

LWV *The informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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March-April 2018
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Be prepared to VOTE ! April 3rd, 2018

See what's on your ballot & check your voter registration at myvote.wi.gov; watch interviews of supreme court candidates

As the April 3rd election approaches, the league is hard at work educating voters on what will be on the ballot through candidate forums and *Candidate Answers*. Local elections are so important to our communities, and local Leagues are providing invaluable, unbiased resources for voters looking to learn more about their local candidates.

An Appleton School Board Candidate Forum was held on Monday, March 5, at Franklin Elementary Auditorium. All candidates have agreed to respond to the questions; responses received by March 15 will be posted by the following weekend on the LWV Appleton website: www.lwvappleton.org

Voter Guides for Appleton Districts #6, #10 and #12 will be posted on the website a week to ten days before the April 3rd election.



LWV WI also has resources available for voters to learn more about the statewide races. Visit <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin> to learn more about the Wisconsin Supreme Court candidates, the Referendum to eliminate the state treasurer, and the District 1 and District 4 Wisconsin Appeals Court candidates.

You can find the Wisconsin Supreme Court Candidates' answers to your questions on www.Vote411.org WisconsinEye also conducted interviews with the candidates.

You can see these interviews here: Rebecca Dallet: www.goo.gl/eL7GvR and Michael Srenock: www.goo.gl/4UmYvT

Annual meeting set for Monday, May 21, 2018—See page 8.

Aldersperson District #10 candidate forum set for March 22. See page 8.

Sign up to volunteer as an election observer

Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor the April 3rd election. We are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state. We will do our best to assign you to a location near your home. You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this -- although we'd love to have you join us!

What is it like to volunteer as an election

observer? Penny Robinson reports that she has found it very rewarding. Although she had to sit quietly several feet from the poll workers and could not talk with voters unless they went outside, she has been helpful several times. In the last election, poll workers were just learning about

provisional ballots, so Penny was able to leave her position and remind voters as they left that they could ask for a provisional ballot.

In a previous election, she noted that the building was not 100% accessible, and the room for voting was too small. She also noted that the machine for people with other abilities was not working. Generally, she has found poll workers to be very competent.

Learn more and sign up to volunteer at <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities-league>

Sources for page one and this article: LWVWI, Jacqui Klimaszewski, and Penny Robinson

Where will you be on the 3rd Monday of March?

Irene Stroben, Vice-president—Program

Come to our regular March program to explore the LWV study process that generates our positions and advocacy work, and have some fun while learning!

- How do League studies become position statements?
- What kind of rigor goes into the advocacy that the League does?
- Why does the League have so much credibility in our statements to governmental councils?

Come to learn more about LWV, meet our

members, and have fun! Prizes will be awarded to the winning team!

Monday March 19

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Copper Rock coffee shop

210 College Ave. in downtown Appleton

Copper Rock is providing the venue at no charge, so please buy food and beverages to enjoy throughout the meeting! (Come early if you want to order food—the program will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m.)



From President Jeanne Roberts

LWV Appleton—*making democracy work*

As I was reviewing the National Program Platform in preparation for the Electoral College special meeting, I began to think about the importance of making democracy work for everyone and what our League has been doing to make that happen.

Our **Program Vice President, Program Director**, and their committee have worked hard to provide education on a variety of topics that will assist in making Fox Valley residents informed voters to make democracy work.

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League busy making democracy work

Our **Voter Service Vice President** and her team have provided voter registration in an incredible number of venues, including focusing on areas where people are more disenfranchised. They have also begun working with the Willems' student marketing team to reach out to young people in order to make democracy work.

Our **Membership Director** has worked to, not only recruit new members, but also engage them in League work to make democracy work. Our **Natural Resources Director** has made us aware of legislation important to keep our environment

safe in order to make democracy work.

Our **membership** has run for public office, attended governmental board meetings, written letters to the editor, contacted their elected officials and served with other organizations to make democracy work.

League is right. Our focus needs to be *making democracy work* and never give up no matter how overwhelming it seems. Imagine the changes we can make statewide and nationwide if we continue to work as hard as we have in Appleton.

