

www.lwvjvl.org

August 2021



Dear Friends in League,
 We're excited to announce that for the first time since March 2020, our Bboard will hold its August meeting in person on Monday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Janesville branch of Premier-Bank, 1400 Black Bridge Road. Branch Manager Olivia Peterson has made us feel very welcome to use the bank's meeting room facilities.

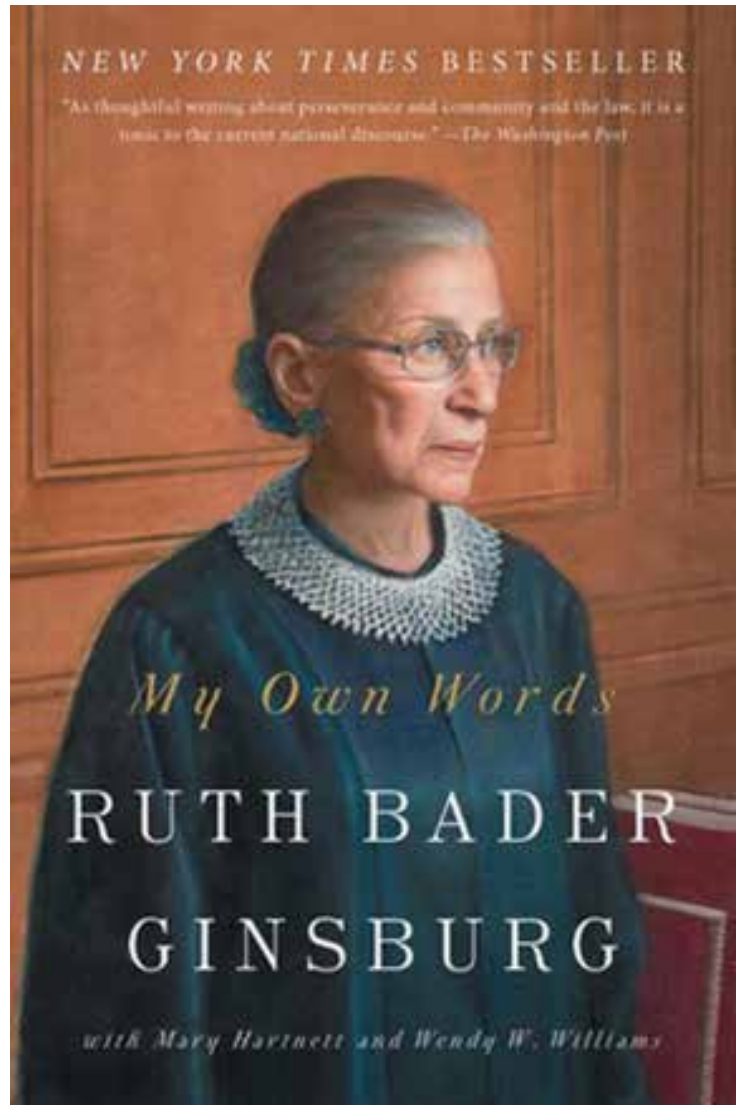
ALL League members are welcome to attend board meetings, a great way to get move actively involved in League activities and planning. Contact me at JanesvilleLWV@gmail.com for more information about attending in person or online.

We begin to pick up the pace of League activities in August and September. Check your email and our League's website <https://www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events> and Facebook page for updates.

Our book discussion of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's *My Own Words* will be held on Saturday, August 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the backyard of Bill Wilson and Ethel Himmel in Milton <https://www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events> . If you need directions and/or want to form a carpool, send email to JanesvilleLWV@gmail.com . Guests are welcome. BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair)!

As you can see, our League continues to have a monthly newsletter. The Voter, thanks to Carol Herzig's gracious offer to continue to serve as editor for another year. THANK YOU CAROL.

Linda



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END GERRYMANDERING

EVERY VOTE MUST COUNT



***** **SAVE THE DATE** *****

Annual Membership Meeting, Thursday, September 9, 6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Debra Cronmiller, LWVWI Executive Director and Lead Team Member of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition

Topic: The role of the LWV in the fight to end gerrymandering and create fair voting maps

Location: TBD. We hope to make this a hybrid event so members and guests can attend in person (at PremierBank 1400 Black Bridge Road) or virtually.

LWV

Please invite guests to come with you to this event (or to watch online). Guests who join League will receive an “End Gerrymandering. Every Vote Must Count” LWV yard sign and/or car magnet.

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.

Membership Directory Updates

Please remember to renew your membership and update your contact information on the 2021-22 LWV of Janesville Membership Form and Interest Survey that you can find online at <https://forms.gle/smwWui5GfPKJcFb1A>. A hard copy of the form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. If you complete this form by **AUGUST 15**, we

can have accurate contact information in our printed **Membership Directory for 2021-2022** that will be available for distribution at our Annual Membership Meeting on September 9.



PRINT COPIES OF “THE VOTER”



In an effort to save postage, printing costs, time and trees, and because our local League keeps only \$3 of a member's Annual Dues, we plan to discontinue printing and mailing hard copies of The Voter unless requested by phone (815-298-8671), email (JanesvilleLWV@gmail.com), or US Mail (LWV-Janesville, PO Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064). If you wish to receive a printed copy of The Voter in the US Mail for the remainder of the 2021-2022 League year, we ask that you please consider including a check for \$10 payable to the LWV-Janesville to help defray the costs of printing and postage.

Wisconsin's Infrastructure Report Card

By Susan Amber Johnson
Environmental Chair

Ever since 1998, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), has published a “report card” on the infrastructure for the entire country. This assessment has been published every four years since 2001. The ASCE conducts a national assessment, and also one for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The most recent assessment was completed in 2020.

