

LWV *The informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



<http://www.lwvappleton.org/>

Email

March-April 2017

P.O. Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912

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(920) 738-7766

Help needed this week and next

Voter Services has short window for registrations

J. Klimaszewski, VP—Voter Services

March 9	Appleton North High School (Media Center) from 7:00-10:15—4-5 volunteers needed.
March 10	Appleton West High School (Media Center) from 9:40-10:20—3-4 volunteers needed.
March 14	East High School (Computer Lab) from 9:00-10:10—3-4 volunteers needed.

There is a very small window for on-line and mail-in voter registrations before the April 4th election. All registration after March 15 will need to be in person at the clerk's office.

us—and we need your help! Look over the dates and times and let me know if you can help with voter registration assistance.

Therefore, the upcoming ten days will be very busy for

If you can help out—contact J. Klimaszewski—call 830-2919 or e-mail JKlim@new.rr.com! Thanks!

“Confronting Sex Trafficking in Outagamie County”

Jonathan Cloud, Program Consultant; Outagamie County Sex Trafficking Partnership

Gayle Hardt, VP Programs

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is sponsoring “Confronting Sex Trafficking in Outagamie County: A Progress Report to the Community on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in room C of the Appleton Public Library, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton. Jonathan Cloud, Program Consultant to the Outagamie

Wed, March 8, 2017
6:30 p.m.
Appleton Library, Room C

County Sex Trafficking Partnership will provide an overview of the work underway by the Partnership. He will also review efforts made since 2014 and gains made to date in preventing recruitment and entrapment of

Continued from previous page

Progress report to the community

individuals for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation; identifying and providing treatment and support to victims; detection, deterrence, and apprehension work by law enforcement at the school and community levels; and efforts by the

court/legal system to respond to the problem in a victim-centered way as well as prosecute those who sexually exploit victims. The event is free and the public is invited to attend.

2017 CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

League of Women Voters of Appleton

Gayle Hardt, VP Program

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017	6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.	Appleton Public Library Room C	“Confronting Sex Trafficking in Outagamie County: A Progress Report to the Community” Jonathan Cloud, Planning & Management Consultant Outagamie County Sex Trafficking Partnership
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017	6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	Jefferson Elementary School Auditorium	Appleton District 9 Alderperson Candidate Forum
TUESDAY APRIL 4, 2017			Spring Election
WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 2017	6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.	Appleton Public Library Room A	ROC Wisconsin Restoring our Communities in Wisconsin Presentation on Prison Reform Sister Mary Barbieur Sister Mary Jo Selinsky Sandy Putman
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017	5:30 p.m. – Social, 6:00 - Dinner, 6:45 – Meeting	Grand Meridian 2621 N. Oneida Appleton	LWV of Appleton Annual Meeting
JUNE 9-10, 2017			State League of Women Voters Annual Meeting Green Bay, WI

City Council Forum—District #9

6:30-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Jefferson Elementary School Auditorium

Written questions will be accepted from the public.

Election: April 4, 2017



Bob Baker



Jessica Maas

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Appleton

Statewide office to be elected: State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice.

Information on candidates at

www.lwv.org



From President Stephanie Malaney

SAVE THE DATE—LWV Appleton Annual Meeting

March means spring. We all look forward to longer days of sunlight and the weather warming up. We also start thinking about our annual meeting. This past year we have had very successful programming and events. Teams have continued to assist, in a variety of ways, to register people to vote—a great way to connect with the community.

In addition to programs and events that inform us we want to motivate members to take action. The Advocacy Committee has been discussing the best ways to keep its membership informed without flooding your email accounts. We continue to urge you to sign up for alerts from the state and national if you are not already receiving them. This will keep you informed of actions you can take in a timely manner. Our Facebook and website will continue to strive to be another source of updates.

We are pleased to see new members joining. The membership committee has been holding informal gatherings for current and new members, so watch for future dates.

Lively Issues highlighted a number of issues that members felt needed to be addressed and gave the board a task to further prioritize the membership recommendations. The board is studying and discussing the best recommendation of a study for next year. The board anticipates that some component or components of the current education positions statement will be presented at the annual meeting for study.

Please mark your calendar for the **annual meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2017.**

Lively Issues meeting reveals interest in three areas

Gayle Hardt, VP Program

Each January the League of Women Voters of Appleton convenes its members for the purpose of program planning for the upcoming year. *Lively Issues* provides opportunity for our membership to suggest and discuss issues that our local league may want to study. The league has a tradition of Issue study that leads to advocacy for that issue. We undertake each study in an unbiased manner, come to consensus on the issue, and adopt it as one of our program positions.

