

THE *Leaguer*

SPRING / SUMMER 2021



Our Mission...

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) is a nonpartisan political organization whose main objective is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of all in government at all levels, especially locally.

**PO Box 175
Ashland, WI 54806
info@lwwabcwi.org**



FAIR MAPS REFERENDUM IN ASHLAND COUNTY

Building on the resounding success of the Fair Maps Referendum during the November election in Bayfield County, and guided by Shari Eggleston who had been involved with the process, Ashland County League members decided to get a similar referendum on the April ballot. Ashland County Administrator Clark

Schroeder explained the necessary steps, which consisted of preparing materials for the County Board of Supervisors Executive Committee who would decide whether to bring it to the whole board for approval. A conversation with Chairman Dick Puffal confirmed that he was in favor of such a referendum and thus willing to get it on the committee's agenda. In order to meet the deadline, Diane Koosed and Ginger Quay worked tirelessly within a brief timeframe to get the requisite packet, including a letter signed by our president Sue Niemi, prepared and submitted.

The Executive Committee approved putting the referendum before the full Ashland County Board of Supervisors, which in January voted to place the referendum on the ballot. During the board meeting, county resident members Sheila Mitchell and Ginger Quay addressed the board in support of the referendum on our League's behalf.

Shortly thereafter Linda Calhan joined our Fair Maps Referendum effort and was instrumental in securing and distributing END GERRYMANDERING yard signs throughout the community.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) has a database of all

Fair Maps cont. on pg. 3

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 **Fair Maps Referendum in Ashland County**
- 2 **A Message from our President**
- 3 **Fair Maps Referendum in Ashland County (cont.)**
- 4 **LMV/ABC Calendar**
- 5 **2021 Board & Committee Members**
- 6-8 **Put On Your Advocacy Action Hats For Wisconsin's 2021-23 Biennial Budget**
- 9 **Making a Difference with Civic Engagement**
- 10-11 **Stories of the Land to Which People Belong**
- 12-13 **Experiences & Insights of an LWV/ABC Voter Services Committee Member**
- 14 **Wisconsin's Infrastructure Needs You!**
- 15 **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day**
- 16 **Voter Suppression Bills: The Six "Worst"**



Linda Calhan placing Fair Maps brochures on doorknobs in the City of Ashland



Greetings from our President

Sue Niemi
President

president@lwvabcwi.org

Dear League Members,

It's the end of March, 2021. One year ago, we entered into a lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our lives, the way we work, the way we interact with each other, and how we go about our everyday activities have changed. We have hope on the horizon, as more and more people get vaccinated. We will still face challenges, but we can feel hope now. I also have hope for greater membership engagement as we come out of this pandemic. There have been several new members who have asked how they can get involved. Frankly, when I was a new member, I had the same question. Outside of our annual meeting in May, our annual membership meeting in the fall and our holiday dinner in December, there are many opportunities to

get involved. The best way to get involved is to join one (or more) of our committees. You'll see in their reports the excellent work underway. If there is one, or more, of interest to you, please contact the committee chair to get involved. Mark Your Calendars! We are excited to announce that **our Annual Meeting will be held Monday, May 17th, 2021 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm via Zoom (meeting details proceeding).** During our annual meeting we will vote on the consent agenda; nomination slate for the board; programming for the next year; financial reports and budget for next year; and chapter by-law changes. Look for the annual report to be distributed on or before April 17th, 2021. While working in

corporate America, we frequently used the phrase that "hope is not a strategy". A wise mentor of mine in the League reminded me that hope is a strategy. If it weren't for hope, combined with passion and commitment, would we ever have gotten the 19th amendment passed? So, as we march forth in 2021, let's keep hope in our hearts, passion to fight for our democracy, and commitment to ensuring people have the right to vote and ability to do so safely and easily.