Seventeen categories of infrastructure are graded individually; aviation, bridges, broadband, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, inland waterways, levees, public parks, ports, rail, roads, solid waste, stormwater, transit, and wastewater. Improvements over the last assessment in 2017 were found in the areas of aviation, drinking water, energy, inland waterways, and ports. These improvements were largely due to efforts made by individual states, and local municipalities, and also private sector investment in energy. Infrastructure in the United States received a C-, which is considered mediocre, and inadequate. However, it was the first time in 20 years that the grade

fell above a D. Maintenance backlogs and scarce data remain big issues for infrastructure in the United States.

The state of Wisconsin received a grade of C from the

ASCE. Wisconsin provided data in the areas of aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, inland waterways, ports, roads, solid waste, stormwater, transit, and wastewater. These categories were assessed according to the following criteria; capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation. Wisconsin scored highest in the areas of energy, hazardous waste and solid waste with grades of B in each. The state's weakest areas, you may have guessed already, are its roads, and transit. Both of these areas received a grade of D+, or unsatisfactory.

The most important way to raise Wisconsin's infrastructure grade is to increase overall investment across all sectors. Of particular importance would be to innovate with new and more efficient technologies whenever possible. In order to help make this happen, the general public needs to be better-informed on these issues, and become engaged with their elected officials about them. It is the reason why the state League of Women Voters voted to accept the ASCE's score card and recommendations. The League's mission aligns well with this need to inform and keep residents involved in their state and local governments.

This past spring and over the summer, the WI League presented, and will present seven webinars discussing the various sectors of Wisconsin infrastructure with local and state experts who contributed data for the report card. These webinars are all virtual and are being recorded, so residents can view them at a later date, if they missed the date of presentation. The webinars and dates for future webinars are all located on the Wisconsin League of Women Voter's web site.





Wisconsin's Infrastructure Needs You!

DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER Category Meeting

AUGUST 5 | 3-5 PM

Register for this event at



Learn About Drinking Water & Wastewater Infrastructure in Wisconsin

Drinking Water and Wastewater both received grades of C- (between mediocre: requires attention and poor: at risk).

Municipal water utilities have water quality issues, including lead, bacteria, nitrates, arsenic and radium. Both water and wastewater utilities have aging water treatment and distribution infrastructure. Wastewater utilities face challenges of growth, more intense storm events and new wastewater discharge regulations for compounds such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Authors will give 20-minute presentations and then begin a live question and answer conversation with panelists and the audience on how to raise the grades for drinking water and wastewater.

Presenters:

Carl Sutter, Professional Engineer (P.E.), Director of the American Society of Civil Engineers - WI Section (ASCE-WI) will present on drinking water and Jennifer Hurlebaus, P.E., Wastewater Lead Author, will present on the wastewater portion of the ASCE-WI Section 2020 Infrastructure Report Card. Justin Bilskemper, P.E., is the Lead Author of the Drinking Water section.

Panelists:

- Karen Dettmer, Superintendent, Milwaukee Waterworks
- Steven B. Elmore, Bureau Director, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Chanz Green, City of Ashland Utility Manager for Water and Wastewater
- Shyquetta McElroy, Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE), Parent's Lead
- Denise Schmidt, Administrator, Division of Water Utility Regulation and Analyses, Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin

Register for this event here. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8445111111>

LWVWI will be hosting meetings on all categories of the ASCE Infrastructure Report Card. Please continue to check our Events Calendar for new category meetings as we post them. You can view this article to see the series schedule.

For more information on each category meeting, please visit our Events Calendar. If you have any questions, you can contact us at lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org or 608-256-0827.



Membership Form 2021-2022

Please fill out this form completely to ensure we have current information. Dues and forms are due by JUNE 30 of each year. You may choose to pay dues online with Paypal at <https://www.lwvjvl.org/join-the-league>. If you pay online, please provide the following information in the online survey form. Thank you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Preferred Phone No. _____
 Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\$65 Active Membership	For each Active Member, our League is assessed \$32 National dues and \$30 State dues. \$3 remains in Janesville.
\$70 Supporting Membership	Supporting Members are not called upon to serve on committees or working groups.
\$100 Active Household Membership	Our League is assessed \$16 (National) and \$15 (State) for an additional person within a Household.
\$ ____ Open Door Membership	Members pays dues they are comfortable with. Our League is not assessed State dues for members in this category.
\$10 Student Membership	No National or State dues for high school and post-secondary students

For Household Membership:

Name of additional member _____
 Email _____ Phone # _____

If you wish to make a donation to support the LWV-JVL, please indicate the amount and include in your check:

Dues: _____ + **Donation:** _____ = **Total Amount Due:** _____

Please make checks payable to the LWV-Janesville and mail with completed form to LWV-Janesville, PO Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064.

Dues are important, but your involvement in the League’s work is what will make us a vital community organization. If you have selected an ACTIVE member status, please circle one or more interest areas below:

Voter Education & Services	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)	Membership
Housing Issues in Janesville area (e.g., fair housing, evictions, affordability)	Janesville/Beloit Leagues Annual Event	Fair Maps (non-partisan redistricting process)
Publicity and Social Media (includes newsletter and web page)	Observer Corps (monitor local government; be the “eyes and ears” of the LWV)	Natural Resources (including LWVWI Infrastructure Project)
Fundraising	Other	

If you selected “Other” and/or would like to say more about your interests in League activities, please tell us about them:



The Board Of
Directors for 2021-22 is:

President—Linda Reinhardt

VP—Deb Kolste

Secretary—Renee Kalvestrand

Treasurer—Laura Peterson

Directors: Deb Griffith, Lisa Johnson, Heide
Keith, Sue Scott

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>