



President's Message

Dear Leaguer,

The 2014 elections are near an end, and what a ride it's been. During the summer, the League printed 2500 brochures, "How to Register and Vote in Wisconsin." In September, when a voter ID was deemed necessary to vote, the League quickly corrected the information by printing stickers to be placed over the paragraph pertaining to Voter ID. In October, before we could get all the stickers on the brochures, Voter ID was once again changed and we set aside the brochures with the stickers and brought out the brochures without stickers. As a result of the bouncing back and forth, community organizations sought the League's assistance with voter registration, candidate forums, and speaking engagements. The League is indebted to Michele Goldstein, Mary Jo McDonald, and Mary Kae Nelson who fielded the requests and called upon volunteers to fulfill the needs. And a hearty thank you to all League volunteers who when called, said "yes, I can do that."



But now it is time for us to turn back to one of the original purposes of the League, that of educating ourselves on issues. Our first general meeting in October, and the accompanying unit meetings, focused on infrastructure economics. Thank you to Carol Diggelman, Helga Guequierre, and Louise Petering for overseeing all the details for this meeting. On Saturday, November 15, we will continue to look at redistricting issues. Hannah Dugan and Mary Kae Nelson have been busy putting the finishing touches on this meeting. Both meetings will provide information that will later be used for League "action" activities.

League is also about Leadership Development. Anne Creamer and Teri Lane together demonstrated to board members how the use of Google Docs can enable our League to more efficiently communicate. Their expertise continued to be most appreciated when, in October, our Administrative Assistant, Dinah Edelstein, made the decision to relocate to Madison. Anne and Teri graciously assumed responsibility for the League's email communications and website until a new assistant can be hired. And thank you to LuAnn Bird for providing training to League members who were interested in becoming Candidate Forum Moderators and to Mary Kae Nelson for providing tips to members interested in becoming a speaker for the League. The League looks forward to continuing to offer leadership skill-building opportunities in the spring.

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After this busy election season, it is time to start thinking about the holidays, and on the League calendar is our annual Winter Social. On December 14, we will gather at the home of Helga and Denis Guequierre to socialize and reminisce about the events of 2014. It has been quite a year!

Looking forward to seeing you at League,

Joanne Barndt, President

CALENDAR (mark yours now!)

| November 2014 | | | |
|---------------|-------|---|---|
| 4 | Tues |  | General Election |
| 5 | Wed | 9 am 11 am | Naturalization Ceremony Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 222 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195 |
| 12 | Wed | 6-7:30 pm | Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Joanne Barndt, 414-962-5634 |
| 13 | Thurs | 10-11:30 am | International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group Wauwatosa Library Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa |
| 15 | Sat | 9:30- 11:30 am | General Meeting - Redistricting Saint John's on the Lake, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: League Office, 414-273-8683 |
| 17 | Mon | 12-2 pm | Membership Committee Saint John's on the Lake, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Chris Weber, 414-535-1197 |
| 19 | Wed | 1 pm 6 pm 7 pm | Unit Meeting West , St. Mathews Ev Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa Unit Meeting East , Saint John's on the Lake, Milwaukee Unit Meeting West , Snedic residence, 9038 W. Orchard, Milwaukee |
| 19 | Wed | 6-8 pm | Natural Resources Committee Shorewood Village Center, lower level, 3920 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739 |
| 21 | Fri | 2-3 pm | Naturalization Ceremony Folk Fair, Wisconsin Exposition Center, State Fair Park 640 S. 84th St., West Allis |
| December 2014 | | | |
| 1 | Mon | 1 pm | Voter Service Committee 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988 |
| 4 | Thurs | 9 am 11 am | Naturalization Ceremony Federal Courthouse, 517 E Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 222 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195 |
| 9 | Tues | | Bulletin Deadline (to be honored in the breach) Contact: Chris Hansen, 414-962-9411 |
| 10 | Wed | 6-7:30 pm | Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Joanne Barndt, 414-962-5634 |
| 14 | Sun | 11 am- 2 pm | Winter Social Breakwater Condominiums, 1313 N. Franklin Place, Unit 1101, Milwaukee Contact: Helga Guequierre, 414-225-0460, hguequierred@sbcglobal.net |
| 15 | Mon | 12-2 pm | Membership Committee Saint John's on the Lake, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Anne Creamer, 262-373-0591 |
| 17 | Wed | 7 pm | Natural Resources Committee Conference Call Contact: Helga Guequierre, 414-225-0460 |
| 18 | Thurs | 9 am 11 am 2 pm | Naturalization Ceremony Federal Courthouse, 517 E Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 390, Milwaukee Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195 |

