



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

January 15, 2026



Take a minute today to check and make sure you're registered to vote at your current address today! And help spread the word to ensure your friends and family are registered and ready to vote, too!

Link to check your voter registration and to share with friends:

<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Register-To-Vote>



NOTICE A CHANGE OF VENUE!

Adapting Deep Canvassing Principles for League Work

Hi All,
JJ's icy driveway has encouraged the **location change** for this event to **The Senior Center in Osceola**.

Address: 310 Chieftain Street, Osceola, WI

10AM until Noon

Saturday, January 24

Coffee and Conversation: Adapting Deep Canvassing Principles for League Work

The League is offering another chance to dive into Deep Canvassing (DC)—thanks to all the enthusiasm after our August coffee at JJ Levy's home in Osceola.

(This coffee was originally scheduled for Jan. 17).
Whether or not you came to the first one, you're warmly invited to join us.

Deep Canvassing dovetails with the League's goals—as it is about connecting emotionally with voters. It helps us:

- Build genuine emotional connections with potential voters.
- Inspire people to vote for reasons that matter to them.
- Feel more confident (and less tongue-tied!) in conversations.
- Or, as The Power of One puts it: “Mix the head with the heart, you’re ahead from the start.

Please RSVP to jjlevy1@mac.com



JJ Levy
jjlevy1@mac.com
970 493 8780

Wondering what you can do to feel like you are really doing something?

45 Acts of Non-Compliance for Ordinary People

https://open.substack.com/pub/howtoresist/p/45-acts-of-non-compliance-for-ordinary?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web

(follow this link to get some great ideas
or discover that you are doing more than you thought you were!)

Gathering: How to warm a heart during a cold, sad, and scary time

LWVSCV Winter Gathering at the Amery Community Center

January 11, 2026: Irene Bugge opened our January Winter Gathering with these words:

Welcome to the League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley Winter Gathering and January Jumpstart.

I am guessing that most of us are still reeling from the events of this past week in Minneapolis and so much more. I am grateful that this gathering was scheduled for today. Being around like-minded like-kindred people grounds me and gives me hope.

Before I tell you about our plans for this afternoon, we would like to take a few minutes to honor Renee Nicole Good. I would like to share some words from Becca Good, Renee's wife and then read a poem by Amanda Gorman.

Becca Good said: *"Above all else she was kind. In fact, kindness radiated out of her. We thank you for ensuring that Renee's legacy is one of kindness and love. We honor her memory by living her values: rejecting hate and choosing compassion, turning away from fear and pursuing peace, refusing division and knowing we must come together to build a world where we all come home safe to the people that we love."*

Amen.

Amanda Gorman's poem. For Renee Nicole Good killed by ICE on January 7, 2026

They say she is no more,
That there her absence roars,
Blood-blown like a rose.
Ice wheels flinched and froze.
Now, bare riot of candles,
Dark fury of flowers,
Pure howling of hymns.

If for us, she arose
Somewhere, in the pitched deep of our grief
Crouches our power.
The howl where we begin,
Straining upon the edge of the crooked crater
Of the worst of what we've been.

Change is only possible,
And all the greater,
When the labor
and bitter anger of our neighbors

Is moved by the love
And better angels of our nature.

What they call death and void,
We know is breath and voice;
In the end, gorgeously,
Endures our enormity.

You could believe departed to be the dawn
When the blank night has so long stood. But are bright-fled angels will never be fully gone
When they forever are so fiercely Good.

We paused for a moment of silence to honor Renee Good.



Mentor Moment by Beth Wood

Beth's ice breaker gave new members a chance to connect with a new friend. The room was a buzz with conversation and excitement. Contact information was shared, and we agreed to stay in touch. Thank you for this "Mentor Moment", Beth.



Unite Rise 8.5 also shared by Beth Wood Rally we will!

T-shirts, signs and posters were distributed. We are all encouraged to rally and make our presence known as best we can to encourage voters to show up at the polls! We have local school board, county board, state supreme court justice, House and Senate elections coming up!

