



# Voter

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**\*\*\*\*Save the Date\*\*\*\***  
**CMAL Quarterly Meeting**  
**“The New Metropolitan Council”**  
**Saturday, October 15**  
**Additional details on page 4**

**9:30 am Coffee and Connect**  
**10:00 am Mini-Orientation to CMAL**  
**10:30 am Presentation and Discussion**  
**11:50 am Announcements**



## October Calendar

- October 4, 7 pm  
LWV SLP Board Meeting  
Host: Debbie Blake
- October 12, 12:30 pm  
Unit 2 Meeting  
Topic: Green Cities DVD  
Location: Assisted Living building's Community Room.
- October 15, 2011 9:30 am  
CMAL  
Topic: New Metropolitan Council  
Minnetonka City Hall
- October 20, 2011 7 pm  
Candidate Forum - City Council  
Location: St. Louis Park City Hall
- October 26, 2011 7 pm  
Candidate Forum - School Board  
Location: St. Louis Park City Hall

### Upcoming Events

- November 3, 2011 7 pm *(date change)*  
LWV SLP Board Meeting  
Host: Dorothy Karlson
- November 5, 2011 9:30 am  
West Metro  
Topic: Educational Panel Discussion  
Location: St. Louis Park City Hall
- November 9, 2011 12:30 pm  
Unit 2 Meeting  
Topic: National Study on Education  
Location: Parkshore Card Room
- November 17, 2011 7 pm  
Unit 3 Meeting  
Topic: National Study on Education  
Host: Judy Cook
- November 29, 2011 6 pm – 9 pm  
Phonathon Pot Luck and Fundraiser  
Host: Eilseen Kniesley

## President's Message

Fall will always be connected with the start of the school year and the promise of adventures in the future. It's also the start of the League Program Year and our September Unit program presentation by Susan Brower helped us see some changes ahead for St. Louis Park. In particular, we have more young families with young children, more of those aged 50 to 70 and over 85, and fewer middle-aged families with middle and high school children. We grew by 1,124 people since 2000. If you'd like to see the program, you can check the Cable TV Channel 17 schedule and look for "Changing Faces of St. Louis Park" at this website: [http://www.stlouispark.org/schedule\\_tags.html](http://www.stlouispark.org/schedule_tags.html)

October is an important month because of our candidate forums. October 20 is the City Council At Large A and B seat candidates and October 26 is the School Board candidates. Both events start at 7:00 pm. This year the St. Louis Park Patch online newspaper is co-sponsoring the forums with the League. We'd love to see you there in person, but if you can't join us for one or both of the forums; please note they will be broadcast live by Civic Channel 17. Our ongoing and growing appreciation to our member Reg Dunlap who has been a tremendous partner in helping bring the forums and other events to the public on our local television station.

You'll also note an invitation from the Historical Society in this month's *Voter* for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Louis Park. There will be an event at Wolfe Park on October 16 from 1 to 4 PM, with a program at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater at 2:00. The program features a skit on the history of St. Louis Park by the HARMONY Theatre Company and School, a children's acting group. Sounds like fun.

—*Aggie Leitheiser, LWV SLP President, 952-938-6255*

### Highlights from the September LWV of St. Louis Park Board meeting:

- Reviewed results of August planning meeting and calendar and upcoming events
- Discussed details for census meeting for Unit 2 and 3. Unit 3 will be at City Hall. Presentation by Susan Brower, State Demography Center
- Reviewed arrangements for Candidate Forums in October and discussed co-sponsorship with St. Louis Park Patch
- Restated interest in sponsoring a scholarship for a Senior High student. More details at October meeting.
- Discussed need for a more detailed position on non-partisan position for our local LWV. LWVs across the country have been challenged on this issue and we need to be clear on our position and how we handle this issue. A draft policy will be prepared by the Board for vote by the membership at the annual meeting in April, 2012.
- Decided to participate in the Phonathon fundraiser on November 29<sup>th</sup> at Eilseen Knisely's home. Contact Aggie if you're interested in participating.
- Discussed the goal of every member bringing in a new member this year.
- General sense that being present at Parktacular was a positive – despite the rain. Will consider having a booth again next year.



## Worth Noting

### **You're Cordially Invited St. Louis Park 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The League of Women Voters St. Louis Park cordially invites you to join the St. Louis Park Historical Society in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of our city. We are planning an event at Wolfe Park on October 16 from 1 to 4 PM, with a program at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater at 2:00. The program features a skit on the history of St. Louis Park by the HARMONY Theatre Company and School, a children's acting group. All elected officials, including former mayors, are invited as are local civic groups. The event will be recorded by Park TV 17, and shown on local cable.

