



The VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

November 2018

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Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

We are in the home stretch before Election Day.

I want express appreciation to all of you League members and "friends of League" who have spent many hours during these past few months to help new voters register to vote and provide voter education information to citizens in our area. We have a few more days to engage in Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and election day activities. Thank you for all you do to fulfill our League mission of "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy."

Late in the month of November the League will hold an event that should be of considerable interest to the community, "Housing Shortage in Janesville? The Links Between Housing and Economic Development." The main speaker for the program will be Gale Price, Director of Economic Development for the City of Janesville. Among the topics he will address are:

How well does the current level of different types of houses and apartments meet the city's current and anticipated needs as we try to attract

new businesses to the community?

To the extent that there is a housing shortage in the area, what programs/policies can local government use to stimulate the development of new housing and the improvement of existing housing units?

The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion of the issues. The event will be held on Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m. in Janesville City Hall, Room 416.

LWVUS is making a concerted effort to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within the League, and is providing training to help us reach this goal. In preparation for the webinar offered on October 30, the Diversity Dimension Team provided links to three short video clips that address the topics covered during the webinar. Because the webinar is held in the middle of the day, many of you are not able to participate, but I would like to share these links with you so you can view them on your own:

Lillian Medville. "*Your Privilege Is Showing*." TEDx Beacon Street (13:26). Jan 31, 2018.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4b_ojKx6UI

Peggy McIntosh. "*How Studying Privilege Systems Can Strengthen Compassion.*" At TEDx Timberlane Schools. YouTube video (18:26). Nov 5, 2012.

<https://www.youtube.com/>

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★ President

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watch?v=e-BY9UEewHw

Tricia Rose, Ph.D. "*Tricia Rose – Pain, Passion, and Possibility: Learning from Difficult Subjects.*" YouTube video. 12:12. July 7, 2014.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exwvmXkKa9Q&feature=share>

In last month's newsletter I shared with you where our \$65 annual dues go: \$32 to LWVUS, \$30 to LWVWI, leaving \$3 for our local League. It won't surprise you to learn that three dollars per member is not sufficient to sustain our local League's activities. As we approach the season when you make your end-of-the-year charitable contributions, please consider making a donation to the League of Women Voters of Janesville. Thanks to the efforts of League staff in Madison, our League qualifies for tax-exempt status under section

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the League of Women Voters of Janesville—including your dues—count as charitable contributions. While you are reviewing your spending for this past year, look to see if you have paid dues to the League since June 1, 2018. If not, please remember to pay your dues before the end of this year. You can send your dues and additional contributions to LWVJVL, PO Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064.)

Thank you.
Linda



RECOMMENDED READING

JUST MERCY by Bryan Stevenson

Diane Henrichs
Diversity Committee

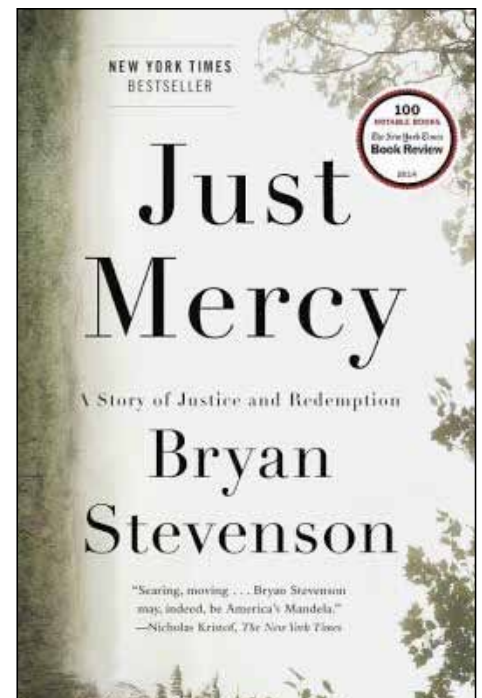
The book *Just Mercy*, c. 2014, is a call to fix our broken system of justice. The author, Bryan Stevenson, first encountered a maximum security prison and death row inmates as a 23-year-old Harvard Law School intern in 1983, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was questioning whether he had made a wrong career choice, yet went on to become an award-winning attorney in the area of civil rights, race, and poverty, holding 29 honorary doctorates and many awards. The organization he and a friend founded is EJI, the Equal Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery, Alabama. It challenges wrongful convictions, addresses racial justice, children in prison, mass incarceration, and the death penalty.

Just Mercy shares the stories of several death row inmates, as well as children tried as adults and sentenced to life without parole. Many of them are wrongly accused and/or mentally ill, with important evidence ruled inadmissible in court. Woven throughout the book, among other stories, is the story of Walter McMillian, an African American wrongly accused of the murder of a white woman from a prominent family, and Bry-

an's attempts to achieve justice for him.

