

People Power Summer TOGETHER WE CAN by Jan Quinlan, President

“ This moment is demanding something new from each of us. Crisis is a moment of danger but also a moment of decision. No organization can do it alone – but together we can. ”

— Bianca Shaw, May 30, 2026,
Executive Director, Common Cause WI

Inspired by Bianca Shaw's words from our state convention last week, I encourage each of us to find something new to do this summer. Protests — though they are important — are not enough to meet this moment. Together we can.

Choose from these actions. Some are one and done. Others will provide a more long-lasting commitment.

Flag Day Parade

Join our contingent in Appleton's Flag Day parade on Saturday, June 13. We will march with our friends from AAUW. The Memorial Day parade was great fun — so don't miss your chance to celebrate our democracy on its 250th anniversary.

[Click here](#) for more details and to sign up today.

More Voters

Commit to our Relational Voting Project. Identify 5-10 friends or family or young voters who usually don't vote except in Presidential Elections.

We promise to provide you with talking points for ensuring they are registered to vote and have a plan for voting this year.

[Click here to create your list.](#)

Constitution Square

Spend an hour or so on a summer Saturday morning at Constitution Square. We will be on the front lawn of the History Museum at the Castle with lots of activities for Farmers Market guests to enjoy.

[Click here](#) to sign up for one or more Constitution Square slots.

DEI Reads

Commit to read [Rethinking Race, A Memoir by Kimberly Barrett, PhD](#), of Appleton; then join us and Kimberly at our DEI Book Share on Wednesday June 17 at 6:00 p.m.

We meet at Vault 220, 220 College Avenue, Appleton, lower level. We will discuss her memoir, a different way to think about race in America. No registration is needed for this event — just mark your calendar.

Technology

Our local study on technology is now forming. From data centers to artificial intelligence to self-driving vehicles, the options are endless.

Joining our committee this summer gives you the chance to determine the scope of study and to get to know other interested League members in the months ahead. Please contact me if you're interested.

I can answer any questions and add you to the list. president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

And wait, there's more! Read on in this newsletter for other opportunities to engage with us this summer and beyond.

Make a personal decision to do something with the League this summer. You and our community will be richer for it.

Forward,



EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

3 MONTH PLANNER

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Flag Day Parade 12:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PrideFest 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
14	15	16	17 DEI Book Share 6:00 p.m. The Vault 220 lower floor, Appleton	18	19	20 Voter Registration Appleton Public Library 9:00 a.m. to noon.
21	22 HHS Divisions Budget Report. Need Observers, email Nancy Jones	23 Faith 250 (in person treats) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Prince of Peace Church, Appleton. Faith 250 (virtual)	24	25	26	27 Constitution Square (CS) - Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon History Museum lawn 9:00 a.m.-noon
28	29 DEI Committee to make & serve at Pillars, Appleton	30 Faith 250 (in person - treats) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Faith 250 (virtual)	1	2	3	4 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon

JOIN FAITH 250:
A MULTIFAITH JOURNEY
THROUGH AMERICA'S
FOUNDING TEXTS

Gather. Learn. Reflect.

Tuesdays June 23 & June 30, 8:30-9:30 PM CT

Join virtually
Register via Zoom

Join in-person
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
12812 Grandview St
Appleton, WI

Mark your calendars for the evenings of June 23 and June 30 for conversations and summertime treats, and July 7 for a celebratory dinner. ESTHER is a co-sponsor, and the events are slated to be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2330 E. Calumet St. with a virtual option.

THE INFORMED VOTER



JULY 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 Constitution Square (CS) - Appleton Farmers' Market History Museum lawn 9:00 a.m.-noon
5	6	7 Faith 250 (dinner) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Faith 250 (virtual) DMV Voter Registration	8 DMV Voter Registration	9 DMV Voter Registration	10 DMV Voter Registration	11 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon DMV Voter Registration
12	13 HHS Divisions Budget Report. Need Observers email Nancy Jones DMV Voter Registration	14 DMV Voter Registration	15 DMV Voter Registration	16 DMV Voter Registration	17 DMV Voter Registration	18 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon DMV Voter Registration
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26	27	28	29	30	31	1 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon

Come Visit us at "Constitution Square" on the History Museum lawn from 9:00 a.m. to noon during Appleton Farm Market Saturdays this summer!

