

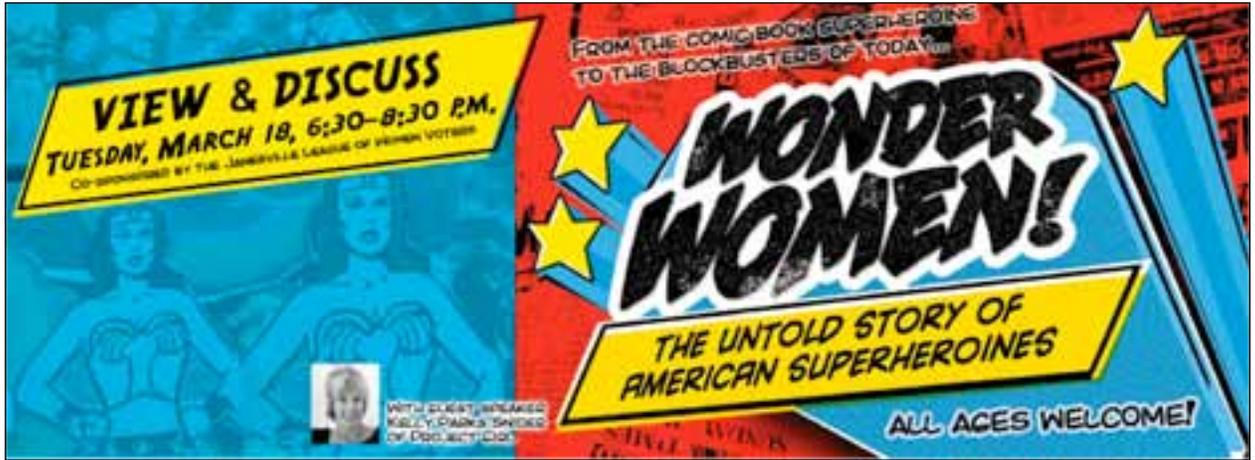


# The VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

March 2014

www.lwvjvl.org



**Let's set a record for League member attendance – *it will be fun and interesting!***  
***Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines***  
***Tuesday, March 18, 2014***  
***6:30–8:30 p.m.***  
***Hedberg Public Library***

**C**o-sponsored by the Janesville League of Women Voters and Hedberg Library. From the comic book superheroine to the blockbusters of today, this film offers a fun and witty look at how popular representations of powerful women often reflect society's anxieties about women's liberation. Our showing will include a discussion led by a facilitator-- Kelly Parks Snider, co-founder of Project Girl.



We see this as an opportunity for an inter-generational discussion of the changing roles of women in society. Invite a younger

woman to come with you!

The film was created for PBS Independent Lens. It is part of the Reel to Real program, a partnership of Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) and the Wisconsin Library Association to bring people together to view films and talk about the topics that touch our lives.

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## What's Inside this Issue

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# The current redistricting process in Wisconsin is flawed and needs to change.

Amy Golackson  
President, LWV-JVL

Every ten years the lines of our voting districts shift. They are supposed to shift to allow for population growth and make sure we are all equally represented. But what we are finding is they are more likely to shift in order to keep the current people/party in office more securely their seat. The current flawed process allows the people in elected office to redraw district lines themselves in whatever way they choose.



This is bad because when people feel like they are secure in their seat without a chance of losing to someone with differing ideas, they have zero incentive to cooperate, negotiate or compromise any elements, by the way of good public debate and a strong democracy.

The league of women voters in Wisconsin is a nonpartisan organization that has studied this issue, not only here, but also in other the states. Not all states use the same process. In Iowa, district lines are drawn based on population and not political affiliation and it helps

to create better cooperative work between the parties. Redistricting in Iowa features a unique process relative to the other 49 states. Rather than a special commission or legislative committee, the nonpartisan Iowa Legislative Service Agency is responsible for drawing the lines. However, any plan introduced by the Agency must be approved by the Governor and the General Assembly.

Now is the time to make this change because no one knows which party will be in charge in 6 years. You may like the current party in charge right now but if the other party was in charge you wouldn't be in favor of this one-sided power to redraw. We can do better. We can have balanced representation without all the crazy twists and turns of district lines that purposefully carve out certain likelihood of votes being cast.

To not oppose this practice is in effect saying that we voters accept gridlock and an extremist party mentality over the centrist, more cooperative pathway that has in the past been the sure footing of our democracy.

Urge your representative to support the changes for an independent, nonpartisan council to direct the redistricting process

As the president of the Janesville LWV I encourage you to add your voice to this conversation and help us make democracy strong.

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## JAC – PTA and the League of Woman Voters Set School Board Candidates' Forum

Kay Deupree  
Voter Service Committee

A forum for the Janesville School Board candidates will be hosted by the Janesville Area Council PTA and the LWV on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. The forum will be held in the Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 527 S. Franklin Street, Janesville. The five candidates for the three open positions on the Board will participate.

The public is invited to attend this free event. The audience may submit questions for the candidates during the forum. It will be broadcast live on cable 993 and then rebroadcast before the election, which will be

held Tuesday, April 1. The forum may also be viewed through a link on [lwvjvl.org](http://lwvjvl.org), the Janesville LWV website, after March 6.

The candidates are: Diane Eyers, Fred Jackson, Kevin Murray, Bill Sodemann and Dale Thompson.