Please come to celebrate with us! St. Louis Park is not a typical postwar suburb but has had a long history as an industrial center dating back to the 1890s. If you wish to read about our history, we invite you to visit our extensive web site at [www.slphistory.org](http://www.slphistory.org).

**Save the Date Candidate Forums**  
**St. Louis Park City Hall**  
**October 20 – City Council**  
**October 26 – School Board**

**Unit 2** - Jim Vaughan, SLP city environmental coordinator, will show the DVD *Green Cities: Leading the Way*. He will discuss the progress our city is making on this issue.

Due to construction at the Parkshore Senior building, the meeting will be held in the Assisted Living building's Community Room.

### **2011 Online Voter Guide**

#### **Primary Version**

**Check out the Vote 411 guide from LWVMN.** <http://www.vote411.org/>

For areas that have primaries, visit <http://onyourballot.vote411.org/?sfr=1311946039065> to access information on who will be on your ballot.

### **Test Your Knowledge**

True or False:  
If you vote, you will get jury duty.

*Answer on page 11*

**September 22, 1961**  
**Peace Corps established**

### **LWV United States Legislative Watch List**

**If an opportunity arises and does not interfere with action on an advocacy priority, the LWVUS may take action on the following issues:**

- CEDAW
- Climate Change
- Ethics
- Immigration
- Safe Drilling and Mining ("Fracking")

**September 16, 2011 celebrates Constitution Day to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.**

## **MnDOT Seeks Public Comments On 50-year Transportation System Vision**

**Public Hearing Scheduled Oct. 4  
Comments Accepted Through Oct. 21**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation invites public comments through Oct. 21 on a draft 50-year vision for transportation in the state. The vision was developed with input from the public and diverse representatives of the transportation community who participated in advisory group meetings, public workshops and online during the past several months.

The public can view the seven-page document at the Minnesota GO website, [www.minnesotago.org](http://www.minnesotago.org), and share their thoughts online, by email, fax or U.S. mail. MnDOT will accept comments until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 21.

In addition, MnDOT will host a public hearing Tuesday, Oct. 4, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Transportation Building in St. Paul, 395 John Ireland Blvd., Room G15. Commissioner Sorel will lead the discussion. The public also may participate via videoconference at MnDOT offices statewide (see locations below) or from their personal computers by using Adobe Connect (instructions will be posted on [www.minnesotago.org](http://www.minnesotago.org)). Print copies of the draft vision will be available at the meeting sites. If you are unable to attend the hearing, it will be recorded and posted on the Minnesota GO website.

Minnesota GO Public Hearing  
Oct. 4, 2011  
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Relay Service toll-free at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY, Voice or ASCII) or 711.

To request another reasonable accommodation, call 651-366-4718.

## **CMAL Meeting Information**

**LWV CMAL Quarterly Meeting  
Saturday, October 15, 2011  
"The New Metropolitan Council"**

**Presented by Jennifer Munt, Metropolitan Council Member, District 3  
Minnetonka City Hall, Council Chambers  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345**

**9:30 am Coffee and Connecting  
10:00 am Mini-Orientation to CMAL  
10:30 am Presentation and Discussion  
11:50 am Announcements**

**The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The council runs the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates water resource preservation, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers funds that provide housing opportunities for low-and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Metropolitan Council is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Minnesota governor.**

**Since Minnesota has a new governor, we have 16 new council members and one incumbent selected by this governor. Essentially, we could call this group "The New Metropolitan Council".**

**Some of the questions which residents could ask our Metropolitan Council might be:**

- **Goals for the next few years**
- **How spending cuts will affect how the Met Council governs**
- **How the Met Council interfaces with other government units (state county, city, etc)**

**Jemmifer Munt was appointed to the Metropolitan Council in March 2011 by Governor Mark Dayton. She represents District 3 which is part of western Hennepin County including cities of Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Orono, Shorewood, Wayzata and others.**

**Mundt is Public Affairs Director for AFSCME Council 5 where she leads marketing, communications and media relations. Previously she was communications Director for the Hiawatha LRT project (2000-2005) and an Outreach Coordinator for the Metropolitan Council (1999-2002). Since 2005 she has served as president of Transit for Livable Communities, the state's largest transportation advocacy organization. She is on the Community Development and Transportation committees on the Met Council.**

**She is passionate about community members voicing their ideas in decisions that affect the region and their daily lives.**

## LWV Minnesota

### LWV Minnesota Priorities

- **Clean Air Defense**
- **Health Care Defense**
- **Money In Elections**
- **Voter Registration and Election Administration**
- **Fair Judiciary**
- **Promoting Global Democracy**

### Judicial Reform

Minnesota’s historically fair and impartial courts could soon be up for sale. You only need to look across the border to Wisconsin, where \$6 million was spent during the most recent Supreme Court race, to see how special interest money can taint judicial elections.

