NOV. 2026

EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

THE INFORMED VOTER

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES



We United & We Rose!

Jan Quinlan, President
president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

Dear Fellow League Members,
Remember how Unite & Rise started about 18 months ago?

Quoting from the League of Women Voters United States:

"Unite and Rise will engage and mobilize **8.5 million voters** between now and **November 2026**. The foundational principles that have sustained our democracy — checks and balances, the rule of law, free and fair elections — are under direct and sustained threat. In this extraordinary moment, we cannot proceed with business as usual. **All Americans** — no matter who you voted for in 2024 — need to come together, stand united, and fight back to save our democracy. Nonviolent protests are twice as likely to succeed as armed conflicts. Those engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population have never failed to bring about change."

As I write this three days after our **MidTerm Elections**, the full results of our **Unite & Rise campaign** are not yet final. Still, it is abundantly clear that **"We the People"** do indeed have the power to make change — because we did. Something extraordinary happened last Tuesday at the polls. Not only did we hold free and fair elections, our dissatisfaction with the state of our union was made clear both on the national and on the state levels.

We all know that democracy does not start or end on election day. In many ways the real work is just beginning. And sadly, our campaign to clarify what the **"Anti-Equity Amendment"** would do in **Wisconsin** failed despite our best efforts.

However, let us all take this moment in time to be grateful for everything every one of us did to help during our Unite & Rise campaign:

- Protesting and calling out injustices in real time
- Keeping friends, neighbors, and family informed on issues
- Registering voters and defending voting rights
- Contacting legislators every way we could
- Finding new ways to support the rule of law and our Constitution
- Volunteering with the LWV and other civic groups
- ...and the scores of other ways you made a difference!

All of this helped sustain our Democracy — and to reaffirm that a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" starts with us.

Thank you deeply. Please join us for our **Holiday Brunch** on **December 12** at **Bubolz Nature Preserve** to celebrate and plan for what's next.

As we say in Wisconsin, Forward!





LEAGUE VOICE

LWVUS & LWVWI Issues Briefing

League of Women Voters - Wisconsin

LWVUS - NOVEMBER ELECTION RECAP

This election season, the League's impact reached millions of voters across the country -- informing, engaging, and protecting voters every step of the way.

From 8.5+ million voters reached with nonpartisan democracy information to 5.5 million people reached through VOTE411, our work helped voters make informed decisions and make their voices heard!



DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION

Life Goes On!

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

LAMENTING CHANGE TO OUR CONSTITUTION

The **DEI Committee** met in **November** at **Tardigrade's Book Bar** in **Appleton**. We spent so much energy to defeat the **Anti-Equity Amendment**, so the group was of course disappointed that it is now a part of the **Wisconsin Constitution**. But life goes on! Our next focus will be affordable housing. We will meet next on **Tuesday, December 1** via **Zoom**. **New members are always welcome!**

NEXT DEI COMMITTEE MEETING - JOIN US!
Tuesday, December 1 at **noon.**

Click here to email Kathie for a zoom link.

The Informed Voter

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ACTION

Volunteers Step Up to Lead

Nancy Jones
Action Vice President
action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

LEAGUE STATEMENTS

This fall, members of the **League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities** observed budget review sessions for the **Town of Grand Chute, Outagamie County**, and the **City of Appleton.**

Our observing allowed us to express support for processes, policies and practices of our local governments based on our local studies and positions.

This year, we also commented on the **Appleton Area School District's** budget process. Our **observers** always come away from these review sessions with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the detailed and important work of the county, city, town and school district **employees** and **elected officials** are doing, day in and day out, on behalf of area **residents**.

Thank you to **Linda Bjella, Jann Dreier, Jean Janes, Jan Quinlan, Nancy Jones** and **April Savage** for the time they took to observe and help in crafting our **League statements.**

STATEMENTS AT WORK - Read our local budget statements

Appleton Area School District, October 26, 2026
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-B1WkeYg8aIc_qYqjlBFIq-5EICvijsQ/edit?usp=drivesdk&ouid=115588392849852514106&rtpof=true&sd=true

Outagamie County Board, October 27, 2026
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zi44z_VRs5nN5KFRtukus8xQ13RP53_6/edit?usp=drivesdk&ouid=115588392849852514106&rtpof=true&sd=true

Outagamie County Board, Public Safety focus, October 27, 2026
https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1Z8hqqSdzZi7Mc1SIFHaBoqdvpaeZCfm6nqXjldehnWI

City of Appleton, November 4, 2026
https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1OUIzgJbxKDMPP9ZpL4K01bxfSI4UsTQZ

VOTERS HAVE SPOKEN - WHAT'S NEXT?