This forum will be moderated by Christy Marsden, League of Women Voters. The forum is valued as a way to provide voters with a comparison of the candidates' views. Carol Tidwell, LWV Voter Services chair, remarked "We are pleased to again jointly sponsor this forum with the local PTA. Our desire is to help voters take an active interest in the decisions facing the Board."

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## City Council Forum slated for March 12

7:00 p.m.

Hedberg Public Library

There are three seats available this spring for the City Council and four candidates. Join us on Wednesday,

March 12 for our forum.

The candidates are:

Mark T. Bobzien, Jim Farrell, George D Brunner, Matthew J Kealy

# The LWV of Janesville and the LWV of Beloit sponsored the annual Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party



Carol Herzig photos  
**\$448 in Funds were donated for the National Susan B. Anthony House at this 23rd annual event.**

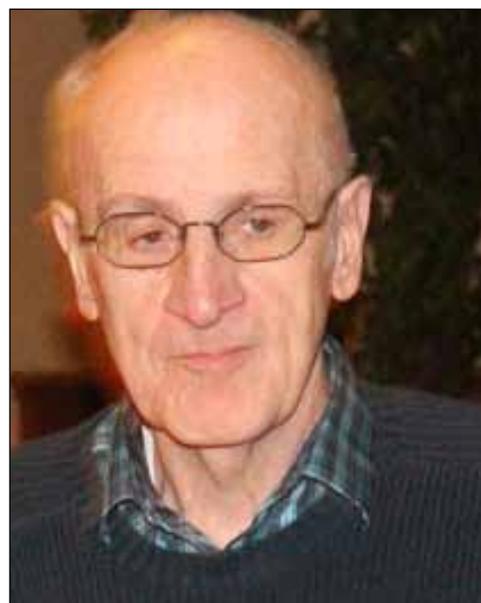




## Candidates and Elected Official in attendance



# Additional Candidates and Elected Officials



# Multiculturalism and the Janesville School District

Deb Fisher and Ted Kinnaman  
*Study Co-Chairs*

You are invited to the Hedberg Library on Saturday March 15th, 9:30 a.m. to discuss the updated position statement on Multiculturalism and the Janesville School District. The current position is 21 years old and was created when diversity within the School District was 1%. Today the diversity is 23%. How is the School District responding to the increasing diversity? Is the response appropriate and effective in 2014? These are some of the questions addressed in more than ten interviews with the District Administration; community members and teachers.

We value your input! We hope to see you at the Hedberg Library on March 15th at 9:30 a.m.



## Multicultural Diversity and the Janesville School System

The League of Women Voters of Janesville, Wisconsin supports the work of the Janesville School District to bring greater understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism throughout the entire school system. We specifically support and encourage the following new directions.

Four years ago the District Equity Leadership Team (DELT) was formed. The purpose was to work to close the cultural/racial achievement gap in the District. In 2013 The Promise Schools in Janesville received recognition from the Department of Public Instruction because they have done an excellent job of closing the cultural/racial achievement gap.

New history textbooks have been introduced in the classrooms at all levels. The new books acknowledge the perspective of persons of color. In many chapters history is viewed through the eyes of the minority.

The Library Media Specialist works hard to make sure students are reading authors who are persons of color.

There is racial/ethnic diversity in the Central Office Staff and in the individual building Administrative Staff.

The Platinum Plan was introduced to the weekly mandatory staff development three years ago. It has three components: White Privilege or Unconscious

Bias; Poverty and Culturally Responsive Teaching.

There are six Youth Advocate Staff members who have been hired to coach and mentor students of color. Their goal is to help students of color succeed.

Five years ago a scholarship committee was created. They raise funds from the community to pay the full tuition of minority students from Parker and Craig High Schools who will attend a Wisconsin University and work toward a degree in Education. The students are required to apply to teach in the Janesville District. Currently a 2013 graduate is teaching at Edison School and two more students are on schedule to graduate in 2014.

While we support the work that has been accomplished we know there is more work to do. Specifically, Latinos are conspicuously absent from leadership roles within the District. We believe there should be a strong effort to recruit Latinos for leadership positions since 11% of the students are Latino.

We think the Platinum Plan needs to be expanded. We suggest it be offered four or five times a year rather than once or twice as it currently is being offered.

Finally, we think the Janesville School Board should be aware of these changes and become vocal in support of them.

# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Activities 2014\*

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

*This is a tentative schedule for what we plan to cover this spring. Scheduling for the events is in the planning stages. Once they are solid you will receive more information about them. Thank you for your patients.*

### March

**March 4th** School Board Candidates Forum, ESC, 527 S. Franklin, 6:30 p. m.

**March 6th** Board meeting, Healthnet, 6:30 p. m.

**March 12th** City Council Candidates Forum, Hedberg Public Library, 7:00 p. m.

**March 15th** Multicultural Position, Hedberg Public

Library, 9:30 a. m.

**March 18th** Wonder Women Viewing and Discussion, Hedberg Public Library, 6:30 p. m.

### April

**April 1st** Local Elections

**April 8th** Board Meeting, Healthnet, 6:30 p. m.

### May

May TBD Annual Meeting.

**Check website: [lwvjvl.org/calendar](http://lwvjvl.org/calendar)**



## 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)>

## 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.*

