



Dear Friends in League,

On June 10, our League held its first virtual Annual Meeting. Twenty-five of our 64 members submitted written ballots on or before June 17, resulting in the election of the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee, passage of the proposed budget for 2020-21,

and two changes of our League’s bylaws to eliminate the office of Second Vice-President and to revise the election cycle so the President and Vice President will have overlapping two-year terms. (The full report of the results can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.) Thank you to those who participated in the meeting and voted, and to those who put in extra work and time to make the virtual meeting run smoothly.

The newly elected Board will hold its first meeting on **Monday, July 6 at 6:30 pm via Zoom**. All members who would like to attend Board meetings, or any committee meeting, are welcome. We will be holding our meetings on Zoom for the foreseeable future. For security reasons we are not posting the links to the meetings on our website or social media outlets. If you wish to receive an “invitation” to a meeting, click on the RSVP button for the meeting on our website: <https://www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events> or contact the convener of the meeting directly.

If we were not already aware of the extent of systemic racism in our society, the events of recent weeks and months have certainly confronted all of us the gravity of the situation. The LWVUS DEI Committee has been working hard over the past few years to help League members educate ourselves on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. The League has developed a **DEI Guide** that includes resources for individual learning and for League work that can be found at: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/diversity-equity-inclusion/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-guide>

The League Management section of the LWVUS website contains a series of recorded **DEI Webinars** at: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/lwv-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-webinars>. A good starting point is the August 29, 2019 webinar **“Acknowledging the Past, Reimagining the Future”** presented by Past LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, the only African American woman to have served in this position. She challenges us to change the way we think and act as individuals as

★ See **PRESIDENT’S LETTER**, Page 2

## Monthly Newsletter Editor Needed



Carol Herzig has been editing the Voter for many years and it is time for her to take a break.

Do you enjoy communicating with others? Are you a creative person? Do you want to make the Voter your own?

Carol is willing to assist anyone who feels they would like to take on the job.

To volunteer contact Linda Reinhardt. Thank you for your consideration.



## What’s Inside this Issue



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# ★ President

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well as the League as an organization. The webinar is one hour long. Jefferson-Jenkins' book, *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters* (Praeger, 2020) was published in January.

You will be able to learn more about the efforts of our local League's DEI Committee from articles in this and future issues of "The Voter." All members are welcome to join this committee.

Be safe and stay well.  
Linda

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report

Mary Buelow  
Chair

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is an important League of Women Voters initiative on the national, state, and local level. How has this been playing out in Janesville?

Over the past few years the Janesville LWV has formed a DEI Committee, passed a position statement, added diverse speakers to our League Luncheon lineup, included questions about diversity in candidate forums, sponsored book and film discussions for members and the public to learn about the issues, and added voter outreach to events frequented by people of color. That's a lot! But there is one goal we have not yet achieved - connecting with organizations by and for people of color.

Many of these organizations have had negative experiences of trying to partner with groups dominated by white persons in the past where those "partnerships" become unequal, unhealthy, and dysfunctional. As a result, they are politely wary of outsiders, and connecting with these groups takes more time and care. We can't just talk our way in. We need to have LWV members show up at the table, make personal connections, and listen and learn about issues important to them on the local level. We need to have LWV members learn how to understand and respect their space, on their terms, before we can truly be equal partner. And we need to demonstrate with our actions as well as our words that we are committed to their issues over the long haul.

Janesville LWV is organizing a Diversity Observer Corps to achieve this. Traditionally, a League Observer chooses a government board, committee, or elected body to observe. The Observer attends their meetings on a regular basis. They observe what issues the group manages and how they operate. When the Observer learns of a place where LWV can step up and add the LWV voice to the community conversation the Observer alerts the LWV board and membership for action.

The idea of the Diversity Observer Corps is the

same. Choose a group. Attend meetings regularly. Get to know members. Listen, observe, and learn. Share what you are learning with other LWV members.




Some possible groups for the DEI Observers to join are Allies of Native Nations (ANN); Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; Diversity Action Team; Immigrant Task Force; Janesville Police Department Latino Liaison Advisory Committee; Janesville Police Department African American Liaison Advisory Committee. You may learn of other organizations as well. If you are interested in participating please contact Mary Buelow at [buelow\\_m@msn.com](mailto:buelow_m@msn.com) or 608-754-0588.

