

March
2026



EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

THE INFORMED VOTER



Leadership Message - PROVIDING A CIVIL PLATFORM

by Jan Quinlan, President

"That was just a great experience. The questions were excellent and everything was calm and civil. This greatly exceeded my expectations. Thank you very much for giving me the chance to share my views."

— candidate for Appleton Area School District Board of Education, March 5, 2026

How many organizations can offer local candidates from across the political spectrum a venue to be heard by voters? It was wonderful to hear the above sentiment from the most conservative of the AASD candidates immediately following our Candidate Forum on March 5. We can be proud that our League continues to provide a civil platform that informs voters on where candidates stand on important issues.

Our **AASD Candidate Forum** was the first of three local forums prior to the April 7 election. The video will be uploaded soon.

Thursday, March 12 — **Grand Chute Town Board** Candidate Forum begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Chute Town Center Hall featuring **Seats 2 & 4**.

Tuesday, March 24 — **Appleton Common Council** Candidate Forum begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Appleton Public Library, Mary Beth Nienhaus Community Room featuring **District 2** and **District 8** candidates.

All candidate forums are recorded for those unable to attend. Check our website and / or subscribe to our YouTube channel to be the first notified when they are uploaded.

Our League is also diligently working to provide voter registration assistance for citizens across our community. We are meeting them at the DMV, in our high schools, at senior living centers, and in the public library. We will even circulate during the rallies on March 28 and 29 with voter registration information cards. Our legacy is to ensure everyone has a voice in the political process.

Voting in local elections is crucial. Local elected officials have as much or more influence on our day-to-day lives as state and national officials.

Thank you to all who are helping us during our version of March Madness. Whether you are assisting with candidate forums or volunteering at the DMV or other venues — we couldn't do all of this without you.

BE AN INFORMED VOTER

Our League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities website has videos of all of the forums and links to AASD & MJSD Referendum information.

Vote411.org has everything else you might need to cast an informed vote.

MyVoteWI.gov has information relative to your upcoming vote including election timelines and how to: check voter registration, order an absentee ballot, find your local clerk for early in person voting times, and more.

[Appleton Area School District Referendum information can be found here:](#)

[Menasha Area School District Referendum information can be found here:](#)

Forward,





April 7 Election Absentee Ballots & Timeline



A Note About Absentee Ballots

Please note this important change regarding the deadline for the Absentee Ballot to be returned: The postmark on the ballot is no longer the deciding factor as to whether the vote can be counted or not. The absentee ballot **MUST BE RECEIVED by the clerk BY 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, or it will NOT be counted.** Given the post office routing changes, please **get your ballot mailed AT LEAST A WEEK before the election.**

APRIL 7 ELECTION --- IMPORTANT DATES FROM VOTER SERVICES ---

More in-depth information can be found at: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Voter-Deadlines

March 17 Absentee ballots sent to voters with active request already on file.

March 18 (1) Deadline to Register by Mail or to register on-line at MyVote.Wi.US. Your voter registration form, along with **proof of residence** must be postmarked to your **municipal clerk** no later than March 18, 2026. Find your Municipal Clerk's Contact Information here.

(2) Deadline to **Register to vote online.** - Voters who are able to match their name, date of birth, Wisconsin Driver License or State ID number, and address with the Wisconsin DMV can register to vote online through March 18.

Absentee Voting April 7, 2026 Spring Election Deadlines: All registered voters in Wisconsin can request an absentee ballot be mailed to them for any reason. To request an absentee ballot on MyVote.wi.gov [click here](#). You must provide a photo ID with your absentee ballot request. More information on [photo ID can be found here](#).

April 2 @ 5:00 p.m. Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot- Regular and Temporary Overseas Voters

April 3 @ 5:00 p.m. Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot- Indefinitely Confined and Military

March 24, possibly through April 5
In-Person Absentee Voting period. Office hours vary by municipality. Some municipal offices may not offer additional in-person absentee hours. Please **contact your municipal clerk for absentee voting hours.**

April 7 @ 8:00 p.m. Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot- If you have already received an absentee ballot, you must return your absentee ballot by mail, or deliver to your municipal clerk. Your ballot must be received by your **municipal clerk** no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day,

April 7.

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PO Box 1281, Zipcode 54912-1281
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Candidate Forums & Appleton Referendum Info



Upcoming Candidate Forums

The forums below will also be taped and available on our website and VOTE411.

If there are additional races you would like to see candidate forums or interviews for, please contact voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org. They may be added depending on time and resources.