Visitors can sign the 9' x 16' banner of the Preamble to personalize agreement with the Constitution. Additional activities include games, crafts, and music as available. Join in for one Saturday or more.

Bring a friend or young person along to help. Additional information and sign-up link on calendar.

...of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

AUG 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
2	3	4 DEI Program	5	6	7	8 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon LWV-US National Day of Action (dtbb)
9	10 HHS Divisions Budget Report. Need Observers email Nancy Jones	11	12	13	14	15 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 CS -Appleton Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m.-noon
30	31 HHS Divisions Budget Report. Need Observers email Nancy Jones	1	2	3	4	5

Join us to Help Register Voters!
Opportunities at the DMV and Appleton Public Library

Bring a friend or young person along to help. Additional information and sign-up links on calendar.

"Don't vote participation is a silent threat to our democracy. It takes opponents, groups, people, the press, the judicial, state and local legislatures, executives and you and me."

- Nancy Thurman, LWV



Celebrate America's 250th All Summer Long
April Savage
Vice President, Voter Services
voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

“ Lower voter participation is a silent threat to our democracy ... it under-represents young people, the poor, the disabled, those with little education, minorities and you and me. ”
– Nancy Neuman, Writer

ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY

It's time to celebrate America's 250th all summer long. What better way is there than engaging our community in civics?! If you want to help spread the word on MyVote.Wi.Gov and Vote411.org, there are many opportunities this summer to get involved with the League. Voter Services gives you the chance to get your finger on the pulse of our community and hear first hand what your neighbors think about voting. If you haven't registered before, don't be shy! We provide training and materials, and you will work with experienced members from the Voter Services team. Click on the links below to sign up for a time slot!

- Flag Day Parade June 13 [click here](#)**
- PrideFest June 13 [click here](#)**
- Appleton Library June 20, July 18, August 15 [click here](#)**
- Constitution Square, Saturdays June 27 - August 29 [click here](#)**
- DMV Voter Registration July 6-22 [click here](#)**



The 250th Anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence
Nancy Jones
Action Vice President
action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

WIVEC - FAITH 250

LWVUS is encouraging the following themes:

- Commemorate with Honesty** - grounding our work in the founding aspirations
- Recognize the Expanders** - those in every generation who fought to make the Declaration's promises real
- Building an Inclusive Democracy Together**

In our area, WI Voting Rights Coalition partner, **Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign (WIVEC)**, is hosting **Appleton Faith 250 events** to discuss four "American sacred texts," in an interfaith/community-wide setting. The national **Faith 250** project offers an opportunity for clarifying our shared civic values, and celebrating our hopes for America. The selected texts are **The Declaration of Independence**, **Emma Lazarus's The New Colossus**, **America the Beautiful**, and **Frederick Douglass's address, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?** Mark your calendars for the evenings of **June 23** and **June 30** for conversations and summertime treats and **July 7** for a celebratory dinner. **ESTHER** is a co-sponsor and the events are slated to be held at **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 2330 E. Calumet St. with a virtual option.



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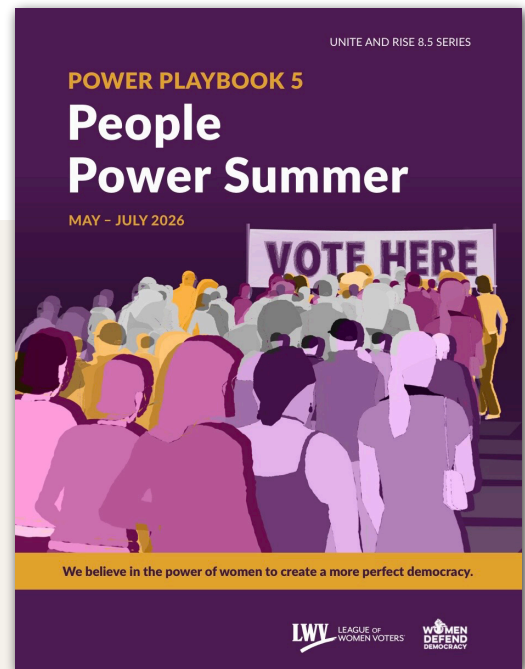

