



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

July 1, 2026

**7th Congressional District
Candidate Forum Watch Party
in NEW RICHMOND**

AT NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE

In the primary elections on August 11, there will be three candidates from the Democratic Party and six candidates from the Republican party. All candidates have been invited to take part in the July 21 LWV forum.

- When:** Tuesday, July 21, 2026
- Time:** 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- Where:** Northwood Technical College - use Conference Center entrance
1019 S.. Knowles Avenue
New Richmond, WI 54017

This will be a moderated, in-person forum in Wausau, with livestreaming to watch parties at locations around the 7th CD, including New Richmond at the Northwood Technical College.

Candidates will be presented with questions developed by our LWV chapters as well as questions submitted by members of the public in advance of the event. Registration is **not** required.

LWVSCV Volunteers are needed to assist with the event set-up and clean up. We also encourage members to invite friends and family to attend this event. Contact Beth Wood at elizabethwood2389@gmail.com



7th
Congressional
District
Primary

Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

All candidates who have qualified for the ballot have been invited: Don Raihala, Michael Alfonso, Jessi Ebben, Kevin Hermening, Niina Baum, Chris Armstrong, Fred Clark & Ginger Murray

IN-PERSON Event Location: Northcentral Technical College, 1000 W. Campus Drive, Wausau WI, Community Collaboration Center (E101/102)

LIVE WATCH PARTY Locations:

Kalmar Community Center - Eagle River at 1013 N Railroad St.,

Nicolet College - Rhinelander at the Red Oak Center Room 202, 5353 College Drive.

Northwood Technical College- Rice Lake, 1900 College Drive, Entrance N3, Room numbers 241, 243, and 245

Northwood Technical College - Ashland, 2100 Beaser Ave., Conference Center 305,306 & lounge, Entrance S4

Northwood Technical College - New Richmond, 1019 S. Knowles Avenue, Conference Center rooms 1122A-C

Superior Public Library -Superior, large meeting room, 1530 Tower Ave.

CO-SPONSORED BY: League of Women Voters of Marathon County, League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties, League of Women Voters of the Northwoods, and League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, LWV of Douglas County in cooperation with League of Women Voters of Greater Chippewa Valley and League of Women Voters of the St. Croix Valley.

Our Partners: Northcentral Technical College, Northwood Technical College

The LWVSCV is a collaborative chapter for this CD 7 event, hosting a watch party at Northwood Tech in New Richmond. As league members you are invited to submit a question you would like asked at the forum. **Send your question by July 3** to Beth Wood at elizabethwood2389@gmail.com to be compiled and provided to Debra Cronmiller, Executive Director of the LWV WI and the moderator for the live event. We will need volunteers the evening of this event to donate cookies or bars, to help with set up, to welcome guests and to help with clean up. This is a great opportunity for the LWVSCV to show our commitment to the civic health of our communities as we all live in the CD 7 district. Let's have a great turnout of members and please invite family and friends to join us. If you have any questions please reach out. Thanks everyone! Beth Wood



Please join us!

The second LWV potluck picnic of this summer will be on Wednesday, July 15 (5:00-7:30) at the Community Pride Park in Frederic (right next to the Frederic Soo Line Depot Museum).

Pam Girtz and I are coordinating the event. But we can't make it happen alone! We need set-up assistance beginning at 4:00, a person to sit at the "welcome"/name tag table, someone to assist with organizing the food tables as participants arrive with their food items, someone who can serve the pulled pork sandwiches, someone to assist with getting wines open and poured, etc.

I'm sending this invitation to League members who live in the Frederic and Luck areas. If you are planning to attend our picnic, would you consider offering a

helping hand?

Pam and I would be grateful! Just send me a text or reply by email

Thanks,
Carolyn Saunders
715-432-5816
csaunders1949@yahoo.com

OBSERVER CORPS

Observer Corps is pulling together and volunteers are ready to roll. A Zoom meeting was held on June 23 to discuss guidelines, what to do with reports, and what happens to them. All have been provided with contact information for Corps members and a list of groups to observe with their meeting dates and times. As well as paper forms, members have also been provided with an online form to be done on their phones if they wish.

Chris Rivard, Indivisible member, is doing a great job with the technology and Jenn Peterson and Kay Brooks are joining him to offer direction. **Also, here is an**

opportunity to sign up for the Observer Corps Training being offered by the LWV on July 22 - 2:00 p.m. central time, and is available to anyone interested in learning more

You are invited to register for a Zoom webinar!