Voter Services busier than ever

J. Klimaszewski, Vice-president—Voter Services

Voter Registration Assistance Events

In the “window” between elections for on-line and mail-in voter registration, we registered 61 new voters (or address changes) and provided information to 36 more. Varied Information included finding out if they were registered, and giving them cards/pamphlets showing how they can register, get absentee ballots, and check what’s on the ballot, etc.

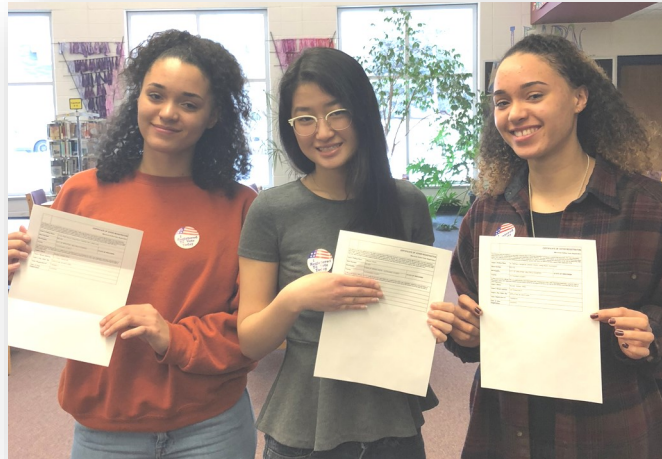
Our totals for the 2017-2018 (starting in June) are 167 individuals registered to vote and 166 provided with information.

Candidate Forums/Voter Guides

- Appleton School Board Candidate Forum was held on Monday, March 5 at 6:30 – Franklin Elementary Auditorium. All candidates have agreed to respond to the questions; responses received by March 15 will be posted by that weekend.

- Voter Guides for Appleton Districts #6, #10 and #12 will be posted on the website a week to ten days before the April 3rd election.

Voter Services Team



West High School students Jessy Kong, Amaya Rockett and Aminah Rockett are excited about registering to vote.

Voter Services has been active and has many projects going on—but there are more innovative projects that we could be doing! I have a group of five

interested in working with me on Voter Services projects. The purpose would be to discuss the many varied possible projects, divvy up responsibilities,

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How you can help with Voter Services projects

involve others outside the League, and ultimately to enable individuals to learn “Voter Services”. Let me know if you are interested in joining us—the first meeting will be within the next month.



Possible ways to get involved:

- ⇒ Vote 411 – expand to a variety of nearby communities
- ⇒ Explore new ideas for Voter Services
- ⇒ Set up additional voter registration assistance sessions
- ⇒ Forums and candidate guides
- ⇒ “Let Them Vote”

If interested, contact Jacqui at

jjklm@new.rr.com

Busy with voter registration events

Our local league has remained very busy in this past month with a number of different voter registration events resulting in registering many new voters as well as recruiting younger members! Our volunteers have been to UW-Fox Valley and Fox Valley Technical College twice. We have also been at all three public high schools to assist the young people in registering to vote and

preparing to vote when they move to college. The excitement in the young people’s faces when they become a registered voter is a highlight of each of these voter registration events. Anyone who wants to share in this excitement by serving as a voter registration volunteer can contact Jacqui Klimaszewski: jjklm@new.rr.com

Working with Willems student marketing team

J. Klimaszewski, Vice-president—Voter Services

The League of Women Voters of Appleton has been working with the Willems student marketing team through the Appleton School District to develop strategies to increase voter registration and education among young people. We have had two meetings with the team and have another scheduled to finalize their proposals. Some of their ideas for outreach to youth include:

- Birthday boxes for their 18th birthday with fun stuff as well as voting information. These would be given out at the schools.
- A Youth Voters tab on the Appleton League website that would include information that is pertinent to young voters.
- A simplified flow chart on how to vote.
- Alternative post cards and brochures that would appeal to young people.
- QR codes on all written information – postcards, brochures, and posters.
- Open source texting.
- Awareness events at each of the high schools including presentations at civics classes to get students excited about voting at a younger age, which might include young government officials. Another event may include a flex time event at the senior level in May after the AP tests are done to inform seniors of voting issues related to them as they graduate.