October General Meeting Explores Infrastructure Condition and Economics

Carol Diggelman

We, as residents of Wisconsin, have complained about congestion on the freeways and about the potholes on the streets. We have been concerned about safety of the bridges we drive over, about water quality, schools, hazardous waste, and on and on. And we say, “Someone should do something.”

Well, LWV-MC did. At the Havenwoods auditorium on October 25, we heard how the American Society of Civil Engineers rate the condition of our infrastructure and how the economists evaluate the dollar effect of maintaining, or not maintaining, that infrastructure.

The program was “Tip of the Infrastructure Iceberg”, sponsored by the Natural Resources Committee. Presentations were made by Carl C. Sutter, P.E., C.C.S., Vice President, McMahon Architects/Engineers and ASCE Region 3 Governor, and William L. Holahan, Professor Emeritus, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers¹ releases a Report Card for America’s Infrastructure that depicts the condition and performance of the nation’s infrastructure in the

familiar form of a school report card by assigning letter grades to each type of infrastructure; see <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/#p/home>. Categories include aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, inland waterways, levees, ports, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, solid waste, transit and wastewater. The ASCE 2013 overall grade was D. According to the ASCE, if the US were to invest \$157 billion a year, it would prevent \$3.1 trillion loss in GDP, \$1.1 billion loss in total trade and a \$3100 drop in disposable income per household, per year.

Dr. Holahan further explained the economics of investment in our infrastructure: the dollars invested are used over and over, starting with the initial outlay in goods and paychecks, and continuing through spending at local businesses. With high unemployment for construction workers and very low interest rates, the benefits exceed the costs. On the national balance sheet, the money spent is offset by the fact that an asset has been created.



Watch for a follow-up article in the January/February issue of *The Voter*.

¹ ASCE is an IRS Code 501 (c) (3) corporation, a not-for-profit educational institution, prohibited from lobbying and making political contributions. They have regular congressional contact as a part of their educational mission.

Board Forms LWV-MC Communications Team

Teri Lane



Recognizing the importance of communicating effectively with the public and fostering communication among League members, the board has approved the formation of a Communications Team. The team will work together to keep our public communications (website, Vertical Response, Facebook and Twitter) up-to-date and provide training and support to League members who want to use Google Apps and Google Drive cloud storage for collaboration and committee work.

The team will be comprised of a minimum of two volunteers (currently Anne Creamer & Teri Lane) and the administrative assistant who are cross-trained and work together at the President's direction to keep the following up-to-date: our Website (including calendar), Facebook, Twitter and Vertical Response.

A team approach ensures League communications are resistant to individual predicaments (computer glitches, illness, vacations, assistant turnover). The team will use a shared email address which will forward to team members. This way League members will need to remember only one email address. The team will determine how to divide tasks among its

members. From now on, please send requests for Website / Vertical Response / Facebook / Twitter updates to the CommTeam using our shared email address: LWVMC.CommTeam@gmail.com

After the election, the team will provide Google Apps training and support by request. Email LWVMC.CommTeam@gmail.com to indicate your interest. The League Board will begin using Google Drive to store documents (text documents, spreadsheets, diagrams, forms, powerpoints and more) online "in the cloud." Documents are private but may be shared: individuals may be given permission to view, to comment or to fully edit a shared document. These documents may be accessed from any wifi-connected computer anywhere. Documents have a revision history showing who made which changes and when. With the revision history, "you can't break it" -- unintended changes can be "turned back" to a previous version easily. Best of all, Google's tools are free -- no need to buy costly software and no files are lost if a computer dies. All documents are compatible with Microsoft Office.



