



# The VOTER

## Issues Briefing Registration Needed

**Saturday, October 10, 2015**  
**9 AM - 2 PM**

**Courtyard Marriot**  
**2266 Deming Way, Middleton**

**Featuring**

*A Talk About Climate Change: Current Treats and Opportunities*

**Tia Nelson**, Managing Director, Outrider Foundation

There is no lack of information about the perils of climate change. How do we translate that information into action and impact?



*Surprising Research Findings on Election Laws and Voter Turnout*

**Barry Burden**, Professor, Political Science; Director, Elections Research Center, UW-Madison

Does early voting boost or depress turnout? What would happen if Wisconsin abandoned Election Day Registration? What can we expect from voter ID?



*Collaborating for Reform*

**Jay Heck**, Director, Common Cause in Wisconsin

League is working with Com-



mon Cause and Wisconsin Democracy Campaign on Redistricting, Campaign Finance Reform and Voting Rights. How can you help?

Optional Redistricting Roundtable during our Open Networking Lunch



Today the League joined other leading good-government groups in [urging Governor Walker not to appoint a current Supreme Court candidate](#) to fill the vacancy on the Court.

**If anyone is going, please reach out to Kay**

Neil & Kay Deupree <deupreen@charter.net>  
 I just registered for the state LWV meeting on Oct. 10. Are others from Janesville planning to attend? We might as well get together for travel. Just let me know if you would like to car pool.  
 Thanks Kay

**What's Inside this Issue**

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# A Celebration of the Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony

*Sponsored by the Janesville and Beloit League of Women Voters  
February 6, 2016*

Susan B. Anthony, leader of the Women's Suffrage Movement, was first a teacher. In September 1840, she returned to Center Falls New York to be close to her family. She was offered a job teaching in the local district school, replacing a male teacher who had been dismissed for inefficiency. He was paid \$10.00 a week. Her salary, because she was a woman, was \$2.50 a week. In her diary she expressed anger that she, an excellent teacher, was paid so much less than a man who was dismissed because of inefficiency.

175 years later women are still consistently paid less than men for the same work. Our speaker for the 2016 Susan B. Anthony celebration is Martha De La Rosa the State Director for 9 to 5.

Over 40 years ago, a group of female office workers in Boston, fed up with being powerless and undervalued in the workplace, mobilized to change the way they were treated and paid. The group organized around

their grievances; terms that didn't yet exist – sexual harassment, pay equity and family leave. Forty years later, 9 to 5 has emerged as one of the largest, most respected national membership organizations of working women in the United States.



The venue for the 2016 event will be announced when tickets become available.



The League of Women Voters of Janesville is looking for some graphic design help for a short-term project we're working on. The ideal volunteer(s) would have interest and experience in graphic design, creativity, and excellent communication. This would be a terrific short project for a student or students looking to fulfill their community service hours for graduation or build their design portfolio. E-mail [sarah@perfectlyplus.net](mailto:sarah@perfectlyplus.net) for more info.

# *Amending the U.S. Constitution*

## *Part 2 (of 3) sets of questions*

*Reprinted from the LWV Beloit - In League*

Our League is joining Leagues across the nation in a study and member agreement process on amending our nation's Constitution. Based on the responses, a nationwide position will be formulated for adoption at the next LWVUS convention.

Last month's newsletter contained the first set of consensus questions and explanatory information. The following set of pages contains the second set of questions and information. You may want to print these pages--- and do some thinking about the issue. The next newsletter should contain the rest of the questions.

### **Part II: Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention**

As noted in the Background, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides two ways of proposing amendments to the nation's fundamental charter. Under one method, called an Article V Constitutional Convention, legislatures of 2/3 of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution. Amendments proposed by this method must be ratified by 3/4 of the states, (38 at present).

An Article V Convention, has never been successfully invoked.

Part II considers whether the League would support such a convention, and if so, under what circumstances.

#### **Consensus Question 2.a**

2. What conditions should be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?

a) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.

? Agree      ? Disagree      ? No consensus

#### **Background (2.a.)**

This question highlights the importance of the process by which the Convention delegates meet, hold discussions, and make decisions. It is asking whether basic "open meetings" and "freedom of information" rules should be in place for a Constitutional Convention. Under such rules, the formal business of the Convention is open to the public and the press, and the working documents of the Convention are accessible to the public and the press, but private discussions among

delegates are also permitted.

