



Dear Friends in League,

We are just a few days away from Election Day which features one of the most consequential Presidential elections of our lifetime. The Covid-19 pandemic has made the 2020 elections different from any in the past, as record numbers of voters will have voted BEFORE election day by mail in ballot or early in person voting.

As anxious as we are to have this election season end, we need to prepare ourselves for not knowing the complete results on election night. According to an article by Alicia Parlapiano in the *NY Times*, only eight states expect to have 98 percent of unofficial results reported by noon the day after the election. Twenty-two states and DC accept postmarked ballots that arrive after Election Day. The increase in mail voting could also lead to more provisional votes being cast which increases the number of ballots counted later. In brief, pace yourself as you consume your favorite adult beverage while waiting for the returns come in.

As hard as we have worked to inform voters of the issues and to get them to the polls, as League members there is an additional job we need to do both BEFORE and AFTER Election Day. As LWVUW President Deborah Ann Turner wrote in the latest issue of *The League Update*, “We are determined to do all we can to make sure every vote is counted and that will require patience on everyone’s part. Please continue to share the message that **Our Democracy is Worth Waiting For** to set the expectation that election results will come later than usual this year.”

That being said, I can’t let this election season end without offering special thanks to Lisa Johnson for all the work that she has done to coordinate Voter Services activity under very trying conditions

of a pandemic. The members of the Voter Services Committee engaged in numerous Covid-safe voter education and GOTV activities during the past months. I won’t attempt to name all the League members who participated in these activities, but they constitute a large share of our League’s membership. I also want to thank the members of the Legislative season Candidate Forum Committee for their work preparing the forum with particular thanks to Laura Peterson who did such a stellar job of moderating the forum.

Two more items:

We will hold our next Board meeting on Monday, November 9 rather than on the first Monday of the month so we can take stock after the election. All members are welcome to join us if you would like to share your ideas of where our League should exert its efforts for next several months. Drop me a line if you would like to receive the link to our Zoom meeting.

This year the LWVWI Issues Briefing will have a different format. Rather than an in-person all-day session on a Saturday, the briefing consist of a series of three hour-long webinars on Advocacy for Natural Resources Policy, Social Policy and Government Policy on evenings during the week of November 9-12, and a concluding 90-minute session on the Unequal Impacts of Covid-19 on Wisconsin’s Communities. Find more information and register on the LWVWI website at <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/calendar>

All of the Issues Briefings programs will be recorded and posted on the LWVWI website for those who are unable to attend the live briefings.

Be Watchful on Election Day

(This article has been adapted in part from the LWVUS “Election Season Rapid Response Guidance”

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document.)

The LWVUS and state leaders have developed rapid response guidance so that any incidents that occur during the election season, particularly during the hours that the polls are open on Election Day can be reported to the right leaders so that the League can provide timely support when needed.

We do not expect trouble in north Rock County, but we need to be prepared. Frank Schultz wrote a reassuring article for *The Janesville Gazette* about local election and law enforcement officials' preparations to deal with voter intimidation and other unlawful activity at the polls. And while some inexperienced poll workers will be working at the voting sites, the fact that the City of Janesville will have only four sites means

that the chief election inspectors are likely to be very knowledgeable of election regulations.

HOWEVER, If you witness or become aware of an issue that should be reported to the state League please notify Lisa Johnson (608-333-8105) or me (at janesvillelww@gmail.com or 815-298-8671) so we can pass your report forward along the communication network. That will help the League quickly identify if an issue is isolated or if there is a pattern of events in multiple areas.

Examples of issues we would want to report to the state League include:

Issues that impact entire voting jurisdictions or all voters at a polling place, e.g., polling location opening late, polls with inoperable voting equipment

Irregularities such as extreme long lines, protests or other disturbances at polling places, reports of broken machines, or law enforcement/people in uniform stationed at polling places.

GOOD news—photos or social posts that demonstrate that things are going well

IN ADDITION, each League member should also have the **Election Protection Hotline** numbers for any individual issues that may arise. These would be issues or questions that impact individual voters, such as questions regarding ID requirements, incorrect information regarding polling place or eligibility, or what to do now that a voter has cast a provisional ballot.

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)

1-844-YALLA-US (Arabic)

New Member Update

I am pleased to announce that **Kathleen Holcombe** has just become a member of the LWV-Janesville. Her email address is kholcombe8117@charter.net. Many of you know Kathy through her involvement in the community. She has organized and/or participated in several events that League has also been involved with, so we are very happy that Kathy has joined our organization. Welcome, Kathy.

