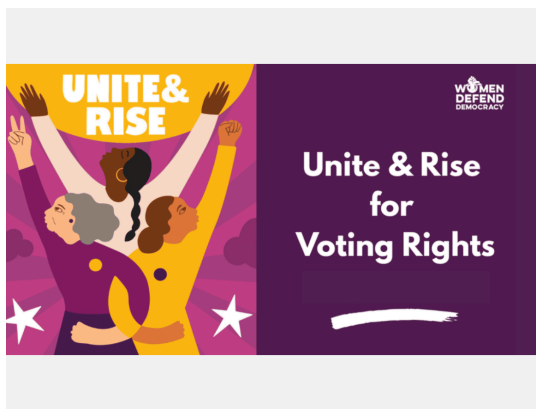




OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

August 1, 2026



Thank you to all the LWVSCV volunteers that helped make the CD 7 Candidate Forum Watch Party on July 21 at Northwood Tech in New Richmond a valuable and successful event for our league. It was my pleasure to work with the other LWV chapters in the CD 7 to put together the evening, and I believe the collaboration and relationships will benefit our work well into the future.

This opportunity was a great example of the Unite Rise philosophy that we are bringing into all of our work as we meet the challenges of this very important election cycle.

Together we are all stronger. As we move Forward Together we elevate our ability to reach our goals.

Thank you all very much.

Beth Wood/Co-P and Unite Rise Captain

Access a copy of the 7th Congressional District Candidate Forum here:
<https://youtu.be/TDmwxfM2Rok>

My heartfelt thank you to all of our members and leadership. The Unite Rise campaign has been a journey and the LWVSCV has met the moment in every way, beginning with our kick-off in Glover Park on June 6, 2025. We are now in Power Playbook 6. This message from our LWV CEO is a great way to re-focus as we move into the final 3 months before the November general election. With gratitude, Beth Wood (co-P and Unite Rise captain)

Closing Inspiration

This is a defining moment for our democracy — and for us. This is one of those moments we'll look back on and say **“This is when we decided who we wanted to be.”** Not because we all agreed on everything — but because we agreed that democracy itself is worth showing up for, protecting, and strengthening together.

An inclusive democracy makes us stronger as a country. When more people participate — especially through early voting — we send a clear message about the future we're choosing: one where voices matter, accountability matters, and democracy works for everyone.

Record turnout isn't just a number; it's how we create the conditions for real, pro democracy reform and elect leaders who answer to voters. And here's the good news: the way we build that power is incredibly doable. It's as simple as ***each of us making a plan to vote and committing to reaching five people in our lives who didn't vote in 2024*** or who will be voting for the first time this year.

Five is a small number; nearly everyone has five people in their network. And when those five people each engage with five more, something powerful happens. What starts as individual action becomes collective power.

At a time when redistricting battles and election mis- and disinformation across the country are clearly designed to silence communities and limit representation, turnout is how we respond. When more people show up, it disrupts the math that created unfair maps. We have the power to break the map — not with rhetoric, but with participation — and in doing so, help protect the future of our democracy.

So, square your shoulders. This is our moment. Through our own participation and through the people closest to us, we have the power to shape our country, elect a Congress that is accountable to voters, and rise powerfully together to meet this moment. **Let's do this.**

Celina Stewart, Esq. CEO, League of Women Voters



Polk County Sheriff Forum 52 attendees 69 livestreaming

On July 16, the Osceola Village Hall was filled to capacity for the Polk County Sheriff Meet & Greet/Forum. Fifty-two Polk County residents packed the room while 69 people watched on livestream.

The evening began at 6:00 pm with informal conversation and refreshments in the hallway just outside the meeting room. Candidates Chief Deputy Don Burrows and Inspector Rob Rorvick shared their campaign materials and talked with voters. The League staffed a voter information table and served refreshments.

