



# Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 11–3

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## President’s Message

Christine Clements, [president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org)

### Thursday, May 12

6 p.m.

### LWVDC Virtual Talk

*How We Got Here:  
 The Hidden History of Diversity  
 in America*

Co-sponsored by LWV Dane County, LWV Milwaukee  
 County, LWV Ozaukee County,  
 and LWV Wisconsin

Join us on May 12 to hear from **Reggie Jackson**, whose talk will take a long look at American history and explore our national ambivalence about diversity and inclusion. We examine the legal and social treatment of Native Americans, enslaved Africans, and White Ethnic immigrants (such as the Irish, Italians, and Jews), as well as immigrants and refugees from Asia and Latin America, and how those experiences have led to the racial and ethnic disparities we witness today.

**This event is free and open to the public.**

Register for this event [on our website](#).

As our 2021-22 program and fiscal year winds down, we are setting aside time to reflect on where we have come from and where we still must go with our May campaign “Owning our Past, Charting our Future.” For the last four years, the LWVDC has identified diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as needed priorities, with possibly the greatest impetus provided by our 2020 Lively Issues Forum speaker, Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins. Her presentation and her book, “The Untold History of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters,” featured in one of our book discussions, shed a light on the League’s history of exclusion. Remnants of earlier times are still present in our League today, as evidenced by our most recent DEI survey results. This is especially true in the context of our communities. While our age and gender diversity has grown somewhat, we remain a predominantly white, female, aged 60+ organization. Our profile supports a culture that can diminish our appeal to community members who don’t fit the current profile. It also influences our awareness of where we need to change.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**2022 LWVDC Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, June 2**  
**5:30-7 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom**

All members of the League of Women Voters of Dane County are invited to join us for our 2022 Annual Meeting the evening of June 2 via Zoom. This is your opportunity to hear from League leadership, reflect on the past year, and help guide what’s ahead for the organization.

**Voting will take place only during the online meeting.**

Annual meeting materials have been mailed to members and are available on our website. Check your email for instructions on how to register.

The “Owning our Past, Charting our Future” campaign creates an opportunity to investigate and own the disparate impact of our actions and systems in our diverse community and eliminate barriers to full participation on the basis of any characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. It also creates an opportunity to act and share where progress is being made. We are renaming our annual honor for “years of excellence in contributing to the community and sustained commitment to the League and its governing principles” from the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to the Defender of Democracy Award. We are taking time to acknowledge that we operate on Native lands and to consider the impact of that fact on our Native community. The Board of Directors accepted recommendations for action from the DEI Committee and has engaged in quarterly reviews of our progress. We applied for and were awarded a Mellon Fellow from UW-Madison to work with our leadership team over the coming year to improve the sustainability of our leadership model, with an emphasis on DEI. We are partners in a multi-League presentation by Reggie Jackson, who will speak on May 12 about the hidden history of diversity in America.

We know these actions and systems in our diverse Dane County community and one month of work are not sufficient in erasing our past and becoming truly inclusive. There is still much to be done and it is incumbent on us to continue to change. But let us also celebrate our increased ownership and action as we move forward. This year we established group norms for the Board, norms that are being enacted in our committees. Our norms remind us that demanding perfection can oppress real change, that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, that social change is hard, and that we are all learning and should be kind and patient with one another on this journey. With diligence, collaboration, and support, we continue our journey to be a truly diverse, equitable, inclusive, and impactful League.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

# Owning our Past, Charting our Future

Chris Clements ([president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org)) and Wendy Hathaway ([wendy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:wendy@lwvdanecounty.org))

The League of Women Voters of Dane County has been actively engaged in suffrage and voter rights since 1920—more than 100 years. Throughout this time, the League has zealously advocated for effective government and equal rights.

But the League’s history is also one of exclusion. Many early suffragists abandoned women of color, including our founder Carrie Chapman Catt. The Wisconsin native was a complicated character: a fierce advocate and visionary leader who also used racist arguments to further the movement. While fighting for the 19th Amendment and lobbying Southern senators, she famously claimed, “White supremacy will be strengthened, not weakened, by women’s suffrage.” (See this [2018 LWVUS blog post](#) by then-President Chris Carson and CEO Virginia Kase for a brief but important commentary on the League’s early history.)

