



# Voter

League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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## 2014 Election Dates



•**September 19** — Absentee ballots will be available for the November 4 General Election. Voters may request their ballot online or view a sample ballot at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)

•**October 14** — Pre-registration deadline for the General Election. Voters may pre-register to vote online at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org). Voters may still register at their polling place on Election Day.

•**November 4** — General Election Day.



## September Calendar

**September 4 7 pm**  
Board Meeting – Home of Debbie Blake

**September 16 6:30 pm**  
New Member Event - Oak Hill Park

**September 17 1:00**  
Unit 2 Meeting - Tower Light  
Topic: New Member Event

**September 20 9 am – 12 pm**  
National Voter Registration Day - Sam’s Club

**September 22 1 pm**  
Kids Vote Steering Committee - SLP High

## October Calendar

**October 2 7 pm**  
Board Meeting – Home of Aggie Leitheiser

**October 15 1 pm**  
Unit 2 Meeting - Tower Light  
Topic: Welcome to SLP

**October 18 9:30 am CMAL meeting**  
Location TBD

**October 22 7 pm**  
Candidate Forum for General Election  
City Hall Council Chambers

**October 27 7 pm**  
Present Kids Vote at School Board  
Location: SLP High School Board

**October 28 7 pm**  
LWV Minnesota Secretary of State Candidate Forum - Augsburg College

## President's Message September 2014

Welcome to the 2014 / 2015 Program Year! I hope you enjoyed plenty of summer activity. The Board met for a planning session on a lovely summer evening a couple of weeks ago. We had a wonderful participation by all and we were able to get a great start on our calendar. You will find it on Page 7.

We are excited to see some changes in Unit 2. They will be meeting at Tower Light for the first half of the year.

Did you vote in the Primary Election? St. Louis Park residents had an 11% turnout. One way we can increase the number of voters at the poll is through the Kids Voting program. Dorothy has kept the team meeting through the summer gathering information, generating interest through the schools, forming a steering committee and making preparing for presentations to the School Board and the City Council. Please watch for more information.

Kathy Tomisch, from The League of Women Voters Minnesota visited our planning meeting. She encourages us to review the session wrap up publication <http://www.lwvmn.org/document.doc?id=1077> . She also recommends we read the report about campaign finance called THE TIP OF THE ICEBURG, <http://www.lwvmn.org/document.doc?id=774> and read up on Felon Voting Rights, <http://www.lwvmn.org/advocate/felon-voting-rights> so that we can let our legislators know we support these issues.

One more volunteer opportunity is to help at the Secretary of State Candidate forum. Watch for more information.

The LWVMN eBlast has many opportunities to **Educate**, **Advocate** and **Reform**. To join the newsletter click the Subscribe link and log in to set your email preferences.

National Voter Registration Day is just around the corner!

*Deb Brinkman, President*  
*LWV SLP*

### Highlights from the August 2014 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- \* Kathy Tomisch from LWVMN visited our planning meeting and requested we add Campaign Finance and Restoring Felon Voting Rights to our program.
- \* Barbara Aslakson is updating our Bylaws as requested by the LWVMN, moving some of the policies to the manual.
- \* Dorothy keeps Kids Voting moving right along as we form a steering committee, and prepare for the School Board meeting and City Council Meeting.
- \* We were awarded the Voter Service Grant. Eilseen has planning for the Candidate Forum well underway.
- \* Eilseen is coordinating a table set up for the National Voter Registration Day.
- \* Barb Person is coordinating a special Salad-Supper meeting in September for new and perspective members.



## Worth Noting

### Women's Equality Day August 26

August 26th was the 94th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote.

As we pause to mark the anniversary of such a momentous day, we encourage people to set aside just a few minutes to check on your registration status, as well as to start learning about the candidates and issues that will be on your ballot.

Every election, whether local, state or federal, is our chance to have our say on the issues that matter most to us. The people we elect have enormous power over the laws and policies that shape our lives, so we all need to weigh in. The decades-long fight for women's equality at the ballot box is an important part of American history and our nation's journey toward elections that are free, fair and accessible to all eligible voters.

Our foremothers understood that voting provides citizens the ability to have an impact on the critical issues facing their communities. Women's Equality Day is the perfect time to get ready and commit to vote and participate in the greatest democracy in the world.

### LWV Minnesota Voter

You should be receiving the state Voter newsletter electronically. If not, here's a link to the summer issue.

<http://www.lwvmn.org/file/the-voter/july-14.pdf?erid=244923>  
1 LWVMN VOTER VOL 92 NO 2 2014.pdf?erid=244923

Members who are not receiving it and would like to – just send an email with your email address to: [info@lwvmn.org](mailto:info@lwvmn.org) or call 651.224.5445 to ask about a paper or electronic copy. Also, please let Barb Person know so we can make sure our records are accurate: [2persons@comcast.net](mailto:2persons@comcast.net) or 952.546.3490

### Children First Asset #18 Youth Programs

Did you know 64% of St. Louis Park young people are involved in sports, clubs or organizations at school or in the community at least three hours a week?

