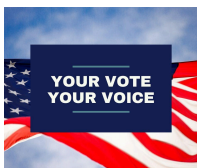




OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

August 15, 2026



VOTER SERVICES

DAY OF ACTION Rally in New Richmond

As I write this, I am smiling. I feel PRIDE in our League and its members and HOPE for the future. I am THANKFUL that these 15+ members from both HUB 3 and HUB 4 took time out of their Saturday to “tell” the public about the election and the importance of voting. We were joined by the Polk/Burnett Indivisible with their great BURMA SHAVE-style signs, all in a row. So awesome! It was so great that they drove to New Richmond to join us! So much energy gives me energy—energy to keep on fighting for our democracy! Thanks everyone!

Kay Brooks



VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

We encourage all who help with information tables and, in this case, especially those who plan to help with tables at colleges on National Voter Registration Day, to attend the following training. Even if you don’t register voters, it is important to understand the registration process. If you have had previous training, a review is always good. Please consider attending. We are fortunate that LWVGCV develops these trainings and includes us.

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

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. (REMEMBER—WE HAVE A TREASURER WHO HAS AN OFFICIAL ACCOUNT WHO TAKES CARE OF ALL LEAGUE BUSINESS!)



Voter Registration Training Opportunity to Assist College Students

College students who want to vote sometimes have extra and unique considerations, beyond the standard requirements guiding elections. This free voter registration training will provide information to help volunteers answer questions college students might ask when registering to vote or planning to vote in an election. The training will be offered **Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 6:00–7:15pm via Zoom**. This session is open to both League members and the general public.

Topics include how to

- ☐ Clarify where the college student wants to vote (at home or at school);
- ☐ Use a student ID and supporting enrollment documents when registering to vote or casting a ballot; and
- ☐ Think through how the address changes common to college students – living on-campus, moving off-campus, moving days before an election – impact where they can vote in Wisconsin.
- ☐ Presenters will role-play a scenario involving a college student wanting to register to vote, will provide handouts, and will answer questions.

Attendees are encouraged to have some understanding of or experience in the basics of voter registration in Wisconsin before taking this training. A recording of LWV-GCV's most recent voter registration training can be found at [Voter Registration Training – March 9, 2026 – YouTube](https://youtu.be/iSSjffTWu-k) <<https://youtu.be/iSSjffTWu-k>>

At the end of the training, volunteers should feel comfortably knowledgeable in helping college students register to vote and to know how to access expert resources for answering questions.

To register (**required**) for this free training, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the calendar on our League website here: LWV-GCV Voter Registration Training to Assist College Students on How to Register – 9/1/2026
2. Members – please login
3. Scroll down and follow the directions to register as a member or general public
4. Enter your name and contact information and to answer three questions about any prior experience with voter registration assistance
5. After registering, you will receive an email confirming your registration and the Zoom link
6. Handouts will be emailed to you a few days before the training; please print what you'll need at the session
7. For more information, please contact **Lori Miller at lbmiller492@gmail.com**

What Wisconsin Voters Need to Know about the Anti-Equity Constitutional Amendment that will appear on our November 3, 2026 Ballot



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:	WHAT IS AT RISK IF IT PASSES:
- 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.lwv.org/wisconsin/constitutional-corner	- 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

Contact: lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org LWVWI.ORG

Event Details:

When: Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Where: Brewery Nonic, 621 4th St., Menomonie, WI 54751

We are looking forward to you joining us at Brewery Nonic for this important educational seminar and Q&A. Joan Schwarz, LWV WI Legislative Committee Chair, will join us by Zoom to share important information and to answer our questions. Please support the brewery that evening by purchasing a beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic available). We are grateful to Brewery Nonic for the use of the room!

Besides being the Legislative Committee Chair, Joan is engaged with local League legislative advocacy and lobbying. She focuses on election/voting rights, reproductive justice and court integrity. Joan is an attorney focused on civil law and taught at UW Whitewater, teaching civic education and Gender, Law and Policy (now retired). Advocacy has been her life's work professionally and personally.

In preparation for this seminar, Joan has requested that you review the constitutional corner toolkit <<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/constitutional-corner>>, and the Power Point Presentation that is in that toolkit. If you are unable to attend, the presentation and Q&A will be recorded for you to access on our website lwv-gcv.org following the event.

There is no fee to attend, but registration is requested. Feel free to invite others you know who may wish to help educate other voters, and ask them to register to attend, on the LWV-GCV calendar. Remember to log into our website on the LWV-GCV calendar, [HERE](#), to register as a member. For website login help, please contact Membership at membership@lwvgcv.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sharon Smith at sirenes4872@gmail.com

We are very excited for this important educational and action opportunity, and we hope to see you there.

One of our primary goals before the election is to make voters aware of the three amendments that will be on their ballot. The State League has gone to a lot of work to explain their ramifications, particularly for the Anti-Equity Constitutional Amendment.

Our webmaster, Evanne Hunt, has just posted great information on it, including a great video. Anytime you have a chance, let people know about the Amendments and steer them to our website. They will find valuable information there!

