

# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
January 2026



## Understanding the End of Subminimum Wage in Minnesota

Tina Rucci, Public Policy Director  
The Arc Minnesota

January 12, 2026 | 6:30–7:30 PM  
via Zoom

## The End of Subminimum Wage

**Monday, January 12, 2026**  
**Online via Zoom**

**6:00** - online socializing

**6:30** - program begins

Join LWV ABC for an informative program on the future of subminimum wage in Minnesota, featuring Tina Rucci, Public Policy Director of The Arc Minnesota. Tina will help us understand the systemic job market barriers faced by individuals with disabilities, how subminimum wage policies have been used, what legislative changes are underway and what the transition could mean for workers with disabilities and their families.

Please join us to stay informed, ask questions, and learn how you can support fair wages and meaningful employment opportunities.

***LWV ABC will be holding our monthly meetings via zoom for the months of January, February and March***

[Zoom Link](#)

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## Ice Cream Social

In December, a smaller than usual group braved the bad weather to meet LWVMN Executive Director Amy Perna. Members had small group discussion and won door prizes of books, socks, baked goods, candles and pottery created by **Cindy DeRuyter**. **Geri Nelson** offered Darby Nelson's book for sale, raising \$140 for LWV ABC.

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## Welcome New Members

**Lyndsey Harter** of Anoka

**Richard Klabecheck** of Anoka

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Geri Nelson, Emeritus Director, fundraising with Darby Nelson's books at the December Ice Cream Social.

## Upcoming Budget

At our April Annual Meeting, LWV ABC members will be approving a budget for the April 2026 - March 2027 fiscal year. The Budget Committee, chaired by **Betsy O'Berry**, will begin meeting in January to develop a budget recommendation.

The board has recognized two major issues in developing the upcoming budget: the increasing costs for candidate forums and an invoice for a Per Member Payment (PMP) for Fiscal Year 2026. Board members continue to research these issues and explore options and solutions.

### The PMP Issue

Prior to February 2025, members paid annual membership dues to LWV ABC, who then paid dues on each member's behalf to both LWVUS and LWVMN. Both LWVUS and LWVMN billed us annually for a Per Member Payment (PMP), calculated on number of members on January 31. In recent years, LWVMN billed LWV ABC in March, with payment due in June. Our last payment to LWVMN was made in 2025.

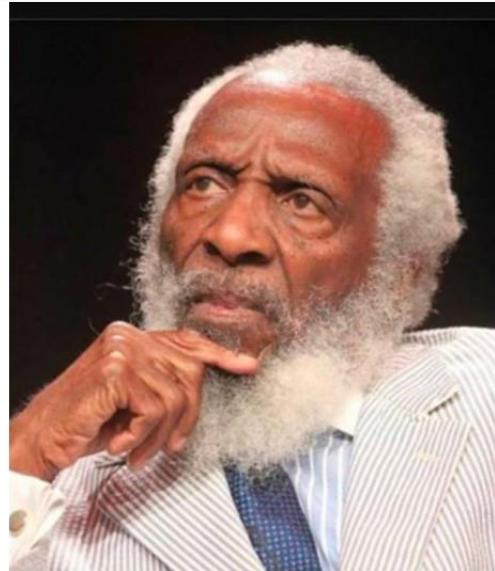
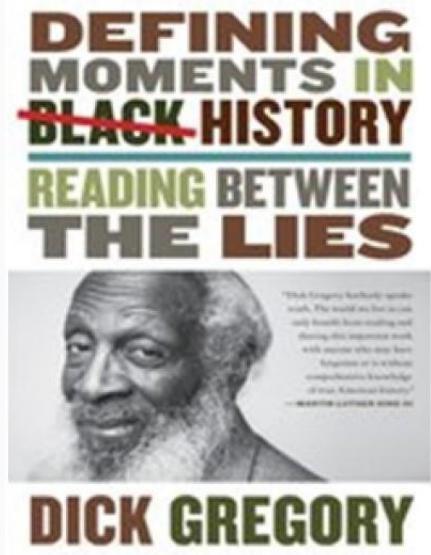
LWVUS has been billing local Leagues in August with payment due the **following** year in June. Unfortunately, this aspect of the old system was retained when League switched to the new ChapterSpot system. Although members have been paying LWVUS dues in real time since February 2025, LWVUS has billed LWV ABC for FY2026 based on our membership on January 31, 2025.