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.



Check Your Ballot for Climate

Presented by: League of Women Voters, Natural Resources Committee, October, 13, 2020; 7 PM

By Susan Johnson
Natural Resources

On Tuesday, October 13, 2020, the League of Women Voters Natural Resources Committee presented a virtual public issues forum entitled, "Check Your Ballot for Climate."

Carol Barford, Associate Scientist at UW-Madison, and Director of the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE) moderated the discussion. SAGE is a research center of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison. Staff and students who work there, examine connections between natural resources, technology, public policy, public health, security, and changes in the global environment. Barford's work focuses on agriculture, food, and environmental quality. Examples of her recent research include: "Wisconsin Farm Biomass Production and the Emerging Carbon Economy," "Farm-based Bioenergy Infrastructure for Wisconsin: Too Big, Too Little, or Just Right," and "Energy Intensity of Crop and Dairy Production on Wisconsin Farms."

Speakers included Jennifer Giegerich, Government Affairs Director for Wisconsin Conservation Voices and Voters (formerly, League of Wisconsin Conservation Voters), and Stephanie Salgado, who is a UW-Madison student on the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, and is co-founder of the Youth Climate Action Team (YCAT). Giegerich has worked at Wisconsin Conservation Voices and Voters for 13 years. Jennifer has established good working relations with legislators and staff, tracks all conservation legislation and helps develop winning campaigns around conservation issues.

Last October 2019, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers established a Task Force on Climate Change by Executive Order #52. "The Task Force . . . will advise and assist the governor in developing a strategy to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change for the benefit of all Wisconsin Communities." Task Force members have met four times throughout the year as a whole group, and three times in subcommittees. Their recommendations are due into Governor Evers' Office by October 31, 2020. Stephanie Salgado, originally from Honduras, is one of the student members on the task force due to her activism as co-founder of the Youth Climate Action Team of Madison. The Youth Climate Action Team (YCAT) formed early in 2019, and is made up entirely of "youth" in Wisconsin. There are YCAT groups across the state, which also partner

with other environmental groups in Wisconsin, and across the country.

Giegerich's core climate message is one of urgency. Our house is on fire! Despite the dire nature of the situation, she is able to remain positive in her work with Wisconsin conservation voters. "We can mitigate some of these problems. It does not matter where you start, your actions will matter." The point is not how, or where we start, but rather that we need to start acting now!

Salgado's core message emphasizes the way climate issues are complicated and multi-layered. "Climate justice is social justice, climate justice is racial justice, and you will vote according for your community." It has been more difficult for Salgado to remain positive as a climate activist. Climate change can leave one feeling overwhelmed. However, the Black Lives Matter movement has buoyed her up, and helped her stay strong in the fight. The fact that so many have come together to join Black activists in the struggle have shown her that "it is possible for justice to happen." The bravery and commitment of so many people is inspiring!

Both participants were asked, whether or not, they thought market-based approaches would work as a solution, or mitigation to climate change. Giegerich prefers to "use every tool in the box." Carbon reductions need to happen as soon as possible. "We cannot rely solely on the market to do this. They won't change as quickly as we need." Too often, corporations request and receive public financial assistance to clean up their pollution. This situation results in the most vulnerable among us bearing the burden of carbon fuel usage and pollution.

Therefore, In addition to private sector answers, Giegerich believes in governmental intervention, such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. "This bill imposes a fee on the carbon content of fuels . . . used so as to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The fee is imposed on the producers or importers of the fuels . . . The fees must be deposited into a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund and used for administrative expenses and dividend payments to U.S. citizens or lawful residents." United States residents who are not here legally would be excluded from receiving dividends, even though, they also participate in the American economy and

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American life. The Governor's Task Force on Climate Change remains sensitive to this issue, and many others. Salgado reported that the task force is "trying to find a balance." Right now, the state is fighting COVID-19. Wisconsin, its counties, and municipalities are facing budget deficits that will be difficult to resolve.

When asked what they do about people they meet who do not yet believe in climate change, Salgado echoed what many climate scientists state. It is not helpful to present facts, or argue beliefs with someone who is in denial. Instead, find common ground with that person. If they like skiing, ask them what they would think about having too little snow, not just for one winter, but repeatedly, season after season? Giegerich does not waste her limited time dealing with skeptics. Instead, she addresses the great majority of people who acknowledge the floods, the fires, and public health issues, know that the situation is not normal, and admit it is human-induced. It is the believers, who know we need prompt action, who will act, and bring about positive change!