 UNITE &
RISE

People Power Summer

Unite & Rise Power Playbook 5

May-July Relational Voter Program (RVP)

The current Unite & Rise 8.5 micro-campaign is **“People Power Summer,”** (which) continues our work around election preparation while highlighting the many ways individuals and communities can vote for an inclusive democracy. Activities will also connect to the **250th Anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence** and prepare Leagues for a nationwide **Day of Action** on **August 8**, marking the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and connecting its legacy to “the battles we are fighting today.”



LWVUS is characterizing this summer as a time to accelerate, continue, deepen, and expand the core work that drives voter participation: registration, education, engagement, turnout, and to strengthen our reach and impact in our community. “Each interaction with a voter — whether through a registration drive, a candidate forum, or a community conversation — is an opportunity not only to support participation in the primary but also to invite deeper involvement in the work ahead.”

Research indicates that adding friend-to-friend contact to traditional Get Out the Vote (GOTV) is a promising way to turn out more voters and increase civic engagement. **LWV-AFC is asking every member to identify 5-10 individuals in your own circles and networks that may be low propensity/high opportunity voters.** Over the coming months, you will be asked to reach out to them with election preparation and reminders. Contact method is flexible—text, email, phone call, or a casual face-to-face conversation. **Your participation in our League’s Relational Voter Program will play an important part in a mass mobilization for the November general election.**

Sign up for **RVP** by clicking [here](#).

RESOURCES:

- 1 [The True Effect of Relational Organizing](#)
- 2 [Building Our Future: Relational Organizing For Student Voter Turnout](#)

AUGUST 8 - LWVUS NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION



On **August 8, 2026**, Leagues across the country are asked to make plans for local activities that together will be a **National Day of Action** in honor of the anniversary of the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**. **LWVUS** asks that every activation reach real people in the community and generate trackable engagement data that contributes to the **Unite and Rise 8.5 campaign** goal of engaging **8.5 million people** before November. Our local Unite & Rise Team is currently in the process of deciding how to mark this anniversary



Action & Opportunities
On Impacts from Federal HR1



LOCAL IMPACTS OF FEDERAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

As **LWV-AFC** kicked off its Unite & Rise 8.5 campaign, our members made clear they were concerned about the local impacts of the myriad changes at the federal level. Our League, in collaboration with the **Palm Sunday Path** campaign led by faith communities, has been in conversation with county elected officials about the burdens placed on state and local governments due to the passage of **HR1 in July 2025**. HR1 included changes ([click here](#) for link to **GROWW timeline**) in nutrition and health safety net programs that will make it more difficult for eligible residents to receive benefits and for counties to administer programs like **SNAP** and **Medicaid**. [Click here](#) for link to details by **Bread for the World**.

Under Wisconsin law, each county is directed to hold a hearing to gather information from residents about health and human services needs ahead of preparing the budget for the following year. On June 8, our League shared a prepared statement ([click here](#)) at the **Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services** Budget Hearing.

Our statement expressed our concerns about the financial and administrative implications of HR1 for the county, and the hurdles that eligible residents will need to overcome to receive needed benefits.

Our "ask" of county officials was that they directly and frankly communicate to our members of Congress to ask they work to delay implementation of the safety net changes to give time for local governments to prepare for added costs and administrative tasks, or repeal the harmful changes made in HR1.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? OBSERVERS ARE NEEDED!

On **Monday, June 22nd** the HHS Divisions will start their needs budget report and continue in July on **Mondays, July 13 and 27**. Members of the public are able to observe these meetings, and individuals may comment on agenda items during the public input time. Budget development will continue in **August** on the **second and fourth Mondays** until all of the needs budgets have been addressed. In **September**, the Health and Human Services Board will review changes/cuts to the "needs" budget to bring it in line with the budget targets as set by the County Executive.

