



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®**

PO Box 175  
Ashland, WI 54806  
[info@lwvabcwi.org](mailto:info@lwvabcwi.org)

**Our Mission...**

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) is a nonpartisan political organization whose main objective is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of all citizens in government at all levels, especially locally.

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The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties

Find us on

# The Leaguer

January - March 2020



## FAIR MAPS UPDATE - Remapping Assembly Districts

By Gail Syverud

The Fair Maps for Wisconsin Summit was held on Nov 9, 2019, in Marshfield, WI. The Summit was sponsored by nonprofit and grassroots organizations including the Fair Elections Project, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Madison Institute, Common Cause Wisconsin, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and Oregon Area Progressives. The goal of the summit was to highlight the growing movement for nonpartisan redistricting and share strategies to pressure lawmakers to support nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Constitution assigns redistricting to the legislative branch of government. In 2011, new districts were drawn for US Congress, State Assembly and State Senate districts. Unfortunately, partisan gerrymandering

governed the redistricting process resulting in the undemocratic outcome of the politician selecting his or her district rather than the voter selecting the candidate.

To better understand how the Assembly Districts were gerrymandered during this redistricting process, I recommend that you google 2011 map of State of Wisconsin Assembly Districts. The map will show that the Assembly Districts did not follow county or municipality lines. In cities like Milwaukee, Madison, Stevens Point and Eau Claire the community was carved into three or more different Assembly Districts with the outside borders zigzagging and meandering without clear definition.

Craig Gilbert with the Milwau-

**Fair Maps** continued on 3



## Anne Chartier, President

[president@lwvabcwi.org](mailto:president@lwvabcwi.org)

New Year Greetings! Hoping that 2020 finds you well, I am happy to let you know that our celebrations are in full force. Having gathered last June to commemorate Wisconsin's being the first state to ratify the 19TH Amendment to our Constitution; we can now look forward to honoring 100 years of the League of Women Voters (LWVUS). Our League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) will throw a Birthday Bash at the Harbor View Event Center on March 8, International Women's Day.

During our Holiday Dinner in December, I received a gift bag of treasures from Lissa Radke. Appropriately, everything centered on the power and accomplishments of women, including the wonderful book, [That's What She Said, Wise Words From Influential Women](#), selected and illustrated by Kimothy Joy. The following day I embarked upon a trip and took it with me.

# Greetings from our President

During one of my flights, the gentleman sitting next to me asked to take a picture of the cover in order to share it with a friend, and I was delighted to help spread the word. The book was to be passed along to someone in whom I see character, wisdom and strength. I selected Mary Rehwald, who is the epitome of an activist and has done so much for our communities. One of the many outstanding women featured in the book is Wilma Mankiller, who led and did so much for the Cherokee Nation. Her quote is "Take care how you place your moccasins upon the earth, step with care, for the faces of the future generations are looking up from the earth, waiting their turn for life."

It is no surprise that Greta Thurnberg was named Time Magazine's Person of the Year. She has inspired us all, including Jane Fonda who continues to engage in civil disobedience to raise awareness of

the need for a concerted effort to implement alternatives to fossil fuels. In response to a call from the LWVUS for all 600 chapters in 50 states to engage in a Day of Action on February 14, the actual birthday of the League, we invite you to participate in the Climate Strike our own youth have been holding weekly. Details will be forthcoming, but showing love for the planet will be a great way to celebrate our first century.

Upcoming elections will certainly focus our efforts to be informed, register voters, to get out the vote, and to continue to work on fair maps and voter suppression. In terms of health care, I am looking forward to the presentation by Dorothy Skye, "Health Care, the Ills and the Remedies," on January 29 at 6 p.m. at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. In the pages that follow, you will find information about what we have been up to and what we hope to get done in the months to come. Wishing you and yours the best of possible beginnings. –Anne



## Fair Maps continued from page 1

kee Journal Sentential reported in 2018, that the Assembly District drawn in 2011 required the Democrats to outperform the Republicans by 9-10 points compared to 2-3 points under the old map. Matthew Rothschild of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign would say this is an example of how partisan gerrymandering rigs the political game in favor of one party rule. It decreases competition. It muffles the voices of citizens who are in the minority. It deprives Wisconsinites of equal representation. And it leads to hyper-partisanship.

For the past eight years, Wisconsinites have been voicing their discontent with partisan gerrymandering. Fair Map Resolutions urging Wisconsin legislators to ban gerrymandering have passed in 46 of 72 Wisconsin counties.

