

# The Voter

The official publication of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area

FALCON HEIGHTS, LAUDERDALE, LITTLE CANADA, MAPLEWOOD, ROSEVILLE

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League of Women Voters

ROSEVILLE AREA

Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville

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## We're on the Web!

[www.lwvrosevillearea.org](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org)

## And Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea](https://www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea)

## And Instagram!

[@lwvrosevillearea](https://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea)

[www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com)

## League Hosts Housing Panel Oct. 21



Halbach

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters will host a panel of housing experts on Saturday October 21. The League of Women Voters supports fair housing and equality of opportunity for housing for all persons. Speakers will discuss housing issues, including city comprehensive plan housing updates and the role of the Metropolitan Council. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Roseville Area League and Centennial Methodist Church.

### Panelists are:

- Chip Halbach, long-time Executive Director of the Minnesota Housing Partnership
- Gail Dorfman, Metropolitan Council Representative and Executive Director of St. Stephen's Human Services
- Cathy Bennett, Housing Initiative, Urban Land Institute Minnesota.



Dorfman



Bennett

The event will take place at 10 a.m. (refreshments) and 10:30 (panel) at Centennial Methodist Church, 1524 W. Co Rd C-2 (corner of C-2 and Snelling) Roseville. The event is free and open to the public.

## LWV Rallying Constructive Voices

Feeling frustrated with the government in Washington or locally?

Seeking avenues to work for change?

*Make Your Voice Heard: Getting to Know the League of Women Voters*, an evening to learn how to mobilize, will be offered by the Roseville Area League on Tuesday, **7 p.m. Oct. 17**, at the Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Drive in Maplewood.

Join us to find out how you can make a difference.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**President**

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Gladys Jones

**Voter Services**

Karen Lake

**At Large**

Judy Berglund

Stephanie

DeBenedet

Rachel Geiser

Beth Salzl

Gwen Willems

## Membership & Going Beyond the Usual Suspects...

The heart-wrenching, sometimes raw stories shared at the Sept. 17 kick-off housing event reminded me and the many others attending, of the need for an organization like League of Women Voters....to "hold the feet of elected officials to the proverbial fire" in the area of affordable housing. These important community discussions will continue with the Oct. 21 event. Please check out details here and on the website:

[www.lwvrosevillearea.org/](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org/)

If you missed this panel discussion (or others), recordings are located on the website. Click on the YouTube channel located on right side for a recording.

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg)

Of course, that is just one of the areas with which League is working. Events over the summer: Brews & Book Reviews, showing the documentary, 13th, Observer Corps Training have all provided deep discussion and learning as well as avenues for action. Our League is most happy to welcome the 25 new members to join in the discussions, and participate in the action! And if we are not meeting your expectations, let us know!

Tuesday, Oct. 17, an event, Making Your Voice Heard: Getting to Know LWV is designed to orient new members on the history, background, and workings of League.

While we want to assist new members, we also want to spread the word in encouraging additional members:

Veteran members....this is an event we need your assistance in inviting a neighbor, friend, relative....perhaps thinking Beyond the Usual Suspects....someone who has the interest in respectful civic discourse, an interest in educating, advocating, and reforming, an interest in Making Democracy Work for All. League numbers throughout the state and country continue to grow. Please join in and extend some invitations!

And, if these dates do not work, please suggest that friends, neighbors, family members check out the websites, local, state, and national. Scrolling through the homepage of our local website provides an excellent overview of past and coming year activity and links to LWV state and national sites:

[www.lwvrosevillearea.org/](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org/)



**Rita Mills**

## Three Squares

By Florence Sprague

A place to call home and three square meals a day. That's not much to ask for.

According to the CDC, 70 per cent of adults in the U.S. are overweight (including obesity) and between 9 and 20 per cent of children and teens are overweight, depending on age.

([www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/obesity-overweight.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/obesity-overweight.htm) ) And yet, too many people in this country can't count on having enough to eat. Food insecurity is a major social and public health issue.