On Saturday, January 28th, 18 members and one guest attended the Lively Issues meeting to offer suggestions for study and action in 2017 – 2018. The agenda included an overview of LWVWI programs by Stephanie Malaney and an overview by Sara Companik of the LWVUS 2016 Convention and national's program for 2016-2018. Penny Robinson and Stephanie talked about the importance of individuals taking action on legislative issues and an effort underway to form a league Advocacy Committee. In addition, Marti Hemwall reported on the work of the Education Review Committee and their recommendations.

LWV—Who we are

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. More information can be found at www.lwvappleton.org

Open discussion followed on ideas for study and/or updating of current positions.

The following motions were approved by those members present:

- 1) **a motion to conduct a study to update the education position based on the recommendations of the review committee,**
- 2) **a motion to undertake a review of our position on the local juvenile system, and**
- 3) **a motion to study refugee and immigrant resettlement in the Fox Valley.**

We achieved consensus that our league should move forward with the study and update our education position. The recommendations from *Lively Issues* have been presented to the board for review and will be forwarded to the membership for action at the annual meeting on May 18th.

A special note of gratitude to Kim and Bill Wetzel of Acoca Coffee for their contribution of delicious coffee for the meeting



Editor's Note

The Informed Voter is published bi-monthly. Comments and questions may be directed to pennyrobinson1@gmail.com

Current and past issues can be found at www.lwvappleton.org

LWV Appleton Advocacy Committee planning for hearings

Hearings of the Joint Committee on Finance coming soon

The Joint Committee on Finance (or Joint Finance Committee, JFC) is the committee with members of both the Wisconsin state Senate and Assembly. Every two years they hold public hearings around the state. Individuals may participate in several ways:

- Publicly “testify” for two minutes each on an item of the budget,
- Stand in support of someone else speaking,
- And/or email testimony to the committee,
- Help coordinate testimony.

We expect the hearings to start in late March or

early April, but the JFC does not give the public much notice, and they are not always held in convenient places.

The LWV Advocacy Committee is working on ways for the Appleton LWV president to appoint members to speak for the league, based on national, state or local positions.

However, this work must be planned and coordinated. If you are interested in working with the committee and the LWV on testimony related to the state budget, please call 920-450-1519 or email pennyrobinson1@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED and get the latest news and alerts

<http://lwv.org/get-involved> for national news/alerts

<http://www.lwvwi.org> for state news/alerts

www.lwvappleton.org for Appleton website

Who is my legislator?

To find the legislator representing you in Madison, go to legis.wisconsin.gov/ and enter your address in the box on the right.

To receive updates from LWV Wisconsin

LWVWI uses a 3rd party email platform called MailChimp to send out weekly updates, action alerts and occasional fundraising messages. The recipient list includes LWV members, supporters and others who have opted in. Individuals can either sign up on the LWVWI website (<http://www.lwvwi.org/NewsEvents.aspx>) or be added by LWVWI state staff.

At the bottom of these emails, there is a link to unsubscribe. This is uniquely linked to the email address of the original recipient. If the original recipient forwards the email to others, using her/his own email program, and a new recipient clicks the “unsubscribe” link, then it is the original

recipient who will be unsubscribed. Once unsubscribed, MailChimp will not allow LWVWI state staff to re-subscribe the address that has been unsubscribed. That has to be done by the original recipient by completing the form on the LWVWI website.

If you wish to forward a MailChimp email, you should click the “Forward” link at the top or bottom of the email, rather than simply forward it using your own email program. That will prevent the problem noted above.

Andrea Kaminsky, LWV WI Executive Director

50 attend refugee resettlement program

Jeanne Roberts, LWV Communications Chair

Tami McLaughlin of World Relief Fox Cities spoke to a group of about fifty people on refugee resettlement nationally, statewide and locally. She spoke of the struggles that our refugees face both before and after they arrive in this country.

Tami also provided statistics on crime generally and terrorist crimes in particular and pointed out that since this country began officially accepting

refugees in the 1980s, there have been no acts of terrorism committed by the refugees.

Tami answered several questions asked by the audience. The audience was also able to ask questions of a Congolese refugee who has been in Appleton for the past three years.

