

# LWV *The informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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May-June 2017  
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## LWV Appleton elects new board members at Annual Meeting

### Bylaws and programs also approved

At the May 18, 2017 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters Appleton, members elected new board members—shown at right.

A heartfelt thank you to all these wonderful women who have stepped up to leadership roles during a time when the League is needed more than ever to protect voting rights and advocate for good government.

In other business, members voted to accept the amended bylaws with four additional amendments, approved the proposed budget, adopted the recommended program to update the local position on education, approved through consideration the review of the position on the local juvenile system, approved adoption of the local program—Land Use Planning, and voted to re-adopt local positions.

The membership report indicated we now have 69 members., including three who have been members for 50 years: Joy Povolny, Donna Weis, and Beverly Wieckert. Five men are also members.

President	Jeanne Roberts
First Vice President	
Voter Services	Jacqui Klimaszewski
Second Vice President	
(one year) Program	Irene Strohsbeen
Treasurer (one year)	Karen Bachhuber
Secretary	LouAnn Graf
Director - Observer Corps	Cindy Fallona
Director – Program	Maren Peterson
Director—Natural Resources	
(one year)	Barbara Dorzweiler
2018 Nominating Committee	
To be elected to one-year term	
Chair	Shirley Strange
Member-at-large	Sue Eich
Member-at-large	Sara Companik
Continuing Board Members (year two of two year-term)	
Director – Membership	Elizabeth Laux
Director – Legislative Services	Penny Robinson



Board members (l-r) Penny Robinson, Jeanne Roberts, Jacqui Klimaszewski, Cindy Fallona, Maren Peterson, Karen Bachhuber, Irene Strohbeen, LouAnn Graf. Pictured separately: Barbara Dorzweiler & Elizabeth Laux.

From newly elected President Jeanne Roberts

## LWV perfectly equipped to handle challenges

Thank you. I am humbled to be standing before this group of incredible, committed people.

First I would like to thank Stephanie Malaney for everything she has done for the League and so many other important areas. I would like to thank all of the other board members for all of their hard work, especially Gayle Hardt and Barbara Kelly who have put so much work into their positions as Program VP and Treasurer.

Next I would like to thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as the LWV Appleton president for the next two years. It is truly a privilege to serve this organization.

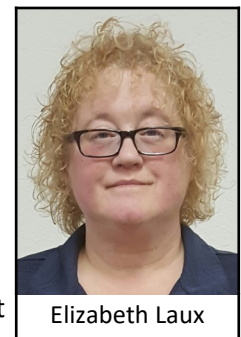
I believe that we have many challenges as well as many opportunities ahead of us. I feel privileged to be able to serve with the organization which is most perfectly equipped to take on these challenges at the national, state and local levels;

and I encourage everyone in this room to seize the opportunities that are available to you. One of the best things about the LWV is that you can give as much or as little of your time as you have available.

We have a wonderful slate of officers to help lead, but we also have an excellent group of people in this room who can continue the tradition that was started in 1929 or 1939 at the first Appleton league meeting to increase voter participation, inform voters of major policy issues and advocate for public policies that will assure a more just democracy locally, statewide and nationally.



Barbara Dorzweiler



Elizabeth Laux

Continued on next page

## Must remember where we came from and where we want to go

I read an article recently that stated that most voter registration drives target the wrong populations as they tend to gear towards the white, upper middle class populations. Jacqui Klimaszewski has done an incredible job with voter services especially in getting into the more under-served areas. She has scheduled voter registration at Juneteenth, Homeless Connections, B.A.B.E.S., Latino Fest, Partnership Community Health Center, to name just a few. In addition, she has received a grant to increase youth voter involvement and is working with FVTC, UW-Fox Valley and the Appleton Public Schools to organize a youth driven voter registration and involvement role.



Newly elected President  
Jeanne Roberts

We will be having an Observer Corps again, and thank you to Cindy Fallona for agreeing to this. This is another area in which you have the opportunity to volunteer as much or as little time as you have available as well as informing yourself of what is going on locally and spending some time with a group of fabulous people.

