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The

# VOTER

## League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

July 2018

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### Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

I've spent a good part of June reading the three books that we've chosen to discuss for our Back Porch Summer book discussions.

I recommend them and encourage you to read these books even if you aren't able to join our discussions. The discussion of Aviva Chomsky's book ***Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal*** will be held on **Wednesday, July 25, at Bodacious Brew, 119 N. Main St. from 2:00-3:30 pm.** The topic could hardly be more timely.

Primary Elections in Wisconsin are coming soon, on Tuesday, August 14. To help citizens prepare for these elections, our League is partnering with three Beloit organizations, the LWV-Beloit, the NAACP, and Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB) to hold a **Rock County Sheriff Candidate Forum on Wednesday, July 18**, at the School District of Beloit's **Kolak Administrative Center, 1633 Keeler Avenue, Beloit, at 6:30 pm.** All three candidates for the office will participate in this forum.

Remember that [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) is the LWVEF primary online resource for voter information. By entering your address, you can find your polling place, verify your registration status, and build

your ballot with voter information on the candidates for federal and state elections. Use it yourself, and encourage your friends to use it, too.

I will be joining Nancy Stabb, Carolyn Brandeen, and over 900 other League members at the LWVUS Convention that will be held in Chicago June 28 - July 1. The organizers provided an electronic version of the Convention Workbook which, among other items, contained the Proposed 2018-2020 LWVUS Program. The recommendations in brief are to retain all the current LWVUS positions, and to continue the **Campaign for Making Democracy Work** which includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on:

- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Campaign Finance/Money in Politics
- Redistricting

The *2018 Convention Workbook* contained an excellent **Summary of LWVUS Public Policy Positions** (pp. 58-60). I have excerpted and "reprinted" the summary in this newsletter so we all can have it for easy reference. The LWVUS holds positions on Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. This summary is definitely worthwhile reading to remind ourselves of what the League stands for and why we can be proud to call ourselves members of this organization. The League's position on Immigration is particularly relevant to our upcoming July Back Porch Book Discussion. Check it out.



# Gill v Whitford and Fair Voting Maps



The US Supreme Court had a busy two weeks with decisions on major cases including *Gill v Whitford* - the Wisconsin gerrymandering case. LWV WI Executive

Director, Erin Grunze, wrote an op-ed about the ruling that was picked up by newsrooms across the country and state.

“Ultimately, partisan gerrymandering does nothing to help democracy. Instead, it only protects the political interests of the party in power. Both Democrats and Republicans have used this tactic over the years to consolidate power and keep voters from having a truly fair say in choosing their governmental representatives,” said Grunze. “The *Gill v. Whitford* decision is frustrating in that it was a wasted opportunity for the Supreme Court to set a standard to make elections fairer. States, including Wisconsin, can still right this wrong.”

The day after the ruling, members of LWVWI staff and board along with additional League members joined with partnering organizations of the Fair Elections Project at the state capitol for a rally in support of a nonpartisan map-drawing process for Wisconsin.

Our work for fair voting maps in Wisconsin continues.



Carol Herzig, photo

## Death and Life of the Great Lakes

Leaguers met at the home of Nancy Stabb to discuss the book on June 27th. More information is included in this newsletter.



Photo Kay Deupree

Here is a photo taken at the March for our Lives yesterday. Sorry that it doesn't tell the story of interacting with the youth-- does show the banner that was made with grant money.



Carol Herzig, photo

## White Working Class

Leaguers met at the home of Carol Herzig to discuss the book on June 27th. More information is included in this newsletter. There is one more book this summer, plan to read!



# CREATING A MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY

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## SUMMARY OF LWVUS PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

### REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

**Promote an open government system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.**

### VOTING RIGHTS

**Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

### DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

### ELECTION PROCESS

**Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

**Money in Politics.** Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

**Redistricting.** Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

**Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

### CITIZEN RIGHTS

**Citizen's Right to know/Citizen participation.**

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

**Considerations for evaluating Constitutional Amendment proposals.** In addition to League

positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

**Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.** Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates elected by population, and voting by delegates not by state.

**Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

### CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY

**Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

**The presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

### PRIVATIZATION

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact, and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.**

### UNITED NATIONS

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

## **TRADE**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade, and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

## **U.S. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

## **ARMS CONTROL**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

## **MILITARY POLICY AND DEFENSE SPENDING**

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.**

**Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.**

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL**

Preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market.

**Federal Agriculture policies.** Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production.

The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.**

## **EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

**Education, employment, and housing.** Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.

**Federal Role in public education.** Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

## **FISCAL POLICY**

**Tax policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.

**Funding of entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

## **IMMIGRATION**

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian

crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

### **MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent and adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide essential support services.

**Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

### **CHILD CARE**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

### **VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

### **GUN CONTROL**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

### **URBAN POLICY**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

### **DEATH PENALTY**

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

### **SENTENCING POLICY**

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

**Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well defined channels for citizen input and review.**

## *Leaders for* **DEMOCRACY** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters is pleased to recognize donors whose annual contributions total \$1,000 or more as a Leader for Democracy. The dedication of this group of donors supports our critical work to register, mobilize, educate, and protect voters across the country. As a Leader for Democracy, you will receive insider updates on our work, invitations to conference calls with senior staff members to discuss the impact of your support, and invitations to special events. You will also be listed in our Annual Report publication and receive special recognition at our National Convention. For more information, please contact Emily Yost at 202-263-1352 or at [eyost@lwv.org](mailto:eyost@lwv.org).

# Explaining White Privilege to a Broke White Person...



Gina Crosley-Corcoran  
[medschool.duke.edu](http://medschool.duke.edu)

**Y**ears ago, some feminist on the internet told me I was “Privileged.”  
“WTH?!?” I said.

I came from the kind of Poor that people don’t want to believe still exists in this country. Have you ever spent a frigid northern Illinois winter without heat or running water? I have. At twelve years old, were you making ramen noodles in a coffee maker with water you fetched from a public bathroom? I was. Have you ever lived in a camper year round and used a random relative’s apartment as your mailing address? We did. Did you attend so many different elementary schools that you can only remember a quarter of their names? Welcome to my childhood.

So when that feminist told me I had “white privilege,” I told her that my white skin didn’t do shit to prevent me from experiencing poverty. Then, like any good, educated feminist would, she directed me to Peggy McIntosh’s 1988 now-famous piece, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.”

After one reads McIntosh’s powerful essay, it’s impossible to deny that being born with white skin in America affords people certain unearned privileges in life that people of another skin color simple are not afforded. For example:

- I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.
- When I am told about our national heritage or about “civilization,” I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
- If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be sure I haven’t been singled out because of my race.
- I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.

If you read through the rest of the list, you can see how white people and people of color experience the

world in two very different ways. **BUT LISTEN:** This is not said to make white people feel guilty about their privilege. It’s not your fault you were born with white skin and experience these privileges. **BUT,** whether you realize it or not, you **DO** benefit from it, and it **IS** your fault if you don’t maintain awareness of that fact.

I do understand McIntosh’s essay may rub some people the wrong way. There are several points on the list that I felt spoke more to the author’s status as a Middle Class person than a White Person. For example:

- If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area, which I can afford and in which I would want to live.
- I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.
- I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.»
- If I want to, I can be pretty sure of finding a publisher for this piece on white privilege.

And there are so many more points in the essay where the word «race» could be substituted for the word «class» which would ultimately paint a very different picture. That is why I had such a hard time identifying with this essay for so long. When I first wrote about White Privilege years ago, I demanded to know why this White Woman felt that my experiences were the same as hers when no, my family most certainly could not rent housing “in an area which we could afford and want to live.”

And no, I couldn’t go shopping without fear in our low income neighborhoods.

