

SEPT.  
2026

EMPOWERING VOTERS  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

THE INFORMED VOTER

LWV



## Three Amendments Face Voters NO - NO - NO!!!

Jan Quinlan, President  
[president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)



Very few Wisconsin voters know there are three Wisconsin Constitutional Amendment referendum questions on November's ballot.

Why all these recent referendums about the Constitution?

We believe it is the duty of our legislators to make and sign laws using the system of checks and balances set forth in our Constitution.

Laws should not be made at the ballot box without context or history by voters who may be seeing the information for the first time. If these amendments pass, the state Constitution would be permanently changed, and could not be changed back without legislation.

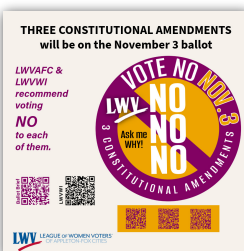
Question 3 — the "Anti-Equity" amendment — is especially concerning because the language is so misleading. It reads as if it would prohibit discrimination — even though our Constitution already bans discrimination. In reality, the new term "preferential treatment" will throw scores of programs into question.

This amendment would make equity-based programs unconstitutional and eliminate assistance for underserved communities. It will affect educational access, workplace diversity initiatives, community action programs such as Head Start, and others that reduce poverty and provide housing and food.

The graphic above was developed by our local League through listening to many of our members. Our League's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee suggested the NO NO NO graphic to alert voters to the proposed amendments. Our communications team of Kathy Voigt, Amy Nasr, and Patti Clark-Stojke created the graphic, and wrote the text keeping it true to the ballot language and our League's legislative decisions, yet easy to read and understand.

We posted this on our Facebook page where it has already gotten over 2.4K shares and 200K views. If you are on Facebook, go to our League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities page, follow us, and share this graphic with your own friends and family members who vote in Wisconsin.

Now we are distributing these cards to everyone we know as well as educational information about each of these three amendments. Let us know if you'd like some, and we will find a way to get them to you. Help us inform every voter before they cast their November ballot.



Forward,



[president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

## Program

Government Entity  
Discrimination Amendment

Cindy Fallona, Director  
Program  
[program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

## THE REAL CONSEQUENCES OF AMENDMENT QUESTION 3 ON THE NOV. 3 BALLOT

**Government Entity Discrimination:  
The Real Consequences  
Hybrid Event (in person or Zoom)  
October 5, 2026  
6:30-8 p.m.**

**Elisha D. Smith Public Library, 440  
First St., Menasha**

The November 3rd election is fast approaching. Wisconsinites have many decisions to make. It is critical that citizens be informed on what a yes or no vote on the "Governmental entity discrimination" state constitutional amendment will mean.

Attend the October 5th League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities program to learn the negative impact this amendment will have if passed.

Two excellent speakers will join us virtually to outline the real consequences of this "anti-equity" amendment. **Dr. Suzanne Eckes** is the **Susan S. Engeleiter Professor of Education Law, Policy, and Practice of the School of Education at UW Madison**. Her focus will be the negative effects this amendment would have on education in our state.

Speaking on the effects to healthcare in Wisconsin is **Kadijha Marquardt-Davis, MSW, Founder and Executive Director of Engaging Communities to Change Health Outcomes (ECCHO)**.

There will be an opportunity to take action for people attending in-person at the conclusion of the presentations.

**Click the pink box or here to register to attend the event in person or virtually.** You will receive a link for the on-line program.

A publication of **The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities**,  
PO Box 1281, Zipcode 54912-1281  
Appleton, WI 54912 • USA  
Phone 920-738-7766

Published electronically 9 times annually for members of LWV Appleton-Fox Cities and our communities

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**Local Study Co-Chair** - Jean Janes - [janesjeank@gmail.com](mailto:janesjeank@gmail.com)



## DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION

**No No NO!**

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

## TELL EVERYONE IN WISCONSIN!

**No No NO!** That's the message the **DEI Committee** is sending out in any way, shape or form that we can!



Our **September 1** meeting was all about the **3 proposed amendments** to the state constitution that are on the **November ballot**.

**The League of Women Voters** has taken a stand against all 3, but the **DEI Committee** is naturally most concerned about the **Anti-Equity Amendment**.

The wording of the amendment is difficult to parse through, and we're running into a lot of people who don't even know it's on the ballot. Its far-flung possible consequences are pretty scary.

