

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
October 2025

Q & A with Anoka County Commissioners

Commissioners Gamache, Jeppson, Meisner and Schulte



October 13, 2025 | 6:30 PM

Anoka Commissioner Q&A

Monday, October 13, 2025

6:30 PM

Andover Community Center

Mike Knight Community Room

15200 Hanson Blvd NW

County Commissioners Mike Gamache, Julie Jeppson, Mandy Meisner and Scott Schulte have accepted our invitation to engage in town hall style Q & A. Questions submitted by the public by October 3 will be included. Due to time constraints, areas of focus will be:

- Human services and Medicare program changes
 - New Anoka County Jail
 - Mental health programs
 - Appointments to county positions
-



Legislative Update

In September, **Jody Anderson** and **Wes Volkenant** (Wes pictured above) provided members with the League's perspective on the last legislative session. As always, League top priorities were redistricting, election administration and money in politics. The League testified on several of these issues.

Redistricting

League was not successful in achieving our long-standing goal of a *non-partisan* redistricting commission. Fortunately, the proposed, seriously flawed, bill to create a *bi-partisan* redistricting commission did not pass.

Money in Politics

League testified on behalf of several money in politics bills. The only bill enacted was the Political Contribution Refund (PCR) Modernization Act which establishes an online system to claim the PCR refund.

Election Administration

The enacted Omnibus Election Policy Bill included a number of administrative changes and some clarifications including:

- **Candidate Proof of Residence** - extended to candidates filing for city, town or other elected office
- **Polling Place Location** - prohibits location in, or in any adjoining room to, a location where cannabis products are served or sold
- **Voting From Motor Vehicle** - clarifies that the right includes early and in-person absentee voting locations
- **Candidate Email Addresses** - extended to candidates filing for judicial office, county attorney and county sheriff
- **Expanded Residency Verification Options for Students** - for 18 days prior to an election and on Election Day

Climate

On climate issues, the League Climate Change Task Force works with the Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) to address zero waste solutions, protect natural resources and promote government accountability. League did join a letter advocating regarding data centers. There was a mixed bag of results on climate issues. See the MEP summary for details.

Other Issues

Neither a Dignity in Death or an Equal Rights Amendment, also League priorities, were enacted

See the MEP Legislative Wrap Up for details on climate issues

Welcome New Members

Welcome New Members

Jill Fish of Andover
Nancy Kipp of Champlin





Candidate Forums

Thanks to all the LWV ABC volunteers (some pictured above), and the staff of QCTV and NorthMetro TV, who helped make our candidate forums happen.

All candidates for contested races were invited but several candidates declined to participate in our non-partisan forums. As is our policy, we held the forums even when only one candidate chose to participate. All candidates were informed of our policies and had the opportunity to participate or submit a written statement.

Watch our forums of school board candidates for Fridley and Anoka-Hennepin #3, #4 and #6, as well as Circle Pines City Council and Lino Lakes Mayor and City Council on our website or on our YouTube 2025 Candidate Forum Playlist.

[Candidate Forums](#)

[YouTube Playlist](#)



Planning the Future of Candidate Forums

The LWV ABC Board is **seeking members to serve on a short-term committee to explore ways to continue taping quality forums** - ways that will not bust our budget.

In the changing landscape of local cable television, some cable stations are charging us for taping forums. The charges this election season exceeds the dues we collect. Can we reduce costs, impact policies, find alternatives or obtain grants? We need to learn more and explore options to plan ahead for future election seasons.

Whether you have an interest in online media, have connections to people who work in this field, or would like to learn more about local cable TV operations, we would welcome your help.

Send an email to [lwvabc@gmail](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in this committee or have any questions.

Watch our 2023 program video to learn more about public cable.

Understanding Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Television



Thanks to Anoka County Libraries for their efforts to encourage voter registration and informed voting.

Anoka County Libraries agreed to display Candidate Forum poster. Our candidate forum poster was posted at the Centennial Library when we held our September meeting there.



Voter Registration

Billboards

Thanks to **Rachel Mero** our Blip billboard (artwork pictured above) was seen by over 8,000 people from September 16-20. Additional electronic billboards will be displayed the week before elections day to raise awareness that it is an election year in many areas of Anoka County.

Senior Housing Registration

On September 17, **Naomi Peterson** and **Cindy DeRuyter** were welcomed at Lyngblomsten at Lino Lakes, our first voter registration event there since

it opened in 2023.

