

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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The Census, Redistricting, and Reform

Every ten years, after completion of the decennial census and allocation of congressional representatives, every state revises its congressional and legislative maps to reflect population changes. This process, known as redistricting, has historically been subject to political manipulation because the representative maps are typically drawn by state legislators and approved by governors, all of whom have a vested political interest in the outcome. The advent of computer programs and mapping has heightened this vulnerability and the potential impacts. This presentation will provide an overview of federal and state legal requirements governing redistricting; how this process is performed in Minnesota and the recent history of redistricting activities in Minnesota; changes made in other states to reduce the potential for political manipulation; and actions Minnesotans can take to get involved in ensuring congressional and legislative maps are fair for Minnesota voters.

This event, co-hosted with the Ramsey County Library Roseville, will be held through the library's Zoom platform on Tuesday, February 16, from 7-8:30 p.m. Register on the library's event page here: https://rclreads.bibliocommons.com/events/search/local_start=2021-02-14%20TO%20/event/5fc672b41d94912f00a8ebb6

Come and find your place in the process.



Paul Huffman

Climate Change and Forests

On February 22, at 7 p.m., LWV of Roseville Area will co-sponsor a presentation by Dr. Lee Frelich, Director of the UM Center for Forest Ecology — Climate Change and Forests in Minnesota: Alternative Futures.

Dr. Frelich's comments will address the impact of climate change on the treescape in Minnesota. He notes, "Forests in Minnesota have dramatically different futures depending on the CO₂ emissions scenario that we follow as a society. For the business as usual scenario, the state would lose all of the boreal forest (cold climate conifer and birch forests of northern Minnesota), and much of the state would support prairies rather than forests by 2070. For a low emissions scenario, forests would experience much smaller changes, with some boreal forest remaining in the north."

Dr. Frelich is an international researcher and voice for climate change and forests. The presentation is co-sponsored by LWV of Roseville Area; Resilient Roseville, a local climate action group; the Sierra Club; Ramsey County Library; and Do Good Roseville.

Don't miss this interesting and important event. Register through the Ramsey County Library website: <https://rclreads.bibliocommons.com/events/5fce89251d94912f00a975f6>.

LWV of Roseville Area February Board Meeting

The next LWV of Roseville Area Board meeting is Wednesday, February 24, at 7 p.m. For Zoom access, please contact Barb Anderson at lwvrosevillearea@lwwmn.org in advance.

Find us on our website and other social media sites!

Website:
<http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org>

Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea>

Instagram:
<http://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea>

YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

Officers:

President

Barb Barany

Vice President

Barb Anderson

Secretary

Jim DeBenedet
(Mindy Greiling, backup)

Treasurer

Jessica Holz

.....

Directors:

Action/Advocacy

Wayne Groff
Priscilla Morton

Communications

Barb Anderson, transitioning to
Mary Peterson

Membership

Rita Mills

Program

Florence Sprague, vice chair
Carol Marchel

Voter Services

Karen Lake

.....

Members-At-Large

Stephanie DeBenedet
Rachel Geiser
Karen Schaffer

Being American is more than a pride we inherit. It's the past we step into and how we repair it. — Amanda Gorman, Inauguration Poet Laureate, 2021

Our 2020 voter outreach efforts were especially challenging (due to the pandemic), particularly successful (high voter turnout), and unusually controversial (vote from home). In January, LWVMN leaders reminded us of Minnesota's suffrage history of calling out legislators for their positions on expanding voting rights. The recently published letter to state house and senate leaders, with clear explanations and documented examples, insists that named legislators face consequences for continued lies regarding election validity. Together with the LWVUS position on impeaching the former President for inciting insurrection, the LWVMN letter represents an unusually forceful defense of our elections by our parent organizations – in response to unusually forceful attacks. While no Roseville Area legislators are among those promoting distrust of our elections, our moderators did face unexpected civility challenges in a few Fall voter forums.