Jeanne Roberts also provided some brief information on mental health issues with refugees.



Left—Tami McLaughlin;
Right—Jeanne Roberts with Congolese refugee



From LWV US

See more on page 10

Leagues support effort to stop actions calling for Article V Convention

The movement calling for an Article V constitutional convention to approve an amendment to the Constitution to balance the federal budget is moving quickly through state legislatures across the country. Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, a convention can be called when two-thirds of the states (34) petition for a convention to enact amendments to the constitution. There are no safeguards or guidelines in the U.S. Constitution that limit a convention to one issue or govern the rules of a convention,

which makes the threat of a runaway convention very real.

Proponents need just 6 more states to successfully call on Congress to call a constitutional convention. Legislation is active in states like TX, WI, ID, KY, AZ and WY. Rescission efforts in state legislatures are also active in MD, NM, NV and TX. Help LWVUS stop this dangerous legislation at the state level. For questions on the League's position or guidance on how to get involved please contact Jessica Jones, jjones@lww.org.

A Wisconsin Budget for All

How We Can Invest to Help Wisconsin Communities Thrive

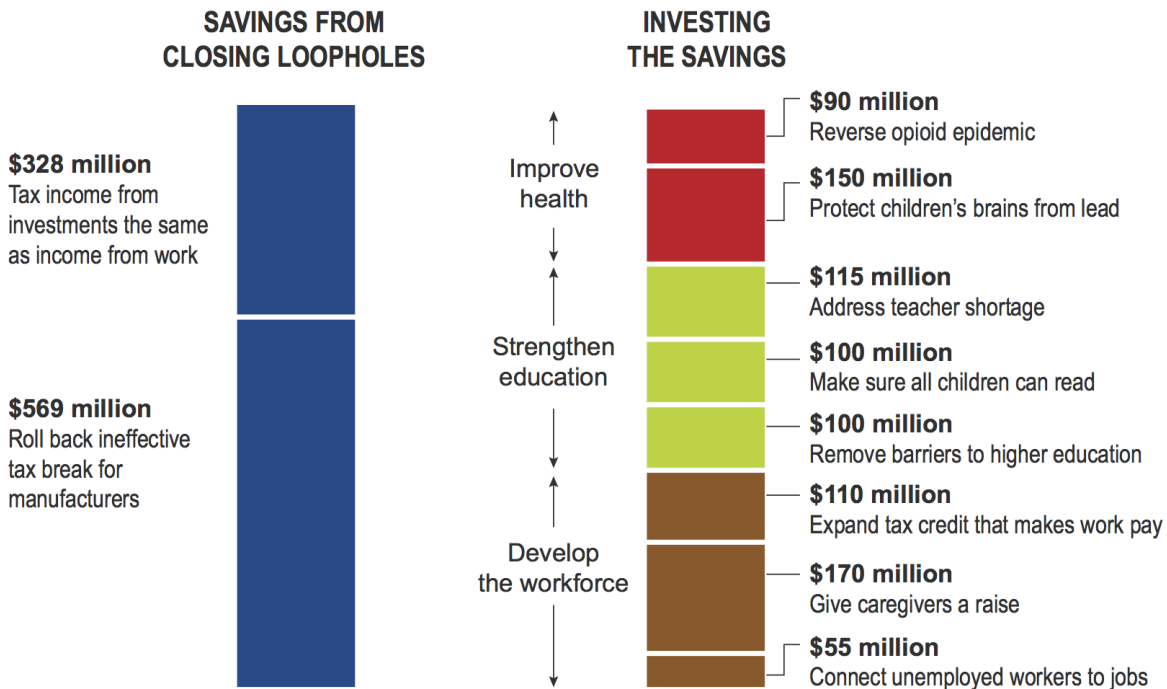
LWV Wisconsin supports *alternative budget*

“For far too long, we’ve all been told that there’s not enough money in the budget to help our communities thrive. That is not true. Actually there is enough. Simply cleaning up the tax code by closing two loopholes, that the well-connected have created for

themselves, can restore nearly \$900 million to the budget to invest in crucial priorities that [our] communities so desperately need.” More at www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org

Closing Tax Loopholes Would Allow New Investments in Wisconsin’s Economy

Wisconsin could save nearly \$900 million by eliminating two wasteful tax breaks, freeing up resources that could be used to invest in Wisconsin’s future.



