

AUG.
2026

EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

THE INFORMED VOTER

LWV



Constitution Square A DOUBLE HEADER Jan Quinlan, President

Our Constitution Square is a giant success. Thanks to Kim Schiedermayer, Denise Fenton, Jean Janes, Cathy Nennig, Roseann Baum Milius, and a host of others, Constitution Square has hit the ball out of the park.



How?

Celebrating Our Rights

A visual reminder to our community of all the rights enumerated in the Constitution in clear plain language. An opportunity to endorse these rights boldly. With our signatures, whether young or older, large or small, hundreds of our community members have made a graphic commitment to *We the People*. Especially on Independence Day, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, citizens were drawn to Constitution Square to consider where we are as a nation.

Raising the League's Visibility

Alongside the "We the People" larger-than-life banner, Lady Liberty and "I'm With Her!" photos — your League welcomed families and individuals onto the lawn. Jan Smith's Art Flags, Kathy Voigt's *Pillar of Democracy* Jenga game, Spin-the-Wheel Civics questions, and more — make this a fun way to remind our community what our League does. Television stations, newspapers, and social media are amplifying our interactions with community members. Check out our Facebook page for some great personal interviews.

Providing a Platform for New Partnerships

Thanks to the History Museum at the Castle, new partnerships have been forged. Girl Scout troops have joined us with kids activities and games. Talented local musicians have performed, or will soon. On August 8, our local Voting Rights Day of Action commemorated the 61st anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. We featured historic speeches read by community leaders and League members. It was the perfect backdrop to remember that the road to a perfect Union had immense challenges for women, people of color, Native Americans, and others — and that our Voting Rights are under attack today.

Many of you have volunteered throughout the summer making this an engaging member experience too. The hard work of putting up and taking down the giant banner, tables and canopies, and transporting all our voting registration materials is well worth all the benefits we've enjoyed. Thank you.

If you haven't visited Constitution Square, you can do so every Saturday between 9 and 11:45 a.m. at the History Museum's front lawn, through the end of August. Then again during Appleton's Octoberfest on Saturday, September 26. We hope to see you there.



Forward,

Jan



LEAGUE
STUDYArtificial Intelligence
Study Committee Forming

Jan Quinlan, President
president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

CONSIDER JOINING OUR AI IN DEMOCRACY STUDY COMMITTEE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN.....

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it might affect our democracy?
- learning firsthand how League studies are done?
- getting to know other League members better?

Please consider joining our AI in Democracy study committee. Jean Janes and Jeanne Roberts have agreed to co-chair this important study starting in September.

What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of AI as it relates to our government systems? Questions facing us on the rapidly changing field of AI and the use of data are multifaceted: ethical, practical, environmental, influencing misinformation and disinformation, and more.

[Click here for a link to this proposed study.](#)

The precise scope of the study will be determined by the committee.

You do NOT need to be an expert on AI — just interested in learning more about its effects on democracy. Our first committee meeting will provide an overview of the League study process, so even new members are warmly invited to join.

If you would like to join the committee or learn more, please contact Jean Janes at janesjeank@gmail.com

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Rally at Houdini Plaza

Wednesday, August 26 @ 4:30 p.m.
Together with Appleton Area NOW



Join us if you can!

Our League has joined with the **Women's Action Coalition** since 2020 to co-sponsor **Women's Equality Day** in our community. This year, we will be at the **Appleton Farmer's Market** in **Houdini Plaza** on **Saturday, August 29 from 8 a.m. to noon**. We will take Polaroid photos of guests and ask them to write: Why My Vote Matters!

Appleton Area NOW is inviting us to rally for the **Equal Rights Amendment** on **Wednesday, August 26**, at 4:30 p.m., the actual observance of **Women's Equality Day**.

It is unbelievable that the ERA is still not an amendment to the US or WI Constitutions. Let's change that!



DMV Voter Registration Assistance

Jann Dreier
DMV Coordinator

AUGUST UPDATE - THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

The **League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities** again hosted a **Voter Registration Assistance** event at the **DMV** in July prior to the **August 11 Partisan Primary**.