MJSD Referendum Wording & Info Sessions

"Shall the Menasha Joint School District, Winnebago, Calumet, and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$6,000,000 per year for six years, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and ending with the 2031-2032 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses?"

PUBLIC FORUMS

- **March 10:** Butte des Morts Elementary LMC (501 Tayco St., Menasha), 6-7:30 p.m.
- **March 11:** Clovis Grove Elementary LMC (974 9th St., Menasha), 6-7:30 p.m.
- **March 12:** Banta Elementary LMC (328 6th St., Menasha) 6-7:30 p.m.
- **March 18:** Menasha Senior Center (116 Main St., Menasha), 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- **March 18:** Gegan Elementary LMC (675 W. Airport Road, Menasha), 6-7:30 p.m.

AASD Referendum Wording & Info Sessions

"Shall the Appleton Area School District, Outagamie, Calumet, and Winnebago Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$15,000,000 per year for four years, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and ending with the 2029-2030 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of current operational expenses and operational expenses for additional services for students with mental health needs and students experiencing poverty?"

APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

REFERENDUM INFO SESSIONS

The Appleton Area School District invites all community members to attend an upcoming Referendum Information Session. Each session will feature a brief presentation explaining the April 7 operational referendum, followed by time for questions and discussion.

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.	Wilson Middle School Multipurpose Room 225 N. Badger Ave.
Sunday, March 15, 1:00 p.m.	Einstein Middle School Commons 324 E. Florida Ave.
Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.	Virtual Session
Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.	AASD Welcome Center 2701 North Oneida St., Suite C3

These sessions are designed to share clear, factual information and help community members feel informed and prepared ahead of the spring election. Open to all staff, families, and community residents.

Find more info and virtual session links at www.aasd.k12.wi.us/referendum.

Accessibility requests should be directed to Kayla Malott at malottkayla@aasd.k12.wi.us or (920) 852-5300 ext. 60111 at least 24 hours before the session.

UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUM

for the **April 7** election

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES

12 MARCH - Thurs. 6:30-8pm
Grand Chute Town Board
Grand Chute Town Center
Park Community Building

SEAT 2

Walt Nocito

Rhonda Daily

SEAT 4

Brad Gehring
incumbent

Jason Van Eperen

Candidate information is also available on VOTE411.org

Written questions will be accepted from the public. The League reserves the right to screen questions to avoid duplication and assure civil discourse. You are welcome to submit questions up to five days ahead of each forum to: voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

Forums will be taped and available on the League website.

UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUM

for the **April 7** election

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES

24 MARCH - Tues. 6:30-8pm
Appleton Alderperson
APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Mary Beth Nienhaus Community Meeting Room C.

DIST. 2

Vered Meltzer
incumbent

Charles Brown

DIST. 8

Patti Heffernan
incumbent

Kelly Dempsey

Candidate information is also available on VOTE411.org

Written questions will be accepted from the public. The League reserves the right to screen questions to avoid duplication and assure civil discourse. You are welcome to submit questions up to five days ahead of each forum to: voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

Forums will be taped and available on the League website.



Thank You & Hundreds of Ways to Help

By Jacqui Klimaszewski
Voter Services Vice President
voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



Thank you to all - AASD candidate forum

AASD School Board Candidate Forum was held Thursday, March 5 at Appleton Public Library. All four candidates attended and the event was well attended. The video will be uploaded to the website as soon as it is ready. Check the website this week. Thank you to the candidates —Nick Ross, Kris Sauter, Jason Kolpack and Michael Janke — and the AASD students who attended. The four students (pictured to the right) asked candidates questions at the event.

Thank you also goes to the AASD staff who helped identify students: Mr. Ramponi from North, Mr. Ossmann from West, Mr. Kurth from East, and Ms. Reis, Mr. Shimek, and Mr. Heitl from Central.

Thanks to the members of the League who helped out: Julie Evers, Jann Dreier, Jean Janes, Carol Lenz, Nancy Jones, Linda Bjella, and Jan Quinlan.

Students asked candidates questions



- Deacon Knoke Turk**--Appleton North High School Assistant Editor-in-Chief of The Noctulica
- Indigo George** Appleton West High School Senior Writer and Editor for The Talisman
- Annabelle Mahnke** Appleton East High School AP Government
- Rex Knoke** Appleton Central High School

There are HUNDREDS—yes, HUNDREDS of volunteer opportunities! Here are the basics:

APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

3rd Saturday of every month

3 people needed

[click here to sign up](#)

APPLETON HIGH SCHOOLS

Appleton East, West, North and Central High Schools will all have voter registration assistance events during a flex time in early March

at least 3 people needed per school

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Feb. 25 -Mar. 18 there will be approximately 276 open slots for volunteers. We have 3 shifts a day during the week and 1 on Saturday that each need two volunteers.