[League of Women Voters - St. Croix Valley | League of Women Voters](https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/)
<https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/>

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Post-election, members should be looking to September 15 for National Voter Registration Day. What we do will take various forms. HUB leaders can consider having tables in the high schools, colleges, and libraries. Also possible are library displays like the one that has been in Somerset for the month of August. In New Richmond there will be a community event with Karen Roberts' presentation on Election Integrity. What other ideas do members have? Let your HUB leader know and offer to help with it. They would welcome your help for this one day of emphasis on voter registration.

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 138 members. Most are active and current at this time. Some memberships have lapsed. Time to renew? Please check your email. I recently sent emails 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. Please note, a membership list is attached to this newsletter.

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 or college visit, a farmers market, a Lunch and Learn, a community speaker, or any of our gatherings. Don't forget to bring a friend!

New Member

Please join me in welcoming our new member!

Mark Seaburg, ms1953d@gmail.com. Mark lives in River Falls and will be a member of HUB 4!

Joining the League of Women Voters is a great way to get involved in your community and play an active role in our democracy. Our members are passionate activists who support our work in all 50 states and in more than 800 communities. Wisconsin has 22 local LWV chapters. Thank you for joining LWV St. Croix Valley!



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 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.

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



Hub 1 members Marie Engdahl and Kris Surbaugh were joined by a civic minded community member, Brenda Johnson, to spend a day at the Northwest Passage Gallery Farmers Market in Webster. We focused on reminding voters of the upcoming partisan primary. We talked to folks about our non-partisan mission and history as voter advocates. We engaged with about 30 adults and 8 kiddos while having great conversations with both!

We listened as folks spoke of their own beliefs about voters' rights.

Folks who were concerned with the SAVE (America) ACT.

We even had someone who had never heard of the League before, and she was very curious and intrigued enough to ask questions and to take home a membership brochure!

We shared a few good hours laughing and talking with each other and the folks who stopped by our table. What a delightful way to spend the day 😊

HUB 1 members are also organizing some educational programming for October. The Frederic Library will host Shabana Lundeen to address election integrity in Polk County and Dr Neil Krause (UWRF) will speak to civic action. We also hope to organize another look at Fair Maps and the SAVE Act.

More information to follow in the subsequent newsletters.

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

Contact, Irene Bugge, irenebugge@gmail.com

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

Farmers Markets



Special thanks to our newest HUB 2 member, **Jennifer Arriola**, who said yes when **Miriam Flysjo** reached out to her to volunteer to help staff the Osceola Farmers Market on August 7. **Sue Frazier** and **Carolyn Saunders** rounded out the four-person, two-shift crew.

Fifty-one people visited the League table. As usual the kids loved spinning the wheel. Our newest educational brochure – the WI 2026 Constitutional Amendment Guide trifold -- was a hit.

Nearly every voter offered one, took it. About 30 were handed out. “Most people didn’t know anything about the amendments so they were happy to have some information,” Miriam said. “One man took the brochure, then went to the booth that sold honey and told those vendors about it. A few minutes later the woman from the honey booth came over and asked for the brochure.” More Constitutional Amendment brochures were ordered for our upcoming markets.

Upcoming Farmers Markets

- **AUG. 17 Amery Farmers Market** -- Monday, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park – **Angie Johnson, Pat Seidl and Wanda Brown.**
- **SEPT. 12 St Croix Falls Farmers Market** – Saturday, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm – SCF Public Library Plaza St Croix Falls – **Wanda Brown plus other volunteers, TBD**** *If you are interested in volunteering to work with Wanda at the SCF market, please contact Irene ASAP at irenebugge@gmail.com.*
- **SEPT. 21 Amery Farmers Market** -- Monday, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park – **Angie Johnson and Pat Seidl.**



Earned Press. The July 29 issue of the Inter-County Leader published an article by reporter Sarah Beth Radnomsky, entitled:

“Candidates for Polk County Sheriff Outline Priorities at League of Women Voters Forum.” Another example, bolstering LWV SCV’s reputation in our community as a trusted source of nonpartisan information.



Planning Meeting: Six HUB 2 members: **Carolyn Saunders, Miriam Flysjo, Pat Seidle, Angie Johnson, Sharyl Manwiller and Irene Bugge** gathered to talk about HUB 2 priorities and plans for September, October and Nov.

- **Farmers Markets** will continue through September with continued focus on educating the public about the Constitutional Amendments that will be on the Nov. 3 ballot.
- **Get-out the Vote Post Card Writing Gathering** planned early October.
- **Library Displays** for National Voter Registration Day and up to election.
- **Develop and Pilot a New Curriculum** about the importance of voting to be used in high school classrooms. Angie Johnson will use the Luck High School curriculum, developed by Kay Brooks and Janet Anderson, as the foundation, refine the curriculum and pilot it at one high school this fall. If successful, other League members will be trained to use this curriculum and it will be offered to schools next spring.
- **Candidate Forum/Watch Party in Osceola – Senate District 25** – Possible co-sponsorship with LWV ABC and LWV WI, Date TBD.
- **Election Integrity Presentation** with Shabana Lundeen – SCF Library, October 19. Possible co-sponsorship with Polk Burnett Indivisible.

