



President's Column

Welcome to a new season, and a special year, for the LWV WBLA. This is our centennial year for LWV Minnesota (1919-2019) and for LWVUS (1920-2020). Our programs for the year provide an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of those people who worked persistently to extend the voting franchise to white women that culminated in the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, and to continue their work by ensuring that every vote counts.

We start the year with a look back at the uphill battle of the suffragettes and the history of the League of Women Voters. For instance, did you know that the wife of one of this country's founders wanted women's rights to be in the Constitution? There are other events taking place this fall and winter that tie in with these historical milestones. One is Women's Suffrage Day on September 8th, and the Gala to benefit the LWV Minnesota on October 26th (details about these events are elsewhere in this issue of the Bear Facts). The WBLA LWV is hosting the LWV Minnesota traveling exhibit of its history. It will be at the Stillwater library from January 2-20, 2020.

While it's wonderful to look back on the efforts it took to win the vote for women, let us not forget that the struggle to ensure fair representation for all eligible voters is ongoing. We still want to have a reliable, complete census count, voting district maps drawn by an independent commission, and full participation in primaries, and general and local elections. These are bread-and-butter issues to the LWV, and you are a vital part of that work. Your participation is necessary to achieve these outcomes. We count on every member to do their part to advocate for reform and to help put on the programs that educate and inform ourselves and our community. I know you will do your part to continue the work that Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, and dozens of other courageous and pioneering women began over 100 years ago. Thanks for your support of the LWV WBLA!

--Liz Lauder, President

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Blast From the Past

In honor of Women's Suffrage Day on September 8, check out this blast from our area league's past! In August, 1976, the White Bear Press ran these photos of LWV White Bear/North Oaks members dressed in period costume and carrying signs calling for Votes for Women. They marched in area parades and demonstrated in "Get Out the Vote" campaigns. See if you recognize anyone!



Women's Suffrage Day at the State Capitol

September 8, 2019 marks the 100th year since the Minnesota state legislature voted to ratify the 19th Amendment. The LWV Minnesota and partner organizations are celebrating at the State Capitol and Suffrage Memorial Garden from 12-5 pm.

There will be food trucks and family activities, marching bands and a parade, a history exhibit, and informational booths for LWVMN and our partner organizations, such as the AAUW and Common Cause. Secretary of State, Steve Simon, will speak, along with Attorney General Keith Ellison, Joan Grove, and more. This event is free and open to the public.

Contact President Liz Lauder if you would like to carpool to the event (lizlauder@gmail.com, or 651-357-8519).



Minnesota Women's Suffrage Day

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of
Minnesota's Ratification of the 19th Amendment

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019
NOON to 5:00 PM • MN STATE CAPITOL

Activities:

-  **Commemorative Program in Rotunda**
-  **Activities at MN Woman Suffrage Memorial**
-  **Marching Band & Parade**
-  **Minnesota Suffrage History Exhibit**
-  **Civic Engagement Fair & Voter Registration**
-  **Food Trucks & Family Fun!**

