



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

OUR VOICE

December 1, 2022



Winter Book Study Group Starting Soon!

All members who are interested in joining the Book Study must email vickiharmon@hotmail.com immediately! Book discussion questions will be sent to you upon registration.

These questions will be integral to our book discussion—
so be sure to register now!

Dates for the zoom sessions are coming up fast!

Wednesday, December 14, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Wednesday, January 11, from 6:30-8:00 PM

'The Politics Industry: How Political Innovation Can Break Partisan Gridlock and Save Our Democracy' by Katherine M. Gehl and Michael E. Porter has been selected for our winter book discussion group.

“Leading political innovation activist Katherine Gehl and world-renowned business strategist Michael Porter bring fresh perspective, deep scholarship, and a real and actionable solution, Final Five Voting, to the grand challenge of our broken political and

democratic system. Final Five Voting has already been adopted in Alaska and is being advanced in states across the country.” (Amazon)

HURRY!

- A copy of this book is available through Amazon or your favorite independent bookseller. It retails at \$30.00 but used copies can be found for less.
- **Check your local library!**
Up to 11 copies are also available via WisCat at your local library. However, *it takes time* to forward copies of books to your local library, so request a copy ASAP.
- Use this information to have your library request a book for you:
LCCN: 2019057395 ISBN:9781633699236 ISBN:1633699236

Capstone Program for Book Study:

Sara Eskrich, Executive Director of Democracy Found, has generously offered to speak to our group on February 1 from 6:30–8:00 PM.

“Democracy Found is a Wisconsin-based initiative committed to revitalizing democracy.” To find out more about Sara and Democracy Found go to Democracy Found | Revitalizing America's Voting Process at <democracyfound.org>

LWV- scv Policies to Review



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI) POLICY

The LWV St. Croix Valley is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect

democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

**NONPARTISAN POLICY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ST. CROIX VALLEY**

The League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley is nonpartisan. As an organization it does not support or oppose candidates for public office, but rather acts only on those issues chosen by the membership for *study and action*. The League believes that political parties are essential to the American system of government and that the participation of informed citizens is beneficial to the political parties and to the system. Consequently, the League encourages its members as individuals to be active in political parties, in finding and supporting candidates for public office, and in seeking election to public office. Members of the League are not eligible to serve on the Board while seeking or holding elected public office. While serving on the Board, a League member shall not seek nor hold state-level elective office, nor shall any officer or Board members allow her/his name to be used in support of any candidate or a state or federal office. In all other political activity, committee members shall participate to the extent the League nonpartisanship is maintained. There are no other restrictions on the political activities of officers and Board members, but it is the responsibility of the Board, individually and collectively, to ensure that the community has no reason to question the nonpartisan position of the organization.

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Book Study December 14 & January 11 (6:30-8:00 PM)

Board and Committee Chairs December 20 (5:30 PM)

Winter Gathering January 21, 2023 (Noon to 2:00 PM)

Sarah Eskrich February 1, 2023 (6:30-8:00 PM)



Grassroots School Organize for Change

GROWW is offering an informational session about Grassroots School on:

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6:30-7:30.

For more information go to <https://gro-ww.org/gs/> to register.

Grassroots Organizing Western Wisconsin (GROWW) is offering a multi-session leadership development course in January, 2023, entitled *Grassroots School: Organize for Change.*

Beth Wood and Irene Bugge, in their capacity as members of our Board of Directors, have registered for this training. Their intention is to bring the leadership skills they learn to our League.

“We believe that everyone has leadership potential and capacity to be a changemaker in their community.” Beth and Irene welcome any interested members to look into applying to attend the training with them. Space is limited to 20, **so register soon.**

GrassRoots School is a leadership workshop for people who want to learn practical skills they can use to organize for change in their local communities.

Participants will learn five basic leadership practices:

1. How to articulate a story of why you were called to lead, a story of those whom you hope to mobilize, and a story of action: self, us, and now.
2. How to build intentional relationships as the foundation of purposeful collective actions.
3. How to structure a team with shared purpose, ground rules and roles for effective leadership.
4. How to strategize turning resources into the power to achieve clear goals.

5. How to translate strategy into measurable, motivational, and effective action.

STill Time to Participate!

Election Symposium 2022

(From the Elections Research Center: University of Wisconsin–Madison)

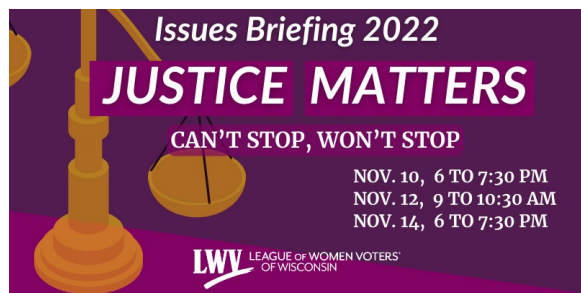
Join us for our in-person 2022 Election Symposium with an **online viewing option**. The all-day event will feature experts analyzing the results of the 2022 election and exploring key races, abortion, election protection, advertising, and the races in Wisconsin.



When: Friday, December 2, 2022, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: streamed virtually **Contact:** <elections.wisc.edu/event/election-symposium-2022>

Passed but still available:



Did you miss a chance to participate in the Issues Briefings that were sponsored by LWV of Wisconsin? Or perhaps you want to review with an eye towards 'takeaways' for our League to address? Recordings of these fine programs are available at:

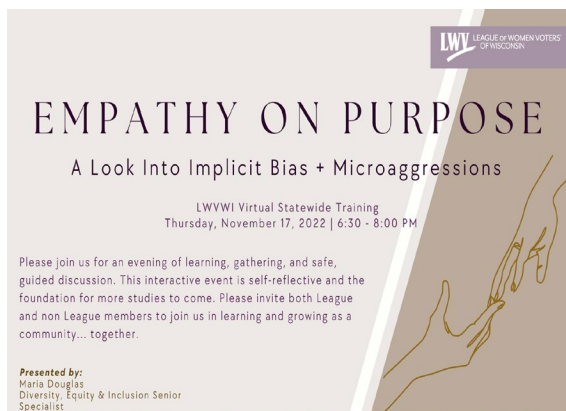
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/recordings-lwvwi-2022-issues-briefing>

Justice Matters Briefings cover three topics:

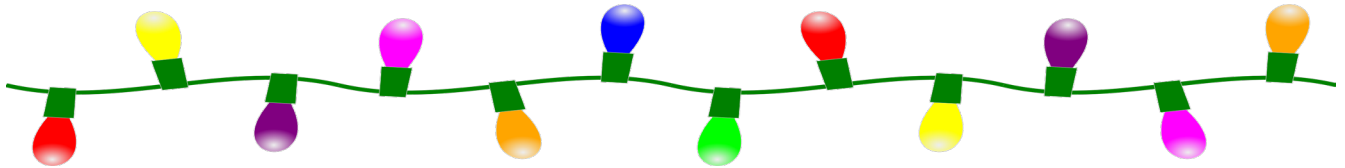
- Governmental Justice
- Social Justice
- Environmental Justice



LWV-SCV will offer casual conversations over coffee starting in January to reflect and discuss ideas presented in the Justice Matters Briefings. Interested in chatting with other League members in a fun and relaxed atmosphere? Watch for dates and times in the January newsletter!



Also available: Maria Douglas's "Implicit Bias, Empathy on Purpose" presentation.
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/implicit-bias-training-empathy-purpose>



Save the Date! Watch for more information Coming

WINTER GATHERING

Saturday, January 21, 2023, Noon to 2:00pm

at the Farm Table Restaurant

110 Keller Ave. N, Amery, WI

We'll enjoy a luncheon of delicious and healthy food from small farms that utilize sound ecological practices including USDA Organic certification whenever possible.

The Program Committee is planning several fun group activities ... why? ... because there are prizes to win! AND we always have a fun time when we get together!

Reserve January 21 on your calendar today ... shake off the winter cold and warm up in the presence of your LWV SCV friends!

DEI Event in February!

The LWVWI CAC (Community Action Committee) DEI

“Pathways to Address Concerns of Bias within LWV”

will take place *online mid-February, Date to-be-determined*, (possibly Tuesday, February 14).

The committee will start with a PowerPoint presentation, move to small group role playing scenarios, with some discussion. The group will reconvene for more discussion, reflections and insights, all within 1 1/2 hours.

More information will be available in the January newsletter.

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE LEAGUE!

Voter Services Co-chairs: Patty Van Nevel and Rita Kearns

Member Services Co-chairs: Marla Olson and Nanette Del Monaco

Program Committee Chair: Vicki Harmon

Communication & Media Committee Chair: Kris Surbaugh

Budget Committee Chair: Nancy Stewart

Nominating Committee Chair: Beth Wood

For more information check out our website: <https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/joinus/>

Member Volunteer Opportunities!

The Communication & Media Committee is looking for members who would like to write, research, and/or report on various committee actions, League events, and learning opportunities. Looking forward we hope to expand our presence in various media outlets. This spring’s election is extremely important, so we are looking for energetic volunteers to promote education and information to the public.

Do you have writing skills, speaking skills or graphic design skills, etc? Not sure, but you’re interested in helping? We could use your enthusiasm!

Interested? –contact Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>