When assembled elected officials are in agreement, we get a feast of valuable information on how community needs might be met, as with January's Conversations with Constituents event. Careful planning for a virtual environment by Gladys Jones, Rita Mills, Lisa Scribner, and Ramsey County Library's Jason Lyons, together with deft moderation by Kitty Gogins and Linda McLoon, showed how potential laws enacted by Minnesota's legislature might be implemented by Ramsey County. (See the event recap on [page 5](#).)

The issue of voting rights and access remains front and center, with competing modifications to voting rules being proposed in the Minnesota legislature, and once-in-a-decade redistricting on the horizon. As we prepare to advocate for People Powered Fair Maps, it is helpful to understand the principles of civil discourse – the art of communicating with those with whom we do not agree. As explained on the LWVMN website, <https://www.lwvmn.org/civil-discourse>, civil discourse demands that there be an open, in-person, and engaged discussion, not requiring agreement in the end, but requiring new perspectives and understanding. Besides listing ground rules, the website cautions that one might be selective in what topics they engage with at all, recognizing the potential for a counterproductive encounter.

Our voter education mission can be difficult to achieve in divisive times, but there is no more important time to try to repair the damage.

League Facebook Campaign — Update

By Barb Anderson

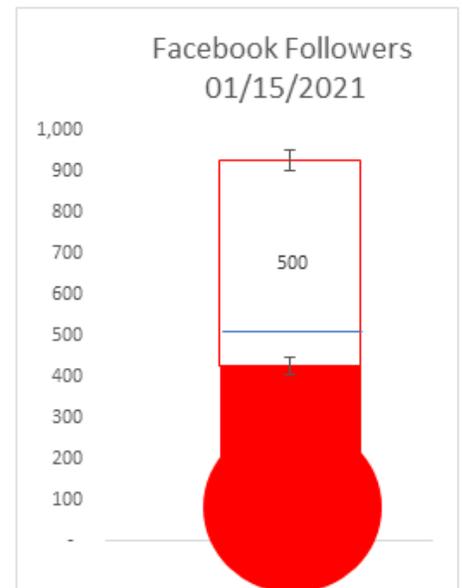
Our progress in reaching our goal of 500 Facebook followers by April 1 has slowed considerably. We increased by only five followers since last month. Again, thanks to those of you who have followed us, and also those who have shared our posts. We'll need to redouble our efforts to extend our reach in the community by following our Facebook page (if you don't already) at

<https://www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea> Then, like and share our posts among your friends and followers. The more of our posts you like and share, the greater likelihood that we'll reach a broader audience.

Thank you for your help!



Barb Barany



What Does a Professional Look Like?

By Florence Sprague

What does a professional woman look like? Is she tall and slender? Glasses and a bun? Neatly coifed? “Dressed for Success?” White?

For decades women have been striving for equitable inclusion into all workplaces, pink, blue, and white collar. The path has been circuitous and at times confusing. Dressing professionally meant don’t be too sexy, but don’t be too dowdy either. It has always been a game of looking competent but not threatening. Thankfully things are changing. That choice of tense was intentional. The final balance has not been reached and COVID-19 has set many women back.

Rocky as the road to an increase in the number of women in the paid workforce, and even the corner office, has been, the path to white collar acceptance and inclusion has been particularly rocky and confusing for women of color. The workplace remains hostile in too many instances.

A brief article by Imani Perry in the November issue of *The Atlantic*, “Am I What You’re Looking For?” led me to the work of Endia Beal (<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/11/endiabeal-performance-review/616472/>). As a visual artist, curator, and educator her work “looks at how race, gender and work intersect, with a particular focus on the lives of Black women.” The photos accompanying this article are of young Black women dressed for a job interview and posed before a background photo of the Yale IT department where Beal once worked. As Butet-Roch, a reviewer for the *British Journal of Photography*, writes:

“The subjects, presenting themselves as job candidates, then present the more anonymous front expected when seeking work, putting the viewers in the position of the interviewers. As such, the viewers are confronted with their own biases and presumptions – what is our conclusion and what is it based on?”

