

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF JANESVILLE

The VOTER

www.lwvjvl.org

February 2020

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Dear Friends in League,
Rock County citizens will have the opportunity to vote on a Fair Maps advisory referendum in our 2020 Spring Election on April 7. Although the results will not bind the Wisconsin legislature to any course of action, this referendum gives voters the opportunity to communicate their views on partisan gerrymandering at the ballot box. The resolution to put the referendum on the ballot was passed by the Rock County Board of Supervisors on January 23 with only two dissenting votes. The question appearing on the ballot will be

Question: Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district plans

and maps? YES _____ NO _____
Rock County is one of 50 Wisconsin counties that has passed a fair maps resolution and will be the 10th county to hold a referendum on this issue.

I spoke for League in support of the resolution at the meeting, and when one of the supervisors asked former State Senator Tim Cullen, who presented the resolution to the Board, who would be responsible for educating the voters about the issue, Cullen identified the League as one group that would certainly work to do just that.

The LWVUS has declared February 14, the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters, to be a Day of Action. The Janesville and Beloit Leagues will begin our "day" of action at our **LWV Centennial Luncheon on Saturday, February 8.** Inspired by the LWVUS People Powered Fair

★ See PRESIDENT'S LETTER, Page 2

Centennial Luncheon

You're Invited! February 8, 2020

Commemorating Our Legacy,
Expanding Our Impact.

Guest Speaker: Meagan Wolfe

Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator

Topic: Election Security for 2020



Sponsored by:
The Leagues of
Women Voters
of
Beloit and
Janesville

Saturday, February 8 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Cargill Methodist Church,
2000 Wesley Ave, Janesville, WI

Tickets \$25, in advance; \$30 at the door. Send checks payable to LWV Janesville,
P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064 or Purchase tickets online at
www.lwvjvl.org/news-1 (\$2 Paypal charge will be added)

"Your Vote, Your Voice!"



★ President

Continued from page 1

Maps™ campaign, we will invite our luncheon guests to participate in a “postcard party” to send handwritten messages to members of the Senate and Assembly committees that have bottled up the redistricting reform legislation proposed by Representative Robyn Vining and Senator Dave Hansen. We will provide our guests with sample messages—and the postage. Because these legislators serve on state-wide committees, they should feel responsible to all the citizens of the state not just the voters in their districts.

Our luncheon speaker, **Meagan Wolfe, is the Administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission**, the state agency charged with maintaining the integrity of our elections. One component of election integrity is to have fair electoral maps, and fair maps depend in part upon having an accurate **2020 US Census**.

Be alert for announcements of our League’s participate in programs to educate citizens about the Fair Maps referendum and the value of a “complete count” in the US Census. We hope that many of you will join in these events and that all League members will help us publicize them.

One League event that for which we have firm date is the **Candidate Forum for Janesville City**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

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


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

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

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

Council. The forum will be the evening of **Wednesday, March 4** at the Hedberg Public Library. Once again, JATV will partner with us to make a video recording of the forum that can be viewed by voters unable to attend the live event.

Be sure to check our League’s website www.lwvjvl.org for “Upcoming Events and Meetings”, and check “What We Do and NEWS” for links to the LWVUS and LWVWI newsrooms, the best places to follow the work of the League on the national and statewide level. Quick links to our E-mail, Facebook page, and Twitter feed are in the upper right-hand corner of the website. You can share our Facebook posts and re-tweet our Twitter messages from there to help the League to spread our news. Thanks. Linda



100 YEARS STRONG
LEAGUE of
WOMEN VOTERS®
LWV
1920 – 2020

Day of Action February 14, 2020

Our “day” of Action will begin at our Centennial Luncheon on Saturday, February 8. We will be having a “Postcard Party” We will be sending handwritten messages to members of the Senate and Assembly committees. Ample messages will be available to assist in writing the postcards. The postcards will be pre-addressed.

Together, we can ensure
that our community receives the
resources it needs.

United States®
**Census
2020**

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

League of Women Voters of Janesville Needs you!

Help wanted.

We have a lot of great opportunities to demonstrate the value of the LWV-Janesville to our community. In addition to member events and candidate forums, we receive invitations to co-sponsor events, support legislation and provide voter registration. We want to commit to events that align well with the LWV mission, "Empowering Voters: Defending Democracy" and we need your help.

Here are some ways you can help that only take a few hours of time.



At-home

- Write letters to the editors of local newspapers as a concerned private citizen.
- "Share" Facebook posts and "Re-

tweet" Twitter feeds that come from League.

- Contact state and local representatives by phone or e-mail. (Phone messages are more likely to be noticed and counted by representative's staff. Find contact information in our printed LWV-JVL Membership Directory.)