Urge legislators to pass a constitutional amendment to protect our judicial election system from partisan politics. The proposal would create a merit-based nomination process, and voters could approve or reject the judge through a retention election.



**Educate. Advocate. Reform.**

## LWV United States

### LWV’s Most Recent Actions

#### **House Passes Sweeping Anti-Clean Air TRAIN Act - Sep 23, 2011**

Leading Environmental Groups Call on Senate to Reject It, Commend Veto Threat from White House

#### **LWV Urges Lobbying Disclosure for Members of Deficit Reduction Committee - Sep 22, 2011**

LWV and coalition partners sent a letter to members of the Committee on Deficit Reduction urging them to immediately take steps to voluntarily disclose the efforts of outside interests to lobby them on matters related to the business of the committee.

#### **LWV Expresses Concern with Delay of Pollution Regulation - Sep 20, 2011**

LWV and coalition groups sent a letter to the White House expressing deep concern that the Environmental Protection Agency will not meet its commitment to propose long-overdue Clean Air Act standards limiting dangerous carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The groups also asked the President to reaffirm the administration’s commitment to issue strong standards that significantly reduce carbon emissions from both new and existing power plants as the Clean Air Act requires.

#### **LWV Asks House to Promise to Protect Public Health - Sep 08, 2011**

LWV President, Elisabeth MacNamara, sent a letter to the House of Representatives asking them to make the promise to protect public health through clean air standards.

## CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES Submitted by Judith Cook

I had the opportunity to attend and register voters at citizenship ceremonies on Wednesday, September 28. At 8:45 a.m. I met with women from three other Leagues and we each received a clipboard and a cup of ballpoint pens. Prior to the commencement of the ceremony, three of us moved among the immigrants, helping them find their voter registration form in their packets, handing out pens and assisting the participants in filling out the forms.

People were eagerly filling out voter registration forms. There were men and women seeking citizenship from all over the world, from Antigua-Barbuda to Somalia. Most of the men were in suits and ties and many of the women wore beautiful native dress. At the afternoon ceremony the immigration services officer was a survivor of the killing fields in Cambodia. He spoke of his journey to the U.S.

As each country of origin was read, the people from that country all stood. An oath was then administered. At the beginning of the ceremony the National Anthem was sung, at the end a video address from President Obama was shown and finally the *Proud to Be an American* video by Lee Greenwood was shown.

When the new citizens filed out, they handed the LWV representatives their completed voter registration form. We registered 265 voters. It was great experience. I encourage any of you that have the opportunity to register voters at a citizenship ceremony to do so.



Judith Cook, Membership Chair with newly naturalized citizens.

