



OCTOBER 2022

## Co-Presidents' Message: A Dizzying Recap

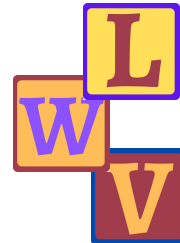


We've been taking stock of all the work of our League and when we put that together with our local, state and national positions, we came up with a dizzying list of all that our organization does. Here is a partial list organized as...

### The ABC's of the LWV



Affirmative Action / Arms Control / American Rescue Plan  
 Budget process / Behavioral Health  
 City Council / County Board / Climate Resilience / Campaign Finance / Child Care / Census  
 Defending Democracy / DEI / DC Voting Rights / Death Penalty  
 Elections / Equity / ERA / Public Education / Environmental Protection  
 Fair Maps / Fair Courts  
 Gerrymandering / Gun Safety / Gender Equality / Great Lakes Ecosystem  
 Housing / Health Care / Human Trafficking  
 Immigration / Infrastructure  
 Juvenile Justice  
 Keystone XL Pipeline  
 Legislation / Library System / Land Use / **LGBQ** Rights  
 Membership / Medicare & Medicaid / Media Relations  
 Nonpartisanship / National Popular Vote / Newsletter  
 Observer Corps / Open Meetings and Records  
 Pay Equity / PFAS / Public Schools / PCB Study  
 Reproductive Rights / Racial Justice / Regional Planning / Recycling / Redistricting  
 Social Justice / Solid Waste Management / Swag  
 Transportation / Town Government / Tribal Sovereignty & Treaty Rights  
 Urban Policy / United Nations  
 Voter registration / Voter education / Vote 411 / Violence Prevention / Village government  
 Water Resources / Wetland Protection / Website  
 X Title IX (A bit of a stretch...)  
 Youth vote  
**ZOOM MEETINGS!**



Take a look at our [national](#), [state](#), and [local](#) positions on our website. They represent the passionate commitment of many generations of League volunteers representing a wide spectrum of diverse interests. What issues are you passionate about? How can you put that passion to work to make a difference?

*-Linda and Marti*

[president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

## ACTION: League Support | Election Edition

By Jan Quinlan, Action Vice President  
[action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

Although the League of Women Voters organization never supports or opposes candidates or parties, there are some important referendums we encourage you to support with your YES votes in the midterm elections. Since voters are already voting by absentee ballots, please help us right now by sharing information about these referendums with voters.

### Appleton Area School District Referendums

Our LWV Appleton Fox Cities and the Friends of Appleton Schools urge us to contact every district resident who values our K-12 schools and the future of children who attend them. The “Friends” group has developed this list of informational resources about the two referendum questions. Use these to educate yourself, your neighbors, and family members of the importance of a YES vote:

- Referendum Fast Facts (see above): <https://tinyurl.com/ref-fast-facts>
- AASD referendum page from the district’s website: <https://tinyurl.com/aasd-info>
- Friends Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofappletonschoools>

### Outagamie County Clean Water Advisory Referendum

*“Should the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin?”*

LWV Appleton Fox Cities also encourages a YES vote on the Clean Water Referendum. We made a statement at the October 11 County Board meeting and have submitted the following Letter to the Editor of *The Post-Crescent*.

#### **Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

Outagamie County citizens will vote on this advisory referendum on November’s ballot. The League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities urges a “YES” vote on this question. During a recent deep-dive study of how climate change impacts our area, we were struck many times by the centrality of water issues. Human health and well-being, economic success, and environmental stability all depend on abundant, uncontaminated water resources. Nothing is more fundamental to well-being than clean water.

However, our study also revealed that we experience some troubling water quality issues in Wisconsin. From toxic algal blooms in Lake Winnebago, to contaminated drinking water, to nutrient loss from farm fields and more, clean water issues are of ever-increasing importance to our area. The advisory referendum will be an emphatic statement to our elected officials that they must act to improve and protect water. In doing so, they will improve the lives of all Wisconsin citizens and protect the natural heritage of clean water in our state.

