

February 2018

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

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Calendar of Events

February 15th 7pm

League Fundamentals
City Council Chambers,
Whitewater, WI

February 20th Spring Non-Partisan Primary

March 10th 10am

Candidate Forum for
Common Council
City Council Chambers,
Whitewater, WI

March 15th 7pm

Fake News & Role of Media
City Council Chambers,
Whitewater, WI

April 3rd Spring Election

April 19th 7pm

Earth Day & Environmental
Sustainability
City Council Chambers,
Whitewater, WI

May 12th 10am

LWV Annual Membership
Fairhaven Community Rm
Whitewater, WI



LEAGUE FUNDAMENTALS

“Get to Know Your League A -Z”

Thursday, February 15th, 2018 at 7 PM
Council Chambers, Whitewater

Did you know that the League is organized to parallel the three levels of government: local, state, and national? That soon after the League's founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues, but neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate for public office? That we welcome and encourage men to join?

Our February meeting is a primer on what we do and how we do it. Whether you are a long-time member, relatively new, or just want to learn more about our 98-year old institution, you'll be sure to learn something interesting during this hour-long presentation.

All across the nation and in Wisconsin, people are joining the League of Women Voters. Many new members are inspired to bring about positive change in America. This is an exciting time to be a member of the League of Women Voters.

Please invite friends or acquaintances to join us. We hope to see you there!

Contact Us

www.lwwwhitewater.org

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Happy Birthday to Us!!

On February 14th, the national League of Women Voters turns 98 years old!

While many people might assume the league was born the day of or soon after the 19th Amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920, it was actually founded six months earlier, on February 14th 1920, when the National Council of Women Voters and the National American Woman Suffrage Association merged.



After years of struggle, which led to women winning the right to vote in 1920, little time was wasted to empower women with best practice on how to become effective and informed participants in local, state and national government.

Throughout the ensuing decades, women and men of the league have worked hard to get out the vote, fought hard to protect the vote, and advocated relentlessly on a broad range of public policy issues.

The league endures this many years later because safeguarding democracy is not a mission-accomplished, one-time assignment.

It's us, every day, Empowering Voters – Defending Democracy.

Membership Survey

We Want To Know What Interests YOU and How the LEAGUE Can Meet Your Needs

Membership in the League of Women Voters is on the rise throughout the country and in the Whitewater Area! Our league has 56 members, up significantly from just a year ago. Against the backdrop of partisan politics, heated immigration debates, and political shenanigans at all levels of government, people simply want to do something. By joining

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.

the Whitewater Area LWV, you’ve chosen to make a difference by playing a more active role in our community.

We want to be sure your involvement in our local league is meaningful and lasting. This is a good moment to survey our membership to learn about you, to help you learn more about the league, and to find ways for you to contribute and engage in our mission.

An online Membership Survey will be sent to you and will appear on our website, www.lwwwhitewater.org, February 14. Copies of the survey will be handed out at our public program on February 15th. If you’re new to the league or a long-time member, we want to hear from you! Please take a moment to complete the survey so we can help you connect with us.

Enhancing Diversity Through Community Alliances

The results are in. At January’s Lively Issues Meeting, league members present voted unanimously to support a program for emphasizing strategies for outreach to diverse communities should it be recommended by the LWV State Board at the LWV WI Annual Meeting in June.

It was agreed that the focus of the initiative should be: 1) to build better communication and friendships in the community; 2) to provide better league services to diverse communities; 3) to give recognition to the benefits of having immigrants in our community; 4) to develop league positions on issues of importance to Whitewater’s immigrant community; and, 5) to enhance membership diversity for the league.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the lively discussion on this initiative as well as other topics.



Common Council Candidate Forum

In mid-January, the Whitewater Area league invited candidates running for **Common Council in the April 3rd Spring Election** to participate in a forum on **Saturday, March 10, 10AM-11:30AM**, in the Whitewater City Hall Council Chambers.

League member **Tom Drucker** will moderate the forum. The forum will be broadcast live by **Whitewater Community TV** and made available for viewing in the weeks leading up to Election Day.

Candidates for Common Council Spring Election are:

Aldermanic District 2:	James Schulgit, incumbent
Aldermanic District 4:	Lynn Binnie, incumbent
Councilmember at Large:	Jim Allen, incumbent, and Brienne Diebolt-Brown

The league's candidate forum is a free public event where voters are invited to ask questions of the candidates on issues of importance to their daily lives and the Whitewater community.

Although only the Councilmember at Large seat is contested, the league invited the uncontested candidates to share their views as well. However, should either one of the two candidates running for the At Large seat choose not participate, the forum will be cancelled.

The League has a long tradition of not supporting "empty-chair" debates or forums because any candidate in a contested race, who appears alone, has the distinct advantage of presenting partisan views and comments without challenge.

Also, a **Candidate Questionnaire**, developed by the league board, will be distributed to Common Council candidates on Friday, February 23rd. Completed questionnaires **will be posted on the league's website, www.lwvwhitewater.org, by the end of the day, Monday, March 12.** Questionnaires are another tool provided by the league to help voters make informed choices on Election Day.

Don't miss this important event to learn about the candidates for your Common Council and what's important in our community. Mark your calendar now!!