“Do we focus on what the applicant is wearing or the environment that surrounds her? Would we hire the one wearing patterned shoes and a bold dress or the one with a demure outfit and genteel haircut? What do our decisions say about us?”

(<https://www.1854.photography/2020/05/endiabeal-am-i-what-youre-looking-for/> — Note: This is a subscription journal and the site only allows two free articles.)

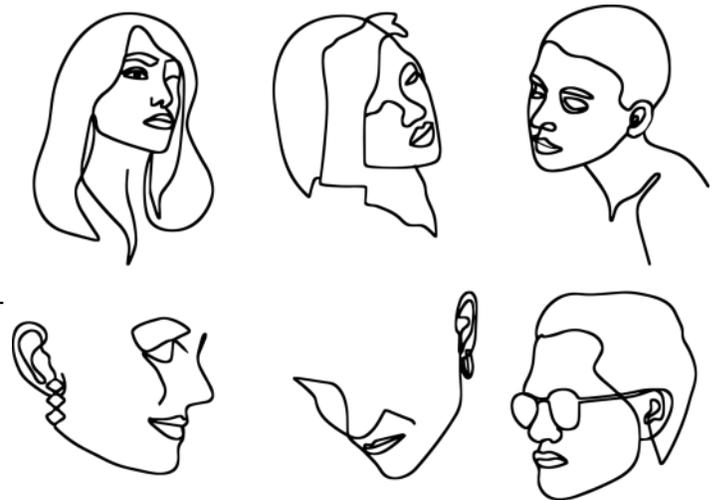
A good place to sample her work is at Beal's personal website (<https://endiabeal.com/>). Here you can view her photos and her short videos. Her personal experiences and her conversations with her students have led her to create some **outstanding** short videos. If you are white, her videos will knock your socks off! **This is the 21st century???**

For example, while the HR department at large employers may be aware that there are questions that are not only improper, but illegal, to ask a job applicant, clearly too many businesses are not. Her Black, female students have been asked things like, “Do you always wear your hair that way?” or “Would you be willing to change your name?” From this she created a video in which she asks the actual inappropriate interview questions of young white male volunteers. Another workplace project is a series of photos of white women in hairstyles more typical of Black women.

One video was conceived after a coworker asked, at work, to touch her hair. The voices in the “Office Scene” video are the responses of her white, male coworkers when she held an event at which they were allowed to do just that, touch her hair. Yet another, “9 to 5,” a composite of many professional Black women, relates the diminishing treatment they commonly experience at work. View them! They are not long and she is a powerful voice.

Sadly, it is still the case that “there’s little room for expressions of individuality within the corporate sphere – so much so that as soon as someone is different, it is immediately noticeable and therefore must be tamed.” (Butet-Roch, above)

Her book, *Performance Review*, will be out this winter.



A Look at Xcel Reports for Four of Our Communities

By Priscilla Morton

One of the ways we can measure progress on transitioning to clean energy is to look at the community reports on our Xcel website. These are offered yearly in the spring for the previous year.

While the Xcel records do not show a full picture of greenhouse gas emissions in a community, they do show progress or lack of progress for a large segment of energy use.

So how are we doing? And compared to what?

A table may be the easiest way to compare four of our communities, and also compare with a couple of other communities in Minnesota. The numbers come from the 2019 Xcel records, the latest available.



