

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF JANESVILLE

The VOTER

www.lwvjvl.org

September 2019

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Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

I hope that many of you will be able to attend our **Annual Membership Event on Wednesday, September 18.** This

is a great opportunity to connect with new and long-time members of the League and perhaps decide to participate in one or more of our League's committees. Please bring guests who support the League's mission, "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." League membership is open to men and women; a college or high school student can join for just \$10.

We all know that the U.S. Constitution requires that a census of the population be taken every 10 years. The League is one organization among many that is concerned that every resident in the country is counted. This is no easy task, and we fortunate that League member Mary Buelow serves on the local Complete Count Committee for the 2020 U.S. Census. At our September 18 gathering, Mary will be talk with us about: **"2020 Census: What it is. Why it matters. How this one is different."**

Behind the scenes, our Board approved the purchase of a subscription to **Vote411.org**, the LWVEF election information website, for 2020. This purchase was made possible through the generous offer made by the LWVWI to bear 75% of the cost if six or more local

Leagues subscribed. By using **Vote411.org**, our Janesville League will be able to put the information we gather for local elections (including video links to Candidates Forums) on this national website. Local candidates and, more importantly, voters will benefit from the national publicity and marketing campaigns that will direct voters to the accurate and unbiased information that will be on this website. **Vote411.org** has just been relaunched and redesigned. Take a look at it now, and be sure to come back again later when we're closer to April's Spring Election.

There are some events in September that I want to bring to your attention:

People Powered Fair Maps Campaign Online Town Hall – Wed. September 4, 5:00 pm CDT. This campaign is a powerful collaboration between national, state, and local Leagues with the goal of positioning LWV as the premiere on-the-ground leading organization fighting for fair redistricting. This campaign will launch in the fall of 2019 and is expected to be a signature national campaign for the League through 2022. A recording of the town hall will be made available for members who are unable to attend at this time. [Sign up now for this important event](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9102504223989902859) at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9102504223989902859>

Women's Suffrage Q&A Webinar with Dr. Genevieve McBride – September 12, 6:30 pm. LWVWI will host Dr. McBride in a free online

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★ President

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webinar. She will answer your questions about her 2019 LWVWI Annual Meeting presentation 'Forward' Women in Wisconsin. If you weren't able to attend the meeting, the presentation is available for viewing from the [LWVWI website](#) and [LWVWI YouTube Channel](#). Information about registration for the webinar will be

available soon.

National Voter Registration Day – September 24. You can expect that our Voter Service Committee will help you learn how to participate in this event.

Be sure to check our website, www.lwvjvl.org, for information about upcoming Janesville League committee meetings and events.

Update from Homeless & Affordable Housing Task Force

Deb Griffith

Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee

Meeting since the beginning of the year, our group has been studying, reading, interviewing, researching and attending various agency and city meetings pertaining to homelessness and the scarcity of affordable housing in our community and Rock County. During the Annual Meeting in May, the Janesville League of Women Voters formally adopted this topic as a recommended local study position. Although our League has a Fair Housing Position, it was written and adopted in September of 1989. We used this as a starting point; we may need to update it to reflect the current needs and trends that we have uncovered. More importantly, and most helpfully, the City of Janesville commissioned

a consultant for their Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan resulting in the "DRAFT 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for City of Beloit, City of Janesville and Rock County, Wisconsin." This AI combined with our research and our 1989 Fair Housing position enabled us to write a public comment on the AI that was presented to the Janesville Community Development Authority on Wednesday, Aug. 21 during the public comment hearing by our President, Linda Reinhardt. (The full text of the public comment is contained in this issue of "The Voter.")



Some of the members of the new Aurora Area chapter of the League of Women Voters. Circled are Carol Tidwell and Debra Fisher, we miss them both so very much!

Two former Janesville members help form a new chapter in Aurora Illinois Area

Reprinted in part from Kane County Connects

The League of Women Voters of Illinois welcomes a new local chapter in the Aurora Area.