At around 7:30, attendees were ushered into the Village Hall Meeting Room. Co-President Irene Bugge welcomed attendees and thanked Co-sponsor Anne Miller, Wilberg Memorial Library Director. She also acknowledged Patrick Cahill, Shabana Lundeen and Amy Middleton for their help with question development and all of the League members who helped behind the scenes, in particular Carolyn Saunders, Past President of LWV SCV. She then turned the meeting over to Shabana Lundeen, Polk County Clerk, the Moderator for the evening.



Candidates Rorvick and Burrows introduced themselves and then answered questions about jail management and mental health; fiscal management, staffing and retention; and interagency cooperation. There was also time for questions from the audience.



The final question for the evening was directed to Moderator Shabana Lundeen. The Polk County Clerk was asked if a person chose to vote on the Democratic ticket, could they cross over and vote for one of the Sheriff candidates on the Republican ticket because no Democrat was running. Lundeen explained that such a crossover was not possible in the Partisan Primary.

League Members who helped with this event included: Carolyn Saunders, Kris Surbaugh, Beth Wood, Pat Seidl, Barb Katt, Robin Maercklein and Irene Bugge

Guidance: 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 state and local voter guides and VOTE411, 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, inflation, immigration enforcement practices, federal checks and balances, 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.

We Are Nonpartisan, Not Neutral

Remaining nonpartisan does not mean staying silent. When democracy itself is under threat, when voter access is restricted, or when misinformation spreads, we have a responsibility to speak out — clearly and forcefully. Our nonpartisan commitment strengthens our voice, allowing us to advocate for fundamental rights and freedoms without being seen as beholden to any political agenda.



VOTER SERVICES

With the arrival of August, our focus will be on the Primary Election on August 11. Members can help by putting up flyers wherever they can and by otherwise letting people know about it. We recommend members participating in an email blitz to anyone they would like to contact—to pass on. A sample email will be sent about a week before the election.

Also, if you have a VOTE TUESDAY sign, it should go out the **Wednesday before the election (Aug. 5).**

Something for each HUB to consider independently is whether or not they would like to do something for the August 8 Day of Action. It can be done any number of ways. Whatever each one decides for itself is totally acceptable.



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.

Time to renew your membership?

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 132 members. Most are active and current at this time. Some memberships have lapsed. Time to renew? Please check your email. I recently sent messages about memberships that have lapsed. You can always renew your

LWVSCV membership on our website lwvstcroixvalley.org . We offer a sliding membership fee of \$20.00 – \$75.00. You can print the membership application from our website and mail it to Katrina, our treasurer with your check. Or fill out the application form as a renewal online. Please let me know if you have questions. It is easy to miss a renewal date and I am here to help.

Bring A Friend!

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!

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, River Falls, Baldwin, Woodville, and the Hammond area. Contact, Kathy Streitz, kfstreitz@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE: Our 'Up North' potluck picnic has been rescheduled for early evening on

**→Wednesday, September 30th
at Community Pride Park in Frederic.**

**Please reserve this picnic date on your calendar.
More details will be forthcoming.**

HUB 1 NEWS: Webster, Siren, Danbury, Grantsburg, Frederic, Luck (contact Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com> for Hub 1 information)

Hub 1 members met at the Pour House in Siren, WI to strategize our efforts for the coming primary and to brainstorm programming plans for the fall. Lots of good ideas were exchanged to organize some educational programs focusing on election integrity in both northern Polk and Burnett Counties. Speakers will include County Clerks addressing election integrity, Dr. Neil Kraus (UW River Falls) on Electability and a program on Fair Maps.

Patti H., Marie E., Mary K., Kathy S., and Kris S. also addressed 100 “Get Out the Vote” postcards to remind folks of the upcoming primary!

Sue Donovan again takes the initiative to write an LTE for our local papers. This time she focuses on exercising one’s right to VOTE and using reputable websites to find accurate voter information. Look for her LTE in the following papers: Sentinel, Leader, Baldwin and Osceola papers.

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

In addition to the Meet the Polk County Sheriff Candidates event on July 16 (see article), HUB 2 members staffed a voter education tabling event on July 20 at the Amery Farmers Market and gathered at the coffee shop at Dragonfly Gardens in Amery on July 24 to write on postcards.

