

## Leadership Message - A COUNTERPOINT OF MESSAGES

by Jan Quinlan, President

There are many avenues for advocacy. On Saturday, March 28, our League participated in the No Kings 3 rally in Appleton, one of 3,100 protests that day including 100 in the state of Wisconsin. We circulated throughout the 3,500+ crowd with information about voting and contacting our elected representatives.

The very next day we returned to Houdini Plaza. Palm Sunday Path on March 29 was a rally organized by 11 local faith communities. They gathered to encourage us to "love our neighbors, heal the sick, and feed the hungry." League's Action VP Nancy Jones issued the excellent Call to Action, adapted below for our League members.

Forward,



### Deepening Electoral Power Palm Sunday Path Sunday, March 29, 2026

Nancy Jones  
Action Vice President  
[action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

#### VOICING A PEACEFUL CALL TO ACTION



Nancy Jones

What a beautiful example of democracy with you all exercising your First Amendment rights!

- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom to Assemble
- Freedom to petition the government for redress of grievances

And we are grieving many decisions that are resulting in:

- more hunger, more fear and uncertainty
- less healthcare coverage, less compassion
- threats to civil rights, and eroding of protections for our good Earth.

We want to let elected leaders know we are assembling today to speak FOR:

- Care and compassion
- Justice and peace
- Health, well-being, and safety for ALL.

How can we continue to speak up with faith-informed values beyond today's assembly?

We have many faith traditions represented today. All of them call for love, compassion, mercy, hospitality, and good stewardship--manifested in our community through food drives and pantries, sponsoring refugee families, efforts to increase access to affordable housing, and more.

Each faith tradition represented also has advocacy positions and leaders eager to alert their members of action opportunities aligned with their specific tradition. At a time when changes are occurring very rapidly in our society, and in a media landscape rife with mis- and disinformation, I am grateful to have a trusted source of information and advice for action rooted in love of neighbor.

Each of these organizations is tracking new developments, vetting information and creating a curated list of actions for members.

“ Each of them needs you to communicate with elected leaders to let them know we want the priority to be the well-being of people and the planet.”

Friends,

- Find your trusted sources for information in your own faith tradition or in the community
- Respond regularly to action alerts

By doing this we will join our voices together to deliver a steady and persistent message that we want people fed, housed, and healthy. That we want immigrants and refugees treated with respect and compassion, and true reform of our immigration system.

The Palm Sunday Path will continue with county-level action to help our local elected officials be aware and prepare for huge impacts coming for nutrition and health programs that counties administer. These changes are due to the passage of the federal HR 1 (the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill), shifting costs for SNAP nutrition assistance and making it harder for neighbors in need to access food and healthcare.

Be part of this effort by sharing stories of local impact with the Palm Sunday Path leaders in your congregation, with ESTHER, or with League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities.



**Palm Sunday Path  
(cont.)**

“ Our goal is to illustrate the impacts for our county leaders and enlist them in urging our members of Congress to reverse the changes that will harm people in our communities. ”

**KEEP EXERCISING YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS!**

- First, be sure you know your rights. As we are approaching this summer’s 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it is a perfect time to appreciate that we have been living in a free society, even while knowing that there is an erosion of respect for individual rights, including the right to vote, and the Rule of Law.
- Be sure to exercise your rights by voting in the spring election and in the fall mid-term election. If we want a reset or a new direction, we each need to be the person who shows up at the polls to vote according to our values. We have power to shape systems designed for the well-being of people and the planet. Participating in our shared civic life is necessary and the most impactful way to care for many neighbors.

**Our rights are gifts we currently have -- and our rights have power, if they are used. You are called to exercise your rights to help make things right. Thank you for doing that. Let’s all commit to continue to show up and speak up!**

**URGENT CALL TO ACTION: FAIR MAPS TO END GERRYMANDERING**

Governor Evers has called for a Special Session of the Legislature on **Tuesday April 14**. This session is called to consider a **Constitutional Amendment that would ban gerrymandering in Wisconsin**. The language of the Joint Resolution is very clear and concise. It states that:

*“The legislature shall apportion and district anew the members of the senate and assembly according to the number of inhabitants. Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage or disadvantage to any political party. Partisan gerrymandering is prohibited.”*

This is the exact language of our current Wisconsin Constitution with the underlined wording being the amended wording for our Constitution. These words would prohibit gerrymandering.

**Your help is needed between now and April 14!** It is essential that **YOU contact your legislators** and ask them to support the governor’s call for a special session. **Call and email your Senator and your Assembly-person.**

Find your legislators and their contact information at:  
<https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

It is important to call and email every legislator even if you know they already support a ban on gerrymandering, because your request is asking them to support the Special Session for a Constitutional amendment on April 14.