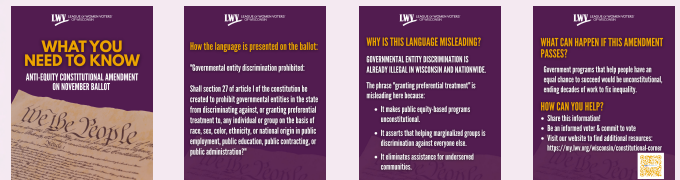
We'll be contacting our friends, family and contacts via postcards, Facebook, and personal messages. We have flyers and brochures from our local League, as well as buttons and stickers. We're also encouraging our members to write Letters to the Editor.

### NEXT DEI COMMITTEE MEETING - JOIN US!

In other news, we welcome new members to attend our next committee meeting, which will be virtual on **October 6 at 1:30 p.m.** Watch for details to come.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

First, make sure you know all the possible outcomes if this amendment passes. **Your best resource is the Toolkit you can find HERE.**



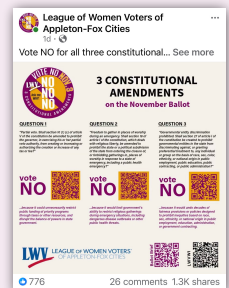
## LWWI WEBINAR TUES. SEPT. 8

The state **LWV** is having a webinar with 2 experts on **Tuesday, September 8** (see information **HERE**).

Our local League is having a hybrid program on **October 5**. Please join these events to ask questions and get the information you need.

If you are on social media, please check out the **LWV Appleton-Fox Cities Facebook page**; "like" it and "share" it.

After you have a good grip on the issues and ramifications of this amendment, please share with everyone you know.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION

### Know Before You Vote

Carol Lenz & Amy Nasr  
LWVAFC Members &  
Public Ed Proponents

On **November 2**, LWVAFC will host a program on public education with **Vicki Bayer**, Public Education advocate, and **Patti Clark-Stojke**, Retired Special Educator, regarding League positions on public education. Watch for details to come and see the **The FCA4PE 2026 Budget Guide** to prepare.

## EDUCATING ABOUT EDUCATION

Public education will be on the ballot again this **November**. Another local school public district has a referendum - the **Little Chute Area School District**. It means understanding candidate platforms to vote for those who support public education. It also in part relates to 2 of 3 constitutional amendment questions regarding the Anti-equity Amendment and the Governor's partial-veto power.

**Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education (FCA4PE)** as a non-partisan organization has been advocating over the last decade presenting public education challenges and opportunities to candidates, legislators, organizations and citizens. In the last five years, it's taken the shape of **The FCA4PE Budget Guide** (co-authored by **Carol Lenz** and **Amy Nasr**) via presentations and conversations,

As early as the August Primary, **Jackie Nider** has been scheduling presentations to local candidates. Eight candidates have been presented to thus far by a team of three out of four rotating presenters from the organization: **Jackie Nider**, **Carol Lenz**, **Amy Nasr**, and **Patti Clark-Stojke**.

**The FCA4PE Budget Guide** is available to the public and online. The script is included with the guide, along with direct link resources for those who love to delve into the devil of the details. This way, all candidates (Republican, Democratic, or Independent) and all voters who access the Budget Guide know that they are all getting the same story and facts. The design and approach are intentional.

The team also created **candidate surveys** in **partnership** with **local leagues** based on the content of the guide that offers opportunity for candidates to share their opinions regarding major public education issues.

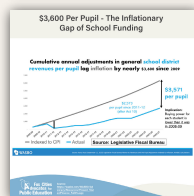
CLICK HERE FOR THE  
FCA4PE 2026 BUDGET GUIDE

<https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/DJdUaT2jRNuto>

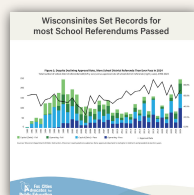
## DID YOU KNOW? Conversation Starters for Ed Talks



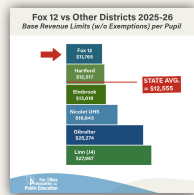
Over **85%** of **Wisconsin kids** attend **public schools** and for over a decade, funding has not kept up with inflation.



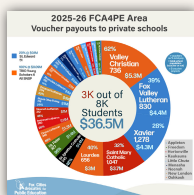
Cumulative annual adjustments in general school district revenues **per pupil lag inflation** by nearly **\$3,600** since **2009**.



**154 referenda** will have been on **2026 ballots** this year; some schools ran more than one. There are 421 school districts in Wisconsin, for perspective. In the last **five years**, **nearly every public school district across the state has had to go to referendum**. Operating referenda (referenda to keep lights on, heat, or pay salaries) are on the rise disproportionately.