On Nov 6, 2018, voters in Winnebago, Sauk, Eau Claire and Lincoln Counties passed a nonpartisan redistricting reform referendum with an average of 70 % of the vote.

In 2019, a Marquette University Law School poll showed that 72% of the Wisconsin citizens support nonpartisan redistricting.

More recently, Governor Tony Evers, who ran on a campaign of redistricting reform, proposed using the independent, nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau to draw new district maps. The state of Iowa has followed a similar redistricting process for the past 40 years and is a national model for a transparent

process that is low cost and takes less time in passing.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, *"gerrymandering is only going to get worse, as legislators and consultants gain access to even more powerful mapping technology and more sophisticated data about voters to make gerrymanders that are even more biased and even more durably so. The same sort of "Big Data" that gives retailers and political campaigns greater insight into people's behavior will increasingly be used in redistricting as well.*

*Gerrymandering is one problem that voters can't fix on their own. Citizens can't just vote the gerrymandering party out of office because the maps are too heavily skewed. In fact, that's the whole point of extreme partisan gerrymanders: to insulate the legislative majority from the will of the voters. And while 24 states provide for some form of ballot initiative that could be used to push redistricting reforms, many other states don't make this option available to voters."*

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## THE THREAT OF VOTER SUPPRESSION

By Bev Lindell, Civic Engagement Chair

"We challenge all efforts and tactics that threaten our democracy and limit the ability of voters to exercise their right to vote" League of Women Voters.

This statement by our national organization recognizes voter suppression as a threat to our democracy. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. Voter suppression is a strategy to discourage or interfere with voting by specific groups of people.

Our country has a long history of voter suppression: for example, poll taxes and literacy tests were used to prevent African Americans from voting.

One thing for certain is that the United States Supreme Court will take a "hands off" approach to redistricting. A June 27, 2019, decision involving three partisan gerrymandering cases, including *Runcho v Common Cause*, *Runcho v League of Women Voters of North Carolina* and *Lamone v Benisek*, concluded that partisan gerrymandering cannot be policed by the federal courts.

Shortly after the Supreme Court ruling, the League of Women Voters of the United States announced that they would be leading a national 50-state redistricting campaign focused on creating fair political maps nationwide - the People-Powered Fair Maps Campaign. The LWV campaign includes: Education and Advocacy, Organizing and Mobilizing, Partnership Building, Ballot Initiatives and Referendums, State Constitutional Options and Litigation and Federal Legislation with a focus on modernizing the 1965 Voting Rights Act and calling it the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

## Suppression cont. from page 3

And, of course, women were only to achieve their right to vote one hundred years ago after a 70 year battle that fostered the founding of the League of Women Voters. Even with the passage of the 19th Amendment, not all women were able to vote because of other voter suppression tactics.

Recently, there has been an aggressive effort to restrict voting rights under the pretense of curbing voter fraud. Some of these barriers include: strict voter ID requirements, reduced early voting opportunities, fewer voting places, purging voter rolls, confusing and rigid voting rules for students.

Recent studies have shown a linkage between states with restrictive voting requirements and reduced voting numbers by people of color. In Wisconsin, Republican officials stated that the voter ID law may have affected the presidential election in 2016. Wisconsin laws defining student voting requirements resulted in the largest decrease in

student voters between 2012 and 2016. A study by the UW-Madison found that approximately 20,000 voters in two of the state's counties were prevented from voting in 2016 due to a law restricting acceptable forms of identification. Recently, an Ozaukee County judge has ordered Wisconsin to remove over 200,000 people from voter rolls because they did not respond to a post card notification.\* That effort also has national implications for upcoming elections given the role our state played in the 2016 election. The notices of removal from voter rolls were sent to about 7% of registered voters, but were concentrated in Milwaukee and Madison which have a higher percentage of Democratic voters.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act historically protected voting jurisdictions with a history of discrimination from baseless purges. This changed in a 2013 Supreme Court ruling that removed provisions holding certain states accountable for past discriminatory practices. Since then,

several states have pushed ahead with large scale voter roll purges and other suppressive tactics.

I joined the LWV/ABC about a decade ago when I took notice that the LWV was at the forefront of the battle to protect voting rights. If you search the web regarding voting issues, you will find that the League is at the center of legal/judicial actions on many fronts, including: gerrymandering, redistricting, purging of voter rolls, voter ID requirements, student voting restrictions, money in elections, last minute Election Day barriers, etc., etc. As demonstrated by our League founders, the path to positive change is long and requires persistence. At a time when it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenges at hand, the history of the League of Women Voters to protect and defend the seminal democratic right to vote should make one proud. As local members we can do our part by grassroots organizing for legal action and public education.