#### **Points of View (2.a.)**

Full knowledge of governmental action is a basic tenet of the democratic process. The American people depend on full disclosure of processes carried out by their representatives in order to be able to govern themselves effectively.

Answer "Agree" if you feel that open meetings and FOIA concepts should apply.

On the other hand, some processes are more likely to succeed if they are conducted behind closed doors. Successful governing is the outcome of strategic compromise, and the give and take of the process may happen more readily when it is conducted out of the public eye. This way of proceeding is often implemented for sensitive diplomatic or contractual negotiations. It has also been argued that today's transparency would have made impossible the compromises required to create our current Constitution. Answer "Disagree" if you feel that the Convention deliberations should be allowed to be conducted in secret.

#### **Consensus Question 2.b**

b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.

? Agree      ? Disagree      ? No consensus

#### **Background (2.b.)**

These are two different ways of proceeding – quite different in the philosophy on which they are based. The first, based on population, provides for each individual citizen – the people – to be represented; the second provides an outcome in which individual states are represented and gives more weight to smaller states.

#### **Points of View (2.b.)**

With representation based on population, the one-person, one-vote principle is the guiding rule; it is the appropriate way to represent all the American people in a governing body that has the power to decide to change the Constitution by which this country is governed. This is representative democracy at its fairest. Answer "Agree" if this seems right to you.

Alternatively, representation should not be

# ★ Constitution

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based on population because the United States is simply a federation of states; hence, it is the states that should be represented in the process no matter what the population of the state. Answer “Disagree” if you think state rights should predominate.

## **Consensus Question 2.c**

c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

? Agree      ? Disagree      ? No consensus

## **Background (2.c.)**

Some governing bodies are elected by the people and other governing bodies are appointed by other elected or appointed officials – by governors or by legislatures, for instance.

## **Points of View (2.c.)**

Election of state delegates is the fairest and most democratic way to identify individuals who will represent and make decisions for all the American people. Answer “Agree” if this is your point of view.

Expertise is vital in a situation where understanding of legal nuances and historical precedents of constitutional law are important; an appointment process is the best way to achieve the needed expertise. Some argue that appointed delegates can be controlled by the appointing body and kept from straying to topics other than those the Convention was called to consider. Furthermore, the structure of the ratification process reflects the founders’ view that consideration of proposed amendments is to be by states. So whomever each state chooses to represent that state, and the method by which they are chosen, should be acceptable to the rest of the nation. Answer “Disagree” if you think states should be able choose a method of delegate selection other than popular election.

## **Consensus Question 2.d**

d) Voting at the convention must be by delegate, not by state.

? Agree      ? Disagree      ? No consensus

## **Background (2.d.)**

This means that whatever the method of selection of delegates to the Convention, each delegate would have one vote, and they need not vote by bloc with their state. A state delegation’s votes could be divided on any

given action.

## **Points of View (2.d.)**

Voting by delegate means that each delegate brings their own judgment and conscience to the process, and need not be bound by the dictates of state interests. This is the way the original Constitutional Convention worked, and it is the way the U.S. House of Representatives works. If this is the way you think it should work for a Constitutional Convention, answer “Agree.”

Voting by state reflects the view that the United States is a federation of states and the delegates should be bound to vote as a bloc consistent with that state’s position on the question. Political party nominating conventions often vote by state bloc, at least on the first round. If you think delegates should be bound together in state blocs, answer “Disagree.”

## **Consensus Question 2.e**

e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.

? Agree      ? Disagree      ? No consensus

## **Background (2.e.)**

There are two possibilities: 1) once the Convention is called to order, only one topic may be considered—presumably the one on which 34 states have called for a Convention; or, 2) the Convention once convened can consider any topic that the delegates wish to consider. This second option raises the issue of a “runaway convention,” one that could go beyond the issues that prompted the states to call a convention. The 1787 Convention is the only precedent for a convention like one called under Article V. It was called to revise the Articles of Confederation and, in the end, wrote a whole new Constitution.

It is prudent to acknowledge one point on which most observers agree: state calls for a Convention cannot be for a specifically worded proposal. The wording of the proposed amendment must be open enough to allow the Convention to deliberate and craft the amendment to be offered to the states for ratification.