Women's Equality Day will be celebrating the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Suffrage and beginning to look at what we want to do to celebrate the centennial in 2020 of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment guaranteeing women's right to vote. With women's issues continually under attack, it is more important than ever to remember where we came from and how much further we have to go to obtain true equality for women of all races, ethnicities and gender and sexual orientations.

Irene Strohbeen, with the help of Maren Peterson, will continue the tradition that the LWV Appleton has of providing excellent educational forums in many areas to help ensure that we have an informed and active electorate.

I am looking forward to working with all of you and once again thank you all for attending today and for your support of the League and all that we are working to do.

In the past year alone, in addition to the candidate forums, we have provided education on such diverse topics as gerrymandering, refugee resettlement, school vouchers, land trusts, and prison reform, to name just a few. We have collaborated with several other nonpartisan agencies and need to continue with this work. We need to remember that we are all stronger together than apart.

*The Informed Voter*

is published bi-monthly by the League of Women Voters—Appleton

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Questions and comments may be emailed to [pennyrobinson1@gmail.com](mailto:pennyrobinson1@gmail.com)

## Voter services already at work—help needed

J. Klimaszewski, vice president—Voter Services

The new year for voter registration starts on June 11 – Juneteenth. We will have a table at City Park from noon to 6:00 p.m., and the goal is to have **three two-hour sessions with at least two volunteers at each session—so we need at least six volunteers for the day.**

**During June and July, high school registration**

**assistance events will be set up for August. If you can help out—contact J. Klimaszewski-- call 830-2919, or e-mail [JJKlim@new.rr.com](mailto:JJKlim@new.rr.com)!**

Thanks to everyone (all 44 of you) who helped with voter registration this past year!! Complete information on the registration assistance events is on the website as part of the annual meeting packet!

Final words from Stephanie Malaney

## *These times* reveal new interest, dedication to LWV mission

As I come to the end of my term and pass on the president's duties to Jeanne Roberts, I applaud the league for the focused dedication to our mission. The political environment surrounding us has generated renewed interest in how decisions in government offices are made and its impact on constituents.

We were challenged to learn new strategies to affect the outcome of decisions. League members marched and learned a team approach on testifying at public hearings. We assisted voters through the voter registration process and have learned more effective methods to have our voices heard. We found more ways to collaborate with other organizations with similar missions, to continue to amplify our voice and impact.

Reflecting on these events, league members were busy in a multitude of ways. We had larger events such as: *Get Out the Vote* van during the Mile of Music, *Women's Equality Day*, the musical performance *Voice Your Vote: Power of One* by the newVoices, and the Holiday Brunch with the presentation of the *Making Democracy Work Award*. We provided a variety of education programming from candidate forums, information on elections, sex trafficking, refugees, and fair maps to name just a few. In addition to these events members finished our Land Use Study and reviewed our Education Position. Members provided opportunities to register voters at numerous sites. All this work could not have happened without the dedication of our members.

The board and committees have also done some internal structuring to ensure that we will continue to be an active, growing league that can be ready for the future. Board meetings were streamlined to accommodate members in their busy lives. We have continued to work on our strategic plan

through the following three committees: membership, communication, and advocacy. Membership is exploring ways to increase the membership and engage current members. The communication committee reviewed how we communicate with members and have set guidelines on how specific information will be sent to members, which include use of emails. Working with the communication committee, the advocacy committee collaborated with other organizations on a press conference and encouraged members to testify at Joint Finance Committee public hearings. New bylaws changes have been proposed to assist us with providing consistent leadership and direction.

Looking ahead to next year, we have a new board eager to carry on the mission of League of Women Voters. I challenge members to actively engage with the activities and programming developed by the board. This work can be inspiring and empowering.

### New LWVUS video on League's *Journey to 2020 and Beyond* features our own Debra Cronmiller

Click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWXf90WieHs> about the League's transformational journey to strengthen our role in creating a more perfect democracy as we enter our second century. Watch for the statement by Debra Cronmiller.

Hear from League leaders from across the country about how we can maximize our mission impact by engaging new members, increasing our visibility and sharpening our focus on core issues. LWVUS will be sharing this great piece with all members in the coming weeks.