Encourage your children and their friends to try something new. Take them skiing or to the theater or to a neighborhood association meeting to develop their appetite for further involvement.

## Kids Voting – League of Women Voters St. Louis Park's New Adventure

LWV SLP has taken on an exciting new project called “Kids Voting.” A committee made up of Eilseen Knisely, Aggie Leitheiser, Deb Brinkman, Debbie Blake and Dorothy Karlson have been investigating the ways in which Kids Voting is being run in other communities. Interviews with leaders of the program in Edina and St. Paul have been helpful in getting started. A steering committee made up of community leaders has been formed and will have its first meeting in September with Kari Ross and Sarah Thompson from the St. Louis Park School District as facilitators.

Kids Voting has two parts. The first one involves the participation of schoolchildren in several classes where students learn about the right to vote, democracy, civic responsibility, and the importance of participation in the election process. The second part takes place when the children go with their parents to the poles where they actually vote on a ballot exactly like the one used by adults. Their votes are counted and reported to the community. It is said that in communities where this is done, voting participation by adults actually increased by 5%.

Kids Voting St. Louis Park is a member of Kids Voting USA, a nonprofit bi-partisan community organization that prepares and motivates future voters with nationally acclaimed curriculum and hands on voting experience on Election Day. Kids Voting is a community-based solution to building a strong generation of voters for the future. Kids Voting believes that if kids experience civic involvement they will create a habit of informed voting that will last through their adult years.

Kari Ross and Sara Thompson have agreed to be the co-chairs of this initiative. Invitations for membership on the Steering Committee are being finalized during September. The Kick-off meeting of the Steering Committee will be September 22 at the Senior High School.

LWV SLP invites anyone interested in helping develop this project to call Dorothy Karlson at 952-935-4051.

### St. Louis Park Voting results for August 12 Primary

SPOILED BALLOTS	173
REGISTERED AT 7:00 A.M.	28,620
REGISTERED AT POLLS	149
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	28,769
Voter Receipts	2,737
Regular Absentee	325
(Percent AB voting)	11%
<b>TOTAL VOTERS</b>	<b>3,062</b>
<b>(PERCENT VOTING)</b>	<b>10.6%</b>

The state estimated voter turnout was 10.4%

For complete voting results, go to:

[http://www.stlouispark.org/webfiles/file/administration/2014\\_primary\\_election\\_results.pdf](http://www.stlouispark.org/webfiles/file/administration/2014_primary_election_results.pdf)

## How voting, women and corruption figure in the smart city standard

8/22/2014 By George Karayannis, LEED AP

Robust voter turnout is essential to a healthy democracy. Low turnout generally reflects systemic voter disenfranchisement or public apathy, and can result in elections and policies that don't reflect the will of the people. Some nations even have rules that render an election invalid if too few people vote, such as Serbia, where three successive presidential elections were rendered invalid in 2003 because voter turnout did not meet the 50% minimum threshold. In developed countries, non-voters tend to be concentrated among the young and the poor. However, in India, the young and the poor vote more than the rich and middle classes. As of August 2013, 22 countries have compulsory voting, though it is only enforced in 10.

See the complete article at: <http://smartcitiescouncil.com/article/dissecting-iso-37120how-voting-women-and-corruption-figure-smart-city-standard>

### Register New Voters at Citizenship Ceremonies!

Wednesday, September 17, 10:30 AM  
Landmark Center, St. Paul

Wednesday, September 24, 10:00 AM  
Minneapolis Convention Center

Friday, October 17, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  
William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul

Date: TBD, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  
Hamline University, St. Paul

Tuesday, November 18, 10:30 AM-2:00 PM  
Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center

"Are you from the League of Women Voters? You do an awesome job!" Said the young man originally from Somalia. He approached us at the end of the ceremony as we were checking the forms that had been collected. He was actually leading a group of visitors to the U.S. from Denmark and had brought them right from the airport to watch the ceremony. He told us that he had become a citizen 10 years ago and we had registered him to vote then...and he had voted every election since.

This is why we do this! So please join us at one or more of the above ceremonies.

We do our work starting one hour before the ceremonies begin. If you are able to help, please contact Judy Stuthman at [jastuthman@aol.com](mailto:jastuthman@aol.com)

## News and Highlights from LWVUS

### **National Report Shows Continued Pattern of Voting Rights Discrimination**

The National Commission on the Voting Rights (NCVR), led by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law released a groundbreaking national report revealing where and how minorities continue to experience discrimination in the U.S. The League of Women Voters of the U.S. (LWVUS) was a member of the national steering committee for the commission and LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara acted as a guest commissioner at the Columbus Regional Hearing. Leagues from 20 states and two localities worked to provide written testimony regarding voting in their states, act as expert panelists and cosponsor hearings across the country.

#### **Among the Report Findings Between 1995–2014:**

- Voting discrimination is a frequent and ongoing problem in the United States. There were about 332 successful voting rights lawsuits and denials of Section 5 preclearance by the U.S. Department of Justice and another ten non-litigation settlements.
- Formerly covered states in the South and Southwest stand out with some of worst records of voting discrimination—with Texas being at the top of the list. Texas stands out as having a remarkably high level of documented voting discrimination, including multiple state-level violations. And the States of Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina were not far behind.
- From this report, we can also see that voting discrimination takes a variety of forms. Discriminatory redistricting plans and at-large elections continue to prompt the most successful lawsuits under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. However, there were also 48 successful lawsuits and ten non-litigation settlements relating to language translation and assistance.

The full report can be found at:

<http://votingrightstoday.org/ncvr/resources/discriminationreport>

**LWV SLP Calendar 2014 - 2015**  
**Updated August 9, 2014**  
**Clip and Save**

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Assigned / Host</b>
<b>August</b>		
<b>August 7 6 pm</b>	<b>Program Planning Meeting Location: Deb Brinkman's</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>
<b>August 9 6 pm</b>	<b>Concert in the Park - Tribute to Bob Dylan Location: Wolfe Park</b>	<b>Judy Cook</b>
<b>August 25 6 pm</b>	<b>MLD Conference Call</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>September</b>		
<b>Kick Off The Year Right</b>		
<b>September 4 7 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Debbie Blake's home</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>September 16 6:30 pm</b>	<b>New Member Event Oak Hill Park</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>September 17 1 or 1:30</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: New Member Event Location: Tower Light</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Barb Person</b>
<b>September 20 9 am - 12 pm</b>	<b>National Voter Registration day (9/23) Sam's Club</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisely</b>
<b>September 22 1 pm</b>	<b>Kids Vote Steering Committee Location: SLP High School</b>	<b>Dorothy Committee Members</b>
<b>October</b>		
<b>Candidate Forum</b>		
<b>October 2 7 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Aggie's Home</b>	<b>Aggie</b>
<b>October 15 1 or 1:30</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Welcome to SLP Location: Tower Light</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Barb Person</b>
<b>October 18</b>	<b>CMAL meeting</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>October 22 7 pm</b>	<b>Candidate Forum for General Election City Council Location: City Hall Council Chambers</b>	<b>Eilseen</b>
<b>October 27 7 pm</b>	<b>Present Kids Vote at School Board Location: SLP High School Board Meeting</b>	<b>Eilseen LWVSLP</b>
<b>October 27 6 pm</b>	<b>MLD Conference Call</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>October 28, 2014 7 pm</b>	<b>LWVMN Candidate Forum Location: Augsburg</b>	<b>LWVMN</b>
<b>November</b>		
<b>General Election November 4</b>		
<b>November 6</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Barb Person's Home</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>November 8</b>	<b>West Metro Meeting</b>	<b>West Metro Rep Barb Person</b>



9:30 am - 12 pm	<b>Topic: Immigration</b> <b>Location: SLP City Hall</b>	
November 19 Or November 8 - tbd	<b>Unit 2 Meeting</b> <b>Topic: Immigration Meeting on Nov 8 - TBD</b> <b>Location: SLP City Hall</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b> <b>Debbie Blake</b>
November 17 7:30 pm	<b>Present Kids Vote to the City Council</b> <b>Location: SLP City Hall Council Chambers</b>	<b>Aggie and LWV SLP</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Fund Raising</b>	
December 4	<b>Board Meeting</b> <b>Location: Dorothy's Home</b>	<b>Dorothy</b>
December 17 1 or 1:30	<b>Unit 2 Meeting</b> <b>Topic: Holiday Social and Lively Issues</b> <b>Location: Tower Light</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b> <b>Debbie Blake</b> <b>Deb Brinkman</b>
December,	<b>Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble Bookstore</b> <b>Ridgehaven Mal</b>	<b>Dorothy Karlson</b>
December 18	<b>Unit 3 Meeting</b> <b>Topic: Holiday Social and Lively Issues</b> <b>Location: Deb Brinkman's Home</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Lively Issues</b>	
January 8, 2015	<b>Board Meeting</b> <b>Location: Barbara's home</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b>
January 10 or 24	<b>Unit 2 Meeting</b> <b>Topic: Legislative Interviews</b> <b>Location: Union Congregational Church</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b> <b>Debbie Blake</b> <b>Eilseen Knisely</b>
January 10 or 24	<b>Unit 3 Meeting</b> <b>Topic: Legislative Interviews</b> <b>Location: Union Congregational Church</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisely</b>
January 17	<b>CMAL</b> <b>Topic:</b> <b>Location:</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LWV</b> <b>Black History Month</b>	
February 5	<b>Board Meeting</b> <b>Location: Judy' home</b>	<b>Judy Cook</b>
February 18	<b>Unit 2 Meeting</b> <b>Topic: Inclusion "We're All the Same"</b> <b>Location: Tower Light</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b> <b>Debbie Blake</b> <b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
February 19	<b>Unit 3 Meeting</b> <b>Topic Inclusion "We're All The Same"</b> <b>Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Women's History Month</b>	
March 5	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisely</b>



	<b>Location: Eilseen's home</b>	
<b>March 18 1 or 1:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Bees Location: Tower Light</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Barb Person</b>
<b>March 19 7 pm</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Bees Location: SLP City Hall</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>March 21</b>	<b>CMAL Topic:</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>West Metro Topic: Location:</b>	<b>West Metro Rep: Barb Person</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>LWVSLP Birthday 61</b>	
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Debbie's Home</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Empty Bowls Westwood Lutheran Church</b>	
<b>April 18</b>	<b>61st Annual Meeting Topic: Water or Campaign Finance / Citizens United Location: McCoys</b>	<b>LWV SLP BOARD</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Career Day at the High School with Karen Waters</b>	<b>Eilseen</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Celebrate St. Louis Park Kids May 19, 1919 Women's Right to Vote</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Amendment</b>
<b>May 7 7 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Aggie's Home</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>May 20 1 or 1:30</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Book Review Location: Tower Light</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Dorothy Karlson</b>
<b>May 21 7 pm</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Book Review Location: SLP City Hall</b>	<b>Dorothy Karlson</b>
<b>May 23 9:30 coffee 10:00 program</b>	<b>CMAL Annual Meeting Topic: Location:</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Ice Cream Social - Children First Wolfe Park</b>	<b>Deb</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Scholarship Program SLP High School</b>	<b>Deb</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Parktacular June 10, 1963 Equal Pay for Women June 23, 1972 Equality in education and sports</b>	<b>Fair Labor Standards Act Title IX</b>
<b>June 4</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location:</b>	
<b>June 13 -14</b>	<b>LWV Minnesota Convention</b>	<b>LWVMN</b>

	<b>Location: Duluth</b>	
<b>June</b>	<b>Parktacular</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>July 1, 1971 – age to vote from 21 to 18 July 2, 1964 – Equal Rights Amendment</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Amendment Title VII Employment Equality</b>
<b>July 9</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location:</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>Getting Ready</b>	
<b>August 6 6 pm</b>	<b>Planning Meeting Location: Deb's Home</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>

## Mark Your Calendars!


**\*\*\* District 46 Candidate Forum – Wednesday,  
October 22 at 7 pm in the City Council Chambers**

**\*\*\* Secretary of State Candidate Forum – Tuesday ,  
October 28 at 7 pm at Augsburg College**

### The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.



**You are invited to learn more about LWV and your community. Learn how you can be part of the conversation in St. Louis Park.**

**6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 16, 2014**  
**Oak Hill Park Pavilion**  
**2700 Rhode Island Avenue**

Please join us for a casual salad supper to hear about our plans for the upcoming year – candidate forums, voter registration, Kids Voting Project. Maybe you’d like to join!!

Guest speaker: Sherri Knuth, LWV Minnesota’s Policy Manager

**The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.**

Questions? Contact Barb Person 952/546-3490 or [2persons@comcast.net](mailto:2persons@comcast.net)

# Observer Reports

Observers of City Council and SLP School Board took a summer break. Look for reports about activities at St. Louis Park City Council and School Board starting this fall. If you are interested in being an observer at one of the meetings, contact Dorothy Karlson at [dorothy.karlson@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.karlson@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014-15**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Deb Brinkman  
 Vice President: Barb Person  
 Secretary: Barbara Aslakson  
 Treasurer: Judy Cook  
 Observer: Dorothy Karlson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley  
 Public Relations: Judy Cook  
 Membership: Barb Person  
 CMAL: Debbie Blake  
 Voter Editor: Aggie Leitheiser

**YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS PARK**

Name (Family Member #1): \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Family Member #2): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues**

**(a portion of dues are now tax deductible):**

- Single Active Attending Member \$55.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$60.00
- Family Membership \$70.00  
(2 or more in single household)

**Make checks payable to LWV SLP  
and send check & this form to:**

Barb Person, Membership Chair  
 2049 Utah Avenue South  
 St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
 952/546-3490  
[2persons@comcast.net](mailto:2persons@comcast.net)



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