This May, the LWVDC will launch a campaign, “Owning our Past, Charting our Future”—an opportunity to investigate and own the disparate impact of our actions and systems in our diverse community and eliminate barriers to full participation on the basis of any characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

Every year since 2005, the LWVDC has presented the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to a League member for “years of excellence in contributing to the community and sustained commitment to the League and its governing principles.” Starting this year, we will change the name of this honor to the “Defender of Democracy Award,” recognizing outstanding service as a champion of the League’s mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Renaming the award will not diminish in any way the incredible dedication and accomplishments of past award winners.

We know one action and one month are not sufficient to erase our past and become truly inclusive. We know that we have more work to do, and every day we must strive to do better. Through diligence and collaboration, we will continue our efforts to be true partners and allies across our Dane County community.

## Life Member Nominees Sought

At our annual meeting in June, we honor anyone who has been a member of the League for 50 years. If you joined the League in 1972 or before and have not been recognized as a life member, please call the office (608-232-9447) or email [office@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:office@lwvdanecounty.org) ASAP.

All members are encouraged to contact the office if they know someone in our League who reaches their 50-year anniversary this year.

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## Study, Discuss, Act

*Carol Kiemel, Board President when the first two Carrie Chapman Catt awards were given*

This is what the League of Women Voters does and rightly, what the LWVDC did when deciding to replace the name of its annual award to a league member who exemplified outstanding leadership within the league and the community.

Of course, I felt a tinge of regret when first learning of it but after reflecting upon it realized it had to be done. The league board studied, discussed statements and actions made by Carrie Chapman Catt and came to the consensus about her bigotry toward Black people.

It doesn't make my receiving the award less meaningful. I was still honored before my peers. In fact, it will be less meaningful if the award continued under its original name.

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## Join the May Challenge to Support LWV Dane County!

Fund Development Committee, [fund.development@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:fund.development@lwvdanecounty.org)

We are so grateful to everyone who supports the League of Women Voters of Dane County in a number of ways: time, wisdom, passion, and resources. We couldn't do the work of empowering voters and defending democracy without each and every one of you.

Please consider making a special donation to the League as we close out our 2021-22 fiscal year. This May, we are challenging members and past supporters in the community to raise \$25,000 in support of voting rights and access to the ballot. Efforts include:

- UW BadgersVote internships
- Canvassing and voter engagement
- Voter education, including *Candidates' Answers* guides
- Community partnerships

Plus, through the month of May, **your gift will be matched up to \$10,000 for double the impact**, thanks to the incredible generosity of one League member who provided a seed gift toward this campaign.

Every dollar makes a difference. Donate today on our website at [www.lwvdanecounty.org/may-challenge](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/may-challenge) or mail a check payable to "League of Women Voters of Dane County" to 720 Hill Street, Ste 200, Madison, WI 53705.

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## Leadership Development Fellow Joining LWVDC in August

Wendy Hathaway, [wendy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:wendy@lwvdanecounty.org)

I'm excited to share the addition of a new team member this fall. Kimberly Rooney will be joining the League of Women Voters of Dane County as a [Mellon Public Humanities Fellow through the UW–Madison Center for the Humanities](#).

Mellon Public Humanities Fellows are part of a multi-year project generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that creates a variety of opportunities for UW–Madison graduate students and faculty to broaden the impact of their research. By placing fellows in partner organizations around Madison—including museums, hospitals, nonprofits, community centers, and emerging businesses—

the Public Humanities program facilitates the reciprocal sharing of resources and expertise and highlights the significance of the humanities both on and off campus.

Kimberly is a PhD candidate in the Department of French & Italian at UW–Madison, specializing in French and Francophone Studies. She is currently studying abroad in Switzerland and will return to Madison this summer. She has professional experience as a teaching assistant in French and as a Project Assistant at UW–Madison Libraries, where she helped plan events for International Women’s Day. She’s also served as an organizer and representative for the Graduate Association of French and Italian Students and as a consultant for the grassroots organization AFRICaide. She is passionate about community involvement and learning more about civic engagement.



*Kimberly Rooney, incoming Leadership Development Fellow*

As the LWVDC’s Leadership Development Fellow, Kimberly will work with our leadership team to answer the question: “What does it mean to be a leader in the League?” Combining academic research with in-person interviews, she’ll help us find innovative, evidence-backed methods to improve the sustainability of our leadership model, with an emphasis on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Her objectives will include developing a more inclusive leadership model, developing mentorship and training to grow future leaders, expanding volunteer engagement, and diversifying and amplifying input from members and the community.

