



Dear Friends in League,  
I hope that you were able to find what you needed to know about the candidates running for office in the Spring Election on April 6 through **VOTE411.org** and the local candidate forums that our League conducted in the first half of March.

All of the candidates running for the Janesville School Board and Janesville City Council responded, at least in part, to the questions posed in our Voter Guide on VOTE411.org, and all participated in our candidate forums. We are fortunate to have candidates who are open and interested in making their positions known to the voters. I want to thank the League members who helped put our voter guide and forums together, and to our forum partners and co-sponsors, JATV Media, Forward Janesville, and the Diversity Action Team of Rock County.

**Infrastructure and Voting Rights/Election Integrity seem to be the top issues of the day.**

Infrastructure.

President Biden is presenting his national infrastructure plan this week.

At the state level, the LWVWI and the ASCE-WI are midway through Stage 1 of our joint infrastructure project in which they present an overview of [ASCE's 2020 Infrastructure Report Card](#) \* for Wisconsin and explain why NOW is the best time to invest in sustainable infrastructure in Wisconsin.

Locally, on **Earth Day, April 22**, our League is

\* <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/wisconsin/>

\*\* <https://outreachcircle.com/UZK498?inviter=98f54cab-eb2d-435f-944e-105d4494b94b>

presenting a forum on **the Janesville City Council's resolution to set a sustainable infrastructure goal to reach a carbon neutral emissions target by 2050**. The resolution would be adopted into the city's strategic plan for 2022.

Voting Rights.

The LWVUS has sent out an action alert for members to contact their US Senators to support S1, the "For the People Act." It is also in the process of gearing up to take a stand in Congress, statehouses, and the courses to stop voter suppression tactics and fight to ensure that our elections are always free, fair, and accessible. The League has provided talking points to use when speaking about voter suppressive state legislative bills. The messages focus on protecting and supporting underrepresented communities.

To stay informed about the League activities related to voting rights and other issues at the state level, I encourage you to read the bi-weekly **Updates from LWVWI State Office** that come to your email box every-other Saturday. Recent issues have announced a new resource, **OutreachCircle**, a tool for receiving action alerts and other resource for keeping on top of League. You also can use it to share information with those in your social network. Click here to join the LWVWI Out Reach Circle! \*\* You will be prompted to create an account.

We'll need to stay alert and stay active to make progress in the LWV mission of "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy."

Thanks.

Linda



## What's Inside this Issue



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# Voter Services March 9, 2021

## Voter Services Meeting March 9, 2021

**Meeting held via Zoom – General discussion of:**

**Forums – Linda Report & Other Recordings  
Calendar of Events**

**Vote411 Project Spring Election** Waiting to publish with the State League office on March 15, 2021- which was available on March 17.

**Discussion of Spring Election – What activities might we consider?**

**Contacted City of Janesville for input and Lisa Tollefson on needs for the election.**

**Make Your Plan to Vote (Attached) – from Milwaukee League Distributed**

**We have tons of handout material available.**

**Voter Registration – Absentee Campaign –Keep high turnout momentum moving forward.**

**Last month Renee Kalvestrand suggested we review the local data on the actual election turnout to develop a strategy on what areas may need our focus. Lisa Johnson gathering from Lisa Tollefson’s office and Dave Godak.**

**We will regroup with Heidi Keith on possible press releases on information relative to the Spring Elections, Forums and Vote411.**

**Safe/Community Voter Services Ideas – Voter Education – During a Pandemic - “2.0” – New Toolbox of Media Ideas**

**Social Media/Using “League” branded materials.... we have a ton of material we have access to.... already to roll Communications**

**Rebuilding trust in elections – at a local level locally**

**Circle back with first time voters – keep them**

**informed and get recruit? - U Rock Success Story - Media Blitz Too**

**Future Fun Things - 4-H Youth Projects in 2021 – In Conjunction With VS/LWV – Erin Conway Next Meeting - End of April or May Activity In the park? Planning Meeting Volunteers April Meeting - Door Hanger Project? Fair Maps Brochure with 4H? Ideas from National/State Office Possibly on 4/29/2021.**

**Discussion of a “League Membership Growth Challenge”– Invite a friend...low commitment/fits schedules/keep the momentum going....**

**Next Voter Services Committee Meeting – April 13 – 6:30 via Zoom**

Update of Vote411.org

Response from candidates in our league communities was very good.

