



The VOTER

Communications from the President

Dear Friends in League,

I hope that you have tried out the new “Voices: Call to Action” smartphone app that the LWVWI has provided us. If not yet, try it this month. “Voices” sends action alerts to your phone on legislation that relates to long-standing positions the League has developed through consensus.

The “Voices” app makes advocacy easy! Once you have entered your street address, the app will supply you with the contact information for e-mails, phone calls, and Tweets to your elected US and Wisconsin state representatives. The app even provides you with a sample script—that can be very helpful for keeping track of the name and number of the pending legislative bills.

I had the opportunity to use “Voices” a few days ago, and I highly recommend it to you.

The other evening, I received an action alert from LWVWI about the upcoming vote in the US Senate to debate health care legislation. I opened the app, read the sample script, and speed dialed the offices of Senators Baldwin and Johnson



to leave a voice message. The only glitch was that Senator Johnson’s voice mail box was already full, so I wasn’t able to reach his office by phone until the next morn-

ing. However, I was able to use the e-mail button on the app that evening so I could at least send an e-mail message—just in case.

The process was easy, and it only took a few minutes send messages to both US Senators. I am a person who has not sent many messages to my elected representatives in the past, but I will NOW!!

Please try the “Voices” app, and if you are as impressed by it as I am, share it with other Wisconsinites who are not yet members of LWV. Go to <http://tryvoices.com/lwvwi> to read a message from Andrea Kaminski, and get instructions for downloading the app to your iPhone or Android phone.

On Wednesday, July 26, and on Wednesday, August 9, Neil Deupree and Mary Buelow will speak on behalf of the Janesville LWV at meetings of the Rock County Human Services Board. They will give the Board members copies of the Behavioral Health Position that the Janesville and Beloit Leagues developed jointly, and they will speak to present some of the highlights of the position statement. We hope that our position will have a positive influence on the officials who will be shaping policy and funding for behavioral health services in Rock County. Please consider attending one of the meetings to demonstrate your support. We expect to have members from both Leagues at the meetings. The August 9 meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Rock County Job Center, 1900 Center Ave., Janesville.

Thank you.

Linda

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Women's Equality Day in the United States



Women's Equality Day celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States' Constitution on August 26, 1920.

The 19th Amendment was added to the American Constitution in 1920.

The amendment granted women the right to vote for the first time and was a result of the women's suffrage movement in the country.

A 40-Year Journey

The amendment, which was and still remains a major landmark in the women's rights movement in the United States, was first introduced in the Congress in 1878 by California Senator Aaron A. Sargent on the behest of suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Because of this, the first version of the

amendment is often called the Anthony Amendment, after Susan B. Anthony, who was arrested for voting in the Presidential elections in 1872.

Arrested for Voting

The journey to gain the right to vote for women was a long one – voting rights had been extended to all male citizens of the United States by the 14th Amendment in 1868. The 15th Amendment, which was passed in 1870, prohibited the central or any state government from denying an American citizen the right to vote based on their “race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Despite this, women were not allowed to vote in most states and were often arrested when they tried to cast their ballots during elections under the two amendments.

Widespread Opposition

Opposition to voting by women was widespread and the amendment did not get to the see the light of the day again until 1914 when it was once gain brought up in the US congress. In May 1919, two-thirds of the Congress voted in favor of the amendment and it was sent to the states for ratification.

While there are still many issues that the women's rights movement has been working and fighting for, the amendment ensured that women could make their voices heard and affect policy change.

Celebrating Equality

Women's Equality Day was first celebrated in 1971 after the Congress passed a resolution to mark the occasion annually. The proposal to do so was made by Representative and feminist Bella Abzug. The purpose behind the creation of this holiday was to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in society and to recognize the hard work and sacrifices made by the pioneers in the suffrage movement.

Women's rights organizations and groups that work in the area of voting rights celebrate this day by holding seminars and workshops that address issues and problems currently faced by women in the country. Schools and educators take the day as an opportunity to educate students of the long and often difficult journey of the women's rights movement to gain basic human rights.

Because this is an observance and not a national holiday, businesses, public and private organizations and schools remain open on this day.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/women-equality-day>

While it is a bit late to organize something for this year, we may wish to work on something for next year!



TRY VOICES
CALL TO ACTION

**BE THE FIRST TO GET LWVWI
ACTION ALERTS WITH THIS
EASY-TO-USE SMARTPHONE APP
THAT LETS YOU CONTACT
YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS
WITH ONE TOUCH**



tryvoices.com/lwvwi

Guide to Passing a County Resolution on Fair Maps

Linda Reinhardt
President

Do we want to work toward getting the Rock County Board to pass a fair maps resolution? Bette Carr of the Beloit League will be contacted to see if they are interested in working with us.

There is a nice guide following. STEP 2 will be key. Do any of you have suggestions for who might be a good champion on the County Board for a fair maps resolution?



County boards across Wisconsin are passing resolutions calling for fair state electoral maps. The purpose of the county resolutions is to create a groundswell of opposition to the partisan gerrymandering that led a federal court to rule Wisconsin's electoral maps unconstitutional in 2016. The resolution also calls on the state legislature to create an impartial, nonpartisan process for drawing our state's voting maps (as proposed in State Senate Bill 13 and Assembly Bill 44). Concerned groups of citizens are organizing to introduce and pass the resolution in as many counties as possible. You can help! Here is a guide to get you started. For more information, e-mail Hans Breitenmoser at breitenmoser.jr@gmail.com.

Step 1: Download the resolution.

Included on the last page of this guide is recommended language for your resolution from advocates in Lincoln County. Make sure to review and change the county name to your own. Print several copies to share with other advocates and board members.