Spring Primary -- February 17 (If in your area.)

Spring Election -- April 7

Primary Election -- August 11

General Election -- November 3

Nearly 90 million eligible voters did not vote in the 2024 elections. VOTE 



Election Integrity Presentation by Karen Roberts

Karen Roberts presented on the relevant topic of Election Integrity. Karen's presentation was engaging and informative. She is looking for feedback and would like to use her project with high school students and other audiences. It was suggested that the presentation be available on our website. We look forward to using this to enlighten audiences about election integrity.



Contact Susan Bosley about new t-shirts and adorable LWVSCV stocking hats!
[<morgansouthside@gmail.com>](mailto:morgansouthside@gmail.com)

Let Katrina Larsen know if you need yard signs!
[<larsenkatrinawi@gmail.com>](mailto:larsenkatrinawi@gmail.com)



Finally we shared delicious pot luck appetizers, desserts, beverages, and comforting support with our League sisters and brothers.

Thank you to all who planned and came to our Winter Gathering. We look forward to our next event. Please check our newsletter for upcoming events.



Kathy Streitz

Look for a year in review through photos on our website! Check out all the good stuff we did in 2025. Find a photo of yourself there!

Link for slideshow:

<https://lwgstcroixvalley.org/photo-gallery/>

ACTION ALERT!

Support and Strategize Zoom Meeting
For all LVWSCV members wishing to provide aid for
our immigrant neighbors

Wed. January 28 at 6:30 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89786625007?pwd=U60K8u1YA2ir16lTzagvAbfluJYtLh.1>



ACTION ALERT: Looking for Volunteers!

Polk-Burnett Indivisible (a local non-partisan, non-violent action group) is making every effort to have trained peacekeepers at all our rallies, but we need more people willing to take on this role. If you're interested, please plan to attend a **peacekeeper training** at

West Denmark Lutheran Parish Hall at 1:00 Saturday, February 21.

The training will be led by experienced peacekeepers, with the focus being on de-escalation. Our main concern is for MAGA adherents who may choose to try to provoke an incident, though we'll rehearse other scenarios as well. At the end of the 90-minute session you'll be issued your own fluorescent peacekeepers vest!

You can register by contacting:

Member Services

Membership Matters: Growing Stronger, Together!

Yikes! January is half over! We have lots of going on and events planned that will bring us together! Please check this newsletter and calendar. We value our members and appreciate everything you do to educate and advocate for democracy!

As of this newsletter's publication, LVWSCV proudly counts 115 members. Most are active at this time. If you need to renew your membership, please fill out the membership application on our website at lvwscroixvalley.org. Please let me know if you have questions. We anticipate continued growth in the coming new year, fueled by a vibrant calendar of programs, events, and voter registrations initiatives -- both online and throughout the region -- as well as expanding partnerships with local organizations. Reach out to a League sister or brother to attend a coffee, a

rally, or to visit and support each other. Check on your neighbors and take good care of yourselves. We believe in the power of women and men to create a more perfect democracy.

Please join me in an open arms welcome to our newest members!

- ★ Nancy Kolb, nanjerkolb@msn.com, HUB 1, Webster
- ★ Catherine Boehm, dj-ceboehm@msm.com, HUB 4, Hudson
- ★ Nancy Vanasse, nvanasse@somtel.net, HUB 3, Somerset
- ★ Deb Ramacher, iamisaid1962@gmail.com, HUB 3, New Richmond
- ★ Susan Donovan, Susanladonovan@gmail.com, HUB 1, Siren
- ★ Susan Gavin, sgavin778899@gmail.com, HUB 2, Osceola
- ★ Kate Harrold, kateharrold@yahoo.com, HUB 3, New Richmond
- ★ Susan Sroka, shannon3rd@yahoo.com, HUB 3, Somerset

Please reach out to our new members as we move forward into 2026! Thank you all for your determination and the work you do!

