The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

October 2026

League Program, Positions, Priorities & Principles

Monday, October 12, 2026

Andover Community Center
Community Room B (Mike Knight Room B)
15200 Hanson Blvd
Andover, MN 55304

6:30 - online and in person socializing
7:00 - program begins

Did you miss LWV Minnesota's August Academy? Or want to learn more about being involved with programs with your local league? Join us as we revisit the August Academy to help members deepen their understanding of:

- League Program, Positions, and Principles
- How League positions are updated
- How LWV Minnesota sets legislative priorities
- Using Program to take action through education and advocacy

• Member engagement opportunities

Learn more about League positions ...

LWVUS "Impact on Issues"

LWVMN "Program for Action"

Kristin Granlund and Sue Dergantz registering voters at Ramsey Happy Day on September 12, 2026

Voter Registration

by Cindy Wetzell

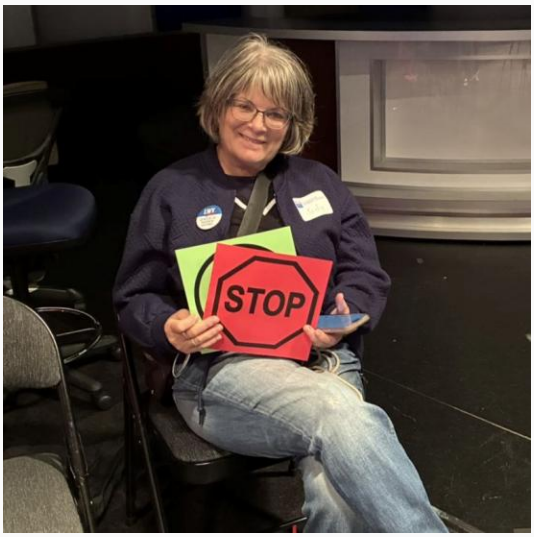
Voter registration at community events has come to a close for this election season. We had a presence at Tower Days (Spring Lake Park), the Monarch Festival (Columbia Heights), Anoka Pride Day, Andover Fun Fest Parade, Ramsey Happy Days, Anoka-Ramsey Community College (for National Voter Registration Day), and Nowthen Heritage Festival. Two events—the Columbia Heights Arts and Info Fair and the Blaine Festival were, unfortunately, rained out.

Across these events, over 250 residents visited our booths to register, ask questions, answer questions (on the very popular Constitution Quiz!) and be informed re the league and our candidate forums. Hundreds more saw us in the parade as we marched and handed out voter and league information.

The world is run—and changed—by those who show up. Long-time and (many) new LWV-ABC members showed up to staff the booths and marched in the parade and had a great time doing so.

It was a great year for community outreach and increased our visibility throughout the county.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made these events such as success!



Jody Anderson, timer, and Mary Jo Truchon and Kathie Whechel, greeters, at North Metro TV.
Sue Dergantz, moderator, and Beverly Dehn, timer, at Nowthen forums.

Candidate Forums by the Numbers

44 Forums
13 Evenings of Forums
102 Invited Candidates

23 City Races
17 Legislative Races
4 County Commissioner Races

20 Volunteer Timers
20 Volunteer Greeters
15 Volunteer Moderators
7 First-time Moderators

Thanks to all our volunteers, many of which volunteered for several forums. Our goal of helping voters be informed voters could not have become a reality without your hard work.

All LWV ABC Forums, as well as other LWV forums covering Anoka County races, may be watched on YouTube and our Candidate Forum webpage.

Candidate Forum Webpage

2026 YouTube Candidate Forum Playlist

Walk and Talk

October 13, 2026
10:00 AM

Treetop Trail
Mississippi Gateway Regional Park
10360 West River Road
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Meet on the Hennepin County side of the Coon Rapids dam. Parking is free here.

The Treetop Trail stretches over 900 feet into the treetops and extends over the wetland, offering stunning views of the park. Visitors can relax in designated spots, explore the Treehouse and Birds Nest features, enjoy the breeze and watch migrating birds and other wildlife below.

The Treetop Trail is accessible and can be entered near the Gateway Center.

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park

No RSVP Lunch

October 13, 2026
11:30 AM

Asia Village
Northtown Mall
301 Northtown Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

No agenda, no RSVP - just an opportunity to try a new restaurant (or visit an old favorite) and chat with other League members.

