



The VOTER

Communications from the President

Dear Friends in League,

The first Monday in October is always a significant date because it marks the beginning of the U. S. Supreme Court's public session to hear oral arguments on cases it has agreed to hear. We in Wisconsin will be particularly interested in what transpires at 10:00 am on Tuesday, October 2 when the Justices will hear the arguments in *Gill v. Whitford*, the case in which a federal district court ruled the Wisconsin Assembly districts unconstitutional based on partisan gerrymandering. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin joined other organizations in filing an *amicus* brief in the U. S. Supreme Court, calling on the Supreme Court to uphold the lower court ruling that requires that the legislature to redraw the voting maps in time for the 2018 elections.

Regardless of how the Supreme Court rules in this particular case, we should all care that the maps for the districts of our elected officials are drawn fairly so as not to unduly favor candidates of one party. I don't know who deserves credit for saying this first, but "Voters should choose their elected officials, not the other way around." You'll learn more about why you should care, and what you can do, at the "**Fair Voting Maps**" Forum on **Tuesday, October 24, 6:00 pm in Allen Hall 106 on the UW-Rock County campus.**



Two long-time legislators, former Wisconsin State Senators Tim Cullen (D of

Janesville) and Dale Schultz (R of Richland Center) have been speaking across the state and in the national media to advocate for fair legislative districts. They will be the principle speakers at this forum.

On other matters, I am pleased to announce that one of our newest members, Deb Thielen, has been so enthusiastic about the League, and so eager to get involved in League activities that she volunteered to co-chair the Voter Services Committee with Kay Deupree. The Board also appointed her to fill out the term of Second Vice President that will end in May. Thank you, Deb, and welcome!

I want to extend an invitation to all of you to join Nancy Stabb, Ethel Himmel, and I at the **LWV State Issues Briefing** that will be held in **Madison, on Saturday, October 28**. Topics addressed will include: current issues on immigration; an update on the WI gerrymandering lawsuit following oral arguments to the US Supreme Court; poverty in Wisconsin; and watershed and water quality in Wisconsin. You can register online [HERE](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwv-wi-issues-briefing-2017-registration-37747484743) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwv-wi-issues-briefing-2017-registration-37747484743>) The registration fee is \$40 (\$18 for students) and includes lunch. The Janesville LWV has some funds that we can use to reimburse members for a portion of your registration fee, and we will carpool to Madison that day.

Finally, I want to thank Evon Mitchell, Nancy Sonntag, and Nancy Stabb for the great work they did in planning a very informative program on the nutrition needs of lower income children in the Janesville area, and to the Board mem-

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★ President

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bers who worked on the logistics for the September membership event. Thank you, also, to those of you who made a donation to ECHO that evening. Our speakers, Jessica Locher and Jim Degan, gave us a lot of “food for thought.” I, for one, was impressed by

both the magnitude of the problem, and by the ingenuity and creativity of the people who work to put the nutrition program pieces together at ECHO and in the Janesville School District.

Thank you.
Linda



Photos Heide Keith

September Membership Event

Thank you to Evon Mitchell, Nancy Sonntag, and Nancy Stabb for the great work they did in planning a very informative program on the nutrition needs of lower income children in the Janesville area, and to the Board members who worked on the logistics for the September membership event. Thank you, also, to those of you who made a donation to ECHO that evening. Our speakers, Jessica Locher and Jim Degan, gave us a lot of “food for thought.”





WWW.LWVJVL.ORG

Fair Voting Maps Forum

U.S. Supreme Court Case
Gill v Whitford

Gerrymandering in WI

FEATURED
SPEAKERS: TIM CULLEN & DALE SCHULTZ

At UW-Rock County
Allen Hall, Room 106

TUE, OCT 24, 6-8PM

Fair Maps Community Forum this month

You may have read Wisconsin's 2011 voting map has been brought before the nation's highest court – the U.S. Supreme Court.

The League of Women Voters-Wisconsin joined other organizations in filing an amicus brief asking the court to uphold a lower court ruling which requires the legislature to redraw voting maps in time for the 2018 elections. Oral arguments in the case of *Whitford v Gill* start in October.

On Tuesday, October 24, learn more about the process behind Wisconsin's voting map districts and why the Fair Elections Project is vital to our state's elections. The project is working with citizens in other states to bring suits against other gerrymandered maps, whether drawn by Democrats or Republicans. Former State Senators Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) and Tim Cullen (D-Janesville), are co-chairing the Wisconsin campaign.

During this forum, Senators Schultz and Cullen will share how they became involved in this project, and the importance of drawing non-partisan voting districts.



*"Democracy requires access for every citizen, and it requires truly competitive elections," said Schultz. "When elections aren't competitive, we see corruption, and we see hubris."**

*"These districts have clearly been drawn to protect not only incumbents, but a permanent majority that doesn't need to worry about voters," said Cullen. "Many of our fellow citizens – from all political persuasions, from all walks of life – simply have lost faith that their government is listening to them."**



League members are encouraged to bring a guest to this free program. All who attend will receive materials to get involved and take action.

To learn more prior to this event go to fairelectionsproject.org to read the *Whitford v Gill* documents, campaign and related articles.

Special thanks to our co-sponsors: American Association of University Women, Forward Janesville, League of Women Voters – Beloit, League of Women Voters – Whitewater Area and Women's Fund.

* Schultz and Cullen quotes from fairelectionsproject.org



Join us at the Forum

When: Oct. 24, 2017 6-8 p.m.

Where: University of Wisconsin – Rock County, Allen Hall (room 106), 2909 Kellogg Ave, Janesville.

Hosted by: UW-Rock.



Can't make this date?

Consider attending the League of Women Voters Whitewater Area Fair Maps Oct. 19 Forum at Whitewater City Council Chambers at 7 p.m. in Whitewater, Wis.

League website: <http://lwvwhitewater.org/calendar.html>

To learn more visit fairelectionsproject.org. Follow on social media at @WI-FairElections on Facebook and Twitter. The mailing address for the Fair Elections campaign is 5027 W. North Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208 and the email is info@fairelectionsproject.org.

Follow us! Janesville League of Women Voters on Facebook.

The 2017-18 Board of the League of Women Voters of Janesville

President	Linda Reinhardt	2017-19
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Director	Mary Buelow	2017-19
Director	Evon Mitchell	2017-18
Director	Jennifer Johns	2016-18
Board appointed	Nancy Stabb	2017-18
Board appointed	Deborah Thielen	2017-18

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2017-18*

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

October 2017

October 9 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting
 October General Membership Meeting - Redistricting meeting
 October 27 State Issues Briefing @ Truax Campus in Madison

January 2018

January Membership meeting & Program
 January 8 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

February 2018

February Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party
 February 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
 February 20 Spring Primary

March 2018

March Candidate Forums
 March 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

April 2018

April 3 Spring Election
 April 9 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

November 2017

November 13 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
 November Book Discussion - Diversity

December 2017

No Board Meeting



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.

Celebrate your Birthday with the League!

Remember you may still contribute to the State League with a birthday donation and half of your donation will be returned to our Janesville League.



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please e-mail me, Carol Herzig at caherzig@gmail.com Thank you.