

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
February 2026



League Legislative Priorities

Feb 9 | 6:30 PM



League Legislative Priorities

Monday, February 9, 2026

Online via Zoom

6:00 - online and in person socializing

6:30 - program begins


Members and their guests are invited to join Paul Huffman, LWVMN Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator, and Sam Streukens, LWVMN Civic Engagement Director to discuss the upcoming legislative session and League priorities.

[Zoom Link](#)

Spotlight
on Issues

LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area

Subminimum Wage in Minnesota



Tina Rucci
Public Policy Director
The Arc Minnesota
January 12, 2026

Subminimum Wage in Minnesota

In January, we were joined by Tina Rucci, Public Policy Director of The Arc Minnesota. Rucci discussed 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.

[Watch Spotlight Video](#)



Welcome New Members

Kristen Anderson of Blaine

Ann Marie Beier of Circle Pines



President Gretchen Sabel and Program Chair Leslie Waterhouse.

Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Budget Committee introduced a draft budget for 2026-27. There was considerable discussion and strategizing to adapt to increased costs related to recording fees for candidate forums and LWVUS changes to membership fees. A finalized budget was approved to present to members at LWV ABC annual meeting in April.
- Planning for upcoming monthly programs was conducted. Program Chair will pursue suggestions for February. The agreed-upon speaker for March 9 program may need to move to a lunchtime, rather than evening.
- A Voter Service subcommittee will resume meeting to explore how to save money on forum recordings. Contact will be made with cable partners to reinforce the importance of our partnerships and input to our need for cost savings.
- There's increased number of emails to LWV ABC asking about aspects of involvement and position on current issues. A blog post will be developed to assist with responses.
- Member were reminded to be engaged Leaguers by signing up at LWVMN for Capitol Letter, Observer Corp, and Fired up Fridays.

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



2026 LWVMN Legislative Priorities

Session Begins February 17, 2026

On December 15, 2025 the LWVMN board of directors set priorities for the 2026 MN Legislative Session based on prior legislative session results, input from community partners, relevance to League’s mission, political feasibility, urgency and staff capacity.

Top Priorities:

- Elections Administration
- Redistricting Reform
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Environmental Protection

Additional Priorities:

- Money in Politics
- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
- Ranked Choice Voting

LWVMN will engage in education and support of these additional priorities as time,

circumstance, resources, and member engagement allow.

Stay up to date on legislative activity by reading the Capitol Letter and attending Fired Up Fridays.

[Capitol Letter](#)

[Register for Feb 20 Fired Up Friday](#)

Join Observer Corps and Lobby Corps

LWVMN Observer Corps and Lobby Corps programs train members across to support LWVMN's work at the State Capitol, reporting information about what is happening at the Legislature, and sometimes helping to lobby on key issues.

[Join Observer/Lobby Corps](#)



Immigration Position

LWWUS public policy position statements serve as the basis for the national, state and local Leagues to take action. The immigration position was approved in 2008,

following a two year study.

"The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law."

Some recent LWFVUS actions related to immigration:

[League of Women Voters Condemns Unwarranted Federal Presence and Military Escalation in Minnesota](#)

[LWFV Joins LULAC and Common Cause in Calling on Congress to Investigate ICE and CBP Use of Force](#)

[LWFVUS Joins Letter to Congress Opposing Additional Funding for ICE and Border Patrol and Urging DHS Immigration Enforcement Restraints and Accountability](#)

See page 171 of "Impact on Issues" for the complete Immigration position, as well as history of actions by LWFVUS under this position.

Impact on Issues

LWFV ABC Blog - League Response to Metro Surge



**UNITE &
RISE**

The Building of American
Detention Centers:
Profit, Power & Civil Rights

Feb 4 | 5:00 – 6:00

LWFV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
MINNEAPOLIS

LWFV WOMEN DEFEND DEMOCRACY

The Building of American Detention Centers: Profit, Power & Civil Rights

Upcoming LWV Mpls WDD Session

February 4, 2026

5:00 – 6:00 pm CT

Professor Kari Hong, Appellate Attorney at Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project will return to provide an overview of the rapid expansion of American detention centers as an extension of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the for-profit detention industry. She will examine how this growth reshapes immigration enforcement and will address the potential long-term consequences of detention infrastructure on civil rights, due process, and fundamental democratic values.