Join our May 17th Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81443821878?pwd=RUZFcjBVMzNkRUZFc2xJV1FJRkVLU09>

Meeting ID:
814 4382 1878
Passcode:
939709

Dial by your location US (Chicago):
+1 (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID:
814 4382 1878
Passcode:
939709

Fair Maps cont. from pg. 1

registered voters with the times we have voted in recent elections. The list was purchased, and Ed Calhan narrowed the vast amount of data to the needed address and voting information. Linda divided up the lists that Heart Graphics printed. Five of us, including Madeleine Lee, each addressed 100 envelopes for a total of 500 Fair Maps flyers, which were mailed to all the residents living in Ashland County, outside the City of Ashland, who had voted in all the last seven elections, and to some of those who had voted in almost all of them. The entire list consists of over ten thousand registered voters in Ashland County, many of whom have only voted sporadically. Because of cost, it would have been out of the question to mail flyers to all. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI) supplied the flyers at no cost. Copy That designed and printed, for a much appreciated very nominal charge, an adhesive label urging voters to Vote Yes on Referendum #2 that we placed on the flyers. They also printed posters that were put up in public places. All 180 homebound residents throughout 15 county townships who get Meals on Wheels from the Ashland County Council on Aging received the Fair Maps flyer with one of their meal deliveries. In addition, Linda and Diane distributed hundreds of flyers in a COVID safe manner within Ashland city limits by attaching them to doorknobs with a rubber band, thereby avoiding contact with residents. Those were distributed

randomly throughout neighborhoods without regard for the dwellers' voting history. We expect that Sawyer County could be our next effort as far as a referendum. As stated by Linda in our March Bottom Line *In League* article, Fair Maps resolutions and referendums are being passed in municipalities throughout the state. Some of us testified or submitted comments to the Governor's People's Maps Commission which is tasked with coming up with a fair way to redraw voting districts based on the 2020 census, the results of which will be made public in

September. Those of us who want to end gerrymandering must help generate enough support from Wisconsin voters to put pressure on our legislators in Madison to pay heed to the commission's recommendation.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is committed to end gerrymandering throughout our nation with its People Powered Fair Maps campaign. On April 29 there will be a People Powered Day of Action kick-off pep rally event. For information go to [People Powered Day of Action](#).

Diane Koosed putting Fair Maps brochures on doorknobs in the City of Ashland



LWV / ABC CALENDAR 2021

MAY

May Day/International Workers Day	1
Infrastructure Zoom: Energy (1/7)	6
National John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day	8
LWV/ABC Annual Meeting	17
Infrastructure Zoom: Bridges and Roads (2/7)	27
Memorial Day	31

JUNE

LWVWI Annual Meeting	11-12
Infrastructure Zoom: Transit and Aviation (3/7)	17

JULY

Independence Day	4
Infrastructure Zoom: Waterways and Ports (4/7)	8
Infrastructure Zoom: Stormwater and Dams (5/7)	29

AUGUST

Infrastructure Zoom: Drinking Water and Wastewater (6/7)	5
Infrastructure Zoom: Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste (7/7)	19
101st anniversary of the 19th amendment	26

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day	6
-----------	---



Have you been wondering what all the concern is about Enbridge Line 5? **You are not alone!!** For further information about this pipeline, and to “come up to speed,” please check out:

RetireLine5.org

Packed full of facts from both Michigan and Wisconsin



2020 LWV/ABC Board & Committee Members

League of Women Voters Websites:

LWV of Wisconsin: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin>

LWV National: <https://www.lwv.org/>

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Sue Niemi
President

Roger Aiken
Treasurer

Lynn Bigboy
President-Elect

Gail Syverud
Membership

Kate Siegler
Secretary

Communications Committee

Open Chair

Kate Bortell
Website and Social Media

Matt Oestreich
G Suites

Sue Niemi
Email Blasts

Jack Ring
Newsletter

Liz Seefeldt
Bottom Line Liaison

Anne Chartier
Diane Koosed
Editors

Membership Committee

Gail Syverud
Chair

Voter Services Committee

Open Chair

Natural Resources Advocacy Committee

Joan Elias
Chair

Civic Engagement Committee

Bev Lindell
Chair

Inequality Action Committee

Jan Penn & Linda Jorgenson
Co-Chairs

Program & Events Committee

Sheila Mitchell
Chair

Nominating Committee

Jo Bailey
Chair
Gail Syverud
Kay Saari

Finance Committee

Open Chair
Roger Aiken
Treasurer

BOARD

Contact the Board at:
info@lwvabcwi.org or

PO Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806

Sue Niemi
President

Lynn Bigboy
President-Elect

Roger Aiken
Treasurer

Kate Siegler
Secretary

Barb Bell
Joan Elias
Linda Jorgenson
Bev Lindell
Sheila Mitchell
Jan Penn
Gail Syverud