We stand firmly for peaceful civic engagement, respectful dialogue, and the protection of every individual's rights and safety.



HUB 4 News

Greetings to our members. The purpose of each HUB is to empower each member and work in smaller local groups to educate voters, and support democracy. We have members in Baldwin, Hammond, River Falls, Prescott, Hudson, North Hudson, and the Town of Hudson and areas nearby. We move into 2026 with hope and determination to educate and advocate for democracy!



HUB 4 Coffee

- Our next HUB and friends Coffee will be at
- 10:30,
 - Saturday, February 7th
 - at the Baldwin Perk Coffee Shop.
 - The address is 860 Main St. in Baldwin.

Please join us to socialize and support each other. We plan to finish writing and mail VOTER postcards. Bring a friend and all members are always welcome to any Coffee. Do take time to check on your neighbors and take care of yourselves. We are all in this together! Forward!

Kathy Streitz

Hudson

612-916-8856



Lunch and Learn a Great Success!

HOW DO WE END GERRYMANDERING?

Folks gathered at the Frederic Public Library to listen to Fair Maps Collision's Nicole Gabrail, and Annemarie McClellan of LWVGCV, explain the next step in enshrining an Independent Redistricting Commission in the State Constitution.



A full house enjoyed a chicken wild rice soup while being informed about the full process and implications of Fair Maps in Wisconsin. After being informed of the history, timelines and purpose of first passing a bill then a Constitutional Amendment, audience members were given action items that they could do to support the work being done to insure fair elections.

- The first is to call your representative and ask them about their position on passing a bill that will create an IRC. Nicole said ALL members of the Wisconsin Legislature have the draft proposal and so cannot claim to not know about it!
- The next thing to do is to inform yourself more completely to be able to spread the word to other Wisconsin voters.
- And of course—most importantly—VOTE for CANDIDATES who will support the Fair Maps initiative.



To find out more about the history, initiatives, progress, draft proposal, and ultimate goals, check out the

Fair Maps website: <https://www.fairmapswi.com/>

An Important Message to All League Members from Wisconsin League Deputy Director:

Hi Local League Leaders (and members)

For those who are aware of the upcoming **Free America Walkout on January 20**, I know there's been a lot of confusion about what it all entails and how the League can participate. LWVWI is an official partner of the day of action and we do encourage local

Leagues to consider participating how you feel most comfortable. Below you will find more clarity on what the day entails and some ideas for participation.

Summary of the Day of Action:

2025 was a year of marches that proved our collective strength. And the threats have grown so we must too. The administration has already signaled that a second term means a deeper and more open wave of misogyny, racism, xenophobia, and violence than the first. This moment calls for escalated commitment from our movement.

On January 20 at 2 PM local time, we will walk out of work, school, and commerce because a Free America begins the moment we stop cooperating with fascism. The Free America Walkout calls on us all to reflect on our freedoms as Americans, encourages us to take a stand to defend our democracy, and to join together in our communities to stop fascism in its tracks.

Ideas to Participate:

- Find an in-person walk out event near you - promote and join the event
- Organize an in-person walk out event in your community - this could be as simple as arranging a meeting point, taking a walk together with friends and neighbors, or even meeting for coffee at a local cafe. If you plan a public event, make sure to post it here.
- Participate in LWVWI's Free America Walkout Virtual Gathering - this is an option for those who would prefer to participate in the day of action virtually. Your League could promote and join the event.
- Be a promotion partner - lift up the opportunity to engage in your communications and help connect those interested in participating with their options. Resources here.
- Additional resources from the organizers are attached to this email, including toolkits with additional action ideas, graphics, etc.

Best,
Eileen

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Eileen Newcomer
(she, her, hers)
Deputy Director
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
2023 Democracy Defender



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please work with your HUB leader to gather information about who is running for office or if there will be a referendum on your ballot. This information isn't widely publicly shared, so we would like to post it on our website. Candidates are required to have their paperwork in by January 6.

