LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ST. CROIX VALLEY

OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

November 5, 2026

Remember to take in **Vote Tuesday** signs on Wednesday, November 4,
and put up **Thank Election Workers** signs, if you have them, on the 4th.
Bring in the **Thank Election Workers** signs on Wednesday, November 11th.

Help Shape the Future of LWVSCV –

Join Our Leadership Retreat on Nov 14!

Dear Members,

We need your input! Join us for a special retreat to help shape the future leadership structure of our League.

Our goal is to build a collaborative leadership model that shares the workload, supports our members, and ensures LWVSCV remains strong and sustainable for years to come.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, November 14
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Senior Center (Osceola Village Hall), 310 Chieftain St, Osceola, WI

Stay for Lunch! After the retreat wraps up, please join us for an informal lunch in Osceola. It will be a wonderful opportunity to connect and chat about the recent election results.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Help Fund WI Public Schools - Share the toolkit and uplift information to spread awareness

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bH5feuWzdB1xkWX9avC-ekF8J6vaFZbJt0wsyFe5CTI/edit?tab=t.0>

Take action to protect immigrant communities at aclu.org/dream-promise-fb

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Thank you to all members of the LWVSCV for making our involvement in the Unite Rise 8.5 LWV campaign an exceptional success. Beginning with our kick-off event in Glover Park in New Richmond on June 6, 2025 to this final stage in the Playbooks we have been diligent, resourceful and creative in making an impact in our communities. We have learned, we have grown and we have built a sustainable foundation to build on. Thank you all.



Beth Wood - Co-President/Unite Rise Captain

NOVEMBER

Theme: Protecting and Claiming People Power

- Final phase of U&R – defending democracy & affirming the power of the people to shape our future.

- Focus: Protecting the Vote. Following Election Day, we will concentrate on protecting our collective power by responding to and defending against attacks on election results, ballot counting, and democratic processes.



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

Time to renew your membership?

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 125 members. Most are active and current at this time. Some memberships have lapsed. Time to renew? We offer a sliding membership fee of $20.00 - $75.00. You can renew 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. After 60 days you are removed from the national list. A recent membership list was attached to our 10/15 newsletter. You can check your renewal date there. If you don't find your name on the list, that means it is time to renew at LWVUS. Thank you for checking your renewal date. Please let me know if you have questions. It is easy to miss a renewal date and I am here to help. 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 educational event, or any of our gatherings. All are welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest member, Jenny Cowette, hasscow@gmail.com. Jenny lives in Amery and will join HUB 2. We look forward to having you in our League family, Jenny!

VOTER SERVICES

What is ahead remains to be seen. We still have elections coming up in February and April, and still have kids turning 18 and citizens who haven't made voting a part of their life, so our work still goes on. Many thanks to those who have set up information tables or spoken to classrooms, and to those who organized voter information events. We will continue to visit high schools this fall, but also need to reorganize and reenergize.



REFLECTION

Following the build-up to election day, I find myself reflecting on this journey with my fellow League members. Beyond the jitters we are all feeling about the results, I am full of gratitude for the support that I have felt. In particular, I am coming off of the HUB 3&4 Amendment event in River Falls where I once again witnessed the coordination of a slew of members to pull off yet one more impressive community production. From publicity to car pooling to set up and take down to luscious refreshments, it was quite the operation. These are people who come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but with a common commitment. The building was full of smiles and greetings and support for one another. I always feel the love when I am together with my fellow League members.

When we come out of this election mess, I will continue to have warm memories of the ladies (and men) who helped me through it. I may lose some election races and not get the results that I wanted, but I gained so many friends and experienced being with many wonderful, talented, kind human beings! Nothing will change that. Thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart!

And lastly—like all good things—I don't want it to end—and it won't. We still have a lot of work to do to protect our democracy, right the wrongs, and create a good future. I look forward to more time together, making the world a better place!

Kay Brooks

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* Judy Green - jfglag@yahoo.com, 612-513-1818 Liz Bruch - drlizbruch@gmail.com, 715-220-7327
Janet Lestock - janetblestock@gmail.com, 507-213-6016

HUB 1 NEWS–



(photo of Pam Girtz and Dr Kraus at the Frederic Public Library. Pam is a long-time League member and political activist.)