Anne Chartier
Ex-Officio

Our Website:

<http://www.lwvabcwi.org/>

Put On Your Advocacy Action Hats For Wisconsin's 2021-23 Biennial Budget

LINDA JORGENSEN & JAN PENN

UNFAIR TAX POLICY, REVENUE SHARING REDUCTIONS, INADEQUATE SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA, LACK OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT, FAILURE TO EXPAND BROADBAND IN RURAL WISCONSIN, these were the complaints voiced by the Ashland County Board members at their March 9 meeting. The Board was responding with open eyes to the short-term revenue shortfall and difficult budget cuts facing the County. By the time you read this *Leaguer*, Ashland County residents will have voted on a referendum to increase the tax levy for the next 5 years.

The ABC League presented virtually at the March 9 meeting. The LWV/ABC Economic Inequality Committee presented each Ashland County Supervisor with a copy of the Blue-Ribbon Task Force Report on Rural Prosperity, released Dec. 2020. (See link on webpage) with a cover letter (see

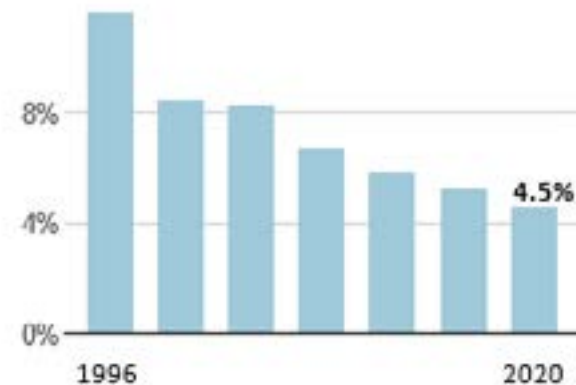
webpage) signed by Sue Neimi. The ABC/LWV also requested an evening Virtual Listening Session on the April Tax Levy Increase and it was held on March 23 and attended by 41 people. The same plan was followed for the March 30 meeting of the Bayfield County Board.

Taking that advocacy strategy to the next level the League's Inequality Action Committee is encouraging all ABC Leaguers to send a stronger message to Madison this year that our rural counties need help. The Wisconsin Legislature is currently preparing its 2021-23 Biennial Budget. One important place to start is to raise our rural voices with the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee in their budget deliberation process. At the end of this article are links to contact information for JF Committee members and the dates for their public hearings in April. Our advocacy is based on the LWV/ABC

Economic Inequality report and position (see our Website) and our history of strong presence and partnership in our local government.

Below also find a link to the *Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission's Rural Prosperity Report*. This Commission was made up of diverse voices from Wisconsin's rural areas. Our League applauds their findings that rural Wisconsin counties have been patient for far too long, nearly 40 years, with trying to manage on austerity budgets. For example:

Share of State Budget, State Support for Counties and Municipalities is Shrinking



In 1996, Shared Revenue made up 26% of county budgets and 7% of municipal budgets. By 2019, those percentages had shrunk to 12% for county budgets and 3% of municipal budgets. Source: Wisconsin Budget Project

Whether it is our public education, or our roads and broadband, or our long-term care and mental health services, rural Wisconsin has been the victim of a failed idea that if you just cut government funding then private sector investment will move in to fill the demand. For counties with populations the size of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (16,000 and 13,000), that never made sense. If it had been profitable to install broadband, fix our aging infrastructure, deliver long term care services for elders and people with mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction or disabilities, or offer affordable health insurance, private companies would have flocked into the market.

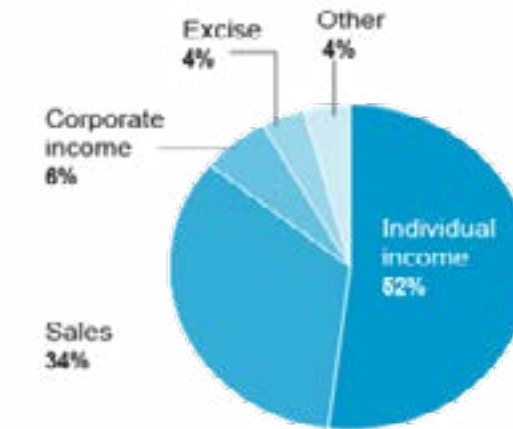
Advocacy Action cont. on pg. 7

Advocacy Action cont. from pg. 6

Our rural counties do not need more government budget cuts. Wisconsin must recognize it is time to make some long overdue State investments funded by smart State capture of Federal funds and by rebalancing our tax structure. We are also long overdue for a discussion of the amount of revenue being raised from income taxes and corporate taxes versus from property and sales taxes, both of which disproportionately hit our counties middle- and low-income taxpayers.

General Purpose Revenue Taxes by Source

For 2018.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration WISCONSIN BUDGET PROJECT

2. Expand BadgerCare.

Making health insurance affordable for low-income wage earners would be a big boost for small businesses and farmers and help reduce child poverty in our County. Accepting Federal Medicaid expansion dollars is not only smart budgeting, it is a moral imperative. It would free up \$634 Million in State dollars that could be redirected to fund other state programs such as funding public education or increasing state aids.

3. Phase in an increase in the minimum wage and mandate paid sick and family leave. Make jobs attractive enough in our rural counties to keep our young people and attract young people to move here. They are our counties' up and coming tax base.

Young people currently leave, or choose to settle in places that offer living wages and good benefit packages. So, let's make that happen in Rural Wisconsin. (Even at \$11/hr.(\$23,000/yr.) families cannot cover monthly bills with current rent -\$700/mo. plus utilities, car payments, food, childcare, health insurance). And, yes, our small businesses will have a big adjustment, but they can pass those costs on to their customers, and higher wages mean increased local buying power circulating around our community. This will also greatly assist women in our area

In addition, as the pandemic has exposed to even a greater degree the past bi-partisan failure to foster a healthy rural Wisconsin economy, we feel this is an opportune time to raise our Far North voices to rebuild better. The state revenues are in surplus and our local needs are crying for attention.

The Inequality Action Committee feels we need a healthier balance between private and public investment and a respectful partnership. For that reason, we have coalesced around these demands for our Counties:

1. Tax Fairness.

It is only fair that if the modest income taxpayers of our counties and their municipalities are being asked to raise their taxes, rural counties should be asking the Legislature and the Governor to close the tax loopholes garnered by major WI Corporations and wealthy taxpayers in the past 40 years. Wisconsin was once lauded for its fair and progressive tax policy. It now has become a regressive policy. Both individuals and businesses benefit from Wisconsin's services such as our public education and our roads. Everyone should be paying their fair share.

Advocacy Action cont. on pg. 8

who disproportionately work in low wage jobs - food service, home health and nursing homes, childcare. It also lessens our need for government funded poverty programs.

4. Support budget inclusion of special supports and incentives for small farms/small businesses.

This is consistent with Bayfield County's efforts to build a more resilient and sustainable regional economy. Economic development research now shows that most growth comes from the bottom up, not the top down. The Amazons and the Teslas do not produce the newest jobs. They come from grassroots entrepreneurs. Additionally, the international supply chain deficiencies revealed by the pandemic make healthy local enterprise all the more relevant.

5. Reduce the WI Corrections budget.

Corrections receives 7% of WI funds vs. 5% for local governments. Wisconsin incarcerates 46% more people and spends 56% more on corrections than the State of Minnesota with a similar population size. Ashland and Bayfield Counties are also modeling efforts to provide alternatives to incarceration. For that reason, Bayfield County should be endorsing state level efforts to reduce incarceration for non-violent offenses, to increase mental health funding, to build on local programming for youth offenders and to redirect funds to treatment programs with demonstrated effectiveness in reducing recidivism and moving offenders toward productive community citizenship.

6. Save BART by championing the State aid for public transport in the Governor's budget.

7. Help fix our aging infrastructure and invest in climate change resiliency while also protecting the natural resources that are the foundation of our tourist economy.

We hope you Leaguers will write or call members of the Joint Finance Committee in April or volunteer to testify either in person or in writing at the upcoming hearing:

- Virtual: Wednesday, April 28, 2021
 - www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please do not hesitate to call Inequality Committee Co-chairs **Linda Jorgenson (715-373-2948)** or **Jan Penn (715-274-2942)**

Resources:
2021 Joint Finance Committee members contact info. See LWV/ABC website.
Governor's Commission on Rural Prosperity Report: <https://wedc.org/rural-prosperity/>

Making a Difference with Civic Engagement

BEV LINDELL

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes. Definition of civic engagement - New York Times.

The past few decades we have witnessed increased polarization in social and political groups. Recently, we have heard alerts from historians, philosophers, political strategists etc. that this division or "tribalism" is now a serious threat to our democracy. Politicians cannot agree and policy development is stalled. International relations are damaged by inconsistent diplomacy. And, on an individual basis, we find our own interaction with family and friends, challenged by strong emotions around competing social/political views.

Political researchers, Suzanne Mettler and Robert Lieberman

in their book, Four Threats, list factors culminating now to disrupt democratic process: political polarization; conflict over who claims membership in the political community (racial and ethnic tensions); high levels of economic inequality; and excessive executive power.

The Capitol riots of January 6, 2021 demonstrated the explosive nature of polarization with factions claiming stolen election vs. election interference; voter fraud vs. voter suppression. Current reviews of what has led to this chasm include distrust of government, changing demographics, social media, and recent steep

decline in civic group participation.

And, of course, the pandemic has added to the stress. On a positive note, community groups and organizations have recognized these threats and are mobilizing to understand and start to make changes that will lead to increased civility within communities and progress in positive reform.

Our civic engagement committee has been involved in the same process. The isolation caused by the virus has interrupted in-person gatherings but it has given us time to step back and thoughtfully study the dilemma. Our committee has for several months, talked with other organizations with similar interests in CE. We have requested via zoom conversations with community leaders about ideas to improve civic involvement and action. We've signed up for webinars and skills training. We are working hard to have a schedule of programs and projects ready for the time when we can be together in-person.

A summary of what we are planning to offer once group gatherings are deemed safe include:

- *Community Reads project offered in all interested regional libraries.*
- *A series of social and informational meetings on issues like economic inequality, diversity and inclusiveness.*
- *Finding ways to encourage active involvement of our younger generations.*
- *Voting as a celebration of civic responsibility.*

We are always interested in having others from LWV/ABC join our committee. Please contact Bev Lindell bjlindell8@gmail.com for more information.

Stories of the Land to Which People Belong

SHEILA MITCHELL

THIS YEAR, the Natural Resources Committee has been studying, educating and advocating for protection against the threats from Enbridge Line 5 and the contents within that pipeline. And during this time, the concern about how special this region is regarding its natural resources, beauty and culture began to be repeated over and over again. So, with the hope of getting other people to think about this, and the wish to get these stories down in writing, the "SuperiorWatersStoryCorp" was born. And, what better thing to do during a pandemic than to take stock of where we are at and how we are going to protect that for our children and generations to come?

The StoryCorp group started to arrange how to collect the stories and how to get the stories "out there." A name for the project was decided on, a grant was written for the Duluth Superior

Community Foundation, and a link was made for submission of the stories. There was encouragement to anybody in the area and anyone with connections to the area to submit a poem or a special story or even thoughts; anything that reminded them of something special about this region.

To our great surprise and appreciation, the group was offered a spot during the Wisconsin Water Week Convention which is hosted yearly in March. Spurred on by a target date, we began planning for this first virtual event, which was scheduled for the evening of March 11th.

Sadly, just before the event took place, we heard of the passing of local storyteller/educator/activist icon Joe Rose, which was quite a blow to the Bad River Tribe and to the entire community. Words cannot describe what a loss he will be to us all.

We decided to dedicate this initial storytelling event to the memory of Joe, all that he has stood for.

After a brief "rehearsal," our evening was upon us. Our program, "Stories of the Land to which People Belong," opened with lovely solo piano music (The Lake at Evening by Charles Tomlinson Griffes and Four Tone Poems: Meditation on Lake Superior/A Moveable Beach by Wendy Durrwachter) which set the stage for the stories to come. Frank Montano narrated the event, and the stories were divided into three sections: Stories from the Water, Stories of the Land, and Stories of Concern for the Water and the Land. Most of the stories/poems were read by the author, with one additional writing from Winona LaDuke. Oral narrators Bud Johnston and Guy Reiter also added a few stories to the mix. There was a final story/video which included an invitation to all to join the SuperiorStoryCorpProject.

The evening concluded with a beautiful edited interview of Joe Rose, screened several

Stories of the Land cont. on pg. 11

Stories of the Land cont. from pg. 10

years ago by Paul DeMain, and a reminder from Paul that Joe's spirit will continue to live on.

There were 71 people in the "computer crowd" of this program. Not a bad start for an initial virtual event!

A big THANK YOU to all who are working on this project, have submitted

material to this project, and all who worked to make this first event so special. Below is a beautiful drawing forwarded by Maddie Loeffler, who was inspired to do this drawing by listening to the stories from that evening.

If you would like to submit stories or poems from the Chequamegon Bay and the

Bad River Watershed region, please go to:

www.tinyurl.com/SuperiorWatersStoryCorps

We hope to put on more events as more stories come in. Hopefully we will be listening to your story being read in the not-so-distant future!



Experiences and Insights of an LWV/ABC Voter Services Committee Member

DEBRA LOZOFF SWADEN, STONE LAKE

I GREW UP IN MILWAUKEE in a politically liberal home. We loved our U.S. Senators, William Proxmire and Gaylord Nelson, and were proud of the progressive politics in our state. I went to college in Madison, where I continued to support and celebrate forward thinking in the state. I left Wisconsin in 1976 and primarily lived elsewhere until 2014.

My, oh my. Wisconsin had changed in the intervening years.

Like many of you, I wrote a lot of GOTV letters and postcards in 2020. Hundreds of them. I made hundreds of phone calls too, admittedly from a partisan viewpoint. Those who didn't hang up on me seemed really happy to get detailed how-

to's on early and absentee voting.

So, I was excited when, soon after, I was invited to attend a Zoom meeting of the League of Women Voters in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. I had admired LWV for decades - since my mother was a member in the 1960's - and was happy to join.

I volunteered for a Voters Services project during that first meeting. The project was to gather contact information from the 21 municipalities in the county for the candidates running for offices in the Spring election. That information would be used to give those candidates the opportunity to

answer questions for the VOTE411.org website. The contact information was needed within a couple of weeks.

As a retired State (of Minnesota) employee used to communicating with large numbers of people, I thought I knew the fastest way to accomplish the task:

- create some spreadsheets;
- send a clear and concise group email asking for an electronic response by a set date; and
- follow up with telephone calls to those who didn't respond.

Easy-peasy, right? So began my education as a brand new LWV member.

I learned that I was the first person from outside local government to contact the municipal Clerks in a group email. This may explain why some Clerks replied with consternation. Here are some other things I learned:

- There are very few challengers to incumbents.
- "Joe" and a lot of other Township Supervisors don't use email.
- Did I know that LWV is not a non-partisan organization?
- Incumbents who are unopposed don't want to provide their personal contact information.
- From one unopposed incumbent, "I only need one vote to win. Why should I answer these (vote411.org) questions?"

Experiences cont. on pg. 13

Experiences cont. from pg. 12

My partner in this project and I ended up making quite a lot of follow up phone calls. And even when we reached them, some Clerks remained reticent to provide contact information. In my effort to be thorough, I turned to a variety of free people search engines to attempt, at least, to obtain a postal address. In this endeavor I learned something else: the vast majority of the incumbents are over 65.

I fall into that age category too, so I am reluctant to label them as "elderly." But the advanced age of incumbents who remain largely unchallenged in elections concerns me. Elderly leaders are making decisions that will impact future generations. And

age-eligible members of younger generations are letting them. In this paradigm, how likely is it that new policy ideas will be considered, much less implemented?

Now that I have been schooled, perhaps my next project with LWV should focus on civic engagement.



Debra mailing GOTV letters with grandson Zev!

Wisconsin's Infrastructure Needs You!

Let's raise Wisconsin's infrastructure grade!

Join the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, ASCE-WI infrastructure category authors and invited panelists to discuss Wisconsin's 2020 Infrastructure Report Card. These category meetings are designed to initiate conversations about local infrastructure needs.

Series Schedule: Thursdays, 3-5 PM	Grade
Energy	May 6 B
Bridges and Roads	May 27 C+/D+
Transit and Aviation	June 17 D+/C+
Inland Waterways and Ports	July 8 C-/C+
Stormwater and Dams	July 29 C/C+
Drinking Water and Wastewater	August 5 C-/C-
Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste	August 19 B-/B-

REGISTRATION

To register for each meeting go to:
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/article/summer-series-infrastructure-category-meetings>

ASCE REPORT CARD

To access the report card go to:
https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FullReport-WI_2020-1.pdf

To join discussions about infrastructure needs with the League, contact us at lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org for more info.



MAY 8, 2021

NATIONAL JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT ACTION DAY



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 8TH
2021

JOIN THE NATIONAL JOHN LEWIS
VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT
ACTION DAY!

HANDS OFF OUR VOTE!

DEFEAT VOTER SUPPRESSION!

PASS S1 #FOR THE PEOPLE
 PASS HR4 JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT
 SUPPORT DC STATEHOOD
 REMOVE OBSTACLE OF FILIBUSTER TO VOTER JUSTICE

ACTIVITIES:

Street Activism with John Lewis VoterCades
 New Virtual Activism Village
 National Virtual Teach-in and Forum

For More Information:

info@tjcoalition.org | VotingRightsAlliance.org

TransformativeJusticeCoalition

[tjc.dc](https://www.facebook.com/tjc.dc) [@tjc_dc](https://twitter.com/tjc_dc)

citizen.org



Voter Suppression Bills

WISCONSIN BILLS: THE SIX "WORST"

IN WISCONSIN, a set of bills aims to: regulate how absentee ballots are delivered, restrict periods of in-person voting and absentee voting, prohibit election clerks from sending absentee ballots en masse, crack down on when and where ballots can be dropped off, bar officials from providing absentee ballots without request and photo ID on file, and limit who could return ballots for an indefinitely confined voter to just immediate family.

SB203 / AB192: This bill would prohibit any individual from helping more than one non-family member return an absentee ballot.

SB209 / AB177: This bill says that absentee ballot drop boxes must be attached to the building where the office of the clerk is located. Many voters with disabilities who vote absentee are non-drivers and it would reduce the number of drop boxes in highly populated areas.

SB204 / AB201: This bill would no longer allow voters who are indefinitely confined or who are overseas to receive absentee ballots automatically. Instead, they would need to fill out an absentee ballot request for every election and show an ID. It would also prohibit sending absentee ballot applications en masse, as the state did in 2020 to 2.7 million Wisconsin voters.

SB205 / AB179: This bill would take away privacy and create burdens on nursing homes by requiring the home's administrator to notify relatives of the occupants when the special voting deputies will be coming to the facility to assist in the casting of absentee ballots. It also makes it illegal for employees of a retirement home or residential care facility to encourage a resident to vote.

SB206 / AB180: This bill adds hoops for indefinitely confined voters, including requiring a statement under oath affirming plus requiring a note signed by their doctor or nurse if the voter is under 65. It specifies that an epidemic does not count and kicks people off the indefinitely confined list.

SB207 / AB173: This bill prohibits anyone who is a member of a political organization or issue advocacy group from being a poll worker when many polls are experiencing shortages already.

Your Wisconsin legislators need to hear from you that this attempt to restrict election participation is not acceptable and these bills need to be defeated. Can you take action today?

Ashland/Bayfield: Sen. Janet Bewley (Senate District 25) 608-266-3510 or 800-469-6562
Rep. Beth Meyers (Assembly District 74) 608-266-7690 or 888-534-0074
Sawyer County: Sen. Jerry Petrowski (Senate District 29) 608-266-2502
Rep. James Edming (Assembly District 87) 608-266-7506

votingrightsalliance.org

lwv.org

www.commoncausewisconsin.org