The idea that any ol’ white person can find a publisher for a piece is most certainly a symptom of class privilege. Having come from a family of people who didn’t even graduate high school, who knew not a single academic or intellectual person, it would never occur to me to assume that I could be published. It is an absolute freak anomaly that I’m in graduate school considering not one person on either side of my family has a college degree. And it took me until my thirties to ever believe that someone from my stock could achieve such a thing. Poverty colors nearly everything about your perspective on opportunities for advancement in life. Middle class, educated people assume that anyone can achieve their goals if they work hard enough. Folks steeped in poverty rarely see a life past working at the gas station, making the rent on their trailer, and self-medicating with cigarettes and prescription drugs until they die of a heart attack. (I’ve just described one whole side of my family and the life I assumed I’d be living before I lucked out of it.)

I, maybe more than most people, can completely understand why broke white folks get pissed when the



# Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
283 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, we write to ask that you assure the Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bills provide funding for Great Lakes restoration priorities. We are grateful for the much-needed support the region has received. We hope you are as proud as we are about the on-the-ground results because of these investments in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. However, the Great Lakes still face many urgent problems, which is why we are concerned with the President's proposed budget. The problems we face will only get worse and the price we pay will be much higher if the federal partnership with the region is scaled back.

First, we ask you to support \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Restoration efforts are improving the lives of millions of people and work is underway or completed on over 3,400 restoration projects throughout the region that are benefitting communities. These projects are cleaning up streams that provide drinking water for millions of homes and thousands of industries. Restoration work is improving infrastructure important for future economic growth in the eight-state region. These projects are delivering results, including:

- Three Areas of Concern - Presque Isle, Pa.; Deer Lake, Mich.; and White Lake, Mich. - have been delisted since the GLRI began. The management actions necessary to delist four additional AOCs have also been completed. In the previous two decades before the GLRI, only one AOC had been cleaned up.
- Fifty beneficial use impairments (BUIs) at 18 AOCs were addressed in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin under the GLRI, more than tripling the total number of BUIs removed in the preceding 22 years. More BUIs have been removed in the last seven years since the GLRI began than between 1987 and 2009.
- Combined with other funding, farmers implemented conservation action on more than one million acres of rural lands in order to reduce erosion and farm runoff that feeds algal blooms. This supplemental funding helped double farmland under conservation in Western Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay, and Green Bay.
- More than 513 dams and barriers were removed, allowing fish to access more than 3,800 miles of never.

Second, we urge you to at least double the funding for both the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The region's water infrastructure needs to be repaired or replaced. EPA estimates that nearly \$80 billion is needed in the Great Lakes region alone to replace old sewer pipes and wastewater plants. Over \$100 billion is needed to fix drinking water problems that threaten the public's safety. The problem in urban water systems and in economically disadvantaged communities is particularly acute. Sewer overflows pour millions of gallons of raw sewage into the Great Lakes and lead drinking water pipes threaten the health of communities. The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) are two key sources of funds to solve these problems. Communities depend on them for low-interest loans to implement costly, but critical wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects.

Third, the threat of Asian carp is real and persistent. To keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes we ask Congress to fully fund all actions being undertaken as part of the FY 2017 Asian Carp Action Plan, which includes at least \$14.6 million for the Army Corps, \$5.3 million for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, \$5.2 million for the U.S. Geologic Survey, among other federal needs. Any Asian carp protective measure must 1) lead to a long-term solution that prevents the inter-basin movement of aquatic invasive species between both the Mississippi River and Great Lakes, 2) maintain or enhance water quality, recreation, and flood protection, and 3) enable the efficient movement of goods in the region. In addition,

# ★ Great Lakes

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we hope the Committee will demand the Army Corps of Engineers release its study focusing on Brandon Road lock and dam, which was originally scheduled to be released on February 28. We need the design for a new engineered channel and control technologies at this site so our region can move forward quickly with constructing the next line of defense against the spread of invasive species-and ultimately permanent separation of the lakes from the Mississippi River.

Fourth, urban and agricultural runoff continues to contribute to the problems facing the Great Lakes. Experts say harmful new algal blooms are fueled by excessive amounts of phosphorus washing into the lakes from farms and urban areas. Stronger storms driven by climate change contribute to the problem, as do invasive mussels. New harmful algal blooms close beaches, kill fish, impact local drinking water supplies (like Toledo, Ohio, in 2014), and when water supplies are contaminated, the most vulnerable members of the community are the first to be impacted. Toxic algae also harms small, local businesses like charter boats. Harmful algal blooms are spreading farther and faster and beginning earlier than ever before and we must take action to protect communities from this growing threat.