This newly formed chapter serves the Aurora, North Aurora, Montgomery, Oswego and surrounding areas and continues the League of Women Voters mission to encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

According to an LWV of Illinois news release, the Aurora area has not had a League of Women Voters presence in more than a decade.

"We are excited to help every person in the community become an active participant in the issues that matter to them, their families and their communities," said Carol Tidwell, the newly elected president of the Aurora Area League.



The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meets on the third Monday of every month. Contact Mary Buelow at buelow_m@msn.com or 608.754.0588 for more information.



LWV-JVL Annual Membership Event

September 18, 5:30 PM Basics Community Room
1711 Lodge Dr, Janesville, WI 53545, USA

2020 Census: What it is. Why it matters. How this one is different.

Cost \$10 to cover food and beverages

Guests who join League at this event, and the Members who bring them, admitted FREE



Public Comment on the DRAFT 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the City of Beloit, City of Janesville, and Rock County, WI

DATE: August 21, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Janesville appreciates this opportunity to comment on the DRAFT 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the City of Beloit, City of Janesville and Rock County. We will limit our comments to the analysis and recommendations for the City of Janesville (except for the recommendations to reduce evictions which would involve Rock County as well as the City).

We base our comments on the 2019 Analysis to Impediments (AI) on the local Fair Housing position that the Janesville League developed 30 years ago and has readopted each year since 1989.

The League's Fair Housing position of 1989 did not anticipate the inadequate supply of affordable housing, low vacancy rates, high rents and high eviction rates that are some of the impediments to Fair Housing identified in the 2019 AI. In addition, our Fair Housing position did not directly address zoning and land division restrictions in Janesville that militate against new multi-family and affordable housing units being sited throughout the city rather than concentrated in lower income neighborhoods. However, several of the matters regarding Fair Housing that were of concern to us in 1989 remain impediments to Fair Housing in 2019.

Since 1989 the League of Women Voters of Janesville has held the position that local government needs to provide protection for the same groups that State and Federal laws protect to insure equitable treatment in the housing market. Consistent with our local position on Fair Housing, the League supports the following aspects of the recommendations contained in the DRAFT Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, and believes they should be retained in the final report:

The proposed modifications of the City of Janesville Ordinances, Chapter 16.04—Fair Housing Code that are contained in Figure 39 (pp. 104-106) of the DRAFT AI. These changes would make our city ordinances



comport with state and federal fair housing laws, provide legal remedies and compensation to victims of unlawful discrimination (16.04.030), create less restrictive

time periods for filing and investigating complaints, and make forfeitures to the city large enough to serve as a deterrent to future similar actions and better reflect state and federal laws (16.04.120 (B) and 16.04.120 (C)).

The inclusion of persons holding Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) as a protected class in the Fair Housing ordinance as proposed in the final recommendation for changes contained in Figure 39 of the AI. We are concerned that that while there was a waiting list of 117 in April 2019 for the 543 HCV Janesville is authorized to have, and while over 500 families applied the first day when the HCV waiting list opened on May 31, only 473 vouchers were used on average in 2018. An average of 73 HCV holders in Janesville were either unable to locate quality housing or were unable to find housing providers who would accept applicants who hold HCVs. Including HCV holders as a protected class would be a step toward alleviating some of the discriminatory and excessive housing provider screening practices and eligibility requirements that may be used in Janesville and Rock County (based on information obtained from multiple stakeholders interviewed for the AI).

The use of testing as a method of investigation of Fair Housing enforcement. While it is difficult to assess the severity of private market discrimination in Janesville and Rock County based on the number of complaints reported, multiple stakeholders believe that housing discrimination is occurring. We concur with the recommendations in the AI that a Qualified Fair Housing Organization (QFHO) be hired to provide Fair Housing training to housing providers and elected/appointed officials, and that local government contract with a QFHO to provide testing services to investigate housing discrimination.