The process is much easier each time and a public thank you for the valuable guidance and support from Eileen Newcomer Voter Education Manager, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Also, congratulations to Eileen Newcomer and her team for the excellent leadership and coordination of Vote411. statewide!

It was recently announced that Wisconsin’s VOTE411 wins “Best Public Service Video Award” from the Ragan Communications for the video “The “Election Information You Need,” from the 2020 fall video series. The video was available in English and Spanish, and provided voters with important information about VOTE411.org.

Vote411.org continues to be a successful tool for millions of voters every year!

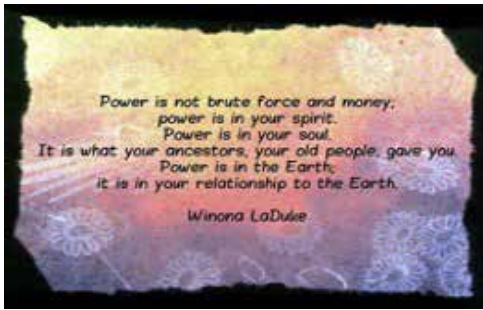
## **YOUNG AUDITORIUM’S 2021 NEA BIG READ PROJECT**

Big Read initiative supports community-based experiences throughout the spring designed to show how sharing a good book can broaden our understanding of our world, our community, and ourselves.

This year’s selection, *The Lathomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kao Kalia Yang, (Coffee House Press, 2008) focuses on the experience of Hmong families making the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America. Driven to tell her family’s story—and the story of the Hmong people—Yang wrote it as a “love letter” to her grandmother whose spirit held her family together through their imprisonment in Laos, their harrowing escape across the Mekong River and into a refugee camp in Thailand, their immigration to Minnesota when Yang was only six years old, and their transition to a hard life in America.

Free copies of *The Lathomecomer* will be available at participating Big Read libraries starting on Monday, April 5, 2021 (while supplies last): Lennox Library at UW Rock County, Clinton Public Library, Edgerton Public Library, Matheson Memorial Library (Elkhorn), Eager Free Public Library (Evansville), Fontana Public Library, Dwight Foster Public Library (Fort Atkinson), Hedberg Public Library (Janesville), Jefferson Public Library, Barrett Memorial Library, Milton Public Library, Orfordville Public Library, Andersen Library at UW-Whitewater, Irvin L. Young Memorial Library (Whitewater).

A complete listing of all Big Read activities and experiences, including children’s programs based on the author’s children’s work ‘A Map Into The World’, can be found at [www.youngauditorium.wordpress.com](http://www.youngauditorium.wordpress.com)



## WATER PROTECTORS OF ENBRIDGE PIPELINE #3

On February 10, 2021, a virtual forum was held educating Wisconsinites

about the environmental dangers of tar sands pipelines, such as Enbridge Pipeline #3, to our wildlife and birds. Enbridge is a multi-national energy company headquartered in Alberta, Canada. It operates the longest crude oil transportation system in North America. Constructed during the 1950's, (when many Americans were distracted with the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Joseph McCarthy's Red Scare), the original Line #3 cuts through the Leech Lake and Fond du Lac Reservations of northern Minnesota, as well as, treaty lands of the Red Lake, White Earth, and Miles Lacs tribes, on its nearly 400-mile path, diagonally over to Superior, Wisconsin. Tribes were offered very little, often as little as \$1500, in compensation for the right to run pipelines through some of the most pristine habitats in Minnesota.

From Superior, a four-pipeline corridor carries that oil and tar sands on a diagonal path through central Wisconsin, all the way down to Illinois, on its way to New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Gulf of Mexico. Line #61 of that corridor crosses the Rock River near Edgerton, and Lake Koshkonong. It is a 42-inch-pipeline operating at over 1,000 pounds of pressure per square inch. This pipeline has carried a mixture of oil, including toxic tar sands oil, since it began operation in 2009. Originally carrying 400,000 barrels per day, it received ever-increasing pressure from the company, which eventually tripled that amount.

