

October 2017

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

## In This Issue

- Fair Voting Maps
- President's Update
- Membership Renewals
- Information You Need
- Volunteers Needed!
- Save the Date: Vote Smart - Richard Kimball

## Calendar of Events

October 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

Fair Voting Maps

City Council Chambers,  
Whitewater, WI

October 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm

Fair Voting Maps Forum

UW Rock County  
Janesville, WI

November 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm

Challenges to Health Care  
Accessibility

City Council Chambers,  
Whitewater, WI

December 10<sup>th</sup>

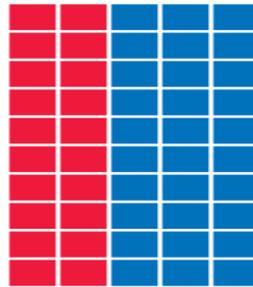
League Holiday Dinner

841 Brew House  
Whitewater, WI

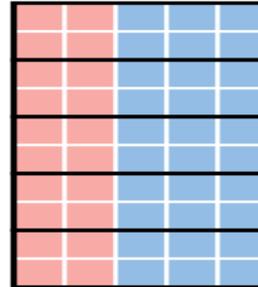
January 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00am

Member Discussion

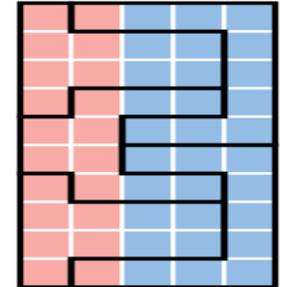
Fairhaven Community Rm  
Whitewater, WI



50 PRECINCTS  
60% BLUE  
40% RED



5 DISTRICTS  
5 BLUE  
0 RED  
BLUE WINS



5 DISTRICTS  
3 RED  
2 BLUE  
RED WINS

## Fair Voting Maps in Wisconsin

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7 PM**  
**Council Chambers, Whitewater**

You may have read Wisconsin's 2011 voting map has been brought before the nation's highest court – the US Supreme Court.

The **League of Women Voters-Wisconsin** joined other organizations in filing an amicus brief asking the court to uphold a lower court ruling which requires the legislature to redraw voting maps in time for the 2018 elections. Oral arguments in the case of **Whitford v Gill** started in October.

On **Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**, learn more about the process behind Wisconsin's voting map districts and why the **Fair Elections Project** is vital to our state's elections. The project is working with citizens in other states to bring suits against other gerrymandered maps, whether drawn by Democrats or Republicans. Former **State Senators Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center)** and **Tim Cullen (D-Janesville)** are co-chairing the Wisconsin campaign.

During the meeting, **Senator Tim Cullen** will share how they became involved in this project, and the importance of drawing non-partisan voting districts.

League members are encouraged to bring a guest to this program. All who attend will receive materials to get involved and take action.

**February 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Discussion: Janesville, An American Story**

**City Council Chambers, Whitewater, WI**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Fake News & Role of Media**

**City Council Chambers, Whitewater, WI**

**March 17<sup>th</sup> 10am**

**Candidate Forum**

**City Council Chambers, Whitewater, WI**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> Spring Election**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Earth Day & Environmental Sustainability**

**City Council Chambers, Whitewater, WI**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> 10am**

**LWV Annual Membership**

**Fairhaven Community Rm Whitewater, WI**

## Contact Us

[www.lwvwhitewater.org](http://www.lwvwhitewater.org)

## Board Members

### President

Mary Beth Byrne (2017-2018)  
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### Treasurer

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## President's Update

You will want to attend our next meeting when former **State Senator Tim Cullen** will be sharing with us the importance of **Fair Voting Maps**. If you have particular questions you would like to discuss with him, please join us at 5:30 that evening, prior to our program meeting, at the Sweet Spot.

This meeting is being co-sponsored by the **Janesville League**; and our **Whitewater Area League** will be cosponsoring their meeting. If you can't make our October 19 meeting, consider taking in their meeting on **Tuesday, October 24 at 6:00 pm in Allen Hall #106 on the UW-Rock County campus. Janesville.**

To learn more, visit [fairelectionsproject.org](http://fairelectionsproject.org). Follow on social media at @WI-FairElections on Facebook and Twitter. The mailing address for the Fair Elections campaign is 5027 W. North Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208, and the email is [info@fairelectionsproject.org](mailto:info@fairelectionsproject.org).



### CONGRATULATIONS!

We are so happy to congratulate our own **Vice President, Ellen Penwell**, on her new position at the **State League Office** working on **Membership and Events!** She will be involved in helping to organize new Leagues around the State and other membership issues, as well as planning and implementing major League events such as the upcoming **Issues Briefing** being held on **October 28**. See more details in this issue and register to attend.