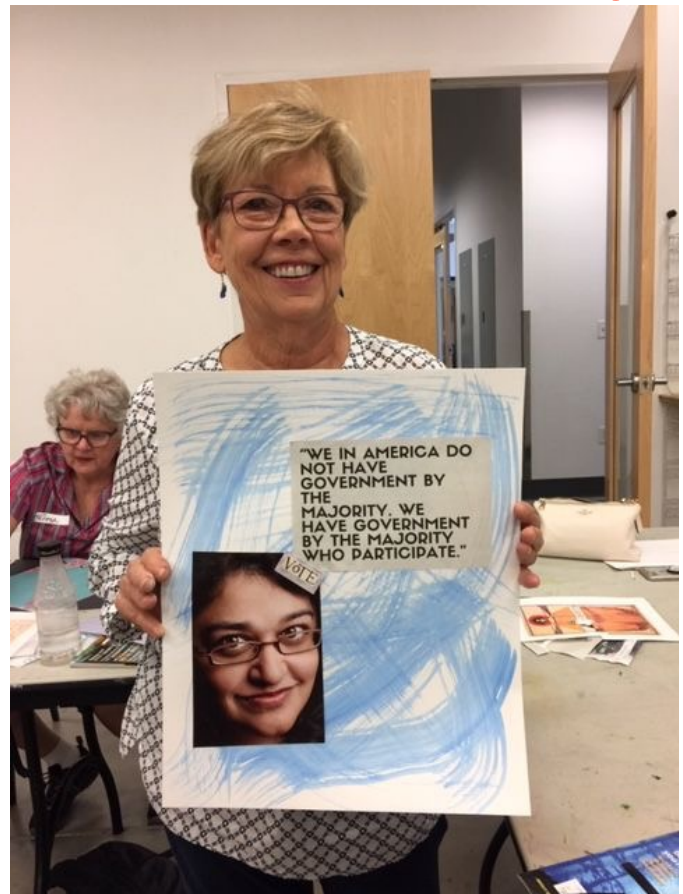
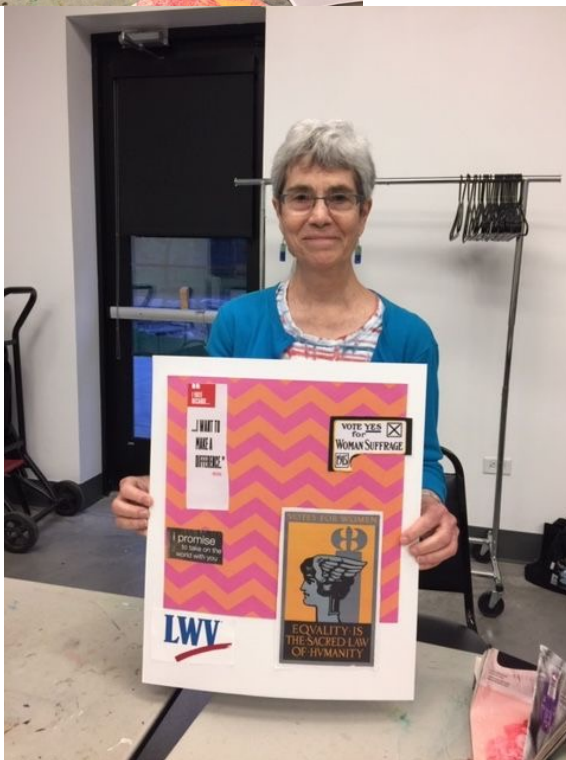
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • SCHEDULE & MORE INFO: LWVMN.ORG

