



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – JULY 11, 2022

P.O. Box 306, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

[lwvdc@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:lwvdc@lwvdoorcounty.org)

[LWV DC Facebook page](#)

[LWV DC website](#)

### Greetings from the chair!

Welcome to a new League year! As your new chair, I'd like to introduce your new Leadership Team, which is listed below.

For the Door County League, summer is traditionally a time of recharging and reorganizing. Our team members have been transitioning into new roles and planning for the fall. This is also the time members renew their memberships. Thank you to all who have already done so! If you haven't renewed, now is the time.

Two Voter Service Coordinators have been particularly busy due to the August 9 primary. Kathi Braswell has been setting up registration assist events to prepare voters for primary voting. Dan Powers has been organizing the candidate forum for District 1 Assembly Representative to be held Saturday, July 16 at 9:00 AM in the Southern Door High School Library. Many of you will be assisting in implementing these events. Thank you all for your efforts! It takes a lot of teamwork to accomplish everything we do!

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<b>Chair</b>	<b>Susan Kohout</b>	<a href="mailto:chair@lwvdoorcounty.org">chair@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Heidi Ling</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@lwvdoorcounty.org">secretary@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ann Morgan</b>	<a href="mailto:treasurer@lwvdoorcounty.org">treasurer@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Voter Service</b>	<b>Dan Powers</b>	<a href="mailto:vsforums@lwvdoorcounty.org">vsforums@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Voter Service</b>	<b>Kathi Braswell</b>	<a href="mailto:vsregistration@lwvdoorcounty.org">vsregistration@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Sandy Brown</b>	<a href="mailto:membership@lwvdoorcounty.org">membership@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Observer Corps</b>	<b>Renee Fiedler</b>	<a href="mailto:observercorps@lwvdoorcounty.org">observercorps@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Karen Studebaker</b>	<a href="mailto:action@lwvdoorcounty.org">action@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>
<b>Public Relations</b>	<b>Martha Beller</b>	<a href="mailto:pr@lwvdoorcounty.org">pr@lwvdoorcounty.org</a>

## Door County League activities of interest

### Volunteers Needed

*Primaries play an important role in determining what happens in the community. Historically, turnout is low, with fewer than 25 per cent of registered voters selecting who will represent the party in the general election. Primaries generally attract a more partisan voter, which sometimes leads to more extreme candidates ending up on the ballot. Improving participation in primaries can help moderate outcomes.*

*To improve participation in the August 8, 2022, primary election, we would like to have several voter registration assist sessions at ADRC, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM before July 20 (the deadline for online registration). Two volunteers per session would be great. Volunteers who haven't done this before will be paired with experienced members. Let us know when you are available July 12, July 13, July 18, and July 20, 2022.*

*Respond ASAP to Kathi Braswell at [vsregistration@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:vsregistration@lwvdoorcounty.org).*

### July 16 Candidate Forum for Assembly District 1

The LWVDC has invited all three candidates for the State Assembly District 1 seat to participate in the League's Candidate Forum on Saturday, July 16 (9:00 AM) at the Southern Door High School library. It is the LWVDC practice to hold the forum, if requested, before the primary vote in order to provide the public with an opportunity to see and hear from each candidate – two of whom will be on the November ballot. Another reason is the importance of primaries. A small turnout on primary day can lead to general election candidates that don't necessarily represent the broadest swath of their party.

Two Republican candidates (District 1 incumbent Joel Kitchens and Kewaunee County Board member Milt Swagel) will be on the August 9 primary ballot. The winner of the Republican party primary will face Democrat Roberta Thelen on the November ballot.

The 1st Assembly District includes all of Door and Kewaunee Counties and a slice of Brown and a sliver of Manitowoc County. We are grateful to the Southern Door School District for hosting since they are closest to the geographical center of the district. The 90-minute Candidate Forum will be recorded and a link will be placed on the LWVDC website and Facebook page. Prior to the forum, a media release will be sent out to publicize the event. We urge members to also spread the word before and after the event.

It will be the League's first live forum since Covid. (If needed, the LWVDC Leadership Team reserves the right to move the forum to an online venue.)