In 2013, Enbridge announced plans to expand Line 61. By 2017, Line #61 carried up to 1.2 million barrels each day. In addition to the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong, the four-line corridor endangers Lake Superior, St. Croix River, Flambeau River, and the Wisconsin River, along with their wetland habitats. Any spills would devastate their area's wildlife and birds, as well as, the economy and jobs there. Enbridge Pipeline #3 is of great interest to the residents of Wisconsin, as it is to residents in Minnesota. The replacement of Line #3, which began in 2013, crosses under the Mississippi River headwaters on its way to Superior, thereby potentially adversely affecting the habitats of all birds along the Mississippi Flyway.

Winona LaDuke, noted environmentalist, economist, writer, and industrial hemp grower was one of the forum's presenters. She grew up in Ashland, Oregon, and graduated from Harvard University. After college, LaDuke moved to the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, where her father was born, and was living at the time. She worked as a reservation high school prin-

cipal, and earned a Master's Degree in Community Economic Development. It was also where she started her activism. LaDuke labeled our current time as an epic moment in the history of the earth. We are metaphorically standing at a crossroads. One path leads to a "scorched" future, while the other leads to a green, and healthy one. Her tribe is "going solar," and yet there is still a tar sands oil pipeline running through their land! "Oil was last century! It is time for the just transition."

Between 1990 and 2013, the old Line #3 experienced fifteen large spills, each one consisting of fifty barrels, or more. (One barrel is equivalent to forty-two gallons of oil). On March 3, 1991, Line #3 ruptured near Grand Rapids, Minnesota, spilling over 1.7 million gallons of oil flowing into the Prairie River, a tributary of the Mississippi River. It was crude oil, and not tar sands, so it was easier to clean up than the spill in the Kalamazoo River in 2010. Enbridge has spent 1.2 billion dollars on the Kalamazoo spill, and the clean-up is not complete in 2021!

Tar sands are composed of a mixture of sand, clay, and a sticky molasses-like substance called, bitumen. Chemicals used to extract the tar sands and move it along the pipelines include ammonia, benzene, cyanide, hydrocarbons, arsenic, cooper, and chloride, which are all toxic, and many are known to cause cancer. These are the chemicals, which would contaminate all ground water near the pipeline leaks. The rule of thumb for tar sand spills is, it won't be an if for a large pipeline spill, but it will be a when. Even for new lines, there is a constant drip outside the pipe, according to the forum speakers. It is the reason why some protestors have risked their lives to fight against the pipelines. Clean water is a necessity for all creatures on earth!

Running south of the original Line #3, the new Line also cuts through Native American lands. Reservation leads agreed to the deal, if Enbridge removed the original pipeline. Currently, there are six Native encampments along its pathway, located in Park Rapids, Backus, Hill City, Palisade, Cloquet, and Carlton, Minnesota. Native water protectors were successful in slowing construction throughout 2020. However, in November, Enbridge received its final necessary permits, in spite of the fact that the state of Minnesota does not hold rights to the land in contention. On February 2, 2021, a Minnesota Appeals Court denied protestors' request to stop construction. Since then, Enbridge is pushing full speed ahead to complete the new Line #3 by the end of this year.

Winona LaDuke spoke to her Wisconsin audience from the camp in Palisade, Minnesota. She was joined by Paul DeMain, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Oneida/Ojibwe News, Tania Aubid, and

# ✱ Pipeline

Continued from page 13

ally Shanai Matson. Aubid is a Native-American and Matson is European-American from the Palisade area. Aubid works as a volunteer at the Water Protection Center and Matson joined the group early in the fall of 2020. Matson said she was in it for a “spiritual” experience, and she wanted to serve as a counter-narrative to the power of Enbridge. She lives in the encampment with her three children, because she wants to teach them how to care about important issues like clean water, and how to fight for their rights, and the rights of others. Aubid and Matson started a hunger strike this past Valentine’s Day. They will survive only on water. The shelters in the camp appear to be simple, temporary structures, holding only a modest amount of personal items and clothing. However, since Enbridge is forging ahead on construction of the new pipeline, the protests are attracting many young volunteers from around the state, as well as, from other states.

