LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® ST. LOUIS PARK

A Message from the LWV SLP Leadership Team

The year 2018 is an important election year. Watch for the candidate forum dates in upcoming *Voters*, on our Facebook page (and while you are there, 'Like' the page), and on our website: http://www.lwvslp.org

We are excited that there are more women running for office locally, statewide, and nationally. Here, in Senate District 46 both **Amy Klobuchar** and **Tina Smith** are on the ballot for US Senate, **Cheryl Youakim** for Minnesota House 46B and **Brittany Edwards** at the primary for Minnesota House 46A. **Peggy Flanagan,** the current Minnesota House representative in 46A, is running with Tim Waltz for Lt. Governor.

This April, local Minnesota LWVs will get together in St. Cloud for Council on April 28th all day. This statewide and all Leagues event alternates yearly with the State Convention. This year there will be 9 workshops to choose from. St. Cloud has an active LWV that is eager to host. See lwvmn.org for more details.

Join League of Women Voters St. Louis Park! The form can be found on page 9. We look forward to meeting you.

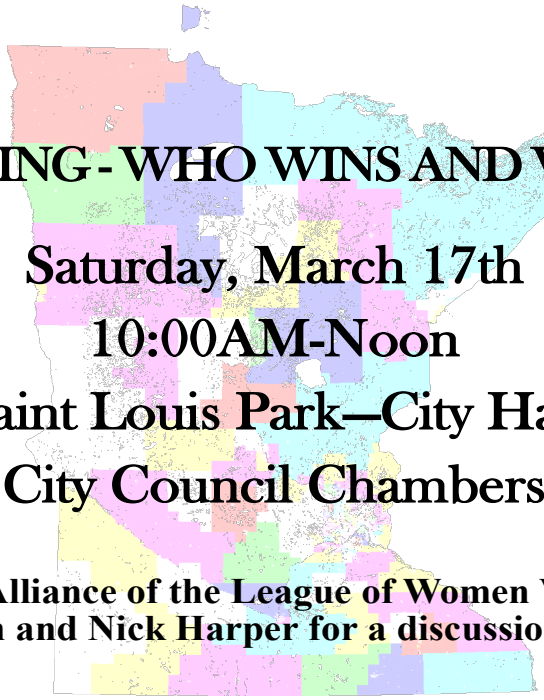
REDISTRICTING – WHO WINS AND WHO LOSES

Saturday March 17
10:00 am – Noon
St. Louis Park City Hall
5005 Minnetonka Blvd
City Council Chambers
Program by West Metro (West Metro Alliance of the League of Women Voters p. 2

Annual Meeting LWV St. Louis Park

Saturday April 2
9:30 – 1:00 pm
Aquila Commons Party Room
8200 W. 33rd Street
See invitation p. 3

LWV Mission Statement: **LWV**, *a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government; works to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and influences public policy through education and advocacy*.



REDISTRICTING - WHO WINS AND WHO LOSES?

Saturday, March 17th
10:00AM-Noon
Saint Louis Park–City Hall
City Council Chambers

Join the West Metro Alliance of the League of Women Voters as we welcome Justice Paul Anderson and Nick Harper for a discussion on the impacts of Redistricting.

Coffee at 9:30AM, program begins at 10:00AM. This event is free and open to the public.

Before his appointment to the judicial branch, Justice Paul Anderson was in private practice as a partner in the law firm of LeVander, Gillen & Miller Law Offices. Anderson was appointed by Governor Carlson to the Minnesota Court of Appeals as Chief Judge, beginning in 1992. Two years later, Carlson appointed Anderson to be an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Anderson retired in 2013. Since leaving the court he has chaired the new Senate Office building design/build committee, was a member of the State Capitol Restoration Commission, Co-chair of the Capitol Art Subcommittee, done extensive lecturing, writing, mentoring and some mediation and arbitration. Justice Anderson is familiar with redistricting in Minnesota since 1970. He served as a second chair attorney for one of the parties in 1980, worked with the Governor in 1990 and was involved with the 2000 and 2010 efforts as a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Nick Harper helps local Leagues to provide voter services and to collaborate with community partners. He is a member and former Co-President of LWV St. Paul. He is also a lawyer licensed in Minnesota and a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association. He knows that good laws require a strong democracy, good political processes, and resilient civic engagement. His policy interests include money in politics, voting rights, fair district maps, and other election law. In May 2017, he received the Sunrise Award from LWV St. Paul for his commitment to the League's mission. He holds a B.A. in political science with honors from Gustavus Adolphus College and a J.D. with public service honors from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Saint Louis Park City Hall: 5005 Minnetonka Blvd, St Louis Park, MN 55416

League of Women Voters
St. Louis Park
Invites you to our 64th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Aquila Commons Party Room
8200 W. 33rd Street

Speaker: Astein Osei
St. Louis Park School District Superintendent

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Achieving success, one student at a time!