For the past 18 months, the **League of Women Voters** has worked at the local, state, and national levels on the **Unite & Rise 8.5 Campaign** in response to the Constitutional Crisis apparent in the breakdown of the checks and balances between the three branches of the federal government. The goal was to help register, inform, and activate **8.5 million new midterm election voters**. The turnout data is still being analyzed, but indicates that there was indeed an increase in the percentage of voters turning out for this midterm cycle, with some extremely dramatic results. **A HUGE "Thank you!"** to all our **Unite & Rise team members and volunteers!**

While the political landscape has changed, the work is just beginning to restore checks and balances and for the newly-elected leaders to enact policies that better serve the people of the nation. Many policies and programs supported by our League positions have been severely curtailed and even eliminated. In **Wisconsin**, **Governor-Elect Crowley** won the most votes ever cast for a governor in the state's history — with the same ballot with which voters approved the anti-equity amendment to the state's Constitution.

Our efforts now need to focus on communication with our elected officials and on observing how state and federal policies and budgets are affecting our local communities. As our recent budget process observers noted, our local, non-partisan, elected officials very much appreciate our local League paying attention to their work, and value our input.

The next few months will be an ideal time to choose a new way to strengthen **LWV-AFC's** influence. Is there a policy area you are willing to track locally? Please consider becoming an observer of a local government board or committee to help our League stay abreast of opportunities to provide informed input. Observing also will help us track the impact of the anti-equity amendment and consider ways to continue to implement the **League's DEI commitment** in our **communities**.

If you are willing to be an observer, please contact Nancy Jones at **action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org** to discuss your interest areas and observing opportunities that fit your schedule

AI STUDY

Exploring US, Worldwide Technology

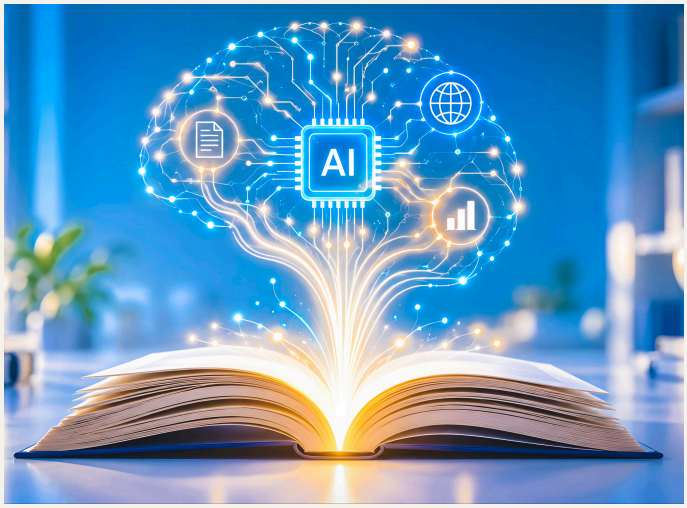
Jean Janes,
AI Study Co-Leader

AI STUDY GROUP CONTINUES LEARNING PHASE

Continuing the education phase of our study, group **members** are exploring how U.S. states and countries worldwide are addressing AI technology, as well as delving into relevant AI subject areas; work that will lead to choosing focus areas to shape the next phase of our study.

Some group **members** have chosen specific aspects of AI technology to investigate, and others are looking at legislation. In addition, we've learned about initiatives engaging other **LWV** chapters across the country, which may lead to collaboration opportunities as well as suggest ways our study can enhance work already being done.

In the coming weeks, members will report on the areas they've chosen to study and we will begin to discuss potential focus topics and interview subjects that will help us define the AI principles we want to support, and determine how those principles play out in the **Fox Cities**.



The group meets **every other week** on **Thursdays at 12 noon**. The next meeting is **November 19**. If you are interested in contributing to this study or learning more, contact **Jean Janes** or **Jeanne Roberts.**

VOTER SERVICE

Leading the Team

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

Coordinating the Activities

Donna Clementi: Coordinator of Youth Voter Outreach — Contacts **area high schools**, sets up voter registration assistance events, organizes the "Birthday Card" program with **AASD**, sets up voter registration assistance events at **FVTC**.

Jann Dreier: Coordinator for the DMV project — Sets the dates for activities before major elections, contacts the **DMV**, organizes the volunteers and the voter information materials.