[click here to sign up](#)

SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES

TBD

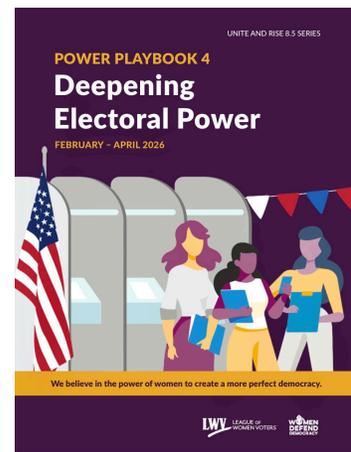
Some of the events are still in the planning stages—but these are some opportunities to get started.

When you click on the links, all the dates and times will appear for that event and you can choose the ones that work for you.



Deepening Electoral Power

Nancy Jones
Action Vice President
action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



Warning: Constitutional Crisis

The League's ongoing Unite & Rise 8.5 Campaign, designed to mobilize 8.5 million people and harness the power of voter engagement, is focused on deepening electoral power from now through April. The goals of the current micro-campaign are to deepen partnerships, reach new audiences, build voter readiness, and build community election corps. ([See Power Playbook 4: Deepening Electoral Power for more details.](#))

Looking ahead, the **May-July** micro-campaign will continue *"election preparation work while highlighting the many ways individuals and communities can fight for an inclusive democracy."* For **August through October**, the focus will be to *"bring together the relationships, partnerships, and communities we have built ...into a coordinated surge of action... and underscore what is at stake in the midterm elections."* (Source: Power Playbook 4: Deepening Electoral Power)

LWV-AFC has a robust Unite & Rise Team with four workgroups that have continued to convene partners, reach out to eligible voters, and make plans for community-engaging activities all summer long. Our plans translate into many opportunities for you to join in mobilizing as many eligible voters as possible by volunteering to support Unite & Rise campaign activities.

Please consider:

- Volunteering at voter registration events
- Distributing voter information at the March 28 No Kings III event or the March 29 Palm Sunday Path event
- Marching with the League in the Memorial Day and Flag Day parades
- Submitting stories you hear of local impacts of HR1 and other federal policy changes for us to amplify
- Responding to LWVUS and LWVWI action alerts—Sign up to receive alerts here: Outreach Circle Sign up (Be sure to select Wisconsin League when you sign up.) and LWVWI Commitment Form
- Reaching out to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to encourage them to check/update their voter registration and learn what's on their ballot (myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Whats-On-My-Ballot), or find information to inform their vote at Vote411.org, and making a plan to cast their ballot in the April 7 spring election.

To take part in any of these activities, offer your creative talents, or just to learn more, email action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

1. Arts & Visability - Kim Schiedermayer

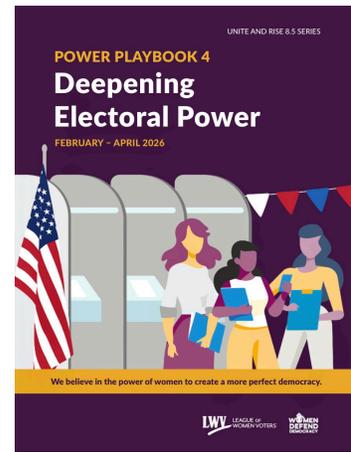
The Arts & Visability Workgroup is guided by a vision of:

- Community arts to educate, raise awareness of the Constitution's content;
- Opportunities for personal expression related to the Constitution and the Country
- Encourage voter participation through education; provide sign up opportunities

Activities planned to help realize this vision include League participation in both the Memorial Day and Flag Day parades and ongoing display of a large "We the People" banner at the History Museum at the Castle during the Appleton Downtown Farmer's Market with opportunities for community engagement. Additional activities being explored include a Lanterns for Peace launch and prayer flag display. Workgroup members are Jean Janes, Rosann Milius, Denise Fenton, Jan Smith, Cathy Nennig, Paula Uhlenbrauck, Christine Kennedy Cedergren, and Kim Schiedermayer.