If you cannot commit to being a long-term DEI Observer, here are some other ways you can make connections with people of color, their organizations, and their issues.

Attend Courageous Conversations. This is a monthly public discussion about race cosponsored by YWCA Rock County, Community Action of Rock & Walworth Counties and the Diversity Action Team of Rock County. Courageous Conversations are held 5:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month. While their home location is the Merrill Center in Beloit, the discussions are currently held via Zoom.

Attend events organized and sponsored by people of color, such as the MLK Celebration in January, Juneteenth festivities, or the YWCA Racial Justice Conference in November. While this option is somewhat limited right now, the pandemic will not last forever. Someday things will open up again. When that happens we will be promoting events, activities from other organizations in a section "Community Events you may be interested in". I encourage you all to start checking some of these events out. Wear your LWV pin to the event, if you have one. And bring your friends!

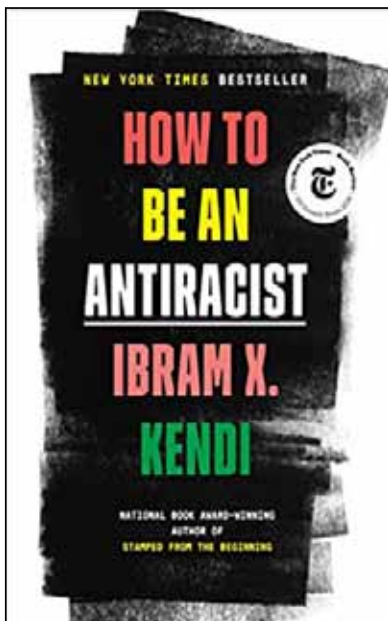
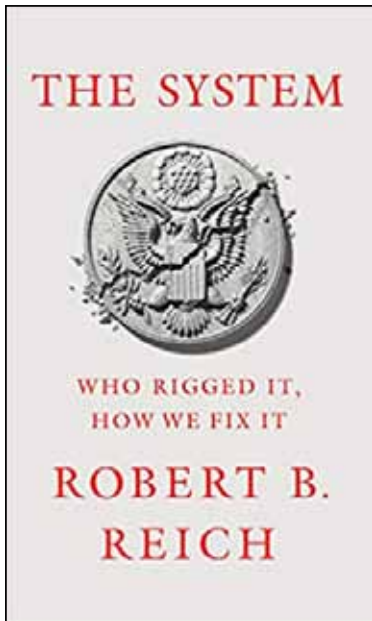
Like us on Facebook <[facebook.com/JanesvilleLeagueofWomenVoters](https://facebook.com/JanesvilleLeagueofWomenVoters)>

2  Follow us on Twitter  
<[@LWVJanesville](https://twitter.com/LWVJanesville)>

<[twitter.com/LWVJanesville](https://twitter.com/LWVJanesville)>

OR 

# Back Porch Book Discussions



Zoom—when we meet to discuss these two books that received the highest number of votes cast by League members:

Tuesday, July 21 at 3:00  
*The System: Who Rigged It, How We Fix It* by Robert B. Reich

Thursday, August 20, at 6:30  
*How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi

We will hold the discussions on Zoom. Please go to our website [www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events](http://www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events) to register online. You will receive a confirmation email. THREE days before the discussion we will send you a reminder email containing the link to the Zoom meeting. Direct questions to [janesvil-lelvw@gmail.com](mailto:janesvil-lelvw@gmail.com)

If you would like to participate in the book discussions by dial-up access from your telephone rather than through the Internet, call Linda

Reinhardt at 815-298-8671 for information.



Our “Back Porch” Book Discussions will need to be virtual meetings this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Bring your own cool drink--and perhaps provide an exotic virtual background for yourself on

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

*Each month we will be placing our position on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Voter, as a service to our members.*

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental

status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/ or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

The Janesville LWV commits to the diversity of Janesville and fully endorses the LWV’s DEI policy.



She is me.

Enbridge Energy's 67-year-old Line 5 oil pipeline crosses Northern Wisconsin through the Bad River Watershed, tributary to Lake Superior. Any oil spill threatens:

- trout streams;
- wildlife habitat;
- the extensive wetlands of the Kakagon Slough-awarded recognition as a Wetland of International Importance;
- the largest natural wild rice beds on the Great Lakes, which have been culturally significant to the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for centuries; and
- the spectacular waterfalls and deep gorges of Copper Falls State Park.