### One Partial Solution

LWVUS will allow us to reduce this FY2026 PMP payment by the amount of any donations made by our members to LWVUS.

***If you have made any donations to LWVUS, please email us with the amount and approximate date of the donation.***

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## Book Club

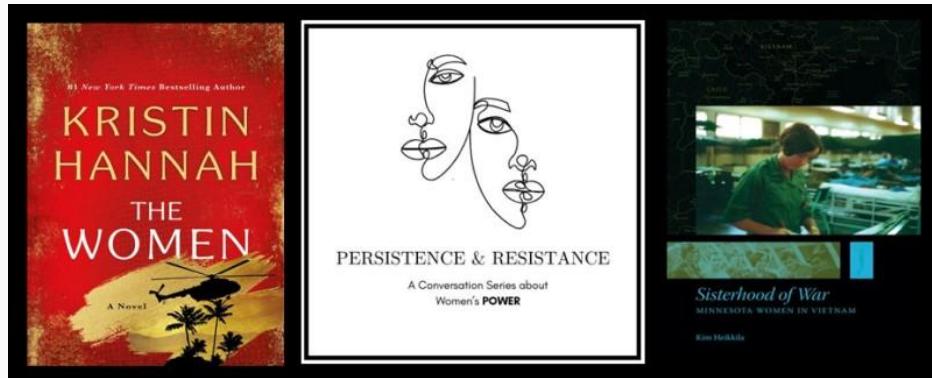
**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**  
**7:00 pm on Zoom**

***Defining Moments in Black History: Reading Between the Lies (2017)***  
**by Dick Gregory**

A captivating journey through time, this collection of provocative essays explores historical movements such as the Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance, as well as cultural touchstones, among them Marian Anderson's performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and Billie Holiday's haunting delivery of "Strange Fruit."

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Books](#)



## **The Nurses of Vietnam A Persistence and Resistance Conversation**

**Saturday, January 24, 2026  
2 PM - 4 PM**

**Anoka County Historical Society  
2135 3rd Ave  
Anoka, MN 55303**

Join us for our third Persistence and Resistance conversation. Our discussion on the nurses of Vietnam will be grounded in two books - the fictional *The Women* along with *Sisterhood of War*. Kim Heikkila, author of *Sisterhood of War*, and the some of the Vietnam nurses featured in her book will join us.

The Persistence and Resistance Conversations, co-sponsored by the Anoka County Historical Society and LWV ABC, are not a book discussion, but each session is grounded in books and local research, establishing a solid foundation for discussion.

***Everyone is welcome to join the conversation, even if you have not had time to read either book.***

[Buy Tickets](#)

[Persistence and Resistance Books](#)



## **2026 Legislative Preview**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM via Zoom**

Before each legislative session, the LWVMN boards sets the League's priorities - where LWVMN will focus time, attention and resources during session. The priority issues are chosen from the many issues League members have studied and taken a position on.

Join LWVMN on January 21 to learn about LWVMN's 2026 Legislative Priorities, our partners, and our Lobby & Observer Corps - and how you can advocate for issues that are important to you and your local League this session.

[\*\*Register for Legislative Preview\*\*](#)

## **Join the Lobby & Observer Corp**

**Legislative Session**

**February 17 - May 17, 2026**

LWVMN's Observer and Lobby Corps (OCLC) is an opportunity to learn about the legislative process and advocate for the issues that are most important to you. Depending on your availability and interest, you can observe a bill or a committee, write a report for our Capitol Letter, help shape testimony, contribute to Action Alerts, and/or build relationships with legislators! This can all be done virtually, or you can attend a committee hearing in-person.

No prior experience required.

***Complete the Interest Form if you wish to join the Corp this session.***

[Interest Form](#)

[Observer Corp Job Description](#)

***While LWVMN hopes for observers to help monitoring the LWVMN Legislative Priorities, members are welcome to observe and report on any legislation that is covered by one of our many positions.***

[League Positions](#)



## Precinct Caucuses

**February 3, 2026**

**7:00 PM**

Want to have an impact on your party's platform and priorities? Your neighborhood precinct caucus is the place to start.

