



Dear Friends in League,
 Welcome to the League of Women Voters new year of 2022-2023! Our local League’s annual meeting was successfully held IN PERSON in May, and the LWVWI Annual Meeting was held in Oshkosh May 10-11.

Thank you for sending me as your delegate to the LWVUS National Convention that was held this past weekend in Denver, CO. I participated as a virtual delegate.

Among the highlights of the convention was the vote to adopt the proposed LWVUS program for 2022-2024: Campaign for Making Democracy Work®: ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting, **and the Direct Election of the President by the National Popular Vote.**

The last phrase was added at the convention to make explicit that the League’s efforts to make democracy work will include **supporting both the**

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and the eventual abolishment of the Electoral College by constitutional amendment.

To that end, I want to encourage you to attend the **series of webinars the LWVWI is hosting on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)**, a bill that guarantees the Presidency to the candidate who received the post popular votes in the nation. You can register for the series (and view recordings of previous webinars) through the Events Calendar on the LWVWI website at <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/calendar>

You can watch a recording of the first webinar in the series, “The National Popular Vote: What, Why and How” at <https://youtu.be/ytGf2PpsXfE>

Recent rulings by the US Supreme Court serve as reminders that the mission of the League: “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy” requires never-ending effort. The Voter Services Committee will provide training and many volunteer opportunities for League members and friends who support the League’s mission to prepare the electorate to participate in the 2022 Fall Elections.

Introduction and Land Acknowledgement

By **Susan Amber Johnson**
Convention attendee

Dr. Dorothy Skye of Rhinelander, Wisconsin opened the June 10, 2022 Annual Convention for the Wisconsin League of Women Voters with a land acknowledgment dedicated primarily to the Menominee Nation, who have lived in the Fox Valley region for thousands of years. The state League’s position on land acknowledgments is this: “public programs including annual meetings such as issues briefing and business meetings, remembrances, celebrations and candidate forums or debates are very appropriate times to be doing a land acknowledge-

ment. These events offer us a chance to publicly affirm our commitment to indigenous communities and call for action.” The call to action at this particular state meeting was to preserve native languages by using typical phrases of local indigenous languages in K-12 classrooms. Wisconsin Act 31 calls upon all school districts to “provide instruction in the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the American Indian nations in this state.” In this way, our municipalities, and our League of Women Voters can fully include our native families within the larger social and political community, while also fully appreciating all the rich culture they bring with them.



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ABORTION ACCESS IS FREEDOM

IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION



It's time to show up for abortion access

Last week, Gov. Evers called a special session to overturn the state's abortion ban created in 1849. The joint special session will take place at noon on June 22.

Nationwide, two-thirds of adults believe that abortion should be legal in at least some cases. Wisconsin is no exception, and yet our lawmakers have yet to overturn a 173-year old ban that voters do not want.

Wisconsinites want and deserve legal, safe and accessible abortion care! Call your elected officials and tell them to repeal this law. Tell them where you and the majority of Wisconsinites stand on abortion access.

[CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS](#)

Show up to the Capitol at 11 a.m. on June 22 to “Pink Out The Capitol” to show that the people of Wisconsin support safe & legal abortions in Wisconsin. Wear pink! [Find other events from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin.](#)

[PINK OUT THE CAPITOL](#)

The [League has been an advocate](#) e for equal access to health care, specifically reproductive justice, for decades. Our position and advocacy recognize that severe inequities in access to health care and reproductive justice lead to severe inequities in education and economic opportunities, especially for women of color and lower-income women.

All people deserve access to abortion care when they need it, on a timeline of their choosing, and in a community and an environment they trust and feel safe in.

Use our LWVWI Abortion Access toolkit to make your voice heard on social media!

[DIGITAL TOOLKIT](#)

Contact Your Elected Officials

Here is a script to use when contacting your legislators.

Phone call script

“Hello, {Legislator Name},

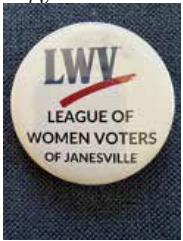
My name is Your Name and I am one of your constituents.

I’m calling you today to ask you to support and pass the Abortion Rights Preservation Act. Deciding if or when to become a parent is one of the most personal, life-changing decisions people will make. Every pregnancy and situation is different. Everyone should have the freedom and power to control their own bodies and lives.

Please protect people’s ability to make their own health care decisions and access the health care they need. Thank you!”

Workshops on League communication tools

The LWV-Janesville has a variety of tools we can use to communicate within our League and to the wider community: Canva (graphic design), Wix.com (website, events, email campaigns) OutreachCircle (relational organizing, P2P texting, Mailchimp (email, marketing).



We have also recently purchased a button badge maker we can use to promote the League and our programs (see image to left)

We plan to offer a series of hands-on workshops on these tools beginning in July, and will begin with a workshop on Canva and the button badge maker. If you are interested in learning how to use these or other tools, please express your interest a.s.a.p. to janesvillelwv@gmail.com .