On Thursday, February 25, 2021, starting at 11:00 AM CST, the camp will engage in a digital rally called,

“Tell Joe Biden: People, Not Pipelines.” Ever since, the Biden Administration revoked Keystone XL’s border-crossing permit through an executive order, environmental activists have hoped for similar actions on Line 3, and Dakota Access Pipelines. However, with the absence of Keystone, other trans-Canadian lines have become more valuable to the industry. Plus, Biden needs to reestablish positive relations with Canada, and has not yet indicated what, if anything, he will do regarding the other pipelines.

There is still time to help the Water Protectors! Write letters to President Biden, and our Senators, and Representatives, urging them to intervene and stop construction on the new Enbridge Line #3. Write to Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz, and urge him to intervene on behalf of the Water Protectors. If at all possible, please join the protestors at one of their camps, or send your support. After all, clean water is a right for all! Here are the FB page and website for your convenience:

<https://www.facebook.com/StopLine3>

<https://www.stopline3.org>

## LWV-JVL to host Carbon Neutrality Forum on Earth Day

The League of Women Voters of Janesville, with co-sponsors the Welty Environmental Center and the Ice Age Trail Alliance, will host a forum, **Carbon Neutrality for Janesville by 2050?**, on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm via Zoom.

This forum follows from the passage of a resolution by the Janesville City Council in February to set a sustainable infrastructure goal to reach a carbon neutral emissions target by 2050. The resolution would be adopted into the city’s strategic plan for 2022. The resolution was presented to the City Council by Council Member Susan Johnson, who has been the lead organizer of this forum.

The goal of the forum is to provide Janesville residents with the context and rationale for the resolution, and to discuss the challenges and opportunities the carbon neutrality goal presents to the city.

Panelists for the forum will be Maggie Darr,

Operations Director for the City of Janesville, Dan Cunningham of Forward Janesville, Wes Enterline, Sustainability Coordinator at UW-Whitewater, Jeff Hanson of Alliant

Energy, Megan Levy and Andy Stoltzman of the Wisconsin DNR, Brenda Plakans of the Welty Environmental Center, and Dennis James of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The panel will be moderated by League member Eileen Newcomer, who is a member of the city’s Sustainable Janesville Committee.

Register for this event on our website at <https://www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events> for more information and to receive the Zoom link to the forum.

The forum will be recorded for later viewing.



## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Activities 2020-21\*

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

#### April 2021

April LWV-JVL Board meeting via Zoom  
April 6 Spring Election

#### May 2021

May LWV-JVL Board meeting via Zoom  
May 18 Annual Meeting via Zoom

# Spring Voter Guide Available on VOTE411

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin published its Spring Voter Guide on <http://vote411.org> to provide Wisconsin voters with essential information about the upcoming election on April 6. Voters visiting the site can type in their address to see the races on their ballot and information about the candidates including side by side comparisons of their answers to the League's questions.

What's on the ballot?

[State Superintendent of Public Instruction \\*](#)

[Court of Appeals Judges, Districts I, II, III \\*\\*](#)

[Circuit Court Judges\\*\\*\\*](#)

Special Election for State Senate District 13

Special Election for State Assembly District 89

And other local races. More information for local races can be found [here](#) <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/local-races>

With limited opportunities to learn about the candidates in person, online voter guides like LWVWI's are especially important for voters making their plans to vote during the pandemic.

We encourage all voters to make their plan to vote and to consider voting absentee in the April 6 Election. VOTE411 is an excellent resource to help voters make a voting plan so they are prepared to cast their vote confidently whether they choose to vote absentee prior to the election or in-person on election day.

\* <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/state-superintendent-public-instruction>

\*\* <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/wisconsin-court-appeals-information>

\*\*\* <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/wisconsin-circuit-court>

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

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

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

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

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

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



Please join us in congratulating the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) on their 2020 Clearie Award for improving accessibility for voters with disabilities. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) annual Clearinghouse Awards, also known as the "Clearie" Awards, promote best practices in elections and celebrate the accomplishments of election officials across the United States.

## WEC Receives Federal 2020 Clearinghouse Award

The WEC was nominated for this award by Barbara Beckert and the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition. The WEC regularly hosts forums and meets with the Wisconsin Disability Coalition to provide updates, solicit input and address concerns. One notable success from this collaborative partnership was a webinar for municipal clerks on accessible polling place setup. During the pandemic, WEC staff also worked with partners to develop and disseminate guidance for care facilities assisting residents with voting in the absence of Special Voting Deputies.