NVRD at High Schools

Anoka High School and Columbia Heights Senior High School were among the Minnesota schools who participated in the Pre-Registration and Civic Engagement Program livestreamed on National Voter Registration Day. The program, sponsored by the Secretary of State and LWVMN, as well as the Republican and Democratic parties, is designed to pre-register 16- and 17-year-olds and encourage lifelong civic engagement.

[Watch Moundsvie High School NVRD Event](#)

[Watch MTS Secondary School NVRD Event](#)



Vote411 Voter Guides

In addition to our forums, League offers online Voter Guides at Vote411.org. Each candidate in the country is invited to participate by providing contact information

and answers to 4-5 questions. Voters enter their address to view Voter Guides for every race on their ballot.

All candidates were asked to state why they are the best candidate and their priorities. Other questions vary by race, often focusing on issue of communication, transparency, public input and representation of all community members. Mayoral candidates were asked about public safety and school board candidates about budgeting.

Most local candidates have submitted their responses, but **if one of your candidates has not responded, please contact them and ask them to submit their information.** Candidate contact information is available on the Secretary of State Candidate Filing website.

[Vote411](#)

[Candidate Filings](#)



Action Chair Jody Anderson at the August Picnic.

Post-Election Review Report

On Tuesday September 9, **Wes Volkenant** and **Jody Anderson**, on behalf of LWVMN and LWV ABC, spoke during the public comment period of the Anoka County Board meeting. They commented on the 2024 LWVMN Post-Election Review Report. The report is based on the observations of 160 trained, nonpartisan volunteers who observed the Post-Election Reviews in 43 of the 87 counties, including Anoka County. Statewide, observations and analysis confirms that Minnesota's elections are verifiable and accurate.

What is a Post-Election Review (PER)?

After every statewide election, County Canvassing Boards randomly select precincts for review. Party-balanced election judges are hired to hand-count ballots, compare to the machine tabulations, and investigate any differences. All absentee ballots are also counted. Post-Election Reviews are open to the public.

Anoka County PER

At the Anoka County Board Meeting, **Wes Volkenant** reported that in Anoka County, eight precincts were reviewed, twice as many as the four precincts required by state law. 38,826 ballots were hand-counted. Judges found zero adjusted differences when compared to machine results. League Observers reported that Anoka County conducted the meeting in a transparent manner, followed state requirements and demonstrated professionalism.

Jody Anderson's Experience

Jody Anderson, who observed the Anoka County Post-Election Review and also worked as an head election judge, commented: "The League of Women Voters have long believed in improving our election process and have encouraged our members to study the process, learn from it, and help make lawful changes when necessary. There are many safeguards in place that I have witnessed, as have many other bi-partisan observers and election workers. Tom Hunt has been a reliable and transparent Election Manager. I appreciate his skill in helping all Election Judges become familiar with Minnesota Election Laws. The Minnesota election process includes rigorous machine testing and certification, strong election day security, and strict handling of ballots and election equipment. As a post-election observer, I witnessed the transparent review process and, thanks to election officials, there is strict following of statutory requirements."



Membership Co-Chairs Paul Sitz and Kathleen Sekhon at the August picnic

Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Authorized a committee to be established to review costs and options for taping candidate forums so that funding availability and options are considered in advance of next year's General Elections
- Authorized and directed the Budget Committee and our State Membership Committee members to review issues related to the new LWVUS dues structure and its impact on our budget
- Highlighted the successful candidate forums, the volunteers, and our cable partners -- and the many related communication activities that are being conducted
- Highlighted voter registration activities that are underway at senior housing facilities and related communication activities
- Presented upcoming Action and Advocacy events and opportunities for members to be engaged
- Confirmed plans and participants for our October 13 monthly program with panel of Anoka County Commissioners

- Discussed preparations for Friend of League award.

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



The Future of Metro Transit

CMAL Quarterly Meeting

**October 29, 2025
7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom**

The Council of Metropolitan Leagues, composed of all League members in the metro area, will host guest speaker Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit. Kandaras led the efforts to create a new strategic framework, Metro Transit Forward, which identifies Metro Transit's strategic priorities.

[Register for Zoom Meeting](#)

Advocacy Action



The 'Big Beautiful Bill' just became law — it cuts Medicaid, Medicare & SNAP. The bill extends tax breaks that disproportionately benefit the wealthy. Call your rep to say what you think →



- Brad Finstad, Dist-1 **Voted YES**
202-225-2472
- Angie Craig, Dist-2 **Voted NO**
202-225-2271
- Kelly Morrison, Dist-3 **Voted NO**
202-225-2871
- Betty McCollum, Dist-4 **Voted NO**
202-225-6631
- Ilhan Omar, Dist-5 **Voted NO**
202-225-4755

- Tom Emmer, Dist. 6 **Voted YES**
202-225-2331
- Michelle Fischbach, Dist-7 **Voted YES**
202-225-2165
- Pete Stauber, Dist-8 **Voted YES**
202-225-6211

[house.gov/representatives/
find-your-representative](https://house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MINNESOTA

Take Action

League encourages members to contact their representative to express their concerns about the "Big Beautiful Bill" - a bill which cuts Medicaid, Medicare and SNAP (food support) while extending tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy.