### THANK YOU, ANITA!

We thank **Anita Loch** for her commitment and dedication to the **League of the Whitewater Area**, and for her participation on the **National League Board** for several years. We graciously accept her resignation from our local Board so she can more actively pursue her desire to be involved in leading several initiatives as well as provide greater leadership with several

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## FACEBOOK

*Visit Our LWV – Whitewater Area Website and “LIKE” Us On Facebook!*

**“LIKING” the League’s FACEBOOK will automatically send posts to your feed. Then, we recommend that you not only “Like” the post but “Share Public” as well. This will help us to get our message out to a much broader audience.**

progressive groups as we approach the upcoming elections in 2018 and beyond. She does not want to jeopardize the strength of the non-partisan policy of the League, and we honor her new endeavors.

In addition to providing outstanding leadership, Anita has done a wonderful job in producing our monthly newsletter to keep all of our membership and the public informed. We are so grateful for her expertise in this area. She has agreed to continue doing the newsletter until we can find someone else who is interested and able to assist in this way. Please contact Mary Beth Byrne if you are willing to consider helping with this very important communication tool.

**Mary Beth Byrne, President**

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## It's That Time of Year Again!

**LWV – Whitewater Area membership renewals due by December 1st.** Renewing your membership provides the following benefits:

- Local, state and national League news, events, legislative efforts and publications
- Access to action alerts keeping you informed on issues that matter to you and our community
- Monthly meetings on Programs of interest

***Consider asking a friend or colleague to join us in supporting public policies through education and advocacy.***

A membership form has been sent to current members recently or you can find it on our website.

Your check and completed form will need to be sent to:

Julia Ross, Treasurer  
701 East Clay Street, Unit B1  
Whitewater, WI 53190

Donations and membership dues to the LWV-Whitewater Area are tax deductible.

## Volunteers Needed!!

**Are you able to assist the League with fundraising ideas? Maintaining our website is one of our major expenses, and the cost continues to go up. Please talk with someone on the Board if you have some suggestions in this major area of leadership.**

**SAVE THE DATE!  
November 17, 2018**

**Mr. Richard Kimball, President of "VOTE SMART" will speak in the afternoon of November 17 at Fairhaven Fellowship Hall.**

**SAVE THE DATE and watch for more details in the November newsletter.**

**In the meantime, visit [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org), an interactive computer program to help you learn more about the candidates and how their views/values match up with yours.**

## Information You Need

### Attend LWVWI Issues Briefing on October 28<sup>th</sup>

Every fall, the State League sponsors a day of informative sessions, known as the **Issues Briefing**, devoted to public policy topics of pressing concern. New League members are especially encouraged to attend the event, which is **Saturday, October 28, 9AM-2:30PM, at Madison College Truax Campus** on Madison's eastside. Speakers this year will address immigration issues, poverty and public policy, critical water issues, and provide an update on Wisconsin's gerrymandering lawsuit. Breakout sessions on voter services, enhancing diversity in membership, and looking ahead to the League's next 100 years, are meant to assist local Leagues achieve their goals. The **registration deadline is October 19. Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwv-wi-issues-briefing-2017-registration-37747484743>**

### Report on National Voter Registration Day

On **Tuesday, September 26**, League members **Julia Ross, Mary Byrne, and Ellen Penwell** manned a table at City Market in celebration of **National Voter Registration Day**. Also on hand was Jacob Mueller, husband of one of our newest members, Caitlin Jung. Together, we interacted with many citizens and assisted five with voter registration. No elections are scheduled for the remainder of 2017, so we didn't expect a huge response. League members at the table had time to explore the functionality of the League's new Samsung tablet thanks to Jacob's excellent mentoring. They report that our recent purchase of this tablet, made possible by a grant from the Joyce Foundation, was a wise investment. As we go forward into the 2018 election year, we will continue to use the tablet to assist voters who want to **register online using the MyVote website at [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov)**.

### 2017 "Making Democracy Work Award" Nominations Due November 1st

Have you been thinking of someone in the Whitewater-Area community whose work or **volunteerism exemplifies the League's mission**? Do you know of someone who has envisioned a way to improve the community and mobilized others to work with them to make changes beneficial to everyone? If so, that person is deserving of being nominated for the **League's 2017 Making Democracy Work Award**. Now is the time to complete a nomination form and submit it to the board by **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Pick up a nomination form at the League's October 19<sup>th</sup> public program or contact Ellen Penwell, 262-203-6529, [espenwell@gmail.com](mailto:espenwell@gmail.com). **Presentation of the award will take place at the League's Holiday Dinner, Sunday evening, December 10, at 841 Brewhouse.**