



President's Message

Happy New Year, Leaguers.

On February 14, we celebrate the League's 98th birthday, a good time to remember what brought the League into existence. The League of Women Voters' predecessor organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, or NAWSA, fought tirelessly for decades to win the right to vote for women. Following the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, NAWSA reorganized as the League of Women Voters. In the report of NAWSA's final Convention, the first leader of LWV, Carrie Chapman Catt, reflected on the struggle for suffrage that gave rise to our current League:



There have been few women whose words or deeds during the last half century have warranted their mention in our national history who have not at some time been members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and hundreds of men and women who are known as leaders of thought have spoken upon its platform. In the earlier years, contending for the fullest freedom of all women to educational, industrial, civil, social and political opportunity, the association was the sole exponent of the woman's cause in the United States. During those years prejudice was intensely stubborn and bitter and all progress for the woman's movement was made against the current of public opinion. In later years when many organizations of women each carrying forward some specific phase of the woman's struggle had come into existence, the National American continued to lead the advance section of the movement, and devoted its endeavors exclusively to the campaign for woman suffrage.

It now has the proud satisfaction of having achieved its purpose and finished its work. It has bequeathed to American women an opportunity, a dignity and liberty which in 1848 were a dream in the minds only of a few. With this final report one of the most unique and significant chapters of American history is closed.

Carrie Chapman Catt.

We live in a new chapter of American history, where the right to vote is under siege. Unfair voting maps, voter suppression efforts, and election interference are among the new threats to voter rights. Catt's words remind us that the right to vote is central to "opportunity, dignity and liberty" for all people. Her remarks reinforce our belief that the struggle to protect voting rights is critical to our democracy. And Catt's statement serves as a useful reminder that our voting rights were hard-won, and should never be taken for granted.

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In 2018 we will once again focus on the preservation of voting rights. We can take inspiration from the men and women who fought so hard to achieve women's suffrage and bequeath to us this historically rich organization, the League of Women Voters.

Anne Golden

CALENDAR

January 2018			
4	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 390 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
9	Tues	6 - 7:30 pm	Social Policy Committee Meeting Milwaukee Public Library-Central Branch, Room 2B, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Solana Patterson-Ramos, solanamke@gmail.com
10	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Anne Golden, 414-559-2632
11	Thurs	10 -11 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222
15	Mon	12:30 - 2 pm	Membership Committee Meeting Saint John's On The Lake, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Barbara Rasmussen, 414-791-0114
17	Wed	6-8 pm	Program Making Meeting Saint John's On The Lake, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Kathy Johnson, 414-443-0931
18	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
24	Wed	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting Conference Call Contact: Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739

February 2018			
1	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
8	Thurs	10 -11 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222
9	Fri		The Voter Newsletter Deadline Submit articles, photographs, notices or other content for potential publication in <i>The Voter</i> Contact: Anne Golden, 414-559-2632
13	Tues	6 - 7:30 pm	Social Policy Committee Meeting Milwaukee Public Library-Central Branch, Room 2B, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Solana Patterson-Ramos, solanamke@gmail.com
14	Wed		League of Women Voters 98th Birthday
14	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Anne Golden, 414-559-2632
15	Thurs	6 - 8 pm	Souper Supper Social Bay Shore Lutheran Church, 1200 E. Hampton Rd., Whitefish Bay Contact: Ann Batiza, 414-238-3903
15	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 390 Contact: Tom Neubauer, 414-332-8482

February 2018 (Cont.)			
17	Sat	10:30 am - 1 pm	General Meeting: Guns, Grief, and Grace Mitchell Street Public Library, 906 W. Historic Mitchell St., Milwaukee Contact: Janet Fitch, 414-614-1797
19	Mon	12 noon	Lunch & Learn Sojourner Family Peace Center, 619 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
19	Mon	1:15 pm	Membership Committee Meeting Sojourner Family Peace Center, 619 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee Contact: Barbara Rasmussen, 414-791-0114
20	Tues		Spring Primary - VOTE!
21	Wed	1 pm 6 pm	Unit Meetings: Guns, Grief, and Grace See lwvmilwaukee.org for details Janet Fitch, 414-614-1797
25	Sun	2 - 4 pm	New Member Orientation Barbara Boles' Home, 2951 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee Contact: Barbara Boles, 414-899-3014
28	Wed	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting Conference Call Contact: Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739



Thursday, February 15, 2018
6 - 8 P.M.

Bay Shore Lutheran Church
1200 E. Hampton Road, Whitefish Bay

Come meet our Committee members, review the League's
accomplishments in 2017, and preview our plans for 2018.