Kimberly will work part-time, both in the office and remotely, during the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters. I expect many of you will get the chance to know her as she gets to know more about our organization and collaborates with different leaders and members to improve the LWVDC’s leadership structure and practices.

*Many thanks to League members Lauren Surovi and Maria Spinozzi for their work in developing the position description and engaging in the hiring process!*

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## **The Employment of an Investment Management Firm for the Memorial Trust Fund Assets**

Jean Jacobson, [treasurer@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvdanecounty.org)

In May 2021, the Finance Committee began discussions about finding a professional investment advisory firm to manage the Memorial Trust Fund (MTF) assets. The MTF assets had increased from under \$50,000 20 years ago to over \$750,000 today. The Committee felt the fiduciary responsibility of managing this level of funds warranted considering whether to use professional advisors versus the traditional League model of relying on volunteer financial expertise.

The benefits of moving to an investment management firm included:

- Professional asset management and financial reporting services not currently available, including periodic presentations to the Board.
- Expertise in investment strategies for nonprofit organizations.
- Increased focus on the short- and long-term goals of the League.
- Potential for increased donor giving from individual donors who perceive value in professional investment management.
- Continuity of investment management expertise as it becomes increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers with extensive investment experience to manage the funds.

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) was asked to research investment advisory services. It quickly became apparent that interest in servicing small nonprofits such as the League was low and costly. With input from personal financial advisors, as well as an accounting firm the League worked with before, a local company was identified. eCIO specializes in nonprofits and their fee structure was relatively moderate. Annual fees are estimated to be \$3,000-4,000.

Following presentations by eCIO and appropriate reference checks (all very positive), the FAC recommended the League employ eCIO to manage the MTF assets. Upon approval by the Finance Committee and the Board, the transition of the MTF assets to eCIO management began and was completed in March 2022.

The FAC will serve as the oversight committee of the investment firm and will be the liaison between the investment firm and the Board.

The FAC members both present and past have done a tremendous job of growing and managing the MTF assets over the years. Their financial expertise and willingness to take on this critical role as volunteers deserves a huge round of thanks from all League members.

The current FAC members include Helen Horn, Caroline Liedtke, Sally Carpenter, Susan Dietzel, Alexandra Graff, and Jean Jacobson.

At the 2021 Annual LWVDC Membership Meeting, members approved an extraordinary withdrawal from the Memorial Trust Fund to subsidize 100% of the Year 1 salary of the newly created position of Executive Director (ED). A request is now presented to LWVDC members to approve annual withdrawals to partially subsidize Year 2 and Year 3 of the ED's salary, as outlined in the report to membership last year. The intent is to withdraw up to two-thirds of the ED's salary in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and up to one-third of the ED's salary in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. At the end of this three-year period, it is expected the Fund Development Committee and the Board will have increased the donor base to sustain the ED position going forward.

In compliance with League policy related to the Memorial Trust Fund, the Board gives notice of intent to withdraw up to 8% of the market value of the Memorial Trust Fund as of January 1, 2022, and up to 5% of the market value of the Memorial Trust Fund as of January 1, 2023, upon approval by two-thirds of the LWVDC Board and approval of a majority of the members present at the 2022 Annual LWVDC Membership Meeting. These withdrawals will be on an annual basis and only if required.



# The Advocacy Corps Invites Members to Join Our Letter Writing Campaign on Election Integrity

Joan Schwarz, [advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org)

The LWVDC is committed to making democracy work. The Advocacy Corps responds to critical activities and events by engaging members in action-oriented timely campaigns on election and judicial issues, campaign finance reform, and civil discourse. At this time, the Advocacy Corps is developing a letter writing campaign about election integrity. To that end, we are recruiting members who can engage in writing letters to newspaper editors and government officials to keep these issues in front of the public as we work to strengthen our democracy.

Please join us in our campaign. We welcome you in one of two ways: You can join the Advocacy Corps and be involved in developing our outreach campaigns, or you can join us on an ad-hoc basis and participate in this letter writing campaign on election integrity. We are providing the background information, talking points, and training. **Please contact Advocacy Director Joan Schwarz at [advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org) or via telephone at (608) 345-5973.**

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## Letter to the Editor

*The following letter was submitted to the Wisconsin State Journal on April 17, 2022, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Dane County.*

The League of Women Voters of Dane County would like to thank the many people who contributed to the operation of the April 5 election.

On the front lines were the city, village, and town clerks, and their staff, who faced challenges from a last-minute court decision on drop boxes and absentee ballots that made voting more difficult. Thanks to all the clerks and staff who clarified voting procedures by updating their websites, putting out press releases, and responding to voter questions.

The Dane County Clerk and staff, special voting deputies who assist nursing home residents, and thousands of citizen poll workers also deserve our thanks for their work to make it possible for voters to participate in the election.

We know that some people encountered barriers. We encourage anyone who experienced a problem casting a ballot and having that vote counted to contact their municipal clerk so that improvements can be made before the August and November elections. Find contact information for your municipal clerk at [MyVote.wi.gov](http://MyVote.wi.gov).

*Christine Clements  
President  
League of Women Voters of Dane County*

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

## Provisional Voters

Kathleen Fullin, [kathyfullin@gmail.com](mailto:kathyfullin@gmail.com)

“Provisional voters” come to the polls on Election Day and are either already registered to vote or are able to register that day. However, if they are not able to show qualifying voter IDs, the ballot they fill out is “provisional.” If they can provide a qualifying voter ID to the clerk by 4 p.m. on the Friday following the election, their votes are counted at the canvass that afternoon.



The City of Madison Clerk’s Office provides the LWVDC with contact information for provisional voters immediately after the election. Kathleen Fullin collates that information and provides it to a group of dedicated volunteers. The volunteers for the April election included Mary Anglim, Marjorie Schuett, Ingrid Rothe, Kathy Shurts, and Kathleen Fullin. In addition, Gail Krc and Kathy Dutilly contacted their clerks but their municipalities did not have any provisional voters in April.

The volunteers call, email, and/or text the voters in order to provide information on how the voters can ensure that their ballot will be counted. Some already have a qualifying ID, and simply need to provide that to the clerk. Others need to obtain an ID from the DMV. We help them by identifying and clarifying their options and, if necessary, can arrange a free cab ride to the DMV.

There are a few voters who are not in a good position to obtain or renew their IDs, perhaps due to age or disability, and they need an application for a request for a permanent absentee ballot due to their status as “indefinitely confined.” This does not make their vote count for the election in which they voted provisionally but allows them to get a mailed absentee ballot in the future.

Voters who we cannot reach receive an explanatory letter about voter ID in the hope that they will be able to cast ballots that are counted in future elections.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped in April and to all the volunteers who have contacted provisional voters in the past and will do so in August and November.

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## Are We There Yet? The Never-Ending Journey to Become a Better Ally

Lisa Janairo, [ljanairo129@gmail.com](mailto:ljanairo129@gmail.com)

In my nearly two years on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, I have seen the LWVDC take significant steps forward on the path to becoming an organization where all people feel welcome and know they are equal participants. DEI work is a lifelong activity, however. No matter how far we come, there will always be more to do. It’s just like protecting voting rights—our work will never be done.

The inspiration for this month of “Owning our Past, Charting our Future” is the Board’s decision to rename the Carrie Chapman Catt Award. This is one of the many recommendations from the DEI Committee that the LWVDC has implemented over the past nine months. Looking ahead to the coming months, members will begin noticing other changes related to our DEI Policy.



Starting with the Annual Meeting in June, we'll begin offering **land acknowledgements** at major LWVDC events following guidance from the LWVWI Community Alliances Committee (CAC). Land acknowledgements are expressions of "genuine respect and support for Native Peoples" and "should be specific to the event and include action to be taken." Customizing acknowledgements and reserving them for major events will promote members' learning and also prevent the words from becoming rote or "boilerplate." I encourage all LWVDC members to [visit the LWVWI website](#) to read the CAC's guidance and watch the excellent training video to learn more about this important practice.

We're also starting to implement recommendations regarding **inclusivity in language**. Members can expect to see more references to the generic "they" instead of "she/he" in writing. The term "they" may be jarring to members who grew up with the rule that "they" always refers to more than one person. However, language evolves. Just as we're learning not to put two spaces after a period when typing, we need to learn that "they" is a common, appropriate, and even *preferred* substitute for a generic "she," "he," or "she/he."

Members will also see preferred pronouns showing up in Zoom names and email signatures, especially for Board members and other League leaders. We embrace this practice because it conveys our understanding and acceptance that gender-nonconforming people exist and they aren't deviations from an outdated "norm" of cisgendered people. If you have questions about this practice, I encourage you to visit the [National Institutes of Health's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion website](#) for an excellent short read on why using correct pronouns is so important.

In future *Bulletins*, members will learn about our progress with other recommendations, such as offering more **training** to members, cultivating **new partnerships** with community organizations, and establishing a model **process for resolving incidents of bias**. We have a long way to go on our journey. But we can be proud of the distance we've come and excited about the road ahead.

In September, we sponsored training for a group of LWVDC members to attend the virtual "[Black History for a New Day](#)" course offered by the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development. This nine-week course is a powerful reteaching of history to fill in some of the gaps left by traditional white- and European-centered history curricula. Members who attended the fall 2021 session had this to say about their experience:

*I'm really into history and I think history provides an important lens for seeing the world in new and different ways, from the perspectives of others. I like the idea of the class very much and I think it offers great value for a lot of people.*

*Each member of the breakout group had a chance to talk. It was a safe place to explore ideas and feelings.*

*It was good to hear what my colleagues' levels of understanding were, as it helped me to be informed and think about ways we can assist each other as we seek to strengthen the League's DEI efforts.*

*Most of us already had some rapport with one another, so it felt like we could more easily jump right into conversation without some of the awkwardness that can come from having these types of honest discussions with total strangers. And we could talk about how what we learned applied to the work we do in the League.*

In 2022-2023, we hope to continue to offer group training to members as well as scholarships to individuals who are interested in DEI-related training. If you would like to suggest a particular course for us to consider offering to members, please email Wendy Hathaway at [wendy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:wendy@lwvdanecounty.org).

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: DEI Committee History Within LWVDC

Mary Ellen Schmit, [dei@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:dei@lwvdanecounty.org)

“Owning our Past, Charting our Future.” Looking back and looking forward invites us to reflect on our league’s organizational structures. In 2019, a collection of interested individuals created the first official DEI Working Group to examine structural inequities and a lack of diversity within the LWVDC. We realized that we had no mechanism to collect data and analyze our past while tracking progress without a demographic survey.

Our organization has grown and learned much since 2019, with the DEI Working Group becoming a Committee. Then, at the recommendation of the Committee, we evolved further to add a DEI Director leadership position on the Board. We have worked on self-reflection through DEI Cafés, book discussions, community educational opportunities, voter service, publicity, programs, and advocacy in ways that are decentralizing our DEI work, percolating through our League community.

League members have represented Dane County on the LWVWI Community Alliances Committee which has coordinated with local leagues to facilitate engagement and has created toolkits for [DEI related resources](#).

The history of disparate impacts on those of us with less powerful voices has been exposed within our organization and needs to be rectified in the present. Listening to voices different from our own, while coordinating with others to strengthen democracy, is how we will chart our future.

If you would like to learn more about or join the DEI Committee, please email [dei@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:dei@lwvdanecounty.org).

Join us!

## DEI Café Potluck

May 19  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Location TBD

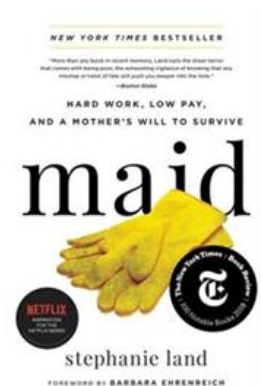
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## April Book Discussion: “Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive”

Jeannine Ramsey, [j9.ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:j9.ramsey@gmail.com)

League members participated in an online discussion of the book “**Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive,**” by Stephanie Land. Moderators Kelly Haslam and Maree Elowson skillfully led participants through discussion questions pertaining to the book, a memoir by a young, single mother struggling to support herself and her daughter by cleaning other people’s homes.

The author challenges our perceptions of people living in poverty as she comes from a middle-class background. She is intelligent and articulate and works hard at her low-wage job. “Maid” offers an inside perspective on how any disruption



or unplanned event in the life of a person living on the financial edge can lead to a spiral of problems that threaten to crush the prospect of staying afloat. When Land’s daughter gets sick, she must choose between sending her to daycare with a fever or staying home with her and not making enough money to pay rent. When her car is hit, Land cannot work as a maid until someone offers to let her use their car.

We discussed how and why people disparage or shun those who struggle financially. Participants shared examples from the book and from our own experiences about comments made when public assistance was used to buy groceries or to help pay for childcare, housing, or healthcare. Stephanie Land walked readers through the many challenges that she confronted qualifying for and maintaining this assistance. One topic that stood out for many of us in “Maid” was the sense the author conveyed of being invisible to other people even when she was in their homes cleaning their personal items and spaces.

The book for June is **“Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country in the World,”** by Sarah Smarsh. Members can choose to attend the online meeting on either Thurs., June 16, or Sat., June 18, at 10 a.m.

Not all was bleak in this memoir—there were caring, helpful people along the way who made a difference with their large and small acts of kindness. The author does eventually realize her dream to get an education with the help of student loans and this book is a testament to her success as a writer.

Members interested in participating in future book discussions can [visit us here to learn more](#).

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## April Forum Review: “Low-Incoming Housing”

Karen Gunderson, [jokarjen@gmail.com](mailto:jokarjen@gmail.com)

Dane County has a serious housing shortage. On April 12, Sue Jennik, LWVDC Board member and Director of the Program Advocacy Committee, moderated a discussion by three people who are very familiar with this problem: Justice Castañeda, Executive Director of Common Wealth Development; Olivia Parry, Senior Planner with Dane County’s Planning and Development Department; and Matt Wachter, Director of Madison’s Department of Planning, Community, and Economic Development.

However you refer to this housing—low-income, lower income, low-to-moderate income (LMI), affordable, or affordable/workforce—we don’t have enough of it. Though Madison and Dane County have made significant progress in the past five years, the need continues to grow.

Justice Castañeda showed how redlining and covenants forced people of color to live in specific areas of Madison. Much of Madison’s low-income housing is on the edges of the city, making it difficult for people of color to fully participate in the Madison community. We also need to ensure that it is well-maintained and that families can stay in that housing. One striking fact he shared is that there is a 50% or more annual turnover in low-income housing in Madison.

Olivia Parry showed that Dane County has a serious shortage of housing for LMI households. In 2019, over 15,000 households needed new LMI housing; 578 units of LMI housing were built that year.



Between 2020 and 2040, it is estimated that the number of Dane County households will increase by 40,000, with about 20% of those needing LMI housing.

This housing shortage exists throughout Dane County. In 2015, just three communities were addressing affordable housing in Dane County—Madison, Middleton, and Fitchburg. Now, 14 Dane County communities are working on it and nine communities have housing task forces.

As Matt Wachter discussed, Madison has put more money into affordable housing in the past several years, made zoning changes to allow more housing density, and is planning new lower-income housing along transit corridors. Madison has also provided congregate housing, OM (Occupy Madison tiny home village), an urban campground (30 tiny homes), and sanctioned camping.

Madison spends approximately \$10 million a year on affordable housing, supports 1,800 Section 8 vouchers, and manages 1,000 units of Community Development Authority-owned housing. Madison also provides nearly \$5 million a year in assistance to homeowners and \$2 million a year in homelessness services.

In April 2021, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway announced the Housing Forward initiative. That initiative includes five major efforts: increase housing choice, create affordable housing throughout the city, combat displacement and segregation, ensure seniors and others can stay in their homes, and work to end homelessness.

Madison is one of eight cities chosen to join the Housing Solutions Collaborative, which will provide those cities with technical assistance and a shared foundation for collective problem solving. They will share information, network, and build each city's knowledge and capacity to address the housing crisis.

As our presenters made clear, progress has been made to address this housing shortage, but much more needs to be done at a much faster rate.

### ***Ride with the Pros: E-Bike Ride with BCycle in May***

*Take the mystery out of using BCycle!*

Join the LWVDC's Climate Subcommittee on Wednesday, **May 25** (9:30-11:30 a.m.) for an e-bike tour with Madison BCycle!

We will start at the South Livingston BCycle Station (111 South Livingston Street) and take a delightful bike path ride to Garver Feed Mill, where we'll stop for a break before our ride back. [Visit our webpage to learn more!](#)

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## **My Experience as a BadgersVote Intern**

Kayla Schwartz, [kschwartz6@wisc.edu](mailto:kschwartz6@wisc.edu)

My work over the last year for the League of Women Voters of Dane County and the BadgersVote team has been extremely rewarding and exciting. Going into this academic year, I was slightly worried about what the position would be like in a nonfederal election year; however, my expectations were exceeded by the work and projects I was able to complete. The BadgersVote team this academic year was truly exceptional. We worked extremely well together and were able to begin institutionalizing ideas that will help the UW-Madison campus be more civically engaged for many years to come.

One of my major projects this year was to begin the process of institutionalizing a civic engagement and voting information canvas module. The goal was to test run the module on smaller groups such as student organizations, the Morgridge Center staff, and sororities in order to collect feedback and eventually make it accessible to every student on campus. Test running the module came with its ups and downs, but in the end, I feel very happy with the outcome. I have faith that in the coming years the BadgersVote team will be able to implement the module campus-wide, giving students constant access to voter information and ways to be civically engaged.



*Kayla Schwartz, BadgersVote Intern  
at UW-Madison*

The second idea I am most proud of is the plan to create a student League of Women Voters group. This is a project I am leaving in the hands of Tabitha, the other Voter Services intern, as I am graduating this May. I know she will make this concept a reality. A student League group would provide the LWVDC access to a younger demographic and allow them access to a larger group of students. With this group I believe students from all majors will be able to get involved and become more knowledgeable about voting and civic engagement.

Overall, I am very satisfied and fulfilled by my time at BadgersVote. The BadgersVote team and the Morgridge Center make it so easy to pursue any project and will support you every step along the way. The Morgridge Center is the most inclusive and comforting environment to work in; I always felt supported and was never afraid to ask questions or ask for help. This feeling of comfort extends to the League as well. The members at the LWVDC were a huge support for me during my year as a Voter Services intern. The League was always willing to support the BadgersVote team with any projects and constantly volunteered at tabling events and voting stations. I could not have succeeded in my role without the support of these wonderful people and will be forever grateful for the opportunity to work with them.

*Kayla is one of two interns funded by the League of Women Voters of Dane County, working out of the Morgridge Center for Public Service at UW-Madison.*



## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in March 2022. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website. NOTE: The password for the directory page was changed on April 26, 2022. If you need the new password, contact the webmaster for help.

Do you want to join the League?  
[Sign up for a membership online.](#)

Julie Andersen  
Patricia Meloy  
Laura Jasper

Debbie Collins  
Charles Kreimendahl  
June Turner

Sharon Abrams

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## Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these supporters who donated in March 2022.

### General Donations

Christine Clements  
James Cory  
Beverly Davison  
Jan Frieswyk  
Susan Fulks  
Barbara Henke  
William Kelly

Doug Knudson  
Elizabeth Lentz  
Karen Michael  
Barbara Olson  
Karen Peterson  
Ingrid Rothe  
Luke Sackash

Mary Ellen Schmit  
Amy Schulz  
Joan Schwarz  
Judith Siegfried  
Edith Sullivan  
Jim Youngerman

### Grants

Mary Knapp and James Klein Passthrough Fund (a component fund at Madison Community Foundation)  
Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools





## Discussion Units

Many League members meet in one of five units to discuss the topic of each forum, using the resource/study materials provided by the program planners to guide the conversation. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Units meet regularly at different times and locations, including via Zoom. All in-person meetings occur in Madison unless otherwise noted. Find a unit meeting that's convenient for you and participate! Details below.

**Currently, each discussion unit decides whether to meet virtually or in person. If you are planning to attend a meeting for the first time, please contact the unit leader ahead of time. [Consult the calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information about specific meetings.**

**Unit: Prairie Ridge** (*This group is open only to Prairie Ridge residents at this time.*)  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m., third Monday of the month  
**Location:** Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Dr.  
**Leaders:** [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (608) 630-5163

**Unit: West / Middleton**  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m., third Monday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Ralph Petersen](#) and [Helen Horn](#) (608) 231-1807 and [Gloria Meyer](#) (608) 288-8160

**Unit: Central West**  
**Time:** 12:45 p.m., third Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Kathy Johnson](#) (608) 238-1785

**Unit: Northeast Side**  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m., third Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leaders:** [Karen Gunderson](#) (608) 729-4351

**Unit: Downtown Dinner**  
**Time:** 5:15 p.m., third Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom  
**Leader:** [Ingrid Rothe](#) (608) 556-3174

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## Upcoming Events

May 11	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
May 12	“Nurturing Diversity” Virtual Forum, 6 p.m.
June 2	LWVDC Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
June 7	Membership Potluck, 4:30 p.m.
June 8	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
July 13	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

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## 2022 Elections

Aug. 9	Fall Partisan Primary
Nov. 8	Fall General Election