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

. Contact, Kay Brooks, kaybrooks48@gmail.com.

EDUCATION GROUP—HUBs 3&4

Approximately 20 members have shown interest in a variety of initiatives we have conceived that would inform the public about voting and elections. A committed group showed up to do some discussion and planning on July 30. We weeded out what would make the best use of our time. Much has been prepared to make initiatives easy. What is needed is members to share leadership. Thankfully, we made some progress. We hope to make more. A bigger focus will be on a couple of community events that we are planning. Karen Roberts will present her Election Integrity power point on September 15 and we are planning to offer a presentation about the Constitutional Amendments that will be on the ballot at the River Falls Library in October. We will be looking for help with these events. Contact Kay Brooks or Karen Roberts if you are willing to help.

Nancy Ulrich and Melissa Hansen will be reaching out to Seniors through the ADRC and various Senior living places. We thank them for that. Others who are offering help with events are Janet Ellinger, Jan Strommen, and Katrina Larsen. Edna Early has also offered to help. We will continue to reach out to members to help. Our League is loaded with talent. We are hoping that a combined effort will easily take us a long way.

Save the Date – Hub #3 Coffee

Wednesday, August 19, 2:00–3:30 pm

Riverwood Nature Center, Learning and Activity Center

300 W. 1st St., Star Prairie

Join us for updates, planning and connecting!

Offers to bring snacks (contact kathykraemer50@gmail.com), BYO beverage

Karen Roberts is planning a Farmers' Market at The Heritage Center on August 22 with 3 more in September and October.

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



Hosting Hudson Farmers Market on Carmichael on Saturday August 8

Kathy Streitz, Etta Mae Streitz, Judy Green, and Dr. Liz Bruch (not in photo) engaged with 87 community members. Many had questions about the primary election and appreciated knowing about VOTE411 and MyVote WI as excellent voting resources. All ages spun the wheel, answered civics questions, and enjoyed a sweet treat. LWV St. Croix Valley is honored to have participated in the LWV National Day of Action!

COFFEE TIME!

Join us for our next coffee at the

- ❖ *Hudson Library on Wednesday, August 26 from 10am to noon.*
- ❖ *Please RSVP Kathy Streitz.*
- ❖ *Thanks to Kathy Roberts and Judy Green for organizing. We have lots of flyers to distribute and we need your help. Thank you to Jan Strommen for offering to print flyers!*

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. Our next summer date will be September 12. Times are 7:30 to noon. Please contact Kathy Streitz if you are interested in helping. **We do need helpers!**

Last week we engaged with 87 community members! Many had questions about the Primary Election, where to register, where to vote, and how to learn about candidates. Sharing about MyVoteWI.gov & VOTE411 League of Women Voters was so helpful! Both offer election information we need available in English and Spanish, check your voter registration, find your polling place, learn about candidates, and more.

August	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
	19	HUB 3 coffee 2:00-3:30 at Riverwood Nature Center, Star Prairie
	22	HUB 3 Heritage Farmers Market in New Richmond 8:00-1:00
	26	Coffee at Hudson Public Library 10AM-12PM RSVP helpful–contact Kathy Streitz kfstreitz@gmail.com , 612-916-8856
September	1	Newsletter
	1	LWVGCV Voter Registration Training 6:00 - 7:15 via Zoom. (info above)
	12	St Croix Falls Farmers Market – Saturday, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm – SCF Public Library Plaza St Croix Falls – Wanda Brown plus other volunteers, TBD** If you are interested in volunteering to work with Wanda at the SCF market, please contact Irene ASAP at irenebugge@gmail.com.
	12	Hudson Farmers Market
	12	HUB 3 Heritage Farmers’ Market in New Richmond 8:00-1:00
	15	Newsletter
	15	Election Integrity presentation 5:30-7:00 in New Richmond (location TBD)
	15	National Voter Registration Day Activities planned independently by each HUB. Information forthcoming.
	15	LWVSCV Board Meeting
	21	Amery Farmers Market -- Mondays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park Amery – Angie Johnson and Pat Seidl.
	22	HUB 3 Heritage Farmers’ Market in New Richmond 8:00-1:00
	22	Heritage Days in New Richmond. Information table planned by HUB 3
	30	Up North Potluck Picnic Frederic
October	1	Newsletter

	1	Election Integrity with Shabana Lundeen at the Frederic Public Library 6PM
	8	Guest speaker Dr. Neil Kraus (UWRF) at the Frederic Public Library 6PM
	15	Newsletter
	19	Election Integrity Presentation with Shabana Lundeen – SCF Library, October 19. Possible co-sponsorship with Polk Burnett Indivisible.
	20	LWVSCV Board Meeting
November	1	Newsletter
	3	<u>General Election</u>
	14	<u>LWVSCV Retreat</u>
	15	Newsletter

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.

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>