**Thank you for supporting Fair Maps and a ban on gerrymandering in Wisconsin. YOU are making a difference.**

**ACTION ALERT FAIR MAPS**  
now through April 14

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**Your help is needed** between now and April 14th! It is essential that YOU contact your legislators and ask them to support the call for a special session. A call and an email would be the best way to contact your Senator and your Assembly-person.

**Support the call for the special session. Email & phone your legislators.**

Find your legislators:  
<https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES

See our facebook post for ease of copy. Please like and share to spread the word!





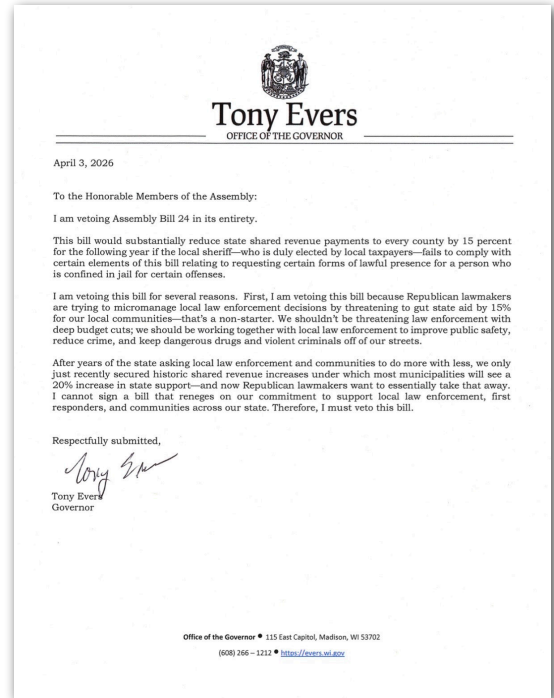
## Governor Vetos AB24/SB57 Unite & Rise Updates

### GOOD NEWS! GOVERNOR VETOES ICE BILL

On April 3, Gov. Evers vetoed AB24/SB57 which would have required county sheriffs to cooperate with ICE. The League and many other organizations had registered opposition to these bills.

Check out the news releases on the governor’s website to see the many bills from the 2025-2026 legislative session which have been signed into law or vetoed.

“ *Click here to read Governor Evers' own words on why he vetoed or passed bills made in the legislature.* ”



### THINK LOCAL

Please respond to the Appleton Sustainability Survey:  
<https://www.appletonsustainabilityplan.org/survey>

### CIVIC EDUCATION & GAMING

Civic Education & Gaming Workgroup is focused on many voter registration opportunities and civics trivia nights in various venues.

### ARTS & VISIBILITY

Arts & Visibility Workgroup is making great progress on plans for the Memorial Day and Flag Day parades and activities. Some of us have been working with the history museum on a large Constitution banner to display on Saturdays during the Farmers' Market.

Please plan to march with the League and volunteer on some Saturdays.

### COALITION BUILDING

Coalition Building Workgroup hosted the fourth meeting with partnering organizations on March 25, continuing to build trust & communication.

### MEDIA & STORYTELLING

Media & Story-Gathering Workgroup has developed templates to support story submissions about the local impacts of federal policy shifts.



### Our Membership Grows

Linda Bjella  
Membership Director  
[membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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We welcomed three new members this past month: **Michelle Line-Chapman** from **Bear Creek** and **Elizabeth Gordon** and **Laura Luedeke** from Appleton. We hope they will find meaningful ways to engage in our League's important work to strengthen our democracy.

Each new member adds to the strength and impact our League makes on our community and beyond. We look forward to connecting with all of you. We know you will find the League provides great resources, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and warm and welcoming friendships.



### Voter Registration Assistance Continues Strong Results.

By Jacqui Klimaszewski  
Voter Services Vice President  
[voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)

### VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE 200 HOURS AT DMV

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We had another successful stint at the Department of Motor Vehicles in Appleton. The MyVote kiosk has been moved closer to the counters and this worked well.

We ran voter registration assistance from February 25 through March 18 with the exception of the snow day on March 16. Of the remaining 48 time periods, 45 were filled with at least 1 volunteer, which is a 94% fill rate!

During these sessions 95 people were helped to register, and 529 received voting information. Also, six people were interested in and received membership information.

**Thank You! for Voter Registration Assistance Success**

**VOTERS**

**95 voters registered**  
**529 received voter info**  
**Six possible new members**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**94% fill rate**  
**37 volunteers**  
**199.5 volunteer hours**



**EXCITING NEWS!**  
**In July, Jann Dreier will be DMV project coordinator**

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Jann is relatively new to our League but has been very active in Voter Registration Assistance and making contact with VoteRiders.

This was only possible with the help of 37 different volunteers —199.5 volunteer hours! Thank you to all who contributed their time! This would be impossible without all of you.

