

# The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin

[www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

March/ April 2015

## *Upcoming Events*

**Monday, March 23, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Appleton Public Library  
Lower Level Meeting Rooms**

**Appleton Downtown Forum Comprehensive Update on the**

**Appleton Public Library  
Exhibition Center**

**YMCA**

**Parking**

**And Other Downtown Possibilities**

***PANEL***

**Mayor Tim Hanna City of Appleton**

**Jennifer Stephany, Appleton Downtown Inc.**

**Colleen Rortvedt, Appleton Public Library**

**Dani Englebert, Appleton YMCA**

# CANDIDATES FORUM


Wednesday, March 25

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Appleton Public Library-Room A/B/C

Candidates from Districts 1, 3, 5, 9 and 11 were invited


District 1:  William J Siebers

Tim Trauger (i) 

*District 3:*  Kurt Konetzke (i)

Mark Priddis 

*District 5:*  Edward Baranowski

Sarah Farb (i) 

*District 9:*  Margaret Mann

John Stoeger 

*District 11:*  Patti Coenen (i)

Richard A. Thompson

***Written questions will be accepted from the public.***

**Election: April 7, 2015- Voter ID NOT needed.**

**Saturday, March 28, 2015**  
**9:30 am – 11:30 am @ Appleton Public Library**

**League of Women Voters of Appleton Study Committee**  
**Human Trafficking Consensus Meeting**

CoChairs: Irene Strohbeen and Cathy Thompson

The LWV study on Human Trafficking in the Fox Valley is nearing completion, with the expectation to vote on the position statement at the Annual Meeting on May 21. The Consensus meeting will be held at the **Appleton Public Library on Saturday March 28 from 9:30-11:30**. At that time, the committee will present what they've learned about the incidence of human trafficking in our area; the services needed by victims to remove them from "the life" and restore them to normalcy; and promising information about the county Human Trafficking Steering Committee's strategic plan and action groups.

Unlike past LWV Studies, the committee will be seeking Consensus on a draft position statement rather than on a series of questions. We learned of this alternate approach to Studies at a workshop at the LWV-US National Convention in June 2014: discussion focused on how difficult it was to write unbiased Consensus Questions and so the Questions invariably led to a predetermined—or at least an expected— position. So, after presenting the information we learned from our research, we will present the following **draft position statement** for Consensus:

Whereas the LWV-US opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking; and

Whereas the LWV-US believes that legislation and changes in public policy should be taken to prevent human trafficking; and

Whereas the LWV-US urges that prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established and existing laws should be strictly enforced; and

Whereas the LWV-US recommends extensive essential services be applied where needed and education and awareness programs be established in our communities and in our schools; and

Whereas police records indicate a significant presence of sex trafficking in Outagamie County:

The LWV-Appleton supports community-wide collective impact efforts to eliminate human sex trafficking. Further, LWV-Appleton endorses and supports the Outagamie County Human Trafficking Steering Committee strategy and efforts in the following four areas:

1. Prevention: through raising awareness and educating the community and elected officials
2. Protection: through providing safe housing for adult and juvenile victims to shelter them from being trafficked further
3. Treatment: through providing all needed services for victims from Arrest to Normalcy, requiring strong collaboration across all relevant agencies
4. Prosecution: through appropriately severe penalties for perpetrators while seeking to protect rather than prosecute victims

**Monday, March 30**

**7:00 pm at Appleton Public Library Room C**

**“Overview of Area Hydrogeology  
& Non-Point source Pollution”**

**Maureen Muldoon, Associate Professor Hydrology and  
Environmental Geology, UW- Oshkosh**



**Research Interests:**

My main research interests include the investigation of groundwater quality and flow in carbonate rocks, relationship between carbonate stratigraphy and hydraulic properties, hydrogeology of Pleistocene deposits, land-use impacts on groundwater quality, and delineation of wellhead protection zones in fractured rock.