## **Points of View (2.e.)**

If the Convention can be limited to a specific topic, there will be no fear of a runaway Convention – one in which any issue is legitimate and can be the subject of a proposed constitutional amendment. Such an unlimited Convention could threaten the structure of government, the protection of individual rights, or any

# ★ Constitution

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other combination of issues. It would not respect the states that called for a Convention because of their concerns about a certain topic.

The Article V Constitutional Convention process is a tool provided to the states outside the control of Congress as a means of taking action when Congress is unable or unwilling to do so. In order to be fully effective, Congress should not try to limit the agenda of a Convention should have the power to do whatever the delegates wish to do; that is what the founders in Philadelphia did at their Constitutional Convention. If this kind of latitude seems important, answer “Disagree.”

## **Consensus Question 2.f**

f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.

? Agree      ? Disagree      ? No consensus

## **Background (2.f.)**

Congress has the responsibility to call a Constitutional Convention when 2/3 of the states ask for one, but it is unclear how Congress should count the 2/3. Should state resolutions calling for a Convention on a specific topic be counted as a request for a Convention on only that topic when determining if 34 state requests have been received? Or should Congress count every state resolution regardless of its substantive content?

## **Points of View (2.f.)**

Counting state requests by topic respects the will of the states that call for a

Convention on a particular topic rather than combining very different requests to get a result that could be inconsistent with a state’s intent. Counting by topic also increases the possibility that the Convention would be limited to that topic, and ensures that there truly is sufficient interest in the topic to call a Convention. If Congress counts only those state resolutions that relate to a specific topic, then it is more difficult to get to the required 2/3 and a Constitutional Convention is less likely. Answer “Agree” if you believe that only state resolutions on a single topic should be counted by Congress.

There is nothing in the Constitution that limits state calls or how they should be counted. The Constitutional Convention process was designed for those times when there is significant discontent, and counting all state calls together better reflects widespread concern even if the concerns are very different. Since a Constitutional Convention should consider whatever issues arise, there is no need for state resolutions to be count-

ed only when they are on the same topic. Moreover, if Congress counts only those state resolutions that relate to a specific topic, then it is more difficult to get to the required 2/3 and a Constitutional Convention is less likely. If this is your perspective, answer “Disagree.”

## **Consensus Question 2.g**

g) The validity of state “calls” for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress.

? Agree      ? Disagree      ? No consensus

## **Background (2.g.)**

States can issue their calls for a Convention without a time limit or expiration date, and the calls, once issued, can be considered valid or “in force” indefinitely. After a period of time, long or short, changes in the political climate or in the majority controlling a state legislature might cause a state to change its mind about such a call and try to take it back or rescind the call. Should those rescissions be counted by Congress when tallying whether the required 2/3 threshold has been reached?

## **Points of View (2.g.)**

If states are not allowed to take back their calls, then the accumulation of calls counting toward the 2/3 threshold does not really reflect the view of a supermajority of states at the same point in time. It is merely a matter of accretion, with some of those calls representing an historical artifact of a sentiment no longer held. Whichever point of view is favoring the call merely has to wait through time to capture the majority in their legislature – no matter how fleeting – and once they’ve issued the call, it cannot be undone by future action, no matter how much the majority view may have changed. States should be allowed to rescind their calls. If this is your view, answer “Agree.”

Once a state issues a call for a Convention, that call forms the basis of action by other states. As the movement for a Convention gains momentum, new states coming on board rely on the actions of the other, early-adopting states in making their decisions whether to join. Furthermore, if states are allowed to take back their calls, they may be more likely – or more cavalier – in issuing the call in the first place. States should have to think twice and three times about calling for a Constitutional Convention; and once the call is issued, it should stand for all time because the process is ongoing. If this is your view, answer “Disagree.”

# Would you like to help register voters from Beloit?

Lori Stottler, the City of Beloit Clerk, is providing training to Janesville League members who wish to serve as a Special Registration Deputy (SRD) for Beloit. (This works nicely when we do voter registration at Blackhawk Tech and UW-Rock, we will still need to be trained as SDRs for the City of Janesville, which will be scheduled at a future date.)

office either by mail or e-mail.

