

THE INFORMED VOTER

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• Empowering Voters
• Defending Democracy

JULY 2025



President's Message: The Time Is Now!



By Janice Quinlan, President
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The Time Is Now.

After all our calls, our postcards, our letters and repeated outreach to our elected representatives, the passage of the big ugly Federal budget bill on July 4 was devastating.

It is important to remember that this bill's provisions are deeply unpopular with most Americans. 17 million will lose their health care insurance and millions of families will lose decent nutrition. Spending for ICE and imprisonment soars by billions of dollars, expanding the unconstitutional confinement of people who have committed no crimes. Investment in science and green energy is halted. All displaced by permanent tax cuts for billionaires.

That's why *The Time Is Now* for us all to take action.

- Learn about the provisions of this bill that will affect Americans for years to come. Remember the stories of those who are affected. Share these stories with your family, friends, and neighbors to dispel the misinformation.
- Watch for League of Women Voters Action Alerts through Unite & Rise 8.5 which seeks to mobilize 8.5 million voters.
- On August 6, join League members from throughout Wisconsin in Madison to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act with US League President Dianna Wynn. Together we will pledge to protect voting rights for all citizens in the future.**

Looking for other reasons to be hopeful? The State of Wisconsin 2025-27 budget, which passed shortly before the Federal budget, is the most bipartisan in years. Both parties rushed to protect Medicaid for Wisconsinites and rural hospitals before the federal bill was signed. They also agreed to increase investments in public education, special education, child care, infrastructure and clean water measures.

This bipartisan legislative action in Wisconsin is the direct result of "Fairer Maps" — a cause that seemed hopeless a couple of years ago. All our years of advocacy really did have an impact.

Our work for Fair Maps is not done, however. 2030 brings another census and another opportunity for party gerrymandering. If you're interested in helping craft truly nonpartisan legislation, join us on July 16 in Green Bay. Let's make nonpartisan redistricting a reality for future generations of Wisconsinites.**

**Forward,
Janice Quinlan**

**Read on. July *Informed Voter* articles provide more detailed information.

Voting Rights: Celebrate the Voting Rights Act 60th Anniversary



Wednesday, August 6

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is hosting a 60th Anniversary celebration commemorating the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, featuring LWVUS President Dianna Wynn. Everyone is welcome!

This powerful community gathering will honor landmark civil rights legislation and help mobilize us against decades of attacks on voting rights, with a call to restore and protect them through the [John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#).

Registration is free; [register here](#)**. Here is the day's schedule:

9:00 - 11:30 Registration

9:30 - 10:00 Welcome and Caucus in the Assembly Parlor

10:00 - 11:30 Legislative Visits (optional)

11:30 - 12:00 Free box lunch offered

12:00 - 1:00 Opening Remarks in the Rotunda

Land Acknowledgement

Keynote Speaker: LWVUS President Dianna Wynn

History of the Voting Rights Act in Wisconsin

Changes made by the Supreme Court that gutted the Voting Rights Act

Call to action

1:15 - 1:45 Press Conference in the Assembly Parlor

Welcome New Members!

Stephanie Cheslock and Shirley Senarighi

Fair Maps: Free Community Hearing Seeks Input on Permanent Process

The Wisconsin Model of an **Independent Redistricting Commission** using a fair mapping process to create voting maps going forward is being proposed by members of The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, the Fair Maps Coalition and Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

Every ten years state voting districts are updated to account for changes in population size and distribution. The Wisconsin Constitution currently requires maps for new voting districts to be approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. In the past, getting the Legislature and the Governor to agree has consistently led to costly lawsuits that reach the State or Federal Supreme Court. We need an **Independent Redistricting Commission** using a fair mapping process to create voting maps going forward.

Members of The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, [The Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition](#) and Wisconsin Democracy Campaign have worked with experts from around the country and deeply studied other states where independent redistricting is used.



Anyone who is interested in fair government is welcome to come to a special Community Hearing session about the Wisconsin Model that is being proposed and offer feedback about how the proposal could be improved. This hearing is one of several being held all around Wisconsin to gather public input for draft legislation that will create a nonpartisan redistricting process for Wisconsin. The goal is to introduce this legislation this fall.

Come and be a part of the process!