Food insecurity is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

(<https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/understand-food-insecurity/hunger-health-101/> referencing

[https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-](https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx)

[assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx](https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx) ) That is, after making adjustments to limit choice, quality and desirability of items, there just isn't enough to go around, isn't enough to be certain that there will be dinner on the table.

The number of students in our schools who are eligible for free or reduced price meals has been steadily increasing. In ISD 623 it reached 48 per cent last year

([www.isd623.org/sites/isd623.org/files/623Demographic%20Report%202016-17.pdf](http://www.isd623.org/sites/isd623.org/files/623Demographic%20Report%202016-17.pdf)), in ISD 622 it was almost 55 per cent (<https://www.isd622.org/Page/180>), and in ISD 621 it was only 30 per cent (2012 data,

[www.mprnews.org/story/2012/05/07/map-of-free-and-reduced-lunch-rates](http://www.mprnews.org/story/2012/05/07/map-of-free-and-reduced-lunch-rates) ). School districts run food shelves and weekend or holiday food backpack programs as well as serving both breakfast and lunch. These are generous services aimed to help students be healthy and ready to learn, but they shouldn't be necessary.

In some neighborhoods, problems of food insecurity are exacerbated by the realities of limited or less convenient access to food and the consequent higher cost and often lower availability of nutritive variety and a situation known as a food desert. Grocery stores are fewer and farther between in lower income neighborhoods. This is not generally the case in the first ring, middle class suburbs. Food insecurity can affect children whose families' earnings do not stretch to cover all needs, seniors living on a limited income that does not grow with expenses, or young adults struggling to both support themselves and pay off student loans—anyone whose income does not adequately cover all expenses.

Some discussions of food insecurity look globally to production methods, crop choices, droughts and floods, desertification, pollution, inept distribution of foodstuffs, monopolistic markets, the role of graft and corruption. All of these affect food insecurity worldwide, but looking locally, those factors are not key, so why are people in this wealthy nation still hungry? Why are children distracted from learning by wondering whether they will get dinner? Families with children have a higher rate of food insecurity (16.5per cent v. 10.5per cent) than those without children, and not surprisingly, families with only one parent present are often in tougher places than those with two. Of households with children headed by a single woman, 30.5 per cent and by a single man, 21.6 per cent are food insecure