To help the region respond to these algal blooms, we ask that you provide continued strong support for Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Farm Bill conservation programs, in particular the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. This program is well placed to fund targeted, discrete conservation practices that will improve soil quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat in regions such as the Great Lakes. It sets aside conservation funding to encourage innovative partnerships between watershed groups and farmers. As partners, these organizations and farmers work together to further the conservation and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources on a regional or watershed scale. It also provides for accountability by linking the projects to local efforts or other regional initiatives (like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative).

Support for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program will not be enough to reduce algae feeding phosphorus in the region's waterways. If we are to achieve 40 percent nutrient reductions in Western Lake Erie (as agreed to by the region's governors and the U.S. and Canadian governments) we will need a much more coordinated response. We ask that Congress provide all Farm Bill conservation programs with funding at authorized levels.

Lastly, our region will fall short of our restoration goals if the federal agencies that are vital partners in our restoration efforts have their budgets cut. U.S. EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, National Park Service, and NRCS all provide critical administrative and programmatic support that helps us ensure the success of both the GLRI and other restoration activities in the region. These departments and agencies are critical partners with Great Lakes states, cities, industries, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations. Cutting EPA by 31 percent, USDA by 21 percent, and the Department of the Interior by 12 percent as proposed by the administration is unacceptable. For example, cutting categorical grants from EPA to states by 45 percent eliminates hundreds of federally-funded positions in state agencies that have the delegated responsibility to enforce critical laws like the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, eliminating funding for programs like Sea Grant only harms the health and resilience of our coastal communities and makes it extremely difficult to make progress on critical clean-up efforts in places like western Lake Erie where Ohio Sea Grant serves as a key part of the work to reduce harmful algal blooms. We urge you to reject these massive cuts to non-defense discretionary spending.

Investments in Great Lakes restoration create short-term jobs and lead to long-term economic benefits for the Great Lakes states and the country. A Brookings Institution report shows that every \$1 invested in Great Lakes restoration generates at least \$2 in return, making Great Lakes restoration one of the best investments in the federal budget. More recent research from Grand Valley State University suggests that the return on investment for certain projects may be closer to 6-to-1. The University of Michigan has also demonstrated that over 1.5 million jobs are dependent on clean and healthy Great Lakes, accounting for more than \$60 billion in wages annually. We have also seen jobs being created by our nation's efforts to clean up the Great Lakes and restore fish and wildlife habitat. These jobs include wetland scientists, electricians, engineers, landscape architects, plumbers, truck drivers and many others.

However, there is still much work that needs to be done. Aging sewers, invasive species, and toxic pollutants are just a few of the pervasive threats that impact the region, endangering human and wildlife health, lowering property values, and hurting the region's economy. Cutting funding will slow restoration efforts, allowing problems to get worse and making them more expensive to solve.

Ultimately, cutting spending on the Great Lakes won't save money-it will cost the nation more. As the source of drinking water for 30 million people, the nation cannot afford to stop protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.

Now is not the time to scale back our nation's commitment to restore the Great Lakes environment and economy. Progress is being made. For the economy and the environment, please make sure that the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bills provide at least \$300 million for the GLRI; water infrastructure funding is doubled for the Clean Water SRF and the Drinking Water SRF; the Asian carp action plan is fully funded; there are resources for the RCPP and all Farm Bill conservation programs at authorized levels; and the cuts to non-defense discretionary programs are rejected.

If you have questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact our coalition's policy director, Chad Lord, at 202-454-3385 or [clord@npca.org](mailto:clord@npca.org).

Sincerely,

Many Organizations in the Great Lakes Basin too numerous to list.



