

March 2018

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

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Calendar of Events

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

Contact Us

www.lwvwhitewater.org



The Real Thing
about Fake News

Thursday, March 15
7 PM

City Council Chambers

The next meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Whitewater Area will be **Thursday evening, the 15th of March**, at the Council Chambers in City Hall. **Professor Corey Davis** of the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater Department of Communication will be speaking at 7 PM with the title **“Fake News! Conjecture, Conspiracy and Consequences for American Democracy”**.

It has long been a truism that journalists are in the business of selling newspapers with the result that skeptical readers may underrate the seriousness of some headlines. The use of social media for communication, however, has altered the need for skepticism considerably. Whatever the standards for authentication of stories may have been in the age of paper journalism, there is now considerable reason to doubt whatever is coming in electronically without a well-defined source.

One effect of this has been to make readers scoff at articles dealing with issues from a point of view with which they disagree. The ability of a candidate to be elected to the presidency of the United States while rejecting much of what passes for news in the mainstream media is a tribute to how far the unwillingness to believe what one does not wish to believe has gone. Readers may not always have accepted what they saw in black and white, but now they are encouraged to give little credence to what comes in on their computer screens.

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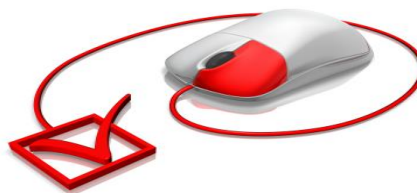
Exposes and accusations of misbehavior are alleged to be 'fake news'. Such allegations can take a toll of more than just subscriptions to mainstream media.

We know the benefits of a free press, if only from having seen what happens to political life in countries where the government controls the flow of information. Dismissing the information that is unflattering is one way to try to discourage the reading of whatever comes in via a variety of media.

Professor Davis will be examining how this culture of rejecting that with which one disagrees came about and what kind of political future is in store for a country where the most common adjective in front of 'news' is no longer 'good' or 'bad' but 'fake'.

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

Membership Survey



Membership Interest Survey Deadline Extended to March 31!

We want to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to those 16 members who have already taken our Membership Interest Survey. That's 29% of our membership!

We know we can do better. If you were kicking yourself for missing the deadline to take the survey, you'll be glad to know that we're keeping the survey open until March 31.

So far, we've learned that many of you joined the League because you were asked. Or because you attended one of our programs, learned something and wanted to support the League's work.

We want to learn more about our membership and in order to do so; we need to hear from more of you. On average, the survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

To those who haven't had a chance to complete the survey, please consider taking a moment to do so now. We really want to hear from you. <https://goo.gl/forms/Adl9fCfnzY0O6gw83>

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.



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!!

[**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT – IMPORTANT READ THIS ELECTION CYCLE**](#)

Voter Suppression Can Impact Outcomes – Article published 11/23/16

The 2016 Presidential Election WAS Rigged

Washington, DC – This year, and for several years, there has been a **concerted effort in many states to stop some voters from voting, or to make it much harder for them to participate.** Since the Supreme Court rolled back key provisions of the **Voting Rights Act in 2013**, elected officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts to early voting, reduced polling places, put in place strict voter photo ID laws and levied onerous voter registration restrictions.

“We recognize the importance of a peaceful transfer of power as a hallmark of a functioning democracy, and we recognize that we have one of the best election systems and democracies in the world, but we also need to say it out loud: This election was rigged. And it needs to stop,” said Chris Carson, president of the **League of Women Voters of the United States.**

“It is clear that this kind of voter suppression could impact the outcome of elections,” Carson continued. **“We may never know whether the efforts to block voter participation changed the outcome in any particular race – but we must be on guard for the future.”**

Tight margins in some key elections show that suppression may play a role.

In Wisconsin, President-elect Trump beat Secretary Clinton by roughly 27,000 votes, **however according to federal court, 300,000 registered voters lacked the proper photo ID.** In North Carolina, the closest governor's race the country has seen in more than a decade is still unresolved, **with fewer than 8,000 votes separating the current governor from his challenger.**

“We are not talking about vigilante voter intimidation,” said Carson. “We are talking about official, legal voter suppression by state legislatures and election officials.”

Carson pointed especially to the work of Kris Kobach, the Secretary of State of Kansas, who engaged in a multi-year effort to stop eligible Kansans from voting. Laws drafted by Kobach required restrictive documentary proof of citizenship to register by mail and at the DMV. Despite defeats in federal and state courts, Kobach still pushed to keep eligible citizens from voting.

“Some try to justify voter suppression as just politics as usual – trying to ensure their candidates will win,” Carson said. “There is no excuse for erecting unnecessary barriers to voting. It is not the American way.”

In 2016, the League worked to make sure voters impacted by new laws were aware of these restrictions. In Ohio, the League made thousands of phone calls to inform voters about that state’s purge. In Virginia, the League conducted outreach so voters knew about the new ID law. In Kansas, the League worked to register voters and provide them information. Across the country League members volunteered as non-partisan poll observers.

“Every eligible citizen should vote and the election system should help them participate rather than standing in the way,” said Carson. “The League of Women Voters will continue our work to expand participation in the election process and work to give a voice to all Americans,” she concluded.

The League is gearing up to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms nationwide to ensure no voters are left behind.

What states rigged their elections? Here’s the list of 13 states with new voting restrictions in effect in the 2016 election:

1. **Alabama** saw a new restrictive photo ID requirement in 2016. There is ongoing litigation that could require voters to provide more burdensome documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote.
2. **Arizona** for the first time had limitations on mail-in ballot collection. This law made it a felony to turn in another voter’s completed ballot. This practice is popular for rural and Native American communities that do not have access to reliable transportation or postal offices.
3. **Indiana** now permits election officers to demand voters provide proof of identification. This law subjects voters to an additional and duplicative voter identification requirement that did not exist before the law was enacted.
4. **Kansas** continued attempts to require documentary proof of citizenship in order to register to vote by mail and at the DMV. Courts overturned these requirements but many voters who tried to register were put on a suspense list.
5. **Mississippi** passed a restrictive photo ID requirement that was allowed to go into effect after the U.S Supreme Court gutted Section 5 of the

Voting Rights Act in 2013.

6. **New Hampshire** enacted a new photo ID law, requiring voters without acceptable ID to be photographed at the polls, and the photograph to be affixed to an affidavit.
7. **Ohio** made cuts to early voting and changed absentee and provisional ballot rules. The Buckeye State also eliminated the period known as “Golden Week”, when voters can register and cast a ballot on the same day. The Secretary of State also purged more than 1 million Ohio voters from the registration rolls.
8. **Rhode Island** voters needed to provide a valid photo ID to vote this year. Voters without ID could only cast provisional ballots.
9. **South Carolina** for the first time required voters who have photo IDs to produce them in order to vote in this presidential election. Voters without ID needed to sign an affidavit at the polls and could only cast a provisional ballot.
10. **Tennessee** lawmakers made the photo ID law already in place more restrictive by limiting acceptable IDs to only those issued by the state or federal government. The state conducted an illegal purge of voters who hadn't recently voted.
11. **Texas** instituted one of the most restrictive photo ID laws in the nation, but was blocked in the courts. The state then required voters with ID to produce it, and individuals lacking the official ID could vote only after showing a different form of identification and signing a declaration.
12. **Virginia** limited voter registration by civic organizations and required restrictive photo ID for the first time.
13. **Wisconsin** reduced early voting hours on weekdays and eliminated them entirely on weekends. Voters also were required to show photo IDs for the first time.