We urge all Outagamie County voters to cast their ballot with our collective health and well-being in mind. Vote “YES” vote on the advisory referendum question to urge our State government toward greater emphasis on clean water as a basic right.

### Earth Day|Election Edition

Finally, don’t forget **Earth Day|Election Edition on Saturday, October 22, from 12:30 to 2:30pm at the Pierce Park Pavilion**. Join our League and our community partners, Citizens' Climate Lobby-Appleton/Fox Cities, ESTHER Environmental Justice Task Force, and PopEarth in keeping Earth Day a hot topic for voters. We will enjoy music by Christopher Gold; a keynote by Ligia Rivera, who co-chaired the League's study on local climate resilience, and fun informational displays by local organizations. Then action shifts to a march across the Memorial Drive Bridge before heading back to Pierce Park.

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION: Award Nominations Welcome

Our League is currently seeking nominations for the 2022 Making Democracy Work Award, which will be presented at our Holiday Gathering on Saturday, December 10 at Bubolz Nature Preserve.

The Making Democracy Work Award honors those individuals (adult and youth under age 21) or organizations who have envisioned a way to improve the Fox Cities community and have inspired others to work with them to effect change. **Nomination deadline is November 1.**

The Making Democracy Work Award was developed in 2010 at the national League level. The signature award honors the civic work of individuals in their community as demonstrated through their professional work or volunteerism.

The award also has the potential to increase visibility of the League's contributions to the community and to highlight the value of League membership.

Please consider nominating a deserving individual or organization. Direct questions or suggestions to Action VP Jan Quinlan via email to [action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

## VETTING: How to ID Mis/Dis-Information

On October 3, the LWV of Wisconsin Communications Committee hosted a virtual program, Disinformation in Democracy: Identifying and Fighting It. Dee Hall, co-founder of Wisconsin Watch and a long-time professional journalist, presented ways to distinguish and counteract mis/disinformation revolving around the upcoming election. Here are links to the recording of the program, and additional resources.

- [Watch the recording](#)
- Check out [Wisconsin Watch](#) and contact Dee Hall at [dhall@wisconsinwatch.org](mailto:dhall@wisconsinwatch.org)
- [Join LWVWI's Social Media Monitor Program](#)
- Check out [Open and Shut](#), an investigative podcast looking into the actions of two former prosecutors in Wisconsin's Fox Valley

## MEMBERSHIP: Renewal Time Approaches

By **Cindy Fallona, Membership Director**  
[membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

The ranks of the LWV Appleton-Fox Cities continue to expand. Three new members have joined us in our mission to **Empower Voters/Defend Democracy**. Please welcome our new members, who all live in Appleton: **Jerry Stastny, Laurie Seim, and Mary Sullivan.**

Contact Cindy Fallona, Membership Director, for assistance in joining or renewing your membership. Reach out to Cindy at [membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL COMING IN NOVEMBER

The time is approaching for us to renew our memberships in LWV Appleton-Fox Cities. Each member will receive a letter that will detail the instructions to renew on our new website. Please note it will still be possible to pay by check.

**IMPORTANT**-if you have not yet set up your member account on the website, [lwvappletonfoxcities.org](http://lwvappletonfoxcities.org), you will need to do so in order to renew your membership! The setup procedure requires that you have a password to get started. Contact Cindy Fallona at [membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org) to receive your password. When you renew, please consider raising your membership to the next level to help support the League and to make membership within reach for those who cannot afford to join. Your continued participation in and support of our League is very much appreciated. Thank you!

## DEI: More Events, Book Study in the Works

By April Savage, DEI Director  
[dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee met the first week of October. We reflected on learnings from our August 29 event on uncovering discrimination in the Fox Cities. The committee expressed a strong desire to do more events, as well as deepen impact by holding trainings, making personal invitations, and prioritizing partnering with other organizations and individuals.

In addition to organizing future events, we plan to make our webpage more locally focused and curate a more thoughtful, user-friendly resource list. To do this, we would like to form a dedicated research group with anyone interested in reviewing local/ DEI resources.