**Suppression** continued on page 5

## Contact your representatives

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers: 115 E State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702, Web: [evers.wi.gov](http://evers.wi.gov),

Email: [govinfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:govinfo@wisconsin.gov); 608-266-1212

US Senator Tammy Baldwin, <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback>, (202) 224-5653

US Senator Ron Johnson, <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/> (202) 224-5323

US House Representative for District 7 is currently vacant. Requests for further details should be directed to the Office of the Clerk (202) 225-7000

WI State Senator Janet Bewley, <https://www.bewleyforsenate.com/>, (608) 284-8874

WI State Representative, Beth Meyers, <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/legislators/assembly/> (608) 266-7690

# 2019/2020 LWV/ABC Board & Committee Members

## BOARD

Contact the Board at:

[info@lwvabcwi.org](mailto:info@lwvabcwi.org) or

PO Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806

Anne Chartier

**President**

Sue Niemi

**President-Elect, Secretary**

Roger Aiken

**Treasurer**

Margie Braun

Joan Elias

Linda Jorgenson

Nina Hirth

Bev Lindell

Sheila Mitchell

Jan Penn

Gail Syverud

## COMMITTEES

### **Executive Committee**

Anne Chartier, President

Sue Niemi, President-Elect,  
Secretary

Roger Aiken, Treasurer

### **Membership Committee**

Gail Syverud, Chair

Dora Kling

Kathy & Dave Allen

George Bussey

Sue Niemi

### **Voter Services**

Margie Braun, Chair

Suzie Ulmner

### **Communications Committee**

Open, Chair

Nina Hirth, Facebook

Nina Hirth, Tech Support/G Suites

Anne Chartier, Email Blasts

Liz Seefeldt, Bottom Line Liaison

Pete Skoro, Newsletter

Kate Bortell, Website

### **Natural Resources Advocacy Committee**

Joan Elias, Chair

### **Economic & Inequality Action Committee**

Jan Penn

### **Civic Engagement Committee**

Pam Hayes & Bev Lindell, Co Chairs

### **Centennial Committee**

Contact: Dianne Judd at

[info@lwvabcwi.org](mailto:info@lwvabcwi.org)

100th Birthday Gala:

Linda Jorgenson

Suffragist Book studies: Ginger Quay

### **Program & Events Committee**

Sheila Mitchell, Chair

### **Finance Committee**

Open Chair

Roger Aiken, Treasurer

Linda Jorgenson

Pam Hayes

### **Nominating Committee**

Jo Bailey, Chair

Gail Syverud, Board Liaison

Feel free to visit a commit-  
tee meeting at any time.

Join a committee and get  
involved with our work.

Contact us at:

[info@lwvabcwi.org](mailto:info@lwvabcwi.org)

## Welcome New Members!

The Membership Committee  
chaired by Gail Syverud is hap-  
py to announce that we have  
10 new members. We welcome  
the following persons and thank  
them for joining LWV/ABC!

Jackie Kruse

Cable

Kerry Myhra

Hayward

Jane Manli

Hayward

Sue Dale

Hayward

Kay Winton

Hayward

Presley Nuutinen

Ashland

Jeff Silbert

Washburn

Matthew Oestreich Cumberland

Ed Haueter

Hayward

Sandra Devanie

Hayward

We look forward to getting  
to know you!

**Suppression** cont. from page 5

\*Editor's note: Letters were sent on 10-10-2019 from the Wisconsin Election Commission to residents likely to have moved and who need to pre-register to vote if they moved within Wisconsin. Residents from Ashland County received approximately 600 such letters, Bayfield County 500 and Sawyer County 500 letters.

Read more at:

[www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2019/12/30/wisconsin-elections-commission-deadlocks-keeps-voters-rolls/2773817001/](http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2019/12/30/wisconsin-elections-commission-deadlocks-keeps-voters-rolls/2773817001/)

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin advises people to check their voter registration status before upcoming elections by checking their voter information on Wisconsin's online voter registration website, [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov), or by contacting their municipal clerk.