[Register for Next WDD Session](#)



ICE, the Law and Local Organizing

LWV Mpls WDD Session Recording

On January 14, LWV Mpls welcomed Professor Linus Chan and Elle Neubauer as guest speakers to their Women Defending Democracy session. Elle Neubauer is a community activist residing in the Powderhorn neighborhood. Linus Chan is the U of M James H. Binger Clinical Professor of Law and the faculty director of the Detainee Rights Clinic. He is an immigration attorney that focuses on removal defense for

those detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

If you missed this session, the video is highly recommended for a better understanding of the legality of the recent immigration enforcement surge and for insight into the recent experiences of community members.

Watch the zoom recording with pass code: %E!GM2fb

[Zoom Recording](#)

[Ice Action Sheet](#)

[LWVMN Resources for Supporting Immigrant Neighbors](#)



US Immigration Policy in '25: Incarceration and Deportation without Due Process



US Immigration Policy in '25: Incarceration and Deportation without Due Process

LWV Mpls Civic Buzz

In October 2025, LWV Minneapolis Civic Buzz featured Professor Kari Hong, Appellate Attorney at Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. Professor Hong provided a brief overview of US immigration history with a focus on how the 1996 IIRAIRA law, passed during the Clinton administration, led to our

current immigration situation. Hong ends her presentation with specific recommendations for immigration reform.

"Clinton created the knife, Obama sharpened them and Trump is using them."

[Watch Civic Buzz Video](#)



ACLU-MN Expert Update

Feb 4, 2026

6:30 PM via Zoom

ACLU-MN invites you to learn about their recent federal and state court cases, how they have been showing up in community and what more they are going to accomplish. A team of ACLU-MN experts will give updates and then take questions.

[Register with ACLU](#)



Federal, State and Local Government: Who Controls Our Elections?



Federal, State and Local Government: Who Controls Our Elections?

LWV Minneapolis Civic Buzz

**Thursday, February 5, 2026
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM via Zoom**

What are the roles and powers of federal, state and local governments when it comes to election administration and funding? What are possible disruptions to the 2026 elections? How can we prepare to ensure elections run smoothly?

Join LWV Minneapolis and guest speaker David Schultz, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies at Hamline University, for an in-depth look at the laws, policies and powers of government to run our federal, state and local elections.

Register for "Who Controls Our Elections?"



Permanent Supportive Housing and Our Communities

A Conversation with Beacon CEO Chris LaTondresse

February 12
9:45 AM - 11:30 AM

Join LWV Edina and guest speaker Chris LaTondresse, CEO of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, to discuss the vital role permanent supportive housing plays in our communities.

Beacon is one of Minnesota's largest providers of what's known as permanent supportive housing: homes for families, youth and individuals that are supplemented by wraparound services to help residents – many of whom enter Beacon's homes from long-term or chronic homelessness – stabilize their lives and enable them to thrive, not just survive.

Register with LWV Edina

Freedom of Speech, the *Constitution* & You

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Ramsey County Library - Maplewood
3025 Southlawn Drive, 55109

Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

Learn about freedom of speech
from journalist, educator, and
lawyer.

To view on
Zoom, use
this link:

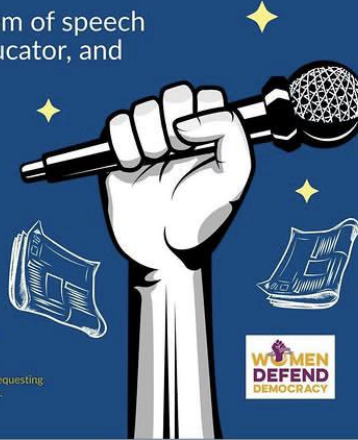


<https://bit.ly/4ipsf0qg>

Co-sponsors:

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

Please contact lwvrosevillearea@lwvnmn.org if requesting
ALS interpreting services, allowing for lead time.



