



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

## IMPACT ON ISSUES 2024 – 2026

*Impact on Issues* is designed to help League leaders use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the state and local levels.

At the LWVUS 2024 Convention, delegates voted to develop a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US Democracy. The Federal Judiciary Study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence and ethics. The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts. The study will be completed on a fast track timeline in time for a position to be announced at the LWVUS 2025 Council in June 2025.

League positions serve as the foundation for League action and ensure that we are speaking with one voice on issues. The best league positions are written in general principles – broad concepts – rather than in specific topics. This allows league policy positions to have a long life, allowing the league to act even as the issues change over time. A position should outline the principles to be applied as we make decisions on action in the future.

Our action and advocacy is based on League positions. Studies, which are the basis of positions, make our actions possible. Upon review of the density of the materials provided by the LWVUS, the LWVSCV has created an ad hoc committee consisting of Beth Wood – Co-President, along with Aiden Tharp and Celeste Koeberl, both league members and attorneys to create a summary of the LWVUS materials which will be presented to the entire LWVSCV membership via a zoom in early April.

The LWVUS is requesting each league participate in this Study. After our membership meeting and discussion the sub-committee will be responsible for submitting the survey to the LWVUS by April 14.

If you are interested in knowing more about the public policy positions of the LWV you can purchase "Impact on Issues 2024-2026 Guide" on Amazon for \$6.99.

Join the  
League of Women Voters St Croix Valley LWV  
and  
Amery Area Public Library   
for a presentation with Q&A to follow:

**Immigration Attorney,  
Marc Prokosch**

**IMMIGRATION LAW**  
**Current Issues & Potential Changes**



**Tuesday, April 8**  
**6:30 - 8:00**



**Amery Community Center**  
**608 Harriman Ave S**  
**Amery, WI**

*Free Refreshments*

*Free Parking*

*Free will Donations  
are welcome*

Information: [contact@lwwstcroixvalley.org](mailto:contact@lwwstcroixvalley.org)

The League of Women Voters and the Amery Area Public Library cordially invite you to an evening of information and community engagement focused on the immigration process and potential changes under the new federal administration.

Immigration Attorney Marc Prokosch will speak at the Amery Community Center on April 8th at 6:30 PM. This is a free event and all are welcome. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Marc Prokosch will address many of the issues which are frequently grabbing news headlines. He is a Hamline University graduate and attorney at Prokosch Law LLC for twenty years. Marc works exclusively in the complicated landscape of U.S.

Immigration Law. He regularly mentors

other attorneys and law students, and frequently speaks on immigration topics for attorneys as well as at public forums in the community. He will explain the many facets of US immigration, which includes documentation, work requirements, what actual benefits are available to immigrants, and the status of spouses and children. Marc will also explain pathways to citizenship and address possibilities for immigration reform.

Take this opportunity to learn more about this timely yet highly complex topic.

**Marc Prokosch, Speaker**

**April 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

**Amery Community Center**

**608 Harriman Ave Amery, Wisconsin**

Parking is free, accessible and snacks will be provided. Free will donations are welcome. For those unable to attend in person, a YouTube video will be available for later viewing. If you have further questions contact the League of Women Voters St Croix Valley <[contact@lwwstcroixvalley.org](mailto:contact@lwwstcroixvalley.org)> For links to the recording go to <[lwwstcroixvalley.org](http://lwwstcroixvalley.org)> I



## Calling For Volunteers!

We're looking for league members to contribute to the snacks we will be offering the public at the Immigration presentation in Amery on April 8th. I will be coordinating the food for this event. We will need a variety of cookies, bars and similar treats to put out for the public.

We need a variety of items so anyone wishing to contribute should let me know what they are bringing so we can be sure to cover many types of cookies and bars. We will need some beverages also - hot & cold.

Those interested should contact me: Jarell Kuney - [jekuney1@frontier.com](mailto:jekuney1@frontier.com) - (715) 441-2552.



Katrina Larsen and Laura Rowe staffed a GOTV table at UW River Falls on Tuesday, February 25. Katrina said that they “ had some meaningful conversations with students. They warmed our hearts with their optimism. They are really cool.” Katrina has also been invited to speak on behalf of the LWV at Dr. Erik Withers’ class to amplify the importance of voting! Go Katrina!

### SIGNS UP for April 1-Spring General Election

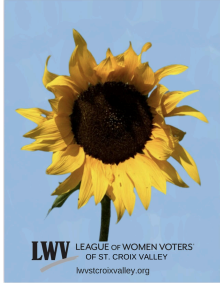
- **Vote from Home** signs can be put out immediately  
- Pick up on Tues, March 25
- **Vote Tuesday** signs should be put out on Wed, March 26 - Pick up on Wed, April 2
- **Thank You Election Workers** can be put out on Wed, April 2 - Pick up on Tues, April 8

Please welcome our newest member:



Christina Roffers  
[christinatomes@yahoo.com](mailto:christinatomes@yahoo.com)  
Hudson

*Reach out and welcome Christina!*



**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**League of Women Voters St. Croix Valley**  
**Annual Meeting Invitation 2025** 🌻

*Please join us as we gather to celebrate our past,  
present, and future!*

**February 14 marks the 105th ANNIVERSARY OF LWVUS!**  
**October 26, marks the 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LWVSCV!**

**DATE: April 27, 2025**

**TIME: 2:00 to 5:00**

**PLACE: Amery Community Center**

**608 Harriman Ave S. Amery, WI 54001**

**Light Luncheon Served**

**Annual Business Meeting**

## **PROGRAM**

**Vicki Harmon & Ellen Johnson will share an excerpt from the LWV SCV's upcoming Readers Theater Production, with a musical number performed by Lori Lee Weber.**

**The Readers Theater production leads us through an historical narrative that uses humor and music to recount the struggle for suffrage in Wisconsin!**

*The complete production will be performed in a theater near you in October of 2025,*

**RSVP by April 20 to Kathy Streitz, 612-916-8856, [kfstreitz@gmail.com](mailto:kfstreitz@gmail.com)**



## Up North Coffee

On Thursday, February 27, a group of 11 League members met at 3 Arrows Coffee Shop in St. Croix Falls. We shared interests, stories, opinions, and information. Attention was drawn to recent activities, which are included in this newsletter. Participants were also encouraged to go to our website for information on the April 1st Election and specific information about candidates and other related information, both local and statewide. Opportunities for future member engagement were also discussed. On a more personal level, we talked about what we do to stay sane in the stressful time we find ourselves in. Suggestions were also shared for helpful resources to go to and for ways we can take action. It was also a chance to vocalize suggestions members have of ways to improve the impact of our League.



**Welcome to new members: Karen Smith and Christie Roffers!**

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***Join us!***

**COFFEE AND POSTCARD WRITING**

**--Thursday, March 13**

**from 10-11:30 in two locations**

We received 300 postcards from LWV-WI. Help us get these in the mail before the April 1 election! Gather at either coffee locations and help us GOTV! We will have a short script to help you write plus address stickers.

There are four easy ways to help:

- 1.) come and write out postcards while visiting and sharing coffee with League friends,
- 2.) bring donations of stamps with you when you come, or
- 3.) send a monetary donation to help our League defray the cost of mailing postcards to GOTV. Please send the monetary donations to Patty Van Nevel at 446 Williamsburg Pl., New Richmond 54017
- 4.) ask a friend attending to pick up postcards for you to do at home!

Coffee Locations:

**ST. CROIX COUNTY**, hosted by Kay Brooks ([kaybrooks48@gmail.com](mailto:kaybrooks48@gmail.com))

**The Perk Coffee and Gift Shop** in downtown Baldwin. 860 Main St. We have a private room reserved in the back.

POLK/BURNETT COUNTY, hosted by Patty Van Nevel ([pattyvanevel@gmail.com](mailto:pattyvanevel@gmail.com))  
St. Croix Falls Library in the Community Room 230 S. Washington St.