Both participants were asked what is the most effective way to vote for climate.

Giegerich emphasized becoming familiar with policy decisions being made at all levels of government, federal, state, county, and municipal. Attend local

board and council meetings. Note actions being taken for our environment, and actions not being taken. The League of Women Voters tracks candidates on all governmental levels on the website, www.411.org. Read what all the candidates have said, and done, or not said, or done about climate change. Is climate change a priority for them? "Everyone who wants to vote should vote . . ." and then follow up with what the elected officials actually did, or did not do. Voting is a sensitive issue for Salgado, as she is not a citizen, and therefore, cannot vote. However, she has worked at the polls, and she stays active by following up on what elected officials have done, or not done, as Giegerich advises.

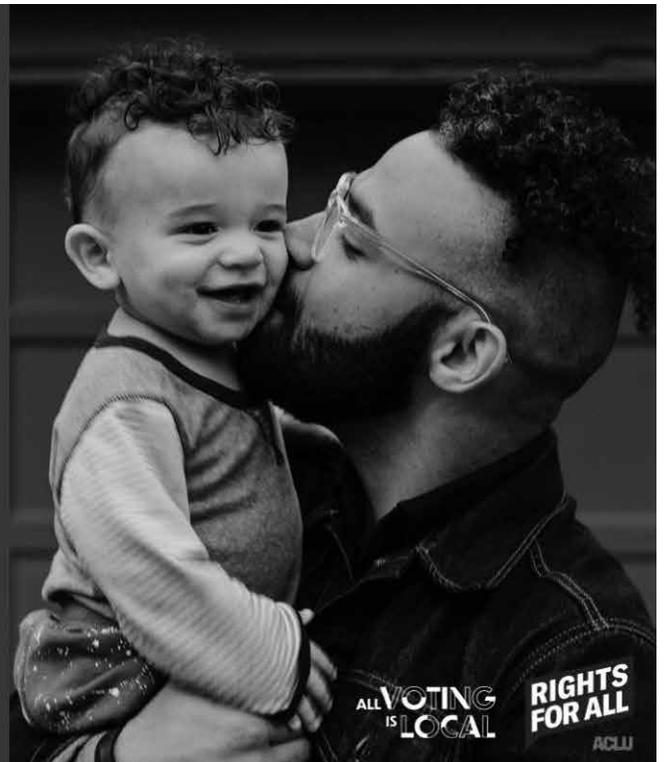
This discussion led Carol Barford to ask, what is voters' responsibility toward those who cannot vote? Giegerich and Salgado agreed that it is voters' responsibility to remember the disenfranchised. We must represent them when we vote, as well! Salgado urged voters to reach out and try to understand others in their communities. We share much more than we think we do. Giegerich sees herself as an advocate for expanding democracy. For example, when thinking about climate change, she's adopted the Native American philosophy of planning for seven generations when making policy decisions. If your elected officials are not inclusive, and do not advocate for climate change, find and elect better candidates!

Our Future. Your Vote.



Election Day is November 3, 2020

myvote.wi.gov



Voter Service Report



Carol Herzig, Photos

We had a Parade!

Ater organizing at the Post Office a group of about 20 cars drove down Milton Avenue through downtown to the Sentry Store on West Court Street. From there we split up into three groups to parade through three different parts of our city; Fourth Ward, Look West and the South Side. It was a picture perfect day for the parade and it was lovely to see everyone even at a social distance and with masks.

Rightfully Hers pop-up exhibit



The National Archives popup exhibit *Rightfully Hers* is now on view in the fireplace room at the Hedberg Public Library. *Rightfully Hers* commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, women's voting rights before and after the amendment, and its impact today. Each of the four panels covers a different theme:

- Before the 19th Amendment
- How Did Women Win the Vote?
- A Constitutional Victory
- What Voting Rights Struggles Persist?

The *Rightfully Hers* pop-up display project was created by the National Archives. The exhibit currently at Hedberg is on loan from the Beloit League of Women Voters.

For Online Primary Sources and Learning Activities on this topic, check out the related page on the National Archives website at <https://www.docsteach.org/topics/women>



Programming Highlights LWVWI Issues Briefing

Please join us during the week of November 9th as members and friends of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin gather virtually over three nights and one morning meeting to share advocacy updates on issues related to the League's three central policy areas: Natural Resources, Social Policy and Government Policy. Registration is not required and you can join any of the four Issues Briefing programs by clicking on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86755105040>. All programs will be recorded and posted on the LWVWI website. Here a few highlights!