**PLEASE FORWARD UPCOMING EVENTS to FAMILY and FRIENDS**



*League of Women Voters of Appleton  
Annual Meeting & Dinner*

**Thursday, May 21, 2015**

**5:30 p.m. Social with Cash Bar**

**6:00 p.m. Family Style Dinner**

**6:45 p.m. Annual Meeting**

Liberty Hall Banquet & Conference Center  
800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly, WI

Cost including gratuity: \$20.00 per person

**Registration Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2015**

**Registration available online at [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)**

Or mail registration form with check payable to:  
Gayle Hardt, 4707 Dogwood Court, Appleton, WI 54914

**RESERVATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST(S) NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO YOU NEED A RIDE to the ANNUAL MEETING? Call 731-0663**

# *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

Sara Companik

Dear Members,

**We WELCOME three NEW Members to LWV of Appleton:**

**Maren Peterson,**

**Jeanne Roberts,**

**James Bowman**

**LIKE the League of Women Voters of Appleton on FACEBOOK**

**Human Trafficking Study Educational Forum on February 11**

There were 100 + people in attendance at the Human Trafficking Educational Forum including elected officials or their representatives. Raising awareness among community members is the first step forward on this serious local issue.

The Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region and radio station 91.1 The Avenue recorded the event to be broadcast during the Community Conversations segments in March and archived on The Avenue website.

March: Human trafficking in the Fox Valley  
EPISODES

Click on the link below for the first in the series.

**Caroline Lasecki**

**Community Conversations** is a weekly community affairs show airing Saturdays

**at 7 AM and Sundays at 8 PM on 91.1 The Avenue.** The program highlights important concerns and issues in our community that are being addressed by the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. Hosted by Tammy Williams, Community Conversations is a welcome media addition for area citizens. Archived programs and resources are available anytime on [avenueradio.com](http://avenueradio.com) Community Conversations.

## Water Education

In 2014 LWVWI Updated the state water quality position.

[Click here to download pdf document.](#)

On March 11, Dr. Kevin Fermanich, Professor, of Geoscience and Environmental Science from UW-Green Bay presented an informative program on ground water quality and the watershed in our area. UW- Green Bay has been working with High School science classes, including Appleton schools, to take samples and do water quality studies. The students get a first hand experience to see what is happening to our water systems.

Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program [www.uwgb.edu/watershed](http://www.uwgb.edu/watershed) 2003-2009  
[Links to real-time data](#) [Water quality and watershed photos](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **March 18- Official JFC Budget Hearing - Brillion (East of Appleton)**

Official JFC Budget Hearing

10 am – 5 pm: Wednesday, March 18 at Brillion High School

### **League of Women Voters of Appleton Annual Meeting- May 21, 2015**

By **Tuesday, April 21** you will receive by email the membership information needed to be an informed voter at the Membership Annual Meeting. These items will be discussed and/or voted on at the annual meeting. Gayle Hardt, VP of Program will email a packet including:

January 24, 2015 Lively Issues Minutes

2015-2016 Proposed Budget

Report of the Nominating committee

Human Trafficking Study Proposed Position

Bylaw Changes

Updated Policy Revisions ( For discussion)

The League values your input and support by attending the Annual Meeting and having your voice heard on important league decisions.

In November, Lois Bressette resigned as league secretary because she ran for City Council in Clintonville. **Please help out--- We need a SECRETARY to record the decisions of the Annual Meeting.**

### **VOTE on APRIL 7**

Be an informed voter on April 7! [See the League's Candidates' Answers voter guides.](#)

**Remember, voter ID is not needed in this election.**

### **2015 State Annual Meeting - All members are invited to attend.**

**2015 State Annual Meeting** will take place June 5-7 at the Best Western Hotel Chequamegon in Ashland, hosted by LWV Ashland-Bayfield Counties.