Freedom of Speech, the Constitution, and You

Sunday, February 15, 2026

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Via Zoom or

Ramsey County Public Library - Maplewood

3025 Southlawn Drive

Maplewood, MN, 55109

Learn about freedom of speech from a journalist, educator, and lawyer. A public education event on the understanding, legal implications, and application of the 1st Amendment of the Constitution. Bring your questions!

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

Zoom Link

Federal budget reconciliation harmful impacts: **Medicaid**

- **\$1 trillion** funding cut nationally
- New work reporting requirements
- Deep funding cuts could **result in hospitals, nursing homes closing** or cutting services
- Refugees lose health care coverage
- Over **140,000** Minnesotans lose health care coverage
- State of MN lose **\$1.4 billion** in federal funding in first 4 years



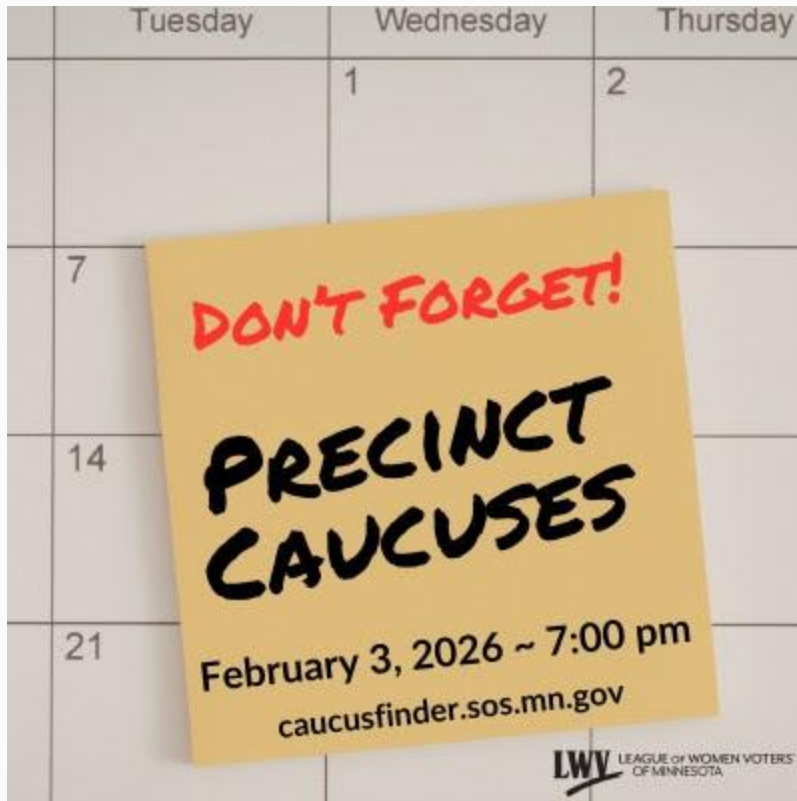
Medicaid, What Does the Future Hold, Can Our Hospitals Survive?

HR1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill, passed last June included new rules and cuts to health care coverage for individuals and funding to states for health care.

In December, North Memorial CEO Trevor Sawallish and Laura Mortenson, Communications Director for the Minnesota Budget Project shared how this will affect Minnesotans.

Video from LWV New Hope is now available on YouTube.

[Watch on YouTube](#)



caucusfinder.sos.mn.gov

Coming in March...

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

March 9 - **Program Meeting**

March 12 - **ERA Rally**

March 14 - **Persistence and Resistance Conversation**

March 14 - **UMRR Program Meeting**

March 18 - **Book Club**

March 23 - **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



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League of Women Voters ABC

**1482 158th LN NW
Andover, MN 55304**

lwvabc@gmail.com