



The VOTER

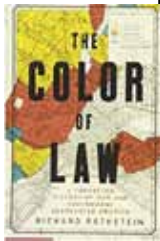
League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

August 2018

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August 14th Primary Election



Save the Date

Please bring a \$5.00 donation for snacks and drinks

- *Annual Membership Meeting* •
- **Wednesday, September 12th** •
- **29 South** •
- **5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** •

We have speakers for a two-part program:

Beth Jozwiak on the Direct Popular Vote for President: history of the Electoral College; why it was preferred by the founders over direct election, and the League's support of the of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

Christina Barrett & Jennifer Bleak for a Voters Services report to members on what their committee is doing; explain why Vote411.org is so important; what League can do to get out the vote; explain Automatic voter Registration, etc.

Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

Looking ahead, the Wisconsin Partisan Primary Election is on Tuesday, August 14. Keep these resources in mind as you help

your friends and neighbors prepare to vote:

- Vote411.org – Find LWVEF-based information about elections, candidates, and issues for US and Wisconsin STATE races.



• Myvote.wi.gov—See a sample ballot, find your polling place, and more, on the state's voter information website.

• Lwvjvl.org—Find information about candidates running for LOCAL offices i.e., Rock County Sheriff and Clerk of Circuit Court, on our local League's website.

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Photo Linda Reinhardt

LWVUS National Convention 2018 general plenary session meeting.

★ President

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Reviewing the recent past, delegates at the 53rd LWVUS National Convention in Chicago, June 28 - July 1 voted to support the LWVUS Board recommendations to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy, and the recommended program, a League-wide “Campaign for Making Democracy Work.”

“The Campaign for Making Democracy Work” 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



Linda standing in the lobby of the Congress Hotel in Chicago pointing to the plaque that marks the hotel as the site where the LWV was founded on February 14, 1910.



Carolyn, Linda and Nancy delegates at the National Convention 2018 in Chicago.

- Redistricting

The convention also passed two (of 60) additional program items that had not been recommended by the Board:

- Advocacy for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact
- Support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

The delegates re-elected Chris Carson to be President of LWVUS, and we heard from Virginia Kase, the incoming CEO of LWVUS who comes to us from CASA, an organization that has been at the forefront

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★ President

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of the immigrant rights movement.

The League has been engaged in a “transformation journey” over the past several years to ensure that it will enter its second century as a strong, visible, and relevant organization. The League has developed a “Transformation Roadmap” that includes specific action steps to be implemented that will focus on:

- Core Mission—The Campaign to Make Democracy Work
- Culture—Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Health of Network—Local, state, national connections
- Increase capacity at all levels

Delegates took an initial step along the Transformation Roadmap by participating in a 3 - hour diversity training workshop and League has already begun to provide follow-up materials for delegates to share with their local Leagues. We will make additional progress

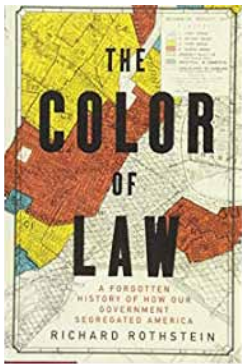
on the roadmap in the coming months. (I will be happy to send you a copy of the executive summary of the Roadmap or the entire document (as PDF files) if you would like to read them.)

Looking ahead again, please plan to attend our September General Membership meeting the evening of Wednesday, September 12. We have a two-part program planned for the evening:

- The League has long-standing position of promoting the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Beth Jozwiak, a professor of American History at UW-Whitewater at Rock County (UW-Rock County) will help us understand why we have the Electoral College instead.
- The work of our Voter Services Committee is at the core of what League does. With less than two months before the General Election, Christina Barrett and Jennifer Bleak will report on what the VS team has been doing to assist the “new majority” to register to vote and what League members can do before and after the election to create “a more perfect democracy.”