# ★ White Privilege

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word “Privilege” is thrown around. As a child, I was constantly discriminated against because of my poverty and those wounds still run very deep. But luckily my college education introduced me to a more nuanced concept of Privilege; the term Intersectionality. The concept of Intersectionality recognizes that people can be privileged in some ways and definitely not privileged in others. There are many different types of privilege, not just skin color privilege, that impact the way people can move through the world or are discriminated against. These are all things you are born into, not things you earned, that afford you opportunities others may not have. For example:

- Citizenship - Simply being born in this country affords you certain privileges non-citizens will never access.
- Class - Being born into a financially stable family can help guarantee your health, happiness, safety, education, intelligence, and future opportunities.
- Sexual Orientation - By being born straight, every state in this country affords you privileges that non-straight folks have to fight the Supreme Court for.
- Sex - By being born male, you can assume that you can walk through a parking garage without worrying you’ll be raped and that a defense attorney will then blame it on what you were wearing.
- Ability - By being born able bodied, you probably don’t have to plan your life around handicap access, Braille, or other special needs.
- Gender - By being born cis-gendered, you aren’t worried that the restroom or locker room you use will invoke public outrage.
- As you can see, belonging to one or more category

of Privilege, especially being a Straight White Middle Class Able-Bodied Male, can be like winning a lottery you didn’t even know you were playing. But this is not to imply that any form of privilege is exactly the same as another or that people lacking in one area of privilege understand what it’s like to be lacking in other areas. Race discrimination is not equal to Sex Discrimination and so forth.

And listen, recognizing Privilege doesn’t mean suffering guilt or shame for your lot in life. Nobody’s saying that Straight White Middle Class Able-Bodied Males don’t work hard for what they have. Recognizing Privilege simply means being aware that some people have to work much harder just to experience the things you take for granted (if they ever can experience them at all.)

I know now that I AM Privileged in many ways. I am Privileged as a natural born white citizen. I am privileged as a cis-gendered woman. I am privileged as an able-bodied person. I am privileged that my first language is also our national language, and that I was born with an intellect and ambition that pulled me out of the poverty I was otherwise destined for. I was privileged to be able to marry my way «up» by partnering with a Privileged middle-class educated male who fully expected me to earn a college degree.

There are a million ways I experience Privilege, and some that I certainly don’t. But thankfully, Intersectionality allows us to examine these varying dimensions and degrees of discrimination while raising awareness of the results of multiple systems of oppression at work.

Tell me, are you a White Person made uncomfortable by the term “White Privilege?” Does a more nuanced approach help you see your own Privilege more clearly?

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## LWV WI 2018 Annual Meeting

**Ethel Himmel**  
*Second Vice President*

There were 125 registrants representing 20 local leagues and members at large at the annual meeting in Oshkosh.

Board actions:

Approved participation in Wisconsin Civics Games. High school students from across the state are encouraged to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of federal, state and local government, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights by participating in regional and state final competitions. Local leagues are encouraged to promote the games.

On 5/23-24 the Board voted unanimously via email to join the Midwest Environmental Advocates’ legal appeal regarding the diversion of Lake Michigan water

for private use by Foxconn and thus breaking the Great Lakes Compact.

Conference speakers:

Tracey Roberston, Co Founder and Executive Director of Fit Oshkosh, Inc, a grassroots, nonprofit social justice organization whose mission is to promote social transformation through Color-Brave conversations, education, advocacy, and research in order to achieve race equity and justice with the community, was the keynote speaker. She specializes in anti-racism training and education. Her hope is to improve the narrative around race. Two of her comments resonated with me. One was the frequently made statement that black families at dinner talk about what to do when the police pull you over juxtaposed with white families at

# ★ State Meeting

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dinner talking about the days' events. That, she said, is white privilege. Her other comment was to consider what you are willing to give up to be more diverse. A white church says, join us; black folks respond, will you change your music? White church...no.

Dr. David Canon, political science professor at UW Madison, gave the Malkasian Lecture, which was an update on the Gill v. Whitford case (redistricting). His comments accurately foretold the outcome that has since been announced. He labeled the issue a majority/minority one rather than a political partisan Republican/Democrat one.

Plenary actions:

Expanded to statewide the pilot initiative on outreach and service to diverse communities. (Milwaukee,

Sheboygan, and Beloit leagues were the pilots for this initiative.)