Remember to update your Membership Directory entry

Each year we provide members with a printed Membership Directory that we prepare to give members at our membership event in September of the year.

If you have recently changed your contact information or need to correct the entry from the 2021-2022 directory, please send your update to janesvillelwv@gmail.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.

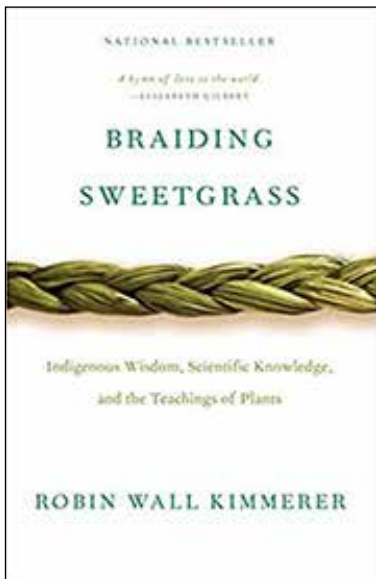
There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent,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



Backyard Book Discussions, Summer 2022

Thanks to our hosts and discussion leaders, we now have our schedule for “Backyard Book Discussions” for 2022. We hope you can join us for lively discussions of one or more of these book



Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

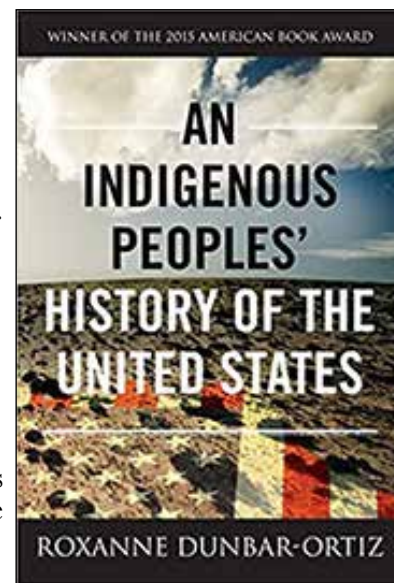
by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Saturday, July 30 at 10:30 am

Hosted by Sue Ellen Madere; Discussion led by Janet LaBrie

Location: Hedberg Public Library Community Room, Janesville, or home of Sue Ellen Madere, 1135 Columbus Circle, Janesville (TBD)

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz
Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 pm



Hosted by and discussion led by Susan Johnson

Location: Home of Susan Johnson, 2113 Mt. Zion Avenue, Janesville



The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story

by Nikole Hannah-Jones, The New York Times Magazine, Caitlin Roper, Ilena Silverman, Jake Silverman
Saturday September 17 at 10:30 am

Hosted by and discussion led by Bill Wilson

Location: Home of Ethel Himmel and Bill Wilson, 417 E. High Street, Milton

Like us on Facebook

[facebook.com/Janesville League of Women Voters](https://www.facebook.com/Janesville_League_of_Women_Voters)



Follow us on Twitter

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



Disability Voting Rights in Wisconsin

By Susan Amber Johnson
Convention attendee

During the afternoon session on June 10, 2022 the Wisconsin League of Women Voters highlighted a presentation about disability voting rights in the state. Speakers included Barbara Beckert, Director of Disability Rights Wisconsin, Milwaukee office, and Stephanie Birmingham, owner of Birmingham Counseling and Consulting. She is a counselor for independent living and is a member of the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition. Beckert's talk centered around the theme; disability rights ARE civil rights, while Birmingham focused on establishing collaboration among the various disability groups, and the League, and discussed how the League can become an ally for disability voters.

About one quarter of the state's electorate are individuals with disabilities. Disabled voters are a highly diverse group including people with sensory disabilities, intellectual disabilities, various physical disabilities, mental health disabilities, chronic health conditions, and those with complex medical needs. Older people may have acquired a disability through the process of aging, but they do not always identify as disabled. Frankly, if people live long enough, the probability for them to develop a disability increases. These older adults would have more power, and would help build more power for the disabled, if they embraced that identity.

People with disabilities are underrepresented at the polls. Historically, disabled people faced many barriers to voting. These include; lack of accessibility, or accommodations at the polls, lack of transportation to polls, confusion about voting rights among disabled and non-disabled people, and wide-spread stigma and discrimination.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was the first major piece of legislation establishing the right to vote for all regardless of ability, or disability. Any voter who needs assistance with voting, including reading the ballot to them, can have it. They can choose anyone to help them, except their employer, or an agent of their workers' union. No one needs to pass a test, or even take a test to establish the right to vote.