- **BYO beverage. Snacks provided.**
- **RSVPs HELPFUL, BUT NOT NECESSARY. Last minute attendees and guests are welcome!**

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**RESOURCE TIP FROM MEMBERS:**

Susan Bosley suggests the podcasts Breaking Points/Counterpoints ([Breaking Points - YouTube](#)) on YouTube as a good balanced news resource. There are four hosts—two lean liberal and two lean conservative—to present differing viewpoints in a respectful way on current issues.

Voter Services has started the **Get Out The Youth Vote** for 2025. In February we celebrated the 105th birthday of LWV by visiting 3 campuses and had the chance to talk about voting and registering to vote in the April 1 election. **Happy Birthday LWV**

**Northwood Tech in New Richmond Feb Kay Brooks and Jarell Kuney Feb 11** were met by Steven Dus and welcomed into the school. They had over 50 students stop at the table, spun the wheel, had choices of bookmarks, candy, and QR codes for more information.

**CVTC in River Falls, Feb Feb 19 Kathy Streit and Patty Van Nevel** staffed a table and chatted with several students and staff about registration basics and what things they can expect to see on the ballot on April 1. It is always exhilarating to speak to these young voters so excited to be part of elections.

**UW River Falls, Katrina Larsen and Melissa Rowe**

Laura Rowe and I staffed the table at UW-River Falls on February 25. According to Katrina we had some meaningful conversations with students. They warmed our hearts with their optimism. They are really cool. We had a promising conversation with a faculty member of the Sociology, Criminology and Anthropology department, Dr. Erik Withers. In addition to teaching a number of sociology courses, he teaches women's studies. He is interested in having LWV presenters in some classes and/or at a table event. Katrina has emailed him to learn more about what he is looking for. I feel good about the opportunity to potentially reach more young people.

The next outreach will focus on high schools. Last year we started our mission in March and April to get every student registered to vote before they graduate from high school. We had lots of outreach from our members and our hope is to have a repeat performance! If you met with a high school last year and want to reconnect, we have all that information available for you. The more relationships we create the more successful we will be. As always, you will have a buddy to show you the ropes.

## Speaking of volunteering,

Voter Services and Member Services are working together to create a list of volunteers to match all the opportunities we have for our members to choose from. Our goal is to have a list of people who have chosen a particular task that we call on when the need arises.



Please take this short survey and submit it by March 7. We asked you to fill out this survey in the last newsletter, but the participation was disappointing. Will you please take a minute to click on this link so we know how to serve you better

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb-roK\\_xd45RS3oG8Y4EJ\\_7Q1P4dmDwvkKcS9XCFEoOgulIA/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb-roK_xd45RS3oG8Y4EJ_7Q1P4dmDwvkKcS9XCFEoOgulIA/viewform?usp=header)

Writing postcards reminding people to vote is scheduled in two locations on March 13 in Hammond and At. Croix Falls. More information to come!

Wisconsin voters will be asked one question to amend (change) the constitution on their April ballot. This amendment, the sixth proposed by the legislature in the last year, is another example of the legislature attempting to bypass the authority of the executive and judicial branches through the constitutional amendment process, while denying voters the ability to propose their own citizen-led ballot initiatives.



## What's at Stake in this Election

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has the final say in protecting the rights guaranteed by our state constitution. All eyes are on Wisconsin, as this race has been called the most important election of the year—and for good reason.

With major decisions on voting rights, redistricting, reproductive rights, and other critical issues likely to come before the court, the outcome will shape policies that directly impact communities across the state for years to come.

Voters must pay close attention to this race because the court's rulings will influence fundamental rights and the future of democracy in Wisconsin. This election is about more than just one seat—it's about safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all Wisconsin residents.