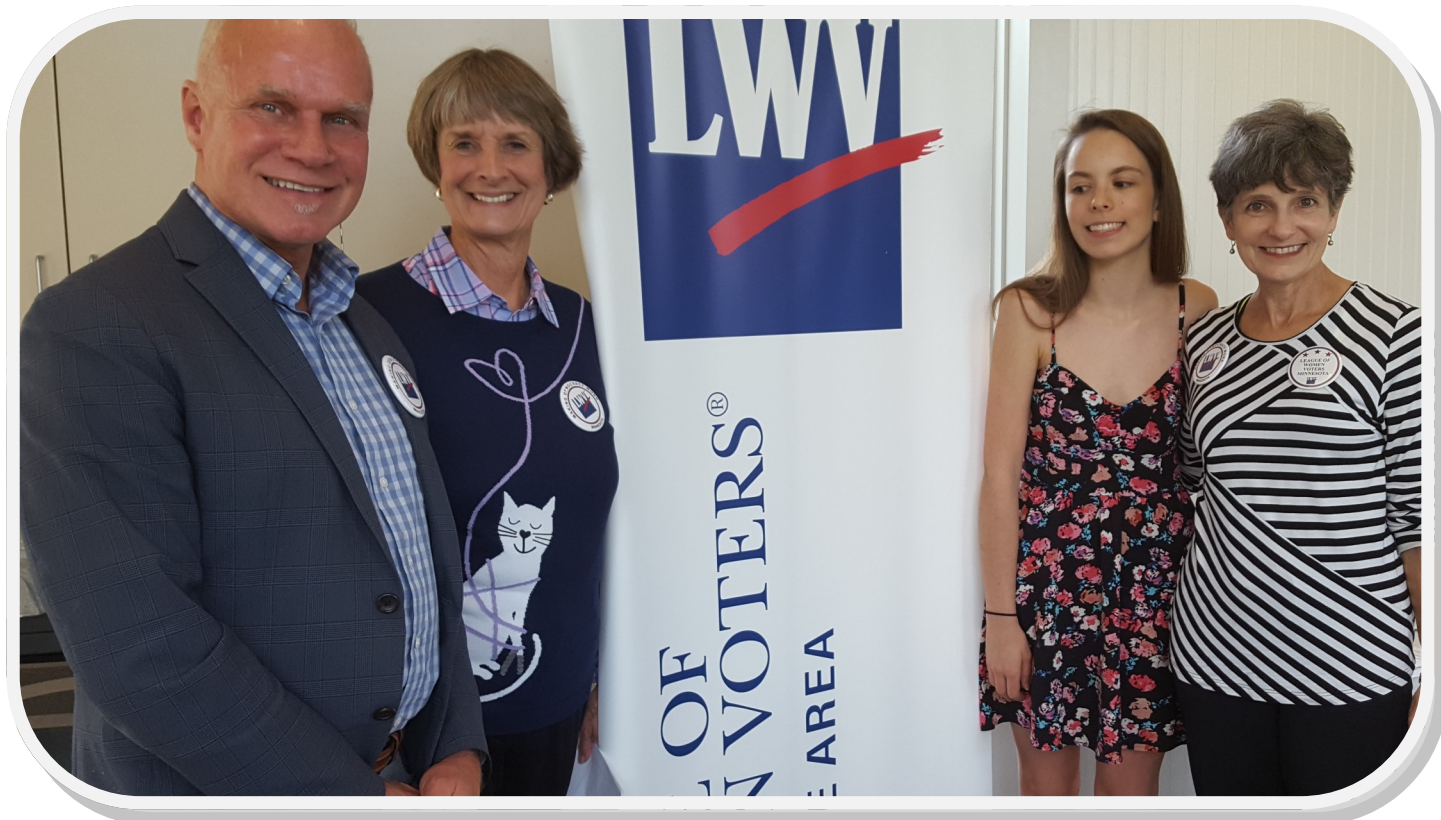
([www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx)) I find little comfort in the fact that Minnesota is below the national average in the prevalence of food insecurity. It is also admirable that the USDA can determine that in some families only the adults are food insecure. That is, the adults skip meals so that their children can eat. That is admirable, but shouldn't be needed, shouldn't be acceptable to us.

Food for thought.



*Editor's note:* Florence Sprague is a member of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area.





The Action Committee conducted a training on how to be a League observer of school board and city council meetings last month. Twenty-two people attended, including representatives from the state League and a newly formed League chapter.

Presenters were Wayne Groff, Mindy Greiling, Elizabeth Hansel and Gladys Jones. Greiling and Jones are co-chairs of the committee.

## Observe a City Council or School Board Meeting!

Many League members who came to the training session last month expressed interest in being a League observer of local government. Whether you were able to attend or not, please consider observing a meeting and reporting back using the form on the webpage: <http://lwvrosevillearea.org/tags/advocacy>. Also on the webpage are the issues we are especially interested in tracking this year.