Upcoming Farmers Markets

- **AUG. 8 Osceola Farmers Market** – Fridays, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm, on River Street
Osceola Contact/Lead – Miriam Flysjo
- **AUG. 15 St Croix Falls Farmers Market** – Saturdays, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm – SCF Public Library Plaza St Croix Falls Contact/Lead -- Nanette DelMonaco, (*Irene Bugge while Nanette is away on holiday*).
- **AUG. 17 Amery Farmers Market** -- Mondays, 3:00pm – 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park
Amery League Contacts/Leads – Angie Johnson, Pat Seidl

If you are interested in volunteering to work at any of these markets, please reach out to the League contact/s for each market or contact Irene at irenebugge@gmail.com, We are especially in need of help for the St. Croix Falls Market due to Nanette’s absence.



JULY 20. Amery Farmers Market. Angie Johnson Pat Seidl and Deb Trauley, staffed a League table at Soo Line Park on Monday afternoon. A total of 67 people came to the table – 46 adults and 21 children. The focus was on reminding voters about the August 11 Primary Election. The most popular handout was the 5x7 sheet with QR codes and websites to

assist voters in finding the information they need for the upcoming election. (Thanks, Kay Brooks and Kathie Nelson, for creating the handout).



JULY 24. Get-out-the-Vote Postcard-Writing Gathering. Angie Johnson, JJ Levy, Wanda Brown, Carolyn Saunders and Irene Bugge met at the Dragonfly Gardens coffee shop in Amery. They stamped, stickered and wrote messages on 100 postcards reminding neighbors living in our three-county area to vote in the Partisan Primary Election on August 11. (Thanks, Kathy Streitz, for ordering the eye-catching postcards and Evanne Hunt for printing the

mailing labels).

It was also a time for getting to know one another better and a time of enjoying home made treats. The menu included coffee cake; vegetable and quinoa egg muffins; cinnamon, raisin pecan sour dough bread and fruit. Another postcard writing event will be scheduled closer to the November 3 election.



HUB 3 NEWS: New Richmond, Star Prairie, Somerset, Deer Park



Review of “coffee” meeting July 23

There was a great turnout with 14 attending at the Heritage Center, enjoying the weather and companionship. We wrote 100 postcards to voters encouraging voting on August 11. Some members folded newly printed trifolds explaining the 3 Constitutional Amendments that will be on the November 11th ballot. Kathy Kraemer and Karen Greenberg hosted.

Comments:

Wisconsin District 7 Watch Party was a success on July 21. There were many community attendees. Thanks to the HUB 3 & 4 members that helped out!

HUB members who seriously want to get accurate information to the public before the November election attended the Education Group- Upcoming meeting Thursday, July 30, 3:30 – 5:00 at the Somerset Library. Those who weren't able to attend, but would like to be involved, contact Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com)



Susan Bosley and Sue Irle kindly set up a table at the Farmers Market at the Heritage Center on Sat., July 25, with Jarell Kuney and Karen Roberts pinch hitting. They spoke with over 64 people, and engaged with many notable conversations. There are some open spots for helpers at future LWV tables. Please contact Karen Roberts -- kmroberts82@gmail.com



If you can get to the Somerset Library anytime in August, Susan Sroka and Nancy Vanasse put together a LWVSCV display in the display case. Linda Heyes will help with take down.

DAY OF ACTION—SATURDAY, AUGUST 8!!

HUB 3 is extending an invitation to all League members to join us from 10-12 in New Richmond. We will meet at Glover Park by the old library and will have a sign rally promoting voting and Tuesday's Primary Election on Knowles Ave. We will also have a voter/information table at the park. Come join us! We have plenty of signs to go around and would love to have a BIG League presence! It's going to be FUN!!