*To learn facts and information about the judicial system visit:*

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/wisconsin-supreme-court-information>

Where to learn about the candidates:

VOTE411.org - the League will be publishing our voter guide following the Spring Primary



### Guides.Vote

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19VXPXI2xbNZyzTij8bOUgKHTuwXK2RIA/view?usp=sharing>

- UPFRONT Candidate Interviews:
  - [[Susan Crawford](#)]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAJCfn6O3qw/>
  - [[Brad Schimel](#)] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwiTBwJHf\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwiTBwJHf_o)
- TMJ4 Candidate Interviews:
  - [[Susan Crawford](#)] / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nS49eNnzFo>
  - [[Brad Schimel](#)]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoLUTWyeYpM>
- PBS Wisconsin Candidate Interviews:
  - [[Susan Crawford](#)] / <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/susan-crawford-on-the-2025-wisconsin-supreme-court-race/>
  - [[Brad Schimel](#)] <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/brad-schimel-on-the-2025-wisconsin-supreme-court-race/>
- WKOW Candidate Interviews:
  - [[Susan Crawford](#)] / [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU6L\\_4gIk1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU6L_4gIk1s)
  - [[Brad Schimel](#)]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjAoeWJU1iU>

Be an informed voter!



March		Women's History Month Disability Awareness Month National Reading Month
	1	Vote From Home Signs Up!
	1	Newsletter
	6	Responsible Gun Laws and Policies, Webinar, sponsor Dane County
March	7	<i>Anniversary of Bloody Sunday</i>  <i>The Women of Bloody Sunday</i> Blog: <a href="https://www.lwv.org/blog/women-bloody-sunday">https://www.lwv.org/blog/women-bloody-sunday</a>  <i>Selma and the Current Threats to Voting Rights Act</i> Blog: <a href="https://www.lwv.org/blog/selma-and-current-threats-voting-rights-act">https://www.lwv.org/blog/selma-and-current-threats-voting-rights-act</a>
	8	<i>International Women's Day</i>
	13	Coffee and Comfort in Baldwin (see notice above)
	15	Newsletter
	18	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4-5PM
	25	Take Down Vote From Home Signs!
	26	Put up Vote Tuesday Signs!
	26	Book Study Zoom
	31	International Transgender Day of Visibility
April	1	Spring Election
	1	Newsletter
	8	LWVSCV Forum on Immigration, Amery Community Center 6:30PM
	15	Newsletter
	21	Board/Committee Chairs 4-5PM
April	27	Annual Meeting, 2:00 - 5:00. Amery Community Center



**LWV**

**“We do solemnly swear that we will empower voters and defend our democracy.**

**That we will faithfully execute our civic responsibility as nonpartisan advocates.**

**We do this fearlessly, reflectively, and collectively. We act from a place of hope and collective power.”**

**LWV**

**“We affirm that we will work to provide democracy education and election administration support, restore and defend voting rights protections, abolish the Electoral College, protect democracy organizations, and fight for reproductive freedoms.**

**We will not be deterred from these tasks.**

**So join us to protect life, liberty, freedom, and justice.”**

Read more about LWV WI positions and history of policy by following this link: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/positions>



## Leadership Team

Beth Wood – Co-President <bwood@frontiernet.net>

Irene Bugge – Co-President <irenebugge@gmail.com>

Kris Surbaugh – Vice-President <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>

Evanne Hunt – Secretary <evanne.hunt@outlook.com>

Kate Manecke – Treasurer <deleinen@icloud.com>

Edna Early – Director (DEI) <ed5early@gmail.com>

Barb Katt – Director (DEI) <barbkatt@hotmail.com>

Rita Kearns – Director (Voter Services) <ritakearns54@gmail.com>

Patty Van Nevel – Director (Voter Services) <pattyvannevel@gmail.com>

Kathy Streitz – Membership <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Nancy Stewart – Budget <n.stewart@yahoo.com>

Tami Halcomb – Roster Manager <[thalcomb@lwwstcroixvalley.org](mailto:thalcomb@lwwstcroixvalley.org)>

*What is the easiest way to participate in LWVSCV?  
Like/share/amplify our messages on FACEBOOK and Instagram*