Contact: Ann Batiza, 414-238-3903

Voter Registration at the Folk Fair

Mary Jo McDonald, Voter Services

On November 17, twenty-three League volunteers with yellow hats welcomed 115 new citizens at the naturalization ceremony that opened the Folk Fair held at State Fair Park.

Judge Jones presided over the ceremony as part of the “welcome” theme for this year’s International Folk Fair. Using both laptops and scanners, we were able to assist 56 new voters and register 30 of them. Special thanks to everyone who worked: Janet Badura, Joanne Barndt, Carol Dolphin, Kathleen Dunn, Robin Engl, Joan Hansen, Linda Huang, Bonnie Jacobson, Lee Ann Kingston, Mary Knudten, Deborah Mamerow, Mary Jo McDonald, Katherine McDonnell, Pam Millington, Linda Neubauer, Tom Neubauer, Sally Noonan, Suzanne Poisi, Kathleen Scullin, Mary Ellen Spicuzza, Diane Steigerwald, Mary Jo Wellenstein, and Lois Wesner.



Dates for the winter term of naturalization ceremonies are now available. Consider joining us for these special days. For more information: contact, Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195 or mjom365@gmail.com. Training is provided.

Civic Engagement and Voter Registration: What Nonprofits Can Do

Michele Goldstein, Voter Services

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County has produced a webinar in partnership with the Center for Public Skills Development. This recorded webinar provides an excellent introduction for nonprofit staff and board leadership on the role of nonprofit organizations in nonpartisan voter registration and engagement efforts. The webinar was developed to support Voter Services’ newest initiative – outreach to nonprofit organizations with the goal of promoting integration of voter registration, education and voting in nonprofit organizations so that the communities and constituencies that they serve have ongoing opportunities to become engaged in the democratic process and make their voices heard.

Topics covered in the program include:

- Why nonprofits need to be engaged in voter registration, education and engagement
- Legal aspects of nonprofit involvement in voter registration and engagement
- Voter registration and voting in Wisconsin
- Making the decision in your nonprofit to carry out voter registration
- Case studies to describe the experience of two Milwaukee nonprofits engaged in successful voter registration and engagement activities

The presentation team includes: Jacqueline Boynton, an attorney with deep knowledge of the legal aspects of nonprofit involvement in voter registration and education; Neil Albrecht, Executive Director of the City of Milwaukee Election Commission; Mayhoua Moua, Executive Director of Southeast Asian Educational Development of Wisconsin; Paula Pennebaker President/CEO of YWCA Southeast Wisconsin; Michele Goldstein, LWVMC Nonprofit Outreach Team; and Frank Martinelli, President, The Center for Public Skills Training who is the Program Moderator .

Help the League spread the word about this new resource for “making democracy work.” Help connect our League to nonprofit organizations where you serve as a Board member or work as a volunteer by sending an email to: lwwmc.voterservices@gmail.com

Anyone can view the recorded webinar at the following website by typing in their first and last name and email address:

<https://tinyurl.com/webinarNP>



New Online Voter Registration in Wisconsin

Michele Goldstein, Voter Services

Sign up for an Online Voter Registration (OVR) training session with the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County. Learn how to use the *MyVote* system and all it has to offer about voter registration and voting. The next OVR Training Sessions are scheduled for:



Wednesday, January 10, 2018

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm,
Washington Park Library Community Room,
[2121 N. Sherman Boulevard](#)

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm,
Bay View Library Community Room,
[2566 S Kinnickinnic Avenue](#)

RSVP to lwvmc.voterservices@gmail.com.
Sign ups are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Important Voting Dates and Deadlines 2018

Spring Primary, Tuesday, February 20th, 2018

Wed. Jan. 31 Last day to register to vote online or by mail
Mon. Feb. 5 First day for In-Person Absentee Voting (City Hall)
Thurs. Feb. 15 Last day to request absentee ballots by mail

Spring Election, Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018

Wed. Mar. 14 Last day to register to vote online or by mail
Mon. Mar. 19 First day for In-Person Absentee Voting (City Hall)
Thurs. Mar. 29 Last day to request absentee ballots by mail

Fall Primary, Tuesday, August 14th, 2018

Wed. Jul. 25 Last day to register to vote online or by mail
Mon. Jul. 30 First day for In-Person Absentee Voting (City Hall)
Thurs. Aug. 9 Last day to request absentee ballots by mail

Fall General Election, Tuesday, November 6th, 2018

Wed. Oct. 17 Last day to register to vote online or by mail
Mon. Oct. 22 First day for In-Person Absentee Voting
Thurs. Aug. 9 Last day to request absentee ballots by mail

Assume Board Leadership to Take LWVMC into League's Second Century

Louise Petering, Nominating Committee Chair

In 2019 and 2020, Leagues around the state and nation will celebrate passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution and its ratification, respectively. For more than 60 years our foremothers* worked tirelessly and finally wrested the right to vote from intransigent power brokers. And we carry on as members, leaders and board members.