Considering it was right in the middle of summer, I believe the stats will show we had a very successful event both with actual voter registration and with volunteers coming out to help. We could not have events like this without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Thank you for your commitment, participation and cooperation. I really appreciate and enjoy all the comments.

This event ran from **July 6, 2026 - July 22, 2026**. Most days had at least 1 volunteer for a shift. There were only 2 days without volunteers and both were Saturdays.



There is a big election in the fall, so it is really important to get to as many voters at the DMV as possible. The schedule will be from **September 23 through October 14**, which is the last day that voters can register online before the election.

The **Signup Genius** for this will be sent out on **September 7**. Please consider joining us. Information on assisting people to register will be on the sign-up app.

UNITE & RISE

Power Rising for Midterms

Unite & Rise Power Playbook 6
Nancy Jones
Vice President of Action
action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

Join us if you can!

The final theme of the Unite & Rise Campaign is Power Rising for Midterms. **LWVUS** urges League members to make this “the final and most powerful phase —where we bring together everything we’ve built to drive impact at scale.” The final micro-campaign “fuses building power and holding power accountable, mobilizing our nationwide network to deliver record-breaking voter participation, and safeguarding our elections... This is our moment to activate, protect, and deliver—ensuring voters are informed, engaged, and able to fully participate in our democracy.”

Messages for Relational Voter Program (RVP)

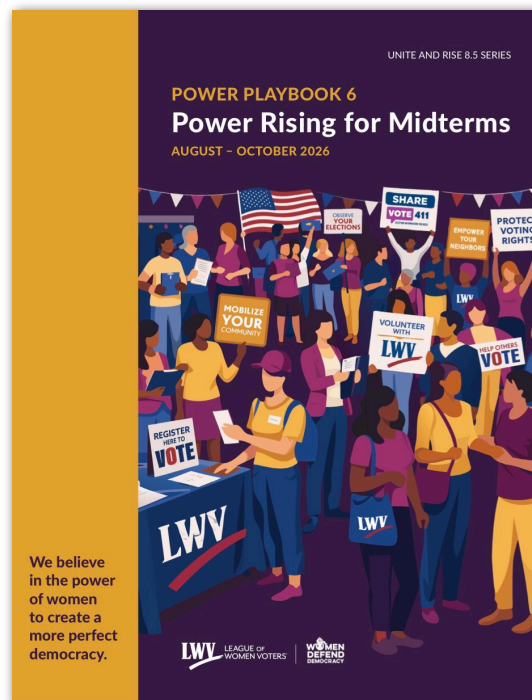
*Research indicates that adding friend-to-friend contact to traditional Get Out the Vote (GOTV) is a promising way to turn out more voters and increase civic engagement. In May, **LWVAFC** asked each member to identify 5-10 individuals in their own circles and networks that may be low propensity/high opportunity voters.

If you haven’t visited **Constitution Square**, you can do so every **Saturday** between **9 and 11:45 a.m.** at the **History Museum’s** front lawn, **through the end of August**. Then again during **Appleton’s Octoberfest** on **Saturday, September 26**. We hope to see you there.

*RESEARCH:

1 **The True Effect of Relational Organizing**

2 **Building Our Future: Relational Organizing For Student Voter Turnout**



Some Ideas for Conversations

Share **how you chose the candidates that won your vote** for the August 11 Primary Election. Did you use VOTE411 or another resource? Help your friend know how to be an informed voter.

Share your **voting method** and steps you needed to take to complete your ballot. Ask your friend about their preferred method.

Ask the individuals on your list **which issues are important to them** in this election cycle.

Let your Wisconsin friends and family know about **myvote.wi.gov** and the information they can find on the site—check their registration, see what’s on their ballot, find their election clerk, etc.

Encourage your friends and family members to **mail absentee ballots early** or **point out the advantages of in-person early voting**.

Help your friends and family to make their plan to vote.

Mention the **three proposed amendments to the WI Constitution**; share **League resources** to learn about the impact on the state if they are approved.



Mark Your Calendars!