**Most legislators** across both parties agree that the **funding formula, arbitrarily frozen** since **1993** is broken. Most Fox Cities school districts are low revenue districts, meaning they receive ~\$1K-\$10K less **per pupil** than many other districts around the state. ~80% of district budgets are comprised of staffing.



**171 Wisconsin public school districts** receive **less \$ per pupil** than private voucher payments; among those are most Fox Cities public schools. **Legislators do not require private schools to: \*report school-wide report cards, to comply with open records requests, provide public balance sheets or meeting notes, or to have publicly elected boards of oversight.**

\*Fox Valley Lutheran HS is the only local private school that voluntarily submits school-wide data



**Special education** is an **underfunded and federally mandated** program. School districts must take roughly **10%** from their **general fund to pay** for this underfunded but mandated program.

This means **ALL students**, and **ALL programs** suffer.



## Casual Conversation

Kathy Voigt, Director  
Communications  
[info@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:info@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

### MEET & GREET OVER A CUPPA

When scrolling social media, it's not uncommon to see questions about new developments or public services or roads directed to the readers, that really should be asked of staff or elected officials of the respective communities. And who are those officials who respond?

A chance to ask questions and meet face-to-face with elected officials in a casual conversation is exactly the format for the **League's** first **Meet & Greet** with Local Elected Officials event. Mingle over a cuppa and a cruller with elected representatives of **local cities; county, town, and village boards, along with mayors and executives** on **Saturday, September 12** from **10 a.m. to noon**. Gather at the **Appleton Public Library**, in the **Mary Beth Nienhaus Community Rooms** on the second floor.

The event is open to League members and the general public, and is free. The meet and greet will also be a casual occasion where elected officials can meet and converse with colleagues from other municipalities.

After introductions of the governmental officials, the floor will be open to mingle and converse. No speeches. Just conversation. And coffee. And donuts.

**Please RSVP HERE so we'll be sure to have plenty of coffee.**

### VOTER ASSISTANCE AT THE DMV

The **League** will resume its voter assistance service at the **Appleton DMV** from **September 23 through October 14**. Here's an opportunity to turn your desire to "**do something**" into action, on your own schedule, once or as many times as you choose.

A newbie to **Voter Services** activities? A training session is scheduled and a Registration Event Job Aid is available.

Click this [SignUpGenius](#) link for all the details and available volunteer schedule. Direct questions to the Voter Services team at [voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

See page 9 of this newsletter for more voter registration opportunities.



### OFFICIALS PLANNING TO ATTEND

Watch our socials for more as this list continues to grow. So far, the following officials have indicated plans to attend:

**Appleton Mayor Jake Woodford**  
**Appleton Alderperson Denise Fenton**  
**Appleton Alderperson Vered Meltzer**  
**Appleton Alderperson Brad Firkus**  
**Appleton Alderperson and Outagamie County Supervisor Chris Croatt**

**Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson**  
**Outagamie County Supervisor Joy Hagen**  
**Outagamie County Supervisor Carla Hales**

**Calumet County Board Chair Alice Connors**  
**Calumet County Supervisor Matthew Budde**  
**Calumet County Supervisor Kathleen Thunes**

**Kaukauna Mayor Anthony Penterman**  
**Kaukauna Council Member Kelli Antoine**

**Grand Chute Town Chair Beth English**  
**Grand Chute Town Board member Rhonda Daily**


 UNITE  
& RISE

## Constitution Square

Kim Schiedermayer, Chair  
Arts & Visibility



## LEAGUE PUT ITS SIGNATURE ON CONSTITUTION SQUARE

**Constitution Square** was a program run by the **League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities (LWVAF)**. It was in response to the Call for Action as part of the **Unite & Rise 8.5 initiative** of the **LWVUS**.

The program was designed by the **Arts & Visibility Committee** of **LWVAF** to celebrate the nation's **250 anniversary**. A giant banner displaying the **Preamble of the Constitution** hung on the **History Museum** facade with room for signatures following those of the founding fathers. **Voter Services** offered information and voting related materials each week. Engagement activities included civics games, art flags for personal expression, tattoos and stickers for kids, a free pocket copy of the Constitution, and the very popular photo opp with **Lady Liberty, Rosann Baum Millius**.

Signage included 10 amendments on 24x30 outdoor poster board which were also used in two community parades. Some selected amendments reflect a constitutional crisis due to practices by the current administration. Set-up for **Constitution Square** required three tents and tables for activities, positioning the wall banner and signage, and staffing for each 3.5 hour shift.

