

THE VOTER

Summer Edition (June and July 2016)

In this issue:

- Website
- Preview of July 11 Meeting
- Recap of June 13 Meeting
- Information on Andover Pollinator work
- Information on LWV ABC Candidate Forums and other Voter Services Activities

Website - We have a functioning public website! The URL is <<http://www.lwvabcmn.org>> LWV ABC uses a web product developed by the League of Women Voters of California, which it licenses to other leagues. Kathy Aanerud, Jeorgette Knoll and Bruce Pomerantz determined the initial layout and what to include as content. Send suggestions and submit material to LWVABC@lwvmn.org with "Attention: Newsletter" in the subject line.\

Our Next Meeting - July 11 – Recap of the League of Women Voters National Convention in Washington DC. LWV ABC members Jeorgette Knoll, Susan Anderson and Gretchen Sabel attended this convention and will give a lively multi-media recounting of events there (including two MAJOR bylaw changes that will affect our League) and culminating in a discussion around voting rights issues at the convention. This will be a fun evening – 6pm at Andover Senior Center for Mahnomn Porridge and potica, meeting starts at 6:30.



Well behaved women seldom make history this group challenged the system and made history at LWV US convention 2016!

Our Recent Meeting - **June 13 -- Kathy Tomsich, LWV Minnesota Action Committee** spoke about LWV Minnesota's legislative priorities, progress made on these issues at the legislative

session that just concluded, how local LWV members can participate in the legislative process, and fielded many questions from attendees.

Our speaker at our LWV membership meeting on June 13, 2016 was Kathy Tomsich, who discussed the 2016 legislative session. Kathy is Co-chair of the LWV MN Action Committee. She reported that a Bill to restore the voting rights to felons who have fulfilled their sentence had bi-partisan support, but died because there were so many other things to do. The legislature did open up in-person voting, so now you can vote up to seven days prior to the election, in person, and put your ballot into the machine where you vote. No progress was made in closing loop-holes to disclosure of sources of money in politics. A Bill was passed to have a state primary in presidential election years, while still retaining the caucus system separately. *Left to right below, Kathy Tomsich, Jeorgette Knoll with Kathy Y and Kathie Whelchel with Kathy T.*



Andover Pollinator Awareness Project: Many good things are happening for pollinators in the Andover area following partnerships that were launched last year by LWV ABC, Master Gardeners, City of Andover, and other residents and groups. Save the dates for upcoming events:

- **Pollinator Party**, Thursday, July 21, 6:00-9:00 pm, Andover YMCA campus -- A family friendly event with exhibitors, a bee display, native plants, activities for kids, experts to help you with pollinator-friendly landscaping, and refreshments. LWV ABC will have a table with pollinator information, flower seeds and will, of course, conduct voter registration!
- **Andover Garden Tour**, Saturday, July 23, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm -- Take a self-guided tour around Andover to view pollinator-friendly gardens and landscapes. Features on this year's tour include straw bale gardening, shade and native plantings, rain gardens, beekeeping, and how to plant a prairie landscape. Garden tour map will be available beginning July 1 at City of Andover's website or at Andover City Hall.



Planning Underway for Candidate Forums!

LWV ABC Candidate Forums

Dates have been set for the LWV ABC Candidate Forums for this election season. All forums will start at 6:30 PM. We will need many volunteers to help with each of these forums, so please put them on your calendars and plan to attend! Volunteers should arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 PM.

- Candidates for **Coon Rapids** Wards 1 and 4 have six and five candidates, respectively, so we will sponsor a Primary Forum Wednesday, **July 20th** for these two seats at Coon Rapids City Hall.
- Only one Anoka County Commissioner seat will be on the Primary ballot with three candidates. We will not have a forum for the Primary, but Blaine Cable will be doing interviews of the candidates. On Monday, **September 19th**, LWV will have the **Anoka County** Forum at the County Courthouse with Commissioners from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 6.
- Candidates for **Soil and Water Conservation** District Supervisors in all five districts will be held at **QCTV Studios**, 12254 Ensign Ave N, Champlin at a date to be determined.
- The **Champlin** Forum at Champlin City Hall on Thursday, **September 22nd** will include Champlin Mayor and Council seats in Wards 3 & 4 as well as Senate District 36 (John Hoffman, DFL, & Jeffry Lund, GOP) and House District 36A (Mark Uglem, GOP & Kevin Parker, DFL).
- The **Coon Rapids** forum for the General Election will be held Wednesday, **September 28th** at Coon Rapids City Hall for Council seats in Wards 1, 2, 4, and At Large, as well as Senate District 37 (Jerry Newton, DFL, & Brad Sanford, GOP) and House District 37A (Erin Koegel, DFL, Brian McCormick, Libertarian, & Andy Wilder, GOP). We may have the legislative candidates forum at Anoka Ramsey Community College.
- On **October 3rd**, the **Andover** forum will be held at Andover City Hall for Mayor, and two Council At Large seats as well as Senate District 31 (Michele Benson, GOP, & Ricky Englund, DFL). House District 31B (Primary in GOP) and 35B (Peggy Scott, GOP, & Wes Volkenant, DFL)
- In **Anoka** none of the incumbents have challengers so the forum on Thursday, **October 6th** will only include Senate District 35 (Jim Abeler, GOP & Roger Johnson, DFL) and House District 35A (Abigail Whelan, GOP & Andy Hillebregt, DFL).
- We will add **Fridley** to our forum list for the first time this fall. The Mayor and At-Large Council seats are up for election. SD 41 and HD 41A will also be at the forum on Thursday, **October 13th**.