## Have a suggestion for topics to be addressed at the District 1 Assembly Forum?

The Assembly District 1 Candidate Forum on July 16 will be our first in-person forum since Covid came to town. We will return to the practice of handing out cards so audience members can submit written questions, which are screened. We also want to be prepared with a set of questions that cover a variety of topics pertinent to the State Assembly position. To that end, if you as a LWVDC member have a topic(s) you think should be addressed or a specific question(s) you'd like to submit, please send them to [danpowers345@gmail.com](mailto:danpowers345@gmail.com). See guidelines attached. Put "Forum Questions" in the subject line. Your name will NOT be connected to your questions. **Reminder:** The forum screeners will make final decisions about which questions or topics will be asked. However, all appropriate submitted questions will be given to the candidates AFTER the forum.

## Look for our Letter to the Editor:

Wisconsin citizens have a privilege. In many other states, citizens can vote only in the primary of their political party. With Wisconsin's open primary system, all eligible citizens can vote, even if they are not a party member. Door County voters may choose to vote in the Republican primary, selecting candidates for governor and assembly, or the Democratic primary, selecting a candidate for the U.S. Senate.

**What is the purpose of a primary?** Voters select one person that will represent each party for each office in advance of the general election.

**How does a primary work?** Voters must choose to vote in only one party's primary, whether a member or not. After deciding which party, they must be sure to vote only for candidates of that party. If they "cross over," meaning they vote for **even one** candidate from another party, their ballot becomes void. **None of their votes count!**

## Why is voting in a primary so important?

· Unfortunately, primaries have a historically low voter turnout, especially in a nonpresidential election year. Recently, fewer than 15 per cent of registered voters showed up - about 11 per cent of the voting age population.

· Primary elections generally attract more partisan voters - those most active in their political parties. Consequently, those who win are usually more extreme candidates. If elected, these candidates are often less willing to work "across the aisle" with the opposition party to craft compromises and moderate policy. General election voters are thus more likely to be dissatisfied with their options.

· Elected officials often listen most closely to three things: money, votes, and courts. Even if citizens only voted for one person, it would be counted and duly noted.

· Often decided by very few votes, elections have consequences, impacting how communities, states, and the country are run.

**Whether at the local, state or national level, voting is the most powerful way to be heard. Be sure your voter registration is up to date. Vote in the primary on August 9!**

Sincerely,  
Susan Kohout, Chair  
LWV of Door County

### **Mental Health/Substance Use (MH/SU) Advocacy Committee**

*Legislative Committee, Education Committee have busy spring*

The **Legislative Committee** continues to develop a process for monitoring both local and state governments in order to support policy and legislation that advances quality mental health and substance use care. They hope to use the LWV WI's legislative efforts as the basis for their advocacy when the new legislative term begins after the midterms. Members of this committee are Chair Dan Powers, Barb Sajna, Betsy Rossberg, and Susie Kohout.

The **Education Committee** has completed a busy year of presenting programs explaining mental health/substance use services in the county. All these programs are available for viewing on the Door County League's website. They include:

- Introduction to Door County's Treatment Court
- Door County's Treatment Court – Panel presentation and discussion
- STRIDE - Door County Collaborative School Mental Health Project
- Continuum of Care

An exciting two-day workshop was held in April under the leadership of Helen Bacon. The Crisis Intervention Partners Workshop was organized under the auspices of NAMI. Thirty to forty participants included law enforcement, fire department, emergency services, emergency dispatch, and other professionals who interact with citizens who may be experiencing mental health crises.

Ann Schranz put together an educational display that will be available for League gatherings, explaining the MH/SU study process and services available for the community. Cami Peggar is working on a pamphlet with similar information, which will be available for distribution soon.

Members of this committee include Helen Bacon, Kathi Braswell, Sandy Brown, Mary Morodor, Cami Peggar, Barb Sajna, Gretchen Schmelzer, Ann Schranz, Seth Wiederanders and myself. Interested in either or both groups? Contact us at [chair@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:chair@lwvdoorcounty.org).

## Thank you!

Thanks to a great group of League volunteers who staffed a voter information table at the Open-Door Pride Festival in Sturgeon Bay on June 25: Pat Scieszinski, Kathi Braswell, Ann Morgan, Georgia Feldman, Renee Fiedler, Gretchen Schmelzer, and Deb Whitelaw Gorski. Thank you!

## Kudos to Karen Studebaker

Congratulations to Karen Studebaker, lifetime member of the League of Women Voters! Karen began her League journey in 1972 in Illinois. We are grateful that she is celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> League year as a Door County member. Look for Karen wearing her new pin: “Ask me about League! I’ve been DEFENDING DEMOCRACY for 50+ years! LWV.” (See attached pin.)

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Seeking committee members!

