

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
December 2025



Member Ice Cream Social

Monday, December 8, 2025

**Andover Community Center - Mike Knight Community Room
15200 Hanson Blvd NW Andover
Andover, Minnesota**

6:00 - socializing and ice cream

6:30 - program begins

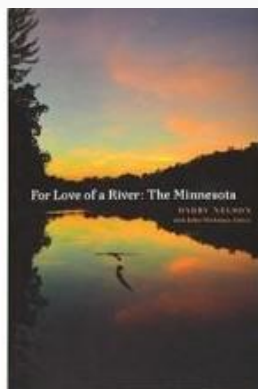
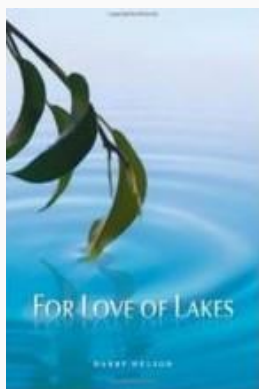
We invite all ABC League members to join us for our December program meeting. This end of year program meeting is a great opportunity to meet and reconnect with fellow League members - and possibly win one of door prizes!

We will have small group discussions of some of the League positions which will shape our work in the coming year. **Amy Perna**, our new LWVMN Executive

Director will join us to share statewide insights and discuss Rise Up 8.5, the new LWVUS initiative designed to expand civic participation and strengthen democratic engagement across the country.

Members are welcome to bring guests.

Fundraiser



At our December meeting, **Geri Nelson** will be offering Darby Nelson's books *For Love of the Lakes* and *For Love of a River: The Minnesota* at a discounted price of **\$20 each**.

Geri will donate all proceeds to LWV ABC.

Author **Darby Nelson** (1941–2022) was an environmentalist, ecologist, educator and three term member of the Minnesota House, as well as a member of LWV ABC.



Microplastics and Human Health

In October, Dr. Mary Kosuth, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Minnesota's

Institute on the Environment, joined us to discuss microplastics and human health, some Minnesota policies that encourage Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastics and what still needs to be done policy-wise.

[Watch Program Video](#)



Welcome New Members

Kathlyn Lovell of Fridley



2025 Candidate Forums

Thanks to everyone - members, candidates and voters - who made 2025 another successful year of helping voters be informed voters!

We had **5,934 views of our seven forum videos** before the close of polls on November 4, 2025. Most forum video were viewed during the week before Election Day, with Election Day the most popular day. The Lino Lakes Mayor forum was the most popular with 1,556, closely followed by Lino Lakes City Council with 1,377 views.

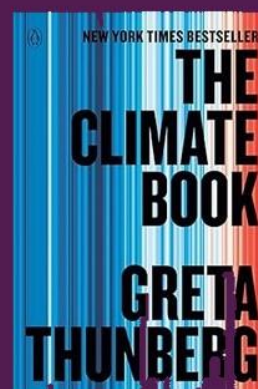
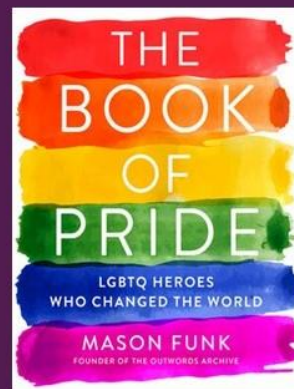
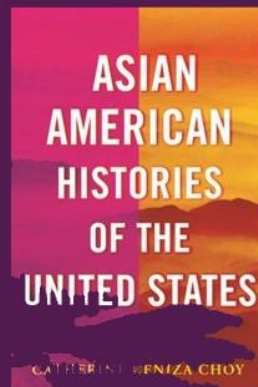
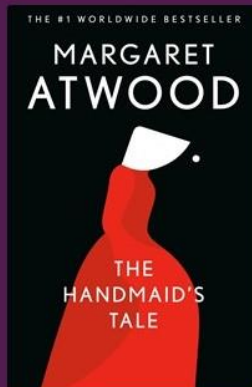
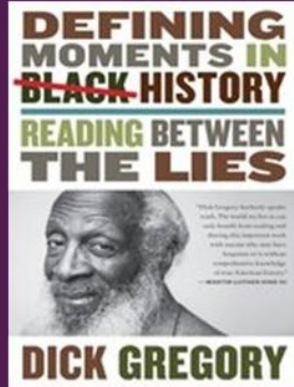
2026 Candidate Forums

As we head into the new year, we are exploring how to finance next year's candidate forums. We could have up to 50 forums in 2026, depending on how many of the city, county and state races are contested. **Thanks to everyone who recently donated to LWV ABC!**

Click below if you too would like to make a tax deductible donation to LWV ABC to help meet the rising costs of candidate forums.

