



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

May 15, 2026

Tell Congress to Reject More Money for ICE and CBP

Last month, the US Supreme Court dealt a devastating blow to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, critically weakening Section 2 and making it much harder to challenge racially discriminatory congressional maps, disproportionately affecting Black communities. The systemic attacks on people of color continue to escalate, all the while Congress is working to allocate additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)- agencies that have targeted our neighbors of color and irreparably harmed our communities.

We need your help to demand that Congress reject new funding for ICE and CBP.

Last year's One Big Beautiful Bill allocated more than \$170 billion to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its subagencies, ICE and CBP, as well as to the Department of Defense to expand immigration and border enforcement activities. We have seen the impact as armed, masked agents have been deployed into American cities, surveilling, detaining, disappearing, injuring, and killing civilians. Now Congress is considering a more than \$70 billion package to scale up these ICE and CBP activities for the next three years.

At a time when the rights and freedoms of communities of color are under attack all over the country, we must stand up and fight for a truly representative, multiracial democracy. Today, demand that Congress stop funding attacks on historically marginalized communities, and reject more funding for ICE and CBP.

Use the following link to make your voice heard:

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-congress-no-more-ice-and-cbp-funding>



PRIDEFEST on Saturday, June 20

Join us at beautiful Lake Front Park in Hudson on June 20 for the 4th annual Pride celebration. Enjoy the color, music, and diversity in a fair-like atmosphere. There are dozens of booths, including ours, and lots of entertainment. Our table will have election and voter registration information. We are looking for volunteers to take a shift. Contact Edna Early if you can help. (651-269-3408).



Member Services

Membership Matters: Growing Stronger, Together!

As members of the LWVSCV we honor our volunteers who do the hands-on work to safeguard democracy. We are directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep the community strong.

Every life we touch is remembered! Sometimes, the most difficult and most fulfilling choice is to show up!

Thank you to all of our members for covering the big projects and the small details.

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 121 members. Most are active and current at this time. The membership application is provided as an attachment to this newsletter for your convenience or...print the membership application from our website at lwgstcroixvalley.org, fill it out, and mail it to Katrina, our treasurer with a check for \$75.00 or fill out the membership application on our website and use a credit card to join. We do offer a \$20.00 minimum fee. Please let me know if you have questions. Feel free to share with friends!

Reach out to our new members near and far, in your HUB and beyond.

Attend a coffee, a rally, a high school visit or a farmers market.

Don't forget to bring a friend! Check on your neighbors!

Please join me in welcoming our newest members!

Mary Rugani, MARYRUGANI@GMAIL.COM HUB 1, Polk & Burnett Counties.

Deborah L. Trauley, traulcar@gmail.com HUB 2, Amery area.

Rita Rasmuson, rita.rasmuson@gmail.com HUB 3, New Richmond area.

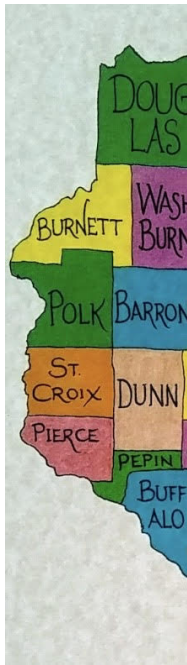


FLAG DAY on Sunday, June 14

The Hudson Flag Day event "A Flag For Us All" takes place on Sunday, June 14, from noon to 3 in Hudson, featuring a noon rally at Second and Vine Streets followed by a 1 PM parade and celebration at the Lakefront Park Bandshell. The event includes music, speakers, and community activities, with the program concluding around 3. Please contact Kathy Streitz if you can help (kfstreitz@gmail.com).

Voters Services Report

As school comes to an end, our 4 HUBs are transitioning from visiting high schools to setting up tables at Farmers' Markets. We will be helping with upcoming events—Flag Day and PrideFest—both in June and taking place in Hudson. Members are welcome to contact their HUB leaders to offer to help with their local markets, or the two events in Hudson.



HUB NEWS (Please watch 👁️ this newsletter for HUB news!!!!!!)

Our membership is divided into four geographical HUBz in order to organize and focus. Yet we can mix it up in our HUBz so all are welcome to visit anytime.

HUB 1 is in northern Polk and Burnett Counties and includes Frederic, Luck, Siren, Webster, Danbury, and Grantsburg area. Contact Kris Surbaugh, aksurbaugh@gmail.com

HUB 2 is in Polk County and includes Amery, St. Croix Falls, Osceola, Clayton, Turtle Lake, Milltown and surrounding areas. Contact Irene Bugge, irenebugge@gmail.com

HUB 3 is in St. Croix County and includes Deer Park, Star Prairie and the New Richmond area. Contact Kay Brooks, kaybrooks48@gmail.com

HUB 4 is in St. Croix County and includes Houlton, Hudson, RiverFalls, Baldwin, Woodville, and the Hammond area. Contact Kathy Streitz, kfstreitz@gmail.com
612-916-8856

HUB 3 NEWS Deer Park, New Richmond, Star Prairie

Contact Kay Brooks kaybrooks48@gmail.com

HUB 3 members met on Thursday, May 14, at the Heritage Center in New Richmond. Members were encouraged to explore the farmhouse and grounds as well as sharing fellowship around the vintage dining room table. Thank you, Bev Peirson, for saving us a spot! It seems that there are always more topics to discuss than we have time for—and there are an increasing number of possibilities for engagement.