When: Jul 22, 2026 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Observer Corps Training

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FnWX1DqaSMG-3Mhdbm3K2A

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

DAY OF ACTION !!!

LWVUS has designated August 8th as a Day of Nationwide Civic Action. We will be discussing what we can do to be part of this special day in our League. Keep an eye out. We will need your help when that time comes!

If you have a good idea as to what your HUB can do, please contact your HUB leader.



Member Services

Contact (Kathy Streitz, kfstreitz@gmail.com)

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 131 members. Most are active and current at this time. Time to renew? Please print the membership application from our website at lwvstcroixvalley.org, fill it out, and mail it to Katrina, our treasurer with your check. We do offer a \$20.00 minimum fee. Please let me know if you have questions.

Feel free to invite friends to join our chapter. 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 member!

Dee Stannard, dianeps103@icloud.com. Dee lives in Hudson and will join HUB 4.

HUB NEWS!

Our membership is divided into four geographical HUBz. We mix it up in our HUBz and all are welcome to visit anytime.

HUB 1 is in northern Polk and Burnett counties, including the Frederic, Webster, Siren, Danbury 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 which includes New Richmond, Star Prairie, Somerset, and Deer Park 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY—RAMPING UP!

PRIMARY ELECTION PREPARATION

As HUBs continue to set up tables at farmers markets to encourage voting, we will be turning our attention to the Primary Election on Tuesday, August 11. We will be making voters aware of the date, what candidates and races will be on their ballots, and how to get their ballots safely counted. We are keeping an eye on possible voter suppression and will be making suggestions to counter anything that messes with our election, (ex. Turning in absentee ballots as much as 2 weeks ahead of the election). This will be a time to notify places such as the Libraries, ADRCs, and Senior Centers. We are working on a new flyer for the Primary and could use help to distribute it physically and online.

HUB 1 NEWS:

Hub 1 members Kris Surbaugh and Kathy Surbaugh enjoyed a fun morning at the Northwest Passage Farmers Market, in Webster, on Friday, June 26.

About 28 adults and 6 kiddos stopped by to chat, ask questions, and spin the civics wheel. A few asked for information to register to vote in Wisconsin and took home the registration flyer. Some accepted the new brochures on the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Some just accepted an oatmeal cookie and thanked us for the work the League does. What a great day.

We will be back at the Webster market on July 10! I hope to see you there.

HUB 2 NEWS Amery, Milltown, Clear Lake, St. Croix Falls, Osceola, Turtle Lake



Amery Farmers Market, June 15

The League spinning wheel got a good work out at the Amery Farmers Market on Monday afternoon, June 15. A total of 91 people came to the League table staffed by Angie Johnson, Pat Seidl and Deb Trauley. They handed out flyers advertising the Polk County Sheriff Meet & Greet scheduled for July 16 in Osceola, the Declaration of Independence flyer, along with bookmarks and other voter information. The threesome also tried using the new notebook of civics questions developed by Pat. The new notebook is organized by grade level and color. This was the first market for Deb. She particularly enjoyed the interactions with the young, future voters. Thanks again to member Kathie Nelson for loaning us her canopy. Pat researched and ordered a new canopy for HUB 2 which should arrive soon.



Upcoming Events

- 2nd Summer Potluck Picnic, Community Pride Park, Frederic, Wednesday, July 15, 5:00-7:30.** Carolyn Saunders (HUB 2) and Pam Girtz (HUB 1) have done all of the behind the scenes work for the LWV St. Croix Valley members, families, and friends picnic. See flyer. Hope to see you there.
- Meet the Candidates for Polk County Sheriff, Osceola Town Hall, Thursday, July 16.** Carolyn Saunders (HUB 2), Kris Surbaugh (HUB 1) and Irene Bugge (HUB 2) are the planning committee for this Polk County event. We are encouraging all Polk County members to attend. Please invite your neighbors, share with your circles at book clubs and consider printing and posting the attached flyer on bulletin boards in the county.
- Farmers Markets**
 - o **Amery Farmers Market** -- Mondays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park Amery League Contacts/Leads – Angie Johnson, Pat Seidl, **July 20, Aug 17**
 - o **St. Croix Falls Farmers Market** – Saturdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm – SCF Public Library Plaza St Croix Falls Contact/Lead -- Nanette DelMonaco, **July 11**
 - o **Osceola Farmers Market** – Fridays, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm, on River Street Osceola Contact/Lead – Miriam Flysjo, **Aug 8**
 - o **If you are interested in volunteering to work at any of these markets, please reach out to the League contact/s for each market.**

HUB 3 NEWS

We just set up our first farmers market at the Heritage Center on Saturday, June 27th. Thanks to our great volunteers! We are looking forward to setting up a display in the Somerset Library for the month of August.

