poll Worker video will be available on the Wisconsin Disability Vote website at <http://disabilityvote.org/videos> and will also be shared on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wisconsin disability vote>.

## LWV Wisconsin Files Motion to Join Lawsuit Over Flawed Voter Purge

*More than 200,000 voters threatened with unlawful removal*

LWVWI has taken legal action against the [lawsuit filed by WILL](#) regarding the handling of notice to voters about their registration status and filed late on Friday to intervene. Please see the entire article at: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/article/lwv-wisconsin-files-motion-join-lawsuit-over-flawed-voter-purge>

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### **BEST FOR LAST...**

**A study by Tufts University, using publicly available data, shows that Beloit College students' voting rates from 2014-2018 showed a dramatic increase. The League would certainly like to think that League and Beloit College members—Daksha Howard, Sam Erickson, Beatrice McKenzie, and others, were part of making that difference happen! Great news!**

## Voting and Registration Rates

# 41.2%

**2018 Voting Rate**

**CHANGE FROM 2014 +20.1**

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### Renewing or Joining the League of Women Voters membership is easy!

Simply print out this page and cut off this form.

Write your check to the League of Women Voters of Beloit. Dues are \$65. Student \$10.

Mail it to the Beloit LWV Membership Chair: Deb Fallon

1232 Elm St., Beloit, WI 53511

name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street \_\_\_\_\_ city/state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ *In League is sent by email, please check your email for notices.*

Amount enclosed for dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Application for LWV Dues Scholarship: I hereby request consideration for a LWV Dues Scholarship for one year's membership. I understand that it is my responsibility to pay \$25 of the annual dues and that a Board member will be in contact with me regarding final completion.

*Signature*

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