Advocacy for Natural Resources Policy - Monday, November 9, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This program will focus on water quality and health-related issues with involved League members reporting on the Enbridge Pipeline, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, and Lead and Infrastructure Issues.

Advocacy for Social Policy

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. League members will examine how the League can better internalize the meaning of diversity, equity and inclusion through recognition of its history of exclusion and acknowledgment of current barriers to inclusion. The webinar will also offer a review of what is being done and what will need to happen to build capacity for diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization.

Advocacy for Government Policy

Thursday, November 12, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

This program includes a presentation by US Senator Tammy Baldwin, co-sponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, an update on the League's Fair Maps advocacy campaign, and an Election Summary by LWVWI Voter Education Manager, Eileen Newcomer.

Expert Panel Discussion: Unequal Impacts of COVID-19 - Saturday, November 14, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

To conclude our Issues Briefing programming, an expert panel will discuss the unequal impacts COVID-19 is having on the health, economic wellbeing and education of citizens throughout Wisconsin. We will also include a tribute to the League's lifetime members.

View program details on the [LWVWI Events Calendar](#).

*About the event logo: During our Centennial year, LWVWI chose the Forward statue to represent the progressive ideals of good governance, for which the League relentlessly advocates. We acknowledge and respect that Forward also lives as a reminder of systemic injustices yet to be addressed. Photo Credit: Mike DeVries, Capital Times

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2020-21*

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

November 2020

The logo for LWV (League of Women Voters) features the letters 'LWV' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A thick, red, brush-stroke-like line sweeps across the bottom of the letters from left to right.

November 3 Presidential Election Day
November 9 Board meeting via Zoom
November 9-12 Issues Briefing: 3 (one hour) webinars with

a concluding 90 minute session on Unequal Impacts of Covid-19 To attend register at: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/calendar>

November 9-23 Immigrant Journeys Exhibit
November 10 Voter Services Committee meeting via Zoom
November 16 DEI Committee meeting via Zoom

Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border ¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin! Exhibition comes to Janesville

A project of the Wisconsin Humanities Council in partnership with Centro Hispano this exhibit shares personal stories of Latino immigrants who make their home in Wisconsin today

Madison, WI (October 23, 2020) – *Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border ¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!* exhibition will be opening on November 9 at Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St., and will be available during library hours until November 23.

“While at the national level, immigration of people from Mexico, Central and South America is being hotly debated, here in Wisconsin many of us have had little opportunity to meet immigrants from these nations, and to add that kind of personal knowledge to our understanding of the policy discussion,” said Dena Wortzel, executive director of the Wisconsin Humanities Council (WHC). “The humanities help us deepen our understanding of individual lives and how each of us fits into the larger whole. That’s our goal with this exhibit, which shares stories of people whose lives may not be well understood or visible to many of their Wisconsin neighbors.”

To create the exhibit, the WHC worked with Centro Hispano who helped identify Latino immigrants willing to participate in the project. “We collaboratively invited respected journalist, Bill Berry and photojournalist, Gary Porter, to join the team,” said Karen Menéndez Collier, Centro Hispano Executive Director. “Together with eight immigrants, we created this powerful exhibition, called: *Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border ¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!* We couldn’t be more excited to share this wonderful and important work with residents of Dane county and beyond.”

Eight individuals (who emigrated from Mexico,



WISCONSIN
HUMANITIES

Uruguay, Honduras and Colombia) are featured in the exhibition. The exhibition will tour statewide in 2020. Tour information is available at www.WisconsinImmigrantJourneys.org.

Visitors to the exhibit have been moved by the stories. One commented, “I’m nearly in tears. Thanks for sharing these folks’ stories and messages.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity to share the stories of immigrants with our community,” says René Bue, Programming & Outreach Coordinator at Hedberg Public Library. “Immigrants are an important part of our community, and this is a way that we can begin to learn about and understand what the life of immigrants is like.”

More about Wisconsin Humanities Council

The Wisconsin Humanities Council was founded in 1972 as the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mandate is to support and create local and statewide public humanities programs of all kinds, and to help Wisconsin residents use the tools of the humanities to thoughtfully discuss public policy issues. The WHC’s matching grant program funds locally-designed humanities projects in libraries, museums, and other community institutions. The WHC also periodically develops its own programs, such as the Immigrant Journeys exhibit, to address topics of statewide interest.