# LWV CALENDAR 2020

## January

- Monday 13** Voter Services Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Hayward Library
- Wednesday 15** Voter Services Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Washburn Library
- Tuesday 28** LWV/ABC Board Meeting
- Wednesday 29** Health Care Ills and Remedies, 6 p.m., NGLVC

## February

- Sunday 9** Lively Issues, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at NGLVC
- Friday 14** LWV 100th Birthday
- Friday 14** LWV Day of Action
- Saturday 15** Susan B Anthony's Birthday
- Tuesday 18** Spring Primary
- Tuesday 25** LWV/ABC Board Meeting

## March

- Sunday 8** LWV/ABC Gala, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Harbor View Event Center, Washburn
- Sunday 8** International Women's Day
- Tuesday 24** LWV/ABC Board Meeting

## April

- Tuesday 7** Spring Elections and Presidential Preference Primary
- Wednesday 22** Earth Day
- Tuesday 28** LWV/ABC Board Meeting

## May

- Thursday 7** Special Election: WI Congressional District 7. Special primary is being held in with the Spring Primary on February 18, 2020.

## 2020 Elections -Registered and Ready to Vote?

### 2020 Spring Primary

- February 18, 2020
- Nonpartisan Primary for the April 7, 2020 Spring Election
- This will also be the Special Primary for Congressional Dist. 7
- Who is on your ballot? Visit [MyVote.wi.gov](http://MyVote.wi.gov)

### 2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary

- April 7, 2020
- Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary

### Special Election - Congressional District 7

- May 12, 2020
- Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District
- Special Election to fill a vacant seat in Congress. The special primary is being held in conjunction with the Spring Primary on February 18, 2020

### 2020 Partisan Primary

- August 11, 2020
- Partisan Primary for the November 3, 2020 General Election

### 2020 General Election

- November 3, 2020
- General Election for President and Vice President of the United States

### Helpful websites

Check to see if you are registered, where your polling place is, who is on your ballot, information about the candidates, required IDs and more...

#### Search:

- [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/](http://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/)
- [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)
- [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov)
- [elections.wi.gov/](http://elections.wi.gov/)

**Registered and Ready to Vote!**

**GET INVOLVED**

## News from LWVWI and LWVUS

Sign up to receive information and action alerts at:

- LWV of Wisconsin:  
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin>
- LWV National:  
<https://www.lwv.org/>

Visit [my.lwv.org/wisconsin](http://my.lwv.org/wisconsin) to read more about the following headlines:

- League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and Two Registered Voters Challenge Voter Purge as Violating the U.S.- Constitution
- The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin advises people to check their voter registration status
- League of Women Voters Will Seek to Overturn Court's Order to Purge 234,000 Voters from the Rolls
- LWVWI Opposes Senate Bill 151 - local law enforcement involvement in immigration

Visit [www.lwv.org/](http://www.lwv.org/) to Take

Action on:

- Restoring the Voting Rights Act
- The Census Counts and So do you
- Demand a Hearing on For The People Act
- Take Action to Secure our Elections



# LAUNCHING THE LEAGUE'S 2ND CENTURY WITH A 100 YEAR BIRTHDAY BASH

By Linda Jorgenson, Centennial Committee

To mark the momentous occasion of the 100th birthday of the founding of the League of Women Voters (February 14, 1920), and the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote (August 1920), the Ashland/Bayfield League is throwing a party on Sunday, March 8, (International Women's Day) at the Harbor View Event Center in Washburn from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

We are not only planning to commemorate these significant milestones and to have FUN, but also announce to our community and state that the LWV/ABC plans to vigorously continue its mission of "Making De-



mocracy Work"! To emphasize that point the event will also be a big fund-raiser to launch our next 100 years.

There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and, of course, cake, also entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets will be \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. So bring your friends and family and let's all plan on "roaring" into 2020! Look for your Save the Date card in the mail soon. Any questions/suggestions or desire to help with the event, please do not hesitate to contact party co-chairs, Linda Barnes (715-209-0816) or Linda Jorgenson (715-373-2948).

## Centennial Gala and Chequamegon Reads

By Ginger Quay

**...Hear Ye! Hear Ye! READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

**-CHEQUAMEGON READS-**

***THE WOMAN'S HOUR: The GREAT FIGHT TO WIN THE VOTE***

By Elaine Weiss

Is coming to a library near you in both video format, when Ms. Weiss introduced her book at the Woodrow Wilson National History Center in D.C., and as a literary page-turner of the battle in Tennessee during the sweltering hot July and August of 1920. Suffs and Antis met in Nashville, confronted and courted members of the legislature to determine the fate of the 19th Amendment, women's right to vote. Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify: if the yeas supported by the Suffs had it, the amendment would pass; if the Antis succeeded in swaying the vote, the amendment was likely doomed after seventy years of suffragist action. The atmosphere was explosive, the politics wild, the story gripping—fact, in fiction form.