Members Susan Sroka, Nancy Vanasse, and Linda Heyes have agreed to help. Members Susan Bosley and Jarell Kuney are looking into preserving the legacy of John Doar, Civil Rights Activist from New Richmond.

COFFEE—SAVE THE DATE!

Date: Thursday, July 23

Time: 2:00-3:30 PM

Place: Heritage Center Picnic area. In case of inclement weather we have a room reserved at the New Richmond Library. BYO beverage.

More information coming in the next newsletter. Contact Karen Greenberg (karenmg2020@yahoo.com) or Kathy Kraemer (kathykraemer50@gmail.com) if you are interested. All League members as well as guests are invited!

HUB 4 NEWS

St. Croix County/Hudson Area Kathy Streitz, Janet Lestock, Judy Green
Contact (Kathy Streitz) kfstreitz@gmail.com, 612-916-8856

→Hudson Farmers Market on Carmichael

Future dates will be July 25 and August 22. Times are 7:30 to noon. More information to follow. Contact Kathy Streitz if you are available.

HUB 4 has members in the River Falls, Hammond, Baldwin, Roberts, and Hudson areas. We welcome suggestions, questions, and comments. Host a coffee, organize a gathering, reach out to members near you! It can be so comforting to meet in person.

HUB 3 & 4 DINNER

In order to accommodate members who work, Kathy Streitz and I are planning a dinner gathering on Monday, July 13. The invitation is below. This will be a chance to get to know each other and to get a feel for what is going on in our League.

Please RSVP. If we have at least 6 sign up, it will be a “go”. We are looking forward to getting to know some members who otherwise don’t have a great chance to meet each other! Here is the invite:

PLACE: The Barnboard Bar and Grill (in Roberts, hopefully centrally located for all)

DATE: Monday, July 13

TIME: 5:00-6:30

Please RSVP either Kathy Streitz (kfstreitz@gmail.com) or Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com).

PRIDE FEST



Pride Fest, held at Lakefront Park on June 24th in Hudson, did not disappoint! There were 65+ vendors distributing information,



selling wares, and satisfying appetites. Live music played throughout the event. Hundreds took advantage of the “top ten” weather day and our League volunteers talked with 240 attendees about the importance of voting as well as upcoming elections



and issues. Thanks to all who made it happen! Edna rounded up at least 10 members who were willing to take a few hours to help. That’s how we accomplish our mission—to get the public educated!!



ELECTION PROTECTION

We have been approached by Abe Smith from GRO-WW, a sister advocate organization that has so many valuable initiatives (Fair Maps, Final 5, 4th Amendment rights and businesses), and now—Election Protection. Abe is hired to study the possible problematic scenarios that could happen in our upcoming elections and to then search for both ways to confront them and people to implement his solutions. That’s where we, as the League, come in. We are best positioned to distribute information about how to keep our elections secure. A few of us will be working with GRO-WW in this regard and will apprise the rest of the membership as we learn more.

Our Shared Values of Freedom

The freedom to vote is a Wisconsin value — and understanding how our elections work helps ensure that freedom is real for all of us. Below is a quick, nonpartisan guide with ten essential things every Wisconsin voter should know.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING IN WISCONSIN

1 Even-numbered years have elections in February, April, August and November. Odd years have elections in February and April.

2 You are eligible to vote if you are at least 18 years old, a US citizen, a resident of Wisconsin and not serving a felony sentence.

3 Register to vote, find your polling place, view a sample ballot, and update your registration at myvote.wi.gov.

4 Voters who vote in every election have a say in healthcare, schools, taxes, roads, transit, courts, job programs, parks, housing, food assistance, and clean air and water.

5 You can learn about the candidates at VOTE411.org.



6 Voter intimidation is against the law. If you feel something is wrong at the polls, ask for the Chief Election Inspector.

7 Voters must show an ID. For a list of acceptable IDs, visit bringit.wi.gov.

8 You have three ways to vote: absentee ballot by mail, early voting, and voting at the polls on Election Day. It's your choice!

