

LWV – Whitewater Area Newsletter

“The Future of Tenure In Wisconsin”
Thursday, April 21st 7:00 PM
City Council Chambers, Whitewater



The Future Of Tenure In Wisconsin

The state of Wisconsin used to include details about the protection afforded by the tenure system within the University of Wisconsin system to faculty members within the state’s legislative code. It also included guidelines about the extent to which the governance of the campuses was shared between the administration and faculty, students, and staff. The legislature recently removed those items from the state statutes and handed them over to the Board of Regents of the system.

Even more recently, the Board of Regents adopted language with regard to the future of tenure and shared governance that will guide the system going forward. There were grounds for concern about both items when the regents met to consider the proposals, and those grounds did not disappear in the version finally adopted. Faculty from the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater were among those attending the Regents’ meeting in an attempt to secure changes.

Continued on Page 3

Inside this Issue

- Page 2 A Message From Our President, Mary Beth Byrne; State Election Update – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly and Next Steps
- Page 3 The Future of Tenure continued; News From Around the League
- Page 4 2015 - 2016 Calendar of Events; List of Board Members; Facebook



State Election Update

Lots of people have been asking us "how did it go" about Tuesday's election. We're still receiving reports from our 105 election observers, but some things we know:

The Good

Wisconsin voters turned out in record numbers. The 47% turnout was the highest for our state in a presidential primary since 1972.

The Bad

But it could have been better. Fifty-three percent of the voting age population did not vote and some of those might have been college students who were backed up in lines to obtain a compliant student ID and proof of current enrollment to use for voting. Severe restrictions on the use of student ID cards were written into the law, making it unnecessarily difficult for students to comply.

Election officials are still tallying the provisional ballots they issued to registered voters who did not have an acceptable ID with them. We know that in the City of Madison alone voters cast **115 provisional ballots**, exceeding the statewide total of 91 provisionals in February. In order to have a provisional ballot counted, voters must present an acceptable photo ID to their municipal clerk by 4PM on Friday.

The Ugly

We are receiving reports from our observers and others about registered voters who ran into problems at the polls. In some cases, a voter chose not to cast a provisional ballot because they knew they would not be able to get to their clerk's office in time. That is a disenfranchised voter.

What The League Is Doing About It

The League and our partners are following up on reports as they come in about what happened at the polls, both to offer assistance and learn more about the problems people experienced.

Stay tuned... we have big plans for voter education and registration for this summer!



Busy Election Season

A Message from our President, Mary Beth Byrne

Challenges for the League have been numerous during this spring election season, what with the new Wisconsin Photo ID requirements, lawsuits related to constitutionality at various levels, and a shortened voter registration period.

Nonetheless, we provided the Whitewater community with an excellent Candidate Forum; and supplied trained Deputies to register voters at the public library, even though the registration period was cut short. Much thanks goes to Ellen Penwell, our Voter Services Chair, and to all those who participated in the Candidate Forum and with voter registration.

We still have a long way to go to continue to educate the public on the photo ID requirements as we prepare for the August 9 Partisan Primary and the November 8 presidential and senate elections!

I hope all of you will plan to participate in the League's Annual Meeting on May 21 at Fairhaven, beginning at 10 am. In addition to reviewing this year's activities, we will also introduce new Board Members, and discuss the need for increasing our local dues, based on the increase of dues at the national level. Come and offer your suggestions.

We thank Ginny Laurent and Anita Loch who will represent our League at the State Annual Meeting, and Anita Loch and Jane Roberts who will represent us at the National League Annual Meeting being held in Washington, D.C. We thank you for your hard work on our behalf.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our Annual Meeting!



The Future of Tenure In Wisconsin

continued from page 1

Among those attending was **Professor Elena Levy-Navarro of the Department of Languages and Literature**. She has been centrally involved in the newly reconstituted chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) at Whitewater. Her careful reading of the drafts of the proposals ultimately passed by the regents led her to raise many issues with faculty and staff at Whitewater.

There is a good deal of uncertainty about the future of tenure within the University of Wisconsin system. Professor Levy-Navarro will be talking to the Whitewater Area League of Women Voters on the evening of **Thursday the 21st of April at 7 PM**. Her talk will be in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Whitewater.

She will be giving some history of the tenure system in Wisconsin, as well as of shared governance. Then she will describe the changes and speculate on what they will do to a system as highly respected nationally as the University of Wisconsin.

There will be time for questions at the conclusion of her remarks. Those who are interested in the future of public higher education in the state will find in her talk grounds for a mixture of alarm and hope.

News from Around League

✚ State Annual Meeting

June 3-5 in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin.

Friday evening will feature a speaker during our dinner following registration and a social hour. He is **Robert B. Atwell, Chairman and CEO of Nicolet National Bank**. He will be discussing The Economic Case for Improving Water Quality.

On Saturday morning, **Colleen Gruszynski's** will present on engaging the younger and more diverse emerging electorate. **Anita Loch**, a member of LWV Whitewater Area and the LWV-US Board of Directors and **Louise Pedering**, State MLD Coach, will then lead a workshop on how to build the League's ability to adapt to change and meet new challenges.

Our annual Parade of Leagues and a Strategic Update on New Election Laws will be mid-day. The Plenary Session and Awards will follow to complete the Saturday agenda.

On Sunday, there is an optional **Lighthouse Tour** for those interested before leaving for home.

[Click here for agenda updates, lodging and registration.](#)

Register and make your hotel reservation now! You don't want to miss it!

✚ National Convention

June 16 – 19 in Washington, DC

Plans are well underway for an exciting convention this summer in our nation's capital. The theme of the meeting will be **"Making Democracy Work – For All"**.

Sign up now to join hundreds of League leaders from around the U.S. Information is on the League website, www.lwv.org. Just click on "League Management" for all the details.

LWV Whitewater-Area Calendar of Events

Date: April 21st (Thursday)

Event: The Future of Tenure In Wisconsin

Where: 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers, Whitewater

Date: May 21st (Saturday)

Event: Annual Meeting and Elections

Where: 10:00 AM, Fairhaven Fellowship Hall, Whitewater

Date: July 4th (Monday)

Event: Annual Parade – League of Women Voters' Float

Where: 10:00 AM, Downtown, Whitewater



Whitewater Area's LWV Facebook is getting more visitors every day! Visit our LWV –Whitewater Area website and "like" us on Facebook!

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