

October 1, 2025

Whats happening with the LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. CLOUD AREA???



President's Report ~ Sheila Ferguson

Welcome to fall everyone! It is an exciting time for League. On September 16 our Outreach Team was busy tabling at the library for National Voter Registration Day. They were also educating community members about the upcoming special elections at Pride in the Park on September 20. We have two candidate events coming up on September 30 and October 14 as well as a New Member Orientation on October 6.

If that wasn't enough, we just received additional exciting news from LWVUS. Many of us remember when LWVUS was a sponsor of the original Women's March in Washington, D.C. Now, LWVUS has announced it is joining "NO KINGS 2" as a national partner on Saturday, October 18, 2025 "to stand in solidarity with partners and stand up against hate and authoritarianism". League members are encouraged to participate with partner groups in a non-partisan manner. We may wear League shirts and buttons, but banners could be a safety risk and they discourage those. Likewise, if representing League and wearing League shirts and buttons, please use good judgment when creating signs and participating in nonpartisan chants. We are also cautioned to remember that participating in any event comes with some risk and to utilize the [LWVUS protest safety guidance](#) on the League's Management Site. Also, not all rallies are the same, so choose wisely.

Plus, there is more exciting news, at least for some state Leagues like LWVMN. We can continue to register new citizens at our naturalization events. As Sam Struikens informed us at the September Unit meeting, the federal ban on registering voters at naturalization ceremonies covers only US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) events and we don't do those in MN. We are at federal court ceremonies, and that makes all the difference. So for now, MN is not impacted and we can continue to register our new citizens.

Well, that is about all the excitement I can handle for now. I hope to see many members at the September 30 candidate event for Stearns County Commissioner. Even if that is not your district, please come out and support our local league members who have organized the event. **Let our potential officials know we are here!**

Unit Meetings – Conveners and Members

November 12, Topic: **Impact of Deportation on Businesses, Tax Revenue etc.**, Convener, Karen Langsjoen
Members: Angie Revier

January 14, Topic: **Natural Parks & Trails**, Convener, Charlotte Stephens
Members: Linda Saupe, Deanna Lederer, Sheila Ferguson

February 11, Topic: **Treatment of Transgender Individuals**, Convener, Lolly Loomis
Members: Linda Kotschevar, Judy Foster

March 11, Topic: **Update on Separation of Powers**, Convener, [OPEN](#)
Members: Fran Hill-Rowan

April 8, Topic: **Education & the Implications of the Big Beautiful Bill**, Convener, Sheila Ferguson
Members: Ralph Carr, Linda Saupe

May 13, Topic: **Effects of the Big Beautiful Bill on Climate Change**, Convener, Diane Bublitiz
Members: Charlotte Stephens, Marlene Haider

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FOUR THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY

If you have been feeling overwhelmed and helpless amid the current assaults on our democracy there are things you can do as an everyday citizen and League member to help defend our democracy!

What you can do this month to defend democracy:

1. **Reject Anti-Voter Policies - Tell your Senators to oppose the SAVE ACT**
The House passed the SAVE Act, requiring citizenship documents for voter registration, despite all states already mandating citizenship verification during registration. The SAVE Act would create one more barrier to the voting process, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents
2. **Go to the October Unit Meeting** – The Constitution is at the foundation of every single law in America. It is at the heart of how we think, act, and govern as Americans. Come join us as we learn about how the Constitution affects our everyday lives.
3. **Attend the Candidate Forum for School Board District #742** – Find out where the three candidates stand on the issues that are important to you. If you would like to help with the forum contact Sheila at sferguson213@yahoo.com.
4. **Observe a Stearns County Commissioner Meeting** – Discover what happens at a County Board Meeting and how their decisions affect you. Ralph Carr attends these bi-monthly meetings. To join him contact rw carr@stcloudstate.edu. Click [HERE](#) to find the Stearns County meeting schedule. If you do not live in Stearns County, consider attending your own county's Commissioner meetings.

**"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week or one year.
Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or
presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or
even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every
generation must do our part."**

- Civil Rights Leader and Congressman John Lewis