



SEPTEMBER 2024



## President's Message: Monthly Programs — Where the Action Is

By **Linda Bjella**  
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Whenever I attend the LWV WI Annual Meeting, I come away with ideas inspired by the great work of the other local leagues in Wisconsin. One idea presented by the Ozaukee County League really stood out to me. At every program they sponsor, they give attendees ideas of how to take some positive action. We want to try to do the same thing with our programs.

We have an incredible line-up of monthly programs planned this year. By now, you should've received a postcard with the dates and topics for our programs from September through May. This information is also posted on the homepage of our website: [lwvappletonfoxcities.org](http://lwvappletonfoxcities.org).

It takes a lot of planning to put together these programs and find venues that are comfortable, accessible, and have ample parking. For the first time this year, three of our programs in September, November, and our Annual Meeting next May, will be held at the Girl Scouts headquarters, 4693 N Lynndale Dr, Appleton, WI 54913. This is fitting because the LWV US announced an official partnership with the Girl Scouts of America at the national convention this year. We think you will like the meeting room there with a cozy fireplace, lots of natural light, and a beautiful natural setting near Bubolz Nature Preserve where our Holiday Brunch will be held in December.

More details will be provided for each monthly program in our newsletter, on our website, and through direct emails to members and friends. You will find specific details for our September 16 program in this month's newsletter.

Here is a brief rundown of the topics our League will explore in the coming months:

**Monday, September 16: "Sustainability & Resilience-Fox Cities Green Initiatives";** 6:30-8:00 p.m. @ the Girl Scouts headquarters, and virtually

**Monday, October 7: "Reproductive Health Care in Wisconsin";** 6:30-8:00 p.m.; virtual Zoom webinar

**Monday, November 11: "When We Walk By — Unhoused in the Fox Cities";** 6:30-8:00 p.m. @ the Girl Scouts headquarters

**Saturday, December 14: HOLIDAY BRUNCH — "Is There a Childcare Crisis in our Community?";** 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. @ Bubolz Nature Preserve

(Continued on page 2)

## PRESIDENT: Where the Action Is, cont.

**Saturday, January 11: Lively Issues;** 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. @ the Kaukauna Public Library

**Monday, February 3: Legislative Town Hall;** 6:30-8:00 p.m.; virtual Zoom webinar

**Monday, March 10: Public Safety Study Committee Report;** 6:30-8:00 pm. @ the Van Zeeland Nursery meeting room

**Monday, April 14: "Financing Public & Private Education"** with the Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education; 6:30-8:00 p.m.; venue TBA

**Thursday, May 22: ANNUAL MEETING;** 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. @ the Girl Scouts Headquarters

We hope you will be able to attend our monthly programs and bring a friend! You will come away with a much better understanding of the issues AND a plan of action that you can take to make a positive difference.

## ACTION: New Preamble Leads into Position Statements

**By Jan Quinlan**

**Vice President, Action**

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Ever wonder what the LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities supports? You may know that these positions follow our League's research and consensus — but did you know that they date back to the 1960s in some cases? At our May 2024 Annual Meeting we approved a new preamble to our local support positions. It reads:

*"Our local League chapter was founded in 1939. Over many decades, we focused on Appleton and Outagamie County, conducting studies to develop our local positions. Our League has grown along with the increasingly diverse Fox Cities region, and in 2021, officially became the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities. In order to expand our outreach and influence and to maintain current and future relevancy, we hereby adopt this preamble to our positions document.*

The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities is committed to strengthening our communities by empowering individuals and groups to better engage with their government. Whether explicitly stated or not, the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities affirms that our local governments, commissions, and advisory committees must reflect the diversity of our communities and uphold the right of every individual to live a healthy and authentic life with a sense of belonging, respect, and acceptance. We intentionally advocate with, and for all to be treated with dignity, including those who are marginalized, stereotyped, misunderstood, or intentionally ignored."

We have had a team of volunteers reviewing our positions through a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens, and a regional lens. Work continues as we address wording and perspective, as these have, as you can imagine, changed quite a bit over the years. You can browse, or take a more detailed read, of the LWV Appleton-Fox Cities Support Positions [HERE](#).