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 • 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Free of charge
Brown County Central Library • 515 Pine Street, Green Bay, WI 54301

Voter Services: Volunteers Score with Event Goers

By Jacqui Klimaszewski
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Voter Services volunteers had two very successful events in June.

On June 21 we were at Jones Park for the PrideFest event from 10:30-6:00. It was absolutely sweltering, but we were very busy and connected with a lot of people. While not helping anyone register directly, we provided information to 25 people and provided membership information to 6 more. We connected with individuals who would be interested in starting voter services events at their school/church.



**PrideFest civics contestant
tries US citizenship test
question.**

The Civics Game was a big hit once again—there were 93 contestants. Those who got the question correct received a treat; those who didn't get it correct learned something!

There were also 11 Future Voter stickers handed out. Big thank you to those who sweated it out with me: Jann Dreier, Deb Werth, Linda Werner, Jean Janes and Jan Quinlan—and to Denise and Kelly Fenton for helping to take down and carry all the materials at the end of the event. It was a long, but productive, day!

On June 28 we were at the Appleton Farm Market from 8:00 a.m. til noon — another very busy and productive event! We provided information to 30 individuals and gave out membership brochures to 20 interested prospective members—9 of whom left their contact information with us. There were 42 Future Voter stickers and 12 magnetic "Vote" signs distributed. Some 96 folks tested their civics knowledge with the spinner game. Thank you to the volunteers: Jann Dreier, Connie Radtke, Fran Nelson, Jan Quinlan, and Mary Sullivan.

Voter Services: Still Time to Volunteer at Summer Events, cont.

Not only did we make a lot of great connections with people to promote and help with our work, we had a great time doing it. It's also a great way to get to know fellow League members!

UPCOMING EVENTS: And YOU have a chance to get involved as well! Information will be coming soon to volunteer on **Saturday, July 19 – Celebrate Diversity at Jefferson Park from 11:00a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, and **Saturday, July 26, at Appleton Farm Market from 8:00 a.m. til noon.**

Look for information coming in a Club Express email and a Sign-up Genius form. Please contact me if you have any questions.
voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



HAVE YOU VOTED IN THE LAST 4 YEARS?

On June 13th, 2025, postcards were sent to all Wisconsin registered voters who have not voted in the last 4 years.

If you received a postcard identified as a **NOTICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION SUSPENSION**, and you are still eligible to be registered to vote in Wisconsin:

- If your address or name has changed, update your voter information by snapping a copy of this QR code, or via a paper registration form mailed or delivered to your local clerk.
- If your address or name hasn't changed, sign and return the card to your local clerk.



Share this with
family or friends
who may not have
voted recently.

If you do not respond to the postcard by July 15, 2025 you will no longer be registered to vote in Wisconsin. For more information see the Wisconsin Election Commission website at elections.wi.gov/statistics-data/voter-list-maintenance

Public Safety Primer: Crimeless Revocation Soars in Wisconsin

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our local League is currently studying Public Safety. This is the first in a series of articles designed to provide you with background on important public safety issues.

By Karen Pfefferle & April Savage

Public Safety Primer: Crimeless Revocation

Incarceration has soared in Wisconsin from 2,000 offenders in 1970 to 22,000 in 2022. That is startling, and raises many questions. What propelled the change? Has this bloated criminal justice system helped the Fox Cities? Enhanced public safety? What can be done?

The Appleton-Fox Cities League of Women Voters Study on Public Safety is pursuing these questions and more. During our research phase, we will provide newsletter updates and action opportunities to keep you informed and involved. Our focus this month is on crimeless revocation, the practice of sending people back to jail/prison for violating a rule of their community supervision, after they have served their original sentence. This practice disproportionately affects people struggling with poverty, housing insecurity, mental health issues, and addiction issues. It also impacts Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities at highly disproportionate rates. Here's what you should know, and what you can do.

Background:

- Crimeless Revocations accounted for 32.5% of all admissions to Wisconsin prisons from [May 2024-April 2025](#)

- Lengthy periods of community supervision are most challenging for those already struggling with housing, transportation and employment. Violations of supervision (leading to crimeless revocation) can be as minor as borrowing money, missing an appointment or accepting employment without prior approval.

