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October/November 2025

President's Information and Up-dates

Greetings Everyone!

As we reinvigorate our newsletter, I first wanted to commend our members for navigating the new membership and dues renewal process. We welcome two new members, and our membership currently stands at 60 dues-paying members and three contributing life members. Next, I want to acknowledge our 2025 Board of directors, officers, and leadership. We also want to welcome Ruth Robinson as a board-nominated director and for taking the mantle on Voter Services. Successful events were held at the Tallman Arts Festival, National Night Out, and at the Hedberg Library preceding the excellent Badger Talks: "Aldo Leopold, Phenology, and Climate Change" lecture. Let's all connect with Ruth about hosting Voter Services events.

Thanks to all who led, facilitated and attended our summer events including the book discussions, park outings, Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) draft legislation community hearings in Janesville and Beloit, League and Libations socials, observers at government meetings, and other efforts! A good number of us are participating in street demonstrations, writing letters to elected representatives, and submitting letters to the editor for newspapers.

Frankly, our country needs all hands-on deck as our democracy is under relentless assault. The League has been and continues to be a stalwart defender of democracy and voting rights. It will be up to all of us in the League to partner with members, friends and like-minded organizations to thwart the authoritarian takeover by the oligarchy and the ensuing Constitutional crisis. For those that have given some fleeting attention to LWV "Unite and Rise 8.5," I would urge everyone to consider the devastating damage done to our democracy in just the last month.

[Unite and Rise 8.5 Meet and Greet and Presentation On Tuesday, November 4, 2025.](#) Be sure to invite friends to our community event at Premiere Bank in Janesville, where we will have an orientation to Unite and Rise 8.5, and how you can help in the face of our Constitutional crisis. We will overview ways to get involved in League activities and explore emboldened partnerships with other organizations and groups. [Sign the pledge and sign-up for an every-other-week email on actions to take.](#) You are also welcome to join our monthly statewide U&R-8.5 [Captains Huddles](#) at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the next of which is October 29. For our November 4 event, please bring friends and members of partner organizations so we can join forces. Refreshments will be served with opportunities to network.

[No Kings-2 Demonstration on Saturday, October 18, 2025.](#) Please join millions around the country who will be demonstrating. Events will be held in large and small communities across the country, including [Janesville](#) at the Marv Roth Pavillion in the lower courthouse park!

[LWV-WI's 2025 Issues Briefing: "Understanding & Surviving Our Constitutional Crisis"](#) (Register on the hyperlink). Over three sessions (October 22nd, October 25th, and October 28th) these online issues briefings prove to be excellent year after year. They are free but registration is required.

Finally, please stay tuned to our [LWV events in Janesville](#), [LWV-Wisconsin](#), and [LWVUS](#). The League is replete with excellent and powerful information and events. We'll look forward to seeing you on October 18th and November 4th. Additionally, many of us are participating in weekly demonstrations between 4:15 or 4:30 to 5 p.m., on Wednesdays in front of the Old Towne Mall, and on Fridays on Milton Ave. at the Post Office. Thank you!

In solidarity,

Brad Munger, Acting President, LWV-Janesville

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*Please accept my
apologies for the delay
in printing this article.
Hopefully we will be
producing the Voter on
a more regular basis.*

LWV Observer summer report

Carolyn Brandeen
Observer Corp

Attending the monthly county Parks meeting holds my interest. If I've learned anything as an advocate for outdoor open space it is the value to be at the table when planning is on the agenda.

The 5-member governing committee of the Rock County Department of Public Works (DPW) meets twice a month

Voter Services

Submitted by Ruth Robinson
Voter Services Chair

Voter Services will be present at the Janesville Farmers' Market on October 18 from 8 AM to noon. We will be along River Street between Dodge & Court Streets.

We will also have a table from 6-7:30 PM prior to the Janesville Jets game at the Woodman's Center on Saturday, November 8.

Now is the time to remind everyone to see that their voter registration is current, and they know how to find information about upcoming elections.

— first taking up the work of the Parks and the second meeting the work of Highways. The airport now is governed by its own board. I served on the Parks Advisory Committee in the past and the role of an observer for the League is a good match.

Both Leagues of Women Voters in Rock County have an interest in timely planning for parks, outdoor recreation and open spaces. Conclusions reached in our joint study in 2001-2002 were modified in 2014 to reflect progress that occurred in alignment with our position. The heart of the position remains timely planning and adequate staffing.

I will be monitoring the proposed 2025 county budget for funding the creation of the next 5-year PARKS OUTDOOR RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN (POROSplan). Tools developed in the adopted 2000-2024 plan* were useful when the opportunity arose to add the shuttered BSA Camp Indian Hills. Welcome our newest Rock County Park: Rock River Heritage Park.

Also in the proposed budget will be the Parks staffing level. There has been a significant turnover in DPW and presently has an excess of vacant positions. Sharing of personnel hasn't impacted Parks as much as the Highways. The position in Parks that our Leagues support is the Community Coordinator. In my experience the person now filling it is excellent

*See OBSERVER CORP, Page 3

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Help us empower voters and defend democracy.

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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and the position has fulfilled and exceeded our expectations.

In addition there are Strategic Initiatives for the Countywide Strategic Plan that I will be interested in observing. The League would have broad interest in the “environmentally friendly investments throughout the county” such as a pollinator corridor pilot along highway 26. Another is the vegetative growth inhibitor initiative that promotes pollinators and targets invasive species. That program was piloted in 2023 with a goal

of applying to all county highways while continuing to explore expansion on state highways and town routes.

*2000-2024 POROS PLAN

<https://www.co.rock.wi.us/home/showpublisheddocument/286/637756798861070000>

MORE on Rock County Parks

<https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/public-works-parks>

Photos from the Farmer's Market Summer of 2024



These photos were taken as part of the Voter Services activities. Thank you Lisa for your leadership with this! I am sorry I don't have a photo credit. If you were the one who took this please let me know and I will give you the credit.



LWV

Q How can I...

- Q How can I increase voter registration
- Q How can I defend our democracy
- Q How can I get involved in my community
- Q How can I make my voice heard
- Q How can I advocate for change





WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



➤ **Empower millions of voters** to exercise their right to vote

➤ **Protect the right to vote** and ensure that every vote is counted



➤ **Advocate for positive change** at the local, state and national level

➤ **Foster civil dialogue** about important community issues

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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, work style, 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.

Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to: **LWV-US** <www.lwv.org>

LWV-WI <my.lwv.org/wisconsin>

JANESVILLE LEAGUE <www.lwvjvl.org>