Significant involvement of the City in community outreach and public education for consumers and housing providers that include seminars, news articles and information in the press, TV, and radio, the City's website and social media. Consumer education programs like UW Extension's Rent Smart can help participants learn the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords and help them build productive partnerships with their landlords. (Better tenant-landlord relations may contribute toward reducing the high rates of evictions in Janesville and Rock County.)

THE AIRPORT BOARD REPORT

Coral Swanson is a Janesville League member who regularly attends the Airport Board as an Observer. Here is what she has to say about her experience.

As part of the League's Observer Corps I recently volunteered to sit in on meetings of the newly formed (January, 2019) Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport Board. I read an article in the *Janesville Gazette* about the board's composition, which reflects a "major shift for the county" in that the majority of a committee's members are usually required by ordinance to be county board members as well. "The county-owned airport was

previously under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Committee." The new board includes six residents and three supervisors.

Supervisor Brent Fox, chair of an ad hoc committee previously studying the airport's long-term viability, believes the new panel could be a springboard for future growth because of its member emphasis on aviation-related and /or economic development experience. "Fox said the airport currently has space for about 20 large corporate-type of aircraft. He said he hopes to at least double that space over the next five years, which would increase revenue from fuel flowage fees."

I attended my first meeting May 20 at the airport when the two main items for discussion were the poor condition of the airport's third runway and a request from a business magazine to publish a profile of the airport. Most recently I attended the August 19 meet-

ing where runway repair was discussed and approval given for the business magazine article first discussed in May.

I'm looking forward to learning about our airport's operation and to watching the results of their growth initiatives. Will the new board composition "bring a jolt of economic development?" Too soon to tell.

Material in quotations is from two *Janesville Gazette* articles by Nate Jackson.

WHY DO WE OBSERVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT?;

The League has been a champion of government transparency since our founding in 1920. It is one of our core principles and a vital part of our mission. Our efforts in this area reinforce our reputation of fairness, non-partisanship and trust. League members attend governmental meetings to learn what their government is doing and to monitor whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. Experience has shown the importance of the League being present to watch and to take action when necessary.



Issues Briefing 2019

Building Future Power:
Planning for Impact in Wisconsin

Issues Briefing 2019



Saturday, October 19, 2019 (All day) SHRE

Location

Radisson Hotel Madison
517 Grand Canyon Dr.
Madison Wisconsin 53719
See map: [Google Maps](#)
[Register for this event »](#)

All are invited to attend LWVWI's 2019 Issues Briefing. The

day-long event will feature speakers and breakout presentations on the 2020 census, rights restoration and criminal justice reform, League environmental priorities, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, immigration, the ERA, and more. Our Keynote speaker and guest of honor Virginia Kase, CEO of LWVUS, will speak to us on the collective power of the League and the newly launched LWVUS 50 State Redistricting Reform Campaign. There will be many action-based takeaways that you won't want to miss as we prepare for 2020.

Tentative Schedule Check back soon for information about the day's schedule! The event will be scheduled from 9:00AM - 4PM.

Registration Information

All are welcomed to Issues Briefing. You can [register online](#) through Eventbrite, or contact the state office by phone, 608-256-0827 or email, lwwisconsin@lwwvi.org. The deadline for registration is Friday, October 11th (end-of-day).

Lodging Information

Rooms are being held for attendees at the [Radisson Hotel Madison](#) for Friday night, October 18th, at a special room-block price of \$124/night. To make your reservation, please call the Hotel front desk at 608-833-0100 and ask for the League of Women Voters block. This special room rate expires on September 27.

Voter Service Volunteer Opportunities

September Events

September 14 Janesville Farmer's Market
Volunteers:
8 am - 10 am Jennifer B. and Lisa J.
10 am - Noon Christina B and Sue S.

(Organizing both Craig and Parker High Schools,
Linda R. - U-Rock, Jennifer B. - Festival Foods, Lisa
Johnson at either JAC or Hedberg Library.

September 24 National Voter Registration Day
Volunteers:
Deb G., Christine M., Janet Hay, Ruth R.