## St. Louis Park Results from the 2010 Census Presented by Susan Brower

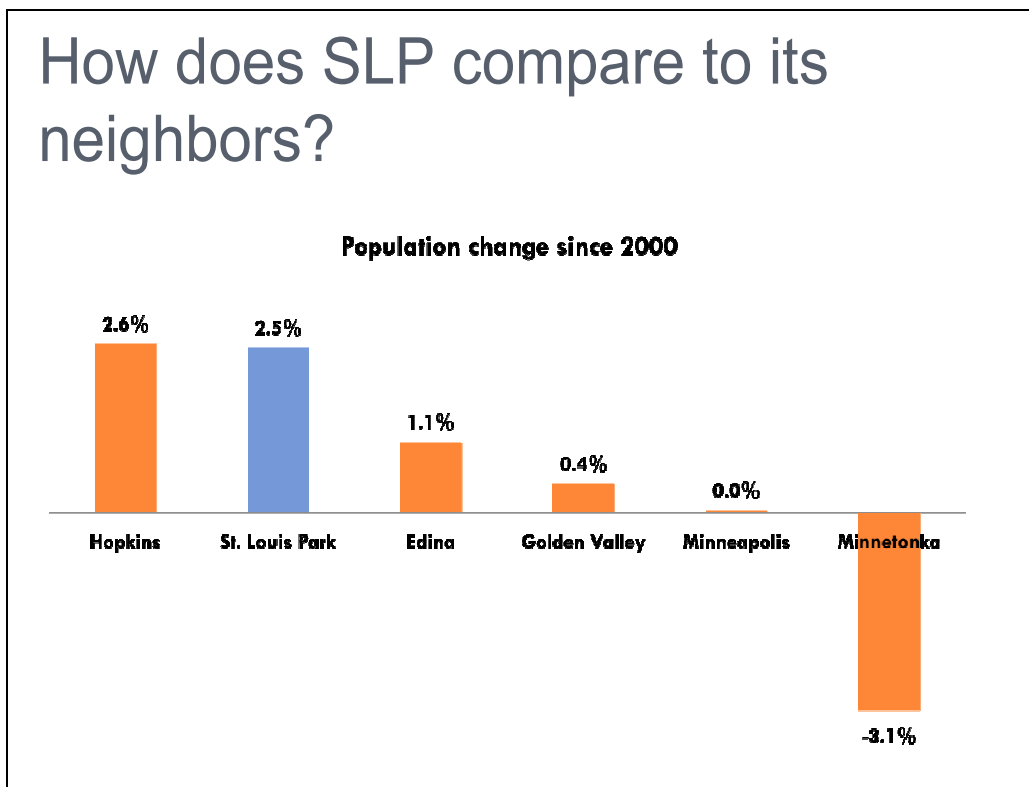
Susan Brower, a researcher at the Minnesota State Demographic Center, analyzes demographic and social trends and presents findings to audiences around the state. Her previous employment includes working as a researcher on the Minnesota Compass project at Wilder Research in St. Paul and at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan. Susan is currently a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Michigan, specializing in demography and family sociology.

At the LWV SLP Unit meetings, Susan presented many facts about St. Louis Park using the most recent census data. Highlights from her presentation include data about population, age, race and ethnicity, jobs and workers, poverty, geographic mobility, policy landscape and redistricting.

Email [demography.help@state.mn.us](mailto:demography.help@state.mn.us) if you have additional questions.

### Population

How does St. Louis Park compare to its neighbors? The total population has grown more than most of our neighboring suburbs: from 44,126 in 2000 to 45,250 in 2010

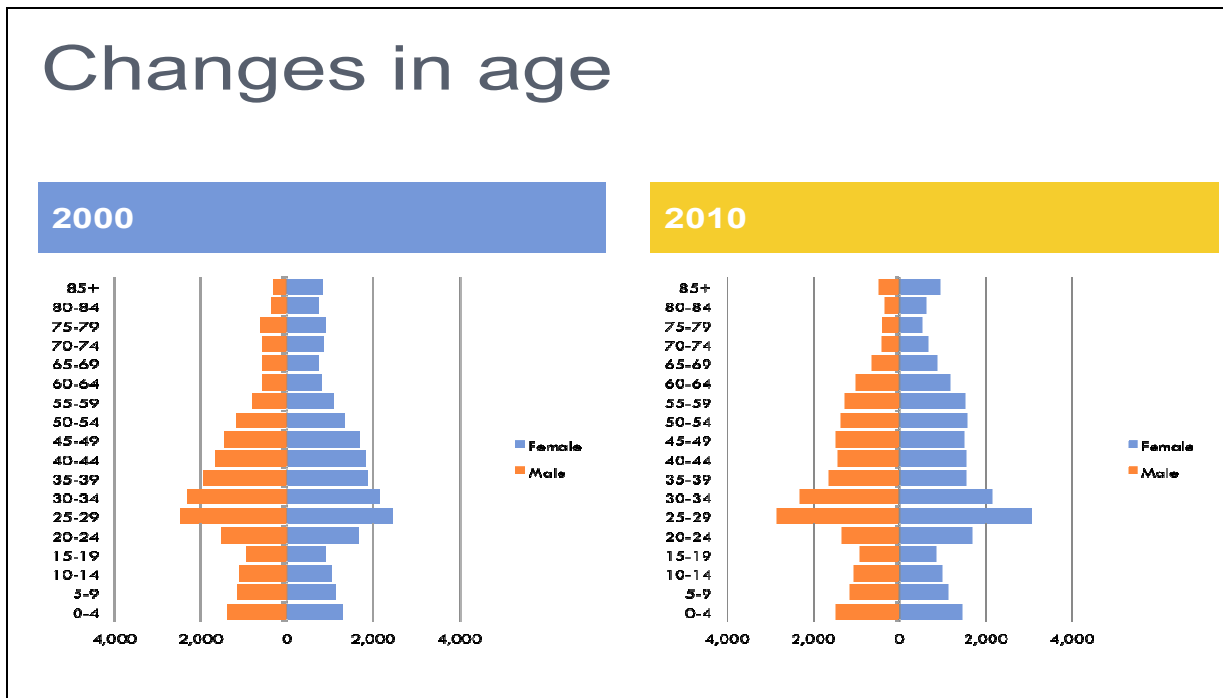




Results from the 2010 Census, continued...

