

# 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

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Find us on our website  
and other social media  
sites!

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[www.facebook.com/  
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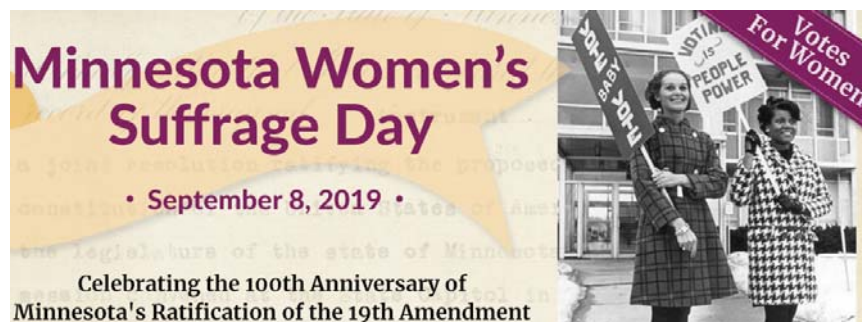
YouTube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/  
UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY  
8IMPfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg)

## Minnesota Women's Suffrage Day

LWV Minnesota is one of the planning sponsors of Minnesota Women's Suffrage Day on Sunday, September 8. The event runs from 12 to 5 p.m. at the State Capitol, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Minnesota's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, expanding women's voting rights.

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon and other featured guests will help lead the commemorative program at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda along with a special performance from the University of Minnesota Marching Band.

Other activities during the afternoon include a suffrage parade, tree planting and dedication ceremony of the Suffrage Memorial, a civic engagement fair, and a photo opportunity of past and current female elected officials. Food trucks will be available. The event is free and open to the public. For more information on honorees, event times, maps, and parking availability, go to [lwvmn.org/minnesota-womens-suffrage-day](http://lwvmn.org/minnesota-womens-suffrage-day).



## September League Event: Better Angels Workshop

Red, blue, or purple, most Americans are deeply invested in the future of this country, but clearly don't all agree on what that future should look like. Can we get beyond, "How could they think that!" and "Our side is better!" to work together for a decent future for everyone?

The September LWV of Roseville Area program is a special workshop led by trained facilitators from Better Angels, a citizens' organization uniting red and blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America. The event is on Tuesday, September 17, at the Autumn Grove park building, 1365 Lydia, Roseville from 6 to 9 p.m. To optimize the experience, the number of participants was set at 50, with preregistration required. As of this writing, there were a few spots left; if you are now able to attend, please sign up online at the registration website ([eventbrite.com/e/lwv-roseville-area-better-angels-workshop-september-17-2019-tickets-64539084138](https://eventbrite.com/e/lwv-roseville-area-better-angels-workshop-september-17-2019-tickets-64539084138)), when asked, put in password: League).

It should be a challenging and fascinating night. If you cannot join us, check out the Better Angels website [better-angels.org](http://better-angels.org) and two local news interviews: [MPR News with Kerri Miller](#) or [Kare11 Breaking the News with Jana Shortal](#). At home, try a thought experiment: take an issue that you're not personally invested in, such as Brexit, and research it so you can articulate the reasoning and positions of both sides. Can you discover the why behind both sides? Then bring this process to an issue you are invested in.

# Action and Advocacy Team: Observer Corps Training, Celebration, and Get-Together

**Date:** Monday, September 30

**Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Place:** Lexington Park Building, Cty Rd B and Lexington, Roseville

Come and help the Action and Advocacy Team celebrate, learn a new process that involves all League committees and members, and start a new season of holding our local government bodies accountable. As a reminder, the Observer Corps is a powerful tool to monitor local city councils and commissions and county and school boards so that we can make our voices heard on positions the League holds as important. These positions are available on the LWV of Roseville Area website ([lwvrosevillearea.org/content/lwv-state-and-national-positions](http://lwvrosevillearea.org/content/lwv-state-and-national-positions)) and include voting rights and accessibility, environmental resiliency, housing affordability and accessibility, and human rights. This year, the Observer Corps will also have an emphasis on ensuring a complete census count. Please join us to learn how to participate in a more streamlined process that will still maintain our visibility in local government.

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## Save the Date: October League Meeting

Our regular October League meeting will be held one week earlier than usual on Tuesday, October 8 at the Little Venetian, 2900 Rice St., Little Canada. We are returning to one of our past venues with dinner and time to socialize at 5:30 p.m. and a program from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We will partner with Roseville Area Advocates for Minnesota Health Plan to hear Rose Roach, Executive Director of the Minnesota Nurses Association, address, "Why We Can't Afford Not to Have Health Care for All." Details will be included in the October Voter. Meanwhile, mark your calendar.

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## Gloria: A Life — LWV of Roseville Area Social Event

Looking for a fun night out while brushing up on the history of the fight for gender equality? *Gloria: A Life* will be performed at the History Theater in St. Paul in September and October.

*This new work by Tony Award-winning playwright Emily Mann celebrates the life of one of the most important figures of America's feminist movement! Nearly half a century later, Ms. Steinem's fight for gender equality is still a battle yet to be won. Her work continues in this powerful theatrical event with an all-female cast led by Charity Jones as Gloria Steinem and directed by Risa Brainin.*

Join fellow League members (and invited friends) to attend on **Thursday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the History Theater** in St. Paul. If we have enough commitments, we will get the **group discounted rate of \$30**. However, it is important for you to get your name (and any friends joining you) on the list. Information on paying for the ticket will be forthcoming. RSVP and send questions to [lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org). If you need a ride, please indicate this on your RSVP.

*Gloria Steinem is a visionary, an icon, a hero to millions of women and me. - Oprah Winfrey*

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## League Program Update on Gun Safety

**By Bonnie Koch**

In October 2019, Reverend Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota, spoke to LWV of Roseville Area on the topic of finding common ground between gun owners and non-gun owners on the issue of gun violence. Both LWVUS and LWVMN have gun safety positions.

Following the mass shootings in Texas and Ohio in early August, LWVUS joined key coalition partners including Voto Latino and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to issue a collective statement condemning white supremacy and demanding real gun and weapons reform to combat hate.

Additionally, LWVUS joined more than 45 organizations across the civil rights, labor, faith, and technology fields in a statement to the White House ahead of its summit with technology companies on violent extremism. The statement urged the White House to ensure this summit not be used to divert attention away from the real actions these companies should take right now to reduce online activities that endanger communities of color, religious minorities, and other marginalized communities.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

#### Officers:

##### **President**

Sherry Hood

##### **Vice President**

Barb Barany

##### **Secretary**

Mary Peterson

##### **Treasurer**

Joyce Briggs

#### Directors:

##### **Action/Advocacy**

Wayne Groff

Priscilla Morton

##### **Communications**

Barb Anderson

##### **Membership**

Beth Reinhart

##### **Program**

Bonnie Koch

##### **Voter Services**

Grace Gee

Karen Lake

#### Members-At-Large

Jim DeBenedet

Stephanie DeBenedet

Rachel Geiser

Karen Schaffer

As summer draws to a close, it is important for members to consider getting involved in our League endeavors if they are not already. 2020 is a very critical year with the national, state, and local elections being held and the administration of the 10-year Census. It is also critical that we address the continuing assaults on our environment. We only have a limited time (about 11 years) to make a difference on climate change before it is too late.

The next 15 months are a critical time to get involved if you want to impact these issues. This fall we have local elections to consider - the Falcon Heights City Council and the Roseville Area School District Board. These local elections have an impact on issues important to our League, like affordable housing and what our local communities can do to responsibly address the issues of climate change and pollution.

On a much lighter note, the LWV of Roseville Area can be a source of a lot of fun. We just finished marching in two local parades to remind people of our accomplishments and that we continue to strive to support our communities and our democracy. We were very well received! We also had a delightful get-together at our annual Brews and Book Reviews at Bent Brewstillery on July 24.

This program year we have a wonderful schedule of events, expertly managed by Bonnie Koch and her League Program committee. On October 10, League member will attend, "Gloria: A Life," at the MN History Theater covering Gloria Steinem (see [page 2](#) for RSVP information). On October 26, at 5 p.m., LWVMN presents the 100th anniversary "First Night" gala at the Union Depot in St. Paul. On Thursday, December 12, in a reserved banquet room at Gulden's restaurant in Maplewood, LWV of Roseville Area will present a dinner and show to commemorate the LWV Centennial celebration.

This 2019-2020 program season will be very important for our League's support of democracy and also includes a lot of fun in celebrating our 100-year journey!



**Sherry Hood**



**Brews and Book Reviews Attendees in July**

**Did you know?** Census data is used to draw federal, state, and local legislative districts.



### Beyond Stereo

By Florence Sprague

*True ignorance is not the absence of knowledge, but the refusal to acquire it.*

—Karl Popper, Austrian-British philosopher (1902-1994)

My father loved music. Consequently, he often explored new technologies for playing it at home. We had stereo, then eight track tapes, then surround sound, with not just two, but four speakers amongst which you could sit. (A quick internet search shows that you can still get surround sound, with even more speakers today.)

It could be interesting to think about surround ideas, listening to a whole circle of ideas and opinions. The quote above appeals to me, but it does raise some serious questions. If I like this quote, who do I think is refusing to acquire knowledge? Is it the other person who disagrees with me, or is it me?

For years I strove to convince students that they weren't stupid just because they didn't know something. They could learn; that is what school is all about. But frustrated people don't always recognize their own ability to grow.

Other times, the "ignorance" we see in others is sometimes just a difference of opinion. The difference between fact and opinion is another skill that students work on. But facts are not always an endpoint; they can be just a starting point. How we work with and interpret facts is influenced by many factors, from brain anatomy to belief systems to life experiences. Just as you may not like all types of music, you may not like all types of ideas, but listening is always helpful. It is normal to hold, consciously or unconsciously, a variety of stereotypes, with varying degrees of currency and accuracy. The challenge is to look and listen beyond them.

We may fear that if we listen, we may get confused, bullied, or misled. More often, listening can help us clarify our own beliefs. I haven't been able to locate a citation, but I heard of a study group (in Boston, I believe) in which groups of people who supported abortion options and those who opposed abortion held multiple deep conversations. The outcome was not a lot of changed minds, but greater understanding of, and respect for, the position held by the other group while their own positions were firmed up and clarified.

An interesting op-ed piece in the Star Tribune by Doug Berdie ([startribune.com/technology-robs-us-of-chance-to-end-stereotypes/507227452/](https://www.startribune.com/technology-robs-us-of-chance-to-end-stereotypes/507227452/)) highlights how stereotypes often create barriers to growth and divide communities. One needn't agree with everything he writes to see the validity of his position. When we do not interact with those we hold a stereotype about, we get no evidence to challenge that stereotype. Technology makes it very easy to be isolated and interact only with those we know and agree with. Despite decades of work, our communities are often still pretty clustered by race, income, education, even religion. We tend to live in little enclaves.

How can we counter stereotypes? Two things are valuable: listening to one another and working together on a neutral project. Neither happens organically when we are isolated, so grab every opportunity and then seek to create more. Practice surround ideas.

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### New Member Spotlight: Marcia Cheney

By Beth Reinhart

Marcia Cheney is the first of our new members in 2019. She had been active in LWV of St. Paul when her two children were young. She worked actively on a study focused on helping parents learn about and negotiate the new Magnet School Project. Her work life was largely focused on being a Rehabilitation Consultant, assisting people who had sustained work injuries.

Marcia is currently very active with the Literacy Council. She volunteers with adult English language learners, but her favorite work is with preschool children and their families. Parents are given a book each week and can earn games, puzzles, or toys (which Marcia collects) by reading to their young children.

She is looking forward to working through LWV of Roseville Area on citizenship ceremonies, census advocacy, and the Better Angels workshop. Marcia shares the following sentiments: "I'm grateful the League found me. Returning to the Roseville League of Women Voters is like attending a reunion with old friends." Welcome home Marcia!



Marcia Cheney

# Ramsey County Elections Office Request

*By Teresa Wernecke and Barb Barany*

In ramping up for the 2020 series of elections, Ramsey County is seeking information on how to encourage eligible citizens to register and vote. At their August 21 training on voter engagement, participants were asked to know our own whys for voting and to come up with a brief personal story to share. Ramsey County wants to learn about voting-eligible citizens, especially in the low turnout-to-vote areas. They are interested in both those who do not register to vote and those who are registered to vote but do not vote. Key questions: What encourages people to vote? What discourages them from voting? Ramsey County hopes to use this information to connect with this group and to help with framing civics education.

If you have questions about, or input for this initiative, contact the Ramsey County Elections Office: 651-266-2171 or Emily Hunt 651-266-2004.

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## Why Vote in Local Elections

*Adapted by Karen Lake from a LWVMN Flyer*

- 1) **All change starts local.** From property taxes and potholes, to schools and skateboards, most of the issues that affect one's daily life are decided at the local level. Locally-elected school boards, city councils, and county boards can make change happen or not!
- 2) **Law enforcement and criminal justice is local.** Mayors, city councils, and county commissioners are usually the officials ultimately responsible for law enforcement. These officials can pass ordinances that determine what activities are illegal. In some cases, officials appoint local police chiefs who oversee hiring, training, and disciplining of police officers.
- 3) **Community development is local.** Local government officials are directly responsible for changes made in a community that can have a long term impact. They can decide on many issues such as business development, transportation, affordable housing, and access to childcare.
- 4) **Every vote matters in local elections.** Candidates have changed entire cities, towns, or counties because they won by ten or fewer votes! Margins are much closer on the local level than on a national level.
- 5) **Vote because you can!** It is a luxury to have the right to vote. If you don't know how, when, or where, start with [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).

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## July Event Recap: Brews and Book Reviews

*By Rachel Geiser*

The third annual Brews and Book Reviews event in July was a success! Just as in previous years, League members and guests sipped on beverages and described a book (or often two or three) for others to enjoy. Then after asking questions, others would recommend their own books.

Also, as in previous years, a compiled recommended book list was created and emailed to those who were at the event based on the recommendations. A copy of the book list is attached to the same email as the Voter newsletter. Happy reading!



**Attendees at Bent Brewstillery**

# Making Census: Low Count Populations

By Barb Barany

When anyone is missed in the decennial census, everyone in that person's communities loses representation, funding, and accurate information for governments, schools, and businesses—for ten years! If a large percentage of people in a community are missed, the damage is magnified. Who are the historically low-count populations?

- In the 2010 census it is estimated that 80% of the undercounted in Minnesota were children under five years of age. Much of the undercounting is attributed to complex households, with more than one nuclear family, or children who split time between homes.
- Renters comprise another group of low-count populations. Renters may be concerned that their landlord will find out about unacknowledged residents. (They won't.) Or they may simply be short-term residents without an attachment to the community. Young adults, especially college/university students, are an important subset of this group.
- People with lower incomes may be concerned that responding to the census will affect their government benefits. However, not responding could reduce benefits to the entire group.
- Other groups may be concerned about the confidentiality of their census data, these include immigrants, refugees, and persons of color. Confidentiality of census data is enshrined in Title 13, US Code, including severe penalties for census employees divulging information during their lifetimes.
- Limited English speakers may have difficulty responding. There will be census information available in many languages, including Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.
- A new category for lower response rates may be persons without internet access or uncomfortable using computers or smartphones. Will that affect seniors, the community that historically was most likely to respond?

What can we do to ensure a complete count in our communities? Future issues of The Voter will examine outreach plans being developed by our LWV of Roseville Area Ad Hoc Census Committee.

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## August Event Recap: ERA

By Rachel Geiser

Kathleen Murphy, the vice-president of ERA Minnesota, introduced the short documentary, *Legalize Equality*, at Price of Peace Lutheran Church in Roseville on August 20. This documentary was a shortened version of the film *Equal Means Equal* that was updated to include current events surrounding the #MeToo movement. The 25-minute film, which you can watch through Amazon Prime or YouTube, covered the continued wage gap between male and female workers, the failure of the 1970s movement to pass the ERA (three states short of ratification), and the consequences of constitutional wording to support cases of discriminatory practices in the workplace including in the Supreme Court.

After watching the film, Murphy gave an update on the current ERA legislation situation. Only one more state is needed to ratify the national ERA constitutional amendment, though lawsuits are expected due to the expiration of the passage deadline.

ERA Minnesota is focused on getting the ERA language ratified through the Minnesota State Legislature. The group is finding opposition as the wording change is often grouped with reproductive rights issues. Murphy answered questions from the audience and listened to attendees' experiences. To sum up, Murphy left us with this point: "The ERA won't change things overnight, but it will give women the bedrock they need to start winning discrimination court cases."



Kathleen Murphy leading the post-documentary discussion



## Future League Events

Meetings are usually recorded and posted on our website: [lwvrosevillearea.org](http://lwvrosevillearea.org). If you need a ride to an event, contact Sherry Hood ([sherryhood@icloud.com](mailto:sherryhood@icloud.com) / 651-633-1434) or Bonnie Koch ([toouray@aol.com](mailto:toouray@aol.com) / 651-683-2992).

September events are detailed on [page 1](#), [page 2](#), and [page 8](#).

- **October 8 – Why We Can’t Afford Not to Have Health Care for All.** See initial event details on [page 2](#); 5:30 p.m. dinner, 6:30 program.
- **October 10 – Gloria: A Life.** Attend a play with League members about Gloria Steinem; See full event description and RSVP information on [page 2](#); 7:30 p.m.
- **November 19 – Affordable Housing Panel.** House of Representatives Housing Committee Chair, Rep. Alice Hausman; Executive Director of Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness, Cathy ten Broeke; and Ramsey County Director of Veteran Services, Maria Wetherall; 6:30-8 p.m.; Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 Cty. Rd. C2 W., Roseville.
- **December 12 – LWV Anniversary Dinner and Show.** Further details forthcoming.
- **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 (Date TBD) – Electoral College/National Popular Vote Compact.** Further details forthcoming.
- **March (Date TBD) – Environmental Topic.** Further details forthcoming.
- **April 21 – LWV Anniversary Event.** Josie Johnson will talk about her League involvement and voting rights; 6:30 p.m., Roseville Public Library, 2180 Hamline Ave. N, Roseville.
- **May (Date TBD) – LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting.** Further details forthcoming.
- **June (Date TBD) – Environmental Field Trip.** Further details forthcoming.

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## League Members in Canadian Days Parade

*By Rachel Geiser*

Members of LWV of Roseville Area marched in the Canadian Days parade on August 4 in Little Canada. The beautiful weather meant large crowds and they met the League members with enthusiasm and cheers.

League members carried signs about the 100-year anniversary of women’s suffrage and messages about the 2020 Census.



League members marching in the Canadian Days Parade

**Did you know?** Census data is used to set a standard for creating both public and private sector surveys.

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## **LWV of Roseville Area: September Event Calendar**

- **September 8 – Minnesota Women’s Suffrage Day.** See the full event description on [page 1](#); 12 p.m.
- **September 17 – Depolarizing Within: Becoming a Better Angel in Your Own World.** See the full event description on [page 1](#); 6-9 p.m.

### ***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).



**Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage — Source:**  
*LWV Media Library*

**Did you know?** Census data is used for forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.