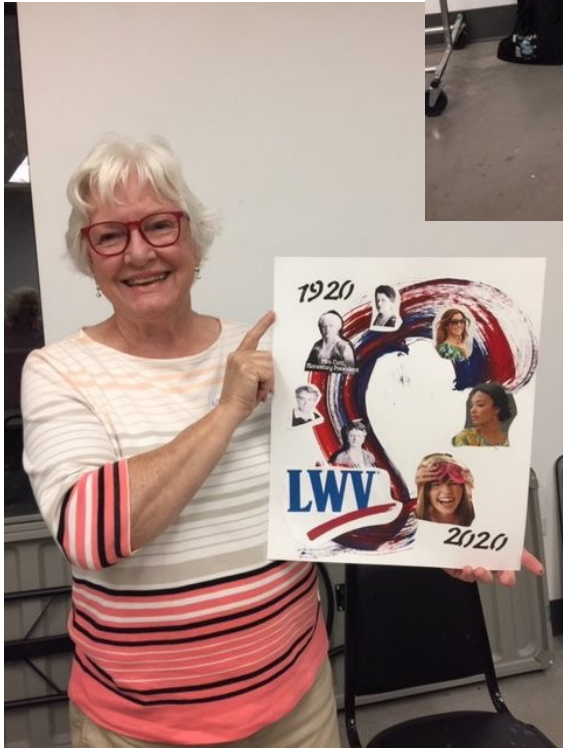
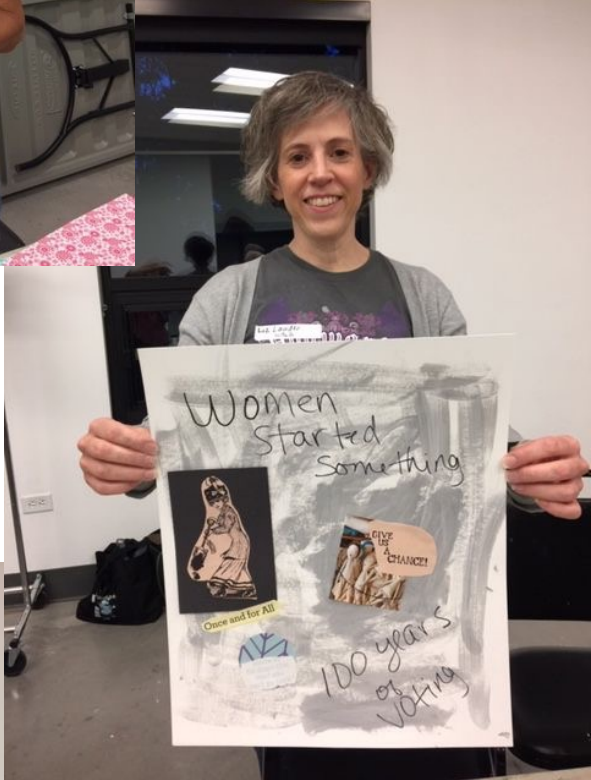
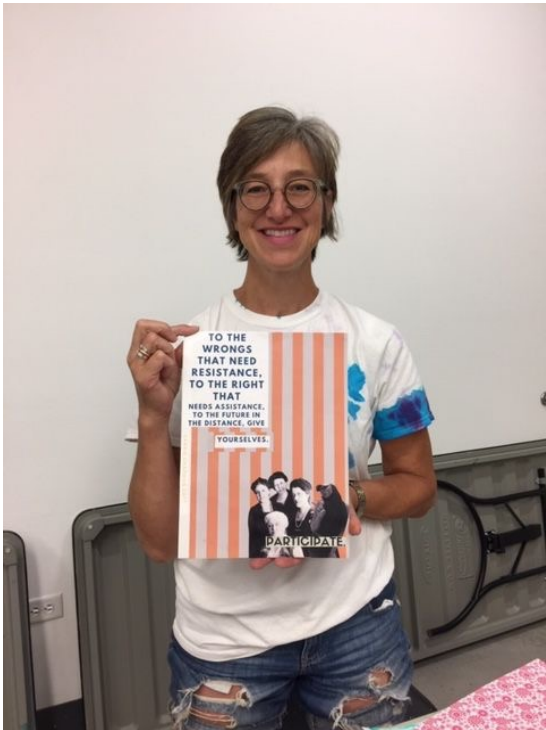
Planning Partners

2020 WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENNIAL, AAUW of Minnesota, DAR Daughters of the American Revolution, FIRST IN THE NATION SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION, TURNING POINT SUFFRAGIST MEMORIAL, NCJMN National Council of Jewish Women, MINNESOTA, m EXPLORE MINNESOTA, LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of the Upper Midwest, SAINT PAUL Official Convention & Visitors Bureau, ZOB, OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