Asia Village, opened earlier this year, is an Asian food court including Korean, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Japanese food. Get your own food and meet up in the center of the food court.

Click below for more info on food options

Twin Cities Experts

Program Director Leslie Waterhouse moderating Candidate Forums in Nowthen.

Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Gretchen Sabel reported on behalf of Jeorgette Knoll, Pat Kennedy, and Julie Trude that candidate forums are running smoothly. New members are engaged as volunteers, including four who have taken on the role of first-time moderators. The moderator training provided by Geri Nelson and Linda Rodgers has greatly enhanced capacity for conducting forums.

- Videos for the candidate forums are being promptly posted by Pat Kennedy, and statistics for views were reviewed. Pat has also contacted all local and legislative candidates with reminders to participate in the Vote411 Voter Guide provided by LWV Minnesota. Paul Sitz has additionally been contacting candidates with Vote411 reminders.

- A report from Cindy Wetzell highlighted a successful voter registration activity at Anoka Ramsey Community College. Discussed how to continue building on this partnership.

- Discussed activities to build awareness for the Permanent School Fund Constitutional Ballot Measure that will be on Minnesotans ballot in the November 3 General Election. Planned actions include Letter to the Editor,

checking with QCTV about a Public Service Announcement, and reminder information at October 12 program meeting.

- Reviewed recruitment information from LWV Minnesota for nonpartisan observers for the Public Accuracy Test (PAT) and Post-Election Review (PER), One-hour training is required. Members shared their positive experiences with participation in these activities during previous election.

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

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Election 2026 Reminders

Absentee Voting

Any voter may request an absentee ballot. No excuse necessary.

Mail your Absentee Ballot early. Your ballot must be received on or before Election Day.

In-Person Absentee Voting continues at the Anoka County Government Center for all residents of Anoka County. Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Hilltop and Ramsey also offer In-Person Absentee Voting for their residents.

Voter Registration

October 13 is the last day to registration online.

Early Voting

On October 16, Early Voting begins at the Anoka County Government Center and at the election office of **all** cities in Anoka County. With Early Voting, voters place their ballot directly in the ballot counting machine.

New this year, is Sunday Early Voting and an additional day of Saturday Early Voting. Vote Early in in-person from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on

- Saturday, October 24, 2026
- Saturday October 31, 2026
- Sunday, November 1, 2026

League Voter Guides

Vote411

Every candidate in the country was sent an invitation to participate in the League's online Voter Guide. Each candidate had the opportunity to provide contact information and provide answers to 3-5 questions, depending on the position they are running for. The Voter Guide for Minnesota candidates went live on September 18, the first day of absentee voting by mail and in-person.

Just enter your address at Vote411.org to receive your personalized guide.

Vote411 Voter Guide

Bot or Not?
Your Field Guide to Surviving the Internet This Election Season

October 6, 2026
6:00 PM via Zoom

Learn practical knowledge to stay safe from threats and mis/disinformation online during this election season!

This session is intended to be an interactive and engaging environment. You will see real world examples of and get hands on experience identifying coordinated inauthentic behavior, disinformation, and AI-generated content. We will learn about the do's and don'ts of engaging with political content online and how to safeguard our own accounts from targeting and privacy exposure. Lastly, we will learn the impact that these kinds of behavior are having on the digital landscape and more specifically American elections.

Register for Bot or Not?

Access to Water as a Human Right

October 13, 2026
7:00 PM via Zoom

Join LWV UMRR for this opportunity to talk about the next front in civil rights!

Guest speakers will be Carolyn Raffensperger, executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network and Jim Larew, Attorney to the Board of the Driftless Water Defenders. LWV UMRR Chair, Mary Ellen Miller, will lead the discussion following the presentations.

The program will be recorded, and all who register will receive the video link.

Register for Access to Water as a Human Right

One Nation, One Religion?
Christian Nationalism and the Constitution

Wednesday, October 28 2026
5:00 – 6:00 PM via Zoom

Guest Speaker: Jerry Gale, Founder Christians Against Christian Nationalism Minnesota

CACN-Minnesota, started in January 2024, is a group for Minnesota Christians, churches, and faith communities interested in working to advance understanding of what Christian Nationalism is, and why it poses a threat to both democracy and Christianity.