Community	Emissions % increase/decrease from 2018	% mix of emissions - gas/electricity	% mix of emissions business/residential	% Change from 2018 - electricity emissions only	% Change from 2018 - gas emissions only
Roseville	(3.4%)	51% / 49%	67% / 33%	(6.3%)	(.4%)
Maplewood	(3.6%)	53% / 47%	54% / 46%	(7.5%)	(.3%)
Lauderdale	(2.3%)	59% / 41%	41% / 59%	(5.5%)	(.1%)
Falcon Heights	(2.1%)	67% / 33%	45% / 55%	(2.3%)	(2.0%)
St. Paul*				(8.3%)	
Minneapolis*				(6.6%)	
St. Louis Park*				(11.4%)	

(Little Canada not reporting)

*Gas information not shown – provided by others

Please note:

- **2.4% of the reduction in electrical emissions in every city comes from the sourcing changes at Xcel**—primarily from coal to other fuels. Clean non-nuclear energy is now 24% of the mix, and fossil fuels are 46%.
- **Gas is a higher percent of building emissions than electricity in all cities reporting.** Those emissions are virtually unchanging every year. Perhaps they are not amenable to an upgrade in furnace efficiency. Moving from 94% to 96% furnace efficiency may not make a large difference in emissions.

What conclusions can be drawn?

None of the four of our suburban cities are achieving a greenhouse gas reduction rate at high enough levels to achieve the 50% reduction by 2030 as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—at least not as reflected in the Xcel bills. It should be noted also that at a state level, buildings are a lesser problem than transportation in producing greenhouse gases. Ownership of electric vehicles region-wide is only about 2%. One of the barriers for a larger percent of electric car ownership is the unavailability of overnight charging. My experience tells me that most people would not find it possible to spend time charging vehicles except at home and overnight. While technology is changing, for now only residents of single-family homes seem to have the flexibility to install the chargers necessary to own an electric car.

100% clean electricity will resolve less than half our emissions problem with buildings unless we can also switch from gas to electric heat. As shown on Xcel records, gas for heating produces 51%-67% of our local emissions coming from buildings. While technology has not yet produced cost effective solutions for heating in the north as they have produced for electricity, we do have heat exchangers—gathering heat from the earth, nearby water, and from the air—available and improving each year. For multi-family dwellings, and when building on new land, these technologies have been shown to be effective. We cannot achieve net zero and that 1.5 degree level of temperature rise, while using gas, so electrification in a smart way is part of the path we need to travel.

While we can all celebrate that we are moving in the right direction, and take note of what we are doing to decrease carbon emissions, we would also do well to keep track of where we stand compared to our goal, and take the steps needed to reach it.

Recap: Conversations with Constituents

By Gladys Jones, Rita Mills, and Lisa Scribner

Thank you to the 45 LWV of Roseville Area members and community members who joined this past Thursday night's "Conversations with Constituents, Minnesota's Recovery: Priorities for 2021." Many thanks to Ramsey County Library for co-sponsoring and hosting this event. As we focused on Minnesota's recovery from the social, economic, and political upheavals this past year, questions and challenges were given thoughtful and informed answers from 10 legislators and county commissioners as they lead our communities and state through Minnesota's recovery through the next year and beyond. We are grateful for their expertise, and for the practiced and expert guidance of our moderators, Kitty Gogins and Linda McLoon. Our first-ever Zoom Conversations was a success because of the engagement of our members!

Thanks to the library for recording the program that you can access any time or share with a friend. It is available at: <https://my.nicheacademy.com/readult/course/24487>



Top row: Moderator Linda McLoon, Rep. Alice Hausman, and Rep. Peter Fischer

Middle/Bottom row: Sen. Jason Isaacson, Sen. Chuck Wiger, Sen. John Marty, and Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn



Top row: Moderator Kitty Gogins and County Commissioners Mary Jo McGuire and Trista MatasCastillo