Enbridge now proposes a new 41 mile expansion of Line 5. The construction moves closer to and will border three sides of Copper Falls State Park. The route of the new oil pipeline vastly expands the territory within the Bad River Watershed impacted by construction activities and operation of the new pipeline.

These are Our Waters. You can help protect the resources of the Bad River Watershed by testifying or submitting written comments on the oil pipeline expansion. DNR has announced a virtual public hearing on Wednesday July 1, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Since the DNR public hearing will be a zoom meeting, attendance will be possible from anywhere in the state.

The League of Women Voters is supporting the efforts of LWV of Ashland Bayfield Counties to prevent the expansion of Line 5 and protect the natural resources of the Bad River Watershed and Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world.

We urge League members to testify and/or submit written comments as individuals expressing your concerns about the proposed expansion of Line 5.

The deadline for written comments is July 11, 2020. Submit your comments by email to [DNROEEACOMMENTS@WI.GOV](mailto:DNROEEACOMMENTS@WI.GOV) or by US mail to: Line 5 Comments, DNR (EA/7), 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707

LWV-ABC talking points for your use are [HERE](#). Be sure to express why you are personally concerned about the impacts on Lake Superior, the cleanest of the Great Lakes and the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area.

## BACKGROUND

Since the 1950's, Enbridge Energy has owned and operated a liquid petroleum pipeline in Northern Wisconsin and beyond. Known as Line 5, the oil pipeline brings crude oil from the Alberta Tar Sands region in Canada, across the US to a refinery in Sarnia, Ontario Canada.

Line 5 poses an imminent danger to Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes from ruptures and spills. Enbridge Line 5 has spilled over one million gallons of oil and gas over its history. Line 5 pipeline damage and safety breaches discovered in June 2020 in the Michigan Straits of Mackinac has renewed concerns of oil spills due to inadequate monitoring and maintenance.

DNR states that "Construction of the proposed project would affect 109 acres of wetland, result in the conversion of 29.5 acres of wooded wetland to non-wooded wetland, and permanent fill of 0.06 acres of wetland. Of the 186 waterways that exist within the proposed project area, 185 would be temporarily bridged for vehicle access and 87 would have the pipeline installed via open-cut trenching or dredging."

Constructing a new 41 mile expansion of Line 5 around the edge of the Reservation in Ashland and Iron Counties will do irreparable damage to other natural resources in the region. As 350 Madison has warned, "the health and prosperity of tribal members, the region's wildlife and wetlands, and Lake Superior's coastline are all at risk as long as Line 5 is allowed to continue its operation in the area."

We urge League members to testify and/or submit written comments as individuals expressing your concerns about the proposed Line 5 Extension. Here are resources for your use.



# ★ Action

Continued from page 4

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/eia/enbridge.html> is the DNR comprehensive website on all Enbridge Pipeline Projects in Wisconsin. Here you will find details on registering to attend the July 1, 2020 Virtual Public Hearing on Line 5 Extension Waterway and Wetland Permits and the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

- <https://midwestadvocates.org> Look for the

- April and May newsletters of Midwest Environmental Advocates and the four Guides on Oil Pipelines co-developed by MEA and Greenfire.

- <http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/> The website of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

- <https://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Kakagon-Bad-River-Sloughs.pdf> Read the Wisconsin Wetlands Association successful nomination of the Kakagon Slough for the Ramsar Award - Wetland of International Importance.

## Report on Written Ballots submitted for the 2020 Annual Meeting

(25 of 64 members submitted ballots)