Voter Services: past and upcoming candidate forums

The LWV of Appleton conducted their first of two forums for this election season when they welcomed all three candidates for the Appleton School Board. Jacqui Klimaszewski moderated a lively forum which included quite a bit of input from the audience. Several audience members submitted thoughtful questions on a wide variety

of topics from guns in schools to using vouchers for private schools.

All city council candidates who are being opposed in their districts have been contacted in an attempt to schedule a forum in the near future.

See page 9 for the latest information.

Opportunities for you to help expand Voter Services

A committee of five volunteers recently began work on voter services projects. The purpose of this committee is to discuss the many varied possible projects, divvy up responsibilities, involve others outside the League, and ultimately to provide individuals to learn Voter Services. It would also include expanding **Vote411** to a variety of nearby communities, exploring new ideas for Voter Services, setting up additional voter registration assistance sessions, assisting at

candidate forums and help with developing voter



guides. Anyone interested in this committee should contact Jacqui Klimaszewski at

jjklim@new.rr.com

Voter Services collaborating in “Let them vote” project

The LWV of Appleton has teamed with the ACLU, LWV of Winnebago County, AAUW and Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities to develop a local branch of a program designed to help people who are having difficulty in either obtaining a photo ID for voting or using the forms of ID that they have when they are at the polls. Molly McGrath of the ACLU

provided education on a program that she has developed to help people in other areas who were having ID difficulties. A second meeting included volunteers who met to discuss how to implement this program in the Fox Valley. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for those volunteers to continue to develop the program.

Lake Michigan Region watersheds highlighted

Barb Dorzweiler, Director—Natural Resources

Our state League has partnered with the LWV Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) to update fact sheets on four major watersheds that flow into Lake Michigan. Completed in 2017 by dedicated volunteers, this work has recently been published on the LWVLMR website. The research updated information and action plans on four separate areas: Door/Kewaunee watershed, Lower Fox

River watershed, Manitowoc/Sheboygan watershed, and Pike Root watershed. Find valuable information at www.lwvlmr.org.

The LWV-Appleton has two positions to advocate for the health of the Fox River, and these fact sheets on the Lower Fox River watershed are aligned with our positions. I have included a

Actions needed

small excerpt here. The LWVLMR determined the following actions are needed:

- Support use of technology and weather awareness for better targeting application levels of nutrients and pesticides to prevent loss of applied products into runoff for farms, golf courses and other large areas.
- Improve habitat and water quality by constructing stream buffers, restoring wetlands and other practices on streams for both farms and developed areas.
- Review Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources streams status reports to target areas where action is needed.
- Identify areas where sediments are entering and how they are moving as a result of streambank erosion to prevent and repair erosion.
- Factor changing climate and intensive storms into storm water management using stream buffers, wetland restoration and naturalized detention areas practices to prevent flooding, polluted runoff and to aid ground water recharge and possible recreational open space opportunities.
- Collaborate to gather or support research on the movement of sediments and beach sand due to changing storm intensity.
- Maintain and leverage the momentum of the Clean Water Act’s framework of State Water Quality Standards and Section #319 Watershed Planning.
- Maintain and leverage the momentum of the recent watershed projects of the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

There are numerous worthy organizations in our

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The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. LWV is a vibrant, visible, respected advocate for sustaining our democratic society.

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS AN ORGANIZATION THAT:

EDUCATES AND INFORMS CITIZENS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

MONITORS GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AT ALL LEVELS

PROTECTS CITIZENS’ RIGHTS

CALLS OUT FOR

- **Transparency in government**
- **Campaign finance reform**
- **Redistricting reform**
- **Responsible environmental legislation**
- **Healthcare for all citizens**

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers. The League is nonpartisan. It neither supports nor opposes political candidates or parties



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Grants awarded for Management Plan

area that are lobbying and doing the work to protect our environment in the face of many challenges. One such organization is the *Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA)*. This group has received funding through the WDNR Surface Water grant program to finalize the Lake Management Planning efforts for the Winnebago System.