# Latest News from LWVWI: protecting free speech & Medicaid advocacy

The League released [this statement](#) about a proposal circulating in the state legislature that would criminalize free speech. The plan is a drastic overreach and a violation of the First Amendment.

**Register now for the League's state Annual Meeting, June 9-10 in Green Bay. [Click here to see this year's exciting agenda and speaker bios, along with lodging and registration information.](#) Register by June 1!**

## MEDICAID

**Time for Action:** The legislature's Joint Finance Committee will vote this Thursday on the Governor's proposed 2% per year increase in the Medicaid personal care rate. While this is an important first step, more is needed to address the workforce crisis.

Given that the rate has not been adjusted in almost a decade, the League is endorsing a call for a 15% increase.

Contact your state Senator and Assembly Representative and tell them to make a motion to increase the personal care rate by 15% in the state budget. Remind them that Joint Finance is voting on personal care this Thursday.

**To find your own legislators, [click here](#)** and enter your address under **Find My Legislators**, next to the little green map of Wisconsin.

**Or, contact the Joint Finance co-chairs,** and tell them it's time for an increase in the personal care rate.

Senator Darling [\(608\) 266-5830](#) [Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Representative Nygren [\(608\) 266-2343](#) [Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov)



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lwwappleton

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. LWV is a vibrant, visible, respected advocate for sustaining our democratic society.

### YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS AN ORGANIZATION THAT:

EDUCATES AND INFORMS CITIZENS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

MONITORS GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AT ALL LEVELS

PROTECTS CITIZENS' RIGHTS

CALLS OUT FOR

- **Transparency in government**
- **Campaign finance reform**
- **Redistricting reform**
- **Responsible environmental legislation**
- **Healthcare for all citizens**

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers. The League is nonpartisan. It neither supports nor opposes political candidates or parties

**More information is at**  
[www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

**Contributions are gratefully accepted online at**  
<http://www.lwvappleton.org/donate/>

**Hint: copy and paste**

From LWVWI—Get the new LWVWI App on Your Smartphone

## LWV Action Alerts the easy way—get the free app

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is excited to provide a free and easy way for Wisconsinites to reach their representatives with *Voices* - a mobile call-to-action app. Contact your representatives about the issues that matter to you.

The *Voices* mobile app provides contact information for state and federal elected officials. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin will contact you through this app with action alerts that will increase the efficiency and impact of our advocacy efforts.

Follow the steps below using your smartphone (iPhone or Android) to upload the *Voices* app and be automatically subscribed to the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin's action alerts. Use your phone's browser—don't try directly downloading this from the app store.

1. Go to <https://tryvoices.com/lwvwi> on your phone's browser and click to receive LWV WI calls to action through the *Voices* app.

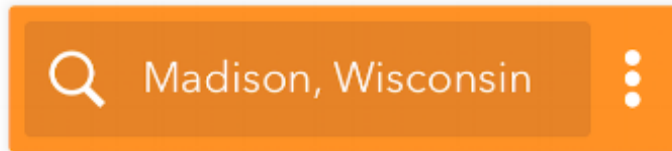


2. Open the **Voices app** and allow the app to send you action notifications from LWV WI.

Turn on notifications so *Voices* can send you relevant and timely updates



3. Enter your address. The app will populate the Federal and State Representatives.



Federal

State

Local



Gov. Scott Walker



4. Call, email or tweet your elected officials when you receive an action alert from LWV WI.

5. You will be offered a script for your reference for each action alert for when you contact your elected official.

For more information and a video, click here: <https://tryvoices.com/lwvwi> or copy and paste

If you encounter any difficulties, call Penny at 920-450-1519.

**What an easy way to respond to action alerts!**

## Members testify on behalf of LWV Appleton at JFC Hearings

Editors Note: The Advocacy Committee encouraged and supported members to testify on behalf of the LWV at Joint Finance Committee Hearings related to the state budget. Jeanne Roberts and Irene Strohbeen testified on our behalf at Marinette; Penny Robinson testified at Berlin; and Stephanie Malaney emailed her testimony to the committee. Cathy Thompson testified on her own behalf.

Following are some thoughts from Jeanne Roberts, who testified for the first time.