In addition to Google Drive / Docs, there are many other free tools available. Google groups can be set up for public or private discussions. Google Hangouts can be used for virtual meetings, trainings, and webinars which can be recorded for private or public use. To learn more about Google Apps for Non-Profits, visit: <http://www.google.com/nonprofits/onlinebasics/>

Naturalization Ceremony at MATC Welcomes 129 New Citizens

Mary Jo McDonald

On Thursday, October 9, MATC officials welcomed Citizenship and Immigration Services for a Naturalization Ceremony in Cooley Auditorium. The Milwaukee County League had 17 volunteers ready to register newly eligible voters when they exited the ceremony presided over by US Magistrate Judge Nancy Joseph. The auditorium was filled with 129 new citizens, family and friends, and many MATC students. The program included speakers from MATC, patriotic videos, and a roll call of all the 49 nations represented. We registered a total of 31 new citizens and provided information on voting to all by distributing our pamphlet, "How to Register and Vote in Wisconsin." Thirty-five new citizens from outside Milwaukee County took registration forms with them as well.

After the event, Johnny Miller composed a video of our event. It can be accessed at <http://www.photoshow.com/watch/SW3QE9QV>.



League volunteers for voter registration at MATC

Special thanks go to League members who worked some very busy tables: Joanne Barndt, Mary Bowser, Shirley Halloran, Kathleen Hawkins, Mary Jo McDonald, Johnny Miller, Mary Kae Nelson, Barbara Overstreet, Edie Pump, Virginia Sandquist, Kathleen Scullin, Dorothy Sherman, Ruth Snedic, Dorothy Tennesen, Roz Tonatore, Catherine Tully, and Toni Wulff.



Left: Mary Kae Nelson celebrates with a new citizen
Above: Kathleen Hawkins and Barbara Overstreet register new citizens to vote

51, 35, 13, 38, 238, 187

Mary Kae Nelson

It is not a secret code. It tells the tale of our remarkable Voter Service Committee and the League of Women Voters.

- 51 LWV volunteers
- 35 sites
- 13 coordinators
- 38 SRDs
- 238 voters registered
- 187 additional registration forms handed out

This adds up to a big success story for the citizens of Milwaukee County!

It has been a busy fall, especially the past six weeks. Volunteer activity included registering voters, answering questions, attending press conferences, speaking to community groups, then updating, and updating again, our printed brochure, “How to Register and Vote in Wisconsin.” When Voter Photo ID went into effect we painstakingly added stickers to individual brochures to cover incorrect information. This labor-intensive task wasn’t totally complete when the US Supreme Court ruled that Voter Photo ID would not be in place for the November 4 election, so we then set aside the “stickered” brochures and returned to distributing those printed in June 2014.

League volunteers, as well as friends of the League, have spent hundreds of hours ensuring that not just the underserved, but all citizens of Milwaukee County, are able to exercise their right to vote. Way to go!

**ARE
YOU**



AN SRD?



Mary Jo McDonald
with a new citizen

Membership Committee

Anne Creamer

The Fall Kick-Off in September was a great success. New members mingled with old and the weather was great. Thanks to all of our committee members who made this possible.

Anne Creamer hosted our first New Member Orientation of the fiscal year. Joanne Barndt described how the League works to the new members and we enjoyed getting to know each other. Plus it was a lovely fall day and the Packers won!

We currently have 228 members and the list keeps growing. We are very happy about that but we still have members who haven't renewed. If you are one of the members who hasn't paid your 2014-2015 dues yet, please do. You can send a check to the office or pay online at http://lwvmilwaukee.org/join_form.html.

We plan to set up recurring payments through PayPal on our website. That will make it easier to renew every year. An email will be sent to you for approval before your funds are released.



