

the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area LWVWBLA



October Units on Redistricting

October Units Mahtomedi Unit

Oct. 8-7:00 PM Mahtomedi Unitarian Universalist Church

North Oaks Unit

Oct. 10-12:30 PM Incarnation Lutheran Church

White Bear Lake Unit

Oct. 11-7:00 PM White Bear Lake City Hall

Stillwater Unit

Oct. 12-10:00 AM Stillwater Library

Redistricting: The Cornerstone of Fair Representation

You are invited to attend your local unit for stimulating discussions and background on REDISTRICTING IN MINNESOTA, presented by Lisa Larson and members of the program committee. Background information in preparation for these discussions can be found on the following page. Please read and note the links which access further information on the topic.

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A new monthly feature in the Bear Facts will include a designated area, "The Clip Board", to post related information about League topics found on electronic links, book titles, forums, and articles. We are counting on you to submit to Bear Facts items you have read or have knowledge about which you would like to share with the rest of the membership. Send this information to:

<u>davidsongretchen3@gmail.com</u> before the 3rd Wednesday of every month and it will be posted in the coming Bear Facts.

Important Background Information for October Units

Redistricting in MN

Fair representation means the full range of interests among residents of a governmental jurisdiction who find an effective voice in making public policy by electing public officials to represent them. Fair representation, among other things, requires an open and transparent redistricting process that lets the public ask questions and give meaningful input. Without fair representation, legislative election districts become "safe" (uncompetitive) and polarized. This leads to hyperpartisanship and many disenfranchised voters.

The MN Constitution, in Article IV, sections 3 and 23, establishes the redistricting process:

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#article 4

The MN constitution gives the legislature the power to prescribe legislative and congressional district boundaries and requires house and senate districts to be apportioned equally according to the population census. The number of legislative districts and district boundaries are established in state law. Local governments determine local election boundaries once the decennial redistricting process is completed.

Each 10 years, when MN legislators redraw legislative and congressional district boundaries, they use population data from the previous census. MN's next redistricting process begins after the census and the general election in 2020. MN must have new agreed-upon congressional and legislative district maps 25 weeks before the primary elections in 2022. State and federal courts can intercede when disagreements about MN's redistricting process arise.

Anticipating October's program, below is:

- $\mbox{\ }^{\bullet}\mbox{\ }$ a brief summary of MN's redistricting history in the decades between 1950 and 1990
- •links to web pages on MN redistricting in 1990, 2000, and 2010 and related redistricting resources.

The following information on MN's early redistricting history is meant to show how complicated the politics of redistricting are and why it's so important to ensure a redistricting process that provides, protects, and promotes fair representation.

MN's Early Redistricting History - Decades 1950 to 1990

In 1913, the MN senate had 67 members and the MN house had 130 members. No legislative redistricting occurred between 1913 and 1959.

In <u>Magraw v. Donovan</u> (1958), citizens alleged legislative district boundaries violated the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause. Between 1910 and 1950, MN's population increased 43.7 percent, making one voter in the smallest district equal to 14.7 voters in the largest district. A federal court wanted MN legislators to redraw the legislative district boundaries.

1950 to 1960

MN's population increased 14 percent between 1950 and 1960 but MN lost a ninth congressional district.

A divided state government (DFL governor, DFL House, Republican Senate) redrew and adopted new legislative district boundaries in 1959 and new congressional district boundaries in 1961.

In <u>Honsey v. Donovan</u> (1964), citizens alleged the legislative districts redrawn in 1959 violated the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause and the equal apportionment requirements in the MN Constitution. A federal court found the redrawn maps unconstitutional and wanted MN legislators to again redraw legislative district boundaries.

In 1965 DFL Governor Rolvaag vetoed the legislative redistricting plan passed by Republicans legislators.

In the 1966 special session, DFL Governor Rolvaag vetoed the first Republican redistricting plan but signed the second Republican plan.

1960 to 1970

In 1971, DFL Governor Anderson signed the congressional redistricting plan passed by the Republican MN Legislature.

In 1971, state legislators and the governor couldn't agree on a redrawn legislative district map and a federal court ruled MN's existing boundaries invalid. The court directed the MN legislature to use certain criteria to redraw the map:

- single member, compact, contiguous districts of equal population size
- deviations of plus or minus two percent of population to preserve political subdivisions
- •no consideration of where incumbents reside or political voting patterns

The court reduced the number of legislative districts (35 senate districts and 105 house districts) and issued a new plan. In <u>Sixty-Seventh Minnesota State Senate v. Beens</u> (1972), the MN state senate successfully appealed to SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the US), which ordered the court to issue a revised plan. The revised plan included 67 senate districts and 134 house districts.

1970 to 1980

In 1981 and 1982, MN legislators couldn't agree on a revised congressional or legislative district plan. A federal court in <u>LaComb v. Growe</u> (1982) set priorities for redrawing MN's **legislative district** boundaries:

- equal population size
- •keeping minor local government boundaries
- compactness and contiguousness
- probability of minority representation where possible
- •locating metro-area residents within metro-area districts
- minor consideration of constituency-legislator relations

The 1983 legislature adopted an adjusted court-ordered plan for state legislative districts.

The federal court also declared MN's **congressional district** boundaries invalid. Citizens, state senators, and the independent Republican congressional delegation submitted alternative plans to the court. The court drew a plan recognizing:

- one-half of Minnesotans live in the metro-area and one-half live in out-state MN
- •a state constitutional requirement of a "convenient, contiguous territory"
- •legislative apportionment principles
- equal-sized populations in each of the eight congressional districts
- single member, compact, contiguous districts
- political subdivisions
- •minority representation in areas where many minority residents live
- communities of interests

1980 to 1990

The 1991 legislature, after setting redistricting standards and redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries, passed its legislative plan without the governor's signature (bills can become law by escaping a gubernatorial veto). The senate minority leader challenged the plan in federal court, claiming technical errors caused districts to lack compactness, be non-contiguous, and not substantially equal in population. A state court declared the legislature's plan unconstitutional and said it would draw a plan unless the legislature enacted a new plan. A federal court enjoined the state court from taking further action. The state court issued a revised legislative plan subject to the federal injunction.

In 1992 the legislature approved a redrawn plan for congressional districts and corrected the legislative district plan. SCOTUS ordered the injunction against the state court lifted. Governor Carlson vetoed both of the legislature's plans. After the state court plan went into effect, a federal court issued legislative and congressional district maps that pre-empted the state court plan. Upon appeal, SCOTUS upheld the state court plan for legislative district boundaries and the federal court plan for congressional district boundaries.

Both court-ordered plans were challenged after the 1992 election. In <u>Growe v. Emison</u> (1993), SCOTUS ruled the federal court overstepped its authority and should defer to the state for drawing legislative district maps.

In 1994 the legislature enacted the court-ordered plans for redrawing boundaries and made minor changes in 1997.

The MN Legislative Reference Library has a more complete summary of this litigious redistricting process:

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/guides/guides?issue=redistr

MN's Recent Redistricting History - Decades 1990 to 2000 and 2000 to 2010

The MN Legislative Reference Library has summaries on redistricting in MN in 2000 and 2010:

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/guides/guides?issue=redist00

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/guides/guides?issue=redist2010

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has a summary of 2010 redistricting law and a list of other redistricting resources:

http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/redistricting-law-2010.aspx

http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/national-redistricting-seminar-agend-sept-2010.aspx#Redistricting%20Process

The MN State Law Library lists references on MN's redistricting law: http://mn.gov/law-library/legal-topics/redistricting.jspUpcoming candidates forums.

FYI

LWVUS Position on Redistricting:

https://www.lwv.org/redistricting/lwvus-position-redistricting

Candidates Forums

Oct 2nd (Tue) Forest Lake City Hall

1408 Lake St S

Mary Jo, Molly, Shelia,

Dick

6:30 pm Forest Lake city council forum (7 candidates, 2 positions)

7:45 pm Forest Lake mayoral forum (4 candidates)

Oct 9th (Tue) Marine on St. Croix Village Hall

Molly, Shelia, Gretchen

121 Judd Street

6:30 pm Washington County Sheriff forum Hoppe/Starry (not

confirmed)

7:45 pm MN House Dist **39A** Dettmer/Mozey

Oct 25 (Thur) Vadnais Heights City Hall

800 East County Rd E 55127

7-8:30 PM Council/mayoral in partnership with VHED

Oct 27 (Sat) Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall

16455 20th St S 55043 1 – 2:30 PM council/may

INITIAL QUESTION TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For the last four decades, by default, the MN Supreme Court has had to redraw election district boundaries and maps because the Legislature and the Governor couldn't agree on the boundaries. As a State legislator, what, if anything, would you do to change this redistricting process?



Planning Ahead

Planning Grid for upcoming meetings: The following is an organizational grid for members who have volunteered to help with presenting program and set-up for general meetings.

Please contact one of the listed people if you are able to help. December and January will be posted in the next Bear Facts. Take a chance and show your interest in LWV topics.

October 2018: MN Redistricting

Name	Unit	Phone	Email Contact	
Lisa Larson	Maht	651-426-4884	larson.lisa.f@gmail.com	
Mary Johnston	Maht	651-426-6778	marjohnston@comcast.net	
Karen Gochberg	Maht	651-429-8480	k_gochberg@hotmail.com	
Stephanie McNamara	WBL	651-429-8482	stephanie.o.mcnamara@vla wmo.org	
Chris Koentopp	WBL			
Carolyn Folke	NO	651-414-9503	cbwf40@gmail.com	

November Planning Date: TBD

Name	Unit	Phone	email
Lisa Larson	Mahtomedi	651-426-4884	larson.lisa.f@gmail.com
Gretchen Davidson	Mahtomedi	651-430-0712	davidsongretchen3@gmail.com
Gladys Ritter	SCV	651-436-1873	logos48@aol.com
Heidi Boyd	WBL	651-762-2991	scottandheidi@hotmail.com
Barb Menory	WBL		memoryb@ecu.edu
Kathy Gaylord	WBL	651-503-3660	kbgaylord@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



Don't forget to check out our Facebook page. You will find it if you search for League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area. Our page has an up-to-date calendar for candidate forums and upcoming meetings. We are currently posting replays from our candidate forums that have already taken place. Check out our page, "like" it "share" it and post your comments on it.

www.lwv-wbla.org

LWV White Bear Lake Area also has a Website. You will find that at www.lwv-wbla.org. There you will find an events calendar, back issues of the Bear Facts, board information

and an invitation and instructions on how to join. Our website is still under construction, so check back periodically for new information.

Please contact Carol Bergeson if you are interested in attending. 651-484-1636, 15 Pheasant Lane, North Oaks

Judicial Candidate Forum

Thursday, September 27
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Mitchell Hamline School of Law Auditorium
875 Summit Ave, St PauLl MN 55105

All candidates in contested
Second Judicial District races have been invited:
Moderator: Professor Marie Failinger

Seat 2 Thomas Andrew Handley, Jr DeAnne Hilgers

Seat 11 Scott Michael Flaherty Adam Yang

Seat 14 Marcus L. Almon Robyn Ann Millenacker

> Seat 20 G. Tony Atwal P. Paul Yang

Seat 28
Elena L. Ostby
Calandra Revering

This event is free and open to the public.

Contact <u>info@ramseybar.org</u> with questions.<u>Co-sponsored by the Ramsey County Bar</u>
<u>Association, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and the League of Women Voters</u>



President's Letter

I attended my first LWV Minnesota Legacy Lunch yesterday in Minneapolis. This lunch is a way for LWV Minnesota to thank the members who have given a significant donation in the past year, or have included LWV Minnesota in their estate planning. I met two wonderful women who just became members this year; both of them impressed me as being highly intelligent, and are already

getting involved in the work that we do. At the luncheon, I also reconnected with some friends I had made during my time on the LWV Minnesota board of directors. Serving alongside such dedicated and passionate people has really helped me get the most out of my LWV membership.

During the past month, I also met with a fellow local League President to share stories of our work and our experiences with being a leader in this 99-year old organization. We share some



of the same issues and challenges, and we have come up with some different ideas and solutions. It was a great opportunity for me to see more possibilities and to learn new ways of educating and empowering the people in our community to be more involved in public policy and governance.

The theme of the Legacy Lunch this year was telling stories. Serving alongside others is

one way of getting to know them, by hearing their stories. Spending time with others in our community helps us to become more connected to each other. and more aware of the things we have in common, rather than what divides us. I hope you will take advantage of opportunities that LWV gives you to meet with people within our organization and in our community, to serve and to share stories.



GENERAL MEETING PUBLIC INVITED NOVEMBER 8, 2018

WHITE BEAR LAKE CITY HALL 4701 HIGHWAY #61 WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 7:00 PM

RETIRED MN SUPREME COURT JUDGE TO SPEAK

Retired MN Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson speaks at the LWVWBLA general meeting on Thursday evening, November 8. His talk occurs just two days after the general election when we learn which candidates we elected to national, state, and local public offices. Justice Anderson, a Governor Carlson appointee, is an experienced jurist who understands national and state politics. He is deeply interested in voters and voting, including voter manipulation through voter ID requirements that suppress voter turnout of certain demographic groups, too few and difficult-to-access polling places, fewer early voting days and reduced voting times, purged voter rolls, and voters and residents undercounted in the census. We're fortunate to hear Justice Anderson's insights and analysis on voters and voting in MN and to be able to ask him about how election results can impact MN's upcoming redistricting process and fair representation, among other questions.

The Clipboard

Add-Ons and Supplements

Do you know of books, links, speakers. news articles, videos, or movies which you would like to share with League members? If so, simply email your links, etc. to: davidsongretchen3@gmail.com before the 3rd Wednesday of the month and it will be placed on the Bear Facts "Clipboard".

Recommended.....

an excerpt on Voter Suppression from the book "One Person, No Vote" by Carol Anderson:

https://lithub.com/the-voters-who-disappeared-from-the-rolls/

Several members, including Liz, mentioned/recommended the movie "Dark Money" being shown on PBS Ch. 2 on Monday, October 1 at 10:00 PM. Link:The documentary Dark Money

From Lisa Larson:

I'd like to suggest the following link where Carol Anderson, author of "One Person, No Vote" recommends a number of books on democracy and its challenges:

https://bookmarks.reviews/carol-anderson-five-books-on-democracy-and-its-challenges/

Another recommended book:

The Washington Decree by Alder-Olsen

https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jussi-adler-olsen/the-washington-decree/

It's a riveting work of political fiction but plausible.

a twitter feed for all things related to the MN Legislature https://twitter.com/hashtag/mnleg?f=tweets&vertical=default&lang=en

about voting:https://www.npr.org/2018/09/21/649535367/hacks-security-gaps-and-oligarchs-the-business-of-voting-comes-under-scrutiny

......and here are more sources of information connected to last month's topic on "Fair Representation

https://www.politico.com/f/?id=0000015c-11a2-d46a-a3ff-9da240e10002 Extreme Maps, by Laura Royden and Michael Li (Brennan Center for Justice)

http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/2009-redistricting-commissions-

<u>table.aspx</u> Redistricting Commissions: State Legislative Plans, National Council of State Legislatures https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/state-redistricting-litigation State of Redistricting Legislation, by Michael Li, Thomas Wolf, Annie Lo (Brennan Center for Justice)

https://www.brennancenter.org/new-voting-restrictions-america New Voting Restrictions in America (Brennan Center for Justice)

https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/videos/10156249505457279/ A Conversation on Redistricting with Ruth Greenwood and Nick Stephanopoulos, both of whom were involved in the U.S. Supreme Court partisan gerrymandering case, Gill v. Whitford. LWVUS National Convention, 2018 (only accessible through Facebook).

