

# 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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League of Women Voters

ROSEVILLE AREA

Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville

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## **November meeting will focus on immigrants: Participating in Minnesota's Economic Future**

*Fact:* From 2000-2009 Minnesota average annual population growth rate slowed to about 1 percent.

*Fact:* The Minnesota State Demographer's Office indicates average annual population growth rate in the 2020s will slow to about 0.5 percent, making it more difficult to fill job vacancies.

*Fact:* Immigrants paid \$3.3 billion in Minnesota state and local taxes and had \$8.9 billion in spending power in 2014.\*

November unit meetings will host a presentation on the role immigrants can play as Minnesota plans its economic future.



**Matt Schmit**

Invite friends and join us on **Monday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.** in the Roseville Library Community Room. Matt Schmit, former state senator and current adjunct instructor in economic competitiveness at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, will discuss recent efforts undertaken in Minnesota to understand and emphasize the essential benefits of immigration to Minnesota's workforce and economic competitiveness. Co-sponsored by the Roseville Library, the event is free and open to the public.

The presentation will be recorded and re-presented on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Victoria and County Rd. D.

\**Minnesota Business Immigration Coalition*

## **Be sure to vote Nov. 7!**

Roseville Area League members will vote in some important local elections Nov. 7.

School Districts 623 and 621 residents are voting on important bond issues and electing school board members, and residents of Falcon Heights are voting in a rigorous city council race.

Residents of District 623, Roseville Area Schools, are voting on a \$144 million bond, the first since 1992. Three candidates, incumbents Kitty Gogins and Frank Shaw and newcomer Curtis Johnson are seeking three positons on the school board.

District 621, Mounds View Schools, is seeking support of a \$165 million bond, the first in 18 years. Six candidates, incumbent Marre Jo Sager, Shauna Boch, Jennifer Daniels, Diane Glasheen, Sheila Lee and Brendan O'Meara, are vying for three seats on the school board.

In Falcon Heights, seven candidates are vying for two seats on the City Council. They are: Tom Brace, Ronald Dixon, incumbent Tony Fischer, Melanie Leehy, Mark Miazga, Paula Mielke, and Michael Wade.

For more information about elections or voting, contact the Web site of Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us).

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.lwvrosevillearea.org](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org)

**And Facebook!**  
[www.facebook.com/lwvRose-villeArea](http://www.facebook.com/lwvRose-villeArea)

**And Instagram!**  
[@lwvrosevillearea](http://@lwvrosevillearea)  
[Www.Instagram.com](http://Www.Instagram.com)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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## “May we please buy you lunch?”

While 2017 is frequently referred to as an off-election year, it has **NOT** been an off-year for our unit's Voter Services team. This hard-working group of Leaguers began aggressively seeking out and tracking all high schools, alternative schools and community gathering places last spring, setting up dates to bring registration forms to cafeterias and in some cases classrooms. And as important as those registration forms are, perhaps more important they have been spreading the LWV mission of educating future and potential voters on the voting process.

So, perhaps it is no surprise when a couple of teachers asked, “May we please buy you lunch?” According to team chair, Karen Lake, “LWV Voter Services volunteers have been royally welcomed in area high schools that accepted the invitation to conduct on-site voter registrations.” And how can one turn down a school cafeteria lunch?!?

We might wonder why this is so important. When each young person's life is touched with Civic Education in action, we further the LWV mantra of ***Making Democracy Work for All.***

Student and teacher quotes in the past few weeks will warm the heart and soul of any Leaguer....making those countless volunteer hours feel worthwhile:

- “May a kindergarten class visit the registration table and learn about what is happening here?”
- “Thank you for making registering to vote so easy for us!”
- “You know ... I helped register voters in the last election and I hope to have a career in public service.” (*This shared by a young immigrant student who could, himself, not register to vote as he will need approximately three more years to complete the process of becoming a citizen.*)
- “Thank you for being here. May we help?”

And many other Leaguers are living out the mission by **Educating, Advocating, Reforming**. The Program and Advocacy team members continue to work together in getting the *Affordable Housing* study positions out to a larger community and to local elected officials. Membership team members seem to be getting new member registrations on an almost weekly basis, reaching out, personalizing and welcoming, thus building the LWV base. **Thank you** to all going well above the call of duty to make this organization work for the good of our democracy!

Our lives are understandably busy, so if you missed one of the excellent programs, such as the recent “Affordable Housing Panel held on Oct. 21, just go to our website:

[www.lwvrosevillearea.org/](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org/)

Click on the *YouTube* channel located on right side for a recording.

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOu17m9LEgYY8IMPfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOu17m9LEgYY8IMPfg)



**Rita Mills**

## In Search of Healthier Storylines

By Florence Sprague

Everybody has a story, a story with many branches. Sometimes another person's storyline parallels our own closely enough that we can easily relate to the twists and turns, detours and redirections that it follows. Other times a life wanders into unfamiliar territory, and it is so easy to judge or misinterpret.

Addiction is a concept that I struggle with. It is something that I have had the immense good fortune to have been able to avoid. I know that at times I get hooked on a computer game and for a period of time will expend too much time trying to conquer it until the novelty and charm inexplicably wears off and I am pulled to other ventures, but that is minor and avoidable; it is orders of magnitude from true addiction.

I also know intellectually that the human body develops tolerances and needs for certain categories of chemicals from nicotine to alcohol to opioids and others with exposure. I know the allure of alcohol to ease social anxiety and the desire of some for "fun" sensations and of others for escape from emotional pain. However, I also know that when I read the personal stories of those who struggle with addiction as a reality, not a concept, that I swing between sympathy for their tragic experiences and sarcastic rejection of their explanations. When I read of a man or woman prostituting him or herself to get drugs, I know that I still do not truly understand the overwhelming power of addiction. On the other hand, when an addict is reported as saying "the last thing I wanted to do was to hurt my family, but I stole from them to support my habit," I think "no, the last thing you wanted was to leave your need for drugs unmet. If you don't want to hurt your family-get help." And then I think of individuals I know of who have been in and out of rehab repeatedly and the debate over whether an alcoholic recovers or is always recovering <http://alcoholrehab.com/alcoholism/recovering-alcoholic-or-recovered-alcoholic/> and many more unresolved aspects of different types of addiction.

So, what is the best way to frame a healthy and respectful perspective on addiction? How can one be fair, kind, supportive, and still hold others responsible for their behavior? We all need forgiveness and empathy at times in our lives.

Do you like cilantro? It is an herb that people seem to love or hate. I recently learned that for some people, this dislike is connected to their genes, though the understanding of how is less than complete.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ymoPRWxZI8> This problem can be addressed. Those folks can simply not eat cilantro and I can avoid serving it to them if I am aware. It seems that there may be a genetic predisposition to becoming addicted to something, whether it is gambling, alcohol or drugs, but what then? When I had surgery I was given a prescription for OxyContin but I disliked the slightly loopy way it made me feel and was only too happy to cut back pain relief to ibuprofen as soon as possible. Yet others like and even seem to crave that loopy feeling and quickly become addicted. Still others become addicted only after prolonged use for chronic pain and subsequent dependence. So is it genetics that keeps me safer or fear of addiction contributing to a willingness to use lesser painkillers or just good fortune?

One explanation I saw online reflects this complexity. "Many Genes Influence Addiction. Scientists will never find just one single addiction gene. Like most other diseases, addiction vulnerability is a very complex trait. Many factors determine the likelihood that someone will become an addict, including both inherited and environmental factors." <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/addiction/genes/> In acknowledging that addiction is a complex disease, this site goes on to say that genes create a greater susceptibility, not an inevitability.

And so I am still challenged. Challenged to not prejudge someone who may have an incredibly difficult time resisting. Challenged to be compassionate in supporting someone trying to control and overcome addiction while not becoming an enabler. Challenged to help minimize the environmental factors that can trigger a descent into addiction—and here it can be for those close to us and for our wider community. Contributing factors can be very personal such as mental illness or they can be larger and external or environmental such as poverty, abuse, lack of opportunity and more.

Do you have a better handle on this than I? If so, please share. "The opioid crisis" is all over the news. One of the many factors that will be needed in confronting this crisis will be the awareness and involvement of all of us. Those who manufacture, distribute and profit from drugs bear major culpability, but we can all support individuals and can all search for ways to reduce the pressures on people that make them crave a release, only to become trapped.

Where does your story intersect with stories of addiction? How can we help direct more stories on safer and healthier paths?



# Learning about League!

About 30 members and potential members learned more about League at a special meeting sponsored by the Membership Committee on Oct. 17. Members Rita Mills, Mindy Greiling, Karen Lake, Judy Stuthman, and Gladys Jones spoke about the benefits of League, while Sen. Chuck Wiger talked about challenges at the Legislature and the impact the League can have on the legislative process.

The event was at the Maplewood Library.

Pictured, from left, are: Sen. Chuck Wiger, Bonnie Koch and Florence Sprague, above, and League members, below.

(Photos by Nancy Livingston and Barb Anderson)

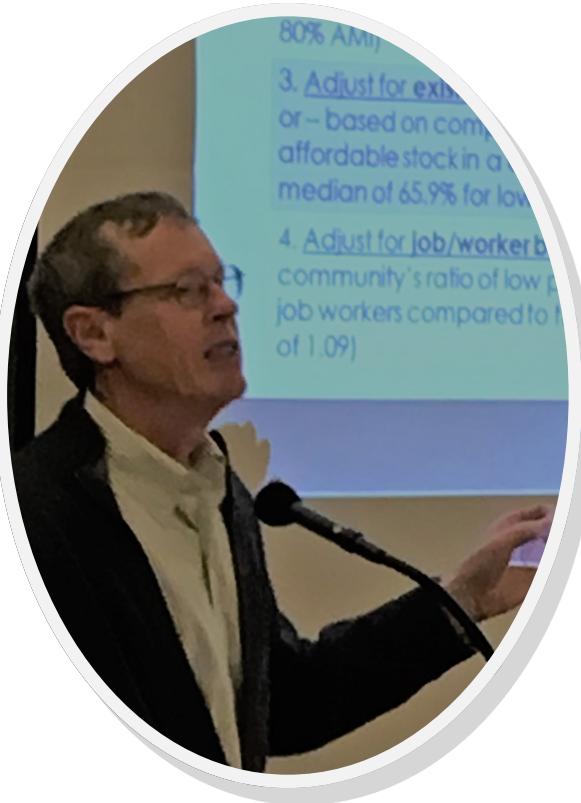


## Do Good Roseville!

More is always accomplished when working together. On Oct. 7, a "Volunteer Fair" was organized and hosted by Do Good Roseville at Fairview Community Center. League of Women Voters Roseville Area was invited to participate. We thank Do Good Roseville for providing a table in a prime location for LWV Voter Services to provide information about League in addition to voter registration materials. Spreading the LWV brand is beneficial to all of our communities.

Pictured, from left, are: Sherry Hood, Karen Lake and Judy Stuthman.





Experts Chip Halbach and Gail Dorfman discussed housing issues at an Oct. 21 meeting of the Roseville Area League and the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues.

## Housing Experts Discuss Metropolitan Council Housing Goals

By Mindy Greiling

Chip Halbach, recently retired, long-time Executive Director of the Minnesota Housing Partnership, and Gail Dorfman, Metropolitan Council representative and Executive Director of St. Stephen's Human Services, discussed housing issues and the role of the Metropolitan Council on Oct. 21. The meeting was sponsored by the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, Centennial Methodist Church, and our League chapter. Cathy Bennett, Housing Initiative, Urban Land Institute Minnesota, was unable to attend due to a family crisis.

Halbach said that the Metropolitan Council assigns a portion of projected affordable housing needs for the next ten years to each metropolitan city. Each goal is based on a community and household income growth formula that is adjusted for existing housing stock affordability and job/worker balance. Unfortunately, this method ignores the nearly four times-larger number of Twin Cities households who need affordable housing, because they are already paying over half of their incomes on housing. Sixty-two percent of those households earn under 30% of the Area Median Income.

The Metropolitan Council formula also does not take into account the thousands of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) units that are being taken from the market place due to rents being raised after they are upgraded. Both speakers pointed out that due to the hot housing market, we are losing affordable housing regularly across the metropolitan area.

Dorfman said that the Council has few tools to enforce their housing goals. They have the power of their review and comment that is public information, and they can tie eligibility for Livable Community grants to attainment or good faith efforts towards meeting those goals.

"Government is a very important partner in affordable housing," Dorfman concluded. "Otherwise, we pay big bucks to pay for crises services for people who are chronically homeless. Everyone has a right to housing. It intersects the core of all other social issues."

This program is available on the LWVRA webpage, [www.lwvrosevillearea.org](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org).

(Photos by Barb Anderson)

# LWVRA Swings into Action

**City Council testimony.** Mindy Greiling testified for our League at the Oct. 23 Roseville City Council meeting. Using our housing study recommendations, she asked for amendment of the rental licensing for multi-family rental dwellings ordinance to clarify that disorderly behavior lease provisions do not include police interactions for domestic abuse or mental illness crises. The Council passed the ordinance with amendments covering another matter, but Mayor Dan Roe, on behalf of the majority of the Council, strongly directed staff to return with new language to address our concerns.

**Networking with churches for affordable housing.** Action Co-Chairs Gladys Jones and Mindy Greiling are meeting with a local church networking group that helps area people in need of housing. The churches jointly created an Angel Fund, to which they all contribute, to assist people with urgent short-term needs. The fund is administered by Keystone. The next meeting is Nov. 14, 2:30 p.m., at Roseville Covenant Church. Mary Sue Hansen, Director of the Ramsey County Suburban Family Collaborative, facilitates the group. MICAH leaders will also be present to help educate churches on how to be effective local housing advocates.

**Local Government Observer Program.** Thanks to Nancy Bruggeman, Megan Dahlberg, Mary Mohan, Wayne Groff and Mindy Greiling for observing school board and city council meetings this month. Of most interest to League – in addition to the rental dwelling licensing - was the Roseville City Council discussion about housing in their comprehensive plan.