Register with LWV Mpls

Watch September's "Young Voters in the Future"

Young Voters in the Future

Minnesota Neighbors Film Screening

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

5:00 PM: Reception and Rebel Loon Archive viewing
6:05 PM: Film screening

F. K. Weyerhaeuser Aud. – Landmark Center
75 5th St. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Join LWVMN for a screening of Not In Our Town's new film "Minnesota Neighbors". This film profiles the brave actions of Minnesota residents during ICE's Operation Metro Surge this winter.

Before the screening, as part of United Against Hate Week, LWVMN invites you to view selections from the Rebel Loon Archive. Founded in January 2026 in response to Operation Metro Surge, the Rebel Loon Archive preserves, publishes and exhibits visual and written art responding to current issues in Minnesota.

Hosted by the League of Women Voters Minnesota, Ramsey County Historical Society, and Rebel Loon Archive.

How Will The Metro Area Meet Its Housing Needs?

CMAL Quarterly Meeting

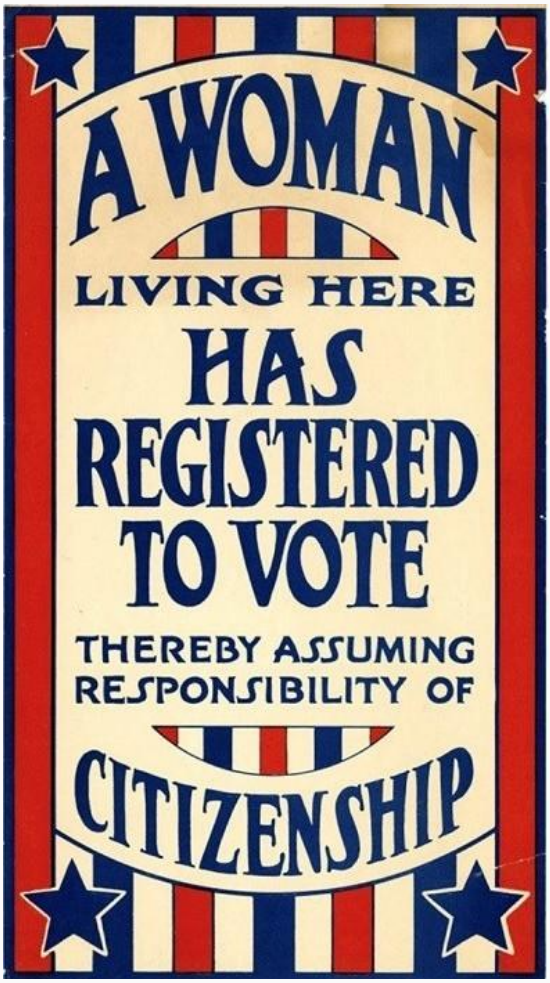
Thursday, October 29, 2026
6:30 PM via Zoom

Join the Council of Metropolitan Leagues to explore how the metro area will meet its housing needs from regional, municipal, and community-based perspectives. Panelist will be:

- Sarah Berke, Senior Manager of Housing and Livable Communities at the Metropolitan Council, will provide an overview of the Imagine 2050 Housing Policy Plan and the affordable housing targets established for each city.
- Karen Addoun, Housing and Compliance Manager at the Rondo Community Land Trust, will discuss how land trusts may help support the development and preservation of affordable housing.
- Ania McDonnell, Government Relations Specialist for Metro Cities, will share how municipalities are responding to the 2050 targets.

The discussion will examine how the targets are determined, as well as the challenges and opportunities communities face in meeting their affordable housing goals.

Register for CMAL Quarterly Meeting



1919 sign women placed in their front window to encourage other women to register to vote.

Coming Next Month ...

All Month - **National Native American Heritage Month**

Nov 1 - **Sunday In-Person Early Voting**
Nov 3 - **Election Day**
Nov 9 - **Program Meeting**
Nov 12 - **No RSVP Lunch**
Nov 18 - **Book Club**
Nov 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

Website Facebook Email

Bluesky Instagram YouTube

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

lwvabc@gmail.com

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The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC