



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

August 1, 2025



LWVSCV and Project 3.5 Host Save Act Teach-in!

*Thank you to all of our members that attended the
SAVE Act teach-in on July 29, 2025.*

The LWVSCV, in collaboration with Project 3.5, hosted a full house of engaged attendees as they all learned more about the negative impacts of the SAVE Act. Over 65 people learned of how the SAVE Act would affect voter registration and the ability of *all citizens* to participate in the election process.



A special thank you to member Kathy Streitz for participating as a speaker along with local attorney Karrie Weaver and to members Kay Brooks and Beth Wood for their contributions to the collaborative work with the Project 3.5 group to create and implement this successful project. We hope to have more collaborative events with them in the future.



Voter Services Zoom Meeting—August 12 at 4:00

Come one, come all! We have lots of worthwhile work ahead that we could use help with. If you are just curious, you are welcome to listen in. If you can't wait to dig in, we have a place for you. We have behind the scenes and out front tasks. All is short term, so you can come and go as you are able. Voter Services is what fuels our League work. This is your chance to make a difference!

Our meeting will be 40 minutes long, with the option of going longer if we would like. Following is the Zoom invitation, including the link:

Topic: August Voter Services meeting

Time: Aug 12, 2025 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82568301075?pwd=HYgXM6TsD6RPW25wghiERmYJdeplmp.1>



Los Amigos Program

Did you know that \$25.00 a month feeds a family of four?

How you can help?

Send a check to:
St. Croix Valley Food Bank
Write Los Amigos Program on the memo line.
St. Croix Valley Food Bank
PO Box 377
Hudson, WI 54016

Donate online at:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/LosAmigosProgram>
Choose a one-time or recurring donation

Questions:
Petrona: pm992@yahoo.com
Wendy: wdipeso@gmail.com
foodaidpiercestcroix@gmail.com

Help the Los Amigos Program to fund food aid to hungry families. Fund a one-time or monthly donation to the St. Croix Valley Food Bank: Los Amigos Program. As a 501c3 organization, your St. Croix Valley Food Bank donation is tax-deductible.

Good Trouble Lives ON! Rally and Speaker

LWVSCV members turned out in large numbers for the ‘Good Trouble Lives On’ rally in Amery on July 17. Following a sign rally attended by about 120 people, humanitarian activist Petrona Melgarego spoke at length about “the power of one” and how important it is for each of

us to do what we can to help our neighbors.

Over 500 dollars was raised to donate to Petrona’s organization, the Los Amigos Program, which provides humanitarian aid to immigrants in our area. LWVSCV members actively work with Petrona and the Los Amigos Program as part



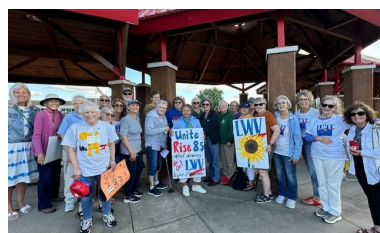
of our League’s Immigration focus.



League members worked with Polk Burnett Indivisible and Amery Democracy Protectors to create an event that highlighted all three organizations. As one person attending said, “I didn’t know anything was going on today. I drove by twice and saw the League of



Women Voters signs, and I knew this event would be good to go to. So, here I am!”





FARMERS' MARKETS UPDATE

Our members have been busy supplying voter information at farmers' markets in multiple locations. As of July 30, Kay Brooks reports that these markets have made over 800 contacts this summer which clearly shows that attending these markets are a successful way to reach the public.

We have one month left and then after August, we will be transitioning that energy to other venues and projects. This is the time to volunteer and experience the fun and satisfaction of attending markets. Never attended before? There are experienced League members that you can assist. This is a great way to start taking action for the League. Included below is the August link again for that purpose.

If you have a market you would like to be at in August or September, just let Kay know.

August Calendar link for St. Croix Co.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ooWXw-KAcG084KgyPpI28viuttDBqYmAlHO3gxjbuCU/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

HELP NEEDED: Peg Wastell would like to do the Heritage Market in New Richmond on August 23. We need three more volunteers in order to complete a crew for it. Also looking for volunteers for Heritage Days (NR) on Saturday, September 20.

August Calendar link for Polk and Burnett Counties

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lQOloYdfQMhVBUJFoa3_Z8B0g03XhA3VJ1ZxMcjtYUE/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Big thanks goes to members Kathie Nelson, Miriam Flysmo, and Cheryl Hustad, who helped with the Osceola Market ; Irene Bugge, Robin Maercklin, and Angie Johnson, who volunteered at the Amery Market; and Karen Magnesun, Susan Bosley, and Nancy Gilland, who talked with people at Rush River Brewery in River Falls.

So far this summer, we have connected with over 800 people!

Kay Brooks kaybrooks48@gmail.com 715-381-8879

Readers Theater Update

Oh, dear, what can the matter be?

Dear, dear, what can the matter be?

Oh, dear, what can the matter be

Women are wanting to vote



It is almost time!!!

Mark your calendar

Sunday September 14, 2-4

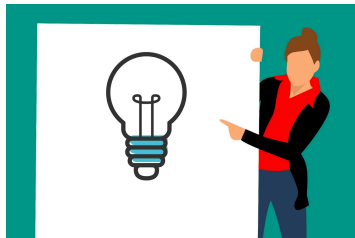
Amery Community Center

Our first Readers Theater Rehearsal!!

For more information Or to sign up contact

Vicki Harmon vickiharmon@hotmail.com

715.220.0890



***Would you like to help us
develop and implement an idea?***

It's an idea we really like, and while granted we usually like our own ideas, this one dovetails nicely with the League's core values.

The background: Ever feel stumped about what to say to an avowed non-voter or inconsistent one?

The Idea: We get together over coffee at JJ Levy's home in Osceola to discuss how to encourage voting with an emotional reach that is cogent, potent, and individualized. The backdrop to this idea comes from Deep Canvassing (DC), a form of canvassing that has increased voter turnout by 15%. Simply put, this is about having an authentic emotional conversation with a voter. Something all of us are drawn to or we wouldn't be in the LWV!

If interested in this idea we move on to having an occasional gathering to discuss these books, or others our members suggest, with no assigned reading. Yes, no syllabus! Free choice:)

The process: Coffee and snacks, no homework required, however, you may wish to explore the following authors, their books, podcasts, TED talks and/or Substack feeds.

- *The Political Brain* -Drew Westen
- *Metaphors We Live By* - George Lakoff
- *Don't Think of an Elephant* -George Lakoff

- *The Persuaders: At the Front Line of the Fight for Hearts, Minds and Democracy* – Anand Giridharadas

Or check out this podcast:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/opinion-science/id1506227206?i=1000657621262>

- ❖ When: Friday, August 22nd 9:30-11:00a.m.
- ❖ Where: JJ Levy's [1846 Big Lake Drive Osceola, WI](#)

Additionally & Importantly: Bring a friend, or two or more...

If interested in attending please contact:

JJ Levy (970) 493-8780, jjlevy1@mac.com or Irene Bugge (715) 554-2501
irenebugge@gmail.com



One Million Rising!

Hosted by Polk Burnett Indivisible *

* PBI is a trusted collaborator with the LWVSCV.
Below you will find an invite to a local gathering that may interest northern Polk County and Burnett County residents. Please consider supporting this event:

The Polk Burnett Indivisible steering committee invites you to a gathering of like minds to share ideas about next steps following the No Kings Day rally and other acts of resistance to date.

Details:

- ★ **Monday, August 4, 5:00 to 6:00 pm at the library in Webster.**
- ★ Sign up through this Mobilize link by Monday, August 4th.
<<https://www.mobilize.us/onemillionrising/event/819229/>>
 - (Signing up in Mobilize will help the national organizers know how many people are engaged.)
- ★ If you want to attend but don't want to sign up in Mobilize, please reply to me only, and I can do it for you.
- ★ If you want to attend but can't that day, let me know and maybe we can schedule another gathering.

Background:

This event is part of Indivisible's next big thing to convert the energy behind No Kings Day into sustainable action. That is, they hope to generate thousands of gatherings across the country in early August and firm up people's commitment to *sustained resistance*.

The strategy behind these gatherings is based on how resistance movements have challenged autocratic outbreaks to varying degrees. There are no silver bullets, but there are ways to slow down the consolidation of power. The more successful movements have involved 3.5% of the population in a range of actions over time that undermine the pillars of autocratic power.

The goal of actions is to demonstrate non-cooperation and to disrupt their momentum in consolidating power, and to envision the renewal of democracy.

Effective action can be whatever you love to do. In addition to the typical actions (making calls to leaders, boycotts, letters, attending town halls, talking with neighbors), maybe we start adding art to inspire resistance (songs, poems, posters), mutual aid, making lemonade, or ___?___(can't wait to hear your thoughts!). The power comes from us making community with kindness, decency, and caring, thus making society better along the way.

Why Attend?

The gathering is a way for us to digest the current moment, make/renew/expand your commitment to resist autocracy, and *make sure you don't feel stuck*. For some, hearing "you should get involved" can be paralyzing. What is valued as an act of resistance is only limited by our imaginations. Our discussion will hopefully help you tap into one thing that will feel right and powerful in this idiocy.

Don't Forget: This organizing strategy is building on successes. Our outcries about the ugly bill, sign rallies, protests have cultivated MAGA's doubt, and now Trump is sinking in polls. The people power demonstrated by national protests has empowered federal judges of all stripes to uphold the rule of law. True, we've lost the Supreme Court, but not all cases make it to them, so having a strong federal judiciary is powerful.

Finally, we are in huge company: Indivisible's July organizing meeting attracted 150,000 people (they "broke" Zoom), and from that, 5,000 people committed to host a gathering (4,000 more than they expected!!).

Your attendance alone will inspire others. Hope to see you on August 4th.

Anne Taylor

Polk Burnett Indivisible Steering Committee member.

Member Services

Hello to you all! We have three new members. Please welcome...

JJ Levy, jjlevy@mac.com, Osceola

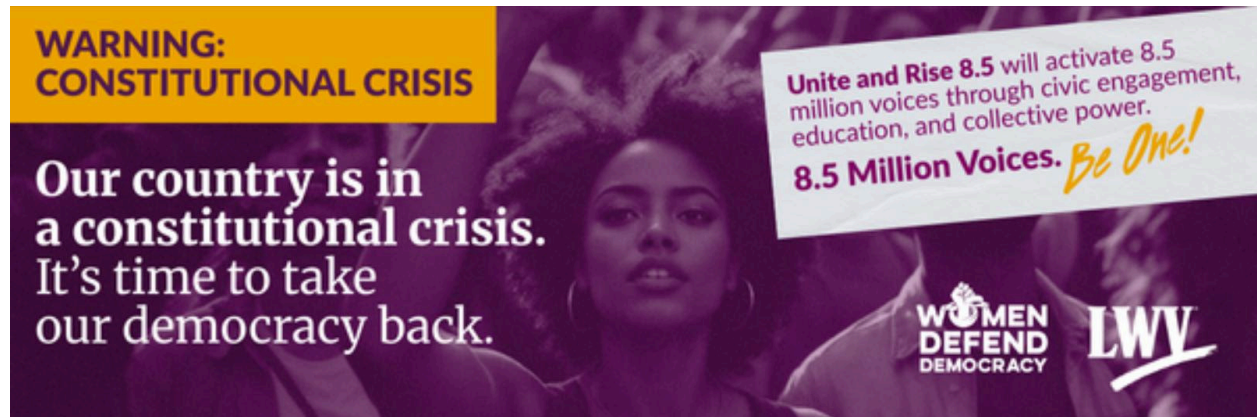
Bev Peterson, bpeirson4@gmail.com, New Richmond

Janet Anderson, andersonjanet15@gmail.com, Deer Lake, WI

Friends in Osceola, New Richmond and beyond, please reach out to our newest members. Watch the newsletter for a notice about a coffee at JJ's home on August 22. Thank you JJ.

After our Teach-in on July 29 I bring an important reminder to Call your Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin. Urge them to vote NO on the SAVE Act. Thank you all for the work you are doing to educate and uphold democracy. Forward!

Kathy Streitz



(From LWV WI) Over the past three months, we have mobilized and engaged voters in our [Unite & Rise 8.5 initiative](#) while our State leaders balance legislative cycles and other in-state work. Your dedication and creativity with this campaign amplifies our collective voice and has been foundational to our successful launch: thank you!

With July coming to a close, we're excited to share the second power playbook from the State leaders. This is a comprehensive activation guide that outlines the different calls to action and activities that our league can participate in over the next few months. You can access the second power playbook now on the League Management Site. <https://donate.lwv.org/s/3822478/RZS12b84>



Four Pillars of Unite and Rise 8.5

- 1 **Legal & Policy Advocacy:** Challenge unconstitutional actions through litigation, advocate for electoral integrity reforms at state and federal levels, fight voter suppression, and protect due process.
- 2 **Public Mobilization & Coalition Building:** Turn out millions for quick activations and longer-planned activist campaigns, uplift local voices, and partner with grassroots, national, and international organizations.
- 3 **Civic Education & Engagement:** Launch public awareness campaigns, expand voter registration and turnout efforts, host educational forums, connect policy to real-life impact, and equip people with tools to act.
- 4 **Democracy Resilience:** Build lasting infrastructure to protect democratic values and institutions for the long haul.

Congratulations LWVSCV for the excellent job in fulfilling the mission of Unite Rise 8.5 in the first 90 days of the kickoff campaign. If you would like to brainstorm with Beth on ideas focusing on Playbook 2 in the Unite Rise 8.5 campaign please contact her at bwood@frontiernet.net. At this time our goal will be to incorporate the “theme” of the phase into the current activities the LWVSCV is already doing.

Thank you all!

About Unite and Rise 8.5

On May 1, the League launched the Unite & Rise 8.5 initiative, which aims to mobilize 8.5 million people using the power of voter engagement as a cornerstone of our democracy. Unite & Rise 8.5 showcases the many ways individuals can drive change through advocacy, mobilization, civic education, and engagement.

Micro campaigns that span 3 months each will unite communities, encourage the people to stand in their power, and demand a multi-racial democracy that works for all of us.

Playbook 1 (May – July): Shifting the Power Narrative

The first micro campaign focused on **shifting the power narrative**. It lifted up the voices and stories of those most impacted—immigrants and people of color—and made clear what was at stake by educating and mobilizing on the suppressive provisions of the SAVE Act, the lack of due process provided to immigrants, and the impact of the budget reconciliation legislation.

Playbook 2 (August – October): Holding Power Accountable

For the second micro campaign, we are **holding power accountable**. We focus on 1) defending and advancing voting rights, ensuring transparency and fairness in midcycle redistricting; 2) advocating for economic justice (budgets, reconciliation, Medicaid, SNAP, ICE funding and appropriations); 3) encouraging everyday democracy actions; 4) building a nationwide network of government and election observers; and 5) highlighting the role of the courts in our system of checks and balances.

This Power Playbook 2 is a guide that outlines strategic activities Leagues can take to participate in Unite & Rise 8.5 from August through October of 2025.

For updated information and resources, visit [LWV.org/PowerPlaybook2](https://www.lwv.org/PowerPlaybook2).

Navigating Nonpartisanship

During Election Cycles

When candidates are running for office, our nonpartisan stance is clear and firm: We do not endorse or oppose any candidate or political party. Through our state and local voter guides and [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), Leagues work tirelessly to solicit and gather answers from tens of thousands of candidates around critical community questions.

These include questions about **voting rights**, **climate change**, **reproductive rights**, **resource management**, and more issues that affect the lives of Americans. These questions help voters decide on which candidate reflects their values and community needs. And while we provide voters with information on where candidates stand on key issues, host nonpartisan forums, and work to ensure every eligible voter has access to the ballot, **our goal is to empower voters with facts, not to tell them who to vote for.**

With Elected Officials

Once individuals are elected, they are no longer just candidates — they are public servants, responsible for representing all their constituents, regardless of party. Holding elected officials accountable to the public interest is not a partisan act; it is a vital function of a healthy democracy.

When we advocate for or against policies, we are doing so from our commitment to issues and strengthening civil institutions — not out of allegiance to any political party. We meet and engage with elected officials across the political spectrum to administer elections, provide critical updates and insights on how election administration works, and to facilitate civic engagement through things like election observation programs.

In essence, we are pushing for action on voting rights, democracy protection, and other key areas, without favor or bias.

BOOKMARK THIS!