As the LWVMC nominating committee moves to round out our board leadership for 2018-2020, please consider joining the board and sharing your interests, skills and thoughts to grow the work of our League - *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

Our goal is to transition to our next 100 years while maintaining our roots and blossoming in new ways as an organization. Join the board to set policy, revisit structure, support the current work of and facilitate opportunities for our members, and plan our future in Metropolitan Milwaukee.

If you are interested in serving on the board, want to learn more about what that involves, or wish to recommend another League member for consideration, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Louise Petering (chair, 414-351-3617), Ruth Snedic, Shirley Halloran, Barbara Rasmussen and Mary Sussman.

*Lucretia Mott (d.1880), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (d. 1902), Susan B. Anthony (d. 1906), Carrie Chapman Catt (d. 1947), founder of the LWV. Please note: only one of these women lived to see women achieve the right to vote!



Lucretia Mott



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Susan B. Anthony



Carrie Chapman Catt

Book Recommendations

Kathy Johnson, VP Program



A number of acclaimed books on the shelves now are relevant to League positions and our commitment to *Making Democracy Work*.

On voter rights:

Give Us the Ballot by Ari Berman (2015). Berman, a political correspondent for *The Nation* and an investigative journalism Fellow at the Nation Institute, provides a history of the modern right to vote in the United States. His history pits two opposing views of the Voting Rights Act, one that holds that this legislation should simply provide access to the ballot box, and another that advocates a broader scope to include actions that encourage voting by American minority groups. The author describes how congressional action advances the latter view while Supreme Court decisions support the former.

The Great Suppression: Voting Rights, Corporate Cash, and the Conservative Assault on Democracy by Zachary Roth (2016). Roth, a national reporter for MSNBC digital, explores the recent history of efforts to suppress the vote, including extreme gerrymandering, voter ID legislation, corporate lobbying to ban local action on issues from the minimum wage to the environment, changes in campaign finance laws, and more. He also writes about the impact of these efforts on the most vulnerable Americans and progress on these pressing issues.

League in the Community



Testimonials from Andrea Kaminski (former Executive Director of the LWVWI) and Ellen Penwell (LWVWI Membership & Events Coordinator) who participated in Naturalization Ceremonies on December 7, 2017 with the LWVWC.

Yesterday was an extraordinary day for me. Thank you all for the unexpected opportunity to be present at the

Naturalization Ceremony, read remarks on behalf of the League at the Ceremony, and work alongside you in registering new citizens. The experience filled me with a renewed sense of what it means, at its very core, to be an American. You are a remarkable group; so professional and dedicated, vigilant about the task at hand and supremely nonpartisan. Thank you for the honor you afforded me and thank you for all you do in support our new fellow citizens. And, a special thanks to you, Tom and Linda, for making all the arrangements, providing us with pre-visit materials, and welcoming us so warmly. May you all have a beautiful holiday and exceptional New Year." -- Ellen

I can only echo Ellen's words. We came away from the event with a rejuvenated sense of hope, along with pride in our Milwaukee County League. Thank you for welcoming us and allowing us to attend the ceremony and participate in day. I'm writing a blog post about the experience, which I will share with you all. Best wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season. -- Andrea

On government:

Dark Money: the Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right by Jane Mayer (2014). A staff writer at the New Yorker since 1995, Mayer spent five years researching this award-winning book about the billionaires who are using their wealth to bend the American political system to their views. Careful research that included hundreds of exclusive interviews and extensive scrutiny of public records, private papers, and court proceedings provides the reader with a broad look at the people and their ideas. The book has been described as essential for anyone who cares about the future of American democracy.

Capital in the 21st Century by Thomas Piketty (2014). Piketty, a French economist, takes on the increasing economic inequality in the developed world and the potentially dire consequences for social justice and democratic governance. The scope of the book is global but its message has struck hard in the United States. Compared to Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* in "its magisterial sweep and ambition," Piketty's work predicts a different outcome for the new gilded age requiring worldwide action to prevent negative impacts on democracy itself.

On social policy:

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2015). In the form of a series of letters to his African American teenage son, Coates, a staff writer for *The Atlantic*, writes a deeply personal account of the state of race relations in America.

