

# 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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September 2021



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## 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>

## Good Neighborhoods: Beyond Mr. Rogers Part I

*Peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish — Nelson Mandela*

The murder of George Floyd and the aftermath prompted the development of two programs exploring racial equity in communities. At each, a panel discussion will delve into the direct impact of inequity and the associated challenges faced by stakeholders.

The September 23 program, *Good Neighborhoods: Beyond Mr. Rogers Part I*, assembles panelists representing some of the essential components of 'good' neighborhoods including housing, government, schools, and law enforcement.

Panelists will discuss how expectations for 'good' neighborhoods have changed, identify elements that make a good neighborhood today, and offer strategies for sustaining them. Using an equity lens, panelists will also discuss the impact of the lack of access to a good neighborhood and the concerns of those that do not feel safe where they live.

A question-and-answer session will follow. The second program, *Welcoming Neighbors: Beyond Mr. Rogers Part II*, will follow on October 21. See details for the second program on [page 2](#).

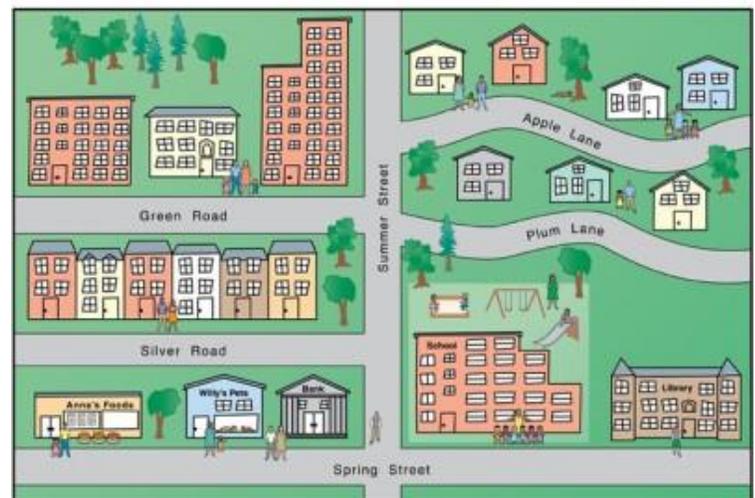
**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 7-8:30 pm via Zoom

### Panelists:

- Thomas Brooks, Equity and Inclusion Manager, City of Roseville
- Wayne Groff, Roseville City Council and Residential Realtor
- Curtis Johnson, ISD 623 Board Member and Clerk
- Erika Scheider, Chief of Police City of Roseville

Register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sP9cADvuSCKO-OQoW90AZA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sP9cADvuSCKO-OQoW90AZA). This link allows registration for one or both parts. Consider distributing the event flyer attached to the emailed copy of this newsletter. This even is co-sponsored by LWV of Roseville Area, Do Good Roseville, and Ramsey County Library Roseville.

Neighborhood Map



## LWV of Roseville Area September Board Meeting

The next LWV of Roseville Area Board meeting is Wednesday, September 22, at 7 pm. For Zoom access, contact Barb Anderson at [lwvrosevillearea@lwvnmn.org](mailto:lwvrosevillearea@lwvnmn.org) in advance.

# Falcon Heights: City Council Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of Roseville Area will sponsor a forum on Wednesday, September 15, at 7 pm for the city council candidates in Falcon Heights. The forum will be moderated by League member Florence Sprague. Due to COVID-19 precautions, there will be no in-person audience. The forum will be broadcast by Nine North on cable channel 15 or 859 HD, and live streamed and available for playback on <https://ninenorth.org/>. You may submit questions to be asked of candidates to [lwwrosevillearea@lwwmn.org](mailto:lwwrosevillearea@lwwmn.org) by end of day, September 14.

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## Diving Deep into DEI...Are You Interested?

With the intent of empowering and protecting the vote to make democracy work for all, the LWV of Roseville Area board has been discussing how we as a League might self-examine our use of a **diversity, equity and inclusive** lens in work we do. How do our current LWV systems work to include or exclude groups or individuals? What are some things we as a League could change? What are we doing well?

We realize this is a complex task, not easily accomplished in a few years. However, like everything, we begin small; we begin local. **Would you be interested in gathering with like-minded League members to share thoughts, brainstorm, come up with suggestions?** This beginning would be very informal, open-ended; anything from book studies to possibly forming a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion or a Racial Justice committee working under the League's Action/Advocacy team. If you would like to explore this further, please email [lwwrosevillearea@lwwmn.org](mailto:lwwrosevillearea@lwwmn.org).

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## Future Events

- **CMAL Environmental Programs** (*September 10; October 16*): The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) is presenting two exciting environmental programs.
  - **Twin Cities Metro is Bulging with Trash**: September 10, 12-1 pm via Zoom. Hear from leaders at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency about the challenges the metro area faces regarding landfill capacity, landfill expansion permits, recycling, and more. Co-sponsored by LWVMN Climate Change Task Force and CMAL.
  - **Protecting the Metro Area Water Supply**: October 16, 10-11:30 am via Zoom. Lanya Ross, geologist and environmental analyst from the Met Council, will “set the [water] table” with basic information about the metro area water supply. Paul Gardner, administrator for the Clean Water Council, will discuss water governance, clean water funding, water reuse, and what you can do. Co-sponsored by CMAL and LWV of Woodbury/Cottage Grove.Find Zoom access links and additional program information on the LWVMN website: <https://www.lwwmn.org/league-calendar>. All LWV members and the public are welcome to attend. Contact Karen Schaffer ([schafferka@gmail.com](mailto:schafferka@gmail.com)) if you have questions.
- **Should You Drink That? The Unfolding Story of PFAS in Our Lives** (*October 4*): The LWV Upper Mississippi River Region hosts this online event on October 4 at 6 pm. PFAS are “forever chemicals,”—compounds that never break down but build up in our bodies. We are exposed to PFAS in our clothing, food packaging, drinking water, and more. In this program, we will discuss what federal and state governments are doing to set standards and regulate PFAS uses, and present information on what we all can do to limit exposures and advocate for change. Register at <https://www.lwvumrr.org/blog/should-you-drink-that-the-unfolding-story-of-pfas-in-our-lives>. Also, review the flyer and PFAS background information included with the emailed version of this newsletter.
- **Welcoming Neighbors: Beyond Mr. Rogers, Part II** (*October 21*): In a continuation from the Good Neighborhoods: Beyond Mr. Rogers Part I held in September (see [page 1](#)), this second program shifts the exploration of equity issues to a personal level. Panelists from the community will address personal responses and interactions as we welcome neighbors of differing backgrounds. Where some neighbors are excited seeing growth opportunities, others may feel discomfort and fear. Panelists will explore these responses and help us develop strategies to move forward. Further details are forthcoming. When you register for the first program, you will also be registered for this second program: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sP9cADvuSCKO-OQoW90AZA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sP9cADvuSCKO-OQoW90AZA). If you did not register for the first program, you can still register for the second.
- **Growing Diversity in Local Leadership** (*November 16*): LWV of Roseville Area recently looked into who is participating in local governance boards, and exploring how well these groups reflect the makeup of our communities in its study “Equitable Representation on Appointed City Boards & Commissions.” As a follow-up to this study, Holli Arp, Leadership and Civic Engagement Program Leader with the U of M Extension Services, will lead a panel discussion with two colleagues and Extension Educators, Jocelyn Hernandez Swanson and Lisa Hinz, asking, “How do we encourage and support more diverse and inclusive leadership in our local governments?” This Leadership and Civic Engagement team has been working with communities across Minnesota as they grapple with inclusiveness, cultural competence, and exploring new pathways to diversify leadership. Join the conversation!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

#### Officers:

##### President

Barb Barany

##### Vice President

Barb Anderson

##### Secretary

Kathy Macomber

##### Treasurer

Jessica Holz

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#### Directors:

##### Action/Advocacy

Sherry Hood

##### Communications

Barb Anderson and  
Mary Peterson

##### Membership

Rita Mills

##### Program

Florence Sprague,  
vice chair Carol  
Marchel

##### Voter Services

Teresa Wernecke,  
vice chair Marcia  
Cheney

##### Budget and Development

Barb Anderson and  
Bonnie Koch

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#### Members-At-Large

Rachel Geiser  
Wayne Groff  
Sharon McCord  
Karen Schaffer

As virus levels waned over the summer, a number of our members were able to take advantage of three in-person events: our now traditional Brews and Books (see [page 6](#)), the Annual Meeting picnic social in July (see [page 6](#)), and an August trip to the Minnesota History Center's Extraordinary Women exhibit (see [page 5](#)). With the delta variant surge now in progress, we're looking forward to a continuing partnership with Ramsey County Library Roseville for engaging virtual programs in the fall. Local elections in our area, for Falcon Heights City Council (two seats) (see [page 2](#) for candidate forum information) and for Roseville Area Schools (3 Board seats), are scheduled for November. The latter election also includes two levy referendum questions—one to continue expiring funding and a second to meet additional district needs. Absentee and early voting begin this month.



**Barb Barany**

A continuing emphasis in programming, planning, education, membership, and advocacy at all League levels is the attention to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). The LWVMN website,

<https://www.lwvmn.org/diversity-equity-inclusion> includes recommendations for both reading and viewing. On the site is also a link to LWVUS resources, with DEI and racial justice webinars. The LWVRA August Board meeting included an extensive discussion on better understanding how our existing organization can be improved for inclusivity. Those interested in helping with this initiative are invited to join a DEI-dedicated group within our Action/Advocacy Committee (see [page 2](#)). This group can make use of the resources within LWVMN, LWVUS, and other local Leagues.

The 2020 Census showed that, for the first time, Ramsey County is majority non-white, and that the non-white population skews younger. Three current LWV of Roseville Area activities involve outreach to high school students. We are working with DoGood Roseville in proposing voter-outreach-related activities for Roseville Area High School's Homecoming Week service projects. We also plan to apply to take part in LWVMN's Youth Civic Engagement Fellowship program, which awards a stipend to selected high school students who take part in targeted voter service activities. At our August meeting, the LWV of Roseville Area Board approved funding for scholarships to high school seniors planning further education or training. A committee is preparing award criteria, which will include a focus on life experiences that demonstrate determination or overcoming challenges.

Wishing you good health and success in overcoming any challenges that come your way.

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## 2021 Absentee Voting

*By Barb Barany*

Absentee ballots for 2021 local elections must be requested by paper application. For information on downloading or requesting an application, and other information on voting in 2021 local elections in Ramsey County, see <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting>. Sample ballots, with links to candidate supplied information, can be found on the Minnesota Secretary of State website, <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>.

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## Did You Know...The History of Cake Walks?

*By Karen Lake*

Did you know that the phrase "cake walk" is considered racist? A "treats walk" was included at the National Night Out event at House of Hope last week (see [page 5](#)) and the person in charge was ensuring it was not referred to as a cake walk. I researched it and found that original cake walks were dances performed by slaves with plantation masters serving as judges of the best, who then won a decorated cake. The slaves performed the dance in a manner (unrecognized by the masters) that mocked the posture and movements of their white owners. More information about the history of this phrase can be found in this NPR article:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/12/23/256566647/the-extraordinary-story-of-why-a-cakewalk-wasnt-always-easy>.

## It's Not a Trick

By Florence Sprague

"I wonder if there is a school of unlearning."  
— *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse*  
by Charlie Mackesy

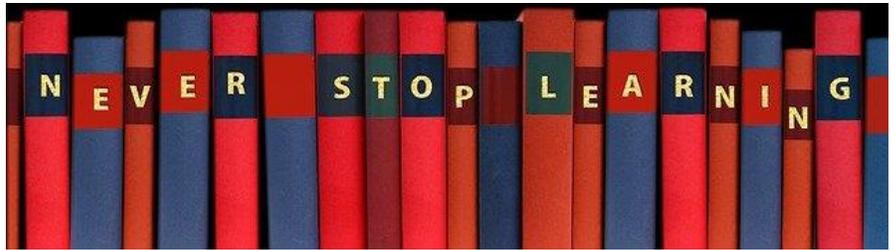
"You can't teach an old dog new tricks." You know this saying. Applied to people there appears to be some truth. As we age, we may become more reluctant to adopt new ideas. Are we just set in our ways or is it not possible? Some days I feel every one of my 70 years, and I am resistant to engaging with the ever proliferating and morphing social media, but that is a choice.