Bryan's work has included five appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court, representing the most vulnerable among us, and winning rulings against sentencing children to die in prison.

This is an important and very readable book, arguing for compassion in the pursuit of justice. The Equal Justice Initiative website is helpful and informative: www.EJI.org.



The Equal Justice Initiative website is helpful and informative: www.EJI.org.

Race: The Power of Illusion

Mary Buelow
Diversity Committee

Eleven people attended the Janesville League of Women Voters' Diversity Committee's first discussion session of the DVD series *Race - The Power of an Illusion* on Saturday October 20 at the Hedberg Public Library.

The group watched the 37 minute episode **The Difference Between Us which** examines the contemporary science that challenges our common sense assumptions that human beings can be bundled into three or four fundamentally different groups according to their physical traits.

In the discussion that followed attendees shared their thoughts about race, where their ideas of race come from, how those ideas have changed, and what new information we took away from the film.

The discussion series will continue on Saturday October 27 and conclude on Saturday November 3 at the Hedberg Public Library's Public Meeting Room. Sessions start at 10:30 am.

For those who more information about modern genetics and how it has impacted our understanding of race, here is suggested reading list:

Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived The Human Story Retold Through Our Genes by Adam Rutherford

Deep ancestry: inside the Genographic Project by Spencer Wells

Everyone is African: how science explodes the myth of race by Daniel J Fairbanks



Photo by Carol Herzig

Some of the attendees, October 20th.

The journey of man : a genetic odyssey by Spencer Wells

Race: the Power of an Illusion. Background Readings on Science Genetics, human variation, evolution, scientific classification and more

http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-01.htm

The Seven Daughters of Eve by Bryan Sykes

Voter Service Update

Christina & Jennifer
Voter Service Committee Co-Chairs

Those of us at Voter Services are gearing up for the final push before the midterm elections (Get Out the Vote weekend is right around the corner!). In the last two months, League members have been all over town, registering potential voters and giving out educational materials. Our volunteers have registered more than 40 people to vote and given information to 510 people! Leading up to the Primary Election we talked to 558 potential voters, and it's my personal goal to beat it. It's not too late to help! Contact Jennifer Bleak at fjswblk@hotmail.com to be part

of our Get Out the Vote efforts!



Most importantly, don't forget to vote!





League of Women Voters Wisconsin

CALL TO ACTION

LWVWI Exec. Director Erin Grunze has asked local League presidents to share this Call to Action concerning a proposed rule change to the Flores Settlement Agreement that would be harmful to immigrant children who are in detention. (See below.)

FROM: Bonnie Cox, LWVIL President

Jean Pierce and Allyson Haut, LWVIL Issues Co-chairs

Kim Reed, Issue Specialist, Immigration

ACTION NEEDED:

Submit a public comment by November 6 to the US Department of Homeland Security opposing a rule change to the Flores Settlement Agreement. The rule change would be harmful to immigrant children in detention. See more below under “Why It Matters.”

Submit your comment before the November 6 deadline.

Please include the docket number, **“DHS Docket No. ICEB-2018-0002,”** for any of these following options for submitting comments:

Federal eRulemaking Portal (preferred): <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the website instructions for submitting comments.

Email: ICE.Regulations@ice.dhs.gov. Include DHS Docket No. ICEB-2018-0002 in the subject line of the message.

Mail: Debbie Seguin, Assistant Director, Office of Policy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, 500 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20536. To ensure proper handling, include DHS Docket No. ICEB-2018-0002 in your correspondence. Mail must be postmarked by the comment submission deadline. Hand Delivery/Courier: Visitor Entrance, U.S. Immigration and Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, 500 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20536.

Sample Comment:

I urge you to defend and implement in full the Flores Settlement Agreement. The 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement protects children and ensures that they are safe and treated humanely while in detention. It requires them to be held in the least restrictive setting possible and sets a preference for family unity. The Flores Settlement Agreement limits the time a child can be detained to 20 days.

The regulation currently being proposed would be harmful to immigrant children and families seeking refuge in the United States. Detention for any length of time is inhumane and unsafe for children. The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that even short

periods of detention can lead to increased stress, developmental delay, and psychological trauma.

Longer detentions and weakened protections would be devastating. Detention is no place for children.

WHY IT MATTERS:

LWV Immigration position states that immigration policies should promote family reunification and should be responsive to those facing political persecution or a humanitarian crisis.

The Flores Settlement Agreement limits the detention of immigrant children to 20 days and establishes basic protections, such as requirements for sanitation, living conditions, and adequate food/water for those immigrant children in detention.

The Department of Homeland Security is proposing new regulations that would replace and undermine the intentions and safeguards of the Flores Settlement Agreement. These proposed regulations would put children at greater risk because of prolonged detentions, longer family separations, and decreased protections.