At the Folk Fair



Bozenna Spadio, Mt. Pleasant, stops at the Polish booth for a welcome (WITAMY) after receiving her citizenship at the 2017 Folk Fair

At the Hmong New Year's Celebration





Planning Action and Education for 2018

Kathy Johnson

After the League of Women Voters of the U.S. met in October of 2017, Leagues across the country were asked to focus on work that supports the League's core mission and the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®. This request was reiterated recently by the LWVUS relative to program making for the 2018-2020 biennium. LWVMC will address this at the Program Making Meeting in January 2018.

Let's review the League's mission and the components of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®. The mission of the League of Women Voters is described by the following statement from the LWVUS website:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The major components of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® are:

- **Voting Rights**
- **Improving Elections**
- **Campaign Finance/Money in Politics**
- **Redistricting**

LWVMC has been supporting this League work throughout 2017 in numerous ways:

- Through the many activities by Voter Services
- Through development of a Representative Government Committee which will present an event in February about the 2020 census and redistricting
- Through the activities of the Social Policy Committee that has focused on the issue of eviction and homelessness – problems that can have a very negative effect on citizens' ability to register to vote, to know where to vote, or to have the energy to be involved in civic activity such as voting.

In her letter providing direction for the development of program for 2018-2020, Chris Carson, President of LWVUS, stated:

Despite all this action, there is still more work to do. For almost 100 years, the League of Women Voters has championed voting rights and this programmatic work is more important now than ever. Local and state Leagues and the LWVUS have made progress in The Campaign for Making Democracy Work® but our work is not finished. The League continues to be up to the challenge to advance these priorities. At the local, state and federal level, our work on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, money in politics and redistricting is at the heart of the League's mission and its future.

You should have received an email message about the upcoming Program Making Meeting in January 2018 and asking members:

- Have you identified the issue that concerns you most?
- Have you reviewed League positions, national, state and local?
- Have you found positions that address your issue?
- Do you know League members who are willing and able to participate in the work with you?

Please contact Kathy Johnson, VP Program at vpprogram@lwwmilwaukee.org to describe your issue and plan.

Membership and Dues Categories

Barbara Rasmussen and Shirley Halloran, Membership Committee



Every so often, we are asked to clarify the membership and dues categories of the League of Women Voters. To begin, it is good to know that because the League is a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax deductible.

An annual rate for **Students** at \$25 encourages young people to join and get involved.

Most often, members join at the \$70 **Individual** rate. For every membership recorded, our local league sends a \$32 Per Member Payment (PMP) to LWV-US and a \$31 Per Member Assessment (PMA) to LWV-WI. Arithmetic shows that \$70 minus \$32 and minus \$31 leaves \$7 for local operating costs.

Two or more persons of any combination living in the same **Household** pay \$110 per year. The PMP and PMA for the second person in the household is one-half the rate of the first Individual.

A voluntary rate of \$100 purchases a **Sustaining** membership. An individual giving at this level supports and subsidizes memberships for others.

Election Night Reporting

Alexis Gassenhuber

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County will continue to report election night results in the spring. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming elections on February 20, April 3, August 14, and November 6, 2018. We plan to report from the outlying counties as well as from Milwaukee County municipalities as needed.

We will probably be looking for volunteers to report election results on those evenings. The job entails arriving to the municipal or county clerk's office by 7:50 p.m. on election night and calling the media with the results for several races until results are final. Please email Alexis at LWVMCElectNiteReporting@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer on those dates!

When members give at the **Centennial** level of \$170 (i.e. \$100 over the individual rate), they contribute toward varied local League activities. Read about those activities in this newsletter and on our website at lwvmilwaukee.org.

Because Leaguers are generous donors who gladly assist others, no one should fail to become a member for financial reasons. Confidential aid is available by contacting the LWV-MC President who is currently Anne Golden at 414-559-2632, or annegolden14@gmail.com.

When are dues due? Everyone's deadline for renewing membership is June 30, the end of our fiscal year. Ideally, members pay their dues in April, May, or June. This enables the LWV-MC Board of Directors to better plan operating expenses.

What do the State and National Leagues do with the funds we send them? Staffs in both Madison and Washington, DC, develop government relations, advocate for League positions with legislators, create voter education materials, and more. Check out the websites lwvwi.org and lwv.org to read about current efforts to "make Democracy work for everyone." Resources they produce and distribute benefit local Leagues. It takes effort at every level to accomplish League goals.