If you are willing to be an observer at any of the HHS meetings this summer, please contact **Nancy Jones** at action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

The screenshot shows the CONGRESS.GOV website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Examples: hr5, sres9, 'health care'". Below the search bar, there are navigation options like "Citation", "Subscribe", "Share/Save", and "Site Feedback". The main heading is "H.R. 1 - An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14." followed by "119th Congress (2025-2026) | Get alerts". A "LAW" tab is active, and a "Hide Overview" button is visible. The details section includes:

- Sponsor:** Rep. Arrington, Jodey C. [R-TX-19] (Introduced 05/20/2025)
- Committees:** House - Budget
- Committee Meetings:** 07/01/25 1:30PM 05/21/25 1:00AM
- Committee Reports:** H. Rept. 119-106, Book 1; H. Rept. 119-106, Book 2
- Latest Action:** 07/04/2025 Became Public Law No: 119-21. (All Actions)
- Roll Call Votes:** There have been 47 roll call votes
- Tracker:** A progress bar showing the bill's status: Introduced, Passed House, Passed Senate, Resolving Differences, To President, and Became Law.

UNITE &
RISE

Arts & Visibility

Kim Schiedermayer
Arts & Visibility Team

FLAG DAY - JUNE 13



League members, friends and family still have lots of opportunities 'to do' something this summer as we sprint to the midterms. **The Arts & Visibility committee** is asking for volunteers to fill the last openings for **The Flag Day Parade** on **Saturday, June 13** for a 1 mile walk down College Ave.

We'll gather at **12:30 p.m.** near the corner of **7th St. and State St.** Suffragists and walkers from the **AAUW** will join our unit. **We need a few more people to carry 'Rights & Freedoms' signs, and the new 'Preamble' banner.**

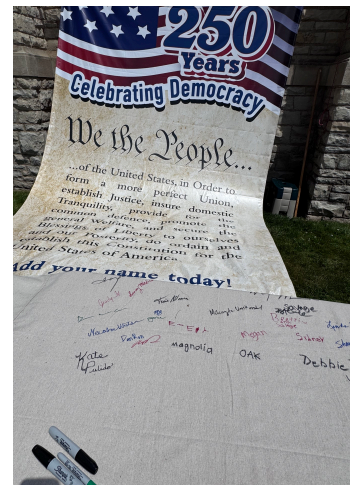
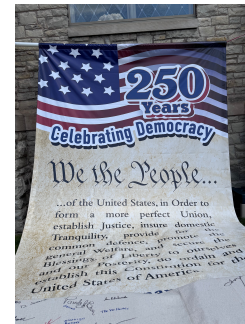
Additional details and [sign-up page here.](#)

CONSTITUTION SQUARE

The League is hosting "**Constitution Square**" on the **History Museum lawn** from **9:00 a.m. to noon** during **Appleton Farm Market Saturdays** this summer. We've been given a platform to present the Rights & Freedoms in the Constitution, along with our Voter Registration table, every week. The summer-long program joins the League's Unite & Rise 8.5 goals to raise awareness of what's at stake as the Constitution is bypassed by government leaders and officials.

Visitors can sign the **9' x 16' banner of the Preamble to personalize agreement with the Constitution.** Additional activities include games, crafts, and music as available. Join in for one Saturday or more.

Bring a friend or young person along to help. Additional information and [sign-up here.](#)





Focus on Nov. 26 Election

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

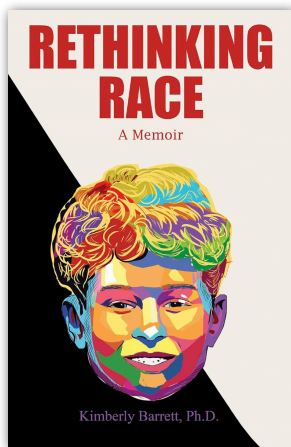
THREE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The DEI Committee is making and serving dinner for Pillars on Monday, June 29.

Other than that, our focus is on spreading the word about the proposed three (November ballot) constitutional amendments eliminating all references to DEI, but also on all DEI-related programs. The League of Women Voters recommends voting NO on the three proposed amendments, and we're planning to explain why to the voters of our area. We're planning buttons, social media posts, Letters to the Editor, and of course the October 5 program.

