

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

August 2026



Annual Picnic

Annual Potluck Picnic

Monday, August 10, 2026

River's Bend Park – South Shelter

5000 142nd Lane NW

Ramsey, MN 55303

5:30 PM – Gather and socialize

6:00 PM – Dinner and announcements

Join us for our annual potluck picnic! It's a great opportunity to meet fellow LWV members in person, reconnect with friends and talk about what's ahead during this exciting election year.

Please bring a dish to share and any serving utensils needed for your dish. Water, iced tea, lemonade, and compostable plates, cups and utensils will be provided.

We hope to have a postcard writing project to support LWV's August 8 Day of Action. Otherwise, there is no formal agenda—just good food, great conversation, and a few brief announcements.

Directions: Turn off St Francis Blvd (MN Hwy 47) at 142nd Ave NW and follow the road around UNDER Bunker Lake Blvd and park in the south parking lot. The shelter is nearby, by the fishing pier.

If the weather doesn't cooperate - too hot, too smoky or too rainy - please watch your email for updates.

Map of River's Bend Park

League T-Shirts for Sale



At the picnic, LWV ABC will have seven LWV T-shirts for sale. The purple t-shirts are all cotton and cut for women. Sizes available: 2 Medium, 3 Large and 2 X-Large. Price: \$16.50.



Welcome New Members

Pamela Clemson of Champlin
Beverly Dehn of Ramsey
Jessica Nelson of Blaine
Mary Rusin of Anoka

LWVMN offers a monthly New Member Orientation for new members and those who may want a refresher on how LWV Minnesota and LWV US work

Register for the August 6, 7:00 PM session.

Register for New Member Orientation



Candidate Forums

Thanks to all members who helped us complete eight Primary Election Candidate Forums!

Our General Election Candidate Forum schedule will be finalized after results of the Primary Election are in. Links to submit questions for General Election candidate forums will be available on our Candidate Forum webpage after August 15.

Watch our Primary Election Candidate Forums and the LWV White Bear Lake Area 10th Judicial District Forum before you vote.

Candidate Forum Webpage



LWV ABC members before the Andover Parade on June 28, 2026

Volunteer with Voter Services

Candidate Forums

Greeters and timers are essential for successful forums. We begin taping General Election Candidate Forums in late August and continue through late September.

New members are encourage to sign up - you will be paired with an experienced member. Just note in the comments box that you no experience.

Additional dates will be added to our SignUp form as our schedule is finalized.

Question Facilitators

Volunteer to be a Question Facilitator to review, consolidate and prioritize questions submitted by the public through our website.

SignUp as a Question Facilitator

Learn More About Being a Question Facilitator

Moderator Training

Geri Nelson and Linda Rogers are offering in person moderator training on August 11 for new moderators and experienced moderators seeking a refresher.

Moderators must be League members. Non-members interested in becoming moderators are encouraged to [join League](#) and then sign up for training.

SignUp for Moderator Trainer

Voter Registration Training

New to voter registration? Need an update on recent changes? LWV Minneapolis is offering three more session of their excellent training - August 5, August 25 and September 3.

Non-members who have completed League training are welcome to volunteer for our voter registration events.

Stay tuned for a SignUp to volunteer to register voters at Ramsey Happy Days on Saturday, September 12 and at Nowthen Heritage Festival on Saturday September 26.

SignUp for Voter Registration Training



Post-Election Review

Post-Election Review Observers Needed

Help support Minnesota's free and fair elections, by signing up to observe the 2026 Post-Election Review (PER)! Every volunteer with LWVMN will be trained as a nonpartisan observer and join a team of observers. You do not need to be a member of League to join the League PER Observer team, so encourage your family and friends to participate.

LWVMN hopes to build on 2024, when 160 trained volunteers observed the PER in 43 of Minnesota's 87 counties. LWVMN subsequently reported that Minnesota's elections are transparent, verifiable, and accurate to county boards and newspapers across Minnesota.

[SignUp for PER Observer Training](#)



Public Accuracy Test

Public Accuracy Test Observers Needed

For the first time, LWVMN will be training volunteers to observe and report on the Public Accuracy Test (PAT). These public tests of the voting machines are administered ahead of every state election by each county and municipality to ensure the reliability of the state's voting infrastructure.

The testers stress-test the voting machines by using a "deck" of test ballots. These sample ballots test the machines' response to correctly completed ballots as well as overvotes, undervotes, blank ballots and damaged ballots. Testing continues until each machine meets the standard and performs with perfect accuracy. Once the tests are done, the machines are stored securely until they're needed for an election.