Agenda: **Friday night, June 5** – environmental speaker

**Saturday, June 6** – Zabelle Malkasian Lecture on **income inequality**.  
Fund Development Workshop for Local Leagues

**Optional program Sun., June 7** – tour of Penokee Hills with a science expert

### **Watch for Action Alerts for ACTION**

#### **Mission Statement:**

**The League of Women Voters, a non partisan civic organization, encourages informed and ACTIVE participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and ADVOCACY.**





**After the Budget Hearings are completed, the JFC returns to Madison to deliberate further and in more detail. There will be JFC meetings in Madison where people make their suggestions and argue their cases to the JFC for changes to or support of the Budget. The Senate and Assembly Caucuses, the separate groups of Republican and Democratic legislature also are discussing the budget and preparing changes.**

**The work on the budget takes place in Madison and each group, JFC, the Senate and the Assembly make changes to the budget. These changes are reviewed by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) and compared to the original budget. The LFB is also analyzing the budget for non-fiscal or policy items that are included in the budget and presents a list of these important items to the legislature, the Governor and the public.**

**Many times the policy items in the budget are items that are controversial and could cause significant changes to current laws and policies. Both parties have put policy items in the budget so individual votes on these items do not occur and there is limited public hearing and comment time on these items.**

**After all of this action on the budget, the final version comes before the State Legislature for a final yes or no vote on the budget as a whole. The budget that gets voted on at this time has many fiscal and often many policy items that are decided on with One vote from each legislator. Budgets tend to get passed along party lines indicating that the majority party has the power to establish the direction of the state for many years to come through the budget.**

**So, in general, this year's Biennial Budget from the Governor Walker has been introduced, is being reviewed and analyzed by many groups and the Legislature. Budget hearings are scheduled for the next two weeks, more committee meetings will occur to suggest changes and the final budget will be voted on before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Historically the budget process uses all of the time available and occasionally it goes beyond June 30<sup>th</sup> before a vote is taken. This year there appears to be a hurry and a rush to pass the budget as soon as possible possibly sometime in May. The rush and the hurry should raise alarms because it generally means there is a lot of "stuff" in the budget that the Governor and the majority party want to avoid discussing and want to pass without very much public input or a good understanding of what is contained in the public and what the future impact of the budget will be.**

**Keep your eyes and ears open for information on the budget by checking the LFB website link provided above, or at <http://budget.wispolitics.com/> or at <http://www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org/2015-17-budget> .**



## Observer Corp Director

Sarah Leet

When was the last time you attended a local government meeting? We have a great opportunity to be informed and influence local government, which is where a lot of the action happens! Observers are the eyes and ears of the League, and we are looking to build our corps for 2015! We need YOUR help to ensure that the various governmental bodies are following open meetings rules, to find out of any new "hot" issues, and to track and report back to the League on any actions that positively or negatively impact one of our position statements. There are opportunities to attend city council, town board, county board, school board, and various committee meetings. There are various levels of commitment, from attending one or two meetings a year, to regularly attending one of the sub-committee meetings, to assisting with reporting back to the League membership, as well as assisting with developing a section on our website for our efforts. There are ways to help without attending the meetings as well!

Please contact Sarah at [sarah.e.leet@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.leet@gmail.com) or at 262-894-3418 if you are interested.

### OBSERVER CORPS

There will be an informal meeting on 3/28 at 11:30 (following our meeting at the library.)

