

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:
<https://www.lwvrosevillearea.org>

Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea>

Instagram:
<http://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea>

YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg>

Ranked Choice Voting in Our Suburban Cities?

Many of us think of Minneapolis and St. Paul when we think of cities using ranked choice voting (RCV), which allows voters the option to rank candidates in order of preference. Did you know that suburban cities such as Bloomington, Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park are successfully using it as well? A few years ago the Maplewood mayoral race was so close it triggered a recount and a different person won than was initially leading. How might RCV have impacted this election? How does ranked choice work with the recount concept? Join us to learn the answers to these questions and more!



Speakers: (l-r) Jeanne Massey, Mary Hartnett

The League of Women Voters of Roseville Area will host a program on RCV with emphasis on how it works in cities on **Tuesday, September 20**.

After studying RCV in 2005, Minnesota League members decided to support this method of voting. View the position here: <https://www.lwvmn.org/voting-election-administration>

We are fortunate to have as speakers:

- Jeanne Massey, Executive Director of FairVote Minnesota, a national leader in the movement for RCV.
- Mary Hartnett, Executive Director of Clean Elections Minnesota, a group dedicated to public financing of elections and RCV.

Karen Schaffer will moderate. The Ramsey County Library Roseville is co-hosting this virtual program that begins at 6:30 pm. Register for the event at this link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Zbcnf-UkS_qCh-RNZiu89Q

Are Our Metro Elections Secure?

Save the date for Saturday, October 15, 10 am on Zoom.

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) will host elections expert Paul Linnell. Linnell currently serves as Deputy Elections Director for the Minnesota Secretary of State and is the former elections manager for Anoka County. The event is open to all LWV members and the public. The meeting link will be provided closer to the meeting. Questions? Contact Karen Schaffer at schafferka@gmail.com.

LWV of Roseville Area September Board Meeting

The next LWV of Roseville Area Board meeting is Wednesday, September 28, at 7 pm. For Zoom access, contact Mary Peterson at lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org in advance.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

Officers:

President

Barb Anderson

Vice President

Rachel Geiser

Secretary

Jen Peterson

Treasurer

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Florence Sprague,
vice chair Carol
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Voter Services

Marcia Cheney,
Nancy Simpson,
Teresa Wernecke

CMAL

Karen Schaffer,
Lisa Scribner

.....

Members-At-Large

Lisa Scribner
Wayne Groff

As we head into the heart of the election season, it is a good reminder to our members that the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization. That means that while we engage in political issues, as an organization we don't support or oppose political parties or candidates. If you are working for a candidate or party in the coming months, make sure you remove any indicators, like hats or buttons, that you are a League member.

If you didn't have a chance to attend the Brews and Book Reviews event at the White Bear Meadery in July, you missed a great time. We enjoyed tasting different kinds of mead, and shared many interesting books and podcasts. (See [page 6](#) for a recap.) Best of all we got to reconnect with fellow League members. We plan to have more in-person events in the future, but will continue to offer many programs on Zoom, especially in the winter.

September and October will feature educational events. September will focus on Ranked Choice Voting with October's focus on Back to School: Civics Education. See details and how to register for these events on [page 1](#) and [page 7](#).

The Voter Services team is still hard at work. Teresa Wernecke has planned several candidate forums. All of the forums will be with the candidates together, but with virtual audiences. See the article on [page 4](#) for specific information on each forum. Marcia Cheney is working with high school principals to introduce our local Youth Ambassador program. The program is designed to include student voices in youth voter registration and get-out-the-vote initiatives in our communities. Nancy Simpson organizes opportunities for our members to engage with the public, whether it be registering people to vote or informing people about how and where to vote. See upcoming activities on [page 5](#). Make sure to read our weekly eblasts to see the latest information on opportunities to support voter services activities.



President Barb Anderson

Talking About Race Series Facilitators Needed!

LWV of Roseville Area is once again partnering with Do Good Roseville to host the *Talking About Race* series of seven community conversations. This is a repeat of the well-received series held in 2020-2021. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate discussions. Discussions are held from October to January with some breaks over the holidays. The series dates are on alternating Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm on Oct 6 and 20, November 3 and 17, December 1, and January 5 and 19. Seven to ten facilitators, as well as back-up facilitators, are needed for most, if not all, the sessions.

Each of the seven sessions will follow the same format. Facilitators and discussion participants will receive pre-work before each session. The pre-work will be reading or videos which will take approximately one hour of preparation. Then each session will begin with an overview from Kitty Gogins and a 5-10 minute statement about the session from a BIPOC community leader. Participants will split into discussion groups of 4-6 people to discuss the materials. The facilitators for each group will use 2-4 provided questions to lead the discussion for their group. The sessions will be on Zoom and each week the breakout groups will be randomly assigned.

For those who do not have facilitator experience, Kitty Gogins will provide a 90-minute training session for facilitators on Thursday, September 29 from 7-8:30 pm. All facilitators are encouraged to attend the training session.

A strong community in which all voices are heard with respect is central to the League's mission. Please consider supporting this important project by volunteering as a facilitator. If you are available, sign-up using this form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E44ACA82FA1FE3-facilitators>. Feel free to share this with others who might be interested.

Please contact Kathy Ramundt (kramundt@hotmail.com or 612-221-5451) with questions. League member Carol Marchel served as a facilitator in the 2020-21 sessions and will do so again. Feel free to contact her (marchelc@gmail.com) if you want to hear how much she valued being a facilitator.

Are You LOUD or SOFT?

By Florence Sprague

We all know the catchy statement, “Your freedom to swing your fist ends at my face.” Freedoms are not absolute; they cannot be when we live in community. But sometimes it is hard to determine where the boundary between “fist” and “face” lies. Sound, spilling over from personal space to communal space, is one such category.

I recently read a challenging piece in *The Atlantic* about sound, “Why Do Rich People Love Quiet?” online or “Let Brooklyn Be Loud,” in print, by Xochitl Gonzalez (<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/09/let-brooklyn-be-loud/670600/>). It raised a lot of questions in my mind. When does sound become noise? Who gets to decide how loud is too loud? Why? How does sound tie to culture? What should the urban sonic landscape be? The university sonic landscape?

As a person who might find many instances of loud sound in public or communal spaces troublesome, I kept going back and forth between objecting to her apparent rejection of the concept of standards for sound level and seeing how, for her, loudness was both natural and comfortable. I am trying to figure out just where to land.

Gonzalez frames her position of resentment in terms similar to those of other minority inclusion challenges, feeling judged and shamed, being expected to modify her behavior to fit others’ norms, and feeling loss from that change. She asserts that rich people want quiet and feel entitled to demand it of others. She asserts that they want to control. She also ties VOLUME to her identity.

The anecdotes around which she frames her argument cover two or three decades and show that in her life she has been treated quite shabbily by some rude white people. However, some of her examples have so little content, lacking even time of day (important when sound is involved), that it is impossible to judge who is right and who wrong.

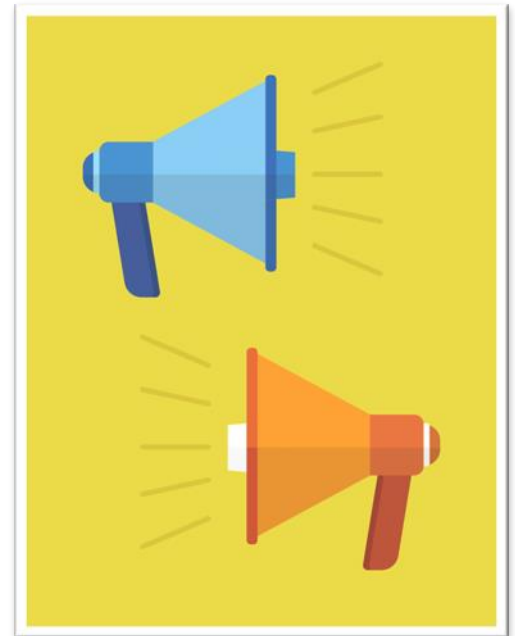
Gonzalez makes an excellent point about different study styles when talking about her university years. I hope that universities have grown to provide a variety of study spaces—individual, small group, with music, in silence. Students have different learning styles and that can and should be accommodated, helping personal confrontations and shushing to disappear.

The buzzwords of privilege and bias are right up front, but they seem to cloud a more complex and nuanced issue. When Gonzalez says that she, “felt hot with shame and anger” when asked to be quieter, I began to feel that sound preferences were just the medium for a broader struggle. Embarrassing? Yes. Irritating? Yes, but rarely shaming, unless something else is going on. She comes to realize that the sounds of a noisy city that she had been happy to leave behind as “the sounds of poverty, of being trapped...were the sounds of my identity, turned up to 11.”

Identity. That does make compromise more challenging. Nowhere did I get a sense that Gonzalez thinks that it is **ever** appropriate to ask someone to tone it down. How do we balance personal and cultural preferences around sound/noise in a multicultural environment?

I did a mental head slap when she defended boomboxes, loud car stereos, and other sounds by noting that, “These were certainly noisy, but were they nuisances? Not to the people who enjoyed them.” This seems to ignore the whole concept of nuisance in community; there are multiple sides, and sound is not easy to contain.

Rules should be made not to demand conformity to anyone’s personal preference, but to meet clearly defined community needs. But in the long run, it all depends on each of us bending at times and being courteous when we ask others to bend.



2022 Candidate Forums

By Voter Services

- **September 13 (Tuesday)** – 7-8:30 pm, **District 44 Senate and House A & B.** Candidates will be in-person; no in-person audience. Linda McLoon will be the moderator. **Send questions to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org by Sunday, September 11; include D44 in the subject line.** The event can be viewed on demand at the Maplewood VOD: <http://vod.maplewoodmn.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/863?channel=1>
- **September 14 (Wednesday)** – 7- 8:30 pm, **Roseville Mayor and City Council.** Candidates will be in-person; no in-person audience. Rachel Geiser will be the moderator. **Send questions to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org by Sunday, September 11; include Roseville in the subject line.** Live access for this forum is via cable channels 15 and HD 859 or online at: <https://www.ninenorth.org/>
- **September 15 (Thursday)** – 7- 8:30 pm, **Maplewood Mayor and City Council.** Candidates will be in-person; no in-person audience. Kitty Gogins will be the moderator. **Send questions to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org by Tuesday, September 13; include Maplewood in the subject line.** The event can be viewed on demand at Maplewood the VOD: <http://vod.maplewoodmn.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/863?channel=1>
- **September 19 (Monday)** – 6:30 pm, **District 40 Senate and House A & B.** LWV of White Bear Lake is conducting this forum. There will be no in-person audience. **To send questions, go to www.lwv-wbla.org, click Candidate Forums, and Submit a Question by Friday, September 16; include D40 in the subject line.** For the recording, go to www.lwv-wbla.org, click candidate forums, and scroll down to click on watch a video on their YouTube channel.
- **September 21 (Wednesday)** – 6:30-8:30 pm, **Arden Hills Mayor, Council, and Special Election.** Candidates will be in-person; no in-person audience. Florence Sprague is moderating. **Send questions to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org by Sunday, September 18; include AH in subject line.** Live access for this forum is via Cable Channels 15 and HD859 or online at: <https://www.ninenorth.org/>
- **September 22 (Thursday)** – 7- 8:30 pm, **District 66 Senate and House A & B.** St. Paul LWV is partnering with LWV of Roseville Area. Florence Sprague will be the moderator. **Send questions to office@lwvsp.org by Tuesday, September 20; include D66 in the subject line.** Live access for this forum is via Cable Channels 15 and HD859 or online at: <https://www.ninenorth.org/>
- **September 26 (Monday)** – 7-8 pm; **Ramsey County Commission District 3.** LWV of St. Paul and LWV of Roseville Area are partnering. Rachel Geiser is moderating. **Questions should be sent to office@lwvsp.org by Saturday, September 24; include D3 in the subject line.** Live access for this forum is via Cable Channels 15 and HD859 or online at: <https://www.ninenorth.org/>
- **September 29 (Thursday)** – 7 pm, **Little Canada Mayor and Council.** Candidates will be in-person; no in-person audience. Kathy Macomber will be moderating. **Send questions to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org by Tuesday, September 27; include LC in the subject line.** Live access for this forum is via Cable Channels 15 and HD859 or online at: <https://www.ninenorth.org/>
- **October 6 (Thursday)** – 7 pm, **Lauderdale Mayor and Council.** Candidates will be in-person; no in-person audience. Kathy Macomber will be moderating. **Send questions to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org by Tuesday, October 4; include L in the subject line.** Live access for this forum is via Cable Channels 15 and HD859 or online at: <https://www.ninenorth.org/>

Stay tuned for more information on possible Candidate Forum for ISD622 Maplewood-North St. Paul-Oakdale

With the 2020 Census, several election related maps have changed.

- **Congressional District 4:** <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/redist2020/Congressional/C2022/maps/4.pdf>
- **Senate Districts:** <https://sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/data-maps/minnesota-senate-maps/>
- **House A & B:** <https://sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/data-maps/minnesota-senate-maps/>
- **Ramsey County Commissioner Districts:** <https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/About%20Ramsey%20County/CountyCommissioner2022.pdf>

Honoring Judy Stuthman

By Mary Peterson

Read the LWVMN article on the work to support voter registration that LWV of Roseville Area Lifetime League member Judy Stuthman has done, over many years, organizing and overseeing the registering of voters at Naturalization Ceremonies. What well deserved recognition for her impactful work! <https://www.lwvmn.org/naturalization-ceremonies>

Upcoming Voter Services Activities

By Voter Services

The Voter Services (VS) Team held its first in-person committee meeting on August 25. It provided a good opportunity to meet and welcome members. We discussed the three aspects of VS, opportunities for volunteering, and answered questions.

- **Candidate Forums** will occur in September and October. See the list of candidate forums on [page 4](#). VS will send out a Sign-up Genius link with opportunities to volunteer. The importance of identifying questions for each of the candidate forums was emphasized. Ideas to expand viewership were discussed.
- **Community Outreach** focuses on in-person registration and education events. We anticipate connecting with food shelves, senior residences, fall festivities, etc. LeadMN has contacted the Roseville League seeking volunteers to help with leading presentations and conducting in-person voter registrations at local community colleges. Activities associated with National Voter Registration Day are under consideration.
- **Youth Outreach** will have a busy fall. Roseville Area High School is welcoming the League's Student Ambassador Program, which will be initiated during September. Two applicants will be selected to increase civic engagement by students. During the course of the academic year, the Student Ambassadors will complete several small projects and a culminating project. VS has been invited to provide a teach-in on the importance of local elections three times a year.



League members volunteering for Voter Services at Roseville Area Community Volunteer Fair on August 10 at Annpétu Tēcá Education Center

July Event Recap: Brews and Book Reviews

By Rachel Geiser

In July, LWV of Roseville Area members and several guests got together at the newly opened White Bear Meadery Mead Hall for the yearly meeting of Brews and Book Reviews. Around 30 people attended the event, with many experiencing mead for the very first time. Less unusual were the multitude of books, authors, and podcasts recommended and passionately shared with each other.

See the emailed version of the Voter for a copy of the recommended book list detailing all of the wonderful recommendations from event attendees.



Visiting League Members

Lifetime member, Joyce Blomquist recently moved to Stillwater and was visited by Mindy Greiling and Georgeann Hall. If you are in the Stillwater area, Joyce would love to see you. Check the directory for her current address.



Future League Events

Event recording: Many events are recorded. To watch a recording, go to our website (<http://lwvrosevillearea.org/>), click or tap on the YouTube icon on the right side, and select a recorded event. If the event was held virtually through the Ramsey County Library, a recording link is provided in an eBlast and Voter following the event. Recorded library events are also posted on their website.

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

- **October-January – Talking About Race Series.** Series of seven community conversations on alternating Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm over Zoom. Watch for future communications for event details. See facilitator volunteer opportunity on [page 2](#).
 - **October 15 – Are Our Metro Elections Secure?** CMAL event on election security. See initial event details on [page 1](#).
 - **October 18 – Back to School: Civics Education from a Teacher’s Perspective.** In person at the Ramsey County Library—Roseville meeting room. Watch future communications for event details.
 - **November TBD** – Discussion and consensus questions on the LWVMN Firearms Study. Study materials and event details will be forthcoming.
 - **January 19 – Conversations with Constituents.** Annual conversations with local elected officials. Event details forthcoming.
 - **February TBD** – Session on juvenile justice. Event details forthcoming.
 - **March TBD** – Tour of Muslim center, Rabata, led by a panelist and LWV of Roseville Area member, Tamara Gray. Event details forthcoming.
 - **May TBD – Annual Meeting.** Event details forthcoming.
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New Member Spotlight: Kate O’Connell

By Rita Mills

A life-long St. Paulite, Kate O’Connell attended the University of Minnesota Twin Cities where she acquired an M.A. in Applied Economics and an M.S. in Statistics, leading to a career in regulating electric and natural gas utilities in Minnesota for 35 years. Customers of Xcel Energy, CenterPoint, Minnesota Power, and other such utilities (almost all of us) have benefited from Kate’s expertise as she worked as an analyst, supervisor, and manager. In 2020, the day before the election, Kate retired. On her first day of retirement, she joined people from Twin Cities Nonviolent to help maintain a calm atmosphere outside a polling station in North Minneapolis.

Kate, along with her husband of 34 years, has continued to live in St. Paul. Their two sons have interesting science careers: “one who recently received a Ph.D. in physical chemistry and now works for an aerospace company and the other who is a licensed geologist and is building canoes.” For relaxation, Kate “loves reading and going for walks, especially along the North Shore.”

Kate has no problem keeping herself busy as a reading mentor for 3rd grade students at the St. Paul Music Academy. She is hoping to also work with students at Ascension School which is affiliated with Ascension Church in Minneapolis where she is a parishioner. She also volunteers with several affordable housing organizations. Since 2007, Kate has been a Consociate (lay member) of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Paul.

When asked about her reason for joining the League of Women Voters, Kate says she wants to support voting, voter education, and other non-partisan issues. She is hoping to learn from other League members by attending meetings, programs, and volunteering. “I am interested in the ways that systemic racism diminishes everyone—those who are most burdened, and all of us who live in a society that is unnaturally segregated—and how these systems are eroding our democracy, economy, and society as a whole.”



Kate, thank you for joining LWV. We hope to channel your skill set, expertise, and passion in “Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy!”

LWV of Roseville Area: September Event Calendar

- **September 20 – Ranked Choice Voting in Our Suburban Cities?**
See event details and registration link on [page 1](#); 7 pm; virtual on Zoom.
- **September 28 – LWV of Roseville Area Board Meeting.** See access details on [page 1](#); 7 pm, Zoom.



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.