



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

October 1, 2026



In collaboration with local Indivisible groups and GROWW, a few of our LWVSCV members have been attending meetings facilitated by GROWW in a **Hands Off Our Vote** initiative. The purpose is to dig into strategy and prepare for the upcoming November 3 election with a collective response should the need arise for immediate

action following the election.

As League members we are constantly learning and evaluating to determine what action items will fit best with the ongoing work of our league to remain nonpartisan and yet, determined to protect our Constitutional rights and those of our friends and neighbors.

Our first goal is to engage with our local elected leaders and indicate that we are in support of a fair and secure election. We want to support our local elected officials in the leadership roles they play in our local governments and we want to assure them that we are engaged and invested in the defense of our upcoming election. We would also like to know if our elected officials will uphold the Constitution or follow directives from the Federal Government.

In St. Croix County, members of this collective group will be attending the monthly St. Croix County Board Meeting on October 6 at 5:00 p.m. We invite interested league members to join us. This will not be on the agenda and the only reference to it will be by a selected few speakers that will bring our collective message to the Board during public comment.

Members that are planning to attend or have questions please reach out to Beth Wood at elizabethwood2389@gmail.com or Kathy Streitz kfstreitz@gmail.com

Our role as the LWVSCV is in support and to show solidarity. We all have an investment in the safe, secure and fair implementation of the November 3 election.

Forward Together.



Happy National Voter Education Week! October 5–9, 2026

Join the movement to strengthen your community and country. Register, engage, and cast your vote to ensure your voice is heard in shaping the future.

As a trusted messenger in your community, you can make a big impact by encouraging people you know to cast their ballot with confidence. Join us in taking one action each day of National Voter Education Week to empower your community.

We'll be posting actions all week on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or you can look below to start celebrating! <https://www.vote411.org/nview>

Theme: Final Push, Election Observation, and Voter Protection

October Focus: Voter education, early voting, voter protection at scale

- October is where power is activated at scale and fully deployed. As voters begin casting ballots, Leagues move into a high-visibility, high-impact phase focused on ensuring voters have the information, confidence, and support they need to fully participate.
- Key Priorities:
 - Educate voters on how, when, and where to vote
 - Promote early voting participation
 - Elevate election officials as trusted leaders
 - Fully scale election observation programs

An illustration of a person in a blue suit holding a sign that says "VOTE". To the left is a ballot box with a slot for a ballot and a small plant on top. Above the ballot box is a sign that says "VOTE".

We are in the final push of the Unite Rise initiative. Thank you all for the incredible work that has been done. And for all we will do prior to November 3.

Beth Wood / Unite Rise captain

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

Burnett County Event Draws 57 attendees plus live stream viewers!



Thanks to League member, Patti Hurd, Hub 1 was notified that an important ballot question would be asked of voters in Burnett County on November 3. The question will ask Burnett County voters to determine whether the County Board of Supervisors should be reduced from 21 Supervisory Districts to 15. The question is binding.

Patti, Kris Surbaugh, and Carolyn Saunders quickly organized a public hearing for voters to hear from the Supervisors both pros and cons of the decision, so that voters could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

Nine supervisors attended and spoke to their constituents about their feelings and concerns. Fifty seven members of the public attended plus those who watched the livestream. Carolyn Saunders welcomed attendees, and Greg Marsdan (editor Burnett County Sentinel) acted as the facilitator.

League members Sue Donovan, Mary Bjorgard and Nancy Kolb donated treats and helped with set and clean up.

Many thanks to Nathan Ehalt, Wanda Hinrichs, and the Burnett County staff who all pitched in to make this a success!

ATTENTION: Program Change for October Ed Fest!

Due to unforeseen occurrences, Karrie Weaver will present her SAVE Act information at the Frederic Library on October 8, and Prof. Neal Kraus will present his program on the state constitutional amendments on October 15. Sorry for any confusion this might bring.

October Ed-Fest Schedule:

- ☐ Thursday, October 1, 6PM Shabana Lundeen “How Safe is My Vote?”
- ☐ Thursday, October 8, 6PM Karrie Weaver “What’s Up With the Save Act?”
- ☐ Thursday, October 15, 6PM Dr. Neal Kraus “Why Do Amendments Matter?”
- ☐ Thursday, October 22, 6PM Fair Maps Coalition “Why Create a Nonn-Partisan Districting Commission?”

Please share all League events with neighbors, friends and family. Be there!

Up North Picnic–2026

Due to extreme heat and humidity in August–our Up North picnic was rescheduled for September 30 in Frederic.

Such a great decision! The weather was perfect and the fall colors made the drive worthwhile.

We thank Carolyn Saunders and Pam Girtz for organizing, and the League members who came together to share potluck and League stories.



HUB 2

Amery Farmers Market, September 21. Angie Johnson and Pat Seidl staffed the League table at Soo Line Park in Amery. They had 29 adults and 4 children stop by the booth. They handed out the WI 2026 Constitutional Amendment Guide trifold and provided information about the October 19 Election Integrity presentation. Many thought-provoking conversations were had.