In-person

- Help people register to vote at one (or more) voter registration events this year. (New volunteers are paired up with experienced Voter Service members.)
- Inform people you know about the importance of participating in the 2020 US Census and the value of striving for a complete count.
- Participate in the League's Day of Action that will begin in Janesville at our LWV Centennial Luncheon on February 8, and continues through February 14, the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters.
- Volunteer at the Janesville City Council Candidate Forum. Please contact a member of the board or e-mail: lindacreinhardt@gmail.com to volunteer.

An Invitation from AAUW

Tackling Women's Health Issues at the State Capitol
Brownbag Lunch
Tuesday, Feb. 25, 11:30 am
Janesville Woman's Club
108 S. Jackson St

Wisconsin State Assembly representative Debra Kolste will join us to talk about several issues and proposals related to women's health that are being discussed in Madison.

- How is the state government responding to the unique needs of women?
- What should we know about mental health care in Wisconsin?
- What is all this talk about BadgerCare and how are women affected?
- What goals does Rep. Kolste have for the next legislative session?
- What can citizens do to advocate for women's health care issues?

Add your questions to the list, bring your lunch, and join us for an enlightening and motivating afternoon.

Like us on Facebook



<facebook.com/JanesvilleLeagueofWomenVoters>



Follow us on Twitter

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



Smart News Consumption

Separating Fact from Fiction



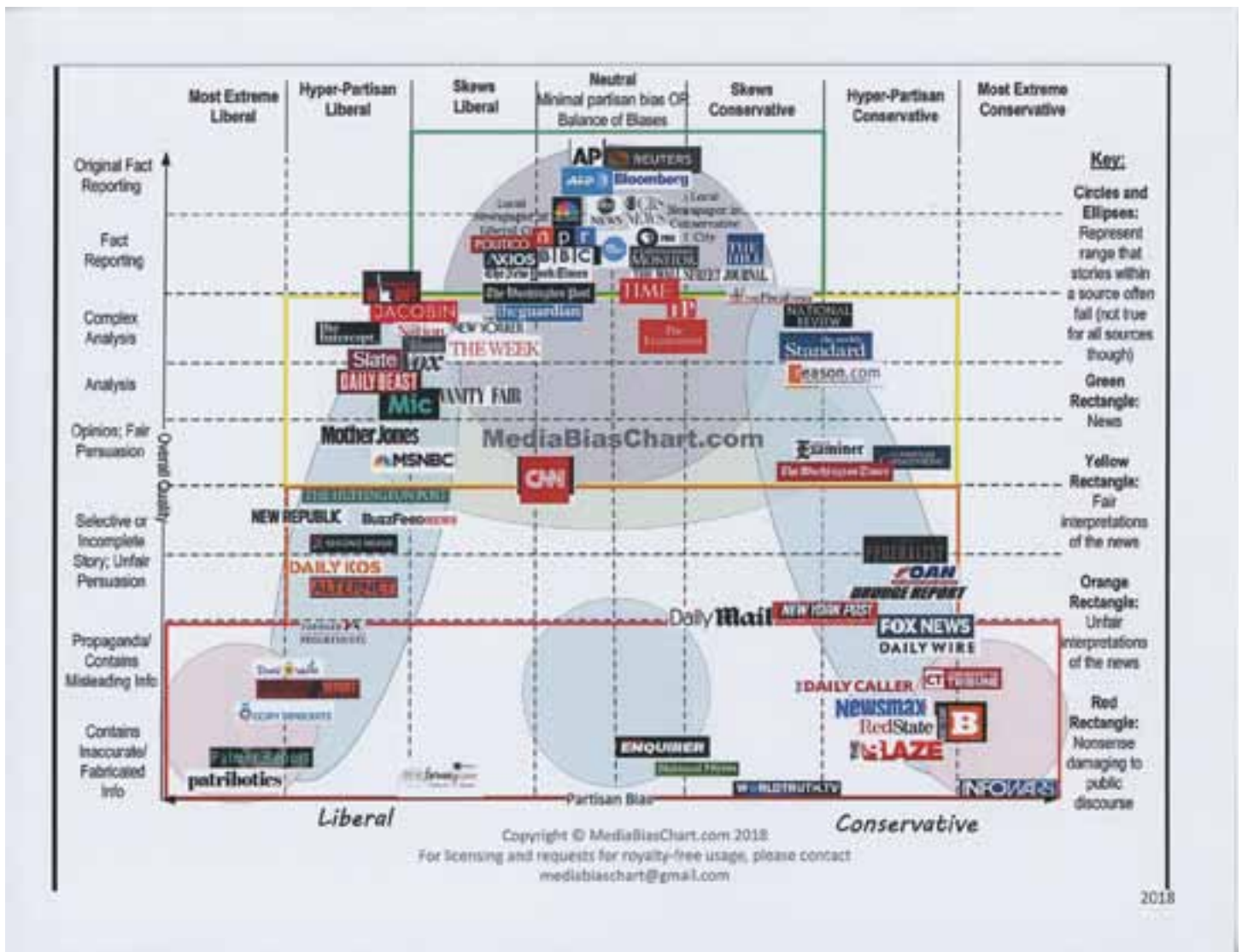
Photos by Carol Herzig

(Left) Mary Buelow gave an interesting talk covering our need to check our news sources making sure that we are getting “real” news. (Right) Linda Reinhardt welcoming the attendees.



