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## January 14 – LWV Consensus Discussion – Metropolitan Council Governance

*6pm for light refreshments, program begins at 6:30 in the Andover Senior Center, 1682 Crosstown Blvd.*

Metropolitan Council runs our buses, our sewers, our regional parks and provides regional planning services to our 182 cities in the 7-county metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Council is managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of 16 members, appointed from districts of substantially equal population and a chair appointed at-large by the Governor. Appointments are made by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Minnesota Senate. Every year, legislators introduce bills to change this process, but none have been passed into law. What is the answer? What changes are needed. We will look at this issue in our January 14 meeting.

Metropolitan Council Districts



The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) has studied Met Council governance and provided a set of questions to area Leagues as they consider potential changes to the current LWV position on Met Council Governance. On January 14, we will gather as LWV'ers and provide our input to CMAL. Beginning on page 7 of this newsletter, you will find the current CMAL position and the list of 10 questions they want us to vote on. We will talk about the appointment process and possible changes that include possible popular election of Council members, moving to staggered terms and adding a nomination process to pre-qualify candidates before they are forwarded to the Governor.

CMAL has requested that we respond as individuals so they get a sense of where the members of LWV stand on the issue. Voting is limited to members only; we will provide ballots at the meeting. The full report from CMAL is found [at this link](#). You are urged to read it and bring a copy for reference.

**Legislative Interviews set for January 30 – HELP NEEDED! SAVE THE DATE!**

*Coon Rapids Civic Center in the large room, 6:30 to 9:00 pm*

Election Day and Candidates' Forums are over and the winning candidates have taken office. They now represent us whether we voted for them or not. The LWV MN lobby team, members and active citizens are all interested in where our legislators stand on the broad range of issues facing our area and our state. Legislative interviews give us the opportunity to talk with our Legislators informally without timers while building relationships, so they will know who we are when we contact them about issues of concern.

This event will be held at the Coon Rapids Civic Center. All area Legislators have been specifically invited. Each Legislator will have a round table to share with their constituents. Members will choose to sit with their Senator or Representative, trying to balance numbers. An LWV Table Captain or two will ask LWV questions and call on others to ask their questions. Another member will take detailed notes on the answers that the Legislators give. All LWV constituents of a given Senator or Representative will help make them and non-members welcome.

Members are also asked to volunteer for food, invitation, publicity, registration, photography, set up, and clean up committees. Please sign up for one or two jobs on the chart [at this link](#). This spreadsheet will also be used to indicate which Legislators are attending, and for you to indicate which table you will be at.

When we will get together to finalize plans once the committees are populated... sign up today!

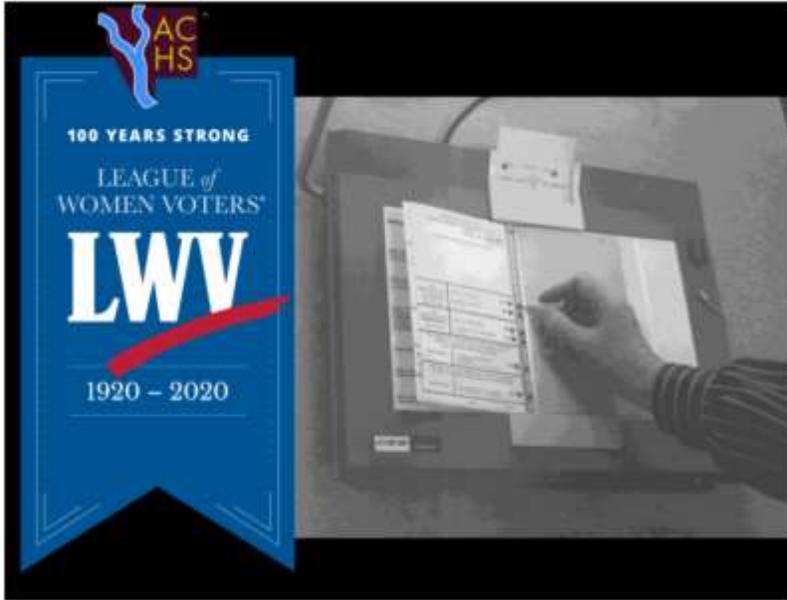
Thank you! - Geri Nelson, LWV ABC Voter Services Co-Chair



Photo from 2017 Legislative Interviews at Anoka Ramsey Community College

**Grand Opening of the LWV ABC Historical Display**

*January 19 at 2pm, Anoka County Historical Society, 2135 Third Avenue, Anoka*



Join us at 2pm on January 19 for the grand opening of the LWV ABC Historical Display at the Anoka County History Center, 2135 3rd Ave North, Anoka.

This joint venture between LWV ABC and the Anoka County Historical Society is timed to coincide with the centennial of passage of the 19th amendment, and features the history of the

Leagues in Anoka County. This is a big event for LWV ABC – join us!

This will be one of a series of events planned for 2019 – more information will come out soon with info on state events!



You're warmly invited to the official opening of The League of Women Voters exhibit. Come celebrate their history of advocacy, civic mindfulness, and election promotion with us. We are excited to tell this story thanks to a partnership between ACHS and our local League of Women Voters—Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area.