Four individual grants (one for each lake – Lake Winnebago, Lake Poygan, Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winneconne - were awarded to finalize



Model used by LWVLMR to demonstrate how watersheds work.

the Comprehensive Management Plan that is being advanced by the FWWA and numerous partners from around the system. The grants are funded by the Wisconsin DNR, Calumet County, Winnebago County and Fond du Lac County. The Lake Management Plan for Lake Winnebago, Lake Poygan, Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winneconne is slated for completion by the end of 2019.

Effective and holistic lake management planning requires input from a variety of stakeholders, including technical experts, area residents, property owners, lake users, and people that rely on Lake Winnebago for their drinking water supply. If interested in more information or getting involved, go to www.fwwa.org .

UPCOMING ENVIRONMENT EVENTS

- Fox Wolf Watershed Clean-Up Day, Saturday April 21, 2018. Go to <http://www.fwwa.org/2018/01/15/2018-fox-wolf-watershed-cleanup/> for more information and to sign up to help or to be a site leader.

Site leaders check in volunteers, hand out t-shirts and supplies, provide event information, track garbage collected, and help return supplies and any tires to the Cleanup Picnic. This is a great way to get kids and grandkids involved in protecting our valuable natural resources.

- Earth Day on April 22, 2018. Earth Day Festival and Grand Opening at Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lynndale Dr, Appleton, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Family activities and nationally known speaker and author of “Last Child in the Woods” Richard Louv.
- Climate Change Coalition of Door County is holding their 5th Annual Climate Change Forum on May 19, 2018, at Stone Harbor Resort. More details and lots more information posted at www.climatechangedoorcounty.com This conference is known for excellent nationally known speakers.
- The LWVLMR (LWV-Lake Michigan Region) is holding their 2018 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 27, in Chicago. The business meeting will be followed by an interactive workshop on advocacy, focused on water policy issues, and a dinner. They are teaming up with the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO for this event. Everyone interested in the environment, natural resources, and related topics is welcome. Details will be posted on the website at www.LWVLMR.org
- Editor’s note: Saturday, May 19, ESTHER is sponsoring a recycling event from 8 a.m. until noon at First Congregational UCC, located at 724 E South River St, Appleton. They will take anything with a cord. There is a charge for TVs.

Board slate set for annual meeting—May 21

At its meeting on March 7, the LWV Appleton Board voted to accept the slate of nominees from the Nominating Committee for presentation to the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 21, 2018.

The 2018 Nominating Committee

includes Shirley Strange (Chair), Sara Companik, Sue Eich, Elizabeth Laux, Cindy Fallona

Nominated Officers 2018-2019

Vice President Program: Irene Strohsbeen

Treasurer: Karen Bachhuber

Nominated Directors

Elizabeth Laux

Sue Hofensperger

Jessica Thiel

Nominating Committee, 2019

Chair: Beth English

Committee members: Barbara Kelly, Penny Robinson

Continuing Directors

The following Board members will be continuing their current terms through 2018, which will expire in 2019.

President: Jeanne Roberts

1st Vice President: Jacqui Klimaszewski

Secretary: LuAnn Graff

Directors: Maren Peterson, Cindy Fallona

LWV APPLETON—ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Monday, May 21, 2018

TIME: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Grand Meridian

ADDRESS: 2621 N Oneida St, Appleton

Appleton Alderperson—District #10 Candidate Forum

On March 22, 2018, LWV—Appleton is providing a candidate forum for the April 3rd election of District #10 Alderperson, at the Harvey Pierre **VFW Post**, 501 N. Richmond St. in Appleton, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The audience will be able to submit written questions for the candidates. The two candidates are Christine Williams (incumbent) and Dominic Renteria.

The flyer is available on the League website: <http://lwvappleton.org/lwvpdf/AppletonCityCouncilFlyer.pdf>

To check if you're in District #10, you can view the district map on the city

website: <http://.appleton.org/home/showdocument?id=1488>

The League also will have a Voters' Guide available for the open seats which will include their responses to the questions from the forum.

Candidates for District #6 and #12 are unable to attend the forum. However, they will be asked to submit responses to the questions from the forum, and these will also be available on the League website.