League of Women Voters of Illinois

332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 634, Chicago, IL 60604

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1. What is the Flores Settlement Agreement?

Quick Takeaway: The Flores Settlement is an agreement put in place to protect children taken into custody at our southern border.

In 1997, concluding a class-action lawsuit first introduced in 1985, the federal government reached a settlement with child welfare and legal advocates addressing widespread child welfare violations within the immigration detention system. As a result of the case, a new set of child-welfare standards was agreed upon – including a key clause that dictates that the government cannot detain families for longer than a 20 day period – and these regulations continue to provide some measure of protection for children in detention today.

2. Why is it in the News?

Quick Takeaway: The Administration is seeking to overturn the protections outlined in Flores.

Following the announcement of the “Zero-Tolerance” policy and the subsequent executive order to “end family separation,” the Administration is looking to overturn the Flores Settlement, which maintains a number of essential legal protections for immigrant children and families in the custody of the U.S. government.

The settlement binds the government to adhere to a number of minimum standards in their treatment and processing of children – and, in the context of a more aggressive approach to immigration enforcement, the Administration is finding these standards inconvenient and unwieldy. The economic and bureaucratic demands could be minimized through the use of Alternatives to Detention – which presents a more humane path for families navigating the legal immigration system– but the Administration is, instead, keeping with its hardline stance on immigration and attacking the regulations laid out by Flores by issuing a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#).

3. If the Flores settlement is overturned, what would that mean for children and families?

Quick Takeaway: Overturning Flores would undercut the rights of children and families in detention. By seeking to overturn Flores, the government hopes to eliminate protections and regulations that govern the way they are required to treat children and families in detention. As a result, children and families would lose standard rights within the immigration system, with this particular proposal threatening to impact everything from the length of stay in a detention facility, the conditions of the facility, the options for release, a person’s right to a bond hearing, the legal protections for unaccompanied children and more.

4. Would overturning Flores enable indefinite detention of children and families?

Quick Takeaway: Yes, the Administration’s proposal seeks to abolish limitations on the length officials can detain children and families. One of the key protections afforded to children by the Flores settlement is the assertion that the U.S. government could not hold children with their families in secure facilities for more than 20 days. The administration’s new proposal pushes to overturn this limitation and would enable the government to detain families and children indefinitely while their immigration cases move through the system – a bureaucratic process that can take months and even years.

LIRS is opposed to any form of detention of children and families – and vehemently opposed to the indefinite detention, which poses a clear violation of human dignity and due process.

5. Would the Trump Administration’s proposal change where kids are detained?

Quick Takeaway: The proposal would enable ICE to detain kids in a wider range of facilities – with less accountability to the conditions of the detention centers.

The Flores settlement asserts that the government can only detain children and families in licensed facilities that meet certain baseline standards – proper food, clothing, medical and emergency care, educational and mental health services, and recreational activities.

The Administration’s new proposal would sidestep these regulations by enabling ICE to self-license and

inspect facilities – removing the crucial element of accountability, enabling ICE to detain children in a wider range of facilities, and lowering the stakes for detention facilities that are unable to meet standards for child welfare.

6. What is LIRS doing about it?

Quick Takeaway: LIRS has and will continue to advocate against changes to Flores.

When news of the Administration’s latest push to overturn Flores emerged, LIRS responded quickly and definitively with [an opposition statement](#). We are watching the proceedings around this issue carefully and will continue to advocate for the protection of the children we serve whenever we can be strategically effective.

7. What can I do to help?



You can help spread the word on this issue by sharing this blog post and following us on social media. LIRS regularly posts to Facebook, [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

To keep up-to-date with LIRS and follow issues relating to Flores and child welfare, [sign up for our email list here](#).



You can also support our advocacy efforts by [making a donation today!](#) Even small donations can go a long way to support grassroots advocacy.

2 thoughts on “7 Things to Know About the Flores Settlement Agreement”



Erica Serlin

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



Civics Games in Wisconsin

<https://www.wnnews.com/wisconsin-civics-games/>

Wisconsin Civics Games

In an effort to foster civic engagement in Wisconsin youth, the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation has launched the Wisconsin Civics Games, which will take place during the second semester of the 2018-19 school year and will be open to all Wisconsin high schools. The statewide bowl will be preceded by regional bowls.

Teacher resources & Sign up Information for Newspapers

Schedule

Registration Deadline – Monday, Nov. 5, 2018

Local Competitions – Week of Jan. 10, 2019 (Multiple teams competing against each other from a single school)

Regional Competitions – Feb. 2, 2019 (Schools advancing from the local competition. Regions for the Civics Games mirror those of the WIAA)

- Region One – UW-Barron County (Rice Lake)

- Region Two – UW-Stevens Point

- Region Three – UW-La Crosse

- Region Four – UW-Green Bay

- Region Five – UW-Platteville

- Region Six – UW-Madison

- Region Seven – UW-Milwaukee

State Finals at Wisconsin State Capitol, Madison – Feb. 23, 2019 (Two schools advancing from each regional competition.)