The LWV has adopted a DEI policy, but we need people to focus our lens on what needs to be done to broaden our diversity. What are the barriers? How can we reach more diversity in our membership? What are we doing that we need to do differently? Contact Sandy Brown, 920-495-8662 or [sandybrown212@gmail.com](mailto:sandybrown212@gmail.com), if you are interested in this committee.

Current Community DEI Task Force Statement of Purpose: *“We are here to better understand diversity, equity and inclusion strengths and challenges in Door County. Our goals are to identify the strengths and challenges we face, collaborate on actions to address the challenges and amplify strengths, and lead to motivate and empower our community to take action.”*

The group determined that this statement can be used to share within our institutions and strategically with our authorizers with our institutions, with the hope of laying foundation for future buy-in. Next step is a community assessment.

## League Mechanics

### What exactly is “Voter Service”?

The term “Voter Service” often triggers quizzical looks when mentioned. It is one of those traditional League labels that has evolved over decades to reference activities that help citizens access the election system. It is, in fact, exactly what it says – to serve the voter. It is the League’s “bread and butter” for which it is best known.

Remember that the first part of League’s mission is “to encourage informed and active participation in government.” Accomplishing that mission includes:

- helping citizens learn how to register to vote, use absentee ballots as needed, and vote successfully in person,
- helping “turn out” the vote,
- encouraging citizens to run for office,
- providing information on candidates running for office and referendums under consideration, so voters can make informed choices.

The Door County League plans and implements events and activities year after year to support citizens in their efforts to be active, while always striving to maintain their nonpartisan status. Candidate forums for local and state offices, voter registration assistance events, media releases and letters to the editor, school and community presentations, special "voter information" birthday cards distributed to 18-year-olds in the county, free rides to the polls, and "Vote! It Counts!" yard signs to remind people to vote are some of the many ways League members provide service to the voters of Door County.

### **Other interests**

**Watch the video of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region 2022 Climate Change forum,** "Developments in Climate Change Science and Policy: Code Red in the Great Lakes and Beyond" is now available on our website. This hybrid event was held in downtown Chicago and via Livestream in honor of Earth Day.

Watch Tom Skilling, chief meteorologist for WGN-TV, and a distinguished panel of experts discuss recent developments in climate change science, law and policy and the future of climate change strategy.

Joining Mr. Skilling on the panel were *Seth Darling*, Interim Chief Science & Technology Officer for the Energy and Global Security Directorate at Argonne National Laboratory and *Donald J. Wuebbles, PhD*, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Presidential Fellow at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and coordinating lead author on several international climate assessments led by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), resulting in a 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

*Please feel free to share this video link with anyone who may be interested:*

<https://www.lwvlmr.org/2022-climate-forum.html>

We are members of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region and are looking for someone to monitor them and represent us at their annual conference! Contact us at [chair@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:chair@lwvdoorcounty.org).

### **Climate Change Coalition program July 22, 2022**

The attached release has information about a Climate Change Coalition program on July 22, about the health threats posed by climate change and how medical professionals can be involved in addressing them.

## Communicate with your representatives!

*(Post the updated attached list on your refrigerator to have it handy.)*

### **PRESIDENT**

Joseph Biden

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/executive-office-of-the-president/>

### **U.S. SENATORS**

- Ron Johnson [www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public](http://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public); (202) 224-5323; Madison office: (608) 240-9629; [ron\\_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov](mailto:ron_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov)
- Tammy Baldwin [www.baldwin.senate.gov](http://www.baldwin.senate.gov); (202) 224-5653; 1 (800) 247-5645; Madison office: (608) 264-5338

### **U.S. CONGRESSMAN (8<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT)**

Mike Gallagher <http://gallagher.house.gov/>; (202) 225-5665; Green Bay office: (920) 301-4500

### **WISCONSIN GOVERNOR**

Tony Evers [govinfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:govinfo@wisconsin.gov); (608) 266-1212

### **WI SENATOR (DISTRICT 1)**

Andre Jacque [Sen.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov); (608)266-3512

### **WI ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE (DISTRICT 1)**

Joel Kitchens [Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov); (608) 266-5350 or (888) 482-0001

### **Legislative Hotline 1 (800) 362-9472**

One complimentary copy of the 2022-2023 Official Directory of Door County (**a listing of contact information for county, city, village and town officials**) can be picked up at the County Clerk's office at the Door County government building. This directory is also online at the Door County government website:

<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/967/Official-County-Directory--2022-2023?bidId=>