Jacqui Klimaszewski
Acting Vice President, Voter Services
voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org



Upcoming Voter Registration Volunteer Opportunities

Additional information will be coming via **Sign-Up Genius**. As you can see, there may be more than one event on some dates. Here’s your chance to get involved before the important **November election**...

SATURDAYS

August 15	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Appleton Public Library—Lobby Table
August 15	8:45 a.m.-Noon	Constitution Square
August 22	8:45 a.m.-Noon	Constitution Square
August 29	8:45 a.m.-Noon	Constitution Square
August 29	7:30 a.m.-Noon	Women’s Equality Day – Houdini Plaza
September 12	8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Rhythms of the World – Houdini Plaza
September 19	10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	LatinoFest – Pierce Park
September 19	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Appleton Public Library –Lobby Table

VARIOUS DATES

September 23 - Oct. 14	tbd	DMV Voter Registration Assistance
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Watch for **Candidate Forums**—they are in the planning stage. Additional events may come up. Watch for **Sign-Up Genius**!

Snapshots from Constitution Square



PROGRAMS

Meet & Greet

Cindy Fallona
Director of Programs
program@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

CHAT WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

We are in the midst of our state and national midterm elections. Our attention is focused on the officials running for office.

But often what has an immediate effect on our daily lives are **local elected officials**. When is the last time you had the chance to talk to your **mayor, county executive, council members, alderpersons, and county board supervisors**? On **September 12th** you will have that opportunity.

The **League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities** is organizing the first **Meet & Greet with Local Elected Officials**. Join us on **Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to noon** at the **Appleton Public Library, Mary Beth Nienhaus Community Rooms**, to meet and have conversations with your local officials. Enjoy coffee and donuts in this informal setting to ask questions or give your opinion on important local issues.

Invite family, friends and neighbors to take advantage of this opportunity.



Click **HERE** to register or contact Cindy for additional information:
program@lwwappletonfoxcities.org.

Registration is not required, but requested to ensure enough refreshments.

MEMBERSHIP

Continuing to Grow in Numbers & Influence

Linda Bjella
Membership Director
membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

CAN YOU FEEL IT?!

Whether it is a result of greater visibility from the parades, our tabling at community events, the DMV voter registration project, Constitution Square, the Unite & Rise initiative, or people just feeling the need to "do something," our League continues to grow in numbers and influence. We have reached a new benchmark of **180 members** -- an increase of 20 since last year at this time!

We are pleased to welcome four new members: **Heidi Leder, Sheila Twellman, and Kristin Wittman** of **Appleton**, and **Ann Drzewiecki** of **New London**.

Welcome to the League, **Heidi, Sheila, Kristin, and Ann**—we're glad you're here and we look forward to getting to know you all!

There will be plenty of ways for all our members to be involved in the vital work our League does to strengthen democracy in our community and beyond. Our **new Member Engagement Survey** will help connect volunteers to meaningful opportunities to make a positive change.

The survey will be sent to all members in the coming weeks as we gear up for a very busy fall leading up to the all-important mid-term election in November.

A growing membership strengthens our League and expands our ability to promote informed and active participation in government. We are grateful that these new members have chosen to support the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION

Focus on Nov. 26 Election

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



THREE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The **DEI Committee** did not meet in July, so we came together on **August 4**, ready to start working against the **Anti-Equity Amendment** on Wisconsin's **November ballot**.



Click graphic or [HERE](#) to see LWVWI's info video.

If any of our members is not familiar with the intent and ramifications of this amendment, please take a moment to learn about it. It may make you want to join our cause!

We have a design, thanks to the talent of **Amy Nasr**, for buttons and stickers. We'll have only a limited number of buttons available. The stickers will be used to make postcards that we'll be writing to family and friends to make sure they understand the possible effects of this amendment.

We are also planning **Letters to the Editor** and reaching out to other organizations in the Fox Valley to share our concerns about this amendment, with the help of materials from the state League.

We would love to have more people join us! Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 1 at 1:30 p.m.** Watch for details and the location TBA.