League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc.

Located in the Center for Change
612 W. Main Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703
(608) 256-0827; lwwisconsin@lwwwi.org



LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF JANESVILLE

TO: Rock County Board of Supervisors
FROM: League of Women Voters of Janesville
SUBJECT: Support for Resolution No. 20-18-402 “Placing Advisory Referendum on the Spring 2020 County Ballot on Creation of Nonpartisan Redistricting Procedure”
DATE: January 23, 2020

The League of Women Voters of Janesville appreciates this opportunity to comment in support of the proposed resolution to place an advisory referendum on the Spring 2020 County Ballot to ask the Wisconsin legislature to create a nonpartisan procedure for drawing the maps for legislative and congressional districts.

The term gerrymandering was coined in 1812, so the practice of drawing electoral maps for political advantage is hardly new. However, what used to be something of an art form in the 19th and 20th centuries, can now be done with mathematical precision in the 21st century with the power of computer-based statistical modeling done by consultants hired by whichever party is in power.

Since the 1970’s the League of Women Voters has advocated for independent nonpartisan commissions to redraw voting maps after each US Census. We have held this position through periods when each party has been in power in the state government. Fair voting maps is not a partisan issue.

In 2019 when the U.S. Supreme Court decided that courts cannot police partisan gerrymandering, the Court effectively left it to the states and to Congress to manage the practice legislatively.

In Wisconsin, the only remedies to partisan gerrymandering depend on action by the Wisconsin legislature. Iowa’s model of having a nonpartisan state agency draw the electoral maps is the practice most often recom-

mended. Currently there are bills in the Wisconsin legislature, AB 303 and SB 288, that could do this. However, these bills are locked up in committee and are not likely to be sent to the floor of the legislature until our elected representatives receive clear messages from the citizens of Wisconsin that they want a nonpartisan process for drawing electoral maps.

By passing the resolution to put an advisory referendum on creating a nonpartisan redistricting procedure on the Spring ballot, you will make it possible for Rock County voters to express themselves in the manner most likely to influence elected officials—through the ballot box.

Therefore, we in the League of Women Voters urge you to vote YES when the resolution comes up for a vote later this evening. Thank you

Linda Reinhardt, President
League of Women Voters of Janesville



**...IT'S MY
MORAL
OBLIGATION. ”**

- WILLIS



IVOTEBCAUSE
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO VOTE411.ORG

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2019-20*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwjvl.org/upcoming-events

February 2020

February 3 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Hedberg Public Library
February 8 Centennial Celebration Luncheon
February 18 Primary

March 2 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Hedberg Public Library
March 4 Candidate Forum for City Council

April 2020

April 6 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location

April 7 Democratic/Republican Primaries

May 2020

May 4 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location
May Annual Meeting

March 2020

Calendar of Diversity Events

February 2020

February 17 LWV DEI
February 20 Diversity Action Team
Faces of the Homeless in Rock County

March 2020

March 9 Latino Services Providers Meeting 9 am - 1 pm.
March 19 Diversity Action Team
You Don't Have to Go South To See Racism

April 2020

April 13 Janesville Police Department Latino Liaison Advisory Committee
1 pm at the JPD
April 16 Diversity Action Team
LGB Coming Out Journeys: Time, Place and Intersectionality
April 20 LWV DEI

May 2020

May 21 Diversity Action Team
Awesome Opportunities for Diversity in Rock County

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020

October 2020

October NAACP Annual Fund raiser

November 2020

November 12 YWCA Racial Justice Conference
?? Janesville Multicultural Teacher Scholarship Fund raiser

December 2020

Community Leaders,

Please join the City of Janesville for the 2020 State of the City event on Thursday, January 30 at City Hall (18 N. Jackson Street) on the fourth floor from 5 – 7 p.m. This annual event will provide you with information about the City's progress in 2019, a preview of what's to come in 2020, and more. There will be informational booths staffed by City employees, a presentation from City Manager Mark Freitag, as well as light refreshments. The open house begins at 5 p.m. in Room 416 and Mr. Freitag's presentation is from 6 – 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

This event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. If you have questions or if you would like to RSVP (optional), please respond to this e-mail or call me at (608) 755-3094.



State of the City
2020
Thursday, January 30
City Hall, Fourth Floor, 18 N. Jackson St.

5 p.m. Open House (light refreshments)
6 p.m. State of the City Address

 **CITY OF JANESVILLE**
Wisconsin's Park Place

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Management Information Specialist Molly Nolte:
(608) 755-3094 or noltem@ci.janesville.wi.us

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 |

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>