Anne Creamer, Alexis Gassenhuber, Juan Luis Sanchez and Kathleen Slamka at the Fall Kick-Off

NEW MEMBERS

Ann Batiza is in charge of the S.U.N. project at MSOE which stands for Students Understanding eEnergy.

Barbara Becker comes back to the League having first joined in 1969. She is motivated by voter registration activities.

Phyllis Brostoff is the busy CEO of Stowell Associates, but she joins the League to support our activities.

Laura Vanessa (Moreno) Espinosa of Delavan works full time in real estate. She joins the League because she is prompted by the influence of Hillary Rodham Clinton. She was naturalized as a US citizen in 2009.

Hulyn Farr has recently moved to Milwaukee and is interested in connecting with civic-minded others to learn about local and regional issues. She has done candidate forums in the past.

Barbara Hequet is a retired high school teacher who as an SRD participated in the high school voter registration project. She's also interested in natural resources, social policy, and international relations.

Janice Staral is a social worker and former professor. Her Interests include government/political issues, voter registration and forums, as well as social policy.

Claire Woodall is known to many League members through her diligent work for the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. That intense voter service job means that she's more interested in doing research, speaking, and outreach as League activities.

While four more individuals have paid current dues to LWV-MC, we're in the process of collecting information about them. So look forward to learning about them in the next issue of *The Voter*. If you haven't renewed your 2014-15 membership, we invite you do so now.

Shirley Halloran
Membership Committee

Organizing for our *Know Your County* Study - Part 2

Sarajane Kennedy, Facilitator

As we move into the second phase of our study of Milwaukee County government, we are seeking committee members both to replace members whose commitment could not extend into this second year and to expand committee membership for the tasks ahead.

Last year the focus of the committee was the history and structure of Milwaukee County government. The committee researched and provided information in *The Voter*, interviewed former County Executive F. Thomas Ament, and hosted a general meeting featuring Rob Henken of the Public Policy Forum. (These latter efforts were recorded and shown on MATA Media.)

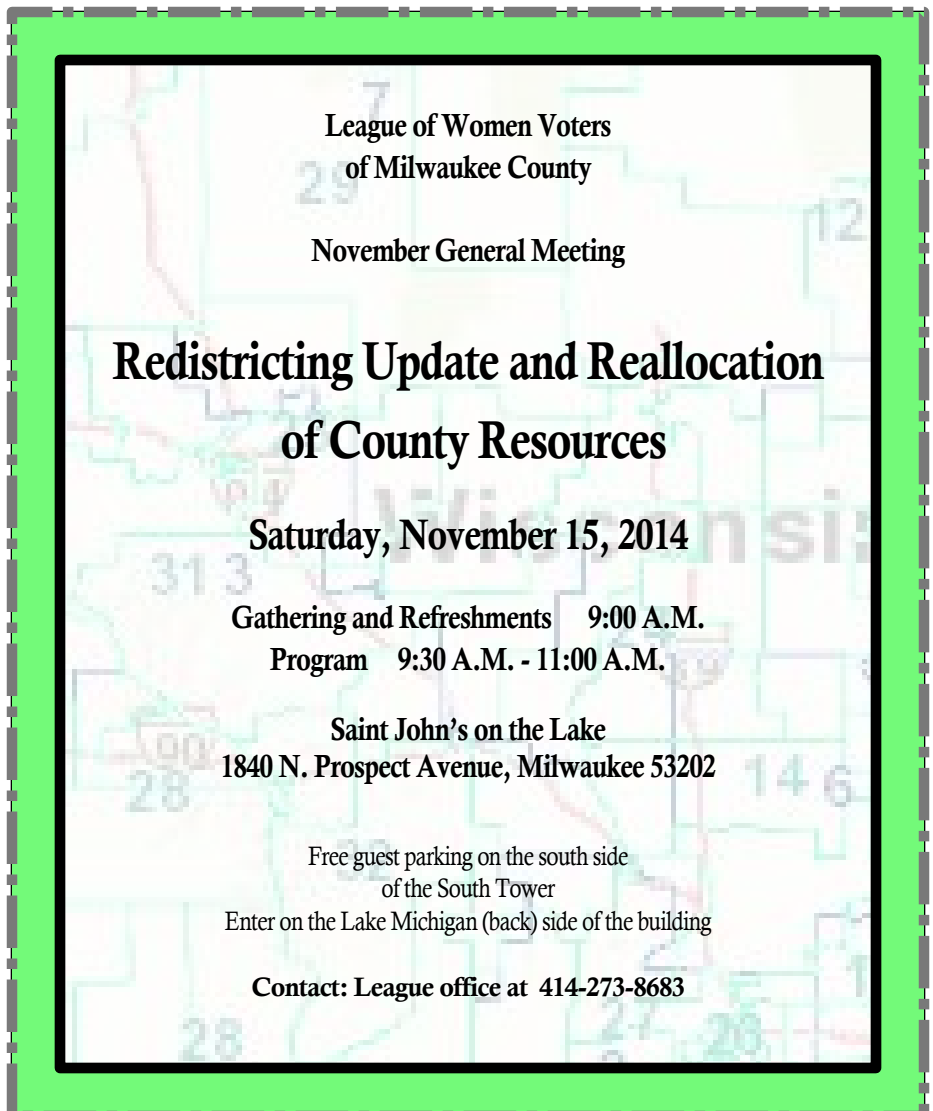
The second year of the study will focus on Milwaukee County government departments and services. In addition to looking at who is responsible for delivery of these services, we will also be looking at how the actions of the State Legislature last year have affected the operations of Milwaukee County government and the delivery of services.