Caucuses are the first step in a series of meetings where parties set their goals and

values (party platforms), select delegates for conventions, and endorse candidates. All attendees can propose resolutions. If your resolution is passed by at the caucus, it moves up to higher-level conventions and could eventually become part of the official party platform.

You can participate in a caucus if you are eligible to vote in the November general election (including 17-year-olds who will turn 18 by then), live in the precinct and generally agree with the principles and values of the political party hosting the caucus. Minnesota does not have party registration.

### **Tips for Writing A Resolution**

- Keep it focused: Stick to a single, clear issue per resolution.
- Be concise: Use everyday language and get straight to the point.
- Follow your party's format and guidelines

**2026 DFL Party Resolution Form**

**2026 Republican Party Resolution Form**

***Caucus locations are determined by the parties and are generally available about a week before caucus night. Check the website of your party or the Secretary of State to find your precinct caucus location.***

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### **Teaching and Preaching Caucuses**

**SOS Lunch and Learn**

**Jan 16, 2026 12:00 PM**



Want to learn more about precinct caucuses? Join Secretary of State Steve Simon and representatives from both the DFL and Republican parties to learn where caucuses fit in the election system, who runs them, what the meetings are like, and how participants can contribute.

Q&A will follow the presentation.

[Register for Lunch & Learn](#)



## **Data Center Series: Energy**

**January 7, 2026**

**6:30 PM via Zoom**

On January 7, presenters from Rewiring America, Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) will provide insight on the key concerns about hyperscale data centers' potential energy needs, how that energy might be generated, and the potential impacts on existing ratepayers and member-owners.

This webinar is second in the Data Center series that CURE is hosting. Other upcoming webinars:

**Water** - January 21

**Environmental Review** - February 11

**Community Benefit Agreements** - February 25

If you missed the December webinar "**Data Centers: Transparency**", video is now available on YouTube.

[Register for Energy Webinar](#)

[Watch Data Centers: Transparency](#)

[Learn More About the Series](#)

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**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF ROSEVILLE AREA  
[lwvrosevillearea.org](http://lwvrosevillearea.org)

# Due Process, the Constitution & You

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026**  
**1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

Ramsey County Library - Maplewood  
3025 Southlawn Drive, 55109  
Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

Learn about your due process rights from law enforcement, educator, and civil rights attorney.

To view on Zoom, use this link: <http://bit.ly/48d1AK>

Co-sponsors:

- Ramsey County Library
- Do Good Roseville
- LWV New Brighton Area
- LWV St. Paul

Please contact [lwvrosevillearea@lycos.com](mailto:lwvrosevillearea@lycos.com) if requesting ALS interpreting services, allowing for lead time.



**WOMEN DEFEND DEMOCRACY**

# Due Process, the Constitution and You

Jan 11, 2026

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Zoom and  
Maplewood Public Library  
3025 Southlawn Dr  
Maplewood, MN 55109

What due process rights does the Constitution guarantee, and how can due process come into play in our modern lives?

Join guest speakers Roseville Chief of Police Erika Schneider, ISD #622 Superintendent Christine Tucci Osori and ACLU-MN attorney Alicia Gransse for a discussion.

Co-sponsored by LWV Roseville Area, LWV New Brighton Area, LWV St Paul, Do Good Roseville and Ramsey County Libraries.

[Due Process Zoom Link](#)

A Clean Elections MN Conversation:  
**Attacks on Minnesota's Elections from Washington DC**

HOW SECRETARY OF STATE STEVE SIMON AND ATTORNEY GENERAL KEITH ELLISON ARE FIGHTING BACK

**January 14th 7:00 PM**  
Zoom Webinar

Co-Hosted by: Common Cause, FairVote MN, LWV Minnesota

The graphic features two circular portraits of men: Steve Simon on the left and Keith Ellison on the right, set against a background of the American flag and the word "VOTE".