Deepening Electoral Power



2. Civic Education & Gaming - Sue Abrahamson

Unite & Rise 8.5 Playbook 4 helps us reach new audiences and deepen partnerships within our communities as we employ strategies to protect, engage, and turn out a record number of voters for the upcoming primary and general elections.

- The Voter Services team members have been busy getting VOTE411 ready with local information that will help make informed voters.
- Spring voter registration at Lawrence University will begin with a tabling event on March 10th, followed by assistance for students in obtaining proof of residence from the University.
- High school visits to help new voters feel confident casting their first ballot.
- Ongoing voter registration at the Appleton Public Library and the Appleton Dept. of Motor Vehicles (now through March 18)
- Candidate forum for Appleton City Alderperson Districts 2 and 8 set for Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.
- Still organizing a League Trivia Team to visit local events, collecting best practices, and hosting a Civics Trivia event yet this spring. Hope you can join in our work.

— Sue Abrahamson, Linda Bjella, Cindy Fallona & Jacqui Klimaszewski

3. Coalition Building - Nancy Jones

We have created a directory of organizations willing to partner in a variety of ways including: sharing events and action opportunities, contributing stories of local impact, hosting training events, and sharing information on specific legislative proposals. This directory was compiled using data from our December 4 Convening Survey.

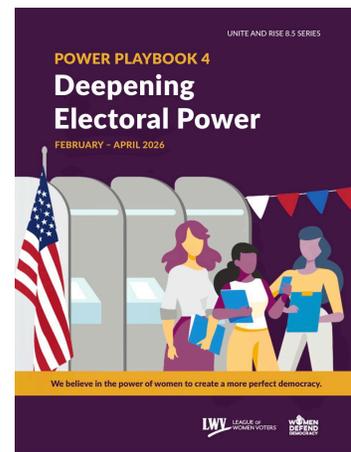
A second convening in late January resulted in: agreement on a purpose statement; sharing the directory and lists of organizations interested in various potential areas of collaboration (see above); informing the group about the faith-based Palm Sunday Path and Faith 250 campaigns that may encourage new civic engagement; and deciding on a secure communication platform.

Partnering organizations will continue to meet and look for ways to collaborate to defend democracy, civil rights, and programs that support the well-being of all area residents.





Deepening Electoral Power



4. Media & Storytelling - Kathy Voigt

Communicating the diverse activities of the Unite and Rise teams will be vital to welcoming new and ongoing participants to the League's mission, and moving non-voters to register and vote. We will gather stories of local people, organizations and programs that have felt the impact of actions and inactions on our communities. In addition to articles in The Informed Voter newsletter, social media, and the website, this team will add to the call for creative ways to engage in wider circles in our communities, amplify the energy volunteers are already putting into these activities, and expand relationships with media decision makers to publicly share news of these activities. We'll continue to reach out for ways to collaborate, and to position the League as a nonpartisan resource for context to the news.



Our Membership Grows

Linda Bjella
Membership Director
membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The LWV Appleton-Fox Cities is pleased to extend a warm welcome to several individuals who have recently joined our League. We are delighted to grow our community of engaged citizens who are committed to informed participation in our democracy.

Joining us from the **Appleton area** are **Tim Trauger, Janet McKee, Jude Kuen,** and **Cathy Nenning**. We are also happy to welcome **Mary Hayes** from **Greenville** and **Kathy Prestidge** from **Iola**.

Each new member brings unique perspectives and experiences that strengthen our League and enhance our work at the local and regional level. Whether through voter education, advocacy, or community outreach, our members are the heart of everything we do.

We look forward to getting to know each of you and hope you will find many opportunities to connect, learn, and make a meaningful impact with the LWV Appleton-Fox Cities. Welcome—we're glad you're here!



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Kathie Kinnaman
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Director
dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

BRANCH OUT TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW

The DEI Committee is working to branch out and at our last meeting, there were many ideas and a lot of enthusiasm. Here are some opportunities we are considering. If any interest you, whether you are familiar with these organizations or are willing to explore something new, we welcome you to come with us.

- We are compiling a list of businesses and restaurants in the Fox Valley that are owned by immigrants and/or minorities. The lists are for the use of committee members who want to patronize such places.
• We are exploring serving a League-sponsored meal at Pillars.
• There was also some interest in attending the meetings of other organizations in the Fox Valley, just to be visible and find out if there are ways we can support them.
• Committee members are invited to spend one morning bagging clothing at the check-out counters of the Community Clothes Closet.