Support Candidate Forums

2026 LWV ABC Book Club DOD Banned Books



2026 Banned Book Club

Odd numbered months

Third Wednesday at 7:00 pm on Zoom

In 2026, our book club will be a Banned Book Club. Our 2026 books are among the books removed by Department of Defense (DOD) from the 161 K-12 schools on military bases around the world. Our six book club choices (pictured above) are representative of some of the topics and ideas that the DOD is attempting to suppress - Black history, Asian history, feminism, racism, Christian Nationalism criticism, science and the existence of LGBTQ people. Our conversation will be centered on the contents of the books, as well as discussing censorship.

The DOD Book Ban

Following January executive orders, DOD removed an estimated 600 books, altered curricula (including AP Psychology), and canceled events that they judged to be promoting “gender ideology” or “divisive equity ideology.” The books were removed from DOD schools without input from, or notice to, parents, students or educators. Parents were unable to obtain a list of books and school employees were threatened with termination if they shared information. The DOD schools serve 67,000 students around the world. 59% of the students are people of color.

DOD never released a list of the 600 banned books but investigative reporters were able to compile a list of over 300 of the "quarantined" books. **History books and fiction with any mention of a LGBTQ character predominate the books known to be banned.** Also included are poetry, an autobiography of Sally Ride, a picture book about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a graphic adaptation of Anne Frank's diary, JFK's *A Nation of Immigrants* and several books discussing the concept of consent in relationships.

The censored books include several books previously read by the LWV ABC book club - *Caste*, *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*, *How the Word Is Passed* and *White Rage*.

E.K. vs. Department of Defense Activity

In April, about the time students walked out of school in protest of the book ban, the ACLU filed suit on behalf of 12 students and their families stationed in Virginia, Kentucky, Italy, and Japan. The lawsuit asserted that President Trump's Executive Orders infringe on the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights and sought the reinstatement of removed books and curricula. On October 20, 2025, the **ACLU won their lawsuit, but the injunction is limited to the five schools attended by the plaintiffs.**

Check out the list of banned books and learn more in an article written by the author of one of the banned book.

Exhibit 14 - Partial List of DOD Quarantined Books

Article: Why They Ban & Why We Fight



Program Chair Lesley Waterhouse and Voter Service Co-Chair Jeorgette Knoll at our August picnic.

Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Treasurer reported on good response to LWV ABC fundraising letter to date.
- Upcoming monthly program arrangements include in-person ice cream social and Lively Issues at Andover Community Center on December 8 and January and February program topics on subminimum wage and DNR's "Living with Predators in Anoka County," respectively.
- LWV MN Executive Director, Amy Perna, is being invited to our December program, and a pre-meeting meal will be arranged with the board.
- A Voter Service subcommittee has begun meeting to explore how to save money on forum recordings.

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



Protect the Rights of Military Women

Take Action

The fight for equal treatment within the military has been slow and hard-won. Actions by the current administration threaten to turn back the clock on gender equity. The Dissolution of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service removes a vital institutional voice for women's equity within the Department of Defense. The "No More Walking on Eggshells" memo proposes restricting Equal Opportunity complaints, discouraging anonymous filings, and "liberating commanders" from external oversight.

When women's full participation in our military is denied, our democracy is weaker.

League members can take action by:

- Urging Congress to reinstate the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service
- Supporting legislation that protects reporting mechanisms for harassment and discrimination.
- Uplifting the stories of women veterans whose service and leadership often go unseen.

Learn more on the LWWUS Blog



Metro Transit Forward

CMAL Quarterly Meeting | October 29, 2025



Metro Transit Forward

On October 29, Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit, joined the Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL) to discuss the Metro Transit Forward strategic framework.

Since the pandemic and murder of George Floyd, Metro Transit has faced significant challenges in ridership and staffing. Implementation of pay increases, training opportunities and organizational culture changes have largely solved the shortage of operators. Metro Transit continues to struggle with adequate staffing for skilled maintenance and policing. Only 113 of the 171 authorized police positions are currently filled. Proactive policing has reduced serious crimes. The most common Metro Transit crime is smoking.

Ridership in the Twin Cities, while improved from the all-time low in 2021, has only returned to 60% of pre-pandemic levels, compared to 85% nationwide. Minnesota has one of the higher shares of remote workers at 34%. Commuter needs are evolving with more workers needing transportation throughout the day. With the closure of the North Star line in January, enhanced bus service

will offer trips at more times of the day, weekend service and lower cost.

Watch the highly informative CMAL video to learn more about Metro Transit challenges and solutions.