- Increasing Crimeless Revocations are driving overpopulated prisons, leaving county jails ill-equipped. Even worse, people reincarcerated without a new offense spend an average of *1.5 years in prison* and in 2016 added [\\$147.5M in taxes](#)

- The Department of Corrections has yet to clearly implement the state law calling on it to create short-term responses for people who break the rules of supervision and to determine how to reward people under supervision for compliance. According to [WISDOM](#) (an ally in community organizing), current practice is inconsistent and there is too little training, lack of written policy, and opportunity to improve Department data collection.

Take Action:

The Department of Corrections held an online public hearing on July 8th and is [accepting written comments until August 8, 2025 on proposed rules to implement the 12-year-old Short-term Sanctions Act \(2013 Act 196\)](#) which require the DOC to set up a system of immediate short-term sanctions for the most common supervision rule violations to reduce revocations.

The law has huge potential for reducing conviction-less (crimeless) revocations and the overall prison population. Unfortunately, WISDOM has characterized these proposed rules as "very disappointing" as they seem to evade the central purpose of the Act. They do not use the term "short-term sanctions," let alone set up the required "system."

What can you do?

- 1). Get Smart — here is [background info from WISDOM](#)
- 2). **Submit written comments ASAP** (before 8/8/25) to DOCAAdministrativeRulesCommittee@wisconsin.gov.
- 3). Highlight the fact that the law requires efforts to minimize impact on the incarcerated person's employment — a most important part of creating stability and integration into their community. For example, adding something along the lines of *"Before imposing a short-term sanction, the DOC agent shall make efforts to ensure that the length and circumstances of the sanction minimizes any disruption of the client's employment, activities to successfully follow through on an offer of employment, or any training program in which he or she is engaged to prepare for employment"*

The release of the proposed Act 196 rules for public comment provides a real opportunity to communicate a vision of a Community Corrections system that focuses on restoration, both of affected individuals and the communities in which they and we live. Please help us get this message out by taking action.

We welcome those interested in getting involved in the League's Public Safety Study. Please connect with us to learn more by emailing president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

Further Info:

A link to the rules of supervision: Note that more rules are added as deemed necessary. <https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOC/CommunityCorrections/SupervisionRules.aspx>

A link for a quick listen and learn opportunity: Oral testimony from Mark Rice, Transformational Justice Campaign Coordinator with WISDOM Wisconsin, at state budget hearing on "Wisconsin's disastrous system of mass supervision" April 21, 2025 <https://ilusa.org/2025/04/21/mark-rice-testifies-at-state-budget-hearing-on-wisconsins-disastrous-system-of-mass-supervision/>

Continue to next page

Public Safety Primer: Crimeless Revocation Further Information, cont.

Quotes from Mark Rice: *"It's important to keep people integrated in the community, especially people who ... made one little mistake that may have been a violation of a rule that didn't have an effect on public safety."*

DATA: "Excessive Revocations in Wisconsin: The Health Impacts of Locking People Up Without a New Conviction," was produced by the California-based research group Human Impact Partners. WISDOM, a collective religious social justice organization, and its off-shoot Ex-Prisoners Organizing (EXPO) commissioned the study. <https://search.issuelab.org/resource/excessive-revocations-in-wisconsin-the-health-impacts-of-locking-people-up-without-a-new-conviction.html>

A Conservative Perspective- Badger Institute: Ex-Offenders under watch

Supports reform:

- Reduced cost for taxpayers
- Reduced caseload for agents

Improved reintegration for offenders: Several offenders in Klingele's study described the stress and challenges of moving on from past criminal behavior that long-term community supervision creates. Required meetings with agents may disrupt work schedules, and offenders must get approval from agents for mundane activities such as purchasing an automobile or borrowing money. While most offenders serve supervision terms of less than five years, many serve longer terms that often do not have a clear public safety benefit to the offenders or their community. <https://www.badgerinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/RevocationPDF.pdf>

A Liberal Perspective-Cap Times and Wisconsin Watch: Wisconsin's prison population swells as other states limit incarceration. Evers spokesperson Britt Cudaback pointed to the governor's last three budget proposals — largely rejected by Republican lawmakers — that, she said, sought to "bolster evidence-based and data-driven policies we know have improved community safety and reduced recidivism in other states, and support alternatives to incarceration, including increased investments in treatment and diversion." <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/wisconsins-prison-population-swells-as-other-states-limit-incarceration/>

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Gather at Celebrate Diversity Event

By Kathie Kinnaman
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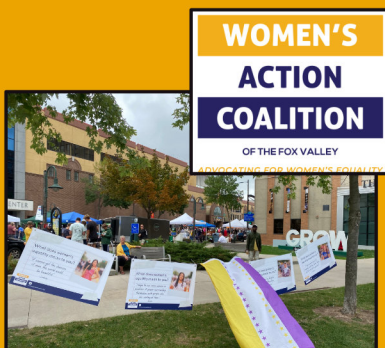
What's Up in the DEI Summer of 2025?