This is fewer forums than we have had in recent years, so we are confident that we maintain our reputation for high quality forums!



To members of the Voter Service Committee (i.e. All LWV members!):

At our LWV ABC Board Retreat in April we reviewed, modified, and approved ground rules for this year's candidate forums. As all members of LWV try to help in some way to inform voters in an election year, it's important to understand LWV's policies around forums. Feel free to ask questions about anything that isn't clear or that you wonder about--if you have questions, candidates probably will as well.

League of Women Voters ABC Candidate Forum Ground Rules

1. League of Women Voters (LWV) is a non-partisan organization which promotes the active and informed involvement of citizens in the voting process. LWV does not support or oppose political parties or individual candidates.
2. LWV sponsors candidate forums to give the voters the opportunity to hear and compare candidates' stands on issues. All events are free and open to the public and the media. Questions will be gathered from various sources. As many questions as possible will be asked within the time limits.
3. In order to be invited to appear in an LWV ABC forum, a candidate must have publicly announced his/her intention to run, be eligible to hold the office and be qualified to be on the ballot. Write-in candidates for local offices may be invited if they have made a substantial showing that the candidacy is bona fide. (Bona fide might include campaign speeches, distribution of literature, press releases, issue papers, a campaign committee, website and/or headquarters.) Write-in candidates who have been eliminated in a primary are not eligible to appear in a general election forum.
4. The order of speaking will be determined by drawing numbers and the order will alternate or rotate thereafter.
5. LWV ABC encourages members of the public to submit questions to candidates before or during the forum. Questions should strive to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:
 - Define a candidate's position on issues concerning the office to which she/he seeks election.
 - Ascertain the process or method by which a candidate has formulated positions and/or would make decisions if elected.



- Explain the reasons for past actions or positions taken by an incumbent candidate (with opportunity for non-incumbent candidates to explain what they would do on the same issue.)
 - Determine a candidate's knowledge, background, and skills related to the office to which she/he seeks election.
6. LWV ABC reserves the right to screen questions. Our intention is, in good faith, to select questions that represent the interests expressed by the members of our audience and those who submit questions.
 - a. Questions will not be asked if they are:
 - Illegible
 - On personal matters unrelated to the elective position
 - Unclear
 - Inappropriately hostile/antagonistic/belligerent or friendly/supportive/gratuitous.
 - Submitted for the purpose of making a statement rather than gaining information.
 - b. Questions on one issue or similar issues may be consolidated and rephrased.
 - c. All written questions become the property of LWV ABC.
 7. If any listener feels an issue has not been adequately addressed, we urge that listener to contact the candidates directly.
 8. Time limits on responses will be strictly observed. Timekeepers will hold up a card to indicate when you have 15 seconds remaining and when you must STOP.
 9. A table outside the forum hall will be available for distribution of campaign literature.
 10. If an invited candidate is unable or unwilling to appear on the day of the scheduled event, the forum will still be held. The remaining candidate(s) will have an opportunity to express their positions on issues in their opening and closing statements and in response to questions submitted by the audience and read by the moderator. Unopposed candidates may appear alone. (See attached LWV Minnesota statewide policy.)
 11. LWV ABC will announce to the audience the candidates who are unable to or choose not to appear.
 12. No substitutes or stand-ins for the candidates will be allowed. Under extraordinary circumstances, the moderator may read a statement from a candidate.
 13. Candidates are asked not to endorse another candidate during the course of their comments.



14. No statements of a personal nature about another candidate will be tolerated. A person's public record, not her/his character may be examined.
15. Candidates may bring speaker notes to remind them of key points to make, however, briefing books are not permitted. Display props are not allowed.
16. No applause or outbursts from the audience will be tolerated. The moderator has the authority to terminate the forum if warranted.
17. If seating space is a problem, each candidate will be requested to ask their supporters to yield their seats to undecided voters.
18. No campaign signs (including buttons or t-shirts worn by anyone attending) will be permitted in the forum hall. However, a table outside the forum hall will be available for distribution of campaign literature.
19. Forum tapes must not be edited and must be shown in their entirety.
20. Cable TV will be taping the forum and it will be available online on Facebook and UTube and broadcast several times on appropriate cable stations. No other photography or videotaping is allowed during the forum. Candidates may not use video clips or photos in campaign ads. Candidates should also expect that local media and audience members may also record the event.