Bottom row: County Commissioners Victoria Reinhardt and Nicole Joy Frethem

In Memoriam: Mary Duddleston

By Georgia Heisserer

Mary Duddleston was an ambitious friend and member of the League of Women Voters in Falcon Heights / Roseville Area for 55 years. As an avid political pundit, she passed just after Inauguration, January 20, 2021, with a smile on her face. Like other members in the LWV, Mary was a real learner and doer. Some would call her a connector. You could count on Mary, whether she was serving on League Membership, Nominating Committee, or Conversation Events. Mary was the first female president of her St. Michael's Lutheran Church. She regularly took classes at the U, at the Seminary, and was particularly interested in International Affairs. She played bridge and tennis and golf, worked at the University of Minnesota Book Store, and filled her days making our little corner of the world safer and smarter. As she was an avid cook, Mary and her husband, Bill, hosted many foreign students for dinner parties over the years. As Gopher basketball fans, she and her husband went to home and away games for decades. Mary participated in Befrienders, Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, and finding speakers for public forums. After losing Bill, she carried on, difficulties be damned.



What a person learns from Mary Duddleston is to use your time wisely. Keep a calendar. Be intentional. Plan with your friends. See people (when it's safe again). You lead by example. Mary made it her business to introduce herself to others, to strike up a conversation, to initiate. She would go to that Russian Museum or that lecture on Women Trafficking. She would bring a friend or go by herself. Mary filled her life, her mind. By design, the life she lived, one day at a time for 91 years, influenced those around her. Can do attitudes matter. During this time of COVID-19, a person looks at the life of Mary Duddleston, an only child from an unassuming Wisconsin family, and one might want to remind ourselves to step it up a bit. Times a wastin'! As we bid our fellow League pal goodbye, we think about reaching out to our friends. Now more than ever, connecting will make someone's day, our day! I am so proud to be a part of this like-minded, friendly, League of Women Voters, and so was Mary. (Obituary in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Memorials are preferred to the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area or Loaves and Fishes MN).

Take a moment to read more about Mary and the League in the Memoir Project interview at <https://lwwrosevillearea.org/sites/lwwrosevillearea.org/files/docs/Mary%20Duddleston.pdf>

In Memoriam: Lorraine Bernice Fischer

By Florence Sprague

When I first joined LWV of Roseville Area in early spring 1985, then president Mindy Greiling recognized from my address that Lorraine and I were neighbors and connected us. From then on Lorraine was my friend. In the beginning she gave me many rides to League events, as our young family had only one car; in later years when night driving was difficult and her knees troubled her, I gave her rides. That made a nice balance.

Lorraine was always a fount of knowledge I could tap—about LWV, how it functioned, what it had done, where I could participate, who knew whom—and also about our community, Maplewood. There was a story, or three, for every topic that came up. I wish I had been a better listener and remembered more of those stories.

A lifelong metro St. Paul resident, Lorraine was a tireless volunteer in many venues, and there was a theme—she wanted to make the community a good place to live. She volunteered with Catholic Charities and her own parish, with the DFL, with the City of Maplewood, with the Friends of the Ramsey County Library and, of course, with the League of Women Voters. I always knew that I would see Lorraine at caucuses and working as an election judge at our precinct polling place when I voted. Her oldest son, Representative Peter Fischer, recalls being taken to caucuses as a teenager and often engaged in discussions of political topics. He was later encouraged to participate as a citizen member of city commissions, a good precursor of his current job. He was also enlisted to help in the collection and reporting of precinct election results, a task that was once an income source for LWV. Lorraine always liked to get others involved in the community where their skills could best be used.

She had her finger on the pulse of the city, serving for years on the Planning Commission and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, chairing both. However, as a woman working in what had been a “good old boys” position, she sometimes met with resistance from men who denigrated her knowledge or who gave lesser scrutiny to projects of friends. Son Peter tells of a box of candy delivered to their home. The five children eyed it eagerly, but were disappointed because when Mom discovered that the candy came from an applicant with a project before her Board, she returned it and called the city to insist that such things be prohibited. She was always a strong advocate for transparency and ethics in government.



(continued on the next page)

Future League Events

Event recording: Many of our events are recorded. If you would like to watch a recording of an event at home, go to our website: <http://lwvrosevillearea.org/>. Click on the YouTube icon on the righthand side and choose a recorded event. February events are detailed on [page 1](#) and [page 8](#).

- **March 23 – Redlining and Racial Covenants.** Kirsten Delegard of Mapping Prejudice and Kari Collins, Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Director, will speak on discrimination in real estate through racial covenants and redlining. Cohosted with Ramsey County Library Roseville and hosted on their Zoom platform; 7-8:30 p.m. Watch the Voter, eBlasts, and League social media for the event registration link. (Rescheduled from a December meeting date.)
- **April 20 – How Our Cities Are Addressing Urgent Issues.** Environmental forum with mayors from our five cities, co-sponsored with Ramsey County Library Roseville and hosted on their Zoom platform; 6:30-8 p.m. Watch the Voter, eBlasts, and League social media for the event registration link.
- **May 4 – LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting.** More information will be shared later.
- **June – Field Trip.** Event details are being finalized. Watch for more information.

New Member Spotlight: Tony Fischer

By Rita Mills

A resident of Falcon Heights, Jose Antonio (Tony) Fischer is one of our newer League members having joined in 2020. Tony knows Minnesota well having grown up in St. Cloud, Winona, Little Canada, and attending middle and high school while living in Shoreview. Tony is also fortunate to be bilingual, speaking Spanish, as his mother is from Mexico where he “spent a lot of time visiting family, eating good food, and swimming in the ocean when growing up.” Tony is married with two sons, ages nine and thirteen who attend Roseville schools.

Tony has worked in transportation for 20 years, 16 of those at the Minnesota Department of Transportation in traffic management and as a freeway analyst. For the last four years he has been a Highway Planner with the Metropolitan Council. With an academic background in economics, Tony has a master’s degree in applied economics from the University of Minnesota. From 2016-2017, Tony served on the Falcon Heights City Council, and in the past, he has volunteered at the Dorothy Day Center.

In Tony’s words, he joined LWV “to learn more about local issues. I want to support an organization doing great work and know about what’s going on in local policy debates.” You came to the right place! We know you have a lot to contribute to our local organization, and we hope you learn from League. Welcome aboard, Tony!



In Memoriam: Lorraine Bernice Fischer (*continued*)

Lorraine joined the Maplewood League of Women Voters in April 1966, when each of our communities had a thriving League. It was a time when units met in the daytime in members’ homes and she would have been identified as Mrs. Peter Fischer in news clippings. Those women were involved! When first organized, Maplewood had Plan A government. Lorraine was on the committee that studied governance options for Maplewood that led to LWV promotion of Plan B government. It was, somewhat grudgingly, adopted in Maplewood and the LWV position on Plan B was brought to the LWV of Roseville Area when the suburban leagues were combined.

A LWV niche to which she was dedicated was Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL), where she connected with the wider metropolitan area. One time they studied the adequacy of services for the elderly. It was very difficult to get information and they hoped that their feedback contributed to the creation of the Senior Linkage Line.

Her volunteer work garnered her recognition: 2007 Archbishop’s Award from Catholic Charities, one of 10 most influential women noted at Maplewood’s 50th Anniversary, Ramsey County Senior Woman of the Year in 2007.

And she did all of this while raising five children and doing award winning (at a fair) needlework and endless NYT crosswords, in ink. She used her ninety years well. She is missed. May she now have peace.

Take a moment to read more about Lorraine and the League in the Memoir Project interview at <https://lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/docs/Lorraine%20Fischer.pdf>

LWV of Roseville Area: February Event Calendar

- **February 16 – Redistricting.** See event details on [page 1](#); 7-8:30 p.m.
- **February 22 – Climate Change and Forests in Minnesota: Alternative Futures.** See event details on [page 1](#), 7-8 p.m.

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.

Right: Flag of Nations Booth Staffed By League Members
(Source: *LWV Media Library*)