Find out all our recent activities, check out the calendar, read archived issues of the newsletter and more: lwwstcroixvalley.org

Go to our state League website to find more information on league policy, current press releases, templates and toolkits for letters and contacting your state representative: Wisconsin | MyLO <<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin>>

Access our National web page here: <https://www.lwv.org/>

Do you want to make your voice heard, but you're not sure what to do, say, or where to call? Get help here – calling your representative is made easy at: <https://5calls.org/>

Feeling like you need to take to the streets?! Check out Mobilize Us to find something near you! <https://www.mobilize.us/>

“LWVWI HOTLINE to verify the presence of ICE in the community or in cases of an emergency: 1-800-427-0213

More information and resources to help protect **our immigrant community**:
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/resources-and-actions-protect-our-immigrant-communities>

Human Rights Campaign – Tips for Preparedness, Peaceful Protesting, and Safety:
<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=f641b74a5b&e=7043d919d6>

LWVUS Protest Safety Guide

<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=10f16e8491&e=15965a7426>

More information:

☐ Background on the League's position of the National Popular Vote:
<https://www.lwv.org/NPVtaskforce>
<https://my.lwv.org/connecticut/article/one-person-one-vote-national-popular-vote-interstate-compact>

☐ LWV La Crosse Community Forum: Focus on Medicaid June 25, 2025 Recording link
<https://www.lwvlacrosse.org/medicaid>

AUGUST	1	Newsletter
	2	PBI: Rage against the Regime Rally Amery (Keller Park) noon
	4	Polk Burnett Indivisible “One Million Rising” Webster 5PM
	5	LWV SCV Picnic New Richmond Heritage Center
	6	60th Anniversary of 1965 Voting Rights Act
	12	Voters Services Zoom 4PM https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82568301075?pwd=HYgXM6TsD6RPW25wghiERmYJdeplmp.1
	15	Newsletter
	19	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4PM-5PM
	22	Deep Canvassing 9:30-11AM Osceola (see article)
	26	Women’s Equality Day 19th Amendment Rally in Hudson
	27	LWV SCV Picnic Grantsburg (Palmquist’s cabin)
SEPTEMBER		<i>Readers' Theater Rehearsals begin!</i>
	1	Newsletter
	1	LABOR DAY
	14	Rehearsal Readers Theater Amery 2-4PM
	15	Newsletter
	16	National Voters Registration Day
	16	Board/Committee chairs Meeting, 4PM-5PM
	18	LWV WI Webinar on Constitutional Amendments, 7PM: What are the negative consequences of recently passed Constitutional Amendments? What makes a good constitutional amendment?
OCTOBER	1	Newsletter
	15	Newsletter
	18	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Amery Community Center, evening
	19	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Amery Community Center, matinee

	21	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4PM-5PM
	25	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Heritage Center, New Richmond, evening
	26	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Heritage Center, New Richmond, matinee
	26	LWV SCV 10th Birthday! Woohoo!
NOVEMBER	12	One Million Rising: Randy's Kitchen Amery

LWV SCV Leadership Team 2025- 2026

Co-Presidents Irene Bugge <irenebugge@gmail.com>

Beth Wood <bwood@frontiernet.net>

Vice President Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>

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

Treasurer Katrina Larsen <katrina_larsen@yahoo.com>

Member Services Chair Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Voter Services Co-Chairs Kay Brooks (interim) <kaybrooks48@gmail.com>

Kathy Streitz (interim) <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Communications & Media Chair Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>

Budget Chair Janet Le Stock <janetblestock@gmail.com>

Nominations Chair Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Roster Managers Katrina Larsen <katrina_larsen@yahoo.com>

Tami Halcomb <thalcomb@gmail.com>

Directors

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

Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

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

Vicki Harmon <vickiharmon@hotmail.com>



SUMMER PICNICS

Attend one.....Attend both!!



Tuesday, August 5, 4:00-7:00pm
at the Heritage Center
1100 Heritage Dr (off Hwy 65)
New Richmond



Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Variety of Fizzy Water & Wine,
and Tableware will be provided.
You are welcome to BYOB of choice.

RSVP to Vicki Harmon - vickiharmon@hotmail.com
by Tuesday, July 29



Wednesday, August 27, 4:00-7:00pm
at the lakeside home of Kathy & Greg Palmquist
22554 Assembly Dr.
(SE of Grantsburg on Big Wood Lake)

Hamburgers and Brats, Wine, Beer & Water,
and Tableware will be provided.

RSVP to Kathy - palmgah@gmail.com
by Wednesday, August 20



COME ONE - COME ALL!
Enjoy an evening with the LWV St. Croix Valley

We invite you to bring a side dish, salad or
dessert to share.

AT BOTH PICNICS:
A "Get Better Acquainted Activity" at 5:00
Meal at 5:30