Other LWVUS Current Action Alerts

- [Tell Congress to Oppose Federal Interference in DC](#)
- [Tell Congress to Guarantee the Right to Vote](#)
- [Hold Congress Accountable for the *One Big Beautiful Bill*](#)
- [Tell Your Senators to Oppose the SAVE Act](#)

LWVMN Take Action Webpage



Behind-the-Scenes of Elections

October 8, 2025

06:00 PM via Zoom

The Officials is a short documentary film by Margo Guernsey and Sara Archambault that highlights the dedicated public service of election official. Join the filmmakers and the League of Women Voters for a joint screening, panel, and Q&A with election administrators and experts to discuss the future of election administration in the

US. The film is 26 minutes long, and will be followed by a 30-minute panel and Q&A session. If you are unable to attend the webinar, the video is available for viewing below.

[Register for Webinar](#)

[Watch the video anytime](#)



No Kings II

October 18, 2025

10:30 AM - Anoka

1:00 PM - Minneapolis Gold Medal Park

LWVUS is an official partner, on the national level, for the No Kings non-violent protests on October 18. League members are encouraged to participate. **Members are also encouraged to wear League buttons and shirts, with the caveat that when identifying yourself as League member, you are acting as a representative of League. League "speaks with one voice"** so signs should remain non-partisan and focused on issues like constitutional rights and separation of powers, voting rights and other positions that League holds. If you are unsure if

your stance on an issue is consistent with a League position, it is best to participate as an individual, rather than a representative of League.

Event information may change so it is best to check with the organizations hosting the events either on social media or through mobilize.us shortly before October 18. Register for the Anoka No Kings to receive location.

[Register for Anoka No Kings](#)

[Twin Cities Indivisible No Kings Webpage](#)



Are We In a Constitutional Crisis?

October 20, 2025

5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

Maplewood Library Community Room

3025 Southlawn Drive

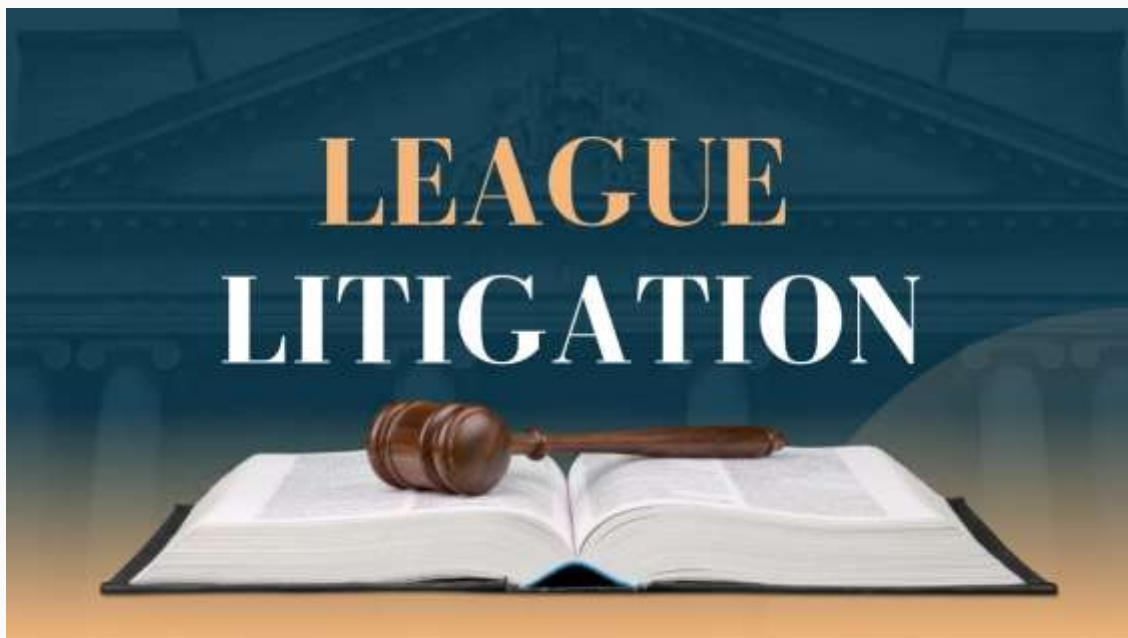
Maplewood, MN, 55109

Join LWV White Bear Lake Area and guest speaker Prof. Tim Johnson to learn about the Constitution, the 3 branches of gov't, their roles, and what happens when power

is ceded.

