

February 12 Program Meeting

Money in Politics

Presentation by Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Manager for League of Women Voters Minnesota

Nick is a member and former Co-President of LWV St. Paul. He is also a lawyer licensed in Minnesota and a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association. He knows that good laws require a strong democracy, good political processes, and resilient civic engagement. His policy interests include money in politics, voting rights, fair district maps, and other election laws. He holds a B.A. in political science with honors from Gustavus Adolphus College and a J.D. with public service honors from the University of Iowa College of Law.



Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd (north end of City Hall) 6pm light dinner and social time followed by 6:30 meeting. All are welcome!

Drafts and Discourse!

February 21 – 6 PM

Drafts and Discourse! Stop by at Alloy Brewing at 6pm, get a pint and sit with LWV members and friends to talk about public policy issues, current events, and more.

We'll have some discussion topics planned for starters, but it will move out from here. This is an informal time to chat about League and the issues of the day, set for the third Wednesday of the month.



Voter Service Update

Following the February 13th Primary Election for an open seat for At-Large Ramsey City Council, LWV ABC will sponsor a forum for the top two vote-getters at 7 PM on March 6th. We will need five or six members to staff the forum. Can you help? This would be a good introduction to the League's candidate forums in preparation for the many we will sponsor next fall.

Send an email to LWVABC@gmail.com to get more information about how you can help with Voters Service activities including Candidate Forums.

The first moderator training will be offered by LWV MN on Saturday, March 24 from 10-noon at the MN Women's Building. More will follow but meanwhile attending a forum either to observe or to help with tasks that don't require training is a good way to help members prepare for the busy upcoming election season.

An informed electorate is one of LWV's main goals and our voters expect and appreciate the service.

#LWV100

Celebrating 100 years of Creating a More Perfect Democracy

Anoka County History Center is eager to work with LWV ABC on a display celebrating the 100th anniversary of LWV and the suffragist movement from an Anoka County perspective. The exhibit will open January of 2019 and remain up for one year. Admission to exhibits at the History Center is free, so this is a great opportunity to publicize and showcase LWV. The committee, including Sandy Connor, Kathy Tingelstad and Zilla Way is researching LWV ABC history to select what information will be included in the display. If you would like to help plan the display or work on other #LWV100 activities, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com.



The History Center and the LWV ABC will host a Tea in the spring to help fund the display and to introduce members to the History Center's process for hosting a display. This is a great opportunity to not only celebrate our 100th Anniversary but to also raise visibility.

Watch for more information about the Tea which will be held in the Spring. If you would like to help support the display go to the LWV ABC website to donate or give a donation to the LWV ABC Treasurer, Kay McCulley.

**Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL)
Save the dates in February 2018!**

CMAL is co-sponsoring two events (with Golden Valley LWV and LWV of Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth) about current issues surrounding the Metropolitan Council.

“The Ideas Behind Development of the Metropolitan Council”

Thursday, February 8, 2018 7:00 p.m. Golden Valley Historical Society 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley 55427. Speaker: Pahous Hoffman, Acting executive Director, Citizens League of Minnesota. “The Metropolitan Council – what’s the current fuss?”

“The Metropolitan Council – what’s the current fuss?”

Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley 55426. Speakers: a panel of three experts with diverse views on current metro issues. Both events will feature Question and Answer period with the audience. Both events are free and open to the public.

Update on January 8 Program Meeting - Get ready to Caucus!

You still have time to prepare a resolution for Caucus Night - Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Kathy Tingelstad and Wes Volkenant did an excellent job of explaining the process for presenting resolutions at your local caucus. In case you missed it, these are the resolutions from LWV MN that members can share at their Caucus on February 6:

Campaign Finance: Disclosure of Electioneering Communications

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court decision in Citizens United opened the door to increased election spending independent of the candidates, resulting in the influx of millions of dollars into Minnesota campaigns;

Whereas, under Minnesota law, political action committees and other groups not associated with candidates need to disclose their spending on election advertisements only when certain “magic words” are used, such as “vote for” or “defeat” and need not disclose spending on “electioneering communications” that do not use the magic words;

Whereas, the National Institute on Money in State Politics has given Minnesota’s campaign finance laws an “F” because Minnesota does not require disclosure of electioneering communications;

Whereas, the federal government and 25 states require disclosure of electioneering communications, and the United States Supreme Court has approved of disclosure as a means of providing transparency for the electorate; and

Whereas, disclosure of electioneering communications is in the public interest and gives voters the information they need to cast an informed vote;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party supports requiring disclosure of spending on electioneering communications.

Early Voting

Whereas the only way a voter may vote early in-person under current law is via an absentee ballot which is not counted immediately;

Whereas twenty-one states allow in-person early voting, where any qualified voter can cast a ballot during a designated period prior to Election Day using the same methods and ballots used on Election Day and it is counted immediately;

Whereas in-person early voting where ballots are counted immediately is less costly to administer than our present system of in-person absentee ballots;

Whereas in-person early voting is a more convenient and easier option for voters than our present system of in-person absentee voting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party supports in-person early voting where a voter's ballot is counted immediately during a designated period prior to Election Day using the same methods and ballots used on Election Day.

Pre-Registration for High School Students

Whereas our Democracy is stronger when all eligible voters exercise their right to vote;

Whereas in 2008, fewer than half of eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 24 registered, a rate 22% lower than in the general population (Project Vote).

Whereas currently, a person who is 16 can pre-register to vote in Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas a recent study found that, in states that have implemented pre-registration, youth voter turnout is 13% higher ("Making Young Voters," American Journal of Political Science);

Whereas voter pre-registration is politically unbiased and boosts young voter turnout for all parties and communities;

Whereas data shows that citizens who are engaged in the political process when they are young are more likely to vote later in life ("Becoming a Habitual Voter," American Political Science Review);

Therefore, be it resolved that the _____ Party support pre-registration of high school students ages 16 and 17.

Automatic Voter Registration

Whereas our present law lets eligible voters register to vote when they apply or renew their driver's licenses only if they "opt-in" by checking a box;

Whereas eligible voters who miss the box may end up having to wait in line to register to vote on Election Day;

Whereas automatic voter registration will be convenient for eligible voters and help to reduce the number of voters who register on Election Day;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party support automatic voter registration.

Save the Dates:

February 6 – Caucus Night

February 8 - **“The Ideas Behind Development of the Metropolitan Council”** (See article in newsletter for details)

February 12 - LWV ABC regular monthly meeting – Andover City Hall (Senior Center) at 1685 Crosstown Blvd. Light supper at 6, program starts at 6:30. All are welcome!

February 24 - **“The Metropolitan Council – what’s the current fuss?”** (See article in newsletter for details)

February 26 - LWV ABC Board meeting at Davanni’s Coon Rapids, 11am

March 5 – LWVMN Day at the Capitol (See LWVMN Website for details)

Staying in Touch with LWV ABC

Visit our public website: www.lwvabcmn.org.

If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com. We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

We’re on Facebook: Just search for [League of Women Voters ABC Minnesota](#)

Our monthly newsletter, The Voter: Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, www.lwvabcmn.org.

Have Information to share with LWV ABC? Email your information to lwvabc@gmail.com for inclusion in one or more of the above.



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February 2018