5 – Once I receive your form and review your history, I will send you an SRD packet and ID card. I will prefer to send via e-mail to save City postage and paper resources but will mail if you do not have access to e-mail.

## Here are the quick, easy and simple steps:

1 – From a computer with sound, click on this link: <http://www.beloitwi.gov/index.asp?SEC=%7bC48F1DA0-DC2B-4442-808A-5C48634A21C5%7d&Type=BASIC&persistdesign=none>

2 – The slides are there for your review or printing, but fair warning there are almost 50 pages worth.

3 – Watch the training video which takes about 30 minutes at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIQ4HCkw6I>

4 – Print out the Special Registration Deputy training Certification form. Complete it. Return it to the clerk's

*\*\*\*\*This is a pilot program and will be monitored closely by me and my staff. I will always hold Chief Inspector and Poll Worker training in person. Please remain open minded and provide me with any feedback you think others might find helpful. THANK YOU!\*\*\*\**

Lori Stottler, CPM-CERA  
City Clerk  
City of Beloit  
100 State Street  
Beloit, WI 53511  
Phone: (608)364-6684  
Fax: (608)364-6642  
[E-mailto:StottlerL@beloitwi.gov](mailto:StottlerL@beloitwi.gov)  
<http://www.beloitwi.gov/>

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## September's Fall Membership Event



Carol Herzig, photos

Approximately 2 dozen members gathered at the Janesville Woman's Club to listen to Kate Flanagan of the Rock County Behavior Health Redesign Committee. Kate gave an inspiring talk on what Rock County is doing in regards to the mental health issues that clog the judicial and jail systems. Much ground has been gained but still a long way to go. We thank the mental health committee and the membership for organizing this informative program. Pictured upper left: Jan Hoopes & Lois Allen; Center left: Deb Fischer & Christy Marsden, Center right: President



Katie Kuznacic, Right: Kate Flanagan, Lower left: Hazel Connors, Marilyn Jensen & Judy Adler (with her back to the camera), Lower right: Carol Tidwell & Laura Boettcher.

# Calendar

## Upcoming Activities

**2015-16\***

**\*Additional events may be planned.  
Check website: [lwvjvl.org/calendar](http://lwvjvl.org/calendar)**

### October

October 13 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting

### November

November 10 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting

### December

December 8 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting

### January

January 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting  
January Winter membership gathering TBD

### February

February 9 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting  
February Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party

### March

March 8 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting

### April

April 12 6:30 p.m. Board meeting

### May.

May 10 Annual Meeting

# City News

## Park Place Views Ft. Clerk-Treasurer Office to Premiere September 5

*While this is late it show what the city is doing to open communication with the residences of Janesville. You can find the current interview at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/JATVMedia>*



Post Date:09/01/2015 9:45 AM

The City of Janesville and JATV Media Services (Janesville's public access television station) produce Park Place Views, a monthly series which aims to keep Janesville residents informed by highlighting the people, places, projects and events in the City of Janesville.

The next episode will premiere on September 5 at 10 am, 4 pm and 10 pm and will continue airing throughout September. This episode will focus on elections, licenses, taxes and much more. Tune in to learn more about City Clerk-Treasurer Dave Godek as he gives insight into the many different services of Janesville's Clerk-Treasurer office.

Park Place Views broadcasts on Charter Channel 994 and is also available on JATV's YouTube page. The City thanks JATV for its cooperation in producing this program. For updates on upcoming episodes, please "like" the City on Facebook or follow the City on Twitter.

Please contact Maggie Hrdlicka at 755-3103 for more information.

## Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:



To check out the  
action go to:

**LWV-US** <[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)>

**LWV-WI** <[www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)>

**JANESVILLE LEAGUE**

<[www.lwvjvl.org](http://www.lwvjvl.org)>

## Needed, one canopy to borrow infrequently



**D**o you have a canopy that the League may borrow when we staff a table at the Janesville Farmer's Market? If so, please contact Voter Chairs Debbie Fisher and Christy Marsden. Thank you so much.

## Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?

Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

Name

Address

E-mail

Phone Number

Individual \$65.00  
 Student \$30.00

Household \$95.00

I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -  
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

# Celebrate your Birthday with the League!

*Remember you may still  
contribute to the State  
League with a birthday  
donation and half of your  
donation will be  
returned to our  
Janesville League.*