Timothy R. Johnson is Horace T. Morse Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Law (by courtesy) at the University of Minnesota. He is an internationally recognized expert on the U.S. Supreme Court and its oral arguments and decision making process.

[Register for the LWV WBL Program](#)



League Litigation

As we are bombarded with news of actions to restrict voter registration and gerrymander districts, it is good to remember that LWVUS and state Leagues have been actively fighting for voters through litigation. **September was a very active month for League litigation - some wins, some losses and some ongoing.**

Gerrymandering Lawsuits:

Fighting gerrymandering has become more difficult since 2019 when the Supreme Court ruled that federal courts have no jurisdiction over *partisan* gerrymandering. Only issues of *racial* gerrymandering can be challenged in federal court. Partisan

gerrymandering can only be challenged in state courts based on state constitutions and state laws.

Utah: The state supreme court found that partisan gerrymandered maps violated the state constitution because the state legislature ignored Proposition 4 which created an Independent Redistricting Commission.

Louisiana: Post census maps were found to be racially gerrymandered in federal court but the new maps are now being challenged as "considering race too much". League has filed an Amicus brief.

South Carolina: Lawmakers admitted to drawing the maps for partisan gain in court, which the League contended violated the state constitution. The South Carolina Supreme Court dismissed the case.

Texas: League filed an Amicus brief in a case requesting an injunction against racially gerrymandered maps.

League is closely watching redistricting in Ohio and Missouri. **Ohio** is required to redistrict because the current maps sunset under state law because the current maps passed with only a small majority after a commission process failed. In **Missouri**, the NAACP and ACLU have filed separate lawsuits on the gerrymandered maps. The governor has called a special session to change process for citizen referendum, in response to citizens petitioning for a voter referendum before the maps are implemented. [LWV Missouri](#) has condemned both the maps and the attempt to subvert the referendum process.

Money in Politics Lawsuit:

Federal: League filed an Amicus Brief with the Supreme Court in a case in which the National Republican Senatorial Committee is challenging long-standing limits on how much money political parties can spend in coordination with federal candidates.

Voter Privacy Lawsuit:

Louisiana & Virginia: League and partners filed a class action lawsuit challenging the federal "Interagency Database" as a direct violation of the Privacy Act of 1974 and the US Constitution. The database is being used by some states to disenfranchise voters.

Follow LWV ABC on social media or check the LWVUS website to stay up to date on litigation information.

LWVUS Press Releases

LWVUS Legal Center



Voter Registration at Citizenship Ceremonies Continues in Minnesota

Since 1998, Minnesota League members have been helping new citizens to register to vote after naturalization ceremonies. On August 29, 2025 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued new guidance barring nongovernmental organizations like the League of Women Voters from offering voter registration at *administrative* naturalization ceremonies held in USCIS facilities. Only state or local election officials will now be permitted to do so.

In Minnesota, the new USCIS policy change does not currently affect our work, since we attend *judicial* ceremonies, where voter registration is still

allowed. Ceremonies in Minnesota have been small since earlier this year when the President banned large off-site judicial ceremonies in "blue" states. Previously, Twin City ceremonies were often 800-1,000 people at a time, as pictured above.

The number of new citizens registered to vote in Minnesota this year is expected to be significantly less than the 6,105 new citizens registered in 2024 and the 13,000 registered in 2022.

Note: Due to the small number of volunteers needed for the ceremonies scheduled through February, no open volunteer slots are available.

History of LWVMN & Naturalization Ceremonies

Trump's New Letter to New Americans

In late September, eight months into his administration, President Trump updated the presidential welcome letter given to new citizens at naturalization ceremonies. **The letter diverges from those of most past presidents is in its vision of the United States, which Trump sees as founded not on ideas or ideals but on culture and tradition.** The Atlantic analyzes how his message differs from the messages of past presidents.

The Atlantic: President's Trump Letter to New Citizens

Coming in November ...

All Month - National Native American Heritage Month

Nov 4 - Election Day

Nov 10 - Program Meeting

Nov 18 - Persistence and Resistance Conversation

Nov 19 - Book Club

Nov 24 - 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



[Website](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Email](#)



[Bluesky](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)

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

*Copyright © 2025 LWV ABC,
All rights reserved.*

The Voter
The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC