

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – February 12, 2022

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[LWV DC Facebook page](#)

[LWV DC website](#)

### Dates to remember:

- Monday, February 14, 9 AM: STRIDE
- Tuesday, February 15: Primary Election
- Thursday, February 24: “Final Five Voting”
- April 12 & 13: CIP Training



### League Mechanics

### Why does League have an Observer Corps?

Remember those suffragists who organized the League of Women Voters? They didn't just want to vote. They wanted to influence public policy!

Public policy is the laws, regulations, and rules created by people in power that determine how things are done. The early Leaguers saw the vote as only one part of influencing “how things get done.” They wanted legislators to listen to their views on the best way to do things.

From water quality to reproductive rights, the League has been studying many, many issues for 102 years, deciding their views by consensus. Over the years, the League learned they couldn't impact legislative actions if they didn't know what actions were under consideration.

*Voila! The Observer Corps was born!* The national League monitors the federal government and advocates for League issues there. The state Leagues monitor their legislatures and attempt to influence state laws. That leaves the local Leagues, you and I, to monitor and influence our local bodies of government. Every day our lives are greatly affected by decisions our local governments – county, city, villages, towns, or school boards – make. No government is more accessible to us. These are our neighbors, friends, family, and maybe even us. **But we simply can't influence those decisions if we don't pay attention.**

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## **STRIDE - a mental health care collaborative for Door County school-aged children**

On **Monday, February 14 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM**, the Door County League and United Way of Door County are co-sponsoring a program to increase community awareness of a new, valuable resource for school-aged children: ***STRIDE: Strengthening, Trust, Resilience, Instilling Independence, Discovering Empowerment.***

The program will be at the **Crossroads at Big Creek Collins Learning Center**, 2041 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay. An agenda flyer is attached. Refreshments will be provided. Masking is recommended. The meeting can be also be accessed by the Zoom link below.

Speakers include

Cami Peggarr, STRIDE Coordinator from United Way

Bibs Maloney, Mental Health Navigator, United Way

Jodi Gonzales, STRIDE Creative Provider, Jodi Rose Studios

Ally Bretl, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Substance Abuse Counselor, Door Cty. Med. Center

The Door County Collaborative School Mental Health Project is a program of United Way which was created in 2018 to remove barriers for accessing quality mental health care for Door County youth. The collaborative offers on-site mental health services in all five Door County school districts.

Two years ago, the League of Women Voters of Door County completed a local, three-year study on mental health and substance use in the county. The study identified local resources and unmet needs. Part of the follow-up work for the study is to educate the public about local mental health resources and advocate for filling unmet needs.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82108108309?pwd=TOROSDhTRmZ3eWZVZjUzL0VPb3ZCZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 0810 8309      Passcode: 892956

## **Learn about “Final Five Voting”**

**Join our virtual program on February 24 at 7:00 PM.**

Legislation has been introduced in both the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate to create a new way of electing representatives at all levels of government using a “ranked voting” method. League neither supports or opposes this legislation but wants to learn exactly what is being proposed.

Sara Eskrich of Democracy Found calls it Final Five Voting: top five primary candidates and instant runoff general elections. But how exactly does “Final Five Voting” work, and would it help to fix at least some of the divisive politics of elections?

According to Ms. Eskrich: “Democracy Found is a Wisconsin-based initiative committed to revitalizing democracy. By implementing a system wherein the top five candidates are selected from the primary ballot and instant runoff voting is used in the general election, we will ensure politicians are held accountable for delivering results. This, in turn, will renew each other’s belief that every vote counts and every voice is heard.”

Join this virtual program to learn more about the initiative and have the opportunity to ask questions. Register for this event by contacting Sandy Brown at [programs@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:programs@lwvdoorcounty.org).



## Get ready for elections

**Tuesday, February 15:** Primary (Gibraltar School Board; District 20, County Board)  
**Wednesday, March 16:** Deadline to register by mail and online for general election  
**Tuesday, April 5:** General election (School boards; County Board; City Council and Mayor, Towns and village boards)

### Voting by absentee ballot

If already registered, citizens can

- request an absentee ballot by mail from their municipal clerk. They should mail the request form with picture ID to clerk's office no later than five days before the election.
- request an absentee ballot online [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) by selecting Vote Absentee. If it is the first time, they must attach copy a of the picture ID.
- request an absentee ballot in person at clerk's office with picture ID.