[Watch CMAL Video](#)



Data Center Gold Rush: Water Issues

Tuesday December 9, 2025

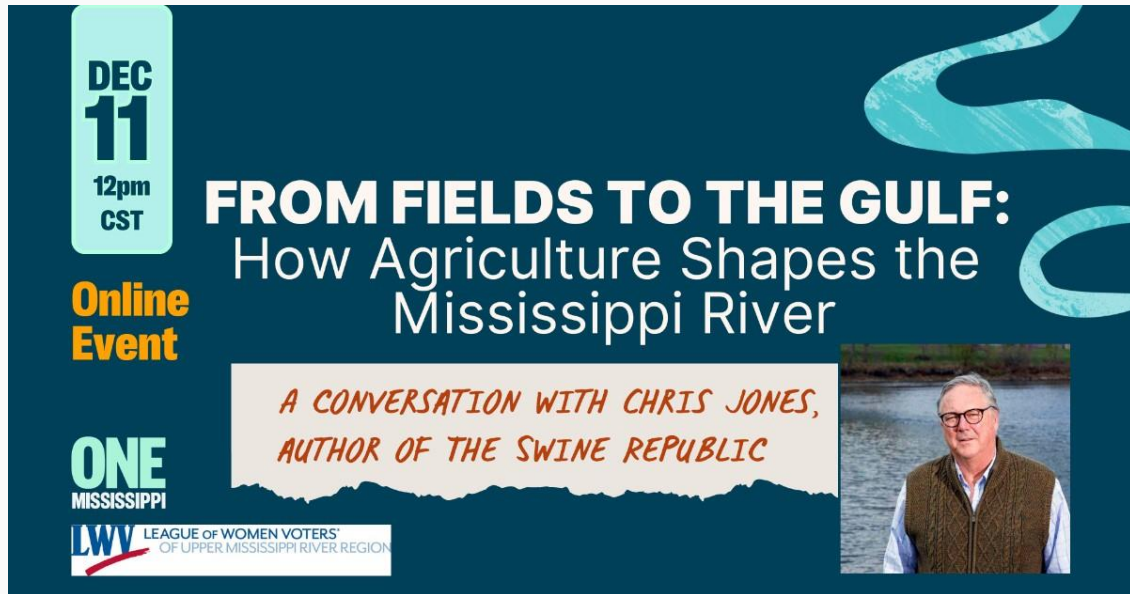
6:00 pm via Zoom

There are more proposed hyperscale data centers than our water resources can support. These proposed projects don't fit into our permitting and regulatory systems.

Join LWV UMRR on December 9 for a critical conversation on technology, water, and justice. Guest speakers Peg Furshong and Sara Mooradian of CURE will speak on the growing water demands of data centers—why it matters, how it affects rural and urban communities, and what we can do to ensure a more equitable and sustainable future.

[CURE](#) is a leader on the rapidly emerging issues around data center development.

[Register for Data Center Gold Rush](#)



Fields to the Gulf

A Conversation with Chris Jones

Thursday, December 11, 2025

12:00 pm noon via Zoom

What's really flowing down the Mississippi? From Midwestern farm fields to the Gulf of Mexico, the story of water, agriculture, and the River's health affects us all.

Join LWV UMRR and [One Mississippi](#) for a lunch-hour conversation with author and research engineer Dr. Chris Jones, whose acclaimed book *The Swine Republic* pulls back the curtain on how modern agriculture drives water pollution—and what it will take to turn the tide.

[Register for Fields to Gulf](#)



New Member Orientation

Thursday, December 11, 2025

12:00 pm noon via Zoom

You've joined the League - now what? Find out at this New Member Orientation session, led by Executive Director Amy Perna. Focused on LWVMN and LWVUS, this session is also appropriate for long-term members wanting to learn more about the organization.

[**Register for Orientation**](#)



An Evening with Hilary Rodham Clinton

Eminent Speakers Series

Target Center

Friday, January 23, 2026

7:30 PM

LWVMN Reception: 6:30 PM

The evening will feature Secretary Clinton in a thought-provoking and personal conversation about her life in public service, from her experiences as First Lady, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Secretary of State, to her perspectives on leadership, diplomacy, civic engagement and discourse, and the issues shaping our world today.

LWVMN has reserved a premium seating sections on the main floor exclusively for League members and guests, available at a **special rate of \$79**. These seats are normally priced at \$125.50.

League members and friends are also invited to a private pre-event reception inside Target Center from 6:30–7:15 p.m., featuring refreshments, wine, and conversation with fellow community members before the main event begins.

[Buy Tickets](#)

Coming in January...

January 12 - Program: Sub-Minimum Wage

January 21 - Book Club: *Defining Moments*

January 23 - Evening with Clinton

January 24 - Persistence & Resistance: Nurses of Vietnam

January 26 - 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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*The Voter
The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*