This month's topics include: Flag Day and PrideFest events in Hudson, Farmers' Markets headed up by Karen Roberts, Observation Corps discussed by Kay Brooks, and the possibility of having a League presence at The Park Art Fair, Funfest, and The Heritage Center's Hilltop Series. And there was more.....



HUB 4 News—St. Croix County/Hudson Area

Contact Kathy Streitz kfstreitz@gmail.com, 612-916-8856

Please join Carol Skinner and Kathy Streitz on a high school visit to River Falls High School on May 21 over the lunch hour. We will set up a table in the lunch room, engage with students and offer voter information to seniors. High School visits are always joyful!

River Falls High School Future Week: May 21 – 10:30 to 1:00

Give me a call or send an email if you are up for high school energy! The more the merrier!

River Falls Farmers Market at Rush River Brewing!!

It's that time of year again! If you are interested in engaging with friends in River Falls at Rush River Brewing Farmers Market, we are scheduling now!

Please contact Kathy Streitz or Janet Ellinger, kayak1019@gmail.com, to save your place at the LWVSCV table. Flowers, veggies, fruit, treats, sunshine and a beer! Not to mention, the company of League sisters.

Thank you to Sarah Anderson and Janet Ellinger for volunteering. *We could use a few more helpers.*

Rush River Brewery Farmers Market, River Falls

Thursday June 11 Thursday July 9 3:00 to 6:00 PM



Contact: Joan Schwarz advocacy.jschwarz@gmail.com or (608) 345-5973

WI CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026 MIDTERM BALLOT
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS REFERENDUM/AMENDMENT:
GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

“Shall section 27 of article 1 of the constitution be created to prohibit governmental entity in the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education public contracting, or public administration?”

PLAIN MEANING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The title and the first part of this amendment lead voters to believe that Wisconsin’s government cannot discriminate against individuals: Everyone is treated equally. This language is intentionally deceptive since federal law already mandates that governmental discrimination is unconstitutional.

So, what is the point of this amendment?

The second sentence is the reason this amendment is on our ballots. It prohibits the state from granting “preferential treatment” to marginalized people. If this amendment passes, it will eliminate all the equity-based gains Wisconsin has made over the 50 years.

While framed as promoting equality and fairness, AJR 102/SJR 94 would reduce Wisconsin’s capacity to address long-standing disparities. It would eliminate public systems of tools essential for promoting equal opportunity and equitable access to the underserved and vulnerable in our society.

IMPACT IF THIS AMENDMENT PASSES

State and local government programs that allow equal opportunity to succeed will be unconstitutional, eliminating all efforts to address widespread inequality.

- ❖ Who will benefit: White, able, male, US citizens.
- ❖ What will we lose: 50 years of gains for women and minorities
- ❖ Programs and Policies that this amendment will eliminate:
- ❖ Health Equity: “D” grade for WI’s overall racial health disparity with higher rates of chronic illness, disease, maternal mortality for Black women.

- ❖ Education: Changes to K-12 accommodations, curriculum; changes to UW admissions, scholarships, grants, courses, textbooks.
 - ❖ Community-Action Programs: Elimination of programs that assist low-income people to reduce poverty, housing, food insecurity, Headstart, social programs.
 - ❖ Business/Employment: Elimination of workplace initiatives for women and minority-owned businesses, targeting hiring strategies, promotions; Wisconsin Supplier Diversity Program.
 - ❖ State contracts: for funding equity-based programs
 - ❖ ADRCs (Aging, Disability Resource Centers: possibly unconstitutional
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Find Your: CALL TO ACTION

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS

- Sign up to help table at Flag Day on Sunday, June 14 **Contact Celeste Koeberl (koeberl@mac.com) or Kathy Streitz (kfstreitz@gmail.com) for more information**
- Sign up to help with PrideFest on Saturday, June 20 **Contact Barb Katt (barbkatt@hotmail.com) or Edna Early (Ed5early@gmail.com) or Kathy Streitz (kfstreitz@gmail.com) for more information.**
- Sign up for your local Farmers Market for sometime during their season (contact your HUB leader)
- Sign up to attend the **GROWW Leadership Training ([register at Training Calendar - GROWW](https://gro-ww.org/trainings/))**
- Consider joining the Observer Corps!**

OBSERVER CORPS

Welcome to a new venture! In the spirit of collaborating to address community problems, League leaders are combining efforts with Indivisible and interested community members to select community meetings to attend. Likely meetings would be County Board, School Board, and City or Town Councils. It's all about making connections, creating relationships, and knowing what is going on in our geographical areas. We will collectively come up with guidelines and ways of gathering and reporting information. Our purpose as we begin will just be to observe and not engage. If, down the road, we find that we have concerns, we will have an Oversight Committee to review the report, consult with someone with expertise if needed, and decide what action needs to be taken. That is not a priority right now.