Anoka County's Public Accuracy Test for the General Election will be held October 12.

The PAT is another important step in the election verification process to ensure the accuracy of our election results and provide voter confidence. You do not need to be a member of League to join the League PAT Observer Team, so encourage your family and friends to participate.

[SignUp for PAT Observer Training](#)

August Academy



August Academy

Every August, LWVMN offers members virtual opportunities to enhance their skills and effectiveness. This August, several sessions focus on voter engagement:

- [Effective Storytelling to Leverage our Impact](#)
- [Working with Students: Policies and Best Practices](#)
- [Using CURA's Voter Outreach Mapping Tool](#)
- [Polarization and Bridging the Divide](#)

Other topics include [Introduction to Money in Politics](#), [Your Canva Questions](#) and [League Program 101](#).

All August Academy Sessions



Voting Rights Pep Rally

August 6, 2026

2:00-3:30 PM Central via Zoom

Join the League for a virtual pep rally to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most consequential pieces of legislation in American history.

You'll hear from a variety of people about the impact of the VRA, including newly elected League president, Sania Irwin, CEO Celina Stewart, the NAACP, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote, the Native American Rights Fund, the Southern Poverty Law Center and more!

Register for Pep Rally



Youth Voter Outreach Strategy

Thursday, August 6, 2026

7:00 – 8:30 PM via Zoom

Michael Wall, Youth Voter Outreach Specialist at the Minnesota Secretary of State Office, will discuss strategies for youth voter outreach.

This webinar is hosted by the LWV West Metro Alliance which includes: LWV Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove; LWV Edina; LWV Golden Valley; LWV Lake Minnetonka/Plymouth Area; LWV Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins; LWV New Hope Area; and LWV St. Louis Park.

[Register for Youth Voter Outreach Strategy](#)



OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

LUNCH & LEARN

Minnesota Election Law Overview

AUGUST 7, 2026 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM



Join us as Government Relations Director Nicole Freeman provides an overview of Minnesota election law. You'll learn key laws and policies that have changed in recent years to ensure you have the information you need to prepare for Midterm Election. Whether you are new to election work or just looking for a refresher, this session is for you. Special welcome from Secretary Simon and time for Q&A at the end.

Minnesota Election Law Overview

SOS Lunch & Learn Series

August 7, 2026

12-1:00 PM via Zoom

Join Nicole Freeman, Government Relations director at the Minnesota Secretary of State Office, for a refresher on Minnesota Election law.

Register for SOS Lunch & Learn



Headscarf Story Circle

Saturday August 8, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Online & in person

Minnesota Humanities Center

987 Ivy Avenue East

St. Paul, MN 55106

On August 8, 2026, the League and our partners will host a nationwide day of civic action in honor of the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Celebrate voting rights with the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) and the League of Women Voters Minnesota by joining the Headscarf Story Circle.

Guests are encouraged to wear a headscarf or head dress that is symbolic of anything from a fashion statement, cultural identity, health related, memories and beliefs.

Twin Cities Metro guests are encouraged to attend in person. The event includes

brunch. The day's action will include writing postcards with an invitation to learn about the elections from VOTE411.org.

[Register for in person or virtual attendance](#)



League member Rose McGee at a Headscarf Story Circle. Photo by Sarah Whiting for Minnesota Humanities Center.

Headscarf Story Circle began shortly after we emerged from the pandemic. The program was inspired by the Headscarf TeaLit Society, which LWV member Rose McGee founded more than 25 years ago.

Learn more about Headscarf Circle Stories

[Learn More at MHC](#)

[Minnesota Women's Press Article](#)



The ERA Today: Where Minnesota and the Nation Stand

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

5:00 PM via Zoom

Betty Folliard, ERA Advocate and former MN State Legislator joins LWV Minneapolis for an update on the status of both the national ERA and the proposed Minnesota ERA. Folliard will examine the legal and political challenges that have stalled their adoption and discuss why constitutional protections for gender equality remain as relevant today as ever.

Betty served in the Minnesota Legislature from 1997 to 2003 and has spent decades working to advance constitutional equality for women.