We are also looking for members to set up a voter registration/election information table at participating high schools. If you are interested, let your HUB leader know. **If you don't know who your HUB leader is, contact me at kaybrooks48@gmail.com and I will connect you.**

Putting Up and Taking Down Yard Signs for Spring Elections

Spring Primary

Put out VOTE FROM HOME by January 15, 2026

Take in VOTE FROM HOME on Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Put out VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Spring Primary Election on Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Take in VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Spring Election

Put out VOTE FROM HOME on Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Take in VOTE FROM HOME on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Put out VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Spring Election on Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Take in VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, April 15, 2026

2026

Month	Day	Tasks/Meetings/Events
January-March		<i>High school visits as planned by individual HUBs.</i>
January		<i>Lunch and Learn Events at Frederic Public Library~ Tuesdays 11:30–12:30</i>
	15	Newsletter
	15	Put out VOTE FROM HOME signs
	15	HUB 3 coffee 2:00 at The Barnboard in Roberts. All are welcome!
	18	Snow date for Winter Gathering
	20	Lunch and Learn: Election Issues are Everyone's Issues (recording)
	20	Free America Walk Out
	20	Board Zoom
	24	Adapting Deep Canvassing Principles for League Work – 10:00–12:00 JJ Levy and Saul Hopper's home, Osceola
	27	Lunch and Learn: with Polk County Clerk Shabana Lundeen
February	1	Newsletter
	4	Interview with Candidate Maria Lazar 4PM Menomonie
	7	Baldwin Coffee
	11	Take in VOTE FROM HOME signs Put out VOTE TUESDAY signs
	15	Newsletter
	17	<i><u>Spring Primary</u></i>
	18	Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS
	25	Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS
March	1	Newsletter

	3	Put out VOTE FROM HOME signs
	15	Newsletter
April	1	Newsletter
	1	Take in VOTE FROM HOME signs Put out VOTE TUESDAY signs
	7	<u>Spring General Election</u>
	8	Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
	15	Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
	26	Annual Meeting All Members Amery Community Center
August	11	<u>Primary</u>
November	3	<u>General Election</u>

Our Voice is Our Power



Do you enjoy this newsletter? Do you have suggestions? Would you like to assist with any part of getting our message out to the public? There is room for all levels of involvement. If you are interested– email me at [<aksurbaugh@gmail.com>](mailto:aksurbaugh@gmail.com) to set up a phone call or zoom.

LWV SCV Leadership Team 2025- 2026

CONTACT US!

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 Lestock <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>

Quick reminder: To learn more about the League and to find back issues of the LWVSCV Newsletters go to <https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/> home page → click on **About Us** → and open the menu.

Or use this shortcut link:

<https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/241-2/newsletters/>

Also, all board meeting minutes are also under **About Us**.

<https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/241-2/scv-league-meeting-minutes/>

Help Us Amplify! Please bookmark the LWV St. Croix Valley site <<https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/>> .

- ☐ Keep refreshing it, leaving and coming back to it.
- ☐ This small set of actions will help us move up in search engines like Google, Safari, Edge, Foxfire, etc. Thanks!

When it is time to renew your membership...

Go to **Join Us!** | <https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/> You can renew (or join) online via credit card or PayPal or by mailing a [2025 Membership Application Form](#).



Lunch and Learn

January 6 – How is our democracy and rule of law being eroded by current events?

Dr. Neil Kraus, Professor of Political Science
University of Wisconsin, River Falls

January 13 – How can we secure Fair Maps in Wisconsin?

Nikki Gabrail
Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition

January 20 – How does new legislation actually suppress voter access?

Kathy Straits and Katrina Larsen LWVSCV
Karrie Waver Attorney and Chief Elections Inspector, Hudson, WI

January 27 – How secure are our local elections?

Shabana Lundeen
Polk County Clerk

Enjoy Free Soup and sandwich
Tuesdays throughout January
11:30-12:30

