



## **2022 Defender of Democracy Award Winner**

# Cindy Lindquist

All too often labor accomplished behind the scenes is overlooked, particularly as it's stereotypically the work of women. For the last few years, the backbone of the League of Women Voters of Dane County has been the indefatigable Cindy Lindquist. The Dane County League would not have accomplished as much as it has in recent years without her incredible support and knowledge.

All avenues of day-to-day League of Women Voters of Dane County member support and office administration were maintained and enhanced by Cindy. Cindy has been an integral hub of League information from the national, state, and local levels and was able to distill a complex network of information usable for Dane County League leaders and members. Her background as a social worker for youth, longtime educational technology specialist who helped integrate technology into classrooms and administrations, and president of the Waunakee Teachers Association, combined for a unique set of skills much needed by the Dane County League.

Cindy's strong, understated leadership and management of the League office along with her tremendous patience and skill as a certified Google trainer provided essential, consistent, trusted advice and support that guided newer growth in membership. Without a formal onboarding process for the Board and expansion of numerous domains, new leaders relied heavily on Cindy's depth of League knowledge and tech savvy. As the pandemic created wider technology demands, from a broader use of Google Suite and Zoom meetings to transitioning voting and membership resources online, members and voters relied on Cindy's expertise which made implementing the modifications seamless.

Cindy's endless kindness and willingness to teach and train are remarkable. League members asked much from her and were always given the resources necessary to succeed. Cindy's counsel highlighted the work from those on the front lines and she intentionally created inclusive spaces that gave people a voice. Although we are all too often weighed down with the prosaic, Cindy made League work shine through her character and belief in the importance of democracy, where everyone has a voice and all voices are heard.

We are honored to name Cindy Lindquist as a 2022 Defender of Democracy award winner.