Julie Evers. Jean Janes and J. Klimaszewski: Coordinators for VOTE411 — Collect **candidate** information from **WEC** and local **municipalities/school boards**, set up the races and questions in **VOTE411**, send invitations and information on how to participate to candidates, track responses and follow up with candidates.

Your Chance to Lead!

Looking for someone (or two people) to be the Coordinator of Community Voter Registration Assistance events (**Farm Market, Juneteenth, APL** etc.)

— Reach out to **community organizations**, contact with **event organizers**, procuring volunteers for setting up table/canopy, etc. To learn more, email voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.or

J. Klimaszewski: Coordinator for Candidate Forums — Contacts **candidates** to participate, shares the **League** Protocols for forums, arranges for the location, calls for questions, arranges for volunteers from the **League** to assist at the forum, coordinates with **videographers**, arranges with **Communications Team** for **media** coverage.

Linda Bjella: Coordinator for adult residence facilities — Sets up dates for **voter** registration assistance, provides voting information, and arranges for volunteers.

VOTER SERVICE

Moving Our Electorate

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

MANY HANDS EXPAND THE REACH

The month of **October** ended in a flurry of activities (rather than snow, thankfully!). Here's a snapshot of a busy month by **Voter Services**.

DMV Outreach — **Jann Dreier's** team of **45 volunteers** staffed the **DMV Voter Kiosk** daily from **September 23 – October 14**. Watch for new scheduling before the **April 6 spring elections.**

Appleton Public Library Voter Assistance — **Shirley Strange** and her **team** provided important information for voters on a monthly basis at **APL**, such as how to register to vote, update an address, and where to find candidate and ballot updates. **Watch for signups** for the library program again prior to the **April election.**

Candidate Forums — **October's** forum in **Grand Chute** hosted **Anthony Phillips (R)** and **Grace Abitz (D)** for **State Assembly District 56**. It was well attended even though it took place during a **Brewers** play-off game!

Trivia and More — **Sue Abrahamson** took **LWV** to local trivia nights providing civics questions and pocket constitutions for attendees.

Outreach — **LWV** connected with **Latino Advocacy of the Fox Valley** where there's growing interest in voter participation.

Behind the Scenes — **Julie Evers** and **Jean Janes** are learning the ropes for **VOTE411**, the online program linking **citizens** to **candidates**, candidate statements, and local ballot topics.

VS Leadership Transition — The steep transition of Voter Services leadership from **Jacqui Klimaswski** to **Kim Schiedermayer** is underway. **Jacqui** will continue as team leader for Candidate Forums (thank goodness!). **Watch for meetings** with **VS team leaders** and **volunteers** in **January**.

As always, **Voter Services** appreciates the wide support and time members contribute to **LWV** programs and outreach. As challenges to democracy "**by the people**'" continues, **we welcome your participation, input and ideas for the year ahead.**



Youth Outreach — **LWVAFC** sends **"Happy 18th Birthday"** postcards to **high school seniors** with a link to register to vote. This year, **Donna Clementi** contacted **Appleton High Schools East, West, North, Xavier** and **Fox Valley Lutheran** with birthday postcards. **Brian Kurth**, educator at **AHS East**, assisted with 22 registrations. Thank you, **Donna** and **Brian**!

Informing 18 year olds of their eligibility to register to vote is a partnership project with local high schools.





Voter Services teams like these at **Constitution Square** assist **voters** and **prospective voters** at civic and cultural events and farm markets around the area.

MEMBERSHIP

Growing Our Regional Impact

Linda Bjella, Director
Membership
membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

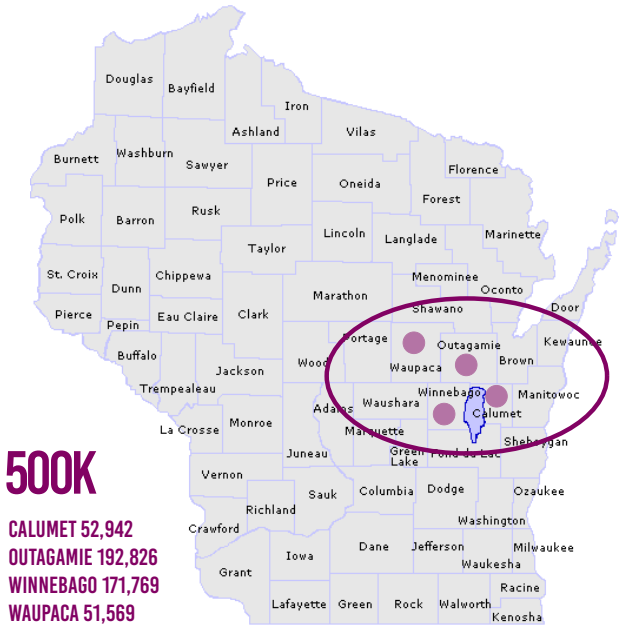
19 MUNICIPALITIES SPANNING 4 COUNTIES

During the past month, our growing **League** welcomed two new members: **Abby Draper** from **Appleton** and **Linda Pope** from **Waupaca**. Welcome **Abby** and **Linda**! We look forward to meeting you and finding ways for you both to become involved in our important and meaningful work!

In last month's newsletter article, there was a listing of all the municipalities represented by our current membership. Unfortunately, there was an oversight: **Fox Crossing**! In our membership roster, unless noted by the member specifically, only the mailing address identifies that member's municipality. I apologize for this oversight. We want to make sure our **Fox Crossing members** feel just as much a part of our **League** as all others. If you live in **Fox Crossing,** please let us know! You can send an email to **membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org**.

So, here again is the reach and scope of the **LWV Appleton-Fox Cities**: **Grand Chute, Menasha, Neenah, Waupaca, Kaukauna, Hortonville, Kimberly, Harrison, Greenville, New London, Larsen, Bear Creek, Oshkosh, Ogdensburg, Iola, Freedom, Weyauwega, AND FOX CROSSING**

Total 2026 County Populations per Wisconsin-demographics.com



500K

CALUMET 52,942
OUTAGAMIE 192,826
WINNEBAGO 171,769
WAUPACA 51,569

PROGRAMS

Focus on What's Ahead

Cindy Fallona, Director
Programs
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Silent Auction - now through 11/17



If you are tuned in to current clamor over classic table settings, cocktail trends, baseball fever, perfect pastas, decorated delicacies or family-centered activities, you are sure to find something you simply must bid on in the auction!

Click the graphic to start bidding today!

The holiday season is fast approaching. The League auction committee has put together a variety of items for your bidding experience. The auction is a great way to support the mission of the League and help yourself with holiday, birthday, "just because" gifts, or a reward for you.

Holiday Brunch - December 12



Brunch Program - "**AI and Us: Coexistence**"

Click to register and pay online, or print the email invitation and return along with a check, or register and pay at the door.

featuring **Acacia Ackles, Lawrence University**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and **Abhishek Chakraborty, Lawrence University**, Assistant Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science.

Lively Issues - January 9



This is a unique opportunity for all members to gather, reflect on what has transpired locally and map out what burning issue should be studied in 2027. It is a great Saturday morning program to connect with League members, share coffee and treats, and assess what is happening in the Fox Cities. Location is the **Menasha Public Library**. Registration is required.

LWVWI - MAKE YOUR VOTE MATTER

Do you know about the powerful National Popular Vote movement which could make the Electoral College obsolete? Following the Midterm Elections, this is now even more of a possibility.

Final Five Voting is a concept with bipartisan support in Wisconsin which would change how both primaries and general elections are determined.

League members from around the state met for powerful discussions about these two LWV-endorsed ideas during the recent Issue Briefing. Watch our Facebook for a link to the video if you weren't able to make the zoom to learn what advocacy around representative voting can look like at the national and state level.



Missed the online event? No worries! Watch our Facebook page for a link to the video once it's released.

SWAG

EXCITING SWAG IN TIME FOR GIFTING







Remember the 1970s motto **"The medium is the message?"** Well it can also be a show of support for the meaningful work of the **League**. Novel items and attention-grabbing messages are features of the League's branded merchandise. Even small pieces like stickers and magnets carry the identity as well as the verbiage for all to see.

And of course apparel is the greatest way to feel good about promoting the **League**! Remember: League merch also makes excellent and value-centered holiday gifts. New swag items will be added to the **League Store** just in time for holiday giving and displaying, and a few favorites will be replenished. Individual items and variety packs will be available at the **Holiday Brunch** on **December 12** at **Bubolz Nature Preserve** in **Appleton**. (You *have* made your reservations, haven't you?! Do so by **December 4**, and invite guests to join us.)

In the meantime, we want to alert everyone that long-featured buttons (thank you, **Jeanne Roberts**) supporting voting and some other cultural connections are very limited. The cultural buttons will only be available while supplies last.



Once previewed at the **Holiday Brunch**, new items will be available in the **League Shop**. Watch for availability details on FB and future news updates. Once posted, merchandise and buttons may be viewed and ordered from the searchable online store: **https://lwvappletonfoxcities.org/store**. All sales are final. Direct any questions to **info@lwvappletonfoxcities.org**