



**OUR MISSION:** *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

September 15, 2024

## **Funds Needed to Continue Our Work!**

The Budget Committee recently sent out a fundraising letter to all members and former LWV SCV members. As most of you know, *only \$8 of our \$70 dues stays* with our local league. Even with 80 members, that is \$640 to run this organization. That doesn't cover operating expenses, much less fund all the great work our committees are doing. Please consider a tax deductible contribution to help us continue our important work!

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## **A Note from Katrina:**

As we continue our voter education efforts in preparation for the general election on November 5, please let me know if you need any signs or replacement step-in stands. We have a limited number of the following signs available:

- Vote Tuesday
- Vote from Home
- Vote in Ojibwe
- Vota/Vote in Spanish
- Thank Election Workers

*Here are guidelines for sign placement:*

**Vote from Home** - put out any time now until Tuesday, October 29

**Vote Tuesday**-put up on Wednesday, October 30 and take down on Wednesday, November 6.

**Vote**-can be put up any time now and taken down on Wednesday, November 6.

**Thank Election Workers**-put up on Wednesday, November 6 and take down on Wednesday, November 13.

Thank you for your ongoing support of voters and democracy,

Katrina Larsen <[katrina\\_larsen@yahoo.com](mailto:katrina_larsen@yahoo.com)> 715-338-6820



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*Presents*

**Bringing Citizens  
Together  
to Bridge  
the Partisan Divide**

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, October  
15, 2024**

American Legion, 807 Pine St., St. Croix Falls

**FREE OF CHARGE**

Registration required at [www.scUUF.org](http://www.scUUF.org)

**PROGRAM:**

Bill Doherty, U of M emeritus professor and co-founder of the nonpartisan nonprofit BRAVER ANGELS, will speak about finding common ground in a divided world and uniting “red” and “blue” Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America.

**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:**

Saphire Realty, The Barred Owl, Breakthrough Leadership, Luhrs/Bjornson Artworks, League of Women Voters – St. Croix Valley

**ORGANIZED BY:**

Volunteers of St. Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (SCUUF)

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## LWV SCV collaborate with Frederic Public Library:

(the following article is from the library director Amanda Blackmon)

The Frederic Public Library, in collaboration with the League of Women Voters St Croix Valley and the Friends of the Frederic Library, is hosting a series of Lunch & Learn's on Thursdays in September called:

**Sept. 5: Engage & Empower: Your Guide to Local Involvement.** The intention was to invite dialogue around some issues that are affecting us in rural Wisconsin. The Sept 5<sup>th</sup> session was a listening session with GROWW (Grass Roots Organizing Western Wisconsin). GROWW Field Organizer, John Calabrese, led the discussion and shared about the campaigns the group is working on and supports.

The 15 attendees were then encouraged to share about local issues that they are personally concerned about. It was encouraging to see people from all sides of the political spectrum and all walks of life coming together to share viewpoints. A key takeaway was that open communication is key and something everyone is feeling could be improved upon. John Calabrese summarized our discussion and he noted these topics as foremost on the minds of those attending:

- land preservation
- fentanyl test strips
- lack of communication from local governments
- separation from our neighbors
- lack of accurate information
- lack of open conversations
- bear hunting practices....

*It is important to remember that our neighbors have many things on their minds, so it reminds me that listening is perhaps the most important part of our outreach to the community.*

**Sept. 12: Election Integrity:** Twelve interested citizens attended the second of the Frederic Public Library's Lunch and Learn session. This one focused on election

integrity and Frederic municipal clerk, Janice Schott, explained the process of setting up elections, the details of absentee voting, and quantified what guardrails were in place to keep our elections secure.

Participants freely asked questions and shared experiences with both the voting process and working at the polls.

Some takeaways:

- To be a poll worker in Polk County you must be a resident of the county, but you can work in any municipality in that county.
- Drop boxes are legal and will be placed in an easily accessible place.
- Frederic poll workers go to both the Frederic Extended Care and Traditions Housing to register and support citizens who wish to vote.
- Poll workers go through a training dependent on what their exact duties entail

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**A note from Kris: If you live in Polk or Burnett County, you are encouraged to attend these sessions! If you have friends or family who may be interested please share!**

**Sept 19:** Misinformation and Disinformation: Our Polk County Clerk will take us through the current landscape of misinformation and disinformation on a county level.

**Sept 26:** Local groups, local impacts: Representatives from local groups will be here to share about their missions and how volunteers can help at any level.

**Lunch is provided and FREE and a courtesy RSVP is encouraged by calling the library at 715-327-4979. Everyone is welcome to attend.**



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Please join us on Tuesday, Oct 1 from 4:00-7:00 at the Little Piece of Mind Quilt Shop in New Richmond as we write postcards in support of the **Vote No** initiative for the Nov 5 Election. Bring a snack to share and BYOB. We have fun and DO Something - together!