### What's Your Question?

The League invites you to submit questions for our state and national candidates for our voter service candidate forums. Our League plans to host candidate forums and interviews for state assembly, state senate, and US Congress District 8. Our Voter Services team will sort through submissions to find a good variety of issues to ask these candidates that will be important to voters. Questions should address issues, not campaign topics, and be directed to both candidates. **Please submit your questions on state and national issues to [action@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:action@lwwappletonfoxcities.org) no later than September 15.**

## BALLOT REFERENDUM: Chipping Away at Voting Rights

On November 5, voters will have another harmful, divisive constitutional amendment on their ballot.

Wisconsin voting rights are literally on the ballot with this amendment. The change from "every" to "only" is a downgrade to all of our voting rights. The language changes our constitutionally protected voting rights from a guarantee for all citizens to a limitation that could be used to erode our voting rights.

In fact, lawmakers have already discussed this being a step on the path to further limit our right to vote, including by implementing a proof of citizenship requirement despite knowing that 1 in 10 US Citizens don't have the documents to prove their citizenship.

### What the Referendum Question Asks

**X**Question: "Eligibility to vote. Shall section 1 of article III of the constitution, which deals with suffrage, be amended to provide that only a United States citizen age 18 or older who resides in an election district may vote in an election for national, state, or local office or at a statewide or local referendum?"

### What does a "Yes" or a "No" vote mean?

- A "yes" vote indicates support for changing our state constitution to remove the guarantee that "every" U.S. citizen has the right to vote in favor of language that limits the right to vote to "only" U.S. Citizens, while opening the door to further limits to the right to vote.
- A "no" vote opposes the changes to the constitution. A "no" vote indicates support for keeping the guarantee in our state constitution that "every" U.S. citizen has the right to vote

Wisconsin's election process is among the most secure and accurate in the nation. Let's respect and trust in the integrity of our state constitution, and protect our voting rights. LWV of Wisconsin urges a **Vote NO** to this amendment.

LWV of WI is offering a webinar to explain the implications of the referendum could be on voting rights. Register for the webinar at [bit.ly/NovVoteNoWebinar](http://bit.ly/NovVoteNoWebinar)

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN

register: [bit.ly/NovVoteNoWebinar](http://bit.ly/NovVoteNoWebinar)

**WEBINAR**

**VOTE NO**

Nov. 5 WI Constitutional Amendment

Sept. 17  
7 to 8:30pm



## MEMBERSHIP: Election Season Motivates New Members

By Cindy Fallona

Membership Director

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2024 has been an exciting year for our country as we look forward to national elections on November 5. The mission of the League, **Defending Democracy, Empowering Voters**, is especially critical during this time.

Our mission and the important role we play in informing voters and helping them register is attracting new members. The overwhelming sentiment of new and existing members is to help citizens to vote so their voices are heard and counted.

Since June, seven (7) members have joined our League. Please help us welcome:

Jann Dreir - Appleton  
Ada Hall - Neenah  
Jennifer Haese – Appleton  
Jaime Rosandick - Appleton  
Ellen Needham - Appleton  
Ellen Watson - Appleton  
Rhonda Daily – Appleton

Let's keep this trend line pointing upwards. Invite interested friends and family members to our next program on September 16 at the Girl Scout Center, 4693 N. Lynndale Dr., Appleton. The topic, Sustainability and Resilience-Fox Cities Green Initiatives, is a timely subject that affects all of us.

Joining is easy. Go online to [lwvappletonfoxcities.org](http://lwvappletonfoxcities.org) and click on Join.

## PROGRAMS: Green Initiatives, Reproductive Rights Lineup

By Jan Quinlan

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September launches the League's slate of monthly informational programs, and this month we'll kick things off with a "green" program.

**Sustainability and Resilience: Fox Cities Green Initiatives**

**Monday, September 16 • 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes**

**4693 N. Lynndale Dr., Appleton**

There will be good news to share from Appleton celebrating several "green" initiatives: thermo-electric buildings, hydro-electric vehicles, cleaner emissions from the wastewater treatment plant, and more. Learn about these and other Wisconsin success stories while discussing how we can build capacity across jurisdictional borders.