September 25 Rock County Community Resources
Fair

Volunteers:
1 - 3 pm Jennifer B. and Ruth R.

Pending/ Future Events

September 28 Wine Walk 12 pm. - 5 pm. In contact
with Hedberg Library to see if we can stage our table.

celebrate Janesville - more to follow.

February Adult 101 Hedberg Library - in the plan-
ning stages with Gabby Draxler.

October 5 Events 4th Ward/Woman's Club Cel-



Carol Herzig, photos

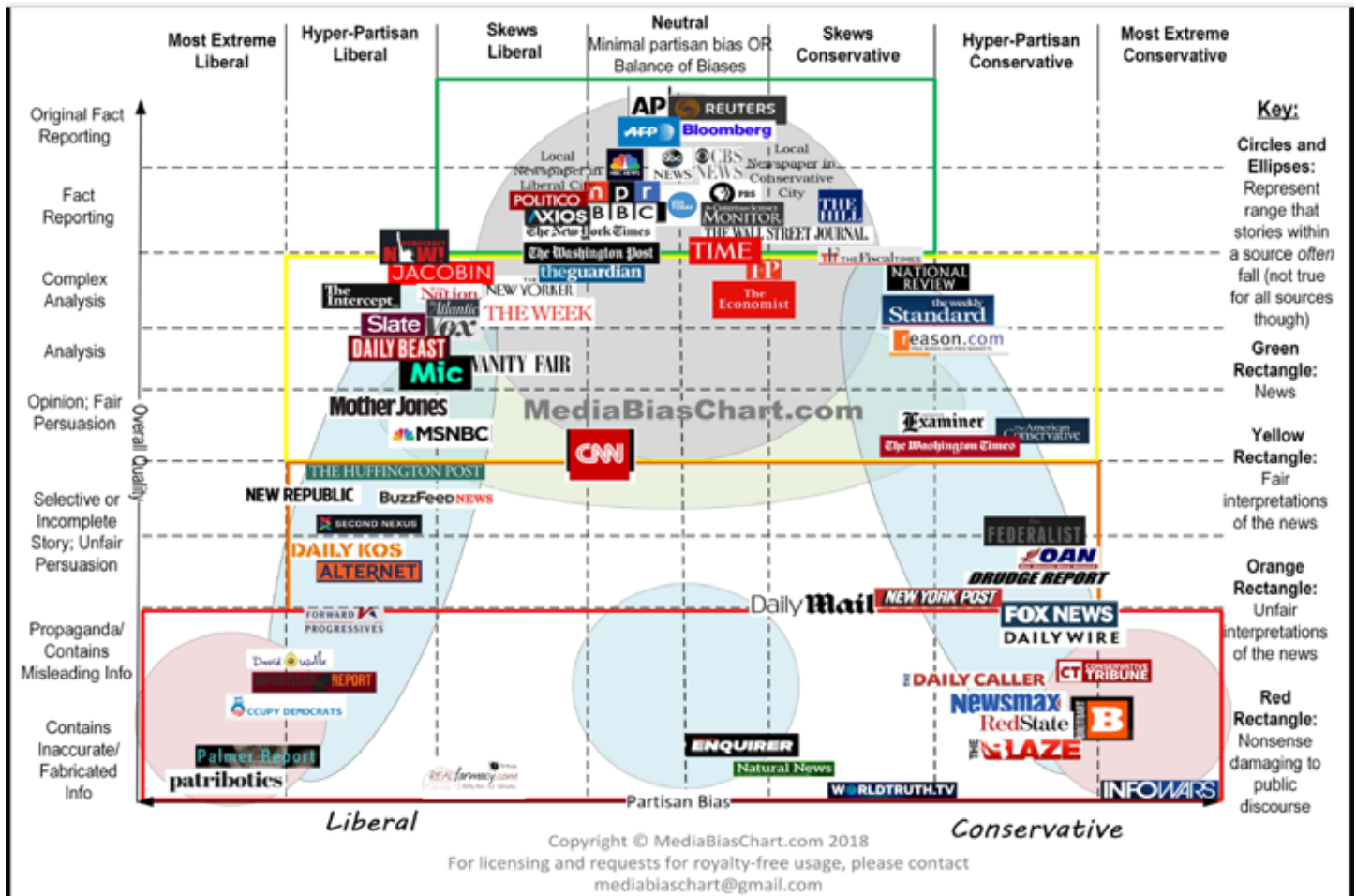
Tallman Art Festival August 4

We staffed a table at the Tallman Arts Festival and assist numerous people with either registration or answered questions.



