

LWV *The informed* Voter

League of Women Voters® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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League partners with AASD marketing students

The Appleton Area School District marketing team provides high school students with an opportunity to blend their academic knowledge with real-world project engagement, power of youthful thinking and creative expertise to community professionals in order to receive a unique practical and educational experience related to business, marketing and entrepreneurial skills.

LWV of Appleton is pleased to be working with four of these students to develop promotional materials for registering to vote, information on elections and getting out the vote. East High School student Brianne DeLain serves as team leader. Liam Kordyban and Zach Felton attend North and Letzy Chavez attends West High School. Teacher Cynthia Pavelsk directs the student marketing team.

The students have come up with some wonderful ideas for promotion. They will be doing a survey of students at each of their schools regarding issues. Once they get the results, they will formulate a question for the school board and ask it at the forum on March 14!

The team is also doing grassroots legwork to



find a club or student organization at each of the high schools that would take the lead on helping students register to vote as they turn 18. The League would be involved to make sure they have accurate information and that they stay completely non-partisan in these efforts. The team is also working on developing promotional items, such as popsockets, with voting themed graphics. Look for many more exciting things from this group!

Check out Willems on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WillemsStudentMarketing/?fref=ts>

2019, 2020 mark significant years for the League

Happy 2019! 2019 and 2020 are special years for us. 2019 is the 100th anniversary of the LWV-WI, which will be celebrated in June. We are also working toward a celebration of the 100th anniversary of LWV-US and the passage of the 19th amendment in 2020. This is over and above our regular work. When looking at any of the projects we are working on, we need to look at them through the eyes of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our 100th anniversary project needs to focus not only on the achievements of women's rights, but on mistakes that were made, so we don't repeat them.



We have a busy schedule coming up, so mark your calendars. In February, we had programs on Youth Advocacy and the Electoral College, and a program on the effects of voucher schools. A consensus meeting for our education study is coming up on Feb. 25 at 6 pm.

In March, we have a program on diversity and barriers to democracy as well as likely candidate forums for both school board and Appleton Common Council.

We are working with the Willems student marketing team to develop a marketing strategy to encourage young people to both vote and participate in government. We are working on having students ask some questions of the candidates at the school board forum in March.

Our diversity committee has begun meeting and is working on a DEI statement for our website. We have also reached out to communities within the Fox Valley to begin some collaboration. With so much going on, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities. We have a lot of talent in LWV-Appleton and would like to tap into it as much as possible!

— Jeanne Roberts

Letter to the editor explains League's stance on political affiliation

The following letter from League President Jeanne Roberts appeared in the Post-Crescent:

The League of Women Voters was formed in 1920 as a nonpartisan organization intent on assisting newly enfranchised women to learn both how to register to vote and how to be informed voters. In its nearly 100-year existence, the League has had an enormous impact on our democracy for both women and men. Although the League is nonpartisan, meaning that it does not endorse either parties or candidates, it does encourage advocacy and involvement in the governmental process.

Advocacy is encouraged only after extensive study of issues. Many volunteer hours are spent helping people register to vote because the League believes that voting should be easier not harder for all citizens.

Monthly programs are also provided including recent programs on dark stores, women in prison, the science of climate change, and civility and civil discourse. Candidates from both parties have complimented the League on the quality of their candidate forums. Recently, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin was described as a "liberal leaning organization...acting on behalf of the Democratic Party or Governor Evers" in media outlets.

In the 1980's, a complaint was filed by a Democratic assemblyperson indicating that the League had "allowed itself to be used for partisan political purposes on behalf of the Republican Party..." due to the League position on redistricting. The League's position did not change; only the parties in power did. The League's mission to "empower voters and defend democracy" applies to all regardless of political affiliation.

The question isn't "Will they listen?"

The question is "Did I speak up?"

Advocacy and action are the course we must all pursue to effect change. It has never been easier to make your voice heard. Calling or emailing our local, state and federal representatives takes only a few minutes of your time. And they do listen!

Take action for the future of the Great Lakes
LWVWI urges you to sign the Protect Our Great Lakes pledge at-

<https://www.protectourgreatlakes.org/pledge>

in support of the Great Lakes Compact, the federal law that strictly limits removal of water from the Great Lakes. Policy makers and elected officials need to hear from you about the importance of protecting the Great Lakes from the Wisconsin DNR's approval of the Racine diversion, a clear violation of the Great Lakes Compact. Midwest Environment Advocates, who is representing LWVWI as one of the six plaintiffs in the lawsuit to protect the Great Lakes Compact, has recent information regarding this past week's announcement around the Racine water diversion.

Constitutional Amendment to overturn the Supreme Court Citizens' United ruling

An effort to overturn the Supreme Court ruling Citizens' United is underway. At this time, LWV is not supporting this initiative. The League has serious concerns about making changes to the constitution. The wording of this initiative does not have League support. LWV is carefully monitoring this effort for future developments.

Increased funding requested for Child Welfare programs in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Counties Association is seeking additional federal funds in the amount of 30 million dollars. The increased incidences of heroin, opioid and methamphetamine use across the state has negative consequences on the state's most vulnerable citizens - young children. County human services departments are seeing staggering increases in out-of-home placement costs as parents struggling with addiction are unable to safely care for their children. You are encouraged to contact Gov. Evers and your state legislators to support the increased funding request. For more information view this video-

<http://www.wiseye.org/Video-Archive/Event-Detail/evhdid/13003> - Cindy Fallona



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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

More information is at
www.lwwappleton.org

Contributions are gratefully accepted
online at
<http://www.lwwappleton.org/donate>

Hint: copy and paste

Fiscal committee explores tiered membership model

The Fiscal Spending/Fundraising Committee has developed a tiered membership matrix and a tiered



sustaining contributor’s matrix, which was presented to the board for approval at the February meeting. The goal is to attract new members from all spectrums of our community, and it would be rolled out this fall ahead of our 2020 membership drive.

The 2018 **National Voter Registration Day** saw **865,015** registrations, **4,087** partners, and **22,641** volunteers and staff, making 2018 the biggest National



Voter Registration Day ever! View the full report: nationalvoterregistrationday.org/documents/2018/12/2018-national-voter-registration-day-final-report-pdf.pdf

Upcoming programming

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Feb. 25	Education study consensus meeting, Appleton Public Library, 6 p.m.	LWV
Feb. 27	How privatization opens the door for discrimination, Appleton Public Library, 7 p.m.	Dr. Julie Mead, UW-Madison
March 1	Bridging the GAP Years, LWV-Appleton hosts a political discussion, History Museum at the Castle, 7 p.m.	LWV
March 7	Appleton Alderperson Candidate Forum — Districts #3, #9 and #13, Appleton Public Library, 7 p.m.	
March 18	LWV Social: Diversity & Inclusion, Copper Rock, 5 - 6:30 p.m.	LWV
April 15	Carbon tax credits and Metrics with Citizens Climate Lobby, Copper Rock, 5 - 6:30 p.m.	
May 16	Annual Meeting, location and time TBD	LWV

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