The basis for the study is a survey provided by LWV-US. It lends itself to being broken into several parts, so this is an excellent opportunity to participate in a League study even if you have no experience with a League study and even if you are new to League. We welcome your involvement.

Some of the likely tasks ahead will be interviewing key personnel, planning and executing a general

meeting in March, and disseminating our findings to League members and the public.

This is an exciting undertaking with real value for the community and strong prospects for future involvement/action at the county level. We hope a number of you will help in completing this phase of our *Know Your County* study. Please let me know of your interest as soon as possible so we can begin part 2 of our study. For more information or to join the committee, contact me at 414-453-3494 or email me, sarajane.kennedy@gmail.com.



**League of Women Voters
of Milwaukee County**

November General Meeting

**Redistricting Update and Reallocation
of County Resources**

Saturday, November 15, 2014

Gathering and Refreshments 9:00 A.M.
Program 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Saint John's on the Lake
1840 N. Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee 53202

Free guest parking on the south side
of the South Tower
Enter on the Lake Michigan (back) side of the building

Contact: League office at 414-273-8683

LWV Lake Michigan Region Meeting Examines Climate Change

Helga Guequierre

Climate change and its effects on Lake Michigan was the theme of the 2014 annual meeting of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region held in Traverse City, Michigan, October 3-5. Speakers from a variety of backgrounds spoke to this issue.

Biologist Nate Winkler from the Conservation Resource Alliance described the ongoing dam removal project on the Boardman River in Michigan. The purpose of the many dams constructed in the late 19th and 20th centuries was to provide hydroelectric power. It is now understood that, although renewable, hydroelectric power energy is not “green” due to the negative impacts of the dams on wetlands and native aquatic species. When the dam removal project is completed, the Boardman River will be restored to its original channel.

Jeff Andresen, Professor of Meteorology/ Climatology of Michigan State University, spoke of the historical and projected climate trends in the Great Lakes region. Professor Andresen emphasized that climate is static within a human lifetime but dynamic in terms of centuries. Human activity now affects climate. His predictions for 50-100 years in the future are eye-opening: an 8-10 degree Fahrenheit increase in Lake Michigan’s temperatures if we continue with business as usual or a 3-4 degree increase if we turn to a greener, more sustainable way of life. The Great Lakes region will become wetter in the cold season with more flooding and more droughts because precipitation will become erratic – more rain on fewer days.