Sign In & Coffee	***9:30 am – 10:00 am***
Business Meeting	***10:00 am – 11:00 am***
Presentation	***11:00 – 12:00 pm***
Lunch	***12:00 pm – 1:00 pm***

Only members in good standing may vote.

RSVP required.
Please return the enclosed form
by April 2, 2018.

LWV SLP 2018
64th Annual Meeting Reservation

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Aquila Commons, 8200 W. 33rd Street, St. Louis Park

Sign In and coffee	9:30 am
Business Meeting	10:00 am
Presentation by Astein Osei	11:00 am
Buffet Lunch	12:00 pm

____YES! I WILL BE ATTENDING THE BUSINESS MEETING

____ YES! I WILL BE ATTENDING THE PRESENTATION

____YES! I WILL BE ATTENDING AND STAYING FOR THE BUFFET LUNCH
Enclosed is my $15 check for lunch (payable to LWV SLP)
Online payment options https://paypal.me/lwvslp
https://venmo.com/lwvslp

Name: _____

Phone:_____

Email_____

MAIL CHECK (payable to LWV SLP) & THIS FORM *BY APRIL 2nd* TO:
Judy Cook
LWV St. Louis Park Treasurer
4010 Highwood Road
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-928-9846

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ST. LOUIS PARK

Observer Reports:

LWV SLP Member Reports on Events Attended

City Council Meeting: February 5, 2018: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. All members present.

PRESENTATIONS: The city recognized donations by a number of residents to Westwood Nature Center to fun a bench honoring Dick Johnson and to the JCC that will be taking a number of students to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- A motion passed to appoint Katherine Christiansen Youth Representative to the Environment and Sustainability Commission
- A motion passed to appoint Robin Salzer Youth Representative to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2018 Pavement Management Project

City staff presented plans for the Elmwood, Brookside, and Brooklawn neighborhoods, which are part of the Living Streets Policy and, if approved, would begin May 2018. At least 20 residents from the affected neighborhoods expressed opinions about loss of parking, installation of sidewalks, narrowing of streets, and increased traffic. Following this feedback, council members discussed possible changes to the plan.

Other items discussed after observer left include the following: Climate Action Policy; Construction of Fastpitch Fields at Aquila Park; an ordinance amending Home Rule Charter related to campaign finance contributions.

Meeting was adjourned sometime after 11:00 pm.

Barb Person
Observer

Corporations are not People: Reclaiming Democracy: February 17, 2018

Minnesota Citizens for Clean Elections (MnCCE) hosted **a presentation given by Jeff Clements, President of American Promise**. According to Clements, the problem with Citizens United is not just concentrated money; it is concentrated power. Changing that will take a constitutional amendment.

As proposed, **the 28th Amendments would do the following**:

1. Set reasonable limits for campaign funds
2. Distinguish between humans and corporations
3. Ensure the right to vote = 1 person: 1 vote

American Promise seeks to be unified and strategic in getting a 28th Amendment ratified:

1. Ask candidates to pledge support for the 28th Amendment. So far, 49 Senators have pledged support; 67 Senators are needed.
2. Call on State Senators for support
3. Call on State Representatives for support
4. Pass a resolution supporting the 28th Amendment
5. Support public funding
6. Support Ranked Choice Voting
7. Support Campaign Funds Disclosure

8. Support a Citizen District Commission for Redistricting
9. Become a member of one or all of the supporting sponsors of the 28th Amendment:
   - Minnesota Citizens for Clean Elections
   - Minnesota American Promise
   - League of Women Voters Minnesota
   - Common Cause of Minnesota

Deb Brinkman
Observer

Study Session and City Council Meeting: February 20, 2018

The study session included discussion of the impact of big box liquor stores on St. Louis Park. The City Council appeared united in preferring the development of small businesses citing Hopkins as a model. Interesting to note, applications include ethnicity and race but not gender.

The main topic of the meeting was a presentation by Discover St. Louis Park. The liquor license for LifeTime Fitness was approved. The Urban County Community Development Block Grant was also approved.