Appleton City Common Council

First/Third Wed. @ 7:00pm

Appleton School Board

Second/Fourth Monday @ 7:00 pm

Outagamie County Board

Second/Fourth Tuesday @ 6:30pm



League of Women Voters  
WISCONSIN Education Network



Penny Robinson  
Legislative Director



<http://www.reformwi.org/>

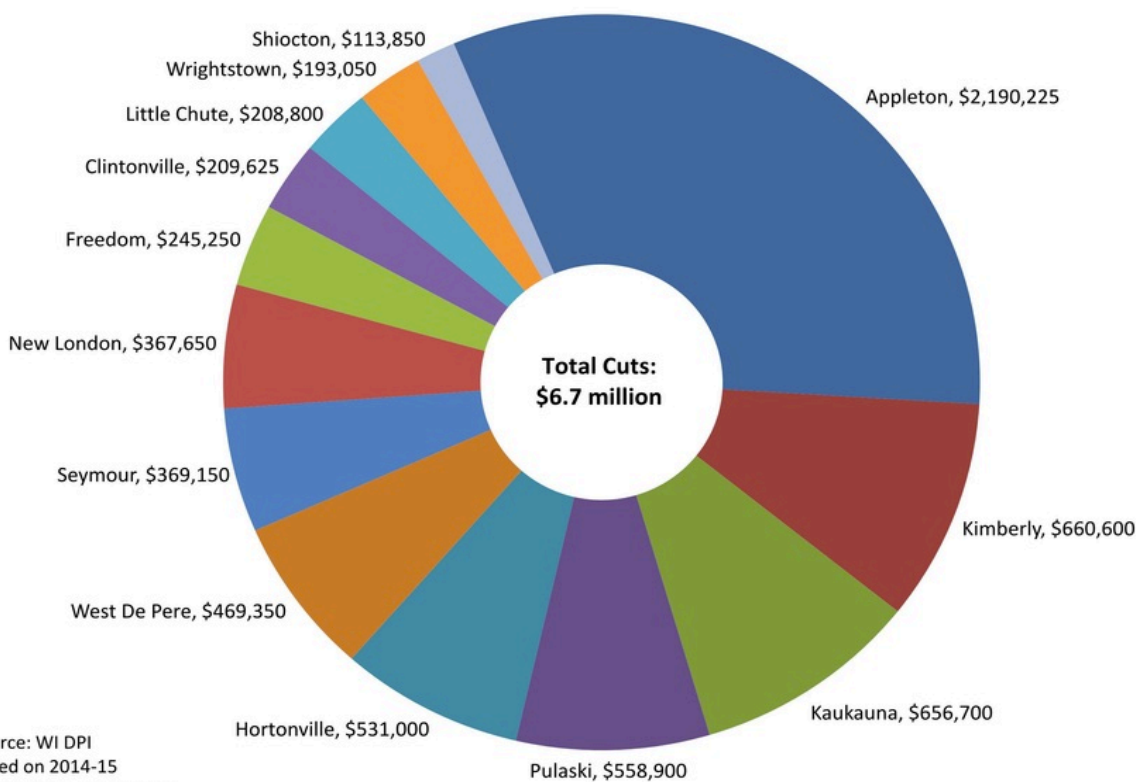
## New Resource Shows What Cuts to Education Would Mean for Individual School Districts

Posted: 20 Feb 2015 08:18 AM PST

**A new website** demonstrates the magnitude of proposed cuts to education for individual school districts, and can serve as a resource for parents and other advocates for public education who want to show how the cuts will affect schools in their communities.

The website is run by **School Funding Reform for Wisconsin**, a group that believes that public schools are critical to the health and vitality of Wisconsin communities. The website includes ***estimates of dollar amounts in per-pupil aid that would be lost to individual school districts next year*** if the Governor's budget is approved without changes. The website also has **pie charts**, like the one below, available for individuals to download and use in their own advocacy.

### Estimated Cuts to School Districts in Outagamie County, 2015-16



**School Funding Reform for Wisconsin** explains how the Governor’s budget would reduce resources for schools over the next two years:

State statutes currently allow for categorical aid distributions to school districts of \$150/pupil each fiscal year (July 1 –June 30). During the next two years, this aid would have totaled \$300/pupil. Governor Walker’s budget proposes to eliminate this aid in year one of his budget, and offer \$165/pupil in the second year. The net loss to school districts will be \$135/pupil over the two years.