Two programs that I viewed (on ordinary TV, not cable) or heard (on the radio and from a radio!), within a few days last spring got me thinking about people embracing learning dramatically, if belatedly, and moving big ideas forward. Two involved older white men in positions of power and one a younger (37 years old) person working in comedy and already examining the absorbed ideas that frame his worldview.

The first, on PBS's *American Experience*, was the story of the tragic blinding of a Black veteran, Isaac Woodard, heading home to South Carolina in 1946 upon his discharge from the Army (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/blinding-isaac-woodard/#features>). Briefly after Woodard asked to be spoken to respectfully and not addressed as "boy," the bus driver called the police and the local sheriff beat him severely, resulting in permanent blindness. The court cases arising from this incident ultimately arrived in the courtroom of a Charleston judge, Julius Waring. Waring was shocked when the all-white jury acquitted the sheriff. Though he could not achieve justice for Woodard, he could see the injustice and began to work for civil rights. In his dissent in *Briggs v. Elliot*, he proclaimed the segregated schools of South Carolina inherently unequal; this was an important lead-up to *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark school desegregation case. The year following the Woodard case President Harry S. Truman, speaking to the NAACP, rose and spoke strongly in favor of equal rights for all (<https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/harry-s-truman-naacp-speech-text/>). Among other steps, he was the president who integrated the U.S. military (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/03/31/isaac-woodard-truman-integration-military/>). A horrific wrong contributed to a rethinking of how our country was operating. There have been no quick fixes, but these are signs that even older people CAN learn (unlearn?) and grow.

The second was an interview on NPR with South African comedian, Loyisa Gola about his special on Netflix called "Unlearning." (No, I haven't seen it; no surprise, no Netflix (<https://www.npr.org/2021/04/03/984145337/south-american-comedian-on-new-special-unlearning>)). In the interview he noted that people often said, "we've been doing this forever" to which he found himself replying, "yeah, but it doesn't mean it's the right idea." He felt that "I was growing, ...I need to scrutinize the things that shape the human being that I am because some of them at first glance seem[s] like they're advantageous to my life, but they're not really...the formula to life is to constantly unpack because life is constantly changing."

Maybe you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but humans can learn...and unlearn. We do need to scrutinize things, because life IS constantly changing.




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## Social Justice Rising: Voting and Civic Engagement

Rita Mills submits once a month to her church weekly bulletin or newsletter an article about voting. Consider doing the same for your church or other organization. Here is an example:

A year ago 80-year old Georgia Representative John Lewis passed away from pancreatic cancer. A self-proclaimed "trouble maker" fighting laws in his state upholding racial segregation, he led the long struggle to register and assist African Americans in voting. In 1965 the Voting Rights Act was passed. At that time less than 7% of Black voters in Mississippi were registered to vote. Only two years later 60% were registered. In 2013, the heart of the Voting Rights Act was struck down by the Supreme Court. "**Sometimes you have to not just dream about what could be—you get out and push, and you pull, and you preach. And you create a climate and environment to get those in high places, to get men and women of goodwill in power to act.**"

**Action Item:** Follow voting and voter suppression legislation throughout the country. Ask or email your legislator about their stance on voting legislation in Minnesota. Research voting legislation at local and national levels. Be ready to "push, pull, preach!"

# Voter Registration at National Night Out

By Karen Lake

LWV of Roseville Area offered a voter registration and voter/election information at the August 3 National Night Out sponsored by House of House Presbyterian Church for the Summit University neighborhood. Attendance was reported to be over 300 people. Teresa Wernecke and Karen Lake staffed the event.



*Left: Gentleman registering to vote with Karen Lake and Teresa Wernecke staffing the registration table  
Right: Representative Keohly Vang Her and State Auditor Julie Blaha join Teresa and Karen*

## Recap: Summer Field Trip

By Florence Sprague

2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, giving women the right to vote. The pandemic discombobulated many of the celebratory events that had been planned around this important anniversary. One recognition that has been able to go forward and is continuing is the *Extraordinary Women* exhibit at the Minnesota History Center. It highlights “extraordinary Minnesota women who changed their communities.” On Thursday, August 19, a group of women from LWV of Roseville Area explored this special exhibit together with some able to then share lunch at the site. Rita Mills had also created a scavenger hunt to encourage all to focus on the achievements of our foremothers (see more images from the field trip on [page 7](#)).

One highlight that morning was the feature about Ruth Tanbara, recognized for her “lifelong efforts to combat anti-Japanese discrimination.” She is the aunt of League member Judy Murakami, who was part of the group that day (see picture to the right).

If you have not yet had a chance to “be energized by their history” as the MHC says, take a few hours to experience this uplifting view into the lives of women like Sarah Burger Stearns, who petitioned the legislature to remove the word “male” from the Minnesota Constitution’s definition of an eligible voter, and Anna Arnold Hedgeman, who helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, insisting that there be a woman among the speakers. The exhibit continues. Check it out here: <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter/activities/museum/extraordinary-women>. And if you cannot get to the History Center, you can still explore the “Votes for Women” online exhibit, which LWVMN helped to develop (<https://www.mnhs.org/votesforwomen>).

Many thanks to Rita Mills for organizing this outing!



## Recap: LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting — July Social

On July 27, LWV of Roseville Area members got together **IN PERSON** to celebrate the social half of the League's annual meeting. Members were met with a delicious picnic meal to complement the lively conversation and cumulated in President Barb Barany presenting the Rose Awards. Recipients and their great deeds are noted below. See photos from the event on [page 8](#).



- **Jessica Holz** – LWV of Roseville Area Treasurer Jessica Holz uses her professional skills to smoothly handle our income and expenses. Her clear monthly reports to the board, and annual reports to State League and our membership, make it easy for the board to consider financial impact when making decisions.
- **Marcia Cheney** – Marcia is adept at carrying out her creative and helpful ideas, serving voter services, programs, and the 2020 Census. For the coming year, she's taken on Vice Chair duties for Voter Services.
- **Teresa Wernecke** – Taking on Voter Service Team Leader duties this year is Teresa Wernecke. She had trial by fire during the 2020 election season, simultaneously learning the ropes and helping to creatively complete multiple voter forums during a pandemic. Teresa was also a key part of the 2020 Census team.
- **Karen Lake** – When the board recently discussed forming a student awards committee, board members wondered if the woman who led our Voter Services Team so successfully during the past few years would be able to take on the chairperson duties. There were comments like, "She's so organized" and "She knows the area high schools." Karen not only agreed but recruited a spectacular team to make it happen.
- **Mary Peterson** – Mary agreed to take on our communications efforts just when communications became both trickier and absolutely essential. A frequent volunteer for efforts across our League activities, Mary has kept us informed with accessible weekly email blasts, and is preparing to lead communications in future years.
- **Patty Hoffman and Barb Luck** – At our 2020 annual meeting, members expressed a desire for a study evaluating diversity in city commissions. It wouldn't have been able to go forward without a chairperson. In stepped newer members Barb and Patty. They and their team pressed forward, noting the urgency of overdue equality initiatives in our area, and completed the study in just one year, making advocacy possible.

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## Recap: Brews and Book Reviews

*By Rachel Geiser*

Picking up again with tradition, LWV of Roseville Area members gathered together at High Pines Brewery/The Tippy Steer in Roseville for the annual Brews and Book Reviews event. Long treasured and newly enjoyed book recommendations were shared among attendees. The recommended book list with a description of each book is included with the emailed version of this newsletter. See photos from the event on [page 7](#).

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## Recap: Equity & Accessibility in Voting — Physical Barriers to the Polls

*By Rachel Geiser*

On August 24, LWV of Roseville Area co-sponsored with LWV of St. Paul the first of a three-part program: Equity and Accessibility in Voting. This first part of the series addressed physical barriers to the polls. The panel included Marion McCarthy, advocate for successful aging, and Nikki Villavicencio, noted disability rights advocate and current Maplewood City Council member. They discussed the various physical issues they have encountered while voting. The event covered current Minnesota state laws and specific actions that everyone can take to promote inclusive voting access for all eligible citizens.