**Please mark your calendars for the next DMV event – July 6 through 22 for the August 11 Partisan Primary. Watch for a Sign-Up Genius email from Jann.**



## "Sign Up" for Action at Appleton Public Library

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

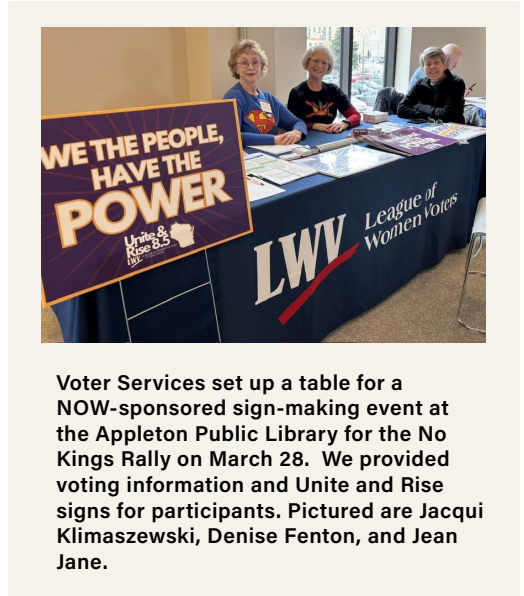


### JOIN US! SIGN-MAKING & CIVICS GAMES AT APL

**Every third Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon**, the LWV Appleton Fox Cities has a table in the lobby of the Appleton Public Library. This has been a successful way to interact with voters since it started last November.

We provide voter registration information and assistance, as well as election information and nonpartisan candidate information (VOTE411). We also play the Civics Game with young and old. Contestants spin the wheel and attempt to answer a civics question – winners get a small candy. Since this is a teaching game (not a gotcha) we provide clues until we get to the correct answer.

Thank you to all who have been assisting and will assist with this important – and fun! – project.



Voter Services set up a table for a NOW-sponsored sign-making event at the Appleton Public Library for the No Kings Rally on March 28. We provided voting information and Unite and Rise signs for participants. Pictured are Jacqui Klimaszewski, Denise Fenton, and Jean Jane.

### Give Us a Hand!

We need three volunteers for each date  
May 16, June 20, July 18 & August 15.



Type of help needed: one greeter and two to work at the table. We have volunteers through April.

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - 119 NEW REGISTRANTS!

The LWV Appleton-Fox Cities assisted in registering students who have turned 18 at **Appleton Central, North and West high schools** – **14 students** in all. We were also able to provide registration information for those who turn 18 between March 18 and election day.

At **North** we had the assistance of a student, **Violet Fields**, to get the students out to register. We are very appreciative of the assistance of **Nancy Vanderloop** at **North**, **Amy Pritzel** at **West**, and **Dan Shimek** at **Central**.



A different model was used very productively in two other schools. At **Hortonville High School**, **Pat Lund-More** worked with **Monica Jones** (the Senior Civics class teacher). Ms. Jones trained the students on how to help students register. This resulted in **19 new voters!**

At **East**, the League trained students in **Brian Kurth's** AP Government class and they registered **86 students!!** You will be hearing more about this productive system of getting out the youth vote as we try to replicate it in other schools.



Next Generation Weighs In



STUDENT JOURNALISM AT WORK - SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM IN THE NEWS

### Appleton-Fox Cities League of Women Voters

Hosts School Board Candidate Forum by Indigo George, *Talisman* Senior Editor

I had the opportunity March 5 to ask a question of the candidates for the Tuesday, April 7 AASD school Board election at a forum held by the Appleton chapter of the League of Women Voters at the Appleton Public Library. Representatives from other AASD student newspapers were also there to ask questions, and many questions from the general public were addressed, too. Here is my question: "If the upcoming \$15 million operational referendum is not approved by voters, what AASD programs and services do you suggest eliminating first? What would you protect?"

**Nick Ross (incumbent)**  
[CLICK HERE for full response](#)

**Kristine Sauter (incumbent)**  
[CLICK HERE for full response](#)

**Jason Kolpack (incumbent)**  
[CLICK HERE for full response](#)

**Michael Janke (challenger)**  
[CLICK HERE for full response](#)

The League of Women Voters is a local chapter of a national organization that advocates for issues involving voting, voter registration, democracy and education in the Fox Cities area. Their website calls for congressional action to protect the nation's system of checks and balances and our democracy, demanding they "restore stability and safety to our nation." The LWV is a non-partisan organization. Jennifer Zastrow, an Appleton resident who attended the forum, realized she is interested in joining the LWV and helping the community. "I have been given the opportunity to help empower a democracy by and for our people and that is through the LWV," she said. The entire forum is available to watch on the LWV's website, [lwvappletonfoxcities.org](http://lwvappletonfoxcities.org).