Additional information can be found on the LWV Appleton website at www.lwvappleton.org



Wisconsin Statewide Constitutional Referendum on the April 3, 2018 Ballot

What it will say on the ballot

At the April 3 Spring Election, all Wisconsin voters will be asked to vote on the question:

Elimination of state treasurer. Shall sections 1 and 3 of article VI and sections 7 and 8 of article X of the constitution be amended, and section 17 of article XIV of the constitution be created, to eliminate the office of state treasurer from the constitution and to replace the state treasurer with the lieutenant governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands?

Some history

The Wisconsin Constitution contains the following language: “The qualified electors of this state . . . shall . . . every 4 years . . . elect a secretary of state, treasurer and attorney general who shall hold their offices for 4 years. The powers, duties and compensation of the treasurer and attorney general shall be prescribed by law.”

The state treasurer is a partisan office. The current duties prescribed by WI law include signing certain checks and financial instruments and helping to publicize the state’s unclaimed property program (the program is managed and advertised by the Department of Revenue). Per the constitution, the treasurer serves along with the attorney general and secretary of state on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

The Board manages the state’s remaining trust lands (more than 77,000 acres of forest), manages trust funds (more than \$1 billion) primarily for the benefit of public education, and maintains the state’s archive of 19th-century land survey and land sales records.

Historically, the treasurer had custody of state

funds, including state investments; handled receipts and payments of the State Fair; notified utility companies to pay taxes to the treasurer’s office; settled with each county treasurer for the state’s share of taxes; and made financial reports to the governor. Successive legislatures have assigned these duties to state agencies, primarily the Departments of Administration and Revenue.

Currently the only employee of the treasurer’s office is the state treasurer, whose annual salary is approximately \$70,000. The total office budget is approximately \$113,500 per year.

What this referendum vote would do

This amendment would complete the transfer of financial duties from an independent elected official to agencies under the control of the governor. **Supporters** of the amendment contend that there are no remaining responsibilities that justify a separate office. **Opponents** are concerned about the consolidation of power in the executive branch.

Two successive legislatures voted to put this question to voters (as required by the Wisconsin Constitution).

For additional background information, see [https://ballotpedia.org/ search “Wisconsin State Treasurer Amendment”](https://ballotpedia.org/search/Wisconsin%20State%20Treasurer%20Amendment)

What a Yes or No vote means

A “Yes” vote means the voter agrees that the constitutional position of state treasurer should be abolished.

A “No” vote means the voter wants to retain the constitutional position of state treasurer.

Thanks to the members of LWV Dane County for the compilation of this educational material.

LWVWI creates video for tracking legislation

Erin Grunze, Executive Director—LWVWI

Andrea Kaminski has prepared a video tutorial to describe how to track legislation and view the positions LWV WI has taken on state bills on the government websites.

It's a great introduction for League members to find bills they may want to know about and how the League has registered on them.

You can view the tutorial through

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/znJeIcxdMA> It is also available on the LWVWI website under

Member Resources: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/member-resources>

We hope this type of tutorial is a service the state office can provide local Leagues and members with as we continue to look for innovative ways to share information. I welcome your feedback and suggestions for other ideas.

Thanks to Andrea for sharing this information and putting it into a handy video tutorial.

Contributions to the League of Women Voters—Appleton are gratefully accepted

online at

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

Or can be mailed to

P.O. Box 1281

Appleton, WI 54912

Questions?

Call 920-738-7766

Or email

League.appleton@yahoo.com

More information about the League:

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

Homeland Security Provision an attack on our democracy

3/12/2018 Washington, DC – League of Women Voters President **Chris Carson** issued the following statement in response to a Department of Homeland Security bill provision that would allow President Trump to dispatch Secret Service agents to polling places:

"Polling places must be safe, accessible and welcoming to all voters—not places where eligible Americans will feel threatened and intimidated.

"Elections are the life blood of our democracy and

sneaking in a provision that allows the President to order armed Secret Service agents to polling places is simply appalling. This is just one more attempt this Administration has made to attack voters and flagrantly dismantle core tenants of our democracy.

"The League will continue to stand against these shameless assaults. The best way for all of us, as Americans, to fight back against attacks on our rights is to register and vote in 2018."