Step 2: Find a well-liked champion.

A champion is a board member who will introduce the resolution. It is a good idea to find a champion that will not only be a strong advocate on the issue, but is also someone that is well liked and respected by the other board members. Don't pick someone that is high drama or alienates the board – this could set people against your resolution before it is even introduced.

Step 3: Craft a nonpartisan argument that will appeal to all members of the board.

Work with your county board champion to craft an argument that will appeal to both conservative and progressive board members. Focus on issues such as fairness, nonpartisanship, and cost-effectiveness. For example, it is hard for anyone to defend the nearly \$2

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Step 4: Get to know the committee that will review the resolution first.

Step 5: Reach out to each of the board members to see how they will vote.

Step 6: Pack your county board meeting with supporters.

Step 7: Leverage the press.

Step 8: Make sure your success is widely known!

million in tax dollars that the state legislature has used to draw and defend flawed maps. A nonpartisan redistricting process would cost comparatively little for the state to draw fair maps. It is also worthwhile to point out that this resolution is not a partisan issue – both the Democratic Party (in Illinois) and the Republican Party (in Wisconsin) have gerrymandered electoral maps. Voting in favor of this resolution is about doing what's right to promote fairness for voters and defend democratic principles.

(Scroll down to see talking points crafted specifically to persuade county supervisors who might be on the fence about supporting a fair maps resolution.)

Step 4: Get to know the committee that will review the resolution first.

Before your resolution is introduced to the board, it will first have to pass a committee. Each county is different, but often the committee that will review your resolution first will bear the name "legislative" or "executive." Work with your champion to get to know the members on this committee before the resolution is introduced. Present your argument to them and make sure you have all your yes votes secured before the committee votes.

Step 5: Reach out to each of the board members to see how they will vote.

It's imperative that you make sure you have enough votes to pass the resolution before bringing it up – having it defeated is a setback for the statewide effort. Work with your champion to reach out to each of the board members to get an idea of how they feel about the issue. You don't just want to find people who will vote yes – you want to find other board members who will speak up in support the resolution during the discussion. If there is opposition on the board, you don't want those voices to drown out support and intimidate

COUNTIES THAT HAVE PASSED FAIR MAPS RESOLUTIONS



Source: Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, July 2017

#fairmaps

board members into voting no. Don't spend a lot of time trying to convince people who will obviously vote against it. Focus on the moderates who will be swayed by a sound argument.

Step 6: Pack your county board meeting with supporters.

When it is time to vote on the resolution, call up friendly organizations and ask them to bring supporters to speak up on behalf of fair maps. For example, your local Citizen Action Organizing Cooperative, a nearby chapter of the League of Women Voters, or the Farmer's Union have all supported the resolution in other counties. It is very important to have constituents from

each of the county districts represented. Ask them to read a short statement about why they feel their county board representative should vote yes. Encourage them to focus on the key points of your argument: fairness, nonpartisanship, and cost-effectiveness.

Step 7: Leverage the press.

If you will have lots of supporters at the board meeting, call up local reporters and let them know. After the resolution passes, send out a press release to local and statewide media (we have included a sample press release at the end of this guide) or ask a supportive

★ See FAIR MAPS, Page 6

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2017-18*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwwjvl.org/calendar

August 2017

August 14 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

September 2017

September 14 Membership meeting & Program
September 11 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

October 2017

October 9 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting
October General Membership Meeting - Redistricting meeting
October 27 State Issues Briefing @ Truax Campus in Madison

November 2017

November 13 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
November Book Discussion - Diversity

December 2017

No Board Meeting

January 2018

January Membership meeting & Program
January 8 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

★ Fair Maps

Continued from page 5

county board member to author an Op-Ed for the local paper. Make sure to emphasize that the effort in your county is part of a diverse, statewide movement in support of fair maps. Familiarize yourself with the counties that have passed the resolution so far and emphasize the diversity of rural and urban, progressive and conservative counties that are part of this effort. Ask your champion or other supporters to participate in interviews about why they voted yes.

Step 8: Make sure your success is widely known!

Your City Clerk will distribute the resolution to state officials as outlined in the resolution. Also make sure to notify the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign (wisdc@wisdc.org), which is tracking counties that have passed the resolution. When a new county joins the growing list, we encourage you to announce it at your county board meeting to continue promoting the issue in your area.

RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS

WHEREAS, currently under the state constitution, the legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following the decennial federal census by the majority party; and at the same intervals, the legislature also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law, and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistrict-

ing plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the legislature and members of Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census, and

WHEREAS, historically legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that put the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 process to draw the maps and fight litigation contesting those maps cost taxpayers nearly \$1.9 million, and

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting that was done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional, and

WHEREAS, redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors insists upon the creation of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process promotes more accountability and transparency and prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, and incumbents' residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps, except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin County.



HELP WANTED:

The issue of poverty is an on-going interest for League members. It would be good to have a League member be an observer of the Rock County Human Services Board watching for ways we can be supportive of programs that help those on the margins struggling with the

barriers they face. This is a critical time as the Board is working on the budget for next year. The date of the public hearing on the budget has not been set but could be as early as the end of July but most likely in August. Rock County Human Services committee meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 4:30 PM at the Rock County health Center 3rd Floor conference room, Highway 51 North. Interested persons should contact Nancy Stabb for more information about what is involved.



Plans are being made for the September Membership meeting



ber 14th starting at 6:30 p.m., location to be determined. Information will be made available as soon as it is firmed up.



The program will be on school lunches, our speakers will be Jim Degan, Nutrition manager for Janesville School District; and Jessica Lochner, Associate Director for ECHO.

The night of our meeting will be Thursday, Septem-

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.*