Your need-to-know guide for midterm elections in Minnesota

Briana BierschbachSep 11, 2018

https://www.mprnews.org/story/2018/09/11/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-2018-minnesota-midterm-elections?utm_campaign=Capitol+View&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sfmc_% AdditionalEmailAttribute1%%&utm_content=%% AdditionalEmailAttribute2%%



A 'Vote Here' sign placed outside the polling station at Susan B. Anthony Middle School in Minneapolis in 2016. *Luke Taylor* | *MPR*

You've done your research and know exactly who you want to vote for in the November election — but do you know if you're registered to vote? Do you know where your polling place is?

To successfully cast your ballot, it's as important to know about the candidates as it is to understand the basics of how to vote. Every state runs its elections differently, and Minnesota has its own quirks.

Minneosta votes 2018: Complete coverage

Here's a breakdown on how to make sure you're eligible and prepared to cast your ballot on (or before) Election Day.

Am I eligible to vote?

A quick test:

- Are you a U.S. citizen?
- Will you be at least 18 years old on election day?
- Have you lived in Minnesota for at least 20 days?
- If you are a felon, have you completed all parts of your prison sentence?
- Are you legally competent?

If you answered yes to all these questions, you passed the test. You are eligible to vote.

How do I register to vote?

If you've already registered to vote at your current address and have voted at least once in the last four-year period, you're likely still registered.

If you want to double check to be sure, it's easy to do online.

But if you've recently moved, changed your name or it's been a while since you last voted, you need to register.

You can register 21 days ahead of time online or on paper, but if you haven't done that yet, don't worry: Unlike many states, Minnesota has same-day voter registration, meaning you can register to vote at your polling place right before you cast your ballot.

To do that, you'll need to bring with you a proof of residence, and you've got plenty of options. The easiest is your driver's license, but you can also bring a permit, passport, school ID, military or tribal ID, student fee statements, a lease agreement valid through election day or most bills or bank statements that also list your address.

If for some reason you don't have any of those things, you can also bring a registered voter from your precinct to go with you to the polling place and sign an oath confirming your address. This is called "vouching."

Do I need to register with a political party?

No.

Unlike presidential election years, Minnesota voters do not need to register with any party in order to vote in the midterm elections.

Where do I vote?

You must vote in your local polling place, which is easy to find on the <u>Minnesota Secretary of State's</u> website.

How can I cast my ballot?

Once you've determined your polling place, you can head there anytime after polls open at 7 a.m. or before they close at 8 p.m.

Your employer is required by law to allow you time to vote, and if you're still waiting in line when the polls close, don't worry. The law also requires that you get to cast your ballot. Make sure you know your rights as a voter.

Can I vote early?

Not everyone can or wants to vote on actual election day, which is Nov. 6. Minnesota has no-excuse absentee balloting, which means you can vote up to 46 days before election day either in-person at your local early voting center, or by requesting and submitting a mail-in ballot before Nov. 5.

This year, early voting kicks off for the general election on Sept. 21.

- Related: Meet the candidates
- · Related: Mid-term election resources

Are there any nonpartisan races on the primary ballot? Yes.

Nonpartisan offices are on the back of the ballot, so make sure to flip it over. While they might not be as prominent as something like the governor, these officials make important decisions about your community. They can include your local city, county and township offices, school boards and park boards.

What about ballot initiatives?

There are no statewide ballot questions this year, but the back of your ballot could include a number of local ballot questions, including local school levies, city charter amendments and more.