With the helpful guidance of Vaughn Library Director, Sarah Adams, assisted by a member of the Friends of the Vaughn Library board, Kathy Allen, and the other LWV/ABC's book discussion leaders, the form of a regional read emerged. Interested participants will



sign up at the library of their choice as dates, times and formats will vary. Each library will determine its minimum number of participants.

League discussion leaders and participating libraries are as follows: Bev Lindell – Bayfield, Linda Jorgenson – Washburn, Kathy Allen – Ashland, Sue Niemi – Iron River, Margie Braun – Hayward, Library Director, Jennie Thews – Mellen. Additional libraries may be added.

When details are finalized, they will be emailed to all league members. Libraries will have their individual information available, flyers containing composite information of all locations, dates and times will be distributed. Books will be available through libraries or for purchase at a reduced price. Community members are invited. Don't miss this opportunity for a real eye-opener into how women achieved full citizenship.





# Voter Services

By Margie Braun, Chair

2020! The election year is upon us! We want every citizen 18 and older in Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer counties to be Registered and Ready to Vote! We want people to know when the elections are and we want people to be informed! We want our presence in local libraries, coffee shops, schools and other places where our communities gather. Come and help us do this work!

There are two upcoming Voter Services meetings:

- Mon., Jan. 13 at 4:30 p.m. located at the Sherman Weiss Library in Hayward
- Wed., Jan. 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Washburn Library

We are continuing our efforts to provide voter service registration events as volunteers plan and organize them along with developing the [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) website. All members and friends of the League are welcome to join us with our efforts. If you cannot attend please contact [margiebrown555@gmail.com](mailto:margiebrown555@gmail.com) to get information about how you can help.

Two upcoming service registration events include:

- Sherman Weiss Library, marketplace Foods and the Hayward High School on Wed., Jan. 6

- Hayward Food Shelf on Monday, Jan. 13.

Libraries in our area have or are being contacted and equipped with signs and bookmarks indicating [MyVote](http://MyVote) Wisconsin information, election dates and information to provide the public with an easy access opportunity to voter services. We hope to plan and continue events at libraries to assist with this process. Having a live person to contact people seems to be very effective. It also develops a relationship with library personnel. There is a nationwide effort to make libraries a hub for voter information.

Our [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) team is lead by Fred Haueter, a new member who traveled to Eau Claire on Tues, Dec.10 to meet with Eileen Newcomer, LWIWI Voter Services Rep. Eileen led us through the process of setting up our local candidate elections for Sawyer Co. as that was the only local information we had from a recent newspaper article, along with question topics to consider.

The last date for local candidates to file is Jan. 7 at which time biographies and questions can be emailed to candidates. This team will be meeting on Wed., Jan. 8, from 10-12 noon during the library event in Hayward to work on question development including Ashland and Bayfield county local races. The information should be available on county websites by that date. Roger Aiken will lead the entering of the Ashland Bayfield information onto the Vote 411 website.

# Northland College Student Association

*Originally published in the Northland College student newspaper, [Drifts](#)*

By Nina Hirth

For students who are looking to get more civically engaged within Ashland's community, there's an organization you might have an interest in. The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots, political organization established in 1920 that advocates for informed and active participation in government. LWV members are women and men who work to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through education and advocacy. The league is a national organization that has a chapter that operates in both Ashland and Bayfield counties

Groups like LWV hold so much value for the individual and for the community as a whole. Being a part of this organization has opened my eyes to the community members in Ashland, which has made me feel very connected to the area beyond Northland's campus. This organization focuses on voting advocacy, community involvement, environmental justice, and social issues that affect all community members living in this area.

The Board members meet once a month to study issues, come to a consensus, develop a position, and devise a plan for action. Once a stance on the issue is made, the action can take different forms such as holding public informational meetings, submitting media

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## Meet Our LWV/ABC Board Members

### A Second Installment of Board Member Profiles

#### Anne Chartier Bio

I became a member of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties in the nineties, invited by my dear friend Liz Quast. Serving then as Voter Services chair was both challenging and rewarding. Over the years, and especially now as president, I have attended several gatherings organized by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. As a result of such experiences, along with the numerous programs and events I have participated in locally, I am very proud to be part of such a valuable organization.