Upcoming HUB 2 Events ·

OCT. 7 -- Get-out the Vote Postcard Writing Gathering, Wednesday, 11:00 – 12:30. Osceola Library Room 105. Lunch afterward at Watershed Café for those interested. Put this on your calendar today, please join us and bring a friend.

OCT. 19 -- Election Integrity Presentation, Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 with Shabana Lundeen – St Croix Falls Library. Co-sponsored with Polk Burnett Indivisible. League Lead: Barb Katt. We are encouraging all HUB 2 members to attend this program.

How Safe is Our Election?

ELECTION SECURITY

A discussion and questions
with
Shabana Lundeen Polk County Clerk

Monday, October 19

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Saint Croix Falls Public Library

230 S Washington St

St. Croix Falls. WI

Sponsored by:





SOMERSET LIBRARY STORY TIME: VOTE!

Daniel Kilkelly, children's librarian, and Susan Sroka, LWVSCV volunteer, utilized the Story Time Vote kit to an audience at the Somerset Public Library.

Twenty adults and thirty children participated in the voting activities and listening to the books provided in the kit.

The Story Time kit is available through the MORE Library System or by contacting Kay Brooks, LWVSCV, for our kit. Volunteer at your local library, pre-school, or day care. Bring the Get Out the Vote message to young and old alike.



HUBs 3 and 4 will be hosting a second event on Wednesday, October 21. Prof. Neil Kraus, political science professor from UWRF, will speak about the three proposed Amendments that will be on the November ballot. This event will be held from 5:30-7:00 at the Unitarian Church in River Falls. More details to come.



SIGNS UP for November 3 2026 General Election

•Vote from Home signs can be put out immediately - Pick up on Tuesday, October 20

•Vote Tuesday signs should be put out on Wednesday, October 28 - Pick up on Wednesday, November 4

•Thank You Election Workers can be put out on Wednesday, November 4 - Pick up on Tuesday, November 10

Do you need a yard sign?

Let Katrina Larsen, katrina_larsen@yahoo.com, 715-338-6820, know if you would like a Vote Tuesday sign. She will make arrangements to get it to you.



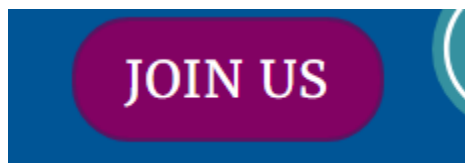
Member Services Contact (Kathy Streitz,

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. We honor those members who wish to donate only and all levels of engagement. Please let us know your wishes as far as level engagement in the LWVSCV. Please email suggestions regarding membership ideas and ways we can improve our communication. We are always willing to listen and grow!



Time to renew your membership?

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 with your check. Or fill out the application form as a renewal online at **LWVUS**. Renewing on line with **LWVUS** will offer automatic renewal. Chapter Spot which has our roster at the LWVUS level will email you with 30 and 60 day past due reminders. If you have not renewed after 60 days, you are removed from the national list. ***Please check your renewal dates.***

Please let me know if you have questions. It is easy to miss a renewal date and I am here to help. There are about 15 members on our list who need to renew. Note: You are always welcome to attend LWVSCV gatherings as a member or as a friend.

Bring A Friend! 🌻



Feel free to invite friends to join in on a gathering and to join our chapter. Reach out to our new members 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. All are welcome!

October	1	Newsletter
		<i>National Voter Registration Week October 5-9</i>
	1	Election Integrity with Shabana Lundeen at the Frederic Public Library 6PM
	3	GOTV Postcard writing Hub 1 Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>
	5	Classroom Presentation at UWRF
	7	Get-out the Vote Postcard Writing Gathering, Wednesday, 11:00 – 12:30. Osceola Library Room 105, Osceola. Lunch afterward at Watershed Café for those interested.
	8	(Schedule Change!) Karrie Weaver presents “The Save (America) Act– What can possibly go wrong? Frederic Public Library 6PM
	13	Election Integrity with Wanda Hinrichs Burnett County Clerk @ Burnett County Courthouse 6PM Room
October	15	Newsletter
	15	Guest speaker Dr. Neil Kraus (UWRF) at the Frederic Public Library 6PM
	19	Election Integrity Presentation, Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 with Shabana Lundeen – St Croix Falls Library. Co-sponsored with Polk Burnett Indivisible. League Lead: Barb Katt. We are encouraging all Polk County residents/members to attend this program.
	20	LWVSCV Board Meeting
	21	Dr Neil Kraus “Why Amendments Matter” Unitarian Church River Falls
	22	Fair Maps Coalition “What is a Permanent Redistricting Solution to end Gerrymandering” Frederic Public Library 6PM
November	3	<u><i>General Election</i></u>
	6	<u><i>Newsletter!</i></u>
	14	<u><i>LWVSCV Retreat</i></u>
	15	Newsletter

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 where 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!!!)

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>

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>