**Falcon Heights City Council, 7 p.m., Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22, Dec. 20**

**Lauderdale City Council, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 10, 24, Nov. 7, 21, Dec. 12**

**Little Canada City Council, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22, Dec. 20**

**Maplewood City Council, 7 p.m. Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 13, 27, Dec. 11**

**Roseville City Council, 6 p.m. Oct. 9, 16, 23, Nov. 6, 13, 27, Dec. 4, 11**

**Mounds View 621 School Board, 7 p.m. Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12**

**North St. Paul/Maplewood/Oakdale 622 School Board, Oct. 24, Nov. 21, Dec. 12**

**Roseville Area 623 School Board, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 10, 24, Nov. 14, 28, Dec. 19**



**Above; Panelists Bonnie Koch, Laura Scavellio, Elaine Carnahan and Rep. Peter Fischer.  
At right: Mindy Greiling.**



## **League fall kick-off meeting highlights affordable housing needs**

**By Mindy Greiling**

State Representative Peter Fischer, a director at Avenues for Homeless Youth in Minneapolis and Elaine Carnahan, senior career counselor at Women Achieving New Directions (WAND) at Fairview Community Center in Roseville spoke to over 50 League members and guests about the need for affordable housing Sept. 19. Fischer works with young people and Carnahan focuses on families.

The youth Fischer typically works with have spent over three years on the street and have criminal records for things like trespassing, when they merely sought shelter in cold weather. Twenty to forty percent are GLBT youth who have been thrown out of their homes. One third of homeless youth have children. Only about one third of the 4,000 to 6,000 youth who are homeless on a given night get services.

The families Carnahan works with locally are often single mothers with children, who may be living in their cars, but are working full-time, low-wage jobs. She partners with churches in our area to help her clients find housing, including convincing landlords to give them a chance.

Some solutions the speakers suggested:

- More sliding fee or subsidized housing
- Ongoing case management
- Community support and not judgment that imposes middle-class norms and values
- Livable wages (The National Low-Income Housing Coalition says people require more than two and a half times the federal minimum wage in order to afford market rate housing.)

# Comprehensive renovations proposed for Roseville Area Schools

*Bond referendum is first since 1992 to address needed repairs, upgrades and additions at all schools.*

Roseville Area School District, ISD 623, continues to provide exceptional educational opportunities for one of the most diverse student populations in Minnesota. However, it has been over 25 years since voters last approved significant investment in school buildings. Today, district officials report that aging facilities and equipment are in need of significant maintenance, repair and upgrades.

In addition, Roseville Area enrollment has risen 18 percent in the last 10 years, primarily from within district boundaries, creating a shortage of classrooms. An additional 15 percent growth is projected from district resident families over the next decade.

District officials also note the benefits of schools for the entire community. Exceptional schools attract families to live and stay, boosting property values. Also, school facilities serve as activity centers for area clubs, organizations, churches and local government.

District 623 will host two informational sessions in October for residents to learn about current conditions and understand long-term facilities plans and recommendations. **Site tours will begin at 6:00 p.m.** on each date, followed at 6:30 by a presentation and opportunities for Q&A.

**Oct. 12** Roseville Area High School Auditorium

**Oct. 30** Roseville Area Middle School Auditorium

District residents are asked to “Vote YES,” November 7, on the Building Bond 2017 referendum, to ensure the district continues to meet the needs of Roseville Area students and the community. Additional information may be found on the district website [www.isd623.org](http://www.isd623.org).

*Editor’s note: Mounds View District 621 has a similar question on the ballot.*

## A New Direction for League in December

### *Service project will replace holiday party*

LWV Roseville Area will go in a new direction this December, replacing our traditional holiday dinner with a service opportunity by participating in a food packing event at Second Harvest Heartland.

In 2016, Second Harvest Heartland delivered more than 80 million meals to nearly 1,000 food shelves, pantries, homeless shelters and other partner programs serving 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

*On Saturday, Dec. 9, there will be two opportunities for League members:*

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 9 a.m.     | Two-hour food packing experience at Second Harvest Heartland, 1140 Gervais, Maplewood. (Take Highway 36 to English, north on English to Gervais, west on Gervais). <b>Space is limited to 20 League members – sign up by Oct. 23.</b> |
| 11:30 a.m. | Order lunch and enjoy camaraderie with League friends in our own room at Gulden’s Restaurant 2999 Maplewood Drive, Maplewood. Lunch will be ordered off the regular menu. Open to all League members.                                 |