	Online Ballots		E/Mailed Ballots		TOTAL BALLOTS	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
#1 Approve Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting	17	0	3	0	20	0
#2 Readoption of Local Program	17	0	8	0	25	0
#3 Continuation of Homelessness and Affordable Housing Study	16	0	8	0	24	0
#4 Bylaw Change to Eliminate Office of Second Vice President	16	1	8	0	24	1
#5 Bylaw Change to Change Cycle of Elections	15	2	7	1	22	3
#6 Adoption of Budget	17	0	8	0	25	0
#7 Election of LWV-JVL Board Nominees						
#7a Treasurer--Peterson	17		8		25	
#7b Director--Griffith	17		8		25	
#7c Director--L. Johnson	17		8		25	
#7d Nominating Committee--Conley	17		7		24	
#7e Nominating Committee--Sonntag	17		7		24	
#8 Delegates to National Conventions						
#8a Reinhardt	17		8		25	
#8b Newcomer	16		4		20	
#9 Delegates to State Annual Meeting						
#9a Reinhardt	17		8		25	
#9b Griffith	17		4		21	
#9c L Johnson	17		4		21	
#9d S Johnson	17		4		21	

by **Linda Reinhardt**  
*President*



25 of 64 members voted.

The members voted affirmatively on all the items.

The bylaw changes which required a 2/3

majority passed by large majorities:

Eliminating office of Second Vice-President: Yes 24, No 1

Changing election cycles: Yes 22, No 3

Vice President Christina Barrett verified the voting.

# Voter Service Report

Voter Services Meeting Notes June 16

Voter Services conducted a Zoom meeting with 17 in attendance. Thank you for attending. It was great to “reconnect” and share ideas and answer questions on “where do we go from here” with Voter Services!

The focus of meeting was to discuss opportunities to continue with our Voter Education activities but using different delivery avenues and methods.

A recap or notes will be e-mailed in June to all who attended as well as the Voter Service Committee and will post on our Facebook page.

We truly have some safe, creative and effective ways of delivering Voter Services materials to inform citizens on voter rights, empower voters on absentee ballot procedures and the importance of informed participation in the elections.

Over the past year, Voter Services has been successful developing relationships, partnerships and resources within the community which are ready to assist Voter Services. We have strengthened our committee membership and have a great group of energetic members that truly want to make a difference! As an example, we will be participating in Diversity Action Team events with Voter Education materials and presentations throughout the next few months!

Essentially, we are formulating a strategic game plan on reaching the underserved of our community. We are also working to develop a strategy to reach out the Central City of Janesville, and multi-unit housing, Echo and others to name just a few projects.

We are exploring the logistics and working directly with the City and County Clerks, City Council Members on:

Exploring Voter Services “Drive Thru Events” – possibly in conjunction with other community events (food distribution etc) at city approved sites.

Additional drop boxes/Absentee Ballots

Additional Early Voting Locations

Recommendations on how to safely conduct Voter Services during a pandemic – what is available and how can we conduct activities. A written response will be provided in a Voter Service email.

There are several volunteer projects through the state LWV ---- in the Voter Services area that are available,

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### Voter Helpline Volunteers

The LWV Dane County through the auspices of the Dane County Voter ID Coalition, maintains a free helpline that voters throughout the state can call for assistance with voting questions including information about the absentee voting witness requirement. The Helpline number (608-285-2141) is advertised throughout the state, and many people from outside of Dane County call for assistance. While most calls can be answered by Dane County volunteers, some cannot. These include people seeking rides to or assistance while at the local DMVs to obtain an ID, and also those

needing help applying for absentee ballots and getting a witness signature. **The Dane County League would like to identify local volunteers who could occasionally provide on-site assistance to voters living in the same region.** Volunteers interested in helping should contact Marian Matthews ([matthm2@charter.net](mailto:matthm2@charter.net))

## **Purge List Phone Bank Volunteers**

LWVWI is working with our Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition partners to coordinate a statewide nonpartisan effort to ensure every voter on the purge list is contacted. We are in need of volunteers who are knowledgeable about the voter registration process and willing to call voters. We will provide training and a call script. If you'd like to volunteer for this opportunity, please sign up here.

## **Absentee Voter Engagement Volunteers**

Starting in July, LWVWI will be partnering again with Wisconsin Conservation Voices to reach out to voters with information about absentee voting via text message through an app called Hustle - We're looking for some League volunteers to help with this. This is a great opportunity to connect with voters from the safety of your home.

This opportunity is for people who are familiar with the absentee voting process (you can read up on it here and here) and are comfortable with using apps on cell phones. We will provide training on how to use the app. Once you're trained, the volunteer schedule is very flexible. If you'd like to volunteer for this opportunity, please sign up here.