Hub 1 completed their series of October Edfest events at the Frederic Library with a talk by Dr. Neal Kraus on the proposed amendments to the Wisconsin Constitution.
Eighteen people attended and engaged in a Q&A period at the end of the talk that was extremely interesting, proposing different perspectives, yet maintaining civility in the discussion. It was gratifying to engage in a public discussion where folks expressed differing opinions in a civilized and honest manner. Thanks to Dr. Kraus for managing this public forum.

The final Ed-fest event on Fair Maps has been delayed until after the new year. We expect to plan an event in February. We apologize for any inconvenience.

HUB 2 NEWS~

National No Kings – Vote Early Rally -- Hwy 8 Bridge over the St Croix River



On Sunday, October 18, several HUB 2 League members joined the Polk Burnett Indivisible sponsored No Kings -- Vote Early Rally on the Highway 8 Bridge over the St. Croix River. **Angie Johnson, Carolyn Saunders and Irene Bugge** handed out educational materials about the three Constitutional Amendments on the WI ballot along with flyers advertising the election security discussion with Shabana Lundeen scheduled for the following day.





How Safe is Our Election?

On October 19, eighteen community members attended a discussion and Q & A entitled, *How Safe is Our Election?* with Polk County Clerk, Shabana Lundeen. This event at St. Croix Falls Library was

co-sponsored by Polk Burnett Indivisible and the League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley. **Barb Katt** served as League Lead for this important conversation about election security.



Town Hall for Assembly District 75 Candidates

On October 19, the Luck High School Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics class, led by Morgan Heichel-Lindgren, hosted a Town Hall featuring the two candidates running for Assembly District 75 – Keith Mogel and Duke Tucker.



League members **Kathie Nelson, Robin Maercklein, and Irene Bugge** staffed a voter information table at this event. Sixty members of the public attended the Town Hall and 30 people came to the League table for information. Most took handouts about the Constitutional Amendments on the ballot.

Voter Education Displays at Local Libraries



Amery Area Public Library, St. Croix Falls Public Library and Wilberg Memorial Public Library (Osceola) have allocated space during the month of October for the League to display education material displays about the upcoming election.

HUB 3 NEWS

Thanks to Patty Van Nevel and Rita Kearns, we were able to share voter registration information at Spring Valley High School. They spent an hour showing approximately 45 excited students how to register on their phones. They found the administration to be very welcoming and have already been invited back for next fall. Great news!

Members have independently been involved as poll workers, poll observers, as government meeting observers (ex. the annual school district meeting in New Richmond), No Kings Day participants, and more. And, as mentioned, many helped to promote and put on the Amendment Event in River Falls.

UWRF CLASS VISIT

On Thursday, October 29, Katrina Larsen and Edna Early visited a sociology class at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to discuss voting and elections. They were able to connect with 40 students. Thank you, ladies! What a team!

HUB 3 DEBRIEFING COFFEE

It remains to be seen just what our November coffee will be, but we will share our election experiences and post-election feelings with the wonderful members that we have gone on this journey with for the past couple of years. Here are the details:

DATE Monday, November 9th
TIME 1:00-2:30 PM
PLACE New Richmond Library, Rm. 124
450 S. Arch Ave., New Richmond

WHAT TO BRING: BYO beverage (don't forget the handy coffee shop as you come in). Members are welcome to bring a snack for 6-8 people (opt.) your stories and observations.

Thanks to Kathy Kraemer for making the reservation.
Contact Kathy (kathykraemer50@gmail.com) or Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com) if you know you are coming. Bring a friend!

HUB 4 NEWS –St. Croix County/Hudson Area, Houlton, RiverFalls, Baldwin, Woodville, Hammond, Pleasant Valley, and surrounding areas.

10/21 Educational Event in River Falls



HUBS 3 & 4 had a successful event with Dr. Neil Kraus from the Political Science Dept. UWRF as speaker. Dr. Kraus explored and explained the three amendments that were on our November 3rd ballot. Thank you to the Unitarian Universalist Society Church in River Falls for letting us use their space. The talk was helpful as we are now informed voters. Thanks to all who helped with planning, bringing treats, working at the event and attending. We had 72 in the audience, 18 League members, and 9 members from HUB 4 in attendance.There were also 9 HUB 3 members from the New Richmond area who were a big help!