[Register for The ERA Today](#)



State Fair Parade

Monday, August 31, 2026

10:30 AM - Student Trivia Contest
12:30 PM - Parade

LWVMN will be marching in the MN State Fair Parade on August 31 to promote students voting! For the third year in a row, we will march alongside students with The Youth Voter Project, YMCA Center for Youth Voice, and Vote16 MN to amplify pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds and to get out the vote.

Students will have the opportunity to gain early access to the Fair for a special 250th Trivia Contest with Sec. of State Steve Simon at 10:30 am. Everyone will line up to march in the MN State Fair Daily Parade between 12:30 - 1:00 pm.

We hope you can join us for the parade, and encourage a student to sign up for the special 250th Trivia Contest with Sec. Simon before the parade!

[Register for State Fair Events](#)



WDD One Year Anniversary with Barbara McQuade

Recorded July 8, 2026

The League of Women Voters Minneapolis celebrated the one year anniversary of their Women Defending Democracy series with special guest speaker Barbara McQuade, New York Times bestselling author of *The Fix: Saving America from the Corruption of a Mob-Style Government*.

McQuade is a former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School, legal analyst for NBC News and MSNBC, and cohost of the podcast #SistersInLaw.

[Watch Barbara McQuade on YouTube](#)



Know Your Rights - Voting Edition

Recorded July 22, 2026

ACLU-MN experts give a presentation on voting rights and how you can protect them.

[Watch Know Your Rights - Voting Edition](#)



Lucy Baines Johnson

Remarks to LWWUS Convention

In June, Lucy Baines Johnson joined the LWWUS Convention electronically. As an 18 year old, she witnessed her father Lyndon B. Johnson sign the Voting Rights Act, which as her father reminded her that day, was passed with bipartisan support.

She reminded us that:

"Now, it is not enough to admire history. We must choose to be a part of it. The question before us is not whether this moment is difficult. It is whether we will do what is right."

"What makes you different isn't just your storied legacy, but your role as an organization that's pro-voter, not pro-candidate. You insist that everyone has the right to vote, and you rally behind that belief. You remind people that our democracy is strongest when people of all different backgrounds show up for elections."

Watch Lucy Baines Johnson Address to League



Behind the Ballot Series

Discover what goes on behind the scenes of local elections in Anoka County! Tom Hunt, Anoka County Elections Director, has created a series of short videos. Watch the "Behind the Ballot: Inside Anoka County Elections" on the Anoka County YouTube Channel.

[Watch the Behind the Ballot Series](#)



An Evening With Friends & Authors

Thursday, October 15, 2026

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Courtyards of Andover

13545 Martin St NW

Andover, MN 55304

The Friends Of The Anoka County Library welcome authors Lorna Landvik, Traci

Lambrecht (P. J. Tracy) and William Kent Krueger for their second annual "An Evening With Friends & Authors" fundraising gala.

The evening will kick off with a social hour. During this time, guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, while bidding on auction items, buying raffle tickets and visiting with our authors. Attendees will also have an opportunity to purchase books and have them personally autographed by the author. Following the welcoming social hour, attendees will enjoy us for an elegant dinner, dessert and the evening's highlight: the author presentations.

Tickets are \$80 or \$75 each for a table of eight. Several members are interested in sharing a table with LWV ABC members, friends and family.

Email us at lwvabc@gmail.com with subject "Friends Gala" if you are interested in joining other LWV ABC members at this event.



HERE WE VOTE
MNVOTES.GOV

VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Minnesota Voters have the right to:

- TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO VOTE
- VOTE IF IN LINE BY 8 P.M.
- REGISTER ON ELECTION DAY
- SIGN IN ORALLY
- ASK FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
- ASK FOR HELP
- BRING CHILDREN TO THE POLLS
- VOTE IF YOU ARE NOT INCARCERATED FOR FELONY CONVICTION
- VOTE IF UNDER GUARDIANSHIP
- VOTE WITHOUT BEING INFLUENCED AT THE POLLING PLACE
- ASK FOR A REPLACEMENT BALLOT IF A MISTAKE IS MADE BEFORE CAST
- FILE A COMPLAINT
- BRING A SAMPLE BALLOT
- BRING THE VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Minnesota Statutes 204C.08, subd. 1d

Coming in September...

9/15 to 10/15
National Hispanic Heritage Month

9/14 **Program Meeting**
9/15 **National Voter Registration Day**
9/16 **Book Club**
9/18 **Absentee Voting Begins**
9/28 **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**

lwwabc@gmail.com

*Copyright © 2026 LWV ABC,
All rights reserved.*

*The Voter
The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*