New Members

Shirley Halloran, Membership Committee

The following have recently joined the Milwaukee County League:

Christine Brown, Milwaukee
Terry Dorr, Milwaukee
Jeffrey Hansen, Greenfield
Kathleen Maguire, Shorewood
Joshua Miller, Milwaukee

As always, be sure to welcome them when you have the chance.

Important 2018 Election Information

Spread the word. Find out how you can get accurate and nonpartisan information out in the community.

VISIT myvote.wi.gov to:

- **REGISTER TO VOTE** (online or via mail)
- **LOCATE** your municipal clerk
- **SEE WHO** is on your ballot (available March 14)
- **FIND WHERE** to vote
- **APPLY** for **ABSENTEE BALLOT**

PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE IN WISCONSIN

- Do I have the right **Photo ID?**
- How do I get a **FREE state ID card?**
- Are there **EXCEPTIONS to the new law?**



NEW ASSISTANCE FROM THE DMV (One Trip service for state ID)

If you do NOT have a birth certificate, you can get a receipt valid for voting in one visit at your DMV using the IDPP (ID Petition Process).

<http://wisconsin.gov/Documents/dmv/shared/id-card-petition-process.pdf>

**QUESTIONS: Call the DMV voter ID hotline:
(844) 588-1069**

NEED PERSONALIZED HELP GETTING A PHOTO ID?

In Milwaukee area, call VoteRiders.org at (414) 882-8622 for assistance.

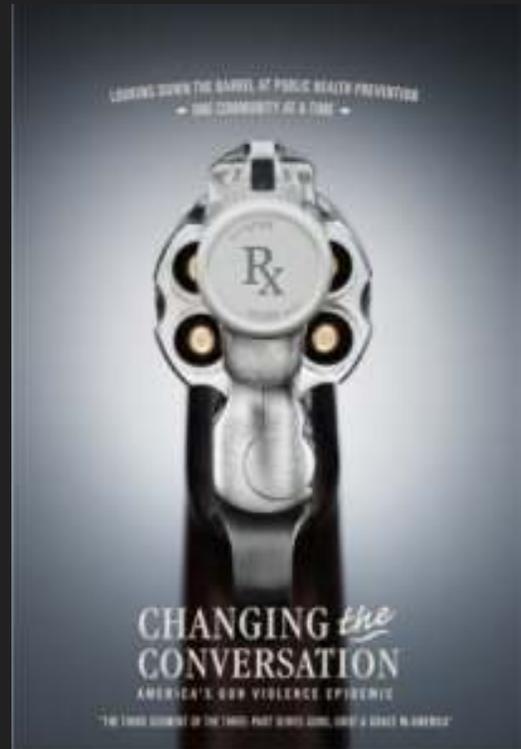
If you do not have an ID on Election Day, ask for a provisional ballot and return to your clerk with documentation by **Friday after the election**.

General Meeting Guns, Grief and Grace

Saturday, February 17

10:30 am Meet and Greet
11 am - 1 pm General Meeting

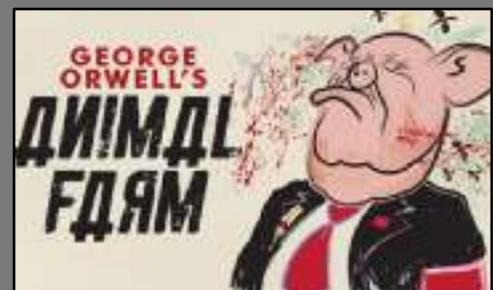
Mitchell Street Public Library,
906 W. Historic Mitchell St., Milwaukee



Unit Meetings on Wednesday, February 21

Animal Farm at the Milwaukee Rep

Milwaukee Repertory Theater will present a stage adaptation of George Orwell's political novel, *Animal Farm*, in the Quadracci Powerhouse from January 9 to February 11, 2018. Following the **2 p.m. performance on Sunday, January 21**, a Panel will discuss *The Co-opting of Social Movements*, to explore whether social movements today have been co-opted by personal, financial or political interests. One of the panelists will be **Anne Golden**, President of LWVMC.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 at 2 PM

Join Up! Join In! Join the League of Women Voters - Today!
Non-partisan, non-profit since 1920!

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement and leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels.

Website: lwvmilwaukee.org

Email Address: league@lwvmilwaukee.org

Milwaukee County Dues (circle one):

\$70 Individual \$110 Household \$ 25 Student

\$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships) \$170 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Financial support available upon request -- call 414-559-2632.

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work/Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ Email _____

Please complete this form and **mail it** with your check to: League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County,
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202

OR join online at lwvmilwaukee.org.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

**JOIN UP!
JOIN IN!**

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