In 1984, legislation was passed mandating all polling places to be accessible for people with physical disabilities. If there is not an accessible polling place for an individual, accommodations must be made! The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990 to ensure an equal opportunity to vote for all citizens. Remote voting, curbside voting, and having the right to move up in line were included to provide multiple options in removing barriers for those with disabilities.

Every odd-numbered year, the Wisconsin Elections Commission submits a report on impediments to voting experienced by elderly and disabled people. Local leagues can help by collaborating with our local

elections officials and our poll workers to report on barriers to the WEC. There has been confusion over the voting rights of older people as they become more aged. A medical diagnosis does not disqualify a person from voting; a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease does not disqualify a person from voting; a Power of Attorney does not give away the individual's right to vote. A court must authorize a voter disqualification in order to take away someone's right to vote.

In the 2020 election, during the pandemic, we saw accusations of voter fraud against nursing homes in Wisconsin. Staff were invited to assist residents because poll workers could not enter the facilities. However, any nursing home, which receives funding from Medicare must affirm the right of residents to vote!

What did we get right with voting during the pandemic? We saw a major expansion of absentee voting, particularly voting by mail, which means greater accessibility for all voters! In addition, drop boxes were added to collect ballots around communities. Since the 2020 election, though, there have been dozens of voter suppression bills considered and/or passed in the Wisconsin State Legislature and throughout the country. One prohibits clerks from sending out absentee ballot applications for all registered voters. Instead, voters must initiate their reapplication each year to receive an absentee ballot in the mail. This process adds another layer and barrier for people with disabilities. One bill makes it a felony for any nursing home staff to assist residents in voting! We, as the League of Women Voters, must push back on these voter suppression bills in order to protect and defend voting rights for all people!

Many municipalities had to use private donations to help pay for municipal elections during the pandemic. This was done so municipalities could provide COVID-19 safety protocols. Walworth County recently prohibited their municipal to use private donations for elections. This measure was also being considered by the Rock County Finance Committee last week, Thursday. However, it did not pass out of Committee. There were no "yes" votes. The testimony of Lisa Tollefson was likely key, and public comments by several Janesville League members were also likely influential in the vote.



Invitation to Engage in League Actions with OutreachCircle

By **Linda Reinhardt**
President

I would like to encourage all our League members to become “Supporters” of the OutreachCircle of the League of Women Voters of Janesville. (In OutreachCircle lingo, League members would be “Supporters.”)

OutreachCircle is a relational organizing tool that the LWVUS and LWVWI encourage local Leagues to use to build community within our League and to reach out to the wider community.

I attended a session at the LWVUS National Convention that demonstrated what a powerful tool OutreachCircle can be to support the League’s mission of “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.”

If you look at our League’s OutreachCircle you can see a few examples of how we can use it. Some of these examples are out of date, but I have kept them active so you can get a sense of the possibilities.

Recent actions we have posted include:

- **“Watch National Popular Vote Webinar #1”** with the video embedded on the screen. Supporters are asked to “[Spread the word](#)” to your friends and contacts through editable email and/or text messages.
- **“Women’s Health Choices in Wisconsin – Let’s Talk.”** Supporters are encouraged to “[Share It With Your Friends](#)” by forwarding the media release to your contacts
- **“LWVUS Response to Dobbs v Jackson.”** Supporters can “[Read Press Release](#)”

OutreachCircle can be accessed on your computer, but it is most effective if you download the OutreachCircle app to your smartphone so that you would be able to send TEXT messages as well as EMAIL to your Contacts.

For a “Share It With Your Friends” type of action you can: a) personalize the prepared message to make it

your own, b) add some or all of your Contacts to the app, then c) pick which of them you would like to receive your email or text message.

An instructional flyer for joining our OutreachCircle can be found in this issue of “The Voter”

I hope you will accept my invitation to be an active Supporter of the Outreach Circle of the League of Women Voters of Janesville.

Support League of Women Voters of
Janesville

By following these three simple steps



Now you have access to the action feed which updates regularly

What is OutreachCircle?

OutreachCircle is a platform for organizations and campaigns to keep their supporters up to date and share all the ways people can get involved. OutreachCircle allows supporters to volunteer in their spare time, whenever and wherever that may be.

What does supporting a campaign/ organization on OutreachCircle entail?

You'll join as a supporter on OutreachCircle with the directions on the left and find all of the ways you can support our efforts.

How do I get started?

- 1 Use the directions on the left or open a web browser and go to outreachcircle.com to search for the organization or campaign you wish to support
- 2 Click on View Actions to join OutreachCircle
- 3 Sign in with your google or facebook account or create an account with email and password

After I set up my account what do I do?

Scroll through the feed to see all of the ways you can support our efforts. Some of the actions you complete yourself; others, you'll share with your friends

What happens next?

Periodically, you will receive updates and new actions. Also, OutreachCircle is more fun with friends, so if you haven't already, you can invite them to join



The Board Of
Directors for 2022-23 are:

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>