There is an article in the Hudson Star Observer (10/22/26) recapping the information shared. Thank you to Jack White, Editor for also checking on what other states are doing with ballot amendments. Here is a link to the article.http://share.google/wDqE46dUKdJXh6WLp.

The LWVWI advised voters to vote No on all three amendments. LWVSCV chose to educate via talks by Dr. Kraus in Frederic on 10/15 and River Falls on 10/21. It truly does take a village or two.

High School Visits

Our high school visits happen over the lunch hour and are always joyful. Questions and comments from our youth about voting, elections, and governing are always inspiring. We offer school bookmarks with a

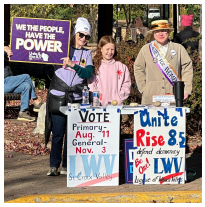
QRcode link to MyVoteWI.gov. Our spinning wheel and candy attract the students' attention. We reminded Seniors to register with their clerks or on voting day!



10/22 River Falls High School Visit, Cathy Boehm and Kathy Streitz enjoyed engaging with 79 students, 9-12th grades. Thank you Cathy!

10/27 Baldwin-Woodville High School, Karen Magnuson, Denise Flaherty, and Kathy Streitz engaged with 47 Seniors. Thank you Denise and Karen!

Please let your HUB leaders know if you would like to visit a high school! Hub leaders will ensure that members who are interested will be fully briefed and offered training before attending.



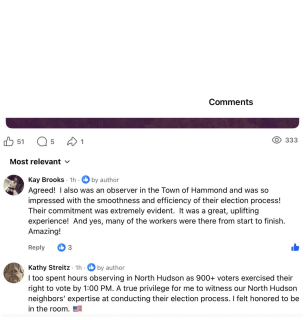
Hub 4: No Kings Rally in River Falls 10/17/26



LWVSCV had a table at Veteran's Park. The energy was vibrant with VOTERS! Thank you to Kassi Kulow for helping and for wearing her 1920 attire including a sash with "Votes for Women"! Also, thanks to John Gostovich, Celeste Koeberl, and to Granddaughter Etta Mae Streitz for helping, and to Beth Wood for her help distributing amendment information! Thanks to Celeste for speaking on the ballot amendments and the importance of being an informed voter. The Indivisible Rally brought people together and raised our spirits!







November	4	***Bring in Vote Tuesday sign. Set out Thank you Election Worker! sign*** 
	6	***Newsletter!***
	9	***Hub 3 Coffee (see info in Hub 3 News) New Richmond Library 1:00-2:30***
	14	***LWVSCV RETREAT:*** **Please join us if you can from 9-12 at the Osceola Senior Center at the Osceola Village Hall. All Members Welcome!** 310 Chieftain St, Osceola (715) 294-2310

	14	*Virtual Issues Briefing on Saturday, November 14th from 10 a.m. to noon, with the theme "Make Your Vote Matter" focusing on National Popular Vote and Ranked Choice Voting. This will be recorded and available online for all members.*
December	1	***Newsletter for December–happy holidays!***
	15	LWVSCV December Board Meeting
January	1	***Happy New Year 2027!***
	1	Newsletter
	5	Put out Vote from Home signs
	15	Newsletter
	19	LWVSCV Board meeting
February	1	Newsletter
	2	Take down Vote from Home signs
	10	Put up Vote Tuesday signs
	15	Newsletter
	16	Spring Primary Election
	16	LWVSCV Board meeting ?
	17	Take down Vote Tuesday signs and put up Thank Election Workers
	23	Bring in Thank Election Workers signs/ Put up Vote From Home signs
March	1	Newsletter
	15	Newsletter
	16	LWVSCV Board meeting
	23	Take down Vote from Home signs
	31	Put up Vote Tuesday signs
April	1	Newsletter

	6	Spring Election
	7	Take in Vote Tuesday signs put out Thank Election Workers
	13	Bring in Thank Election Workers signs
	15	Newsletter
	20	LWVSCV Board meeting

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>

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