IMMIGRANT JOURNEYS FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER

¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!

A traveling exhibit from Wisconsin Humanities

An Exhibit of Stories and Photos

As our nation debates when and why people from other countries should be allowed to come to the United States, this exhibition invites you to meet eight immigrants whose journeys began in Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Honduras, who are living in Wisconsin today. Their stories, told in their own words, together with their photographic portraits, offer a different entry point into the national conversation about immigration. No matter where your life's journey began, we invite you to enjoy these stories and our shared humanity.

Come see the exhibit!

November 9 – 23, 2020
Hedberg Public Library
316 S. Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545

This exhibit is a project of the Wisconsin Humanities, produced in partnership with Centro Hispano of Dane County with stories by journalist Bill Berry and photographs by Gary Porter. Support for the exhibit and WisconsinImmigrantJourneys.org website comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Alumni Circle of the Wisconsin Humanities.

WisconsinImmigrantJourneys.org

Litigation Update

On Monday, the United States Supreme Court denied the plaintiffs in the *Gear v. Wisconsin State Legislature* application for a stay of the lower court's decision to restore Wisconsin's back-up option for voters who do not receive their requested absentee ballots in the mail. LWVWI and the other plaintiffs were seeking additional ways for voters to be able to receive their mail-in absentee ballot, including online access at myvote.wi.gov, and email delivery. We sincerely thank the Fair Elections Center and Stafford Rosenbaum LLP for their representation at all levels of the judicial system in this important voter rights case.

This deeply disappointing decision denies voters the online ballot delivery that has existed in Wisconsin for years and was only recently overturned by a federal appeals court. Responsible, proactive voters who

are seeking to protect themselves and others from virus transmission by voting at home will now have to decide to choose between



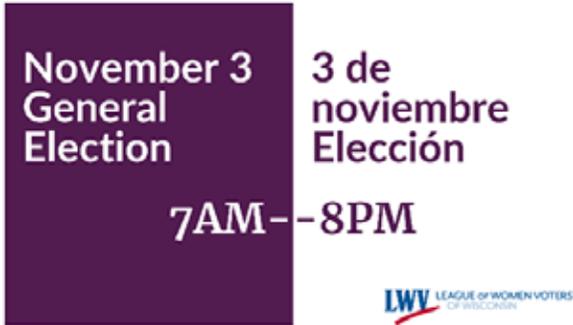
their health and their right to vote. Other enjoined cases were also denied by SCOTUS, and as a result all ballots must be at their polling place or central count locations by 8:00 p.m. on November 3 to be counted.

Despite this ruling, voters remain determined to make their voices heard in this election—and now they have even more reason to do so: to express their discontent with the negligence of their government to protect them.

are mailing in or dropping off ballots rather than voting in-person at their precinct polling sites. Though election officials have been working long hours to prepare for the election and get ballots out to voters, Wisconsin clerks cannot begin counting the returned ballots until Nov. 3rd. There is a lot of work that goes into counting absentee ballots such as opening the envelopes, verifying that the voter and the witness have signed the certification, that the witness has provided their address and scanning the ballot. Additionally, election officials must follow social distancing guidelines, just as in-person voters do.

Certain municipalities in Wisconsin use a central count system. This means the absentee ballots are sent to a central location to be tabulated. Since there will be less in person voting this year because of the high number of voters voting early, there will be far more absentee ballots that must be transported to and counted at these central locations.

Be cautious of unofficial election projections on TV and social media, especially for swing-states like Wisconsin. It may take a bit longer, but wait for official results. A fair election is worth the wait.



November 3rd is Election Day; it won't be results day

Election Day is the deadline to vote but be prepared for a week or more of ballot counting before results are finalized. We all wish we could know the winners right away, but it's important to have patience and be prepared to wait. Every vote must count—it is a vital characteristic of a working democracy.

In Wisconsin, anyone can vote with an absentee ballot. Due to Covid-19, more than ever, people

Volunteers Needed

For the first time, LWVWI will be observing the post-election voting equipment audits here in Wisconsin. These audits are required by law to be conducted after every General Election to ensure the accuracy of tabulation equipment approved for use in Wisconsin. With this being such a momentous election, we want to give voters confidence that the League will have eyes and ears on this process. We are looking for observers to be trained and to observe the audits in the community or communities they're assigned. The selection of reporting units to be audited will occur on November 4th. Times and locations of audits will vary by municipality and can run from November 5 - November 25. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the State office.



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>