The **LWV** committed resources and volunteers to run Constitution Square for 11 Saturdays from June – August 2026. Funding covered signage, printing and give-aways. A minimum of seven volunteers per week were needed. Member sign-ups totaled **38 individuals**. Eight individuals served eight Saturdays or more. The program was never short staffed.

A final run of Constitution Square will be repeated **September 26** during **Octoberfest** over the same time span of **8:30 – 11:45 a.m.** Please sign up to help one final time on **SignUp Genius**.

Additional stats for the summer and **Octoberfest** will be reported to our League Board and in a future issue of **The Informed Voter**.

## SNAPSHOTS FROM CONSTITUTION SQUARE





## Activate, Protect, Deliver!

Unite & Rise Power Playbook 6  
Nancy Jones, Vice President  
Action  
[action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org)

## BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Our national League leaders are calling on members to conclude the **Unite & Rise 8.5 Campaign** by "bringing together everything we've built to drive impact at scale..."

This is our moment to activate, protect, and deliver—ensuring voters are informed, engaged, and able to fully participate in our democracy."

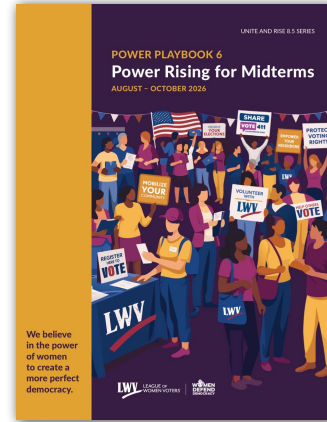
## MESSAGES FOR RELATIONAL VOTER PROGRAM (RVP)

Research (links below) 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, our local League asked each member to identify **5-10 individuals** in their own circles and networks that may be low propensity/high opportunity voters.

**The time is now when each of us can play an important part in a mass mobilization for the November general election** by reaching out to individuals on your list. **Share election information and reminders via text, email, phone call, or a casual face-to-face conversation.**

\*RESEARCH:

- 1 The True Effect of Relational Organizing
- 2 Building Our Future: Relational Organizing For Student Voter Turnout



## SOME IDEAS FOR CONVERSATIONS

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

Share **how you choose the candidates that win your vote**. Do you use **VOTE411** or another resource? Help your friend know how to be an informed voter and find a trusted source of information.

**Share your voting method** and steps needed 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. Listen and remind them of the power they possess to choose to vote according to their values.

Let your Wisconsin friends & 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 and polling place.**

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

How and when will they cast their ballot? **Help your friends and family to make their plan to vote.**

## YEARLY PROGRAM LINEUP — OOPS!

A colorful postcard listing the League's upcoming programs should have arrived in everyone's mailbox recently. It is dotted with informative topics, qualified presenters, and details that will intrigue and inform you enough to inspire you to mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Please Note: one piece of information needs to be corrected.

The **March 1 Consensus Program** will take place from **6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** It was inadvertently listed as a daytime offering. We apologize for the error. Please update your calendar with the correct time for this important program — your chance to weigh in on the topics most important to you.

|                                                                                      |                                                                  |                                                                         |                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUGUST 22, 2026<br>SEPTEMBER 26, 2026<br>Constitution Square<br>9:00 - 11:30 a.m.    | NOVEMBER 2, 2026<br>Funding Public Education<br>6:30 - 8:00 p.m. | FEBRUARY 1, 2027<br>Legislative Town Hall (Virtual)<br>6:30 - 8:00 p.m. | MARCH 1, 2027<br>Consensus<br>6:30 - 8:00 p.m.                             |
| SEPTEMBER 12, 2026<br>Meet & Greet with Local Elected Officials<br>10:00 a.m. - Noon | DECEMBER 12, 2026<br>HOLIDAY BRUNCH<br>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.    | LWV Local Leadership<br>2026 - 2027 PLANNED PROGRAMS                    | APRIL 19, 2027<br>Honoring Earth Day: Rights of Nature<br>6:30 - 8:00 p.m. |
| OCTOBER 5, 2026<br>WI Constitutional Amendment<br>6:30 - 8:00 p.m.                   | JANUARY 9, 2027<br>Lucky Issues<br>10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.        | FEBRUARY 11, 2027<br>Lectures with the League<br>4:00 - 6:00 p.m.       | MAY 20, 2027<br>ANNUAL MEETING<br>5:00 - 8:00 p.m. / Afterglow             |

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## Democracy in Community

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

## FRESH PERSPECTIVES, ENERGY, & CONNECTIONS

We are delighted to welcome **five new members** to the **League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities**. Their decision to join strengthens our shared commitment to informed and active participation in government, nonpartisan civic engagement, and the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

New members bring fresh perspectives, energy, and community connections to our work. Whether participating in voter services, attending programs, helping with advocacy, or simply staying informed, every member helps make the League a more vibrant and visible voice for democracy in the **Fox Cities** and beyond.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to **Cindy Kelm**, **Laurie Charlesworth**, and **Jane Haasch** of **Waupaca**; **Travis Retzlaff** of **Kaukauna**; and **Lori Amerson** of **Black Creek**.