*On Friday, April 21, I attended my first Joint Finance Committee Hearing (JFC) in Marinette, along with LWV Appleton members Irene Strohbeen and Cathy Thompson. I was impressed by the professionalism of all of the attendees. There were quite a few people there, all of whom were prepared and passionate about each of their issues. Both Irene and Cathy chose to speak in support of Medicaid expansion and I chose to speak in favor of spending money on redistricting reform.*

*I had attended a Wisconsin Leadership Development (WiLD) training to prepare for the hearing, which was very helpful. LWV Appleton member Penny Bernard Schaber was the team leader of our small group at the training and was very helpful in reminding us that the legislators sit through many of these hearings and hear numerous numbers and statistics. She indicated that telling a personal story was more likely to capture their attention. Irene and Cathy did an incredible job telling their personal stories and tying them to the need for Medicaid expansion.*

*As this was my first JFC Hearing, I was quite nervous in spite of being prepared, so I was grateful for the assistance of Penny at the WiLD training. There were several other LWV members at the hearings including members of other locals. I continue to be impressed with the passion and commitment of the men and women who I have met through the League.*

## Malaney writes on education funding for JFC Committee

Education should be important to everyone. Our children deserve to have the best education possible so they will have an education that will allow them to earn a sufficient salary to provide them with more than the very basic needs. Not only is it important for future citizens to earn a sufficient salary for themselves but for health of our economy. It has also been shown that educated people are healthier.



Our government laws were set to fund our public schools. Through the budget process, money intended for public school funding has been diverted away to fund other schools by passing

the laws set in place. These diverted funds do not need to follow accountability to ensure that students growth is measured. As a tax payer, I want the money assessed by taxes to go to the intended public schools that are available to everyone.

Legislators and the governor need to stop diverting public school funding established by state statutes away from public schools through the budget process. Tax payer money should not be going to schools that are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools and established under the same statutes. Schools with public school funding need to be held to the same accountability standards.

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## Roberts testifies on redistricting at JFC Hearing

I am a retired mental health counselor. I worked for over 30 years primarily with abused and neglected children, sex-trafficking victims, hurting families – people who believed that they had no control or say over things that happened in their lives.

One of the things I tried to teach the people I served was that they may not have had control over their past, but they could have some control over their present and future. I talked with them about the power of voting - voting for issues that they believed in as a way to finally feel some control.

Then I began paying attention to the redistricting that has been happening and the amount of tax money that has been spent to make sure that the districts stay as they are. I realized that I may have been lying to my kids and families – the vulnerable people of our state who need someone or something to believe in more than anyone.

Wisconsin taxpayers have already paid \$2.1 million dollars for lawyers to draw the district maps in secret and then defend them through two lawsuits. Now we are being asked to spend more tax money to pay two law firms an indeterminate amount of money to defend these maps through the Supreme Court after a federal court ruled that Wisconsin had to redraw the districts.

I am asking for you to stop spending money on fighting this ruling and instead direct the money to have the **Legislative Reference Bureau** draft district maps so that there is citizen participation and access at all steps of the process and the citizens of Wisconsin really do have some power and say over decisions affecting them. This way the districts are no longer drawn by either Democrat or Republican. This way the kids and families that I served can believe that they have some control over their lives and that their votes count for something



## Strohbeen testifies on the benefits of expanding Badgercare

My name is Irene Strohbeen and I live in the Village of Harrison in Calumet County, near Appleton. I am here to ask you to accept the federal monies to expand Badgercare to more low-income families. I am leading an initiative for the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region to improve the economic security of young adult women, age 18-29. Our initial efforts are focused on supporting single mothers to enroll and stay in post-secondary education in order to move to higher-paying jobs.

We have learned that the supports needed for schooling go way beyond just tuition, books, and fees—research completed by the Institute for Women's Policy Research indicate that health care and health issues are among the top reasons why a single mother might drop out of school. One of their key recommendations is to broaden access to public health programs in order to help students find and pay for health insurance.

Through our work, my committee has had the good fortune to meet Kelly Kohl, a single mother who had to decide between going back to school fulltime to get a better-paying job versus taking a

job that carried healthcare benefits. Luckily she could rely on Badgercare while she completed her associate's degree, which ultimately was key to her moving out of poverty.