Being non-partisan has never been a concern for me because issues are more important to me than affiliation to political parties or candidates. As diffi-

cult as democracy feels at times, and as threatened as the rule of law may seem when truth and justice don't prevail, I am well aware of the good fortune so many of us in this country enjoy. It is our duty to make sure the rights, liberties and well-being afforded to some are available to all.

I am a retired public school Spanish teacher committed to social and environmental justice. Having been born in Massachusetts, and although I have strong ties to both shores of the Río de la Plata where I grew up, I love living in this part of the world. At this point I have spent almost half my life in and around the Chequamegon Bay, appreciating its people, the arts, and the outdoors. Our Lake Superior and surrounding landscape are magnificent! My volunteer work beyond the League includes tutoring in reading, ESL classes, and translating for migrant workers from Central America.

#### Gail Syverud Bio

I am originally from Madison, WI and have lived in northern Wisconsin near Ashland for the past 40 years.

I have a BS in education and a MS in social work. I have worked in a human service agency with a focus on aging and disabilities and administered community based long term care programs.

I have also worked in a regional educational agency with health and wellness prevention programs for middle school and high school students, staff development for teachers and an early intervention program for children birth to three and their families.

I am married to Tom Syverud. We share a love for the outdoors and our hobbies have included camping, fishing, backpacking, canoeing and cross country skiing. We enjoy bird watching, snorkeling and travel to the Caribbean and Central America.

I have been a member of LWV since 1985. I served as president in 1992-93.

One of my best experiences with LWV was attending the 1994 national convention in Washington DC and hearing First Lady Hillary Clinton deliver a speech on health care reform. From that point on, I followed the slow development of a national health care policy that would become the Affordable Health Care Act of 2009. We can thank President Obama, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congressman Dave Obey for passing this important legislation.

I am currently serving a 2-year term on the LWV/ABC Board of Directors. The first 6 months have been busy and I enjoy learning about LWVWI and the education and advocacy they are working on at the state level. I attended the Issues Briefing in October and was most interested in the Natural Resources breakout session which included updates on Enbridge Line 5, climate change and pfabs/chemical fire retardants.

League of Women Voters is a great organization and it has been an honor to be at the table to discuss issues that affect our local community. I am looking forward to 2020 and see change on the horizon!



# Health Care



## The Ills... and the Remedies Community Program

Great Lake Visitor Center

**Speaker: Dr. Dorothy Skye, MD**

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

**Speaker/Panel Response (local stakeholders)  
and Audience Participation**

**Goal: Identify key issues candidates should address  
in platform**

**All Welcome!**

*Sponsored by the  
League of Women Voters/Ashland and Bayfield Counties  
Nonpartisan work, based on Economic Inequality Study-Position*

NC, Continued from page 9 releases and letters to the editor, observing governmental units, contacting elected officials, and testifying in various ways. Student membership is completely free, and highly valued among its existing members.

I am working with Northland College Student Association (NCSA) to create a position/chair on the council that represents a connection to the league. The person in this position will sit in on NCSA meetings as well as monthly LWV board meetings, forming an open line of communication between Northland's campus community and the Ashland community. Students at Northland who are concerned about social issues would have the chance to make a tangible change on a local community level in Ashland.

Many Northlanders have concerns regarding social issues that align with community members in Ashland—by coming together with the local community, we are strengthening our relationships and momentum to make change. Being a part of this organization has opened my eyes to how special this community is. It has shown me how rewarding being involved on a local level and meeting community members I otherwise wouldn't have met can be.

If you want more information or want to get involved, check out the chapter's website at <https://www.lwvabcwi.org/mission> or contact Nina via email.

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## Local Democracy Action Beyond LWV/ ABC

Our Community friends are very busy Making Democracy Work in various ways. We want to share their work for you to partake.