**Contact Gladys Jones by October 23, [gjones70@gmail.com](mailto:gjones70@gmail.com), 651-341-5179 to either participate in the food packing opportunity and/or attend the lunch. There will also be sign-up sheets at the membership meeting on Oct. 17 and the CMAL meeting on Oct. 21.**

# 2017 – 2018 LWV Roseville Area Program Calendar

This year's calendar was developed by the Program Team, chaired by Bonnie Koch. Contributing planners: Barb Anderson, Joyce Blomquist, Rachel Geiser, Mindy Greiling, Anne Haugan, Sherry Hood, Gladys Jones, Ann Cleland, Karen Lake, Barb Leary, Rita Mills, Beth Reinhart and Karen Schaffer.

Check the calendar carefully because not all evening meetings are on Tuesday. Evening meetings will be recorded and played at the following Wednesday 9:30 a.m. meetings in November, February, March and April at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 910 County Road D, Roseville.

**October 17 – Making Your Voice Heard** – sponsored by Membership. Find out how the LWV Roseville Area can give power to your voice; 6:30 p.m., Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Drive, Maplewood.

**Saturday, October 21 —Affordable Housing in the Metropolitan Area;** co-sponsored by Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters and LWV Roseville Area. 10 a.m. - refreshments; 10:30 a.m. program. Speakers: Chip Halbach, long-time Executive Director, Minnesota Housing Partnership; Gail Dorfman, Metropolitan Council and Executive Director. St. Stephen's Human Services; Cathy Bennett, Housing Initiative at Urban Land Institute. Centennial United Methodist Church, Snelling Ave. and County Rd. C2, Roseville.

**Monday, November 13– Immigrants and Minnesota's Workforce** – Matt Schmidt, U. of M. Director of the Regional Competitiveness Institute/Senior Research Fellow; co-sponsored by the Roseville Library; 7 p.m., Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave.

**Saturday, December 9** - Replacing our traditional holiday dinner with a “giving” experience, participating in a two-hour food packing session at 9 a.m., **Second Harvest Heartland**, 1140 Gervais Ave. Maplewood. Participation limited to 20 League members with option for other members to join volunteers at lunch at Guldens Restaurant.

**January 23– VIP/Conversations with Constituents;** 7 p.m., Maplewood City Council Chambers, 1830 County Rd. B, Maplewood.

**February 20- City staff representatives updating status of housing comprehensive plans;** 6:30 p.m., Autumn Grove Park, Lydia and Hamline, Roseville.

**March 20 – Redistricting, Democracy & Census.** Speaker: Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, CEO Common Cause Minnesota; 6:30 p.m., Autumn Grove Park, Lydia and Hamline, Roseville.

**April 17 - Minnesota's Next Steps to Grow Renewable Energy.** Janet Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy; 6:30 p.m., Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 Victoria, Roseville

**May 1 – Annual Meeting;** Little Canada City Hall, 515 Little Canada Rd. E., Little Canada.

**June - Field Trip:** Tour of Bridging to coordinate with Housing Study.



Judy Berglund, editor  
2075 Farrington St.  
Roseville, MN 55113

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## Calendar

### October

**17 Making Your Voice Heard** – sponsored by Membership. Find out how the LWV Roseville Area can give power to your voice; 6:30 p.m., Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Drive, Maplewood.

**21 Affordable Housing in the Metropolitan Area;** 10 a.m. - refreshments; 10:30 a.m. program. Speakers: Chip Halbach, long-time Executive Director, Minnesota Housing Partnership; Gail Dorfman, Metropolitan Council and Executive Director, St. Stephen's Human Services; Cathy Bennett, Housing Initiative at Urban Land Institute Minnesota. Centennial United Methodist Church, Snelling Ave. and County Rd. C2, Roseville.

### November

**Monday, November 13 Immigrants and Minnesota's Workforce** – Matt Schmidt, U. of M. Director of the Regional Competitiveness Institute/Senior Research Fellow; co-sponsored by the Roseville Library; 7 p.m., Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave.