Our next meeting is August 4, but we'll be working all summer!

BOOK SHARE NEWS



The DEI Book Share is reading Rethinking Race by Kimberly Barrett for our June 17th meeting, and the author will be joining us!

We're also trying a new meeting place, so join us June 17 at The Vault, 202 W. College Avenue, Appleton, at 6:00 p.m.



JUNETEENTH (L-R) April Savage, Karen Nelson, Jacqui Klimaszewski

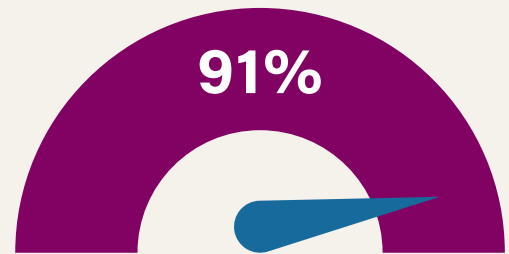


CONSTITUTION SQUARE (L-R) Anya Leschke Jasmine Wickesberg



Still Open & So Close!

Our Goal is within Sight!



We are almost there! \$11,380 received toward our goal of \$12,500!

LET'S FINISH STRONG!

Haven't yet gotten around to supporting our local League with a gift? Good news. The 2026 Spring Drive is still open. Gifts we receive before July 1 will be counted to our totals.

Click the graphic or here to donate online.

100% of your gift benefits the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities. This helps us with voter service, advocacy, and community services throughout the year. We are all volunteers — so we thank you for whatever level of support you can give.



The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities stands alone as a trusted nonpartisan voice on a broad spectrum of issues, making it a clear influencer for today's - and tomorrow's - activists. The League depends on its members, and those who support it in principle, to carry on the hard yet necessary work to protect our democratic system of government. The momentum is growing. If you are looking for a way to do something meaningful, please make a donation to the League's 2026 Spring Fund Drive.

The League is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)3 of the tax code. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you for considering a donation that will support the League's nonpartisan work to defend democracy and empower voters.



YOU Are the Power

Linda Bjella
Membership Director
membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SUPPORT OUR DEMOCRACY?

We invite you to engage in some of the *hundreds* of opportunities The League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities offers. There are many ways to connect with a powerful network of knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers. You will find impactful and meaningful actions, both short-term and ongoing. **Click here** for a short, five-minute survey will help you get involved in whatever way fits your interests, talents, and time.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The **League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities** is pleased to welcome three new members to our organization. Joining the League from **Appleton** are **Mary Sue Voights** and **Rebecca Nichols**. **Judy Christensen** joined from **Waupaca**.

We are excited to have Mary Sue, Rebecca, and Judy join our growing League. We look forward to meeting them as we continue our work to empower voters and defend democracy throughout the Fox Cities and surrounding communities. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members!



Program Topics Reflect Lively Issues

Cindy Fallona
Programs Director
program@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

While our members are enjoying the summer months and celebrating our nation's 250th Anniversary, the Program Committee has been and will continue to plan for relevant monthly offerings beginning in the fall.

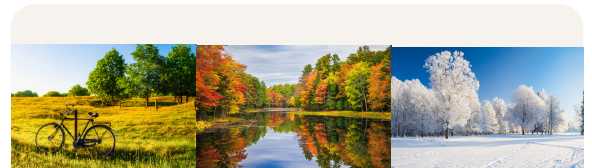
September will be an exciting new event. Watch for the **August Informed Voter newsletter** edition to get additional details!

October will be a timely review of the **three state constitutional amendments** that are on the November ballot.

November gives a great overview of the **state of public education in Wisconsin**.

December brings our annual **Holiday Brunch** with the timely topic of **AI**, and the **popular silent auction**.

What will 2027 bring? Stay tuned for the remainder of League topics that will inspire and motivate our membership.



“ *Planning is not about slowing down work. It is about giving effort a path to follow.* ”

When effort and clarity move together, output naturally improves.

— Thanzil Salam