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein

Ethel Himmel
LWV Diversity Committee



Richard Rothstein is an emeritus Senior Fellow of the Thurgood Marshall Institute at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He distinguishes between de facto segregation, segregation caused by personal choices of whites and blacks, and de jure segregation, segregation caused by law and public policy. He says, “Residential racial segregation by state action is a violation of our Constitution

and its Bill of Rights.”

He builds his case by tracing examples of the federal government’s having built (financially supported with federal programs) racially separate public housing in cities where segregation hadn’t previously taken root, of its having urged suburbs to adopt exclusionary zoning laws, of instructing developers that they could have FHA guarantees only if the homes they built were whites-only or African American-only.

States have also been at fault in supporting restrictive association rules and covenants. Churches, universities, and hospitals have continued to enjoy tax exempt status while they promote restrictive covenants in their prop-

erties. Police, school boards, and state real estate commissions also have had a role in promoting segregation.

Naïve me...I accepted (sorta) the myth of de facto segregation, not that it was good, but that it was the outcome of personal racism and economic hardship. Imagine my surprise (and dawning understanding) when he quoted commonly used American history textbooks. He quotes one text as saying “African Americans found themselves forced into segregated neighborhoods.” And he goes on to say “That’s it. One passive voice sentence. No suggestion of who might have done the forcing or how it was implemented.” He gives additional examples of history textbooks with recent publication dates that do not mention how African Americans were excluded from the benefits of many of the federal programs begun in the New Deal that helped middle income whites buy homes and begin to pass that wealth on to succeeding generations. Our textbooks haven’t given us the negative side of our history!

While Rothstein isn’t terribly optimistic about our immediate future in overcoming years of segregation (and its impact on both blacks and whites), he does offer some suggestions in the final chapter, “Considering Fixes” and the Appendix, “Frequently Asked Questions” is helpful in reorienting how we think about some of the commonly accepted myths.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2018-19*

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

August 2018

August 6 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
August 7 National Night Out 5 to 8 p.m.
August 14 Fall Primary Election



September 2018

September 3 Labor Day
September Board Meeting
September 12 General Membership Meeting 5:30 to 7 p.m.

October 2018

Candidates' Forums

November 2018

November 6 General Election

Annual National Night Out Planned for August 7



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Janesville Police Department and Janesville Recreation Division will host this nationally celebrated event on Tuesday, August 7, from 5 – 8 p.m. at the corner of Wall Street and Jackson Street (outside the Janesville Police Services Building).

National Night Out promotes neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships. This free event features free food, drinks, community booths, police demonstrations, kids' games, and much more!

The 2017-20 Board of the League of Women Voters of Janesville

President	Linda Reinhardt	2017-19
First VP	Ethel Himmel	2017-19
Second VP	Deborah Thielen	2018-20
Secretary	Heidi Keith	2017-19
Treasurer	Nancy Sonntag	2018-20
Director	Evon Mitchell	2018-20
Director	Laura Boettcher	2018-20
Director	Carol Herzig	2017-19
Director	Mary Buelow	2017-19

Volunteer Election Observers Needed

Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor the November 6th election. We are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state. We will do our best to assign you to a location near your home .

For the November 6th election we are focusing the Election Observation Program in three areas:

- to be sure there is no disenfranchisement
- to monitor the voter experience - including registration and showing ID
- to track any problems that can be fixed for future elections



You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this -- although we'd love to have you join us!

Learn more and sign up to volunteer here:
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities-league>

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc.

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Madison, WI 53703

(608) 256-0827;

lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org



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.



Read the responses of the candidates running in the August 14 Partisan Primary for Rock County Sheriff and Rock County Clerk of Circuit Courts to questions posed by the LWV-Janesville at http://lwvjvl.org/Candidates_Forums.html



To contact the League, please feel free to use either of these options: www.lwvjvl.org or P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?
Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

Name

Address

E-mail

Phone Number

Individual \$65.00
 Student \$30.00

Household \$95.00

I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to: **LWV-US**

<www.lwv.org>

LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org>

JANESVILLE LEAGUE

<www.lwvjvl.org>

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