	<b>When:</b> January 19, 2019
	<b>Time:</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
	<b>Where:</b> Anoka County History Center
	2135 Third Ave. N Anoka, MN 55303

**Drafts and Discourse – Monday, January 21 at Torg Brewing –  
7pm 8421 University Avenue, Spring Lake Park**

Drafts and Discourse is on the third Monday of the month! We will be meeting at Torg Brewing in Spring Lake Park. This newly-opened brewery at 8421 University Ave NE has lots of room and is fully accessible for all. We will meet here at 7pm for... well, drafts and discourse.



This month our topic will be Metropolitan Council. We will talk about how District representatives are selected to serve on Metropolitan Council, and whether a different process, like direct election, would be better.

For more information on Torg Brewing, like them on Facebook [at this link](#) or visit their website: <https://www.torgbrewery.com/>

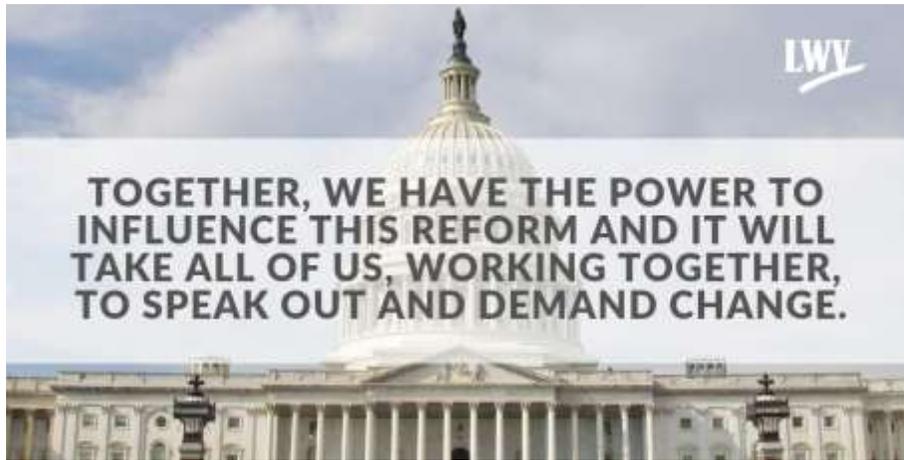
The brewery is located just south of Northtown on the same frontage road as Key's Café. Turn east from University at 83rd Avenue.

**Solar Energy Development  
in our Area - Brian Burandt,  
Vice President of Power  
Supply and Business for  
Connexus Energy  
February 11 at Andover City Hall**

Our February meeting will feature Brian Burandt, Vice President of Power Supply and Business for Connexus Energy. He will tell us about Connexus's projects that couple solar generation with storage for versatility and to help with peak

demand management. We'll also get into ways that solar generation can grow in our area and explore the outlook for the continued use of coal in our generating mix.





*This email text is from Chris Carson, President of LWV US. We are all urged to contact our Congressmen and urge them to support HR1, and to include a small donor public financing system in the bill.*

Last month, voters sent a clear message across the country that they are ready for bold, comprehensive democracy reforms. Now the League is working with a broad coalition of over 100 organizations to draft and shape HR1, a policy reform package that will include [key democracy provisions](#).

HR1 will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the Voting Rights Act. And we also need to [rebalance our system so that Big Money doesn't set Washington's agenda or decide who gets a seat at the table](#).

It will take all of us, working together, to speak out and demand change. Today, in fact, activists across the country are [dropping by Congressional offices in support of democracy reforms](#). This is the first step, and the incoming Congress gives us an opportunity to advance this solution and build momentum for the future.

Thank you for all your work, in 2018 and beyond. - Chris Carson.

**Take Action: End the Influence of Big Money**

New legislation from Congress, HR1, will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the Voting Rights Act. But we need your help to ensure that a key provision reducing the undue influence of Big Money in our politics is also included. [Contact your Representative](#) and ask that a small donor public financing system is included as a priority in HR1.



**Save the Dates:**

Monday, January 14. **LWV ABC Meeting – Metropolitan Council Governance** - Meet at 6pm for light supper, meeting to follow. Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd, Andover. All are welcome!

Monday, January 21 - **Drafts and Discourse** at Torg Brewery in Spring Lake Park, 6-8pm; 8421 University Ave NE, Spring Lake Park. The January topic will be Metropolitan Council Governance.

Monday, January 28, 11am – **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni’s in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30. This is a good opportunity to learn more about what LWV ABC is up to!

Monday, February 11. **LWV ABC Meeting – Solar Energy Development**. Meet at 6pm for light supper, meeting to follow. Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd, Andover. All are welcome!

Monday, February 18 – **Drafts and Discourse** at Torg Brewery in Spring Lake Park, 6-8pm; 8421 University Ave NE, Spring Lake Park (just south of Northtown on the same frontage road as Key’s Café). The February topic will be solar energy development.

Monday, February 25, 11am – **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni’s in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30.

**Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?**

**Four ways to stay in touch with LWV ABC**

**Visit our public website:** [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org). If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com). We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

**We’re on Facebook:** Just search for “LWV ABC Facebook”.

**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](http://www.lwvabcmn.org).

Email your information to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)

## CURRENT POSITION REGARDING GOVERNANCE OF METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

**Per the 2001 CMAL Study of the Metropolitan Council Governance, the CMAL Board adopted the following Position based upon the consensus of CMAL membership.**

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) supports as the decision-making body for metropolitan needs in accordance with these criteria:

- Efficiency and Economy
- Equitable Financing
- Flexibility
- Citizen Control
- Responsiveness to the Electorate

CMAL supports provision for coordinated metropolitan services focused through the Metropolitan Council.

CMAL supports retention of an **appointed** Metropolitan Council with greater use of its existing powers. (1969) (1976) (1993) (2001)

CMAL supports:

- Retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council. The appointed Metropolitan Council is seen as less parochial, less subject to special interests, and better able to adopt and maintain unpopular positions for the good of the entire area.
- The appointed Metropolitan Council is responsible to our elected state Legislature and watched over by our elected local officials (1969) (1976) (1993) (2001).
- An open appointment process including:
  - Publicized vacancies
  - Increased citizen, local government and legislative influence on appointments
  - Formal qualifications for office
  - Return to fixed, staggered terms
  - Establishment of a removal procedure for members of the council and district apportionment based on population (1969) (1976) (1993) (2001)

In the event that it appears that the Council may become an elected body, CMAL supports:

- Nonpartisan candidates with the availability of public financing
- Selection of the chair made by the councilmembers from among their number
- Maintaining of population as the basis for districts
- Election of Council members at the same time as local officials.
- Continuation of a part-time Council and the per diem basis for compensation (1976) (1993)

### **CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR METROPOLITAN LEAGUE MEMBERS**

The purpose of this study is to update the CMAL position on Metropolitan Council Governance (2001).

As you read through the study report, please consider the following consensus questions for updating our position (see report's page numbers for information following each question). Answer option (Current) indicates current structure or practice.

**1. Members of the Metropolitan Council should be (choose one or more);** (Report pages 14, 15, 21)

- a) Directly elected by the voters of each Metropolitan Council district
- b) Persons currently holding local elected office in the district
- c) Citizens residing in the district who are not local elected officials (current)

**2. If Council members are appointed, appointments should be made by (choose one);** (Report pages 14, 21)

- a) Governor (current)
- b) Local elected officials from each district should select the district representative
- c) Some Council members selected by each

**3. The Chair of the Metropolitan Council should be appointed by (choose one);** (Report page 22)

- a) Governor (current)
- b) Local elected officials within the metropolitan area
- c) Members of the Metropolitan Council from among Council members

**4. If Council members are appointed, their terms should be (choose a or b)** (Report pages 16, 21)

- a) Coterminous with that of the Governor and
  - I. Removable only for cause OR
  - II. Serving at the pleasure of the appointing authority (current)
- b) Fixed staggered terms, removable for cause

**5. If Council members are directly elected, terms should be (choose one);** (Report pages 16, 21)

- a) Staggered
- b) Not staggered (current)

**6. Members of the Metropolitan Council should meet the following criteria (choose all that apply);** (Report pages 17, 23)

- a) Business or labor skills and experience
- b) Professional expertise (finance, architecture, transportation, environment, housing, engineering, etc.)
- c) Commitment to regional perspectives
- d) Knowledge of regional issues
- e) Demographic diversity

**6. Members of the Metropolitan Council should meet the following criteria (continued)**

- f) Ability to meet time requirements for service (Metropolitan Council Board and committee meetings, as well as meetings with district elected officials)
- g) Previous experience as an elected official
- h) Other (please identify)

**7. If Council members are appointed by the Governor, there should be a nominating committee that includes (choose a or b) (Report pages 16, 24)**

- a) 7 members (current)
- b) Expand to 13 members

**8. If Council members are appointed by the Governor, there should be a nominating process that meets the following criteria (choose all that apply); (Report pages 14, 16, 23, 24)**

- a) The nominating committee should
  - I. Conduct an open and public review process
  - II. Recommend a slate of nominees to the Governor (current)
- b) Local elected officials should be a majority of the nominating committee.
- c) There should be a separate nominating subcommittee within each Metropolitan Council district.
- d) A Governor who declines to appoint a nominee recommended by the nominating committee should be required to explain to the nominating committee why the decision was made.

**9. To whom should Metropolitan Council members be accountable? (choose all that apply); (Report pages 17, 24)**

- a) Governor
- b) Residents of their Metropolitan Council district
- c) Residents of the metropolitan area as a whole
- d) Legislature
- e) City and County local elected officials in their district
- f) Residents of the State of Minnesota
- g) Other (please identify)

**10. The number of Metropolitan Council members should (choose all that apply); (Report pages 17, 18, 24)**

- a) Remain at one member from each of the current 16 districts (current)
- b) Increase the number of districts
- c) Additional members at large should be appointed
- d) Other (please identify)