Approved concurrence with the Ashland Bayfield Counties League's position on economic equity. Support for:

Legislation, policies and programming to promote Economic Equity and support the democratic principles of common social good.

Opposition to all legislation, policies and programming that enable the unhealthy concentration of wealth and power.

Education/programming on Economic Equity Work to create an informed and proactive citizen base thus enabling the public to reclaim their voice in civic engagement, the election process, and policy making, which challenge making democracy work.

## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Activities 2017-18\*

\*Additional events may be planned. Check website: [lwvjvl.org/calendar](http://lwvjvl.org/calendar)

#### July 2018

July 2 Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Hedberg Public Library

July 18 Sheriff Candidates Forum @ 6:30 p.m. Kolak Administrative Center, 1633 Keeler Avenue, Beloit

July 23 2 6:00 p.m. Voter Service Committee Meeting

July 25 Book Discussion 2:00-3:30 Location Bodacious Brew



#### August 2018

August 6 Board Meeting

August 14 Fall Primary Election

#### September 2018

September Board Meeting

September General Membership Meeting

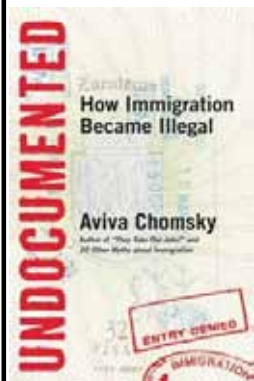
## LWV SUMMER-TIME BOOK DISCUSSION

*UNDOCUMENTED: How Immigration Became*

*Illegal* by Aviva Chomsky who is a professor of history and coordinator of Latin American Studies at Salem State University.

Meet **Wednesday, July 25** at Bodacious Brew, 119 N. Main St. **2-3:30 PM**

Discussion Leader Linda Stehura



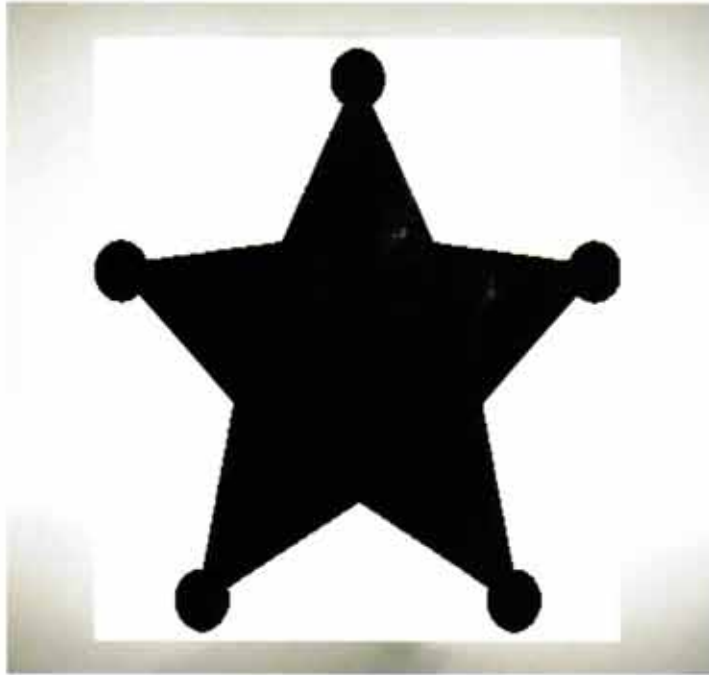
To contact the League, please feel free to use either of these options:

[www.lwvjvl.org](http://www.lwvjvl.org) or

**P.O. Box 8064,  
Janesville,  
WI 53547-8064**



# Sheriff's Forum



Wednesday, July 18, 2018

6:30 P.M.

Kolak Administrative Center—Board Room

1633 Keeler Avenue, Beloit

**Meet the candidates for Rock County:  
Gary Groelle, Troy Knudson, Jude Maurer**

Sponsored by:

League of Women Voters—Janesville & Beloit, NAACP, Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB)

Voter registration assistance will be available at the forum.

# 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.*



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*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please e-mail me, Carol Herzig at [caherzig@gmail.com](mailto:caherzig@gmail.com) Thank you.*