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities continues to meet this summer. The next meeting will be an in-person meeting at noon at the Celebrate Diversity Annual Community Cookout on July 19 at Jefferson Park in Menasha. Bring a lawn chair and meet at the League table.

Members will be sharing results of their research into DEI actions by widely-known corporations. Is DEI dead? Join us to find out.

The DEI Book Share will meet Wednesday, July 30 from 2-4 p.m. at Seth's in Little Chute. The group is reading Michelle Adams' new book, "The Containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North."

The usual meeting of the DEI Committee is the first Tuesday of the month (beginning on September 2) via Zoom, starting at 1:30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. To receive the Zoom link, please email dei@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



Join our sister organizations of the **Women's Action Coalition of the Fox Valley** to highlight **Women's Equality Day**, which we'll celebrate August 23 from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Houdini Plaza at the Downtown Appleton Farmers Market. The League will be registering voters, and other WAC volunteers will be taking snapshots of people who stop by and share their thoughts about equality by writing their comments on a card. We'll be sharing the Plaza with a Wisconsin authors group, so be persistent in looking for the League as well as the Coalition's posters and booth! Whether you share your thoughts or photo, we hope you'll stop by and show your support for women's equality!

Programs: Ways to Learn, To Connect, To Take Action

By Jan Smith

Program Director

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Monthly programs are an informative, educational tool for our League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities and they are also a great time to stay connected to your LWVA-FC friends. Here are just a few of the upcoming programs for the 2025-26 year. The year is full of community connections that will keep you informed and hopefully, action oriented. Let's get some dates on your calendar, understanding that some are legislature dependent, such as the Legislative Town Halls, and are subject to change. The League has opted to schedule mostly the first Monday evening of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 to not conflict with some of our community partner meetings.

Did you ever wonder why you bother to haul two different trash bins out to the curb each week and what happens after you do? We start with **September 8** when we get the dirt on our garbage. "**Let's Talk Trash**" is a mid-day tour of the Tri-County Recycling Facility. We are scheduled to meet at 11:30 to find out just what happens to our trash once it leaves our house and how we are doing our part to help the environment. Space is limited for the actual tour of the facility and appropriate dress is required; however, the recycling facility has graciously offered to accommodate additional members in a classroom tour simultaneously to the plant tour.

Keep an eye on the **Events Calendar** for registration information.

A virtual **Legislative Town Hall** is planned for **October 6**, which is subject to review based on availability of the lawmakers. However, we will keep you updated.

Immigrants, Undocumented and Refugees are all terms many of us are trying to understand, as well as the unique challenges these populations face nationally, as well as in our community. Therefore, the **November 3** evening program will offer a panel discussion focusing on the challenges, community views and the needs of this community. It will also offer a call to action on how members might help.

Speaking of ways to "do something," expect to hear from the League with ways to put your principles into action through the LWVUS **Unite and Rise 8.5** initiative. We welcome hearing what issues infuriate or inspire you the most, and how you're willing to participate. Please check your email frequently for details.

The **Holiday Brunch** is always something special to anticipate. **Saturday, December 13** is planned at the lovely Bubolz Nature Center facility with a program focus on how the League is navigating the new outlook for DEI. This year, LWVA-FC will also return to the silent auction with a focus on Buying Local with a multi-cultural twist to support our diverse community. Keep your eyes open for those cultural enrichments as you traverse your summer of arts festivals and farmer's markets.

January 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. opens the discussion on the three pillars of League programs through **Lively Issues**. The inclusive conversation encourages member participation in planning for upcoming studies and programs.

Stay tuned for further updates, and enjoy your summer! LWVA-FC looks forward to not only seeing you in the fall, but getting active, as well. If you have any interest in helping with program planning and coordination, please feel free to contact Jan Smith at program@lwwappletonfoxcities.com.