# Attacks on Minnesota's Elections from Washington DC

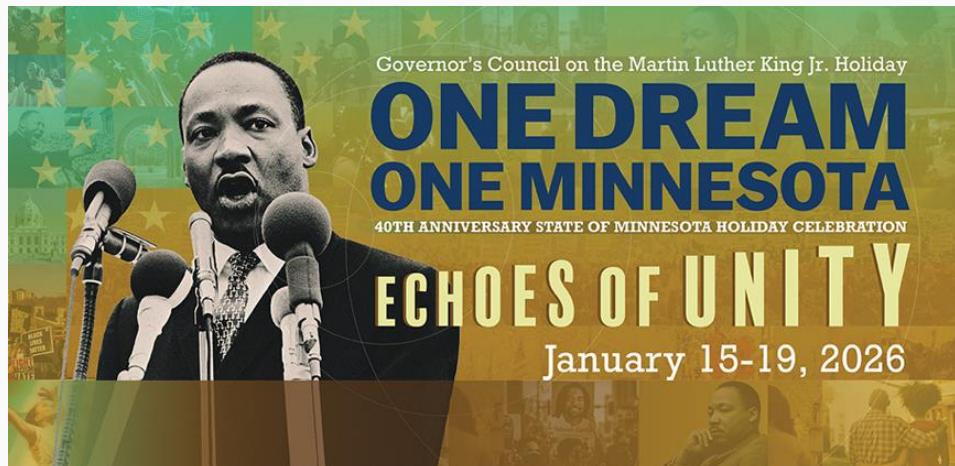
January 14, 2026

7:00 PM via Zoom

Voting in Minnesota is fair, accessible and virtually fraud free. Learn how Minnesota's leaders are pushing back against threats to our elections. Steve Simon, Minnesota Secretary of State and Keith Ellison, Minnesota's Attorney General will be interviewed by Lori Sturdevant, prize-winning historian and retired Star-Tribune reporter.

Cohosted by League of Women Voters Minnesota, Common Cause Minnesota, and Fair Vote Minnesota.

[Register for Attacks on Minnesota Elections](#)



## MLK Jr. Day Celebration 2026

January 19, 2026

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Ordway Center for Performing Arts

345 Washington St

St Paul, MN 55102

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Minnesota's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Holiday celebration—one of the longest-running and largest in the nation. Join the grand finale celebration that brings together artistry, storytelling, and community honor under one roof.

[Get Free General Admission Tickets](#)

[Watch Livestream on TPT](#)

## More MLK Celebration Activities

**Jan 15 - Jan 18, 2026**

Additional events are being hosted by the State of Minnesota and the Governor's Council on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Jan 15 - Historical Landmark Tour: A Journey Through Civil Rights

Jan 16 - Youth Summit: Solidarity & STEM for Systems Change

Jan 17 - State Career Fair: Building Futures in Service

Jan 18 - Community March: Uniting Across Difference

[Learn More](#)



### Cultural Humility:

Using the DEIB Lens by Our Values  
and Our League Work

## **Cultural Humility: Using the DEIB Lens by Our Values and Our League Work**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
4:00 PM 5:00 PM via Zoom**

Cultural humility is an ongoing process of self-reflection and learning about different cultures, with an emphasis on acknowledging one's own biases and power imbalances to build equitable relationships. Even in this time when the government is trying to erase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), the League of Women Voters continues to hold it in high regard, including it in the 2nd article of our bylaws

Join LWVMN for a discussion of cultural humility and how the results of a recent DEIB survey of local Leagues will guide our work.

**Register for Cultural Humility**

***LWV ABC continues to seek a member to lead our DEIB efforts. Please email us at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) if you are interested.***



# An Evening with Hilary Rodham Clinton

## Eminent Speakers Series

**Target Center**  
**Friday, January 23, 2026**

**LWVMN Reception: 6:30 PM**  
**Event: 7:30 PM**

Some discounted tickets are still available in the premium seating section reserved by LWVMN. Discounted tickets are \$79.

***One member from the Andover area is interested in carpooling. Send us an email at [lwwabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwabc@gmail.com) if you are interested in carpooling.***

**Buy Tickets for Clinton Event**

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Returning for 2026...