Source: Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, analysis by Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

For more information visit:
www.facebook.com/WisconsinBudgetForAll

A Wisconsin Budget for All Supporters

9to5 Wisconsin • Citizen Action of Wisconsin • Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups • Community Advocates Public Policy Institute • League of Women Voters of Wisconsin • Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin • Madison-Area Urban Ministry • National Association of Social Workers, WI Chapter • SEIU Wisconsin State Council • Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health • Wisconsin Council of Churches • Wisconsin Council on Children and Families • Wisconsin Democracy Campaign • Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) • Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice • Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals • Wisconsin Friends Action Network • WISDOM

EDUCATION REPORT—LWV Wisconsin Legislative Committee

Judy Crain, Education Portfolio—February 28, 2017

A) Major Issues relating to State Funding of Public Education K12 in the Governor's Budget. Most are uncertain as to legislative support. They include:

1) Funding for Public Schools provided through a formula including an increase from the current \$250 per pupil adding \$200 in 2017-18 and an additional \$204 in 2018-19. This increase would be meaningful but would not make up for past decreases.

The recommendation also changes the formula by which districts receive state funding which currently is related to the variation in property values in school districts. The Governor proposes that a large portion of the increase would be delivered on a per pupil basis instead. The result would be that districts with the smallest proportion of students from low income families would get the largest increase when it is measured in percentage terms, and the reverse would be true in high income districts.

The recommended level of state support would also be contingent on the state achieving savings in restructure of the program that provides health insurance for state employees.

In order to receive the increase in per-student aid school districts would be need to require employees to pay at least 12% of health care coverage costs, a requirement that would affect a number of school districts.

2) Designated funds for rural schools with declining enrollment high transportation costs.

3) A program to "reward" Milwaukee schools with high achievement levels and to expand summer school, a portion of the funds to be available to private and charter schools.

4) Funds to improve mental health services in schools.

5) Increases in per-student payments to private schools participating in voucher programs, and charter schools not under school board control; \$217 in the first year and \$434 in the

second year, slightly more than per-student increases in public schools.

6) In the second year of the biennium, an increase in general aid to school districts, at the same time requiring districts to reduce property tax by the same amount.

There are a number of other public education-related issues in the budget, including: deletion of the requirement that school districts offer a minimum number of hours of instruction; and substituting life licensure for teachers and administrators instead of requiring periodic recertification.

Response from legislators to the Governor's proposals has been mixed, including reservations about the proposed increases from some Republican leaders.

It is also clear that there are, or will be, proposals relating to expansion of charter and voucher schools.

B) In his budget proposals relating to the University System, the Governor is proposing:

1) A tuition cut for UW System instate students, and an option for students to opt out of some segregated fees that support student organizations and services.

2) A portion of funding for the System be distributed among campuses based on performance factors such as the number of students who graduate and the length of time taken.

3) Requiring the System to monitor faculty and staff workloads and reward those who teach more than the standard load.

4) Doubling the number of core credits that transfer between the Technical System and the University System, and requiring UW campuses to offer three-year degree options.

C) The campaign for State Superintendent is likely to be spirited and controversial. The

EDUCATION REPORT

Continued from previous page

Superintendent's role in the current K-12 issues will be crucial. The Superintendent also sits on the University System Board of Regents. It is important that the League inform our membership and the public about the issues and the candidates.

The range of issues in the education area is immense, and likely to be very controversial. One of the challenges is deciding where League positions

are most relevant and likely to make significant difference. It is important that our members have the information they need and can use to influence legislators.

Covering PreK12 through higher education is very important. Thus far, we have not found a second person to cover higher ed, or divide the education portfolio in some other way.

Time for Action: No more tax dollars for gerrymandering

Andrea Kaminsky, Executive Director, LWV Wisconsin

The framers of Wisconsin's legislative districts, which have been ruled unconstitutional by a panel of federal judges, voted in secret last month to spend taxpayer dollars to have high-priced lawyers write an amicus brief in defense of the gerrymandered districts.