This health coverage was critical so that she could provide mental health counseling for her daughter—without it, Kelly would not have been able to pursue her education due to needing to pay the counseling bills.

Kelly is now FVTC's Education Advocate, finding others like her former self at low-income-serving agencies and helping them to enroll at the Tech. Badgercare's benefits to helping people move out of poverty are now growing exponentially as she helps dozens more to follow in her path.

Expanding Badgercare's reach just makes sense in order to help people like Kelly who are just getting by, but need a way to cover their healthcare needs while working towards a better future. Our Women's Fund initiative will be addressing emotional readiness issues to help these women return to school, but we can't address the healthcare needs. Please help us in our efforts by working with Governor Walker to accept the federal monies to expand Badgercare.



## Notes from LWVWI—some successes to celebrate

Thanks to all who contacted the Joint Finance committee co-chairs about Elections Commission staffing, based on our [Call to Action](#). **They heard you!** The budget committee voted to keep 5 of the 6 elections positions that were slated to be cut in Governor Walker's budget. Good work!

LWV US President Chris Carson said recently: "President Trump's 'Election Integrity Commission' is an unnecessary distraction from the real work to protect against foreign hacking and interference in our electoral process." Read the [full statement here](#).

[4 Wisconsin Counties Now on Record Opposing Gerrymandering](#) Jefferson County has joined Wood, Lincoln and Dunn counties in calling on the legislature to pass nonpartisan redistricting reform.

[Education Advocate Judy Crain Receives Chancellor's Award](#) Congratulations to LWV WI Legislative Committee member Judy Crain on winning UW-Green Bay's highest community honor recognizing her outstanding education advocacy.

## Robinson testifies at Berlin & emails transit statement

*Editor's note: Penny testified at Berlin but emailed the statement below so she could include the graph.*

### Keep public transit funding in the Segregated Transportation Fund, and add \$34.3 million

I am very concerned about how our tax dollars are being spent. This graph shows that most of our transportation dollars are being spent on highway construction (or bonding for such).

I am concerned that not enough of our tax dollars are being used for public transit. I am also concerned that transit will be left out of the Segregated Transportation Fund and will default to the General Fund, where other important programs will need to be cut to allow for transit.

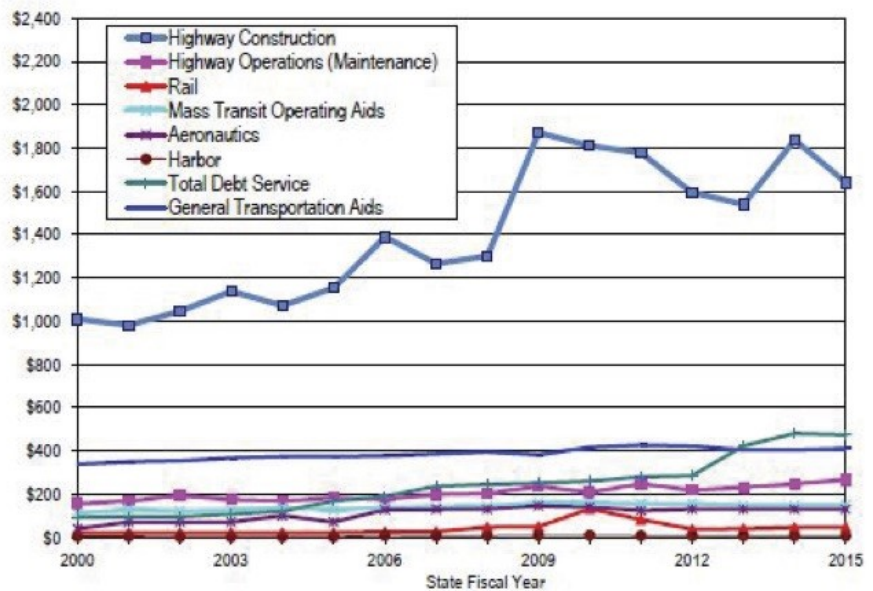
As you know, many do not own a car and depend on transit to meet all their needs—to get to jobs, college, medical appointments, shopping, visiting, and community events. This is very important for their lives and for our economy.