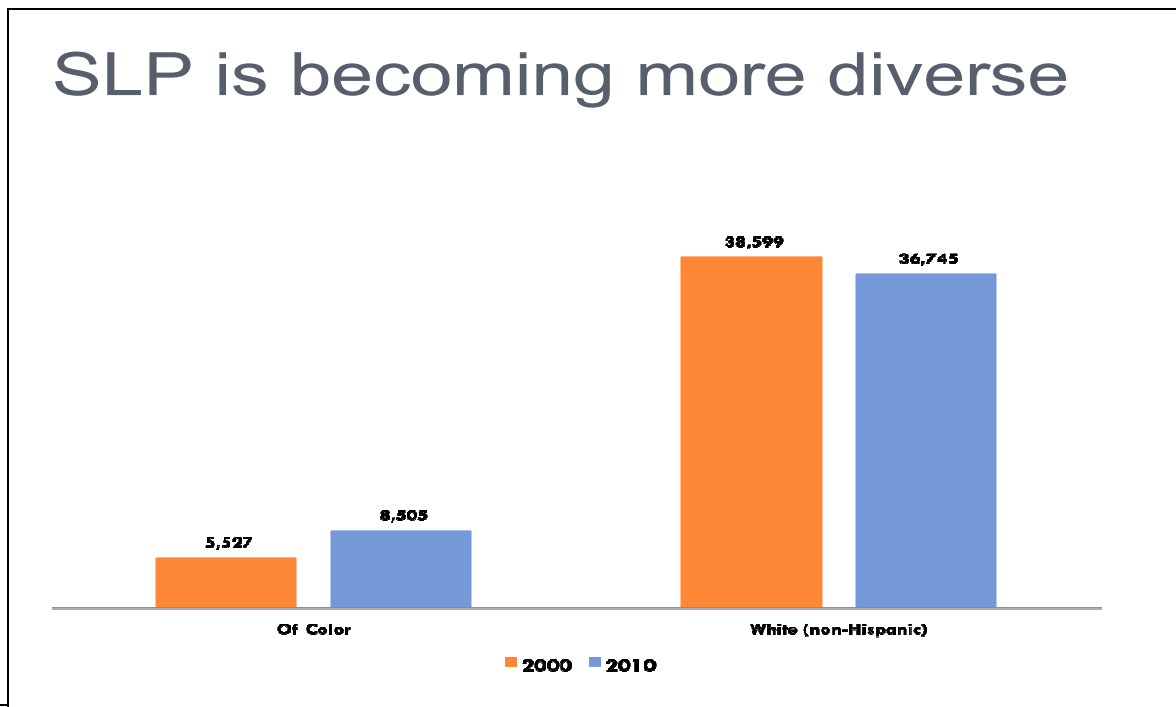
**Age**

How is St. Louis Park aging? The 25 to 29 age group increased more than any other age group.



**Race and Ethnicity**

How has diversity changed in the last ten years? Diversity increased from 5,527 in 2000 to 8,505 in 2010