## **Election Observer**

Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor Wisconsin's elections. We are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state. We provide training, assign volunteers their polling place(s) to observe, and provide volunteers with a reporting form to record their observations. We will do our best to assign you to a location near your home. You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this -- although we'd love to have you join us!

These are great ways to get or be involved in activities that will make a difference. Training is offered. Please take a few minutes and check them out! Visit: [my.lwv.org/Wisconsin](http://my.lwv.org/Wisconsin) – Click on About in the left margin/ Employment and Volunteer Opportunities.

Voter Services will be partnering with LWV Dane County Voter ID Coalition to see how our Voter Service may utilize a voter informational hot line to answer questions. More information to follow. This is yet another way to provide information but by phone.

Voter Services provided 150 voter education packets

# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Activities 2020-21\*

\*Additional events may be planned. Check website: [lwjvl.org/upcoming-events](http://lwjvl.org/upcoming-events)

### July 2020

July 6 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
July 14 @ 6:30 p.m. Voter Services meeting via Zoom  
July 21 @ 3:00 p.m. Book Discussion; *The System: Who Rigged It...* by Robert B. Reich

### August 2020

August 11 Fall Primary  
August 20 @ 6:39 p.m. *How To Be An Antitacist* by Ibram X. Kendi

### September 2020

September 22 National Voter Registration Day

## ★ Voter Service

Continued from page 6

to used in the Food Distribution Event on June 20, in the 4th Ward.

We are revisiting our successful outreach to churches providing them with voter services material that can be used in their congregations newsletter /publications. We have 22+ churches and growing that have received materials earlier this year and we will be continuing that outreach as well as the schools and colleges when appropriate.

Next Voter Services Meeting: July 14, 2020 – 6:30-

7:30 Via Zoom. A general electronic invitation will be sent to the general league membership and if you have any interested friends or family that wish to participate or attend meetings, please let Lisa Johnson know by sending an email to: [lwvj.voterservice@gmail.com](mailto:lwvj.voterservice@gmail.com) or calling 608-333-8105. We would love to have you join us in ways that fit your schedule and comfort level in these unusual times!

We will also be sending out information you may wish to share with friends, neighbors, co-workers etc related to topics related to voter education.

These are exciting times where we can make a difference safely and from the ground up!

## AIRING THIS MONTH ON PBS



ARTS, FILM & MUSIC, HISTORY

### PBS WISCONSIN HONORS FEMALE TRAILBLAZERS

JUNE 22, 2020 [ALYSSA BENO](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

As we approach the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment (Aug. 26, 1920), granting American women the right to vote, **PBS Wisconsin** explores the lives of trailblazing women and girls, past and present, with the following programs, airing this month on PBS Wisconsin and available online anytime.

### Antiques Roadshow

*Women's Work*

7 p.m. Monday, July 6

Celebrate trailblazing women in a special hour spotlighting outstanding contributions from female athletes, artists, activists and more.

### American Experience

*The Vote*

Begins 8 p.m. Monday, July 6

Meet the unsung heroes of the movement and relive the fiery, dramatic and unrelenting campaign that led to passage of the 19th

Amendment, granting American women the vote.

### We'll meet again

*The Fight for Women's Rights*

7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14

One of the first female commercial pilots wants to thank her mentor and an advocate hopes to find the woman who inspired her to join a movement.

### POV

*We Are the Radical Monarchs*

8 p.m. Monday, July 20

Meet the Radical Monarchs, a group of young girls of color on the frontlines of social justice. Follow the group as they earn badges for completing units on such subjects as being an LGBTQ ally, preserving the environment and disability justice.

### American Masters

*Unlady like 2020*

10 p.m. Thursday, July 23

Explore the stories of pioneering women in American politics who advocated for suffrage and civil rights over 100 years ago.

### POV

*Advocate*

9 p.m. Monday, July 27

A political firebrand in her home country, Israeli defense attorney Lea Tsemel is known by opponents as "the devil's advocate," for her decades-long defense of Palestinians who have been accused of resisting the occupation, both violently and non-violently.

**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  
 Supporting \$75.00

Household \$100.00  
 Student \$10.00

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.

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

To check out the action go to: **LWV-US**

*<www.lwv.org>*

**LWV-WI** *<www.lwvwi.org>*

**JANESVILLE LEAGUE**

*<www.lwvjvl.org>*