Many thanks to Kathy Kraemer for her help with this report! ❤️

HUB 4 News—St. Croix County/Hudson Area

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

Judy Green - jfqlag@yahoo.com, 612-513-1818

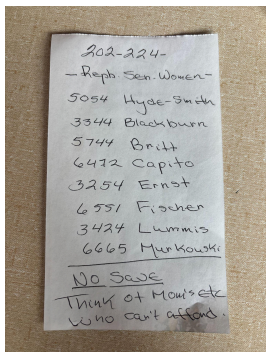
Liz Bruch - drlizbruch@gmail.com, 715-220-7327

Janet Lestock - janetblestock@gmail.com, 507-213-6016

Hudson Farmers Market on Carmichael

Please join Judy Green, Liz Bruch and Kathy Streitz. We welcome you to stop by and join us as we share voter information with community members.

Summer dates will be August 8 & September 12. Times are 7:30 to noon. More information to follow. Contact Kathy Streitz if you are available.



Action Alert!

Call These Republican Women Senators to Say "NO" to the SAVE ACT!

League Member Judy Green has supplied these contact numbers to speak to Republican Women Senators. As the current administration continues to push to pass the voter suppression act (currently known as the Save America Act) you can let these Senators know how it can disenfranchise so many women in America. Takes about 10 to 15 minutes!

An Opportunity from our sister League!



Are you infuriated hearing our election process is fraudulent?

Join us in a writing workshop to express our confidence in the Wisconsin election process. Kaia Simon, UW-Eau Claire Associate Professor of English and LWV-GCV member, will teach us to write effective letters to the editor. We'll discuss other ways to get our message out too.

We will meet at the Menomonie Public Library Community Room on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 from 1:00pm –3:00pm.

The library has internet access so bring your laptop and write and submit your letter during the workshop — or bring your paper and pen to compose a letter for late. We all have seen the election process as voters or poll workers or observers and know the care that goes into the process. Let's push our message of trust.

There is no fee, but registration is requested. Feel free to bring a friend. Remember to log into our website to find the registration link.

To RSVP, click here: [In Wisconsin Elections I Trust! Letters to the Editor Workshop - 8/5/2026](#).

For login help, please contact Membership at membership@lww-gcv.org.

Event Details:

When: Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Time: 1:00pm -3:00pm

Where: Menomonie Public Library Community Room

600 Wolsky Bay Road

Menomonie, WI 54751

We look forward to seeing you!

August	1	Newsletter
	7	Webster Farmers Market with Hub 1
	5	VOTE TUESDAY signs go out
	8	Unite and Rise National Day of Action!
	8	NEW RICHMOND Glover Park! 10am-12pm ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS INVITED
	8	Hudson Farmers Market
	8	<u>Osceola Farmers Market</u> – Fridays, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm, on River Street Osceola Contact/Lead – Miriam Flysjo,
	11	<u>Partisan Primary:VOTE!!!</u>
	15	Newsletter
	15	St Croix Falls Farmers Market
	17	Amery Farmers Market -- Mondays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park Amery League Contacts/Leads – Angie Johnson, Pat Seidl,
	18	LWVSCV Board Meeting
September	1	Newsletter
	12	Hudson Farmers Market
	15	Newsletter
	15	National Voter Registration Day
	15	LWVSCV Board Meeting
	30	Up North Potluck Picnic Frederic
October	1	Newsletter
	15	Newsletter
	20	LWVSCV Board Meeting
November	1	Newsletter
	3	<u>General Election</u>

	14	<u>LWVSCV Retreat</u>
	15	Newsletter

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>

Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Barb Katt (DEI) <barbkatt@hotmail.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>

WPR'S 2026 VOTER GUIDE

Compare the candidates

wpr.org/voterguide

Wisconsin's Aug. 11 partisan primary is approaching, and Wisconsin Public Radio's 2026 Voter Guide brings together information to help people across the state better understand the candidates and the issues at stake.

Earlier this year, we asked Wisconsin voters which issues they wanted candidates to address. Education, housing costs, the environment, data centers and Wisconsin's relationship with the Trump administration were among the topics that came up most often.

Based on that input, WPR submitted questions to candidates for governor and the U.S. House. In the Voter Guide you can compare candidates' answers side by side and hear, in their own words, how they would approach the issues facing Wisconsin.

wpr.org/votersguide