

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

March 2026

Protecting Immigrants

Concurrence
Proposal



Protecting Immigrants Concurrence Proposal

Monday, March 9, 2026

Online via Zoom

Members Only

6:30 - online and in person socializing

7:00 - program begins

LWV Washington has requested our support to have the National Convention adopt their Protecting Immigrants position through the concurrence process. Adopting a position at the national level allows all members in the US to take action based on the position.

The current LWVUS immigration policy, adopted in 2008, is focused on criteria for legal admission to the United States and due process in the administration and enforcement of admission policies. The proposed addition focuses on the treatment

of immigrants residing in the US.

All League positions are developed through a study and consensus process. The concurrence process allows delegates to the convention to agree with a position statement that has already been arrived at through study and consensus by another League.

[March 9 Zoom Link](#)

Please review the following before the meeting.

[Current LWVUS Position On Immigration](#)

[Proposed Position on Immigrants](#)

[Study - Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State](#)



Living with Animal Predators in Anoka County

Monday, March 16, 2026

11:30 AM via Zoom

Note Date and Time

We all see deer and swans and cranes and bunnies and squirrels but there is a whole upper level of the food chain that we only occasionally see. Many people react to seeing a coyote or bear or bobcat with fear, and they blame eagles and owls for disappearing cats. So which predators are found in the north Metro? Should people be afraid? Are these predators a sign of a healthy ecosystem?

Learn the answers to these questions from Alexandra Schmitz, DNR Wildlife Manager.

March 16 Zoom Link

Legislative Partners & Coalitions: LWV

Great Seal of the State of Minnesota

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

MINNESOTANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

MN Census and Democracy Partnership

WE CHOOSE US

PROTECT MINNESOTA PM
Preventing Gun Violence Together

Common Cause Minnesota

CLEAN ELECTIONS MINNESOTA

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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LWVMN Legislative Priorities

In February, members were joined by Paul Huffman, LWVMN Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator, and Sam Streukens, LWVMN Civic Engagement Director to discuss the upcoming legislative session and League priorities.

Legislative priorities are set by the LWVMN board based on staff resources, as well

as resources of our partners.

Our partners this year:

- Minnesota Secretary of State
- [Minnesota Environmental Partnership](#)
- Minnesotans for Equal Rights (includes [ERA Minnesota](#) and [Gender Justice](#))
- [We Choose Us](#)
- [Protect Minnesota](#)
- [Common Cause Minnesota](#)
- [Clean Elections Minnesota](#)
- Mn Census and Democracy Partnership

Priorities can expand when members get involved. Members are encouraged to observe and report on any issue consistent with [League positions](#).

Get involved!

Attend Fired Up Fridays. Join the Lobby & Observer Corp. Follow and share social media posts of LWV and our partners.

[Register for March 27 Fired Up Friday](#)

[Lobby & Observer Corp Interest Form](#)



Welcome New and Returning Members

Kathy Ahlers of Columbia Heights

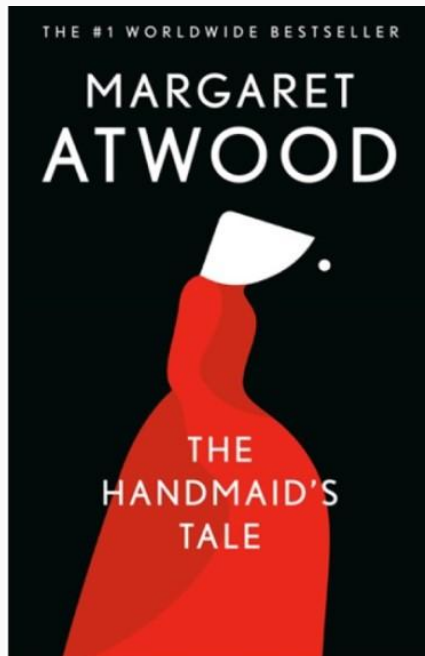
Barbara Pabst of Columbia Heights

Laura Rades of Andover

Mary Runestad of Coon Rapids

Rita Trapp of Blaine

Gary Walpole of Shoreview



Book Club

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

7:00 pm on Zoom

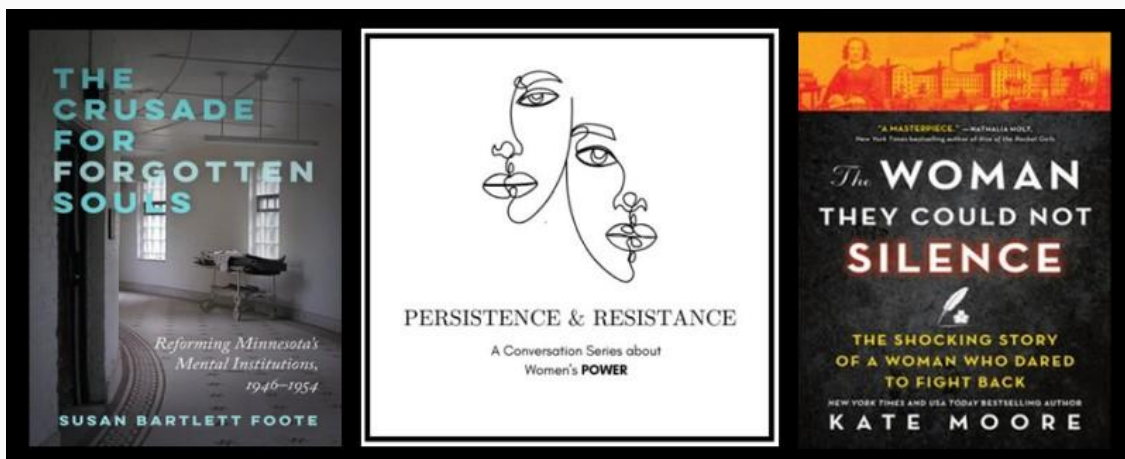
***The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) by Margaret Atwood**

A novel set in the near future, *The Handmaid's Tale* describes life in what was once the United States but is now the Republic of Gilead, a puritanical theocracy. The story is told through the eyes of Offred, one of the Handmaids under the new social order. She reveals to us the dark corners behind the establishment's calm façade.

Author Margaret Atwood has resisted labeling the novel as science fiction. She prefers to call it speculative fiction, in recognition of the fact that everything discussed in the novel is possible by the standards of available technology (in 1985 when written), cultural trends, and historical precedents. "The Handmaid's Tale does not depend upon hypothetical scenarios, omens, or straws in the wind, but upon documented occurrences and public pronouncements"

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Books](#)



**Women's Mental Health
A Persistence and Resistance Conversation
Saturday, March 14, 2026**

2:00 - 4:00 PM

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

Explore *The Woman They Could Not Silence* and *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls* to gain insight into life within state asylums. For extra credit, check out the oral history collection at ACHS! What occurs when society seeks to silence women?

Co-sponsored by the Anoka County Historical Society and LWV ABC. Tickets may be purchased for \$8 on the ACHS website.

[Buy Tickets](#)

The Persistence and Resistance conversations are not a book discussion, but each session is grounded in books and local research, establishing a solid foundation for discussion.

[Persistence and Resistance Books](#)



President Gretchen Sable and Vice President Julie Trude at December meeting.

Board Highlights

February 23, 2026

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Reviewed draft agenda for our League's Annual Meeting on April 13.
- Along with business items, selected a member to highlight key accomplishments over the years.
- Nominations committee will be seeking candidates for elected positions.
- Noted the continued new members via the LWVUS dues system. Gretchen will record a New Member Welcome for our website, which will be announced in the Welcome letter that's emailed to new members.
- Planning for upcoming monthly programs was conducted. Finalized arrangements will be included in the March newsletter.
- Reviewed LWV Non-Partisan Policy and clarified issues pertaining to participation in political activities.
- Approved sharing costs with White Bear Lake Area LWV for a Voter Outreach table at Main Street Market in Centerville in July-August. Volunteer sign-up for staffing the table will be made available to members when more information is available.

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



The State of Our Democracy

Celina Stewart, LWVUS Executive Director
February 25, 2026

"We are witnessing an open assault on our democracy, from dangerous executive overreach to our legislators' failure to take action, to our judiciary acting as a loyalist court. All three branches of government are failing the people, and our rights are under fire in Minnesota and beyond.

Immigration enforcement officers are being empowered to bypass the rule of law, using intimidation and fatal violence to suppress us. When we can't live our lives or raise our voices without risk of being incarcerated, deported or killed, we are no longer in a functioning democracy.

These blows hit communities of colors first and hardest, and the trauma of violence and suppression will soon reach us all. This is a classic authoritarianism tactic. By silencing certain communities, bad actors are laying the blueprint for silencing us all, and in that atmosphere, the US cannot be the healthy representative nation that we deserve.

We cannot afford to sit aside or be divided. Now is the time to join together and to fight back. Support your neighbors. Get involved with local organizations and donate to causes you care about. Join the work to fight back at lww.org/uniteandrise and, most importantly, keep going.

This is our democracy. Let's defend it."



Take Action: Immigration Enforcement

LWVUS continues to encourage everyone to contact Congress and tell them to

- Reject additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), or immigration detention
- Investigate ICE, CBP, and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) use of force
- Impose additional DHS guardrails and accountability measures on immigration enforcement
- Take steps to protect the constitutional rights of civilians to peacefully protest and assemble without having their lives threatened or taken.

[LWVUS Take Action Form](#)



Mutual Aid for Immigrants

With nearly 1000 extra ICE and CBP agents still in Minnesota, normal life in Minnesota continues to be disrupted for immigrant families.

Minnesotans have stepped up with providing mutual aid to our neighbors. The Stand with Minnesota website provides a directory of these mutual aid funds. These funds are administered by neighbors helping their neighbors, not large organizations. Included in the directory are [Supporting Hilltop Elementary Families](#) (Columbia Heights) and [Mutual Aid for Anoka-Hennepin Students and Families](#).

The Wilson Foundation, based in St. Anthony Village, is matching up to \$1.5 million dollars in donations to keep immigrant families in Minnesota housed.

See the Directory for more mutual aid funds

[Stand with Minnesota Giving Directory](#)

[Donate to Wilson Foundation Rent Fund](#)



Defending Civil Rights in Minnesota: Legal and Policy Responses to ICE

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

5:00 – 6:00 pm via Zoom

John Bohler, Policy Counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, will discuss the ACLU's litigation on behalf of those who were unlawfully detained, cases that are challenging racial profiling practices, and efforts to ensure access to counsel for those held at the Whipple Building where advocates have raised serious human rights concerns.

Unable to attend on March 4? Everyone who registers will receive an email with a link to the recorded session, as well as invitations to the upcoming

twice monthly sessions.

[Register for Upcoming WDD Session](#)

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

Recorded February 4, 2026

Professor Kari Hong, Appellate Attorney at Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project provides 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.

[Watch Detention Centers Session](#)

MPD Chief O'Hara & the Separation Ordinance

Recorded February 25, 2026


Minneapolis Chief of Police Brian O'Hara discusses the Separation Ordinance as a policing strategy and how it has re-shaped the relationship between the MPD and immigrant communities.

Passcode: yiKL02n*


[Watch Separation Ordinance Session](#)

LWV League of Women Voters of Dane County
League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area


A collaborative virtual program:
Environmental Impacts of Data Centers
February 11, 6:30 - 8:00



Amy Barrilleaux
Clean Wisconsin



Michael Grief
Midwest Environmental Advocates



Gretchen Sabel
LWV Upper Mississippi
River Region

Environmental Impact of Data Centers

Taped February 11, 2026

In February, LWV ABC President **Gretchen Sabel**, representing LWV UMRR, joined Amy Barrilleaux of Clean Wisconsin and Michael Grief of Midwest Environmental Advocates to discuss the environmental impact of data centers.

[Watch Data Center Video](#)



**DEFENDING
DEMOCRACY:**

A CONVERSATION WITH
MINNESOTA WOMEN
LEADERS

Tuesday, March 3 | 12-1:30 PM CST
Humphrey Forum

Defending Democracy: A Conversation with Minnesota Women Leaders

Tuesday March 3, 2026

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Room 105

301 S. 19th Ave

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Attacks on election integrity, efforts to undermine the peaceful transition of power, executive efforts to suppress dissent, the erosion of civil and reproductive rights, the scapegoating of marginalized communities, and the normalization of political violence all point to a dangerous rise in authoritarianism.

Join Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs for an examination of how these interconnected political crises are impacting Minnesota and the country, how leaders are working to defend democratic institutions, and what collective strategies can safeguard or expand our rights and freedoms.

Guest Speakers will be Emilia González Avalos, Executive Director of Unidos MN, and Minnesota Solicitor General Liz Kramer. Professor Christina Ewig will moderate.

Register with HHH School of Public Affairs



Rally for the Equal Rights Amendment

Thursday, March 12, 2026

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Minnesota Capitol Rotunda

The Minnesotans for Equal Rights coalition will host a rally to urge action on the MN ERA.

[RSVP for ERA Rally](#)



Have We Crapped in Our Own Nest?

A Look Into Iowa's Agricultural Practices

Saturday, March 14th

10:00 AM via zoom

Iowa is full of stories, including those of rural life, agriculture, and polluted surface waters – and no one tells them quite like Pulitzer Prize winner Art Cullen.

Join LWV Upper Mississippi River Region and LWV Metro Des Moines for a conversation with this Iowan on his new book "Marty, We Crapped in Our Own Nest: Notes from the Edge of the World". The discussion will explore impacts of a changing climate (physically and politically) on the lives of rural Iowans, highlighting stories in Cullen's diverse hometown of Storm Lake.

No matter where you live, Cullen's vision for a state powered by sustainable agriculture for the health of all its residents is sure to inspire you.

Art Cullen is editor and co-owner of the Storm Lake Times Pilot in rural northwest Iowa. Born and raised in Storm Lake, Iowa, he won a Pulitzer Prize in 2017 for his coverage of the agricultural surface water pollution in Iowa.

[Register for UMRR Program](#)

[UMRR Blog](#)



Death by Numbers

Free Documentary Film Screening

Friday, March 13, 2026

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Landmark Center - Auditorium

75 West 5th Street

Saint Paul, MN, 55102

Death by Numbers is an Oscar-nominated short film that follows Parkland school shooting survivor Sam Fuentes's journey to reclaim her power and confront her

assailant. Through Sam's processing of trauma by journaling, she examines complex questions of collective hatred and community justice.

There will be a resource table staffed by LWVMN, and a Q&A with Sam Fuentes following the film.

No reservations required



Join us for our upcoming webinar about the role of the ACLU in Minnesota with a focus on defending immigration rights



featuring

JOHN BOEHLER
Policy Counsel at the
ACLU of Minnesota

March 14, 2026 10 am via Zoom



Scan for more information

www.lwvmn.org/events

The Role of the ACLU in Minnesota

Saturday, March 14, 2026

10:00 AM via Zoom

Join the consortium of West Metro Leagues and John Boehler, a Policy Council with the ACLU MN, for a discussion on the role of the ACLU in Minnesota with a focus on defending immigration rights.

[Register for ACLU in Minnesota](#)



**SOS Lunch & Learn:
Setting the Stage for the 2026 Midterm Elections**

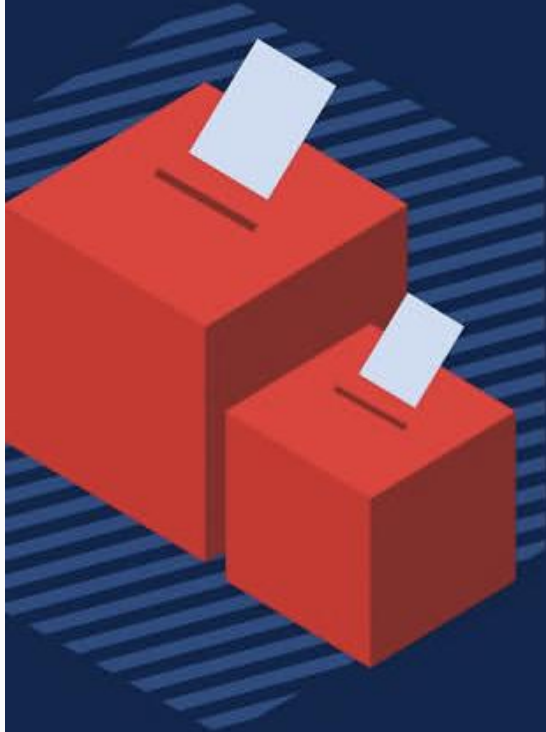
March 20, 2026

12:00-1:00 PM via Zoom

Secretary of State Steve Simon will provide an overview of what's ahead for the 2026 midterms. Learn what's happening at the federal level, key timeline and dates, and what community partners should know as election planning and voter engagement begin to ramp up.

[Register for Lunch & Learn](#)

Truth, Trust & the Ballot Box: Understanding Election Security



Join us for a conversation with election security experts on how the State of Minnesota and local governments ensure safe and secure elections.

Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, March 24
6:30 – 7:45
Doors open at 6:00

Ramsey County Library - Roseville
2180 N Hamline Ave

- Bill Ekblad, Election Security Navigator Office of MN Secretary of State
- David Triplett, Deputy Director Property Tax, Records & Election Services, Ramsey County
- Robin Johnson, Head Election Judge, White Bear Lake



Sponsored by:
League of Women Voters New Brighton Area
League of Women Voters Roseville Area
League of Women Voters St. Paul
League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area
Ramsey County Public Library

Register here:
<https://bit.ly/49MhrgB>



Please contact lwwrosevillearea@lwwmn.org if requesting ASL interpreting services, allowing for lead time.

Truth, Trust & the Ballot Box

Tuesday March 24, 2026

6:30-7:45 PM

Ramsey County Library Roseville
2180 N Hamline Ave

Join LWV New Brighton, LWV Roseville Area, LWV St Paul and LWV WBL Area for a

conversation with election security experts to discuss how the State of Minnesota and local governments ensure safe and secure elections.

[Reserve your Spot](#)



No Kings Anoka

Saturday, March 28, 2026

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Anoka County Government Center

2100 3rd Ave

Indivisible North Metro is organizing the rally which will take place along both sides of Main Street from 3rd Ave to 5th Ave.

Buses will be available after the rally to transport folks to the Capitol No Kings Rally.

Complete the interest form if interested in helping organize or you wish to

take a bus to the Capitol No Kings Rally

Anoka No Kings Volunteer & Interest Form

No Kings Twin Cities

Saturday, March 28, 2026

12:00 - 3:00 PM

Minnesota State Capitol

Marches will kick off at 12 noon, with the rally following at 2:00 PM. March gathering locations and guest speaker to be announced.

For more information, register with Indivisible Twin Cities or follow the organizers on social media - Indivisible Twin Cities, MN 50501, Women's March MN, and the AFL-CIO MN.

Register with Indivisible Twin Cities

Coming in April ...

All Month - **Arab American Heritage Month**

April 7 - **Suffs The Musical**

April 13 - **Annual Meeting**

April 25 - **LWVMN Council**

April 27 - **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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[YouTube](#)

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