

The Voter

The official publication of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area
FALCON HEIGHTS, LAUDERDALE, LITTLE CANADA, MAPLEWOOD, ROSEVILLE

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**Find us on our website
and other social media
sites!**

Website:
www.lwvrosevillearea.org

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
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YouTube:
[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY
8IMPfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg)

Everyone Counts: Ramsey County Takes on the 2020 Census

At the November 13 League meeting, Ramsey County Policy and Planner Jolie Wood will explain Ramsey County's plan to ensure that racial/ethnic minorities, lower-income persons, people experiencing homelessness, young mobile persons, and children are accurately counted.

The U.S. government reported that in 2010 the Census missed more than 1.5% of the minority population nationwide. Why is the 2020 Census important?

- A loss in population could put Minnesota at risk of losing a seat in the House of Representatives and having fewer electoral college votes. The census is the first step in the redistricting process.
- Even one missed person could decrease federal spending by \$15,000 in Ramsey County communities.
- Census data is used to plan roads, schools, hospitals, senior centers, and emergency services.
- Businesses use census data to locate facilities, recruit employees, and conduct market research.

The meeting will be 6:30-8 p.m. at the Autumn Grove Park Building, 1365 Lydia Ave. W., Roseville (corner of Lydia and Hamline). The event is free and open to the public. You are encouraged to download the flyer attached to the emailed version of this newsletter and share it with friends or post it in a location that you frequent.

League Census Advocacy

Based on its position on apportionment, League was an official partner of the 2010 U.S. Census. LWV Education Fund staff worked closely with national partners (e.g., civil rights, Latino groups) and provided information and support to state and local Leagues in efforts to minimize an undercount. LWVMN has already joined the state Complete Count Committee organizing for accuracy in the 2020 U.S. Census.

Celebrate December with League Friends

Want to renew those long-time League friendships? Curious to meet the newest members of League? Join us for a holiday luncheon at Gulden's Restaurant, 2999 Maplewood Dr., Maplewood (corner of Hwy 61 and Cty. Rd. D), Saturday, December 1, 11:30 a.m. Wear your League nametag to help make new connections. New members will have a red star on their nametags.

For questions, or to indicate attendance, contact Gladys Jones (gjones70@gmail.com or 651-341-5179). We need the number of attendees to make sure that Gulden's can have the right number of place settings. Celebrate December with camaraderie, laughter, and League spirit.

United States
**Census
2020**

Getting a Perspective on Immigration

The LWV of Roseville Area assisted the Shoreview Library in securing a grant through the National Endowment for the Humanities to present a six-session public program, *Becoming American*, to encourage an informed discussion of immigration issues against the backdrop of our immigration history. These sessions, co-sponsored by the Shoreview Library, our League, and Do Good Roseville, will be held at the Shoreview Library, 4560 N. Victoria (just north on Victoria off of Hwy. 96), 6:30-8:30 p.m. on each date.

The first session, Thursday, November 8, *The Century of Immigration*, centers on the years between 1820 and 1924 when forty million immigrants were added to the population of the U.S. and changed the make-up, culture, and social institutions of America helping to transform the U.S. into a dynamic economy in the world. Two short documentaries will be shown, *The Power and the People*, and *The Jewish Americans*.

The second session, *Promise and Prejudice*, will be held Thursday, December 13. It explores the historic and current tension between Americans' acceptance of immigrants. It will feature *Welcome to Shelbyville*, a documentary about the experience of a small Tennessee town when Somali refugees were hired to work in a Tyson chicken processing plant.

Films shown will be followed by discussion moderated by Dr. Dina Gavrilos, associate professor of Communication and Journalism at the University of St. Thomas. All events are free and open to the public.

General Election: November 6

We know League members don't need a reminder to vote, but we should all try to remind others to participate. Polls are generally open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. and unregistered voters can register on election day. Here are some voting resources you may find helpful.

- The LWV of Roseville Area website's Voter Resources tab has voting information: lvvrosevillearea.org/tags/voter-resources
- The Minnesota Secretary of State's mnvotes.org website provides information on polling locations, sample ballots, early voting information, and candidate websites.
- The *Lillie Suburban Newspapers* (lillienews.com/articles/elections) compiled information on candidates for local elections, including information on mayoral and city council candidates for Little Canada, Maplewood, and Roseville. There is also information about the school board candidates in ISD 622 (North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale).
- The LWV of Roseville Area Voter Services committee has concluded the major thrusts of this election season. Six candidate forums were offered with over 200 attendees in addition to the candidates and Cable TV audiences. Fourteen voter registrations were conducted in area high schools and at community events, in addition to the voter registrations which occur at the on-going new citizenship services. Many thanks to the LWV of Roseville Area volunteers who contributed to the various efforts.



If you want to watch a recording of any of the candidate forums that the LWV of Roseville Area sponsored or recommend them to others, visit one of the following links.

- MN House 43B candidate forum: webstreaming.ctv15.org/viewer.php?streamid=3141
- MN House Seat 66A candidate forum: ctvnorthsuburbs.org/digital-events/event/685-mn-house-66a-candidates-forum
- Little Canada city council candidate forum: ctvnorthsuburbs.org/digital-events/event/686-little-canada-candidates-forum
- Maplewood mayor and city council candidate forum: webstreaming.ctv15.org/viewer.php?streamid=3146
- Roseville mayor and city council candidate forum: ctvnorthsuburbs.org/digital-events/event/687-roseville-candidates-forum

BE A VOTER!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

Officers:

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Sherry Hood

Vice President
Barb Barany

Secretary
Mary Peterson

Treasurer
Joyce Briggs

.....

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Wayne Groff
Priscilla Morton

Archivist
Dan Salzl

Communications
Barb Anderson

Membership
Beth Reinhart

Program
Bonnie Koch

Voter Services
Karen Lake

.....

Members-At-Large

Stephanie DeBenedet
Rachel Geiser
Beth Salzl
Karen Schaffer

November 6 is almost here! Our League has put in a lot of work leading up to this day. A **huge shout-out** to Karen Lake, Voter Services chair; Cecilia Warner, vice-chair; the members of the Voter Services committee; and others who helped. You all gave so much of your time and energy, including standing outside on a cool, blustery, late September day at transit stops in the metro area registering new voters; going into high schools, registering 18 year-olds; gathering voter registrations at naturalization ceremonies; registering young voters at breweries (our motto: We go anywhere!); helping citizens at senior living facilities acquire absentee ballots; and so much more! We educated voters with six forums in our League area, organized by the great expertise and irrepressible spirit of Cecilia Warner, who has been doing this for a number of years.



Sherry Hood

Just our presence is advertising ourselves and reminding every citizen of their right and responsibility to participate in their government and have democracy work for all of us. That is not just some of us...it is ALL of us!

In conclusion, it's a wonderful and admirable service we League members provide to our community, local and beyond. To help with these services, we always need your financial help. Soon you will be receiving a letter from our Finance committee, asking for your donation. Out of your annual dues, only \$13 goes to our local League. If you can help us with any amount, it will be so appreciated (and we are a 501(c)(3) organization, so it may be tax deductible.) God bless us all.

LWV of Roseville Area at Volunteer Fair

Sherry Hood and Beth Reinhart staffed a booth, representing LWV of Roseville Area at the 3rd Annual Volunteer Fair at the Fairview Community Center on October 6.



League members Sherry Hood and Beth Reinhart with Kathy Ramundt of Do Good Roseville (middle)

Music or Noise?

By Florence Sprague

When does a sound, even music, become noise? Is it the volume, time of day, type of sound, location, relationship of the listener to the sound, personal taste, personal needs, race of the listener, race of the sound maker?

I well recall how the girl across the hall in my freshman dorm put a penny on the tone arm of her record player so that it played Bob Dylan singing “Lay, Lady, Lay” loudly over and over and over and over. And then there was the incident of a resident of a town blaring opera back across the street at a fraternity when disturbed by the loud rock music filling the neighborhood.

These are annoyances, matters of musical preference, and cases where one’s sound of choice spills over into the wider environment without sufficient regard for others. But loud music can uncover much more about how people feel about one another.

The music of others can expose or trigger instances of racism and discrimination and highlight a sensitive issue that has been called the sonic color line. Jennifer Stoever, Associate Professor of English at State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton and author of a book examining the relationship between race and sound in America (*The Sonic Color Line: Race and the Cultural Politics of Listening* nyupress.org/books/9781479889341/), captured my interest during an interview segment on *To the Best of Our Knowledge* on National Public Radio (tbook.org/interview/can-you-hear-segregation-and-intolerance).

In this interview, Stoever focuses on ways where sound, often music, has been used to rationalize violence or reflect power. An early incident piqued her interest in sound, race, and power when she was waiting for a bus in downtown Los Angeles late at night. She became aware of loud classical music and discovered that it was being piped into the doorways of a large building. Upon reflection, she realized the music was being played to dissuade homeless people from sleeping in those doorways. The classical music, though loud, was acceptable to the white building owners.

Gentrification often brings sonic prejudice into the light. In New York City, a large building near Harlem was made into condos and the new, largely white, residents began making complaints to the police about the noise of a drum circle that had been playing in the nearby park for decades.

Picture a gas station at night. As cars come and go, the sound level of traffic and radios vary. In Florida, a white man was at a gas station when a car full of teens of color, radio loudly playing rap music, pulled in. The man told the teens to turn it down, they refused. He ended up shooting and killing one of the teens. Over music. Music that would drive away in a few minutes.

The stories go on and on.

Sonic prejudice. What unnoticed assumptions do we each hold about how shared spaces should sound? What governs decisions on whose sound of choice is ruled acceptable? Who needs to accommodate whom?

Take 15 minutes to listen to the full segment (see the website link above) and ponder. What does sonic inclusiveness look and sound like? What does it feel like? How can we create and sustain it, respecting all?



Students Conducting Voter Registrations

By Karen Lake

The LWV of Roseville Area Voter Services Committee has conducted past voter registrations at Mounds Park Academy (MPA) in Maplewood. Upper school students are taught by Social Studies teacher and debate coach, Katie Murr, who also offers an extra-curricular political club opportunity. This year a group of MPA students organized and conducted their own voter registration during homecoming activities. They registered 10 new people to vote and received 100 pledges to vote!

October Event Recap: Finding Common Ground on Gun Violence Prevention

By Rachel Geiser

On October 16, at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Roseville, Reverend Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota, gave a presentation to address the question: Is there any common ground on the issue of gun violence between gun owners and non-gun owners?

Note: To read an overview of the LWV position on gun safety, see the October Voter issue regarding this event (lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/newsletters/2018_Oct_Voter.pdf).

Protect Minnesota's motto is "Working together to prevent gun violence." Rev. Bence started her presentation with statistics addressing myths, such as that gun-owners' views on gun violence prevention laws are the same as NRA positions. Most gun owners actually support comprehensive background checks. She appealed to the audience to avoid assuming what the other side believes that prevents finding that common ground and to effectively pass gun safety laws together.

Rev. Bence appealed for the avoidance of messages that don't work when advocating for gun safety laws (e.g., repealing the second amendment, confiscating guns, calling people gun nuts, categorizing lawmakers, statewide bans of specific weapons). Her message is that "Gun violence is a public health problem with public health solutions." By comparing gun safety regulation with laws that successfully prevented motor vehicle deaths and smoking, she said that gun safety regulations need to use research, legislation, education, litigation, and innovation to find a public health solution to the issue.

Rev. Bence gave a list of laws that have been proven to prevent gun violence: comprehensive criminal background checks or permit to purchase laws, gun violence protection orders (red flag laws), federal bans on assault weapons, child access prevention laws, mandatory lost and stolen firearm reporting, and waiting periods before gun purchasing. The event ended with a question and answer period moderated by LWV of Roseville Area member Mindy Greiling.

This presentation was not recorded due to copyright issues, but members who missed the event are encouraged to seek out other presentations by Rev. Bence and Protect Minnesota at the Protect Minnesota website: protectmn.org/. From there you can read detailed statistics and studies mentioned by Rev. Bence, learn about future events, and join or volunteer for one of the groups that comprise Protect Minnesota.



Rev. Nancy Nord Bence

League Night Out: Agitators Play

More than 20 LWV of Roseville Area members and friends attended the performance of the powerful play, *The Agitators*, at Park Square Theater. The play explored the friendship between Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass.



CMAL Panel on Metropolitan Council Governance

By Karen Schaffer

A panel on Metropolitan Council governance hosted by Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) at Autumn Grove Park on October 20 yielded insights into Met Council issues of the day. The audience included current and former elected officials, local LWV presidents, CMAL delegates, other members of LWV, and members of the public.

Deb Dyson (Minnesota House nonpartisan research analyst) provided history on the development of Met Council statutory powers. She said that in every session she is asked by legislators to draft bills to eliminate, have members be elected, and change the powers of the Met Council. She noted that when asked to draft a bill repealing the Met Council, she asks the author what should happen to current Met Council authorities. She has not yet received a response.

Keith Carlson (Executive Director of Minnesota Inter-County Association) said that the counties he represents (some in the metro, some outstate) do not support any particular change or diminution of the Met Council's current authorities. They instead seek to change the composition of the Met Council to include (even exclusively) officials already holding elective office in county and city government. He reasoned that if local elected officials work effectively on the Transportation Advisory Board (and on regional governing boards in other parts of the country), why not the same for the Metropolitan Council?

Charlie Vander Aarde (Metro Cities) expressed the view of his organization (representing approximately 90 metro-area cities): that local elected officials (county or city) should not be appointed to the Met Council. He noted the pervasive inherent incompatibilities of such appointments. He also noted that regional agencies across the United States, which typically have boards consisting of local elected officials, are responsible only for transportation planning, not the broad portfolio of the Met Council's statutory responsibilities (e.g., long-range comprehensive planning, planning and operation of the sewage disposal system, planning for regional parks/open space, Section 8 housing vouchers, transportation planning, operation of regional transit services).

C. Terrence Anderson (University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs) spoke favorably of the positive value of competent regional government (having seen its absence in Los Angeles). He stated that he moved to our metro area because of its good regional government, but also emphasized the importance of developing/maintaining the accountability of regional government to its constituencies, including, for example, the north Minneapolis constituency where he resides.

The panel is part of CMAL's current study reviewing its current position on Met Council governance. The study will be completed by December 31, 2018, and consensus questions will be presented at the February 2019 meeting of LWV of Roseville Area.



(L-R) Deb Dyson, Keith Carlson, Charlie Vander Aarde, C. Terrence Anderson, Karen Schaffer

CMAL Project: Interview Officials about Met Council Impact

CMAL, as part of its project to update its position on Met Council governance as mentioned above, is interviewing local officials to ask them directly how the Met Council impacts their city or county. CMAL is recruiting LWV members to conduct these interviews. An interview plan and questionnaire have been prepared for the use of volunteers; no need to improvise the questions! All you need to do is make the appointment(s), conduct the interview(s), and return the questionnaires to Marti Micks (LWV of Golden Valley). Several members of LWV of Roseville Area are already signed up; however, there are lots of cities in our area and, therefore, plenty of interview opportunities. If you volunteer, CMAL requests that interviews take place any time before Thanksgiving.

If you are curious or interested, contact Karen Schaffer (schafferka@gmail.com). This is an opportunity for you to meet with local officials and let them know that LWV is interested in their opinions about regional government.

Future League Events

Meetings are usually recorded and posted on our website: www.lwvrosevillearea.org. If you need a ride to an event, contact Sherry Hood (sherryhood@icloud.com / 651- 633-1434) or Bonnie Koch (touray@aol.com / 651-683-2992).

November and December events are detailed on [page 1](#) and [page 8](#).