JOIN OUR DEI BOOKSHARES

March 18
Wednesday

2:30-4:00 p.m.

Seth's Coffee,
106 E. Main St.
Little Chute



Please listen to at least some of the Apple podcast: Confronting Christian Nationalism, by Vote Common Good.

—or—

Christians Against Christian Nationalism. They have a podcast of several episodes.

There is also a Feb. 10, 2026 episode of the NPR podcast Extremely American that focuses on the same.

Whether or not you read the suggested books or listen to the podcasts, you are welcome to listen and discuss with the group. Shared ideas and comments are welcome.

April - We decided to learn more about the John Birch Society, so we will be reading: Birchers: How the John Birch Society Radicalized the American Right, by Matthew Dallek.



Stand with Us - Sat. Mar. 28 3-5 p.m.
Houdini Plaza - 100 Lawrence St.,
Appleton, WI (click for more)

JOIN OUR NEXT DEI MEETING

Tuesday, March 31
Wilder's Bistro, 1804 S.
Lawe Street, Appleton.

The meeting will start at
1:30 p.m., but arrive early
if you want to order lunch.



BE SURE TO HAVE THESE EXCELLENT PROGRAMS ON YOUR CALENDAR

Jan Smith
Program Director
program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



MORE TOPICS ON PROGRAM HORIZON

As we close our program year for 2025-2026, your League will have two more formal programs on the schedule and a social event during the summer. These are already planned and include an observance of **Earth Day on April 20**, with discussion surrounding Pollinators and Water by some of Wisconsin's experts, as well as the **Annual Meeting on May 21**.

Additionally, it is during this time of year that we assess our offerings, the directions given from current trends and the January Lively Issues meeting to shape plans for 2026-2027 which includes defining a new study by a League subcommittee. Some standard events remain, such as the Holiday Brunch and the February Legislative Town Hall, as well as Lively Issues in January. However, beyond those, the program schedule is open for assessment to highlight areas you brought forward as being important to you. Technology, Data Centers and AI are critical areas of concern that surfaced during Lively Issues, as well as public education funding, autonomous vehicles, e-bikes, affordable housing, healthcare access and the institutional effects of dismantling it.

However, in planning we try to keep in mind flexibility to respond to trends. Since programs offer a vital means to see your League comrades, I would personally like to encourage your engagement. This certainly could mean attending the upcoming programs, but it could also mean becoming a team member to assist in planning the programming.

If you are interested in or have knowledge in any of the topics that surfaced during Lively Issues listed above, please contact me to consider joining the program team to assist in bringing these to programs to life. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you. Email Jan Smith program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org.

MARCH 16

Could you survive life after incarceration?

ORGANIZED BY JOSHUA, ESTHER, RUTH, FREE, & LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES

LIFE AFTER INCARCERATION:

A REENTRY SIMULATION

Could You Survive Life After Incarceration?

Step into the shoes of someone returning to society after incarceration in this powerful, eye-opening simulation. Over the course of four simulated weeks, you'll face the real-life challenges of securing housing, finding employment, accessing social services, and avoiding violations all while trying to rebuild your life. This immersive experience offers a rare glimpse into the systemic barriers formerly incarcerated individuals encounter daily. It's emotional, humbling, and sure to change the way you think about reentry and second chances.

MARCH 16

REGISTRATION 5:45-6:00

SIMULATION 6:00-7:30

PANEL 7:30-8:00

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
724 E SOUTH RIVER ST
APPLETON, WI 54915

LEARN MORE ON THE REGISTRATION PAGE PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



MARCH 29



Details Here

ESTHER-FOXVALLEY.ORG/PALMSUNDAY

Palm Sunday Path

Sunday, March 29th | 1PM-3PM | Houdini Plaza, Appleton

A movement of faith communities across the country
We will gather at the peaceful, nonviolent Palm Sunday
Public Witness to show our shared belief that all
deserve compassion, justice, and dignity.
We don't have to agree on everything to stand together
in support of our neighbors.

JOIN US

Click the graphic to register

APRIL 20

Pollinators & Water Quality



In celebration of **Earth Day**, LWVFC will meet on **April 20** from **6:30-8:00 p.m.** at the **Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes Region offices** to examine some of the important issues currently making environmental headlines in the state. **Pollinators and Water Quality** is a broad topic, and there are two fantastic speakers to make sense out of this.

Sean Strom is an Environmental Toxicologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, specializing in fish and wildlife, and UW-O Environmental Sciences Professor Shannon Faust Dick is the President of Wild Ones.