• Follow the money: Find out who is spending money on your candidates

Are Minnesota's data systems, and my vote, secure? Nationally, there's a lot of concern about outside groups breaking into state election systems. In Minnesota, that's not easy to do. The state has a decentralized system spread out across thousands of polling places and officials in all 87 counties, so there's no single administrator.

Minnesota also has a paper balloting system that is never connected to the internet during the voting process. That makes it hard to hack.

Can I wear a button to my polling place?

State law prohibits voters from casting a ballot while wearing clothing related to a campaign, like a T-shirt either supporting or opposing a candidate.

Until June, it also barred voters from wearing a "political badge, political button, or other political insignia" to their polling place. That part of the law was struck down by the United States Supreme Court.

I want to share my ballot on social media, can I take a picture? Yes.

There's no law stopping you from snapping a photo and posting proof that you voted on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and/or Snapchat although the Secretary of State's office discourages the practice for privacy reasons.

 #AskMPRNews: What question do you want MPR News to investigate before you vote?

Your contact info

We'll be in touch if we look into your question. Powered by Hearken



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our League has welcomed seven new members since June 1. They are:

Terri Houle (Mahtomedi Unit) trhoule@yahoo.com

Christopher and Jennifer Landon (North Oaks Unit) jeylandon@gmail.com

Barbara Cobb Memory (White Bear Unit) memoryb@ecu.edu

Barbara Senneseth (North Oaks Unit) bsenneseth@aol.com

Susan Travis (North Oaks Unit) stravis41@aol.com

Laura Utley (North Oaks Unit) blakesgrammy8@gmail.com

Save the Date

LWVWBLA Annual Boliday Party

December 2, 2018 Histen Pathways Consos Community Room 5200 Pathways Ave.

Menu, Time, Directions, and Cost to be Sent With Your Invitation Next Month

Treasurer's Report

September 12, 2018

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues Donations Memorials Meetings (socials) Service In-kind donation Voters Service Calendars Bank interest Total:	\$555.00 \$25.00 \$ \$270.00 \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$2482.50 \$100.00 \$ \$375.00 \$ \$452.50 \$ \$0.30 \$3410.30
Expenses:	Meetings (socials) 2016 National convention LWVMN PMP LWVUS PMP Meeting site Voters Service Program (includes publicity) Bear Facts copying/printing Calendars Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition)	\$121.40 \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$121.40 \$ \$1543.75 \$2144.00 \$ \$470.59 \$57.73 \$ \$ \$668.00

Total: \$121.40 \$5005.47

Opening balance from August 8, 2018: \$3239.57 Income + \$850.00 Expenses: - \$121.40

Current balance: \$3869.17

Ed fund CD: \$5038.94

2018-19 Paid Members: 36 @ \$60 9@ \$75

Total: 54 (including our 3 lifetime members)

Community Event Announcement

THRIVING BY DESIGN COMMUNITY MEETINGS

YOUR IDEAS, YOUR VOICE, OUR COMMUNITY

Join us on **October 10th at 6:30 PM** for a conversation.

Thriving by Design is a collection of individuals and organizations working to craft a One Equity Blueprint that will be presented to the incoming Governor and legislators in December. This is an opportunity to assure the equity needs in the White Bear area are addressed.

You are invited to join a community conversation about building a Minnesota where we can all thrive.

To view the current draft of the blueprint, please visit: thrivingbydesignmn.org
For questions, or if you cannot attend, but would like to be involved, contact Justin Stofferahn at justinstofferahn@gmail.com or at 612-594-1252

brought to you by Growth and Justice and ONEMN.org

#ThrivingByDesign

funded in-part by the Blandin and McKnight Foundations

Candidate's Forum



Picture taken following the Candidate's forum at Oak Park Heights City Hall on Monday, September 24, for Stillwater School District #834 and Legislative District #39B Shelly Christensen, candidate for Legislative Dstrict 39B Representative, LWVWBLA member Liz Nordling, moderator, Jerry Linser, member LWVWBLA. Unidentified forum attendee.