Featured speakers will be Steve Schrage, Appleton's Sustainability Project Coordinator; Ron Jones, Appleton Sustainability Advisory Board and the regional Sustainable Community Network,;and Meleesa Johnson, Executive Director of Wisconsin Green Fire.

If you are unable to attend in person, you may register to receive a link to participate virtually. Watch for the link to be posted soon.

Then, on October 7, we have lined up experts to answer your questions about Reproductive Healthcare in Wisconsin.

(Continued on page 5)

## PROGRAMS: Reproductive Healthcare in Wisconsin

What is the status of reproductive and abortion care in Wisconsin since the Dobbs decision in 2022?

How did Planned Parenthood navigate through the complete prohibition of abortion care triggered by an 1849 law?

What has changed since a Dane County judge ruled in December of 2023 that the 1849 Wisconsin law does not prohibit abortions in the state?

What has happened with the appeals process since that lower court decision?

What restrictions still exist for women in Wisconsin seeking reproductive healthcare?

Join us on Monday, October 7, for a panel discussion of this topic during a virtual Zoom webinar which will feature the following speakers:

- Dr. Kathy King, Chief Medical Officer for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (PPWI)
- Michelle Valasquez, Chief Strategist and legal counsel for PPWI
  
- Dr. Anna Igler, a practicing OB-GYN physician currently working in Neenah. Dr. Igler will also share her compelling personal story of recently seeking a late-term abortion due to a genetic abnormality and her subsequent IVF journey.

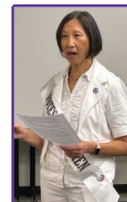
Moderating the discussion will be LWV WI President, Dorothy Skye, a retired OB-GYN physician. The panelists will participate in a free-wheeling and compelling discussion of this important issue. Time will be allowed at the end for audience questions.

Watch for an announcement and registration on our website coming soon.

## PROCLAIMING: Women's Equality in Wisconsin

Women's Equality Day is celebrated on August 26 to commemorate the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

The [League](#), the [Women's Action Coalition](#) and [Appleton Area NOW](#) marked the occasion a little early with activities at the Appleton Farm Market. Then on August 26, Appleton Mayor Jake Woodford read an official proclamation declaring that Monday as Women's Equality Day in the city.



## VOTER SERVICES: DMV Project, Candidate Interviews

By Jacqui Klimaszewski  
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The Farm Market on August 24<sup>th</sup> was a productive day. We helped Audry (pictured here) and others register to vote, and connected with NOW and the Women's Action Coalition as we collaborated to celebrate Women's Equality Day, which is officially celebrated on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

As we move into a very busy fall, please consider volunteering at these upcoming events:

The next **DMV** sessions start on **National Voter Registration Day** (September 17<sup>th</sup>) and go through October 16<sup>th</sup>. **Many volunteers will again be needed**—so get on the calendar now! Brian Post will be your contact ([6615@sbcglobal.net](mailto:6615@sbcglobal.net)). Here is the signup link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-50626730-dmvdvoter#/>

Also upcoming is **Latino Fest** - Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Pierce Park, Appleton. Special thank you to April Savage for the set-up and take-down of the canopy and other materials. A volunteer is still needed for the 12:30-3:00 p.m. time slot. We would like to have at least one bilingual speaker at each session. Here is the Signup <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-50734763-latino>



**League volunteers Christiana Coakley and Joan Moeschberger assisted 18 year-old Audrey register to vote, with her Mom on hand to share the occasion.**

### Candidate Interviews

Candidates for Assembly Districts 3, 5, 52 and 56 representing the Fox Valley have been contacted for interviews (recorded and posted on our website). We are hoping to schedule the interviews during the first two weeks of October.

**District 3: Jason Schmitz and Ron Tusler**

**District 5: Greg Sampson and Joy Goeben**

**District 52: Lee Snodgrass and Chad Cooke**

**District 56: Emily Tseffos and Dave Murphy**

We will also contact candidates for Wisconsin Senate District #18 — Kristin Alfheim and Anthony Phillips — for interviews.

If you have questions about issues you would like to have asked of the candidates, please send them to [voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org). Be sure to indicate the assembly/senate district the question is for.

Further details will be provided once all of the candidates respond.