To compliment this work, there is also interest in holding a book study. Initial title suggestions include Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents and Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson, and Color of Water by James McBride. **If you are interested in either or both of these opportunities, please contact Kathie Kinnamon or April Savage by emailing [dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)**

And wait, there's more.... ways to get involved! Please see a selection of upcoming events below. We are always open to more perspectives and hands on deck. Stay tuned for communications on our next committee meeting in November, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to get involved ([dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)).

### Upcoming Events:

1. Community Conversations on Belonging (Imagine Fox Cities / Common Ground)- Thursday, October 20, 11:30 a.m. (virtual):  
<https://www.commongroundfoxcities.org/community-conversations>
2. Opportunity for voter registration outreach in Menominee and Shawano counties; learn more at <http://www.nativevote.org/>

### DEI News to Know

#### AAPI Presents "When the Emperor Was Divine" Author Julie Otsuka

On Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m., the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of Wisconsin (AAPI Coalition of Wisconsin) presents a special virtual event with Julie Otsuka in conversation with Tom Ikeda. Otsuka is the author of the award-winning novel When the Emperor Was Divine, which tells the story about the incarceration of a Japanese American family during World War II.

In this webinar, Otsuka will be interviewed by Tom Ikeda, the founding director of Densho, an online archive and public history organization that has documented stories, since its founding in 1996, about Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII. They will discuss the art of writing the novel itself as well as Otsuka and Ikeda family's experiences in the WWII camps.

The program also will focus on how K-12 teachers' professional judgement is being overruled by people who are uncomfortable with dealing with the truthful representation of our nation's history, particularly when told by authors of color. Asian American history is American History.



### SO WHY NOT DO SOMETHING FOR US!

We're looking for all sorts of goodies — jewelry, handcrafts, sewing, woodcrafts, knit goods, self-care baskets, show & attraction gift cards & combos, foodie goodies — whatever you can whip up for our League Fun-Raising Auction! Get a move on, cuz the auction starts Nov. 1 and ends Dec. 8. Winning bidders can pick up their prizes at the Holiday Gathering Dec. 10. Connect with Sue or Cindy at [membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org) to donate your auction item(s). Keep checking in, as new items may be added at any time.

So get on it, girlfriend (and guys too)!

## VOTING: Ramp-Up to Election Is Busy Time

By Jacqui Klimaszewski, Voter Services Director  
[voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

Voter Services volunteers have been very busy! The two month period before elections is an important time to reach out to voters for registration, re-registering if they have moved, and generally providing information on voting municipalities, polling locations, ID needed for voting, absentee/early voting, what's on the ballot, and finding nonpartisan information (VOTE411).

We participated in the Appleton Farm Market, Latinofest and Head Start, as well as National Voter Registration Day with tables at Fox Valley Technical College, and the Medical and Dental Community Partnership facilities.

On Wednesdays from September through November 2, the League has a table in the entryway of the Appleton Public Library from 4:30-7:30 p.m. You may have seen the press coverage on this.

We also have been busy at the Appleton high schools (East, West, North and Central). A new member, Maggie McGinnis, is doing an outstanding job at Xavier getting students who turn 18 registered to vote. Check out her nonpartisan newsletter and podcasts at <https://smartvoter.substack.com/>

We also will be part of the UWO Fox Cities registration and voting promotion events as well as the Earth Day | Election Edition rally at Pierce Park on Oct. 22nd sponsored by the Citizen Climate Lobby. We are still looking for volunteers to staff the table.

**To Volunteer:** [voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.com](mailto:voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.com)

We have been working with ESTHER, which received a grant for voter outreach. They are doing canvassing and we supplied door hangers. An ESTHER group has been trained by our League volunteer in Voter Registration, and they have been added to our volunteer list. Additionally, we collaborated with them on three postcard writing events (the last was October 13). LWVWI supplied the names for the postcards.