These pie graphs depict the loss of \$150/pupil in year one – school districts have budgeted for these amounts and school boards will have to decide how to handle the unanticipated cuts to their revenue. Because this type of aid is not part of revenue limit calculations, school boards will be unable to raise their tax levies to make up the losses.

Because the net loss to school districts will be \$135/pupil over the course of the two year budget cycle, these graphs (showing cuts based on \$150/pupil) are also instructive as a reminder that total cuts during the two years will be significant.

Due to the complexity of the way schools are funded, it's worth adding a few caveats to these numbers:

- In addition to cuts, the Governor's budget also proposes some small increases for districts located in rural areas. The dollar amounts on the website do not take these increases into account.
- The cut in per-pupil aid is based on school enrollment. The actual amount of the per-pupil cut in an individual district depends on next year's enrollment, which won't be known until next year. These figures are the best available estimate.
- The dollar figures on the website represent the cut to one component – and only one component – of the funding stream for districts. Other components of the funding stream for an individual could increase or decrease depending on what is going on in districts across the state.

Tamarine Cornelius

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## Karen Jansen

### Natural Resources

Since 1967, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been where citizen action has converged with government oversight to preserve, protect, and regulate the natural environment for the benefit of the people of this state. Among the federal, state and local aid agencies it collaborates with are the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Environmental Protection Agency. Agency objectives include water and air quality maintenance, water supply regulations, solid and hazardous waste management, fish and wildlife management, forest management and protection, providing parks and recreation opportunities, lake management, wetland shore land and floodplain protection, and law enforcement.

The mission of the department is to protect and enhance our natural resources (air, land, water, wildlife, fish, forests and the ecosystems that sustain all life); provide a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities; ensure the right of all people to use and enjoy these resources in their work and leisure; work with people to understand each other's views and to carry out the public will; and, in this partnership, consider the future and generations to follow.

The Department of Natural Resources is administered by a Secretary who is appointed by the Governor, and consists of a central office in Madison, 5 regional offices and 200 field stations across the state. The Natural Resources Board consisting of seven citizen members appointed by the Governor directs and supervises the department.

The goals and objectives of the Department are defined by recommendations in the state's budgets. In the proposed 2015-2017 Executive Budget, the Governor's Recommendations include critical modifications to the purpose and composition of the DNR, which will directly impact several politically charged areas of interest around the state:

#### 6. Natural Resources Board Modification

The Governor recommends eliminating the rule-making and policymaking powers currently vested with the Natural Resources Board and converting the board to an advisory council.

#### 13. Parks and Forestry Support

The Governor recommends eliminating GPR support for state parks (-\$4,668,800 GPR and -44.68 FTE positions in each year) and forestry and riverway roads (-\$2,000,000 GPR in each year). The Governor also recommends funding positions eliminated from the general fund parks appropriation from the parks account of the conservation fund (\$3,224,500 SEG and 44.68 FTE positions in each year). The Governor further recommends eliminating payments to local governments for removal of car-killed deer (-\$350,700 SEG and -\$350,700 GPR in each year).

## 19. Forestry Reform

The Governor recommends eliminating department approval of cutting notices submitted to the department by cooperating foresters, on behalf of owners of Managed Forest Law land, for mandatory cutting practices included in the approved forest management plan. The Governor also recommends directing the Division of Forestry to allow cooperating foresters to complete the natural heritage review inventory process required before timber sales. The Governor further recommends eliminating positions and funding to reflect the reduced workload. Finally, the Governor recommends directing the department to develop a plan to move the headquarters of the Division of Forestry from Madison to a location in northern Wisconsin as a budget request for the 2017-19 biennial budget (-\$324,500 and 4 positions impacted each for FY2016 and FY2017).