No matter where we come from, what our color or how we worship, most of us want what's best for Wisconsin. But certain politicians want to divide us and take away our #FreedomToVote. This amendment addresses a problem that doesn't exist and lays the groundwork to assault the voting rights of eligible voters (e.g., elderly, students, women) who might have trouble proving citizenship at the voting booth. This November, let's come together and use our power to protect our vote. We're saying no to lies and disinformation!



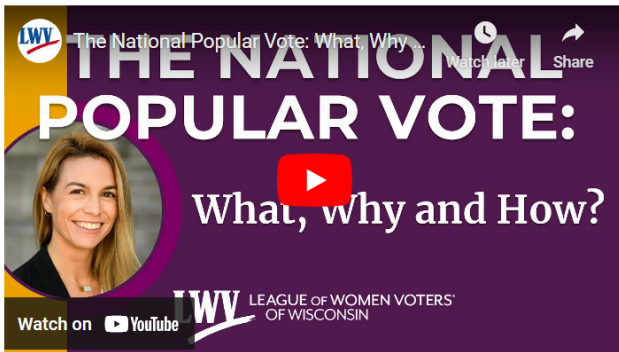
## LWV at Rush River Brewery

League members Pat, Kate, and Edna talked to about 30 people on Thursday, Sept 4 at the Rush River Brewery Farmers Market near River Falls.

Most folks who stopped by were registered to vote, yet still interested in talking to LWV. They were curious about the handout '10 Facts For Voting' and liked Vote 411, eager to receive Vote 411 pens and copies of the Constitution that were prizes given for spinning the wheel and answering Civics questions.

There was even one who was interested in joining the League! What a great impact made with just a few

donated hours. Thanks!



The National Popular Vote: What, Why and How?

## Volunteer Opportunity: Be a League Liaison:

*(The following article is information from WI League President, Debra Cronmiller. In response, LWVSCV is looking for a member who is willing to be a Liaison for SCV as described below. Please contact Irene or Beth if you are interested)*

## **It's Moonshot Time!!**

Time to rally toward the **direct election** of the President and Vice-president of the United States! Why? Because we believe in one person, one vote. Everyone's vote should count! That's not how we elect the president now. The offices of President/Vice-president are the only offices in which the winner of the popular vote may lose the election; that's happened 5 times!

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) supports the direct election of the President, including the abolishment of the electoral college by Constitutional Amendment and, until that occurs, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV). NPV will ensure that the winner of the national popular vote will always win the electoral college and thus the election. At its 2024 Convention in June, LWVUS overwhelmingly voted to continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, specifically including the direct election of the President. This "Moonshot" goal consists of 5 phases, the first being passage of NPV. NPV is a state initiative, requiring states with cumulative 270 electoral votes to activate the law. Only 61 more electoral votes are needed!

With new, non-gerrymandered voting maps in Wisconsin, LWVWI plans to forge ahead, accelerating our work in Wisconsin to get public hearings on the NPV bill, which was introduced in 2007, and in each legislative session since 2019. Except in 2007, the Legislature has held no public hearings.

### **Here's what your local League can do to help:**

1. We'd like this project to include members from across the state. Please assign a liaison (one or more) from your League to work with us on our NPV Committee. The liaison can merely attend monthly virtual meetings to act as a conduit of information to and from your League, or actively work on our NPV projects with us. Please fill in your liaison's information on this form: [NPV Liaison Form](#).
2. Ask the NPV Committee to do local NPV presentations or help you do the presentations to educate everyone on the importance of acting now to elect our President by popular vote. [NPVWisconsin@lwvwi.org](mailto:NPVWisconsin@lwvwi.org).
3. Use our <[National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Toolkit | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](#)> for presentation slides, ideas to write letters to your local paper and to your legislators.
4. Pass out NPV educational handouts or brochures like the one attached, available for copying/printing on the NPV Toolkit.

5. Contact your local Wisconsin legislators now and when the new legislators take office in January, and tell them you want the national popular vote bill set for public hearing.
6. In addition to the Toolkit, check out <[nationalpopularvote.com](http://nationalpopularvote.com)> for information, various “myth” analyses and graphics.

Sincerely,  
Debra Cronmiller (she/her)  
Executive Director

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin  
612 W Main Street, Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-256-0827

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## **Burnett County Volunteer Opportunity:**

The LWVSCV will have a table at the annual NACF Know Your Non-profits in Siren, WI on October 17. The event is from 5-7 pm. This is a great opportunity to show your support to the League by attending! Barb Katt and Kris Surbaugh are taking the lead on this and would love to have some members drop by and visit and even perhaps take a moment behind the table.

Interested? Call or Text Kris (715-566-1186) or email Barb ([barbkatt@hotmail.com](mailto:barbkatt@hotmail.com))

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## **Get Your League Swag!**

Order a **Vote WI** shirt from LWV Dane Co.

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/lwv-dane-county/>

LWVWI has a swag shop with apparel and other items available here:

[https://www.zazzle.com/store/lwv\\_wisconsin](https://www.zazzle.com/store/lwv_wisconsin)

**Do you want to be involved in more civic opportunities?**

## **Election Observers Wanted!**

Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor Wisconsin's elections. We are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state. We provide training, assign volunteers their polling place(s) to observe, and provide volunteers with a reporting form to record their observations. We will do our best to assign you to a location near your home.

You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this -- although we'd love to have you join us!

Open this link to find everything you'll need to be an election observer.

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities-league>

### **Volunteer**

- Write VOTE NO postcards: Dates, times, and location will be posted on our website
- Library Liaison - Help a Library in your community to encourage voting by their patrons. In collaboration with ALA (American Library Assoc) LWVSCV is providing help to create a display that features the importance of everything you need to know about election day on Nov.5
- Visit a high school during the lunch hour with information for first time voters
- Help with transporting materials between libraries
- Request a VOTE NO yard sign, or help deliver yard signs

### **Contact**

Patty Van Nevel 651-271-9942 [pattyvannevel@gmail.com](mailto:pattyvannevel@gmail.com)

or

Rita Kearns 651-492-8885 [ritakearns54@gmail.com](mailto:ritakearns54@gmail.com)

### **Pizza at the Quilt Shop & Coffee with a Purpose Postcard Writing!**

Over 30 people have met this month to write **GOTV** (GET OUT THE VOTE) postcards on two different occasions. There have been over 600 cards written and 150 more to go (waiting for more postcards).

To those people who have generously donated dollars and stamps to this massive mailing- **THANK YOU!** 465 postcard stamps (\$260) have been bought with these donations.





**VOTE NO Postcards** coming in October. We have over 500 names of people in our 3-county area to send postcards with a **Vote No** message. We will also be getting Vote No Yard signs to distribute. On Tuesday, Oct 5, from 4:00 - 7:00 at the quilt shop in New Richmond is reserved for LWVSCV to write postcards.

Please join us.

**If needed, would you like to host a postcard writing event? Let Patty or Rita know and we can help you find a time, date, and location.**

**X** Question: "Eligibility to vote. Shall section 1 of article III of the constitution, which deals with suffrage, be amended to provide that only a United States citizen age 18 or older who resides in an election district may vote in an election for national, state, or local office or at a statewide or local referendum?"

What does a "Yes" or a "No" vote mean?

- A "yes" vote - supports the changes to the constitution. A "yes" vote indicates support for changing our state constitution to remove the guarantee that "every" U.S. citizen has the right to vote in favor of language that limits the right to vote to "only" U.S. citizens while opening the door to further limits to the right to vote.
- A "no" vote - opposes the changes to the constitution. A "no" vote indicates support for keeping the guarantee in our state constitution that "every" U.S. citizen has the right to vote.



## LWV SCV Collaborates with Amery Public Library

Trevor Richards, Adult Librarian, Amery Public Library (see photo) has partnered with LWV SCV to host voter registration and education events in September and October.

On September 17, National Voter Registration Day, Amery Library will host a voter registration drive between 3:00 and 6:00 pm.

Voter education and registration information will be prominently displayed in the library throughout the month.

On October 8, during National Voter Education Week, Amery Library will host a Watch Party on **Election Integrity with Meagan Wolfe**. Hudson and Frederic libraries have also confirmed that they will be hosting watch parties.

Irene would like to personally thank Trevor for taking care of all of the technical arrangements with Madison for this zoom presentation and for creating the flyer advertising the Watch Party at Amery. This flyer can be modified and used by the other host libraries to advertise their events. If you are interested in helping with this project or have suggestions for other libraries who would be open to host a Watch Party, please contact Irene Bugge at [irenebugge@gmail.com](mailto:irenebugge@gmail.com).



Must have photo ID.  
Free IDs are available. [wisdot.gov](http://wisdot.gov)

State website tells you if you are registered, where to vote, what is on your ballot, and more. [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

Disabled voters have many rights.  
Find information on rides to the polls.  
[disabilityvote.org](http://disabilityvote.org)

VoteRiders can help you secure pay for IDs. [voteriders.com](http://voteriders.com)

League of Women Voters suggests you **Vote NO** on constitutional amendment.  
[lwvwi.org](http://lwvwi.org)

Be an informed voter! Use reliable non-partisan sources.  
[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), [Ballotpedia.org](http://Ballotpedia.org), your local newspaper, etc.



September	15	Newsletter
	19	<b>Misinformation &amp; Disinformation</b> (Frederic Public Library and LWVSCV) Polk County Clerk quest speaker