National Night Out August 6

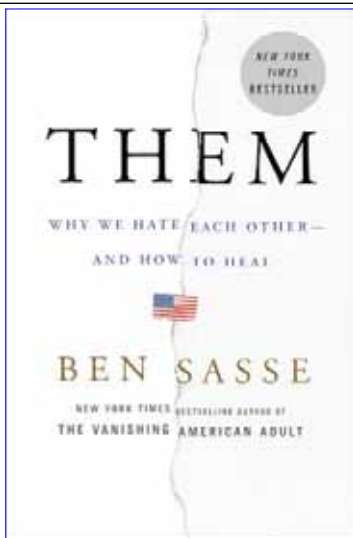
We staffed a table at this event as well. An incredible event with thousands of people.



Them: Why We Hate Each Other and How to Heal

Mary Buelow
Back Porch

At the Back Porch discussion of Ben Sasse's *Them: Why We Hate Each Other and How to Heal*, the group spent some time talking about the impact of the news media. Media's current business model relies more on emotion and outrage than it does on facts. Sasse's suggestion is to mix up your media diet. If you are a MSNBC viewer, watch FOX news exclusively for two weeks (or visa versa) to experience the news from another viewpoint.



My suggestion is to be more mindful of the kind of media you are consuming. This is a media chart is from Vanessa Otero, who runs a blog called "All Generalizations are False" (adfontesmedia.com or <https://www.facebook.com/adfontesmedia/>). On

it, news sources are placed further to the left or right depending on how much its articles slant liberal or conservative. News sources that reliably give fact-based reporting appear at the top of the page. Sources with increasing amounts of "news-like information" (high levels of opinion and analysis and low levels of editorial review) are placed lower, and sources that regularly run fabricated stories appear at the bottom.

The web site Allsides.com is another useful method for finding different reporting on the same topic. This web site picks topics and displays articles from the left, center, and right perspectives side by side so you can



experience different viewpoints of the news, without having to suffer through two weeks of FOX.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2019-20*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwwjvl.org/calendar

September 2019

September 9 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location Nancy Sonntag

September 18 @ 5:30- 7:00 p.m. Membership Meeting, @ Basics. Topic: US Census, presented by Mary Buelow.

September 24 National Voter Registration Day, various sites, see article

October 2019

October 7 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location Nancy Sonntag

November 2019

November 4 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location Nancy Sonntag

December 2019

December 2 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location Nancy Sonntag

January 2020

January 7 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location Hedberg Library

February 2020

February 3 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location

February 8 Centennial Celebration Luncheon

March 2020

March 2 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location

March Candidate Forum(s) for local elections

Long time LWV Member Elizabeth “Beth” Murray has passed



March 9, 1941 - August 25, 2019

Born in Milwaukee, WI

Resided in Janesville, WI

Elizabeth “Beth” H. Murray, age 78, passed away on Sunday, August 25, 2019, from a sudden illness at University of Wisconsin Hospital.

Beth’s kindness and joy were a strong influence on everyone, and she will be

sorely missed by all.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 30, 2019, at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH with Rev. Tanya Sadagopan officiating. A visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service on Friday, at the CHURCH. In lieu of flowers, Beth would have loved a donation to ECHO, or Planned Parenthood. SCHNEIDER FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY is assisting the family. For online condolences: www.schneiderfuneral-directors.com

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.



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 _____

Individual \$65.00
 Student \$30.00

Household \$95.00

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>