It allows individuals with no other transportation options to become self-sufficient and contribute to our community and our economy. Transit can INCLUDE people in opportunity and the community. Lack of transit EXCLUDES them.

We need to support robust transit systems and follow the governor's own *Transportation Finance and Policy Commission*. In 2013 it recommended an annual increase of \$34.3 million for transit.

We can do this by delaying or downsizing some huge highway projects, unless there's an urgent and critical safety issue. Let's make the

**Figure E2**  
*Funding for Various Transportation Modes 2000-2015*  
(nominal dollars, millions)<sup>E9</sup>



The Wisconsin Land Use Megatrends series on the Web at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/publications-resources/LandUseMegatrends.aspx](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/publications-resources/LandUseMegatrends.aspx)

## Call to Action

Transit is critical for getting people to jobs, college, medical appointments, shopping and community events. About half of all transit rides are job-related, and seniors depend on public transit. Funding for public transit should not be in competition with other urgent needs.

Contact your State Senator and Assembly Representative and urge them to support public transit and keep it in the segregated Transportation Fund in the State Budget.

To find your legislators, go to [www.legis.wisconsin.gov](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov)

transportation budget and our shared resources work for EVERYONE.

NOTE: The LWVWI sent the full statement on the budget to all legislators and the media. A Summary is below.



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

### W I S C O N S I N

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2017

**CONTACT:** Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director

608-256-0827; kaminski@lwvwi.org

#### **SUMMARY: LWV COMMENTS ON PROPOSED STATE BUDGET, ASSEMBLY BILL 64/SENATE BILL 30**

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin calls on state lawmakers to support a state budget that provides the people of our state a high quality of life and ensures that our communities thrive. This means top-notch education for all of our children and young adults, public transit to get us to family-sustaining jobs, clean air and water, access to affordable healthcare for all Wisconsin residents, and an open, fair and responsive government. This is Wisconsin's tradition, and it is the foundation for long-term sustainability in our state. Following is a summary of the League's statement to state lawmakers as they consider the biennial state budget. The full statement can be found here: [http://www.lwvwi.org/Portals/0/News%20and%20Events/PDFS/LWV\\_JFCBudgetStatement\\_5-10-17.pdf](http://www.lwvwi.org/Portals/0/News%20and%20Events/PDFS/LWV_JFCBudgetStatement_5-10-17.pdf)

#### **SUPPORT FAIR, HIGH-INTEGRITY ELECTIONS**

We urge lawmakers to retain full staffing for the Wisconsin Elections Commission in order to educate voters, combat misinformation and maintain the integrity of our elections.

#### **SUPPORT AN EDUCATED PUBLIC**

The League believes the state is responsible to guarantee a public education system committed to the future of all of our children and the communities in which we live. Funding should take into account the varying needs of communities and students, especially as related to the relative affluence of school populations. To increase public funding of private education (vouchers) in any way is unacceptable, especially when private schools are not required to be accountable for reporting on the same measures as public schools.

- We support the Governor's proposal to increase support for public schools. Although it does not make up for the decreases in recent budgets, we strongly urge lawmakers to support it.
- The proposed allocation of funding on a flat per-pupil basis would result in the state's wealthiest districts receiving more proportionally than districts with a larger percentage of low-income families. That unfairness is exacerbated when schools are publicly "graded" without taking into consideration these inequities.

We oppose the proposed increases for voucher programs, which would result in per-pupil state support for private school students that would be greater than for public school students.

As for higher education, we believe the University of Wisconsin System must be strongly supported to ensure the quality of education for all Wisconsin students and the future of our state. The proposed budget would give students in the UW System the opportunity to opt out of paying “segregated fees” which support campus activities, programming and events that are planned by students and are an important part of campus life. This would weaken the quality of college life and learning. This measure should be rejected.

### **SUPPORT A HEALTHY POPULATION**

The League believes that a basic level of quality health care, including mental health care, should be available at an affordable cost to all Wisconsin residents. Overall, the increases proposed in the Governor’s budget are welcome but they fall far short of what is needed to support healthy families and communities in our state.