Deb Brinkman
Observer

LWV SLP Calendar of Upcoming Events 2018-2019

March 2018	April 2018	June 2018
March 1: All Month **Women's History Month**	Thur April 5: 7-9 pm **LWV SLP Board Meeting** Debbie Blake's	Fri June 1: All Day **Fair Labor Standards Act: Equal Pay for Women** 1963
Thurs, March 1: 7-9 pm **Board Meeting**	Sat April 21: 10 am-2 pm **LWV Annual Meeting** (See **page 3** for details)	Sat June 16: 10 am –6 pm **Parktacular Expo**
Mon March 5: 10 am--4 pm **A Day at the Capitol LWV MN**	**May 2018**	Fri June 22: All Day **Title IX: Equality in Education and Sports** 1972
Thurs March 8: All Day **International Women's day**	Tue May 1: All Day **Celebrate SLP Kid's Day**	Fri June 22: noon—2 pm **Parktacular Parade**
Thurs March 8: 4:30—6:30 pm **State of the City SLP** Rec Center Banquet Room 3700 Monterey Drive (RSVP needed)	Thurs May 3: 7-9 pm **Board Meeting** SLP City Hall	Tue June 26: All Day **26th Amendment: Voting age from 21 to 18**
Thurs March 15: 7-8:30 pm **LWV Meeting: Redistricting** SLP City Hall	Sat May 19: 10 am—noon **Field Trip**	**Future Events to Note:** • Aug 1—program planning • Sept 1—New Member meeting • Feb 1—96th Anniversary of LWV MN • Feb 1—Black History Month
Sat March 17: 9:30—Noon **West Metro Redistricting: Who Wins and Who Loses** SLP City Hall (See **page 2** for details)		

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Naturalization Ceremonies for New Citizens – LWV register new citizens to vote

Citizenship Ceremonies: Register New Citizens to Vote! LWV members have been registering new citizens to vote at Naturalization Ceremonies for 20 years. Many of the volunteers are brand new members ... At 80 ceremonies from Jan. thru Dec., 2017, the forms from nearly 7,000 new citizens were collected. Since 2007, we have carried in over 80,000 voter registration forms to the Secretary of State's office. The percentage of new citizens registering to vote at the ceremonies has increased...and is 90 to 95

- Tuesday, Mar. 27th Minneapolis, 10 AM – St. Thomas School of Law, 1101 Harmon Place
- Thursday, April 26th Maplewood, 1:30 PM – Ramsey County Library – Maplewood, 3025 Southlawn Dr.
- Monday, April 30th, St. Paul 10 AM – St. Paul River Centre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd

If you wish to become involved, please contact Judy Stuthman @ jastuthman@ao

OFFICERS:
C0-Presidents: Debbie Blake & Deb Brinkman
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Judy Cook
Board of Directors:
Observer Reports: Betty Shaw
Director at Large: Sylvia O'Brien
Communications & Voter: Shelley Colvin
Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley
Public Relations: Judy Cook
West Metro Liaison: Barb Person
CMAL Liaison: Shelley Colvin
Membership: Barb Person

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 Send check & this form to:

Barb Person, Membership Chair
2049 Utah Avenue South
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
952/546-3490
barbperson2049@gmail.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® ST. LOUIS PARK

Leadership Team
lwvslp@gmail.com
Shelley Colvin, Editor

Common Cause

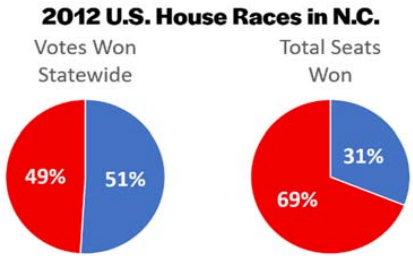
Fact Sheet: COMMON CAUSE V. RUCHO

Common Cause challenged the congressional district lines drawn by North Carolina's legislature in 2016 as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. On Jan. 9, 2018, a three-judge federal district court panel unanimously agreed and ordered the lines to be redrawn! However, nine days later, the U.S. Supreme Court put the order to redraw districts on hold pending an appeal.

THE ISSUE

Partisan gerrymanders have robbed North Carolinians of their ability to elect the candidates of their choice.

- North Carolina legislators were ordered to redraw the congressional map after a 2016 three-judge federal panel ruling that two districts were racially gerrymandered.
- During this redraw, Republican legislators publicly and repeatedly stated that their goal was to gerrymander congressional districts to ensure a 10-3 Republican majority.
- At the time, North Carolina had 2.6 million registered Democrats, 1.9 million Republicans, and 1.8 million unaffiliated voters.



THE CASE

In 2016, Common Cause challenged the redrawn congressional map as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander.

- On January 9, 2018 a three-judge federal district court panel unanimously ruled that the 2016 remedial map is an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander.
- The court found violations of the First Amendment right of association, the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause, and Article I, sections 2 and 4 of the Constitution.
- The court gave the legislature until January 24, 2018 to adopt new maps for use in the 2018 midterm elections.
- On January 18, 2018 the Supreme Court of the United States granted a stay request, putting the district court's order to immediately redraw congressional lines on hold. As a result, North Carolinians are likely to vote in unconstitutional districts for at least one more election.
- The Supreme Court is likely to hear arguments in Common Cause v. Rucho in 2018 or 2019.

"Justice delayed would be justice denied for the people of North Carolina who have yet to vote in an election with constitutional maps since the 2010 Census was completed."

- Karen Hobert Flynn, Common Cause President

Updated January 19, 2018