9 It's OK to ask another person to help you read your ballot.

10 Reliable sources are your municipal clerk's office or WI Voter Helpline at (608) 266-8005.

Voting is safe, secure, and protected by strong, bipartisan safeguards. Every vote is counted, with transparent processes and rigorous oversight to ensure accuracy. These measures reinforce trust and confidence in our democratic system. We the people have the power. Let's use it!

Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

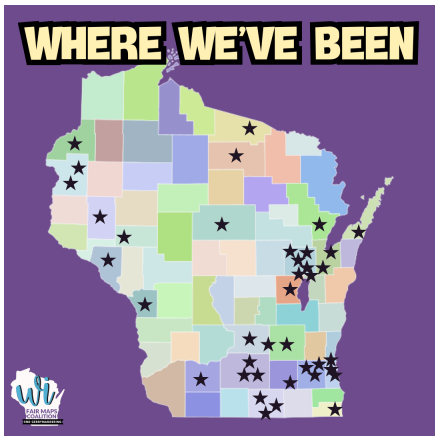


Join 350 Wisconsin on July 6 at 7:00pm for an important, interactive training on how to communicate about threats to our voting rights and our democracy in ways that connect us, not divide us.

Our climate and our communities are depending on us to get this right!

Register today:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/bgVrPIZCQb6bcd7AgOfD5w#/registration>



Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition is a non-partisan partner with LWVSCV–If you feel strongly about Fair Maps in Wisconsin–inform your Hub leader and see what your energy can achieve!

A Word from Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition:

This summer, we’re focusing on gerrymandering and the issues. Whatever your top issues are (clean water, education funding, affordability), they have been impacted by our gerrymandered voting maps. When our maps are rigged, legislators don’t have to listen to voters.

To keep this work going, we need your help on a few things.

1. We need more stars in central and northwest Wisconsin. [Invite us to present in your community!](#)
2. Reply to this email with a story about how gerrymandered maps affected an issue you care about.
3. If you can, [support our fiscal sponsor, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign](#). Your support keeps our work going so we can travel and present.

Yours in service,

iuscely Flores

Organizing Director, Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition <iuscely@fairmapswi.com>

July	1	Newsletter
	4	Independence day! 250 Years! Keep it up!!!
	6	350 Wisconsin Training:Communication (zoom)
	10	Farmers Market with Hub 1 Webster 10AM-1PM
	13	HUB 3 & 4 Dinner 5-6:30 PM
	14	Board Meeting– 4PM Zoom– All Welcome
	15	Newsletter
	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.
	16	Polk County Sheriff Candidate Meet/Greet Wilberg Memorial Library Osceola 6-7:30
	21	Congressional District 7 Candidate Forum Watch Party Northwoods Tech New Richmond 6:30-8:00
	22	OBSERVER CORP TRAINING VIA ZOOM 2PM (register here) https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FnWX1DqaSMG-3Mhdbm3K2A#/registration
	23	HUB 3 Coffee 2-3:30
	25	Hudson Farmers Market Hub 4
	31	Farmers Market with Hub 1 Webster 10AM-1PM
August	1	Newsletter
	7	Webster Farmers Market with Hub 1
	8	Unite and Rise National Day of Action!
	11	<i>Primary</i>
	15	Newsletter
	22	Hudson Farmers Market
November	1	Newsletter
November	3	<i>General Election</i>

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

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

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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>



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

"Governmental entity discrimination prohibited: Shall section 27 of article I of the constitution be created to prohibit governmental entities 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?"

WHY THIS AMENDMENT IS MISLEADING:

- Governmental entity discrimination is already illegal in Wisconsin and nationwide.

The phrase "granting preferential treatment" is misleading here because:

- It makes public equity-based programs unconstitutional.
- It asserts that helping marginalized groups is discrimination against everyone else.
- It eliminates assistance for underserved communities.

Find more info on the LWVWI website:



<https://my.lvw.org/wisconsin/constitutional-corner>

WHAT IS AT RISK IF IT PASSES:

- Health and environmental equity programs for marginalized people
- Educational access and changes in admissions, scholarships, grants, and curriculum
- Community Action programs such as Head Start, and others that reduce poverty, provide housing and food
- Support for women and minority-owned businesses
- Workplace diversity initiatives that enable equitable hiring practices
- Public contracts to certified minority-owned firms

Find a digital copy of this flyer with your email to print on your own, or contact your Hub leader to find out more.

Contact: lwwisconsin@lwwwi.org

LWVWI.ORG