ELECTION SECURITY IN WISCONSIN

Are Wisconsin's elections secure? In a nutshell - yes - and the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), our state election agency, their partners in other federal and state agencies, and good government groups like the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin are working to ensure they stay secure.

EXISTING SECURITY MEASURES

Wisconsin has a number of good things in place to keep our elections secure

CUSTOM VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

That has security measures in place to prevent hacking and limit damage within the system

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

That acts as a failsafe for voters on case the voter registration system is hacked

PAPER RECORD

Every ballot in WI has a paper record, so election officials can go to the paper record to verify the results

VOTING EQUIPMENT AUDITS

State law requires election officials to conduct audits of the voting equipment used in November elections to ensure ballots are counted accurately

VOTING RIGHTS GROUPS

WI has groups, LWVWI, monitoring elections, informing voters, and tracking the latest elections security developments.

NEW SECURITY MEASURES

The WEC has been working to address immediate election security concerns including the application of \$7 million of federal grant funding

UPGRADED SECURITY SOFTWARE

Upgrades for security software and a multi-factor verification system for the state's voter registration system.

SECURITY TRAINING

The WEC is rolling out improved and updated security training for clerks

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Improved and detailed communications plan for clerks, election workers, and the public

SYSTEMS TESTING

The WEC is working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Wisconsin Division of Enterprise Technology to test Wisconsin's election systems, identify vulnerabilities and offer suggestions of how those vulnerabilities can be improved



...MY VOTE IS MY VOICE."

-BRANDI



#IVOTEBECAUSE
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO VOTE411.ORG

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can help ensure Wisconsin's elections remain secure

VOTE

Vote! And encourage your friends, family and neighbors to vote. The best way to protect your right to vote, is by voting

ATTEND PUBLIC TESTS

Attend public test of voting equipment before each election

SUPPORT ELECTION FUNDING

Ask your representatives to ensure election officials have the funding they need to securely administer our elections

ENCOURAGE AUDITS

Encourage your county clerks to perform post-election audits

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2018-19*

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

November 2018

November 3 Race: The Power of Illusion @ Hedberg Public Library

November 5 Board Meeting @ First Congregational Church

November 6 General Election

November 27 Housing Shortage in Janesville: The Links Between Housing and Economic Development, Room 416, City Municipal Building. @ 6:30 p.m.

December 2018

December 3 Board Meeting

January 2019

January 7 Board Meeting
Membership meeting

February 2019

February 4 Board Meeting

Susan B, Anthony Party

March 2019

March 4 Board Meeting

Spring Election - Candidates Forums

April 2019

April 1 Board Meeting

Spring Elections

May 2019

May 6 Board Meeting

Annual Meeting



Registration deadline **EXTENDED to November 3.** Join us in November at Issues Briefing 2018

Saturday, Nov 10, 9AM-4PM

We know many are busy right now in their Leagues and in their communities as the November Election is less than 2 weeks away. So we worked with Holy Wisdom Monastery to get the deadline for registration extended. After a busy election season, relax with us in the peaceful surroundings of Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton for a day of inspirational and informative briefings on these prominent issues:

Post-election Review of Election Security in Wisconsin by Meagan Wolfe, Administrator, Wisconsin Elections Commission.

City of Racine Water Diversion Challenge by Jodi Habush Sinykin, Attorney, Midwest Environmental Advocates.

Wisconsin Civic Games by Eve Galanter (Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation) and Melanie Ramey (LWVWI). Eve and Melanie will give an overview and update about the inaugural competition to increase high school civic education and knowledge throughout



Wisconsin.

Panel: United by Love - United Against Hate: Building an Inclusive Community moderated by Artists and Activists Kelly Parks Snider and Rachael Griffin. They will be joined by local activists involved in a variety of causes and organizations including* Masood Akhtar (United Against Hate).

Panel: The Role of Media in Our Democracy moderated by Joy Cardin, Former Host, Wisconsin Public Radio. She will be joined by a panel of journalists and reporters who cover Wisconsin politics including* Steve Walters (Wisconsin Eye) and Robert Chappell (Madison365).

(*Others invited.)

Issues Briefing is open to ALL - League members and nonmembers - so please share registration information with your friends and family.

Learn more and register online for Issues Briefing today!

Registration now ends on November 3rd. RSVP TODAY and spread the word. Invite friends <https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=4f298e04be&e=8538b030d5ds> to join you. All are welcome to attend.

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.