We are grateful they have chosen to add their voices to the League. Together, we continue the important work of encouraging civic participation, supporting voter education, and building a democracy that reflects and includes all people in our communities.



**Come Play Civic Trivia**  
**Thursday, October 22, 2026**  
**6:30-8 p.m.**

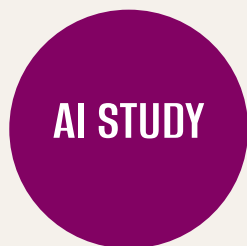
**Stone Arch Brewpub,**  
**Oneida St., Appleton**

Invite your family, friends and neighbors .... make a team .... come to watch the fun!

How well do you know the Constitution, elections, government, and the country?  
You definitely paid attention in social studies class?

Presented in part by the **League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities**.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3531774730321733>



## Untangling It All

Jean Janes  
AI Study Co-Leader

## SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION, JOIN OUR AI STUDY

**Artificial Intelligence** is everywhere. You can't type an email without AI intervening to finish your thought. AI will write your papers, research your questions, and diagnose your illnesses.

It's hailed as a fast track to solving our knottiest scientific problems and denigrated as a tool for deception and environmental destruction.

This year, **LWVAF** will attempt to untangle the good, the bad and the ugly underlying this ubiquitous technology. We'll explore how AI affects our democracy; what guardrails exist to protect voters' rights; and what steps our state and local governments take to determine,



monitor and alert citizens regarding the environmental and human effects of the infrastructure necessary to develop AI models and products.

The primary goal is to demystify AI and understand the opportunities and threats AI presents.

You do not need to be an AI expert to participate in this study. If you enjoy asking questions, researching existing literature, finding and interviewing sources and brainstorming focus areas, there's a place for you.

Contact **Jean Janes**, [janesjeank@gmail.com](mailto:janesjeank@gmail.com), if you'd like to attend the first meeting via **Zoom**, **September 17 at 3:00 p.m.** to learn about the League's study process and ask questions.



## Upcoming Voter Assistance Events

**Kim Schiedermayer, Vice President**  
Voter Service  
[voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SIGN UP NOW!

Our League has had a very busy summer--BUT we are only two months away from the mid-term elections and it's critical that we keep pushing!! As you can see, there are numerous events planned for **September** and we need everyone to contribute some volunteer time to help voters register and to provide information on the ballot especially the three state referendums being proposed. As you can see, we need to be at various locations on the same dates. Here is your chance to contribute to getting out the vote!

Training is available. If there are locations/events you think would be interested in hosting a registration assistance event, contact: [voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org)

## VOTER REGISTRATION DATES & SIGNUP LIST

**1. Saturday, September 12 - Rhythms of the World-Houdini Plaza - 8:00-1:00**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-65574398-rhythms>

**2. Saturday, September 19 - Latino Fest Fox Cities - - Pierce Park - 10:00-4:00**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-65653531-latinofest>

**3. Saturday, September 19, October 17, Nov. 21 & Dec. 19- Appleton Public Library Lobby -9:00-Noon**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-65096205-voter>

**4. Starting September 23 and running through October 14--DMV**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-65188596-dmrvoter>

**5. Saturday, September 26 - Constitution Square-**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-65626064-constitution>

## CANDIDATE FORUMS ARE BEING SCHEDULED

This just in: Arrangements have been confirmed for a **State Assembly District #52 Candidate Forum** with **Lee Snodgrass (Dem.)** and **Reive Pullen (Rep.)**. This will be held at the **Appleton Public Library Tuesday, September 29** from **6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the **Mary Beth Nienhaus rooms (ABC)**. Mark your calendars!

Other candidate forums are in the planning stages. If you have questions for candidates from your district, please send them to [JJKlimaszewski542@gmail.com](mailto:JJKlimaszewski542@gmail.com) by September 21st. Be sure to include the assembly/senate number.

To find your district, check online at [maps.legis.wisconsin.gov](http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov)