

# 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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Find us on our website  
and other social media  
sites!

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

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8IMPfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg)

## A Place for Everyone

Did you know:

- 800+ students experienced homelessness last year in suburban Ramsey County?
- Minimum wage earners have to work 87 hours a week to afford rent for a two-bedroom apartment?
- 100 units of affordable housing are lost every day in Minnesota?

LWV has a long history of being a strong advocate for affordable housing. On Tuesday, November 19, we will partner with other supportive groups to host three housing experts who will discuss what is being done and what else can be done to provide fair housing for all of our community members: Alice Hausman, 66A State Representative and Chair of the House Housing Committee; Cathy ten Broeke, State Director of Prevent and End Homelessness; Maria Wetherall, Executive Director of Ramsey County Veterans Services and Chair of Heading Home Ramsey.

The discussion will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 County Rd. C2, Roseville (Corner of C2 and Snelling). The event is co-sponsored by LWV of Roseville Area, LWV of St. Paul, Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL), Centennial United Methodist Church, Hamline United Methodist Church, Catalyzing Community Action Network (CAN), and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ramsey County (NAMI Ramsey). See the League event calendar on [page 9](#) for rideshare opportunities or how to watch a recording of the event.

Since the Lillie Newspapers are no longer in operation, your help is needed to get the word out to the community. Please download the flyer attached to the emailed newsletter and distribute copies to individuals and groups that you think would be interested.



## Dinner Theater: *From Seneca Falls to South St. Paul*

This year's holiday party on December 12 will be a spectacular and fun event that is not to be missed! Since we are celebrating 100 years of the League of Women Voters, the Centennial Committee planned a special evening for you with great music, delicious food, and riveting theater. We encourage women, who are able, to dress as suffragettes, and everyone will receive a commemorative lapel pin.

The Ta-Ta Quartet, who bill themselves as "wildly talented hot babes with string instruments," will entertain us during a cash-bar cocktail hour that begins at 5 p.m. in a downstairs private, accessible banquet room at Gulden's Restaurant, 2999 Maplewood Dr., Maplewood (at Hwy 61 and Co. Rd. D). Enter through the south banquet entrance. Gulden's is preparing a fabulous buffet just for us that consists of baked herb chicken, slow-roasted beef brisket, barbecued pulled pork, and an array of lovely sides. Please let June Stewart know if you need a special diet. Optional desserts can be purchased. After dinner, settle back for an hour of sheer enjoyment as women's historian and playwright Madeline Hansen regales us with a one-woman show geared to our Centennial titled, "From Seneca Falls to South St. Paul."

The price of this great evening is \$40. **To attend, please send payment by November 30.** Send a check made out to LWVRA to June Stewart at 2807 Fernwood St., Roseville 55113 **or** pay by credit card or PayPal here:  
<https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/601/donate.asp?formid=RosevilleCalend&c=201115>

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

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Karen Lake

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Jim DeBenedet

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Rachel Geiser

Karen Schaffer

I assume people join the League because they want to influence the direction of our country, to be involved, and to be a good citizen. As you all know, LWV's mission is to have democracy work for all of us. With that in mind, I had the pleasure of attending a showing of the documentary "Raising Hell: The Life and Times of Molly Ivins" that is currently showing at the St. Anthony Main Theater in Minneapolis. Her opinions as a journalist were prescient and relevant at the time and are extraordinarily so today. You may not agree with all she wrote, but you have to admit she was funny, interesting, and very insightful. She drills down to your toes with her opinions about human nature, politics, and government.

Here is a small sample of her remarks from her nationally syndicated column distributed to over 400 newspapers. (Trivia note: She once worked at the Minneapolis Tribune.)

- "I prefer someone who burns the flag and wraps themselves up in the Constitution over someone who burns the Constitution and wraps themselves up in the flag."
- "In truth, there is no rational argument for guns in this society. This is no longer a frontier nation in which people hunt their own food. It is a crowded, overwhelmingly urban country in which letting people have access to guns is a continuing disaster."
- "The thing about democracy, beloveds, is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet. It requires a certain relish for confusion."
- "I believe that ignorance is the root of all evil. And that no one knows the truth."
- "It is possible to read the history of this country as one long struggle to extend the liberties extended in our Constitution to everyone in America."
- "I only aim at the powerful. When satire is aimed at the powerless, it is not only cruel—it's vulgar."

Before it goes away, which could be soon, I recommend that "ya'all" see this documentary. It feeds our purpose.



**Sherry Hood**



## Recap: Women in Politics

*By: Sherry Hood*

On October 3, the LWV of Roseville Area co-sponsored with Do Good Roseville a program with a panel of four women at the Roseville Public Library titled, "Women In Politics, Getting Involved." The panel talked about what inspired them to run for office, how it impacted their personal lives, and some of the highs and lows of political life. The panel, pictured above from left to right, included Nikki Villavicencio, a candidate last year for Maplewood City Council; Ruth Richardson, State Representative for District 52B (includes Sunfish Lake, parts of Mendota Heights, and Eagan); Jamie Becker-Finn, State Representative for District 42B (includes Vadnais Heights, Little Canada, parts of Roseville, and Shoreview) and a LWV of Roseville Area member; Trista MatasCastillo, Ramsey County Commissioner; and Marquita Stephens, moderator and LWV of Roseville Area member.

Watch a recording of the event here: [ctvnorthsuburbs.org/videos/women-in-politics/](https://ctvnorthsuburbs.org/videos/women-in-politics/)

### Then What?

*By Florence Sprague*

What do you call a person who has completed a prison sentence? A felon? An ex-felon? An ex-convict? A neighbor? How about a returning citizen? At least 95% of those incarcerated in state prisons will return to the community at some point ([csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/facts-and-trends/](http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/facts-and-trends/)). We will all benefit from finding a healthy way to reintegrate these individuals into the community and rebuild lives.

An orderly society requires that there be consequences for unlawful actions. There are many issues of (un)fairness in the US criminal justice system. I am considering what happens when persons convicted of a crime complete their time in prison and return to the community.

I once took a group of teachers to a Volunteers of America (VOA)-run halfway house in Minneapolis. Our staff guide led us through a game to explore the challenges of re-entry. You have no money, you can't easily rent an apartment or get a job, and your friends from before prison are likely to be among those who contributed to your unlawful behavior. It is very hard to make it on the outside. It is very hard to avoid reconnecting to destructive connections. While those friends will take you back, others are less likely to do so.

Minnesota's "ban the box" law went into effect in 2014 ([mn.gov/mdhr/assets/Ban\\_the\\_Box\\_FAQ\\_tcm1061-213193.pdf](http://mn.gov/mdhr/assets/Ban_the_Box_FAQ_tcm1061-213193.pdf)). This law says that employers can't simply use a check box about convictions on an initial job application to bar all those with a criminal record from their workplace without even meeting with them. This is a first step to help some reintegrate.

The world premiere of Lynn Nottage's play, *Floyd's*, was at the Guthrie Theater recently. This play is set at a sandwich shop in which all of the employees were formerly incarcerated. This gives management power over them, because their employment opportunities are limited and they need to support themselves and their families. That power is easily abused against marginalized people. The audience gets to know the stories of the workers and see the challenges and conflicts that may have led to their incarceration and which contribute to their ongoing vulnerability as they attempt to rebuild their lives.

There is a sandwich shop in Minneapolis with a more positive effort to employ citizens returning to the community, All Square (4047 Minnehaha Ave. S., Wednesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.). All Square is a criminal justice social enterprise that "invests in the minds and lives of justice-impacted individuals" ([allsquarempls.com/](http://allsquarempls.com/)). The restaurant is one part of their program to help those with a criminal record develop their potential and be positive members of the community.

For another view of the challenges of making it upon release from prison, check out this (16 minute) video, "Ex-offenders Matter" ([theatlantic.com/video/index/591364/sister-hearts/](http://theatlantic.com/video/index/591364/sister-hearts/)). It focuses on the work of ex-offender Maryam Henderson-Uloho, who after 13 years in prison felt "broken—mentally, emotionally and physically." She struggled, but ultimately created a safe space for others coming out of prison to help them regain independence.

Talking about help for those who have committed crimes can be very tough. Victims of crimes and their families often don't get the help they need. However, when a person has been convicted, the punishment carried out, and the person returns...then what?

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### New Member Spotlight: Nancy Simpson

*By Beth Reinhart*

Nancy Simpson is a new member to League this year. She found her way to us via her volunteer work with International Institute of Minnesota. Curiosity about "who helps the new citizens register to vote" led her to Judy Stuthman and the LWV work with the citizenship ceremonies, where Nancy already has participated several times.

Nancy grew up in the Chicago area, but she and her husband chose Minnesota to raise their three children (and, now, three-year old twin grandchildren). Since retirement, they split their time between the Twin Cities and Schroeder, Minnesota. Her life on the North Shore is full of snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and keeping the Superior Hiking trailheads pristine. She volunteers at Sugarloaf Cove to help preserve the unique ecological system of an area which she treasures. We only wish the Twin Cities had more of Nancy's time. She is truly a gift to Minnesota!





# Making Census: Seniors and What to Expect for US Census 2020

By Barb Barany

The August Voter highlighted the low count populations we hope to reach in order to achieve a complete count for the 2020 US Census. In the past, senior citizens could be counted on to be counted. The 2020 Census may be different due to a change in how the Census asks for responses and to heightened sensitivity over increasing attempts to steal personal data. Knowing what to expect ahead of time will help in both regards. Being counted is important to each of us, individually and as a community.

During March 2020, the Census will send a postcard to all households, inviting each household to respond to the Census online. Households that do not respond will receive reminders in the mail, eventually including a paper (mail-in) form as a response option. The paper form most likely will not arrive until the second or third week of April. The mailing of the original postcard is staggered, so you may not receive your postcard on the same day as someone else. Responding either online or by mail reduces the chances that someone will come to your door later. Those in nursing homes and other facilities where residents do not have individual mailing addresses will be counted administratively. These residents will not receive postcard invitations, reminders, or paper forms.

What about fraud? The Census will not ask for a Social Security number, credit card, banking or insurance information, or payment of any kind. They will not ask for information such as your mother's maiden name. Don't be taken in by threats. You cannot go to jail for not responding to the Census. (You can be fined, but in practice this has not happened for a very long time.) Contacts by Census personnel are mainly by mail, rarely at your door (unless you have not responded), rarely (as a clarification/confirmation) by telephone, and not by unsolicited email. See the AARP website, [aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2019/census.html](http://aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2019/census.html), for further information.

Verify sources that are requesting your information.

- Mailings from the Census have a return address in Jeffersonville, Indiana.
- The URL (website address) of a Census website includes "census.gov" and is encrypted (the URL starts with "https://") or look for a lock symbol)

All responses are private. Individual data cannot be released for 72 years. The Census will ask for the number of people in the household; others staying in the household on April 1, 2020; whether the residence is owned (with or without a mortgage), rented, or occupied without paying rent; and for a telephone number. For each person living in the household it will ask for a name; sex (choices are male and female); age and birthdate; whether or not the person is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin and country; race; and origins.

League members can help by letting their friends, neighbors, and relatives know what to expect. We will provide information at tables in senior centers and other locations during February, March, and April.

## Voter Education Opportunity

By: Rita Mills

Recently Karen Lake was notified that the City of Minneapolis was replacing a number of the ubiquitous blue voting booths. Hmm....the wheels began spinning! What if our League could provide a school or educational center a more hands-on voting practice or opportunity? Karen and Rita Mills made the trip to the brand new Minneapolis voting center at East Hennepin Ave. and hauled three booths with slight imperfections (packed conveniently in plastic cases) back to the League storage in the Falcon Heights City Hall basement.

While we as League members can take the voting process for granted, it can feel intimidating to others. Anything we can do to educate our newest voters may be helpful. And, if you know any school or teacher who might want one of the blue booths, please contact Karen or Rita before November 20. We would be happy to retrieve more, but time is running out.



Rita Mills and Karen Lake with one of the voting booths

**Did you know?** Census data is used to plan future government services.

# New Presidential Nomination Primary Information

*Adapted from a Minnesota Secretary of State Flyer*

What you need to know about the **new** Presidential Nomination Primary:

## **Details**

- Date: March 3, 2020 (early voting by mail and in person begins January 17, 2020)
- Polling Place Hours: 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at most locations. Check for exceptions at [MNVotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).
- Location: Find your polling place and learn how to vote early in person or by mail at [MNVotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).
- Why: To vote for a major party candidate for President of the United States

## **The Ballot**

- Only major political parties will participate; each party has its own ballot with only their candidates.
- You will be required to request only one party's ballot when you vote or request an absentee ballot.
- Your ballot will only list nominees for President for the party you request.
- A record of which party's ballot you select will be made available to the major political parties.
- Each major party chair will submit a list of candidates for their party at least 63 days before the election, and will decide if there will be a write-in space on their party's ballot.

## **Election Results**

The presidential nomination primary results will bind the election of delegates in each party.

## **What Happened to Precinct Caucuses?**

- Precinct caucuses and local and state nominating conventions will still take place for party business other than nominating delegates for President.
- Precinct caucuses are meetings run by state political parties. They are the first in a series of meetings where parties may endorse candidates, select delegates, and set goals and values (party platforms).
- 2020 precinct caucuses will be held on Tuesday, February 25, at 7 p.m. Voting locations, set by the parties, will be posted at [MNVotes.org](https://mnvotes.org) shortly before the caucus date.

## **Why the Change?**

In 2016, legislation was passed establishing a presidential nomination primary (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 207A and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8215). The State Primary Election will be held August 11, 2020, for offices other than President, including state and other federal offices.

## **QUESTIONS?**

- Go to [MNVotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).
- Contact your county election office (list available at [MNVotes.org](https://mnvotes.org)).
- Contact the Minnesota Secretary of State: 651-215-1440 or [elections.dept@state.mn.us](mailto:elections.dept@state.mn.us)

**Did you know?** Census data is used to plan for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.

# Volunteer Corner

## *Action/Advocacy Team*

The Action/Advocacy Team began a new Observer process to inform our members about upcoming local government meetings, such as city councils, city commissions, school boards, and county boards, by adding a page to our LWV of Roseville Area website. This page is accessible from the Action/Advocacy tab or directly at [lwvrosevillearea.org/content/local-government-meetings-scheduled](http://lwvrosevillearea.org/content/local-government-meetings-scheduled). It consists of the upcoming week's meetings (dates and times), comments from our Observer Corps volunteers who are monitoring some of the agendas, and links directly to the agenda pages for further information about the meetings.

With this one-stop shop of area governing entities' agendas, we hope to encourage many League members to attend meetings with topics of interest to them and to the League. If you do attend a meeting, you are encouraged to wear a League button to identify yourself as a League member, and to take notes to share with the Action/Advocacy team. Those notes can be communicated via email to [prismorton@comcast.net](mailto:prismorton@comcast.net).

We also hope that some League members may wish to speak at a meeting during public comment times about issues that they feel strongly about. If you wish to speak at a meeting, please do so either as an individual by removing your League button or as a League representative having read our guidelines on the website. In most cases, we would prefer that a public comment representing the League be checked with one of the Action/Advocacy leads or a League board member first. Please see the website for further information.

All information gathered from meeting attendance will be reported and saved by the League and will be acted upon immediately if urgent or shared with the board for follow-up. We understand that many of the notes League members may take may not demand action or follow-up, but the notes are valuable to the League to understand the interests and priorities of the various entities to be proactive in working for League positions and priorities. Our presence at meetings also gives an added incentive to the councils, commissions, and boards to act in accordance with community values as expressed by League priorities.

We highly value the contributions of the Observer Corps volunteers and of all League members who attend meetings of our local policymakers. This is important and effective work that helps to make our communities stronger and more responsive to the needs of the citizens.

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## *Email/Website Backup*

If you are comfortable with social media and have a talent for writing, we have an opportunity for you. We are looking for someone to serve as backup in sending out weekly emails and creating articles for the LWV of Roseville Area website. Training will be plentiful. If you are interested, contact Barb Anderson at [blanderson7@msn.com](mailto:blanderson7@msn.com)

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## Voter Registration Event

The Voter Services Team is still out, dutifully providing voter registration events in critical places.

The picture to the left is of Florence Sprague working a voter registration table at Tartan High School on October 10.

### **Did you know?**

Census data is used to distribute over \$675 billion annually in federal funds and even more in state funds.



# October Event Recap: Why We Can't Afford Not to Have Health Care for All

*By Barb Anderson*

Everyone knows that our health care system is broken. As Rose Roach, Executive Director of the Minnesota Nurses Association laid it out, the current system is too expensive. The solution has been to make health care more difficult to get by creating networks, requiring prior authorization, restricting coverage, and charging deductibles and co-pays. This solution treats health care like a commodity that consumers can make choices about prior to consuming it. But people don't choose to get sick or injured, and the so-called solution punishes those who need health care the most.

The truth is that people in the US use less health care than most other developed nations. And we pay more than any other nation for the health care we do receive. Sadly, most people who file for bankruptcy due to medical bills had insurance coverage, but deductibles, co-pays, and limits make the costs catastrophic.

What is the reason for those high costs? The health care industry would say that it's due to lifestyle choices, the aging population, excessive use of health care services, irresponsible people, and medical innovations (technologies and medicine). Mostly, the patients get the blame.

What is the truth? Doctors spend twice as much time on administrative work as with patients. Most of that administrative work is related to billing and coding. What really drives costs is administrative waste, drug company profits, and high CEO salaries. Drug company CEO salaries range from a low of \$20 million to over \$118 million.

Roach then presented an alternative: The Minnesota Health Plan as promoted by Minnesota State Senator John Marty. This plan focuses on well being and public health, not profits or politics, leaving medical decisions in the hands of the doctor and patient. It reduces costs by eliminating the administrative waste of billing and coding. It proposes full coverage of all medical services, including preventive, dental, and eye care. It provides for a payment system that piggybacks on Medicare, and that directs funds directly to providers, eliminating insurance companies and the administrative costs they require. It creates a larger pool so that not just the sickest and oldest are segregated into one high cost pool. She stressed that the plan is a payment system, not nationalized health care.

Workers would benefit because they would no longer be required to bargain for health care benefits, which reduces the funds available to put toward wage increases. Businesses would benefit because they would no longer be paying ever-increasing contributions to health care policies. Instead, employers would contribute a small percentage of wages into the system, and employees and other users would pay a premium based on their ability to pay. There would be no deductibles or co-pays. The funding system would also consist of some government contribution.

Roach closed by emphasizing that nurses support the Minnesota Health Plan because they care about patients and want all of them to have access to increased health care.

To learn more about the Minnesota Health Plan, go to [mnhealthplan.org/](http://mnhealthplan.org/). LWV of Roseville Area also has several videos of presentations on this topic on its YouTube channel. See [youtube.com/watch?v=XvtpRuuvvgg&t=17s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvtpRuuvvgg&t=17s) for a presentation by Rose Roach to the Minnesota Health Plan Roseville Area Advocates last year. The Minnesota Health Plan Roseville Area Advocates also co-sponsored this event.



**Rose Roach presenting in front of attendees at the Little Venetian**



# October Event Recap: Gloria — A Life

By Rachel Geiser

On October 10, LWV of Roseville Area members met at the History Theater to attend a play, *Gloria—A Life*. The play was an overview of the life and work of Gloria Steinem. This powerful play followed the women's right activist from her difficult youth to the Women's March on Washington in 2017.

As someone that has had the privilege of living with the rights that many women of all ages and races had to work hard for, it was a powerful play. Though you are told of the reality of things in years past, to be confronted with the dramatization of the horrific words said and actions taken against these strong women is extremely powerful. After the play ended, the audience stayed for a discussion regarding what they saw and women's rights today. It was a formidable story.



LWV of Roseville Area members attending the Gloria—A Life play

## Recap: LWVMN Gala

LWVMN held a fundraising gala to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization.

Many women were honored for being the first in their position in government and shared their powerful stories.

Right: LWV of Roseville Area members attending the LWVMN Gala



**Did you know?** Census data is used to attract new businesses to state and local areas.



## Future League Events

**Rides to events:** If you would like to attend League events but need transportation, contact Sherry Hood at sher-ryhood@icloud.com or 651-633-1434. She will find someone in your area to provide a ride.

**Event recording:** Many of our events are recorded. If you would like to watch a recording of an event at home, go to our website, [lwvrosevillearea.org](http://lwvrosevillearea.org). Click on the YouTube icon on the righthand side and choose from recorded events.

November and December events are detailed on [page 1](#) and [page 10](#).

- **January 16 – Conversation with Constituents.** Interact with office holders in our five cities; 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7-8:30 p.m. program; Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Dr., Roseville.
- **February 18 – Electoral College/National Popular Vote Compact—Is There Another Option for Choosing a President?** Karen Schaffer presenter (co-hosted with the Roseville Public Library); 6:30-8 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 N. Hamline Ave., Roseville.
- **March 24 – What Are Our Cities Doing on Environmental Issues?** A panel discussion (co-hosted with the Roseville Public Library); 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 N. Hamline Ave., Roseville.
- **April 21 – League Involvement and Voting Rights Through the Decades.** Josie Johnson, author and longtime member of LWV of Minneapolis, and her co-author Carolyn Holbrook (co-sponsored with Roseville Public Library); 7-8:30 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. N, Roseville.
- **May 5 – LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting.** 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting; Little Canada City Hall, 515 Little Canada Rd. E., Little Canada.

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## LWV of Roseville Area Video

Check out a video about the LWV of Roseville Area's mission and pictures of what our chapter has been up to recently here: [youtube.com/watch?v=RpPAi\\_yOgEE&t=2s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=RpPAi_yOgEE&t=2s)

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## Original LWVMN Conference Program

At the LWVMN Gala on October 26, a reproduction of the first LWVMN conference program was handed out to participants. LWVMN worked with the Minnesota Historical Society to find the original program.

The conference ran from October 28-29, 1919, in Minneapolis. Many women spoke at the conference, including a presentation by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt that answered the question: "What is the League of Women Voters and Why?"

A link to the reproduction of the full program (see an excerpt of the front page to the right) can be found on our website: [lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/docs/Original%20LWVMN%20Program%2010-1919.pdf](http://lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/docs/Original%20LWVMN%20Program%2010-1919.pdf)

Check out the program to see the issues these pioneering women dove into and the work they planned for themselves from the very beginning.



### Organization and Conference The Minnesota League of Women Voters

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Minneapolis  
October 28 - 29, 1919  
SESSIONS RADISSON HOTEL

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## **LWV of Roseville Area: November/December Event Calendar**

- **November 19 – A Place for Everyone.** See event details on [page 1](#); 6:30-8 p.m..
- **December 12 – Dinner Theater LWV Centennial Celebration.** See event details on [page 1](#); 5-6 p.m. cocktails, 6-7 p.m. dinner, 7-8:30 p.m. play.



**Get Out the Vote Wagon** — *Source: LWV Media Library*

### *Voter Article Submission Deadline*

Submissions for the next issue of The Voter are due 10 days before the end of the month. If you have any questions or information to submit for the newsletter, contact Rachel Geiser at [rachelsoup@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsoup@gmail.com).

### **Did you know?**

Census data is used to understand labor supply.