### Information on Forums/Interviews:

The League is very serious regarding nonpartisanship and our policy does not allow us to have an "open chair" forum—meaning only one party is represented. Therefore, we did interviews for some of the candidates and posted them on VOTE411. The forum for Assembly District 56 with Dave Murphy and Patrick Hayden was recorded and is posted on our website. The Assembly District 57 Lee Snodgrass interview has been uploaded to VOTE411.

Door County has scheduled a forum for State Senator District 1 which will be on VOTE411. There was to be only one governor's debate hosted by the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association on Oct 14. Find more info here: <https://www.wpr.org/evers-michels-debate-just-once-election>

## In Memorium: Sad News for Our League, Community

We were saddened to learn of the passing of long-time League member and past president Helen Nagler at her home on October 5. Helen was a tenacious public servant, having served on the Outagamie County Board and the Appleton City Council for many years, including as County Board Chairperson. Her leadership on many projects effected changes that improved our community.



A visitation for Helen will be held on Monday, October 17, at Brettschneider Trettin Nickel Funeral Chapel, 606 N. Oneida Street, Appleton, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. with a small prayer to conclude the visitation. Her obituary may be viewed [here](#).

Our sincere condolences to Helen's family. She will be greatly missed.

## PROGRAMS: Housing Issues Top October Session

By Renee Gralewicz, Program Vice President

[program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

One of the things I love most about living in Wisconsin is experiencing all the seasons. I love that each season seems to sneak up on us. This time of the year, I love the eye-popping colors of the leaves! Isn't it gorgeous and we don't even have to drive somewhere else to see this miracle. Autumn brings the federal election followed by a series of holidays and holydays. Anyhow, I'm looking too far into the future.

On September 19 we had a program about the changes regarding Wisconsin voting procedure. We had a great group who joined that event, and for those who missed it, [here is the link](#) to the recording.

Our October 17 program addresses Outagamie County housing issues and the county's response. Affordable, clean, and safe housing is a basic human right. Our League has a number of positions regarding housing. Some are embedded within our Climate Change positions as part of building sustainable and resilient communities. We also have housing issues as part of our Human Trafficking and Alternatives to Incarceration positions. Below are our clear and specific statements regarding housing.

### HOUSING (1995)

- A. Advocate feasible programs for low income and special needs housing, to relieve the housing shortage.
- B. Support feasible transitional housing and related programs which encourage economic independence.
- C. Support regional coordination/collaboration of agencies addressing issues related to affordable, adequate housing.
- D. Encourage local and regional governments to actively pursue the development of adequate and affordable housing through regulation and comprehensive planning.
- E. Educate the community regarding the need for adequate, affordable housing.
- F. Support a housing ombudsman (independent, unbiased, well-informed and well-regarded member of the community), who would provide information on housing and investigate citizen housing complaints and recommend appropriate action.

For those who would like to read the June 2022 "FOX CITIES and GREATER OUTAGAMIE COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY" report, please [click here](#).

For those who need to register for the October 17 program, please [click here](#). This program will be 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Grand Chute Park & Community Building, Room A, 1850 W. Grand Chute Blvd, **north** of the Grand Chute Town Hall. As with all of our programs, we will record it and post a link to the video on our website.

### Upcoming confirmed programs:

- **November 21** (Monday): **Why Should I Care About Wisconsin Courts? Part 1** (Hybrid) (Co-sponsored with the LWV of Winnebago County) UW Oshkosh – Fox Cities Campus, (1478 Midway Rd, Menasha) (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)
- **December 5** (Monday): **Why Should I Care About Wisconsin Courts? Part 2** (Hybrid) (Co-sponsored with the LWV of Winnebago County) Coughlin Center (625 East County Road Y, Oshkosh) (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)
- **December 10** (Saturday): **Holiday Gathering**, Bubolz Nature Preserve (4815 N. Lynndale Dr, Appleton) (Time TBD)
- **January 14, 2023** (Saturday): **Lively Issues**; Long Cheng Market, (1804 S. Lawe St, Appleton) (9:00 - noon)