David Bunnell is a Research Fishery Biologist at the US Geological Survey’s Great Lakes Science Center and Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Michigan. Lake Michigan has suffered many attacks that have caused changes in the physical habitat: logging, dams, over-fishing, stocking, nutrient inputs, and now, the most detrimental issue, invasive species. All of these have had negative impacts on the fisheries. Income from the fishing industry is between \$2 million and \$7 million. Dr. Bunnell cited predictions for 2043-2070: 2-3 degrees Centigrade warmer waters, increased winter precipitation, decreased ice cover leading to increased evaporation. Climate change may favor invasive species, as they may be more able to adapt quickly.

Chief of Natural Resources at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Kevin Skerl, talked about how climate change is affecting the “Most Beautiful Place in America,” so designated in a 2011 Good Morning America competition. Increased erosion due to more intense rain events, forest stress due to pests and disease, avian populations moving northward, and changes in phenology (the staging of life events) have been documented. Blooming no longer coincides with the insect hatch; migration and emergence of food sources don’t occur at the same time. Recreational opportunities will change due to longer summers and shorter winters.

Helen Taylor, Director of the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy, began by describing three value sets applied to land use in the US: laissez-faire, the conservationists (i.e., Teddy

LWV Lake Michigan Region Meeting on Climate Change (Cont.)

Roosevelt), and present-day environmentalists (purists). The Nature Conservancy began in 1951 and today has 2,500 employees and 750 scientists. The Nature Conservancy has turned its effort to working with agribusiness to reduce run-off problems in the Great Lakes.

Hans VanSumeren of the Water Studies Institute of NW Michigan presented videos of the deep-water bottom of Grand Traverse Bay in Lake Michigan. The *round goby* and *quagga mussels* own this area. These two invasive species have taken over the bottom of the lake and the mussels are covering everything, including historic shipwrecks.

The Program Director for Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Grenetta Thomassey, is an advocate for fresh water resources. Her topic “2014: A Year to Speak Water to Power” climaxed the meeting. Her message emphasized the need to base policy on science from local to international levels. The “charm bureau,” as she calls the combination of the Chamber of Commerce plus the Farm Bureau, requires our constant vigilance. It is our responsibility to keep environmental issues before our elected officials and all groups that have influence over the Great Lakes. She emphasized that the success of the Great Lakes Compact is contingent on each of the states and provinces involved passing water conservation laws. Our elected officials cannot be relied on to accomplish this without our continued encouragement.

The next League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region annual meeting will take place in Illinois. All are welcome to attend.

Diverse Group of Wisconsin Youth Gather to Connect Issues to November 4 Election

Mary Kae Nelson

On Saturday, October 18, a group of about 150 high school, college students and working youth from across Wisconsin came together for the First Annual “Turn Up Our Voice, Turn Out Our VOTE” Wisconsin Youth Summit.

LWV members Drew Van Wyk and Mary Kae Nelson helped plan the event and served as chaperones for the overnight portion.

Young people discussed and laid out the issues they will turn out for in the November 4 election. They also set a Wisconsin youth agenda. The young people developed plans to strengthen Wisconsin’s democracy to create the Wisconsin they would like to see in the next 6 years and beyond. Concerns expressed by the young people included raising the minimum wage, making college tuition more affordable, criminal justice reform, improving schools, protecting voting rights and the school-to-prison pipeline. In addition to voting workshops, issue breakouts, spoken word and dancing, they heard from a panel of young elected officials discussing, “Why We Serve.”

The Voter Production Crew:

Chris Hansen, Sr. Editor & Layout
Shirley Halloran, Editor
Louise Petering, Advisor

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League of Women Voters**

**Not a member yet?
Use the form on the reverse side
to sign up today.**

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):

\$65 Individual \$100 Household \$ 25 Student

\$100 (supports \$25 memberships) \$165 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Financial support available upon request -- call 414-962-5634

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work/Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ Email _____

Interests: Voter Service _____ Lending Practices _____ Government _____

International Relations _____ Environment/Natural Resources/Water _____

Health Care/Social Policy _____ Education _____ Other _____

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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**JOIN UP!
JOIN IN!**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