## Please join former Rep. Mindy Greiling for a Conversation with Senator John Marty about the need for Universal, Single-Payer Health Care in Minnesota



Thursday, November 16, 7:30 pm  
Falcon Heights City Hall  
2077 Larpenteur Ave. W.  
Falcon Heights, MN 55113

You are invited to a conversation facilitated by former Rep. Mindy Greiling, with Sen. John Marty, about the proposed universal, single-payer, Minnesota Health Plan legislation. They will discuss the need for comprehensive health care, including mental health, and how Minnesota could save money while covering everyone for all their medical needs.



If you think it's time for a healthcare system that covers everyone from cradle to grave, while reducing costs through a publicly-financed, privately delivered system, please come. If you simply want to learn more, we hope you will come as well.

The event is hosted by: *Roseville Area Advocates for the Minnesota Health Plan*, and *Health Care for All–Minnesota*.

You might be interested in checking out this summary of Senator Marty's work for universal health care from Bill Moyers: <http://billmoyers.com/story/health-care-doomed/>. Also, you can download a free copy of his recent book *Healing Health Care* at: <http://mnhealthplan.org/>.

We hope to see you on November 16!

# **2017 – 2018 LWV Roseville Area Program Calendar**

This year's calendar was developed by the Program Team, chaired by Bonnie Koch. Contributing planners: Barb Anderson, Joyce Blomquist, Rachel Geiser, Mindy Greiling, Anne Haugan, Sherry Hood, Gladys Jones, Ann Cleland, Karen Lake, Barb Leary, Rita Mills, Beth Reinhart and Karen Schaffer.

Check the calendar carefully because not all evening meetings are on Tuesday. Evening meetings will be recorded and played at the following Wednesday 9:30 a.m. meetings in November, February, March and April at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 910 County Road D, Roseville.

**Monday, November 13 – Immigrants and Minnesota’s Workforce** – Matt Schmidt, U. of M. Director of the Regional Competitiveness Institute/Senior Research Fellow; co-sponsored by the Roseville Library; 6:30 p.m., Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave.

**Saturday, December 9** - Replacing our traditional holiday dinner with a “giving” experience, participating in a two-hour food packing session at 9 a.m., **Second Harvest Heartland**, 1140 Gervais Ave. Maplewood. Participation limited to 20 League members with option for other members to join volunteers at lunch at Guldens Restaurant.

**January 23 – VIP/Conversations with Constituents;** 7 p.m., Maplewood City Council Chambers, 1830 County Rd. B, Maplewood.

**February 20 - City staff updates on status of housing in comprehensive plans;** 6:30 p.m., Autumn Grove Park Building, Lydia and Hamline, Roseville.

**March 20 – Redistricting, Democracy & Census.** Speaker: Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, CEO Common Cause Minnesota; 6:30 p.m., Roseville Library; 6:30 p.m., Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave.

**April 17 - Minnesota’s Next Steps to Grow Renewable Energy.** Janet Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy; 6:30 p.m., Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 Victoria, Roseville.

**May 1 – Annual Meeting;** Little Canada City Hall, 515 Little Canada Rd. E., Little Canada.

**June - Field Trip:** Tour to coordinate with Housing Study.

## **VoteSmart presents Facts Matter**

Fake news. Alternative facts. Foreign influence in our elections. Today it's harder than ever to separate fact from fantasy when it comes to politics.

VoteSmart is a nonpartisan nonprofit that provides free, factual, unbiased information to all Americans. It accepts no money from corporate or political sources such as lobbyists, or PACs campaigns.

Richard Kimball, founder and president of VoteSmart, will discuss how we can cut through the fog of rumor, half-truths, propaganda, and outright lies to find out what we need to know about those who represent us, or who would.

The presentation will be Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Community Center, 2101 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. Admission is free and open to the public.

This event is co-hosted by Minnesota Mensa and the League of Women Voters Minnesota.

**Judy Berglund, editor**  
**2075 Farrington St.**  
**Roseville, MN 55113**

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## Calendar

### **November**

**Monday, November 13 - Immigrants and Minnesota's Work-force** – Matt Schmidt, U. of M. Director of the Regional Competitive-ness Institute/Senior Research Fellow; co-sponsored by the Roseville Library; 7 p.m., Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave.

### **December**

**Saturday, December 9 - Pack food at Second Harvest Heartland**, 9-11 a.m., 1140 Gervais Ave. Maplewood. Sign up ahead of time as participation is limited to 20 volunteers. Join volunteers for lunch at Guldens Restaurant at 11:15 a.m., 2999 N. Hwy. 61, Maplewood.

### **January**

**January 23 – VIP/Conversations with Constituents**; 7 p.m., Maplewood City Council Chambers, 1830 County Rd. B, Maplewood.

**Editor's note:** The year-long program calendar is on page 7.



**Happy Thanksgiving!**