## UMN Extension's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pollinator Series

### FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS:

Heather Holm  
Dr. Elaine Evans  
UMN Extension Master Gardeners

January 26-28, 2026

[Z.UMN.EDU/BEESERIES](http://Z.UMN.EDU/BEESERIES)



## **Pollinator Webinar Series**

**University of Minnesota Extension**

**January 26, 27 & 28, 2026**

**1:00–2:30 PM**

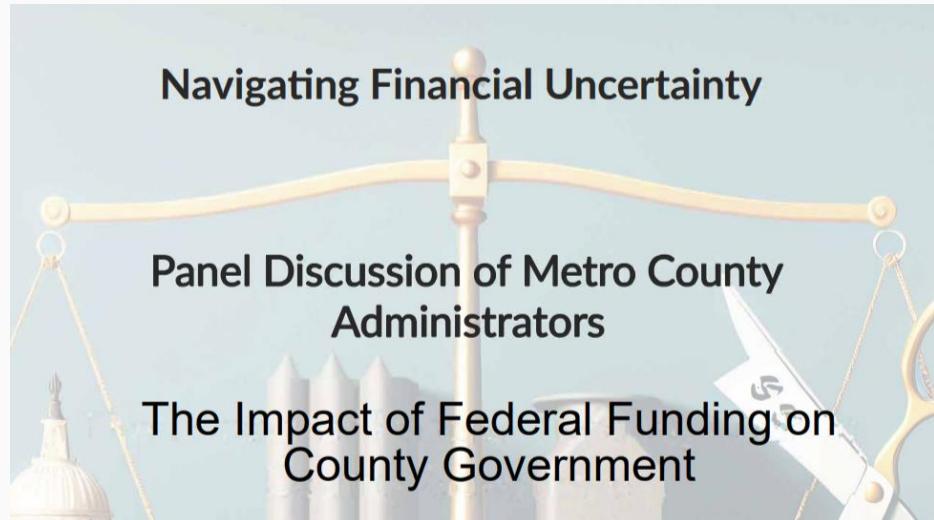
Curious about the best ways to support Minnesota's native bees and strengthen pollinator habitat where you live? Interested in the newest research on bee health, habitat needs, and conservation strategies? This year's three-part webinar series from University of Minnesota Extension brings together expert educators, researchers, and Master Gardeners to highlight keystone plants and "Soft Landings" designs, share the latest findings from the UMN Bee Lab, and showcase successful pollinator projects from across the state.

**Jan 26** - Keystone Plants & Soft Landings Plantings for Native Bees

**Jan 27** - The Latest Buzz on Bee Research

**Jan 28** - Pollinator Habitats in Action: Tips, Tricks, & Inspiration from Master Gardeners

[\*\*Register for Pollinator Series\*\*](#)



**Metro Area Counties:  
Navigating Troubled Financial Waters**

**CMAL Quarterly Meeting**

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

**6:30 PM 7:45 PM via Zoom**

Join the LWV Council of Metro Area Leagues (CMAL) and local county managers/administrators for a discussion on how metro area counties plan to navigate the financial uncertainty created by federal funding cuts and new program regulations. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions in the chat.

Featured Speakers:

- Ling Becker, Ramsey County Manager
- David McKnight, Deputy Dakota County Manager
- William (Will) Wallo, Dakota County Finance Director

[Register for CMAL Quarterly Meeting](#)

[December CMAL Newsletter](#)



**SUFFS The Musical**  
**Opening Night Fundraiser**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

**Orpheum Theater**  
**910 Hennepin Ave**  
**Minneapolis 55403**

Join LWVMN and LWV Minneapolis for the Opening Night of Suffs the Musical, the Tony Award-winning Broadway sensation that brings to life the extraordinary women who fought for the right to vote and reshaped American democracy.

The Night Includes:

**5:30 PM - Pre-Show Dinner & Program at Studio 900**

Featuring conversation, inspiration, and special guests including Jennifer Melin Miller, Twin Cities native and Suffs producer — who will share behind-the-scenes insights about bringing this groundbreaking musical to life.

**7:30 PM - Opening Night Performance of Suffs**

Experience the inspiring true story of the suffragists whose determination won women the right to vote and continues to motivate generations of change makers.

All proceeds benefit LWV Minnesota and LWV Minneapolis, supporting our year-round efforts to empower voters, protect access to the ballot, and ensure fair, informed elections.

***Tickets are limited — reserve yours today!***

[Get Tickets](#)

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**Coming in February...**

All Month - **Black History Month**

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Feb 3 - **Precinct Caucuses**  
Feb 9 - **Program Meeting**  
Feb 17 - **ERA Rally**  
Feb 17 - **First Day of Legislative Session**  
Feb 23 - **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**

## More About LWV ABC



[Website](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Email](#)



[Bluesky](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)

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