

The Voter

October 2020

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings, Members.

We hope this finds you all well and weathering (possibly enjoying) this election season. As we write this, both Donald Trump and Joe Biden will be making their way to Minnesota on the first day of early voting, September 18. This year, like many others, we are asking people to [Vote From Home](#) early because we know that will be safest way to cast a ballot. Please join us in encouraging your friends and family to do the same. Just as in the primary, absentee ballots require no witness signature if you are already registered!

We know many people will want to go to the polls on November 3 to cast their ballot. This year there's a shortage of election judges (also called poll workers) not only in Ramsey County but other Minnesota counties. If you are interested and able, please consider becoming an election judge. In Ramsey County, you can [apply online](#). If you are interested in working in other jurisdictions, let us know and we will share the contact information with you.

Here are key dates to keep in mind:

- September 18 – November 2: Absentee and early voting period
- October 13: Last day to register to vote in advance
- November 3: Election day

During this unusual year, we have had to cancel several candidate forums due to low participation by candidates. Without our traditional ways of educating voters, we are working hard to promote [Vote411.org](#), where voters can learn about the candidates. We encourage you all to

check out the website and, if you notice candidates in your area who haven't completed their questionnaire, please urge them to do so!

Our board is busy planning for fall programming, registering voters, producing educational videos, hosting candidate forums and making connections and relationships all over the city. Huge thank you to our committee chairs: **Claudia Dieter** (Program), **Dan Krivit** (Youth Vote) and **Hayden Kilkenny** (Voter Service) and to committee and board members for their hard work during these unprecedented times.

Finally, please join us in welcoming two new members to our Saint Paul team, **Bridget Adams** and **Diane Hellekson**. Diane will be creating and publishing *The Voter* for us and Bridget will be running our social media. Thank you and welcome. We are so happy that you have chosen to contribute to League in this way!

– Heidi Kloempken & Amy Perna

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Volunteer opportunities | 2 |
| Virtual event and videos | 3 |
| Vounteer tips & resources | 3 |
| Book club updates | 4 |
| Social media | 4 |
| Did you know? | 4 |

Help Without Leaving Home

1. Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to vote from home (early voting started September 18). Use social media or online gatherings (via Zoom, Google Meet, Skype, etc.) to share information.

(To get a yard sign with vote from home information, see page 4.)

2. **Help recruit election judges** using the methods noted above. If you feel safe serving in person at a precinct, consider signing up yourself. Visit [Ramsey County elections and voting](#) for details or, if you're outside Ramsey County, [find your county election office](#) on the Secretary of State website. See the memo at the end of this newsletter for some locations in need of poll workers.

3. [VOTE 411.org](#) has been updated with candidate-provided information. Feel free to share the resource with others. If you notice a candidate without information, please contact them and urge them to complete their VOTE 411 form.

4. We're seeking a few volunteers to reach out to **senior living facilities staff** via phone and email. LWVSP volunteers will be trained on how facility staff can assist their residents — with registration, absentee ballot applications, candidate research and the vote-by-mail process (or ballot return locations).

These tasks can be done from you home. If you're interested, [contact Heidi Kloempken](#) (heidi.kloempken@gmail.com), who will put you in touch you with the coordinators.

In-Person Options

No surprise: Fewer in-person voter registration events are scheduled this year. We want everyone to be safe, so please don't sign up if you feel sick (with either flu and COVID-19 symptoms) or if you're vulnerable to seasonal flu and COVID-19. And, of course, if you do participate, wear a mask and keep your distance from others.

Unless otherwise indicated, [contact Heidi](#) for details. She can also add you to the volunteer email list, which will advise of any pop-up events occurring through mid-October.

1. **Solidarity Street Gallery**, a view-from-outdoors art exhibition, happens October 1 through 3 on St. Paul's East Side. We'll be registering voters in teams at three locations. To reduce COVID risk, consider volunteering with someone in your household. Times are:

- Thursday and Friday, October 1 and 2, 5 to 7 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, October 3, 3:30 to 6 p.m., 6 to 8:30 p.m. and 8:30 to 10 p.m.

Teams will be at 880 and 1126 Payne Ave. and at Case Avenue at Payne.

2. **Dual Citizen Brewery**, 725 Raymond Ave. will host tables for voter registration volunteers Friday nights and Saturday afternoons/evenings through October 10.

Neither Rain nor Sleet nor Gloom of Pandemic . . .

Representatives from the U.S. Postal Service and the Ramsey County Elections Office will discuss such critical topics as post office protocols, the vote-counting process and the percentage of mailed ballots typically rejected.

The free one-hour program begins Tuesday, October 6 at 7 p.m.

You'll need to register for this virtual event. [Visit our events page to sign up](#) or find out more.

Cosponsored by LWVSP and Citizens for Election Integrity MN (CEIMN).

Videos by LWV MN Fellows

The LWV Minnesota Fellows have been busy creating videos to inform and inspire voters.

Grace Reardon and Morgan Hess, St. Paul Fellows and Youth Vote project coordinators, contributed three step-by-step how-to videos for Minnesota: Registering for voting online, Requesting an absentee ballot and Registering to vote on paper. To find these and other videos, visit LWV-MN's [Youth Civic Engagement web page](#), then scroll down to Recent Projects by Fellows.

LWV Fellows from the LWV Woodbury-Cottage Grove Area coordinated and recorded a conversation with Secretary of State Steve Simon. He touches on both philosophical issues and the mechanics of voting in the 20-minute video, available via the web link in the previous paragraph and [on Vimeo](#).

Candidate Forums from the Comfort of Your Couch

LWVSP and other local chapters have been hosting candidate forums online or on local cable stations. You'll find [links to St. Paul forums](#) on our website.

For recordings outside St. Paul, check local league websites or the LWV Minnesota [Events calendar page](#).

Volunteer Tips & Resources

When you meet a prospective voter, we recommend asking: "Are you interested in registering to vote?" This leaves it open for someone to decline if they're already registered (many will let you know) or unable to register. We try not to push, in case people are not citizens, under 18, or formerly incarcerated.

Here are some online resources:

- The LWV-MN [Voter Registration Drive web page](#) includes information on basic eligibility, a video on the process and ways to remain non-partisan
- [Instructional videos](#) by our Fellows, Morgan and Grace. (See story on this page.)
- Minnesota Secretary of State [Register to Vote web page](#).



BOOK CLUB UPDATES

Morning Book Club

For October, we're reading *The Price We Pay: What Broke American Healthcare and How To Fix It*, by Marty Makary, MD. Makary explains our health care system—and the people who are saving it.

Wednesday, October 14, 10 a.m., on Zoom. Invitations will be sent on Monday, October 12.

[Email Mary](mailto:mgp33@msn.com) (mgp33@msn.com) for the Zoom link. Everyone is welcome!

Evening Book Club

We'll discuss *Good and Mad* by Rebecca Traister, which explores the intersection of women's anger and politics.

Monday, October 5, 6:15 p.m., via Zoom.

[Email Heidi](mailto:heidi.kloempken@gmail.com) (heidi.kloempken@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. Please join us even if you haven't read the book.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We're on Instagram!

To expand our social media presence and reach a new audience, LVW St. Paul has launched an Instagram account. We'll use it to share information, similar to the way we use [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Please follow us: [@LWVStPaul](https://www.instagram.com/LWVStPaul)



It's not too late for a yard sign!

Cheryl Bailey still has a supply, free to LWVSP members, \$10 to others. [Email her](mailto:auntdrbc@comcast.net) (auntdrbc@comcast.net) to arrange for pickup (or Cheryl will deliver in St. Paul).

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

You can drop off your ballot

In Ramsey County, you can return your ballot in person to any of the locations listed on the [Vote By Mail web page](#). (Look for the tab "Return your ballot in person.") Locations are open through Nov. 2.

All ballots must be returned inside the building where an election judge will verify the voter information is complete. Don't place your ballots in a drop box or payment box.

On Election Day, turn in your ballot at the Election Services Office, 90 Plato Blvd. W., by 3 p.m. Your polling place can't accept mail-in ballots.

Civility is not just decorum

The LWV-MN hosts a thoughtful [web page on civil discourse](#), including tips for engaging in it, distinctions between civility and decorum, and how "civility" has been used against marginalized groups. Perfect reading for election season!



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Office of Minnesota Secretary of State
Steve Simon

August 29th, 2020

The following jurisdictions have self-identified as needing additional help from external partners to recruit Election Judges for the November 3rd, 2020 General Election:

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|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Balkan Township | Misty Hendrickson, clerk of Balkan | balkantown@gmail.com |
| Belle Plaine | Finance Director | ajirik@ci.belleplaine.mn.us |
| Bemidji | Michelle Miller, City Clerk | michelle.miller@ci.bemidji.mn.us |
| Brooklyn Center | Barb Suciu, City Clerk | bsuciu@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us |
| Brooklyn Park | Devin Montero, City Clerk | devin.montero@brooklynpark.org |
| Champlin | Roberta Colotti City Clerk | Clerk@ci.champlin.mn.us |
| Chaska | Denise Beebe - Senior Clerk/Elections Coordinator | dbeebe@chaskamn.com |
| Cologne | Lori Kasel - Head Election Judge/Utility Billing Clerk | lorik@colognemn.com |
| Cottage Grove | Nancy Schafer/Election Assistant | nschafer@cottagegrovemn.gov |
| Credit River Township | Karen Donovan - Clerk | clerk@creditriver-mn.gov |
| Culver Township | Jody -Clerk | clerk.culvertownship@outlook.com |
| Dakota County | Andy Lokken – Election Director | elections@co.dakota.mn.us |
| Deer Creek city | Thomas R. Parish City Clerk | clerk@cityofdeercreek.com |
| Delano | Paula Bauman, City Clerk | pbauman@delano.mn.us |



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| East Bethel | Carrie Frost, Elections Coordinator | carrie.frost@ci.east-bethel.mn.us |
| Elk River | Tina Allard, City Clerk | tallard@elkrivernm.gov |
| Fridley | Dep. City Clerk | melissa.moore@fridleymn.gov |
| Grand Lake | LeeAnn Vanderscheuren, Town Clerk | grandlakeclerk@hotmail.com |
| Grasston | Roberta Folkestad - Clerk Treasurer | cityofgrasston@gmail.com |
| Hibbing | Mary A. Kepler, Clerk | makepler@ci.hibbing.mn.us |
| Inver Grove Heights | Rebecca Kiernan, City Clerk | rkiernan@invergroveheights.org |
| Kimball | Nicole Pilarski - City Clerk/Treasurer | nicole.pilarski@ci.kimball.mn.us |
| Linwood Township | Pam Olson, Clerk | pam.olson@linwoodtownship.org |
| Mabel | Deputy Clerk-Head Judge | cityhall@mabeltel.coop |
| Mahnomen | Mitch Berg – City Administer | mahcityhall@arvig.net |
| Maple Grove | Amy Dietl, City Clerk | adietl@maplegrovern.gov |
| Maple Lake | Sabrina Hille, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer | sabrina.hille@ci.maple-lake.mn.us |
| Marshall | City Clerk | kyle.box@ci.marshall.mn.us |
| Midway Township | Earl E. Elde, Supervisor, Chairman | eeldeearl@hotmail.com |
| Minnesota Lake | Dawn Whitehead, City Clerk | minlake@bevcomm.net |
| Morcom Township | Sasha Lehto, Clerk | morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com |
| Nowthen | Deputy Clerk | deputyclerk@nowthenmn.net |
| Orono | City Clerk | acarlson@ci.orono.mn.us |



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|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Proctor | Jess Rich | jrich@proctormn.gov |
| Ramsey County | Emily Hunt, Elections Administrator | emily.hunt@co.ramsey.mn.us |
| Rochester | Anissa Hollingshead, City Clerk | elections@rochestermn.gov |
| Savage | City Clerk | lshadick@ci.savage.mn.us |
| St Paul Park | Julie Pelton - City Clerk | jpelton@stpaulpark.org |
| St. Cloud | Seth Kauffman – City Clerk | Seth.kauffman@ci.stcloud.mn.us |
| Underwood | Anna Kiser, City Clerk-Treasurer | undrwdcit@prtcl.com |
| Villard | City Clerk | cityofvillard@gmail.com |
| Willmar | Judy Thompson, City Clerk | jthompson@willmarmn.gov |
| Winona | Monica Hennessy Mohan, City Clerk | mhmohan@ci.winona.mn.us |
| Worthington | Mindy Eggers, City Clerk | megggers@ci.worthington.mn.us |
| Zimmerman | Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer | ktillmann@cityofzimmerman.com |