- **January 10 – Between Two Worlds: Identity and Acculturation (Becoming American Series).** Third in the six-part series of films and discussions co-hosted with the Shoreview Library and Do Good Roseville; *The New Americans (The Nigerians)*; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Shoreview Library, 4560 N. Victoria St., Shoreview.
- **January 15 – Conversations with Constituents.** Interact with office holders in our five cities; 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7-8:30 p.m. program; Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Dr., Roseville.
- **February 14 – Help Wanted? Immigration and Work (Becoming American Series).** Fourth in the six-part series of films and discussions co-hosted with the Shoreview Library and Do Good Roseville; *Destination American, The Golden Door*; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Shoreview Library, 4560 N. Victoria St., Shoreview.
- **February 19 – Spotlight on the Metropolitan Council: Ripe for Change or Pretty Darn Good As It Is?** CMAL study update presentation, consensus; 6:30-8 p.m.; Location TBD.
- **March 14 – Family and Community (Becoming American Series).** Fifth in the six-part series of films and discussions co-hosted with the Shoreview Library and Do Good Roseville; *My American Girls*; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Shoreview Library, 4560 N. Victoria St., Shoreview.
- **March 19 – Behind Closed Doors: Parting the Curtain on Elder Abuse.** Speakers: Jackie Herron, Author/Advocate, Kristine Sundberg, President of Elder Voice Family Advocates; 6:30-8 p.m.; Location TBD.
- **April 11 – Immigration and Popular Culture (Becoming American Series).** Sixth in the six-part series of films and discussions co-hosted with the Shoreview Library and Do Good Roseville; *The Search for General Tso*; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Shoreview Library, 4560 N. Victoria St., Shoreview.
- **April 17 – Changes In Our Weather: What’s the Big Deal?** Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Blumenfeld, Senior Climatologist, MN Climatology Office, DNR; 6:30-8 p.m.; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 Victoria St. N., Roseville.
- **May 7 – Annual Meeting.** LWV of Roseville Area League Annual Meeting; 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting; Wakefield Park Community Building, 1725 Prosperity Rd., Maplewood.
- **June – Sustainability Field Trip.** Tour a LEED Platinum Certified building, the highest level certification for energy efficiency and environmental design; Markim Hall, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul.

Help Wanted: Action Committee Observations

The LWV of Roseville Area Action Committee encourages members and non-member volunteers to observe area council, commission, and board meetings. We listen for topics of interest to the League, monitor progress on those issues, testify if needed, and, on occasion, encourage others to provide input. We encourage all members to participate in this Observer Corps project, a vital part of government accountability. Below are the meetings for November and December. When someone has already volunteered to be an observer, there is an X after the meeting name; all others are open. If you are interested in attending a meeting or watching it on CCTV for League-reporting purposes, please contact Priscilla Morton at prismorton@comcast.net for further information and to receive a brief training.

November: Roseville City Council (11/5), Roseville Park and Rec Commission (11/6), Ramsey County Board of Commissioner (11/6), Roseville Planning Commission (X - 11/7), Roseville Finance Commission (11/13), Roseville School Board (11/13), Lauderdale City Council (11/13), Ramsey County Board of Commissioners (11/13), Little Canada City Council (11/14), Falcon Heights City Council (11/14), Ramsey County Board of Commissioners (11/20), Roseville City Council (X - 11/26), Roseville Public Works Commission (X - 11/27), Roseville School Board (11/27), Ramsey County Board of Commissioners (11/27), Little Canada City Council (11/28), Falcon Heights City Council (11/28).

December: Roseville City Council (X - 12/3), Roseville Parks and Rec Commission (12/4), Roseville Planning Commission (X - 12/5), Roseville Finance Commission (12/11), Lauderdale City Council (12/11), Little Canada City Council (12/12), Falcon Heights City Council (12/12), Roseville School Board (12/18), Roseville Human Rights Commission (12/19)

Rachel Geiser, editor
1223 Duluth Ct.
Maplewood, MN 55109

November/December LWV Events Calendar

- **November 6 – VOTE in the General Election.** See voter resources on [page 2](#); 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
- **November 8 – The Century of Immigration (Becoming American Series).** See the full event description on [page 2](#); 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **November 13 – Everyone Counts: Ramsey County Takes on the 2020 Census.** See the full event description on [page 1](#); 6:30-8 p.m.
- **December 1 – Holiday Luncheon.** See event description on [page 1](#) for more details and RSVP information; 11:30 a.m.
- **December 13 – Promise and Prejudice (Becoming American Series).** See the full event description on [page 2](#); 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The remaining 2018-2019 LWV of Roseville Area events are on the event calendar on [page 7](#).

The Voter Article Submission Deadline

Submissions for the next issue of The Voter are due 10 days before the end of the month. If you have any questions or information to submit for the newsletter, contact Rachel Geiser at rachelsoup@gmail.com.