Return absentee ballot no later than 8:00 PM on the day of the election. The ballot may also be returned to the clerk's office no earlier than two weeks before election day with a picture ID.

### County Board contests:

**Voters in Supervisory District 20** of the County Board can view the Candidate Forum at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUI4xv-v2vw> or on the League website [www.leagueofwomenvotersdoorcounty.org](http://www.leagueofwomenvotersdoorcounty.org)

**Voters in Districts 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, and 14:** Two more Door County Board Supervisor forums are being organized for **mid-March**. They will be on Zoom and then posted on the League website.

One forum will include the southern districts:

**District 2** - Lora Jorgensen & Todd Thayse (I)

**District 4** - Kara Counard (I) & Nancy Robillard (I)

**District 5** - Jeffrey Miller & Timothy Smith

A second forum will be held for two Sturgeon Bay districts and a district containing parts of the Towns of Sevastopol and Sturgeon Bay:

**District 9** - Dan Austad (I) & Jonathan Kruse

**District 11** - Helen Bacon & Morgan Rusnak (I)

**District 14** - Darrick DeMeuse & Hubert Zettel

## Check out the new district boundaries

Redistricting was required after the 2020 U.S. Census. Door County's population grew and shifted, with the most increases in the northern Door area. This resulted in county board district boundary changes. In turn, it also changed some municipal wards. It is important for citizens to make sure they know the number of their new district. The new maps, which have become active with the 2022 election cycle, are attached. They can also be found at:

<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4547/Final-Supervisory-Maps-Combined-2022-2031>



**Follow the money!**

**In recent days, the Door County League sent out an Action Alert.** It asked members to focus on how the county, the municipalities (towns, villages, city), and school boards will distribute their American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. Local governments have many needs and pressures, and residents should participate in their decisions by sharing their views.

The alert also referred to five proposals for spending the county's ARPA money that League supports. Video interviews of county staff explaining these proposals is available on the League website.

Here are the dollar amounts each local government received. It is a significant amount of money!

Municipality	ARPA amount	District	ARPA amount
Baileys Harbor	\$108,750.63	Gibraltar	\$497,313.00
Brussels	\$115,554.08	Sevastopol	\$446,330.00
Clay Banks	\$40,297.39	Southern Door	\$942,073.00
Egg Harbor (town)	\$141,197.88	Sturgeon Bay	\$1,342,402.00
Forestville	\$115,030.74	Washington Island	\$140,726.00
Gardner	\$124,136.91		
Gibraltar	\$108,750.63		
Jacksonport	\$74,942.69		
Liberty Grove	\$183,902.65		
Nasewaupsee	\$212,058.49		
Sevastopol	\$279,046.37		
Sturgeon Bay (town)	\$86,874.90		
Union	\$104,145.21		
Washington	\$75,152.02		
Egg Harbor (village)	\$21,143.05		
Ephraim (village)	\$29,307.20		
Forestville (village)	\$42,704.77		
Sister Bay (village)	\$97,865.10		
Sturgeon Bay (city)	\$935,108.87		
Door County	\$5,374,185.00		

Monitor your local government! To find out when and where it meets, you have several options:

- **Peninsula Pulse:** The front section of the weekly Peninsula Pulse newspaper has a column entitled "Door County Municipalities," detailing contact information (both phone and email) and meeting day. Check with your school board office for meeting information.
- **Official Directory of Door County:** One complimentary copy of the 2021-2022 Official Directory of Door County (**a listing of contact information for county, city, village, town, and school officials**) can be picked up at the County Clerk's office at the Door County Government Center. This directory is also online at the Door County government website:  
<http://www.co.door.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=16450&locid=137>

For questions or to share what you learn with your research, contact Barb Graul, Observer Corp Team Coordinator [tgraul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tgraul@sbcglobal.net) or [observercorps@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:observercorps@lwvdoorcounty.org).

### **"Lively Issue" discussion results in consensus for action!**

Thanks to all who participated in our yearly "lively issues" brainstorming session on January 29. It was indeed lively! We discussed things that all of us are passionate about as League members. A great thing about the League is we are able to express our civic activism in a positive way. Those attending generated a lot of energy and many ideas to "chew on."

League's intention is that these ideas have actions or programs developed from them.

1. **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) County Funding:** monitoring, educating and advocating for League positions in affordable broadband/high speed internet with equal connectivity; childcare; housing; and the proposal for a transitional/sober living house in the county. As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, we have already begun action on this, and hope YOU will take action personally on this very important issue.
2. **Elections/Voting Issues** (no surprise here): legal issues like drop boxes and changes in the laws, education on the basics of election process, and safeguarding of voting rights and access to the vote.
3. **Climate and environmental issues:** climate change, water quality, interest in recycling with education on how to reduce waste, and effects of pesticides, especially along the water.
4. **Interest in obtaining information about any racial profiling in policing** as it pertains to Door County and **civil liberties** especially as it pertains to the press.

Many thanks to Barb Graul who acted as our "scribe" and did a really great job of pulling together what was a free-wheeling and wide-ranging discussion.

Now we need YOU to be involved, too. Do any of the above categories have you fired up for action? Share your interest, and we will help you get engaged with our important work! Email your thoughts to [chair@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:chair@lwvdoorcounty.org).

### **Gentle reminder – Complete LWVWI's survey**

As our local League embraces diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), we encourage our members to complete the LWVWI 2021 Demographic Survey, which was sent to active League members throughout the state on February 1 from the state League office.

Your privacy is secure. The survey does not link you with the responses you provide. It does ask for your local League affiliation and, in this way, responses associated with our League can be sorted and sent back to us.

Cumulative data will give us a view of what our League looks like across many variables that compose diversity. This demographic profile, when compared with the demographics of the communities we serve, will reveal where we need to direct our DEI work. If we truly want our membership to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, we must first know who we are. To survey who we are on an annual basis tracks our growth toward a shared goal.

Please look for the survey in your inbox and take a moment to complete it by February 14. If there is more than one League member in your household, please be sure they each complete the survey. *Thank you!*



## Join us as an Election Observer for the April 5 Spring Election

Volunteers will help ensure we have a fair election by watching for signs of voter disenfranchisement and intimidation, and by monitoring the way Wisconsin's election laws and procedures are being applied. Even if you only have a couple hours to spare on Election Day, you can still sign up to be an election observer.

Being an election observer is a vital way you can help maintain a strong democracy in our state. **Learn more and sign up to volunteer today!**

Once you sign up, we will provide you with everything you need to volunteer: online training, a reporting form, a polling place assignment with flexible shifts, and an Election Day hotline number if you have a question or need to report a problem.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can contact the state League at [enewcomer@lwvwi.org](mailto:enewcomer@lwvwi.org) or at (608)256-0827. Please share this opportunity with your friends and family - anyone you think might be willing to be part of this vital program.

Thank you for all you do to empower voters and defend our democracy!

## 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); [ron\\_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov](mailto:ron_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov) ;  
Washington D.C.: 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-5323  
Madison: 5315 Wall Street, Suite 110, Madison, WI 53718; (608) 240-9629;
- Tammy Baldwin [www.baldwin.senate.gov](http://www.baldwin.senate.gov); [www.baldwin.senate.gov](http://www.baldwin.senate.gov)  
Washington, D.C.: 709 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-5653;  
Madison: 30 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison, WI 53703; (800) 247-5645; (608) 264-5338

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

Mike Gallagher <http://gallagher.house.gov/>

Washington, D.C.: 1230 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; (202) 225-5665  
DePere: 1702 Scheuring Road, Suite B, DePere, WI 54115; (920) 301-4500

### WISCONSIN GOVERNOR

Tony Evers P.O. Box 7863, Madison, WI 53707-7863

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

### WI SENATOR (DISTRICT 1)

Andre Jacque P.O. Box 7882, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53707-7882

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

### WI ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE (DISTRICT 1)

Joel Kitchens P.O. Box 8952, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53708-8952

[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 2021-2022 Official Directory of Door County (**a listing of contact information for county, city, village, town, and school 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: <http://www.co.door.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=16450&locid=137>

## Join us!

We would love to have you become a member of the Door County League, which also makes you a member of the LWV of Wisconsin and the LWV of the US. **Contact information will be shared and used only for LWV DC purposes.** If you have any questions contact Susan Kohout, (920) 743-1527 or [membership@lwvdoorcounty.org](mailto:membership@lwvdoorcounty.org).