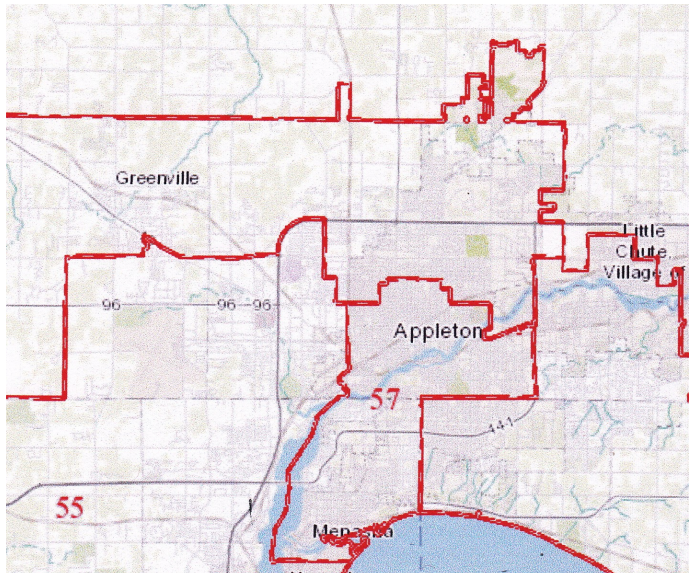
Attorney General Brad Schimel last week appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. All of this will cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of tax dollars, and that's on top of more than \$2.1 million already spent to draw the maps in secret and defend them through two lawsuits to-date!

If you find this shocking, contact your own legislators and the legislative leadership:

Let them know how you feel about this abuse of power and tax dollars.

Tell them Wisconsin can save millions of dollars and create more competitive voting districts in the future by adopting nonpartisan redistricting.

Urge them to support two bills – AB 44 and SB 13 – which would have the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau draw the maps.



Tell Senator Fitzgerald and Rep. Vos that these bills deserve a hearing. They did not allow hearings for these proposals last session. What are they afraid of?

--To find your own legislators, go to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov> and enter your address in the upper right hand corner

--Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester)

[\(608\) 266-](tel:6082669171)

[9171](tel:9171), rep.vos@legis.wisconsin.gov

--Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau)

[\(608\) 266-5660](tel:6082665660), sen.fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov

Mark your calendar for the League's state annual meeting, June 9-10 in Green Bay. [Click here for information and registration.](#)

The Threat of a Constitutional Convention to enact a Balanced Budget Amendment

A national effort is underway to pass state resolutions calling for a Constitutional convention to reduce the authority and powers of the federal government, including a balanced budget amendment. While the intended goals of this effort are to limit federal spending and bolster the U.S. economy, economists overwhelmingly believe a balanced budget amendment would weaken the economy, especially during economic downturns, and lead to severe spending cuts in key areas -- such as education, social security, and healthcare.

Background:

- In the 1970s and 1980s, many states adopted resolutions calling for a Constitutional convention to require the federal government to balance its budget annually. About half of these states later rescinded their resolutions.
- 34 “live” state resolutions are needed to call a Constitutional convention. Proponents of these resolutions claim that 28 of the 34 states required have passed such resolutions.
- In Wisconsin, Sen. Kapenga is circulating a sponsorship memo for such a resolution.

The Primary Problems with Calling a Constitutional Convention to Enact a Balanced Budget Amendment:

- **Calling a Constitutional Convention is very dangerous.** If Congress called a Constitutional convention, or attempted to do so, the country would be thrown into great turmoil, a period of extraordinary tension and deep anxiety, and likely find itself quickly mired in momentous, lengthy legal and political battles of great consequence to the nation’s future.
- **States cannot limit the agenda of a Constitutional convention.** A Constitutional convention would open up the Constitution to whatever amendments its delegates chose to propose, just as the convention that produced the current Constitution ignored its original charge, to amend the Articles of

Confederation, and instead wrote an entirely new governing document.

- **A Balanced Budget Amendment would make recessions deeper and longer.** Requiring a balanced budget every year, no matter the state of the economy, would tip weak economies into recession and make recessions longer and deeper, causing very large job losses.
- **Important federally funded programs, such as Medicare and Social Security, would be vulnerable to cuts.** To balance the budget every year, even during recessions, Congress would be under immense pressure to cut funding for a wide range of federal programs, leaving funding for important priorities — including education, disease control, food safety, assistance for vulnerable families and individuals, and even Medicare and Social Security — vulnerable to damaging cuts.
- **Federal budget cuts would harm state and local priorities.** Federal grants account for about a third of all state government revenues. At a time when demands for services such as education, health care, and environmental protection are expanding, cuts in aid to state and local governments would force states to either raise revenues, eliminate programs, or shift spending within state budgets to make up federal losses. Because elementary and secondary education is generally the largest component of state budgets, it would be especially vulnerable to large cuts.

Adapted from materials from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Updated March 2017 by Wisconsin Budget Project