On Monday, May 11, a group of interested individuals met at Table 65 in New Richmond. Represented were people from Polk, Burnett, and St. Croix Counties--many who were members of Indivisible and the LWVSCV. Many thanks to Beth Wood, Kay Brooks, Kathy Streitz, and Barb Katt, for taking the lead for the League. Thanks also to Celeste Koeberl for sharing her expertise. Others stepped up to offer organizational help. More will be shared as we develop our organizational structure. It's going to be easy and fun, so we welcome interested people. Think about what you care about and where. We

absolutely need people to observe! Contact Beth Wood (bwood@frontiernet.net) or Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com) if you would like to help in St. Croix County. If you want to be part of the Corps in Burnett or Polk County, contact Barb Katt (barbkatt@hotmail.com).

ONGOING ACTION ITEMS

- Call your legislators
 - Write a newspaper LTE (letters naming yourself as a League member must be run by Kris Surbaugh)
 - Join a protest
 - Offer help to Los Amigos (contact Edna Early or Barb Katt)
 - Join the Observation Corps once it gets up and running
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UNITE & RISE 8.5

In the recent captain's meeting to lift off our Unite Rise 8.5 People Power Summer campaign, the campaign is encouraging us to position ourselves to have impact in our communities and include non-members of the league in our work to reach voters.

Collaborations with other nonpartisan groups is a keystone of the Unite Rise initiative and we have got that rolling! The goal is to expand our reach and by partnering with our local Indivisible groups and other nonpartisan community groups we will widen our influence and visibility.

The Observer Corps, partnering at Farmers Markets, the Pride event, Flag Day, and building relationships in our community Libraries and Schools is exactly how we achieve the goals of the Unite, Rise, 8.5 campaign.

Thank you all for the work you are doing. Let's have a Powerful Summer!
Forward! Beth Wood/Unite Rise 8.5 captain



Help us maintain our League. We need folks ready to take the reins in the next few years.

Sign up to shadow a director/chair/or officer in 2026—contact one of the folks below to find out more!

A decorative border of yellow sunflowers with green leaves and stems surrounds the text.

2 Summer Potluck Picnics

**LWV ST. CROIX VALLEY
MEMBERS, FAMILIES. AND
FRIENDS**

Wednesday June 17, 2026
4:30 - 7:30

New Richmond Heritage Center Pavilion
1100 Heritage Drive
New Richmond, 54017

RSVP Vicki Harmon at
vickiharmon@hotmail.com or 715-220-0890

AND

Wednesday July 15, 2026
5:00 - 7:30

Community Pride Park
corner of Traffic Ave and Highway 48
Frederic, 54837

RSVP Carolyn Saunders at:
cсаunders1949yahoo.com or 715-432-5816

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF ST. CROIX VALLEY

May	15	Newsletter
	19	Board Meeting and Pre Retreat St Croix Falls
	21	River Falls High School: Carol Skinner and Kathy Streitz will visit during their Future Week which they offer once a month.
	22	Farmers Market with Hub 1 Webster 10AM to 1PM Kris S. and Mary K.
	29	GROWW Deep Canvassing Training Zoom
	30	GROWW Deep Canvassing Training in Person Eau Claire
	31	GROWW Deep Canvassing Training in Person River Falls
June	1	Newsletter
	5	Farmers Market with Hub 1 Webster 10AM to 1PM Nancy Kolb and Pam Girtz
	14	Flag Day! HUDSON Lakefront Park
	17	Annual Picnic (south) Heritage Center Pavillion New Richmond 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
	19	Juneteenth
	20	Pride Event! Hudson Lakefront Park
	17	Annual LWVSCV Picnic Heritage Center
	26	Farmers Market with Hub 1 Webster 10AM-1PM
July	1	Newsletter

	4	Independence day! 250 Years! Keep it up!!!
	15	Annual Summer Picnic (north) 5:00PM – 7:30PM In Frederic at the Community Pride Park on the corner of Traffic Ave. and Highway 48.
August	1	Newsletter
	11	<u>Primary</u>
November	1	Newsletter
November	3	<u>General Election</u>

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>

Directors

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

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

Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Vicki Harmon <vickiharmon@hotmail.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>



Members continue to receive occasional emails that are scams. Beware of any emails that ask you to open a link or ask you to do something financially. It may include the name of a League member—but check the email address that it is coming from. If it isn't an address that you recognize, contact the person by using a text or league verified email of who is supposedly sending it— to verify that they sent it.

LEAGUE LEADERS WILL NEVER ASK YOU TO BUY GIFT CARDS OR TO SEND THEM MONEY!