MEMBERS MAKE POSTERS TO PUBLICIZE LWV CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Eighteen members of the White Bear Lake Area, Roseville, and Woodbury League of Women Voters organizations attended a custom poster making class at the White Bear Center for the Arts (WBCA) on Thursday evening, August 15. The purpose of the two and one-half hour class was to make posters publicizing the League of Women Voters centennial celebration. Sue Vannelli, a skillful and enthusiastic WBCA instructor and professional artist, and her volunteer assistant, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota's graphic design program, helped the group understand basic design principles and create the posters using poster board, paint (and hair dryers to dry the paint!), bright and subdued colored and patterned paper, magazine clippings, historical images and sayings, pencils, rulers and protractors, glue sticks, scissors for cutting unusual edges, colorful paper strips, "pearls" for decoration, and "bumpers" to elevate poster elements, among other art materials. We left the class with many wonderful LWV centennial posters to display at the annual LWVWBLA picnic and in local libraries, community centers, and elsewhere.





St. Croix Valley Unit is on the move!

Beginning in September the SCV unit will move its monthly meeting...

Location: Tin Bins Café
413 E Nelson St
Stillwater, MN 55082

Date: 2nd Thursday of the Month

Time: 3 – 4 pm



The Tin Bins is a locally owned café serving soups, salads, sandwiches, tasty homemade pastries, beer and wine. It's housed in the historic Commander Elevator, one of the most famous building in the Stillwater skyline. Built in 1898, the last load of feed was ground in the mill in 1986.

We welcome visitors from other units!

OTHER UNIT MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Mahtomedi Unit: 2nd Monday, 7 pm
WBL UnitarianUniversalist Church
328 Maple St., Mahtomedi, MN 55115

North Oaks Unit: 2nd Wednesday, 12:30 pm
Incarnation Lutheran Church
4880 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks, MN 55126

White Bear Lake Unit: 2nd Thursday, 7pm
WBL City Hall, 2nd floor
4701 Hwy 61 N, WBL, MN 55110



September Highlights

- Did you know that several of the 13 colonies gave women the right to vote, and then took it away? Did you know that the first women in the U.S. to vote, after the 19th amendment was ratified, lived in South St. Paul?

- It's not just fun facts like these that you will learn at the **September unit meetings**, "Protesters, Prisoners, and Political Persuaders." The fight for women's suffrage didn't start with Susan B. Anthony, and it didn't end with the 19th amendment. The unit presentations include so much more, and it includes you! This will be an interactive experience you won't want to miss!

- Our League members will be participating in **National Voter Registration Day** by hosting local events on **September 24, 2019** at our area high schools. Here's a little background on the day:
- National Voter Registration Day is a holiday celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of every September. Its goal is to focus attention on the importance of registering to vote and voting in our democracy during a single day of on-the-ground and digital efforts lead by government, nonprofits, and businesses.
- You can "save the date" now. Once times are finalized, an email will go out asking for volunteers.


Don't forget about Women's Suffrage Day at the State Capitol:
Sunday, September 8th!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA PROGRAM CALENDAR 2019-2020

8/22/19

UNIT LEADERS		MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS
Mahtomedi Unit		Mahtomedi Unit: 2 nd Monday, 7 pm, WBL Unitarian Universalist Church 328 Maple St., Mahtomedi, MN 55115
Theresa Casey-Wolf	tcaseywolf@gmail.com 651-324-4372	
North Oaks Unit		North Oaks Unit: 2 nd Wednesday, 12:30 pm, Incarnation Lutheran Church 4880 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks, MN 55126
Carolyn Folke	cbwf40@gmail.com 651-414-9503	
St. Croix Valley Unit		St. Croix Valley Unit, 2 nd Thursday, 3 pm Tin Bins, 413 E. Nelson, Stillwater, MN 55082
Lori Soukup	soukup524@gmail.com 651-491-4735	
Gladys Ritter	logos48@aol.com 612-598-1045	
White Bear Lake Unit		White Bear Lake Unit: 2 nd Thursday, 7 pm, White Bear Lake City Hall, 2nd floor, 4701 Hwy 61 N, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110
Kathy Gaylord	kbgaylord@gmail.com 651-503-3660	

Month	Lead	Detail
AUGUST 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	22 Kickoff Picnic 5 pm Wilkinson Picnic Pavilion North Oaks Unit Carolyn Folke	KICKOFF PICNIC 5 pm, at Wilkinson Pavilion, North Oaks on Centerville Road south of County Road J, directly across from Schwing. Picnic supper \$10 donation, guests no charge. Introduce 2019-20 program calendar. RSVP to Carolyn Folke.
SEPTEMBER 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	9 Mahtomedi Unit 11 North Oaks Unit 12 SCV Unit 12 WB Lake Unit 20 Start Early Voting 24 National Voter Registration Day Liz Lauder	PROTESTERS, PRISONERS, AND POLITICAL PERSUADERS: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND 100 YEARS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS What were the most significant events in the history of the fight for women's right to vote and of the organization created to educate the new voters? Test your knowledge and put together a timeline.
OCTOBER 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	9 North Oaks Unit 10 WB Lake Unit 10 SCV Unit 14 Mahtomedi Unit 15 Pre-registration ends Liz Nordling	LWV'S FIGHT AGAINST GERRYMANDERING The US Supreme Court ruled that federal courts can't review partisan gerrymandering or judge if extreme gerrymandering violates the US Constitution. The ruling puts the burden on state legislatures to determine the future of electoral maps. Our unit meeting will cover implications for us of that decision.
NOVEMBER 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	4 End Early Voting 5 ELECTION DAY 7 General Meeting, 7 pm WBL City Hall Lisa Larson	COMMUNITY COUNTS IN 2020 Andrew Virden, or another expert from the Minnesota State Demographic Center, will talk about the 2020 Census, its history in MN, the accuracy of the count, and who administers it. What are the effects of an undercount? How different is it from 2010?
DECEMBER 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	8 Holiday Party No unit meetings SCV Unit Lori Soukup, Gladys Ritter	 Attend holiday party. Significant others invited.

Month		Lead	Detail
JANUARY 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	8 North Oaks Unit 9 SCV Unit 9 WB Lake Unit 13 Mahtomedi Unit	Mary Santi	BOOK DISCUSSION, NIGHT OF CAMP DAVID <i>Night of Camp David</i> is a 1965 novel by Fletcher Knebel, author of <i>Seven Days in May</i> . The novel explores what our nation's leaders would do if they came to discover that the president was unstable and unfit to continue in office.
FEBRUARY 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	22 General Meeting, 10 am WBL City Hall	Kathy Tomsich	ARE YOU READY FOR SUPER TUESDAY IN MN? The speaker will give information about why MN changed from caucus to primary for presidential elections; how this differs from the State primary or other primaries. Speaker will also discuss how voter information is collected and what is done with it.
MARCH 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	9 Mahtomedi Unit 11 North Oaks Unit 12 SCV Unit 12 WB Lake Unit	Unit Leaders	ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN ELECTIONS Local news reporters talk with us about covering local politics, what changes they've seen over time, and the relationships between government, press and the community.
APRIL 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	16 Annual Meeting	Mahtomedi Unit	ANNUAL MEETING WITH SPEAKER Members decide on program and budget and elect officers and directors for the coming year. Guest speaker Peter Watson will talk about redistricting. He has drawn election maps for Ramsey County and served as Senate Counsel for MN and on numerous national and international redistricting committees.
MAY 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	11 Mahtomedi Unit 13 North Oaks Unit 14 SCV Unit 14 WB Lake Unit	Mary Santi	METRO COUNCIL GOVERNANCE How to choose Metropolitan Council members has been hotly debated by lawmakers and the public ever since the state legislature created the Met Council in 1967. We get in on the discussion using a new report created by the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL). Learn about Met Council and give your opinion.

Event Key

- Unit Meetings
- General/Public Meetings
- All-Member Events
- Board Meetings, 6 pm WBL Library
- Bear Facts Deadlines
- Election-Related Dates

www.lwv-wbla.org

Check our website regularly for updates to program, scheduled candidate forums and voter registration events.

[Facebook.com/League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area](https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersWhiteBearLakeArea)

Facebook is the place to learn about and comment on what's happening today.

Coming in October: Redistricting and Gerrymandering

At the October unit meetings we'll discuss *Rucho v. Common Cause*, the recent US Supreme Court gerrymandering decision, and its impact on states; review Minnesota's redistricting process and timeline; and consider several bills introduced by state legislators to change the redistricting process and the LWV position on those bills.

Some Background: Every 10 years, all 50 states redraw electoral boundary lines governing where their US Congress members and state legislators are elected. Sometimes, instead of safeguarding electoral fairness, elected officials directed by state law to redraw electoral boundary lines, use the redistricting process to manipulate boundaries to favor a political party or an incumbent candidate.

Technology makes it possible to draw "gerrymandered" boundaries and maps with highly accurate precision. This results in a political system where primaries are the most contested elections and elected officials cater to the partisan extremes that dominate primary contests. "Gerrymandered" boundaries impact many communities throughout the US, including underrepresented minority communities, effectively reducing voters' political participation and diminishing voters' political influence.

The US Supreme Court recently issued a 5-4 decision ruling federal courts can't review partisan gerrymandering and can't judge if extreme gerrymandering violates the US Constitution. The ruling puts the burden on state legislatures to determine the future of electoral maps.

In Minnesota, a number of redistricting bills have been introduced in the legislature to create independent commissions to advise state legislators on redrawing electoral district boundaries, require public hearings on proposed electoral boundaries, and establish redistricting criteria governing racial fairness, communities of interest, and gerrymandered electoral districts, among other proposals.

ALSO IN OCTOBER: Gala Celebration Benefiting LWV Minnesota

Where will you be on the first night of our second century? The LWV Minnesota is hosting a celebratory gala to kick off the next 100 years of the League of Women Voters, and you can be a part of it! LWV WBLA is sponsoring a table of eight people, and we're looking for generous members or guests who will buy a ticket to support our state organization.

The evening will include an auction and guest speakers. It will also offer a chance to wine and dine and schmooze with fellow members from other Leagues, and maybe even some well-known elected or appointed officials!

Details are still being worked out, but contact President Liz Lauder if you are interested in attending (lizlauder@gmail.com or 651-357-8519). Tickets can also be purchased soon on the state League's website: <https://www.lwvmn.org/gala>

A SNEAK PEAK AT NOVEMBER . . .

At the November general meeting we'll hear Andrew Virden, Director of Census Outreach and Engagement in Minnesota, or a member of his staff, discuss the 2020 census taking process in Minnesota, the impact of the census on the state and local governments, and the challenges he faces in conducting the census, ensuring an accurate population count, and managing census data; answer members' questions about the census; and explain how LWV WBLA members can help with census taking in Minnesota. Census Day in Minnesota is April 1, 2020.

Some Background: Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of all the people living in the country. The US Constitution requires government to count adults and children, citizens and non-citizens. The census count determines how many seats a state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and affects the allocation of federal, state, and local government funds for education, social services, infrastructure, and other things. The 2020 census is expected to cost three times more than the 2000 Census.

A fair and accurate census depends on keeping people's responses confidential. The US Congress and presidential administrations have recognized the need for strict confidentiality in getting a complete population count. Today, for many people, trust in the federal government is low, especially among communities of color. Many people fear immigration or law enforcement officials might use their census responses against them or their families.

The 2020 Census is the first census conducted largely online. The US Census Bureau sees the online census as a way to count an increasingly large and diverse society and also comply with strict cost constraints imposed by Congress. Nonresponse follow-up, which is how the Bureau gets responses from households that do not submit their census forms, is the Bureau's largest and most costly task. For the 2020 Census, the Bureau is asking 80 percent of households to submit their census responses online and expects 45 percent of households to comply. The Bureau will mail census questionnaires to households with low Internet access or older-adult populations and households that don't return the initial questionnaire. These households can respond online or by mail or report by phone. The Bureau will follow-up by sending census field workers door-to-door to collect data from non-responsive households or may use administrative records like tax returns or government assistance applications to save money.

The digital platform has both advantages and risks. The advantages include ease of administration and reduced costs. The risks include the possibilities of cyber-attacks and the difficulties of traditionally and disproportionately undercounted communities – racial and ethnic minorities, urban and rural low-income households, immigrants, and young children - accessing the Internet. Using administrative records to count hard-to-count populations may increase risks of undercounting too.

Becoming More Familiar with your Elected Officials

Two new versions of **They Represent You** are now available. One is for **North Washington County** and the other for **North Ramsey County**. They have State, Federal and local listings with websites for all the cities we represent.

Thanks to Shannon Moore and Jane Bacon for researching the contacts, and to Shannon, Jane, Gretchen Davidson and Karen Gochberg for proofing.

Unit Leaders will have extra of the paper copies which were available at the picnic. You can also find it on our updated and vastly improved website <http://www.lwv-wbla.org> under the tab Voter Services/Get To Know Your Elected Officials.

Also on the website you will find **They Represent You St. Croix Valley** which includes State and Federal elected officials in the St. Croix Valley area prepared by the St. Croix Valley Unit.

..... And with what's happening in YOUR League



Don't forget to check out our Facebook page. You will find it if you search for League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area. This is where we post and discuss our day-to-day happenings. Our page has a calendar for upcoming events. We post replays from our forums that have already taken place. Check out our page, "like" it "share" it and post your own comments on it.

www.lwv-wbla.org

LWV White Bear Lake Area also has a Website. You will find that at <http://www.lwv-wbla.org>. There you will find an events calendar, back issues of the Bear Facts, board information and an invitation and instructions on how to join. We have recently updated and improved our website, so check it out!

Survey Says....

In May and June, LWV WBLA members were invited to take a survey intended to allow the Board to get to know our members better, and to tailor our program and volunteer opportunities accordingly. We received 34 responses, or about a third of total membership, either on paper or electronically. Here are some of the things we learned about you:

UNITS - White Bear Lake and Mahtomedi are the largest units, containing about two-thirds of respondents. But we enjoy robust participation from members of all four units, and St. Croix Valley routinely “punches above its weight,” being a small group with strong leadership!

ATTENDANCE - At least half of all respondents attend unit and general meetings all or most of the time, and two-thirds felt there was a good balance of general and unit meetings in the 2018-2019 program year.

WORKING? Twenty percent of respondents work either full- or part-time, while most (about 80%) are retired or working from home.

GET INVOLVED, LEARN, MAKE FRIENDS - Learning more about government and politics and making a difference were motivating factors for nearly all respondents (90%). Another large grouping mentioned being able to make and see League friends.

VOTING, VOTING, VOTING - By far the most popular issues motivating respondents fell under the category of Elections, Campaigning and Voting Rights (27%). Environmental Issues, Civic Education, and Immigration were popular as well.

VOLUNTEERING - Most respondents felt that emails and notices in the Bear Facts were the best way to solicit volunteers, so continue to look for ways to help out in your email and the Bear Facts!

MEETINGS - Respondents were generally very happy with the speakers we had at last year’s general meetings, but also enjoyed the intimacy of smaller unit meetings and the ability to “follow up” on general meeting topics in a more relaxed setting. For that reason, a number of you requested that we add one more unit meeting to the mix. Popular topic requests for the new program were women in politics, and gun control.

We think we have put together a program for 2019-2020 that is exciting and answers many of the most deeply felt concerns of our members. We hope you will agree! If you haven’t filled out a survey, you can still do so here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGSq0dVo4GewLVnO83J9vmC-NRoaxyww7jy_usuC3VIDLHDw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1