This is Wisconsin's second Clearie Award. More information about each awardee is available on [the EAC's website](#). (Link below)

<https://www.eac.gov/eac-clearinghouse-award-winners-2020>



# Wisconsin Civics Games Editorial Writing & Cartoon Contest

The Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation has launched the Wisconsin Civics Games Editorial Writing & Cartoon Contest as a continuation of its efforts to increase civic education and engagement. The contest is open to all Wisconsin middle and high school students. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners and honorable mention recipients.

For the writing contest, high school students will be asked to write a “guest column” (500 words or less) about the First Amendment, and middle school students will be asked to write a “letter to the editor” (200 words or less) on the same topic. Students wishing to compete in the editorial cartoon contests may do so by submitting one First Amendment-themed editorial cartoon. Entries can be [submitted online](#).\*

The entry deadline is May 15, and winners will be announced on July 1. Additional information can be found at [wisconsin-civics-games.com](https://wisconsin-civics-games.com).\*\*

\* [https://wnanews.formstack.com/forms/wisconsin\\_civics\\_games\\_contest](https://wnanews.formstack.com/forms/wisconsin_civics_games_contest)

\*\* <https://wnanews.com/wisconsin-civics-games/>



## Courts Matter. Be An Informed Voter.

Voters will be making important decisions about who will be on the bench in Wisconsin’s circuit courts and court of appeals during the April Election. Since judges in Wisconsin are elected, it is up to voters to make sure they are informed about the races so they can hold our judges accountable.

Wisconsin Circuit Courts are the main trial courts for civil and criminal cases in the Wisconsin court system. Circuit court judges are the first to hear almost all civil and criminal cases in the state.

Wisconsin Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court in Wisconsin, and hears all cases appealed from circuit courts and rules in favor of one party. The court of appeals provides important oversight to ensure

laws are appropriately followed during trial.

Circuit Court rulings impact many people in Wisconsin as they decide:

- Family law disputes

- Civil rights cases

- Voting rights cases

- Public safety cases

- Disability rights cases including guardianship and civil commitments

- Labor rights cases

Learn more about the role of Court of Appeals Judges and Circuit Court Judges here.\* And learn about the candidates running to serve on the courts by reviewing our voter guide on [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).\*\*

\* <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/voter-information/learn-more-about-candidates-issues>

\*\* <https://www.vote411.org/ballot>

# Save the Dates!

## 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

Friday, June 11  
Saturday, June 12



## Save the Dates! LWVWI 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting June 11 and 12

LWVWI is committed to keeping everyone healthy and safe as we patiently await the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Therefore, this year's Annual Meeting will once again be virtual. On June 11 and 12, League members and friends of the League will gather online together, with a keynote speaker and several

topic-specific breakout rooms offered both days. A separate plenary session to conduct League business will conclude the Saturday agenda. Program agendas will soon be available. Watch this space and the LWVWI's [events calendar](#)\* for updates!

\* <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/calendar>

## MLD Award Applications Due May 12

The [Membership and Leadership Development \(MLD\) Award](#) • recognizes local Leagues for initiatives they have taken over the past year to increase visibility, outreach, member and non-member participation, leadership development, and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Any local League may self-nominate by sub-

mitting an [application](#) •• showing measurable evidence of their growth in any of these areas. Please submit applications to [lwvwisconsin@lwv.org](mailto:lwvwisconsin@lwv.org) by May 12. Awards will be presented on June 12 at Annual Meeting.

- <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/awards-and-recognitions#MLDAward>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1viahJB-PN5lj652oMECPfF3hF-dNooqU/view>

# LWV

## Don't forget to vote!

## Tuesday April 6th!

**Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?**  
Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

- |   |         |                                    |          |
|---|---------|------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual   | \$65.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting   | \$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student   | \$10.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> & _____ Open Door Membership   |         |                                    |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____. |         |                                    |          |

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -  
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

- I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

# Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

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

*<www.lwv.org>*

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

**JANESVILLE LEAGUE**

*<www.lwvjvl.org>*