Watch a recording of this event here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rasi9wrwFvo>.

Watch the eBlast for dates and registration links for the other two parts of the program: language and cultural issues in September and young/Generation Z voters in October.



*LWV of Roseville Area members at the July Brews and Book Reviews Event*



*LWV of Roseville Area members at the Extraordinary Women exhibit at the Minnesota History Center*



AGAIN!

TOGETHER



*LWV of Roseville Area members at the July social portion of the LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting*



LWV



# 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://lwwrosevillearea.org/>), click on the YouTube icon on the righthand side, and choose a recorded event. If the event was held virtually through the Ramsey County Library, a link to the recording will be provided in an eBlast and in the Voter in the month following the event.

September events are detailed on [page 1](#), [page 2](#), and [page 10](#).

- **October 4 – Should You Drink That? The Unfolding Story of PFAS in Our Lives.** See event details on [page 2](#); 6 pm.; Zoom.
  - **October 16 – Protecting the Metro Area Water Supply.** See event details on [page 2](#); 10-11:30 am Zoom.
  - **October 21 – Welcoming Neighbors: Beyond Mr. Rogers, Part II.** See event details on [page 2](#); 7-8:30 pm; Zoom.
  - **October – Equity & Accessibility in Voting: Young and Generation Z Voters.** See details for part one on [page 6](#). Watch the eBlast for date and registration details.
  - **November 16 – Growing Diversity in Local Leadership.** See event details on [page 2](#); 6:30-8 pm; Zoom.
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## New Member Spotlight: Betty Foliard

*By Rita Mills*

Our most recent member is and has been “on the move!” Betty Foliard recently returned from Washington, D.C., where she led a delegation of folks from Minnesota to the #Rally4ERA (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=607PDVRxdqQ>). Flash back to 1974, and you would find Betty on a USO tour sponsored by the American Theater Association traveling through Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, and Guam.

Betty was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and grew up in the California Bay Area. She did her undergraduate studies at Stanford University and went on to get her Masters in Fine Arts at Wayne State University. Beginning with a career in theater, Betty went on to sales and marketing, and government at the local, state, and national levels. She served on the Hopkins School Board and three terms in the Minnesota House, owned a business and political consulting firm, and was a radio talk show executive producer. Currently Betty lives in Roseville with her “little white dog, Sweetie.” She is the mother of three in addition to being a grandmother of three.



Betty has been a volunteer her entire life in a variety of areas. In addition to volunteering through her church, House of Hope in St. Paul where she is also an elder, she has done international volunteering with Rotary in Haiti, Habitat for Humanity both here and in Mozambique, and teaching with Global Volunteers in Peru and Rarotonga. Nationally, Betty has worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. She was the first board chair of Gender Justice.

Currently Betty is the president emeritus and founder of ERA Minnesota, a coalition of thousands of activists and organizations who have come together “to finally pass the Equal Rights Amendment into our federal Constitution” (<https://www.eracoalition.org>).

So why did Betty join LWV of Roseville Area? She was a former member of LWV of St. Louis Park. The dedication to voter rights and a refocus on the Equal Rights Amendment encouraged her to rejoin LWV. “I will enjoy the camaraderie, the focus on voting rights and equal rights, and look forward to making new friends.”

**Betty, you bring so many skills to our local League. Welcome aboard!**

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## **LWV of Roseville Area: September Event Calendar**

- **September 10 – Twin Cities Metro is Bulging with Trash.** See event details on [page 2](#); 12-1 pm, Zoom.
- **September 15 – Falcon Heights City Council Candidate Forum.** See event details on [page 2](#); 7 pm., see event description for live and recorded viewing options.
- **September 22 – LWV of Roseville Area Board Meeting.** See access details on [page 1](#); 7 pm., Zoom.
- **September 23 – Good Neighborhoods: Beyond Mr. Rogers Part I.** See event details on [page 1](#); 7 pm., Zoom.
- **September – Equity & Accessibility in Voting: Language and Cultural Issues.** See details from part one on [page 6](#). Watch the eBlast for date and registration details for part two.

### *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](mailto:rachelsoup@gmail.com).