## 22. Grants and Aids Revisions

The Governor recommends reducing expenditure authority and eliminating various capacity grants. The Governor also recommends modifying the urban forestry grant program to provide only catastrophic storm grants and expanding eligibility to include urban projects related to removing, saving and replacing trees damaged by insect infestation. The Governor further recommends making fire suppression grants and river protection grants biennial appropriations (-\$1,358,300 each listed for FY2016 and FY2017).

## 24. Law Enforcement Program

The Governor recommends increasing expenditure authority to improve enforcement of natural resources and recreational vehicle laws (\$300,000 in each year) and reflect actual overtime costs (\$180,900 in each year). The Governor also recommends converting funding to support ginseng enforcement activities (\$25,000 in each year) from the endangered resources account of the conservation fund to the fish and wildlife account of the conservation fund.

## 27. Environmental Management Account Funding Changes

The Governor recommends adjusting funding in the environmental management account of the environmental fund to ensure a positive balance. The Governor recommends decreasing funding for recycling grants (-\$4,000,000 in FY16) and eliminating computer recycling aids (-\$256,200 in each year) (see Department of Corrections, Item #5). The Governor also recommends eliminating all grants to the University of Wisconsin System in FY16 to balance the environmental management account and as part of the creation of the University of Wisconsin System Authority in the FY17 (-\$4,749,800 in each year) (see University of Wisconsin System, Item #3). The Governor further recommends lapsing \$2 million in each year from annual appropriations funded from the environmental management account of the environmental fund to ensure a positive account balance.



## 28. Nonpoint Account Funding Changes

The Governor recommends requiring the department and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to lapse the equivalent of 10 percent of operational appropriations funded from the nonpoint account back to the account (-\$461,200 in each year). The Governor also recommends reducing funding for watershed nonpoint source contracts (-\$770,000 in each year) and funding for urban nonpoint source environmental aids (-\$813,200 in each year). The Governor further recommends transferring \$1 million in each year of the biennium from the agricultural chemical cleanup fund to the nonpoint account of the environmental fund. These funding changes to the nonpoint account of the environmental fund will ensure a positive account balance.

## 29. Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award Program Changes

The Governor recommends that no new site shall be deemed eligible for reimbursements under the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award after February 3, 2015. The Governor also recommends that costs incurred at eligible sites after June 30, 2017, are ineligible for reimbursement under the program.

## 32. Position Reductions

The Governor recommends eliminating funding and position authority for purposes which no longer serve the core mission of the department (66.09 positions impacted, -\$5024400.00 listed each for FY2016 and FY2017).

The budget has not yet been passed, so there is still time for citizen involvement in this very important decision making process. However, those who want to be involved need to act soon, since the budgeting process has been accelerated this year. All who are interested can find links to the “Budget in Brief” and the “2015-17 Executive Budget (Complete Document)” on the Wisconsin Department of Administration website, at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Budget-and-Finance/Biennial-Budget/201517-Executive-Budget/>. The DNR section of the budget is listed as “Natural Resources, Department of” in the Individual Agencies listing on that website.



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# Your Representatives

President Barack Obama

[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

## US Senators

Wisconsin Senator: Tammy Baldwin (202-224-5653)

Wisconsin Senator: Ron Johnson (202-224-5323)

## US House Representatives

6th Congressional District, (202-225-2476)

8th Congressional District, Reid Ribble (202-225-5665)

Governor: Scott Walker (608-266-1212)

Lt. Governor: Rebecca Kleefisch

Attorney General:

Secretary of State: Doug La Follette

## Wisconsin State Senators: (Madison Phone )

Senate District 19 - Roger Roth ( )

Senate District 1 - Frank Lasee ( 608-266-3512)

## Wisconsin State Assembly: (Madison Phone)

57th - Amanda Stuck (608-266-3070)

56th - David Murphy (608-266-7500)

40th - Kevin Petersen (608-266-3794)

6th - Gary Tauchen (608-266-3097)

5th - Jim Steineke ( 608-266-2418)

3rd - Alvin Ott ( 608-266-5831)

<http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/Index.aspx>