### January 2020

**Sat. 18,** Rise Up: women's March in Ashland Saturday, • 10:00 AM  
Chequamegon Co-op, 700 Main Street Ashland, WI 54806, [womensmarch.com/home2020](http://womensmarch.com/home2020)

**Sat. 18,** MLK Community Event  
"Journeys to Justice, Journey to Healing," Bayfield, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at National Park Service Parking Lot, then continuing at 10:30a.m. in the Bayfield School Cafeteria/Commons. This is a time to acknowledge the work on civil rights for ALL peoples: Dr. King's legacy, the birth of the American Indian Movement, and the history and resilience of indigenous and people of color groups, as well as other groups which have been marginalized. For more information:

Every Friday noon Strike for Climate  
In 2018 Greta Thunberg began striking from school to bring awareness to the climate crisis, thus beginning the global Fridays for Future movement. Students around the world have followed her lead by striking for climate, including here in Ashland, WI. Each Friday, we leave school and walk to City Hall, where we spend an hour peace-

fully protesting to call for action on the climate crisis. We encourage supporters of all ages to join us from 12:45-1:45 PM.

**More information:** <http://fffashland.weebly.com/>

**Questions:**  
[chequamegon@ycatwi.org](mailto:chequamegon@ycatwi.org)

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## The 2019 National Popular Vote Wisconsin Workshop

### A Brief Summary and Reflections

by Sheila Mitchell

In November, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin brought Eileen Reavey to Wisconsin for a short workshop on the National Popular Vote (NPV). Eileen, the National Grassroots Director for "National Popular Vote," was the instructor for the event. Key information centered on analyzing how the Electoral College works, about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and how to advocate for NPV.

The Electoral College consists of 538 votes. Wisconsin has 10 votes (8 Representatives, 2 Senators). Under the "winner-take-all" rule used in 48 states, the presidential candidate who receives the most votes gets all the electoral votes. These "winner-take-all" laws are state laws, and are not part of the U.S. Constitution.

A detailed sentence-by-sentence explanation of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is available at <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/bill-text>. In short, this compact would guarantee the presidency to the candidate who receives the most votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It would go into effect when enacted by a majority of the presidential electors i.e. 270 out of 538.

Since 2006, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Bill has been enacted by 16 states, totaling 196 electoral votes of the 270 electoral votes needed to enact this compact. The organization that Eileen Reavey hails from is a grassroots effort to continue this state-by-state educational program with education about the compact and hopefully introduction of this bill at the state level in multiple other states.

There are supporters and opponents, of course, to changing our system. One of the often touted oppositions is the election of a person unfit for presidency. And in Wisconsin, there would be concerns about being, once again, labeled just a "fly-over state." However, as we strive to fight voter suppression and gerrymandering in our own state, I think we should be able to understand that the election of our president should also be by a fair and accountable system. And, although LWVWI does not have the time and resources to direct their attention towards this mission, they have helped to facilitate a toolkit for those Leagues who are interested in pursuing this work.

# Natural Resources Advocacy Committee

By Joan Elias, NR Advocacy Chair

## The Natural Resources Committee has been working on issues surrounding Enbridge Line 5.

Enbridge Line 5 is a pipeline that runs from Superior, WI, to Sarnia, Canada, passing through the Bad River Indian Reservation and under the Straights of Mackinac along the way – two incredibly environmentally sensitive areas. The lease for Enbridge Line 5's passage through the Reservation expired several years ago. The Tribe filed a lawsuit demanding that Enbridge decommission the line and remove it from the Bad River Watershed. The pipeline is exposed and largely unsupported in a tributary to Denomie Creek. Meanders of the Bad River are approaching dangerously close to the line. Increasing frequency of extreme storm events and flooding are shifting the river's path, threatening to expose the pipe to damage from uprooted trees and other flood debris. Enbridge's lease through the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has also lapsed. Lawsuits are pending in Michigan regarding the passage of the line through the Straights of Mackinac because of public safety and ecological concerns.

Enbridge Line 5 was built in 1953. The company claims it has had a good safety record despite 33 spills since 1968 amounting to over 1.1 million gallons. (Statistics prior to 1968 are not available) The petroleum

products it carries originate in Canada and end in Canada – Wisconsin residents use none of these products.

In response to the Tribe's lawsuit Enbridge proposes to re-route a portion of Line 5 around the Reservation, south along the western boundary to Mellen, then north along the eastern boundary to rejoin the existing pipe north of US HWY 2. This re-route is entirely within the Bad River Watershed and does not meet the Tribe's demand to remove the pipe from the watershed. Further, it threatens more streams and tributaries to the Bad River, many of them trout streams, than the existing route. The crossing of these streams and wetlands poses many risks - such as warming stream temperatures due to a decrease in shading, altered hydrology, and of course the risk of spills - both during construction and throughout the life of the pipeline.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has strong positions supporting Tribal Sovereignty, renewable energy, and protection of natural resources, especially waterways and drinking water. With these state positions as backing, the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) passed a resolution OPPOSING Enbridge Line 5 and SUPPORTING the efforts of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians and others, including private landowners along the current and proposed Enbridge Line 5 corridor, to halt any expansion or relocation of the line and rather to see it removed from the Bad River watershed and decommissioned entirely.