Candidate photos courtesy of the Appleton-Fox Cities LWV

PLEASE VOTE ON APRIL 7  
[LINK](#) to find your polling place

## Student News Feature

The graphic from The Talisman represents the work of **Indigo George** from **West High School** reporting on the forum.

STUDENTS POSE QUESTIONS FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

For the Appleton Area School District School Board Candidate Forum, each Appleton high school was asked to submit a question to the candidates.

The students who asked the questions at the forum (ordered from left to right as photographed) were:

- 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, and
- Rex Knoke**, Appleton Central High School.





## "Dishing" on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Kathie Kinnaman  
 Diversity, Equity, and  
 Inclusion Director  
[dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)



### EDUCATING ON DEI REFERENDUM

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The DEI Committee held their April meeting at Wilder's Bistro. We again discussed our list of restaurants owned by under-represented people, which continues to grow. The committee decided to focus on the constitutional amendment (Fall 2026) to eliminate DEI efforts in local and state governments. Our first step will be to learn whatever we can about these efforts and then to educate the public. This will include a League program on this referendum in October.

The DEI Book Share will convene twice in April. We have a guided tour of **Tiny House Village** scheduled for **April 16** as a follow-up to our discussion of *There is No Place for Us Here: Working and Homeless in America*, by Brian Goldstone. We hope to find a place to talk after the tour, to process what we've learned.

Next, we will meet on **Wednesday, April 22 at 6 p.m.** at **Xe54 Wine Bar** on American Drive in Neenah. We will be discussing *Birchers: How the John Birch Society Radicalized the American Right* by Matthew Dallek. Lots of Wisconsin connections in this book! Please join us for a lively discussion, even if you haven't read the book.

### DEI FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS

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Last month, the DEI Committee recommended the following restaurants as DEI friendly:

**Sai Ram** - 253 W. Northland Ave. Appleton

**Long Cheng Marketplace** - 1804 S. Lawe St. Appleton

**Cozy Corner** - 111 N. Walnut St. Appleton

These Fox Valley restaurants are also DEI-Friendly:

**Nanglo Momos & Curry** (Himalayan cuisine) - 1619 W. College, Appleton

**Chicago's House of Hoagies** - 1089 Racine Road, Menasha

### ON OUR DEI BOOKSHELF

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- The Story of Act 31: How Native History Came to Wisconsin*, by J. P. Leary
- The Summer of Our Discontent*, by Thomas Chatterton Williams
- Great Black Hope*, by Rob Franklin
- The Containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North* by Michelle Adams
- We Have Never Been Woke: The Cultural Contradictions of a New Elite*, by Musa al-Gharbi
- Disability Visibility: First Person Stories from the 21st Century*, by Alice Wong
- Poverty in America*, by Matthew Desmond
- Demystifying Disability: What to Know, What to Say, and How to Be an Ally*, by Emily Ladau
- White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America*, by Kyato Y. Joshi
- Redeeming Justice: From Defendant to Defender, My Fight for Equity on Both Sides of a Broken System*, by Jarrett Adams
- Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America, and the Making of a Crisis*, by Jonathan Blitzer
- Gender Queer*, by Maia Kobabe
- Autocracy Inc.: The Dictators Who Want to Rule the World*, by Anne Applebaum
- Erasure*, by Percival Everett
- The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander
- Birchers: How the John Birch Society Radicalized the American Right*, by Matthew Dallek
- Fever in the Heartland: The KuKlux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them*, by Timothy Egan
- Spell Freedom: The Underground Schools That Built the Civil Rights Movement*, by Elaine Weiss

We have also listened to podcasts on Christian Nationalism and Japanese Internment.



## Program Topics Reflect Lively Issues

Jan Smith  
Program Director  
[program@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:program@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)



### HELP SHAPE TIMELY PROGRAMS

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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 include 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.

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@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:program@lwwappletonfoxcities.org).

### EARTH DAY HOT TOPICS: POLLINATORS & PFAS IN WI

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In celebration of **Earth Day**, LWVAFC 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.

**DNR Toxicologist Sean Strom** will discuss monitoring PFAS contaminants in both fish and wildlife across Wisconsin. **Dr. Shannon Davis Foust, Ph.D.**, will address insects, pesticides, and fighting for the future.

Watch for details and registration under Upcoming Events on the League website, [lwwappletonfoxcities.org](http://lwwappletonfoxcities.org)



### A MATTER OF FACT

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Know how program and funding cuts or harsh actions by the federal government will have negative impacts on local residents and services? Send a brief description, with verifiable facts and sources, for consideration in a new feature we're calling "A Matter of Fact" in upcoming Informed Voter newsletters. Email details to [info@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:info@lwwappletonfoxcities.org). Include your name and contact information.