- We urge lawmakers to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for providers of mental health services, which are currently among the lowest in the country.
- We support the proposed increase of nearly \$16 million over the next two years to eliminate the waiting list for long-term supports for children with disabilities. We also support the much-needed, although modest, increases proposed to improve access to mental health services and crisis treatment.
- We urge lawmakers to restore funding for the Dementia Specialist Program, which saves money for the affected families and taxpayers in general. The program should be expanded to all 72 counties.

We oppose the state’s petition to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which would make it possible to restrict eligibility for certain individuals to receive Medicaid benefits.

### **SUPPORT A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

The League supports science-based regulations, decision-making and public education. We consider Climate Disruption as the most serious threat to public health and the environment that we face as a planet. We need the expertise and experience of staff scientists to help citizens, administrators and lawmakers make sound decisions based on facts in natural resource management. We also need experts who can provide on-going education and communications to citizens to help us understand the issues that go into these decisions.

- Restore funding for the 18.4 FTE Dept. of Natural Resources scientist positions cut in the last budget.

### **SUPPORT STRONG COMMUNITIES**

No money from the General Fund should be transferred to the segregated Transportation Fund, which would result in cuts to other necessary programs such as education and affordable healthcare. Further:

- Less funding should be used on major highway expansion (except for urgent and critical needs).
- An increase of \$34.3 million should be invested in public transit annually over the next biennium.
- Transit funding needs to remain in the Segregated Transportation Fund.

### **SUPPORT A FAIR TAX SYSTEM**

Taken together, the tax-related measures in the Governor’s budget proposal would make the Wisconsin tax system more regressive and fail to deal with the serious funding shortfalls in our state budget.

- The proposed individual income tax rate adjustment offers a tax reduction to individuals that is so

small (\$2-\$67 per year in 2017), it might be better to have no tax cut and use the funds for needed investment.

- The proposed increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would boost that tax credit for working parents with one child from roughly \$140 to \$380/per year, restoring part of the 2011 cut to the EITC. But it would not go to the same people whose tax credit was cut in 2011. Furthermore, most of the funding is withdrawn from the TANF Block Grant, which provides services to many of the same individuals.
- The budget would eliminate the Homestead Tax Credit for low-income persons under age 62 except for those with certain disabilities. This loss for many homeowners or renters will reduce their available income.
- The proposed State Tax Holiday has been shown in other states to benefit primarily higher-income people who shift their purchases to that 2-day period. It would reduce state revenue by \$22 million over two years.

### **MAINTAIN STRONG CITIZEN INPUT AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT**

The League strongly believes in citizen input and oversight, which protect the public from the political swings in government. We believe that government checks and balances are crucial. We are particularly concerned about proposed changes to two state commissions involving citizen oversight.

- The Wisconsin Judicial Commission should not be placed under the control of the state Supreme Court, given that the job of the commission, sometimes, may be to investigate or discipline a Supreme Court Justice. We were glad to see the Joint Finance Committee has rejected this proposal.
- Maintain the state Parole Commission as an independent body to provide fair review of those prisoners who are eligible to be paroled.

In summary, we urge lawmakers to craft a state budget that serves all Wisconsin residents fairly with vital services, a healthy environment, high-quality education and accountable government. That will reflect Wisconsin values, and it is what the people expect from our state government.

## **Other news from LWVWI—Come to the Annual Meeting**

To see the agenda of the Annual Meeting, guest speakers and registration and lodging information, click on <http://www.lwvwi.org/NewsEvents/2017ANNUALMEETING.aspx>

A number of legislative proposals have been introduced to limit the ability of local school districts to go to referendum—measures that would restrict when a district could put referendum on the ballot or even when a school board may *consider* a referendum. This overreach by the state could greatly limit the ability of citizens to make important decisions to help their schools meet the needs of their students.

Contact your Assembly Rep. and Senator and urge them

to REJECT any proposal that limits the ability of local school districts to go to referendum. To find your legislators, go to [www.legis.wisconsin.gov](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov)

League Has Been Active Too... find recent statements and testimony at [www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org) under *News & Events*

*Opposing a Wisconsin Medicaid Waiver Request to the federal government*

*Supporting requiring notice of contributions made to the campaign of a judge or justice*

*Supporting objective recusal rules for judges and justices*