*Please see our resolution accompanying this article, on page 14.*



## ENBRIDGE LINE 5 PIPELINE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (League) supports measures to prevent water pollution, including measures to protect lakes, streams, and wetlands, and protection of current and potential drinking water sources;

AND WHEREAS the league recognizes the Sovereignty of Native Americans, including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and respects treaty rights in regard to water resources, as well as their positions and decisions with respect thereto;

AND WHEREAS the League supports the efforts of Towns and Counties to protect their citizens from the adverse impacts of environmentally destructive activities;

AND WHEREAS the League understands the need for and supports a timely and rapid transition to renewable energy;

AND WHEREAS the League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment, and further supports the stewardship of land as a finite resource, particularly fragile lands and waters, such as the Bad River Watershed, Lake Superior, and the Straits of Mackinac, where leaks and spills from oil pipelines could result in irreversible damage;

AND WHEREAS Enbridge Energy has proposed the continuance, replacement, and/or relocation of a pipeline to carry oil through northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan;

AND WHEREAS Wisconsin as a whole derives minimal benefit and has no utilization of product of Enbridge line 5, but assumes great risks associated therewith;

AND WHEREAS the League acknowledges the Bad River watershed's unique, remote, and challenging terrain that, when combined with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, has proven hazardous to pipeline integrity;

AND WHEREAS Enbridge pipelines have, in the past, and continue to, experience numerous leaks and spills, which have resulted in the discharge of massive quantities of oil and other pollutants;

AND WHEREAS Enbridge is not required to publicly disclose what hazardous materials are transported by Line 5, contrary to the public's right to know, leaving the public inadequately informed about health and environmental risks;

AND WHEREAS the league fears that Enbridge may have inadequate emergency response plans and we fear Enbridge may provide insufficient funds for any future spill response and clean-up, should they become necessary, and any spill would therefore be environmentally, culturally and economically catastrophic;

**Resolution** continued on page 15

AND WHEREAS the League is a member of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region, and Enbridge Line S proceeds to route through the Straits of Mackinac where it puts both Lakes Huron and Michigan at risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties, Wisconsin, passes this resolution to express their OPPOSITION to Enbridge Line Sand their SUPPORT for the efforts of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians and others, including private landowners along the (current and proposed) Enbridge Line S corridor, to halt any expansion or relocation of the line and rather to see it removed from the Bad River watershed and decommissioned entirely.

*Dated this 26th day of November, 2019.*

**Ann Chartier President**

League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties

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## Economic Inequality Action Committee

By Jan Penn, Chair

The Economic Inequality Action Committee continues its efforts through its 3 focused work-groups: Health Care, End Childhood Poverty, School Nutrition/Early Childhood Education.

Jan Penn leads a very dynamic health work-group. They wish to announce a community action-based program on January 29, 2020, 6 p.m., at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Dr. Dorothy Skye of the LWV/Northwoods is presenting a perspective titled "Health Care-the Ills and the Remedies." There will be a response panel representing provider and consumer stakeholders which will be followed

by an opportunity for audience participation. There are two goals addressed in this program.

They will endeavor to identify key health concerns which informed voters need to keep in mind as they analyze platforms for the upcoming 2020 elections at the National and Wisconsin Congressional District level.

Secondly, they are joining the LW-VUS and LWVWI in work to expand diversity in our work. Efforts will be made to partner with agencies in the region providing service to under-served and diverse populations. The voices of all need to be heard and added to the demands for a model of health care that truly serves the unique health needs of every individual in America.

Linda Jorgenson and Liz Seefeldt are working toward an April pro-

gram related to the WI End Childhood Poverty Campaign. They are planning to bring Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the WI Council of Churches and one of the state-wide coalition members, to the region to offer an opportunity for the leaders in the faith community to explore the role they play in addressing the needs of poor children and families. They hope it will showcase the strategies that have already demonstrated positive long-term outcomes for children growing up in poverty.

Gail Syverud continues to explore and promote Early Childhood Education and School Nutrition Programming in our community.

All 3 work-groups are asking members and friends to join one of our work-groups and make this year a successful year of action.