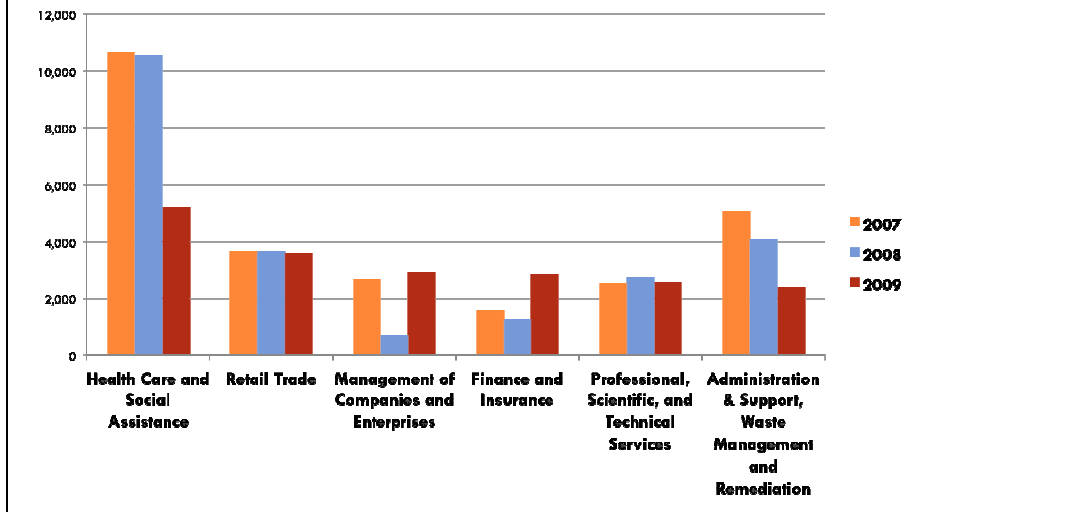


Results from the 2010 Census, continued....

**Jobs and Workers**

St. Louis Park jobs are primarily in Health Care and Social Assistance

5,500 jobs lost in Health Care and Social Assistance Industry 2007-2009



**Poverty**

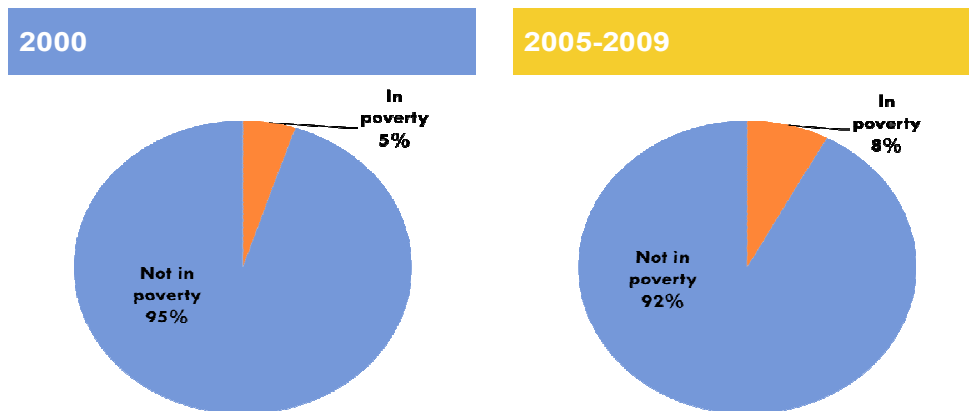
Poverty is defined as family of 4 income of \$21,800 or less

The percentage of families in poverty has increased from 5% in 2000 to 8% in 2009

Low Income is defined as a family of 4 income of \$40,330 - \$21,800

The percentage of low income families is currently 18%

Percent in poverty

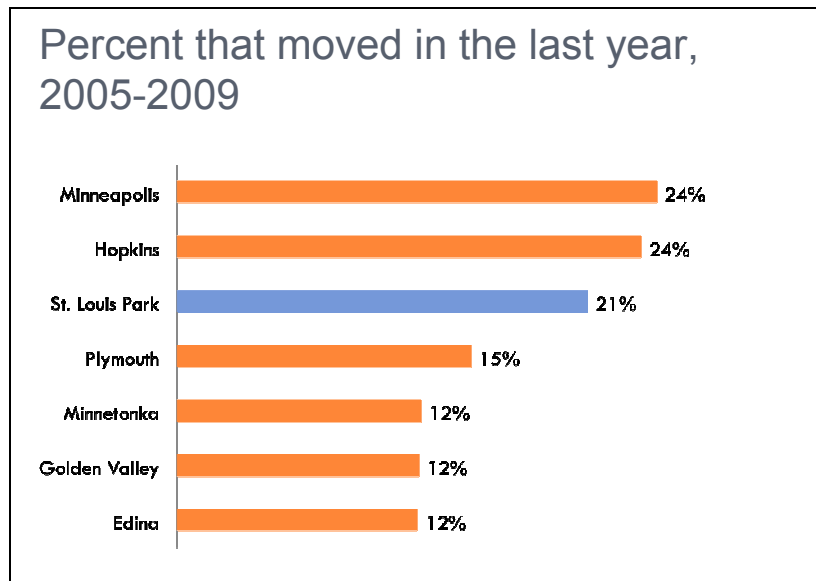


In 2009, the poverty threshold for a family of four:  
\$21,800

Results from the 2010 Census, continued....

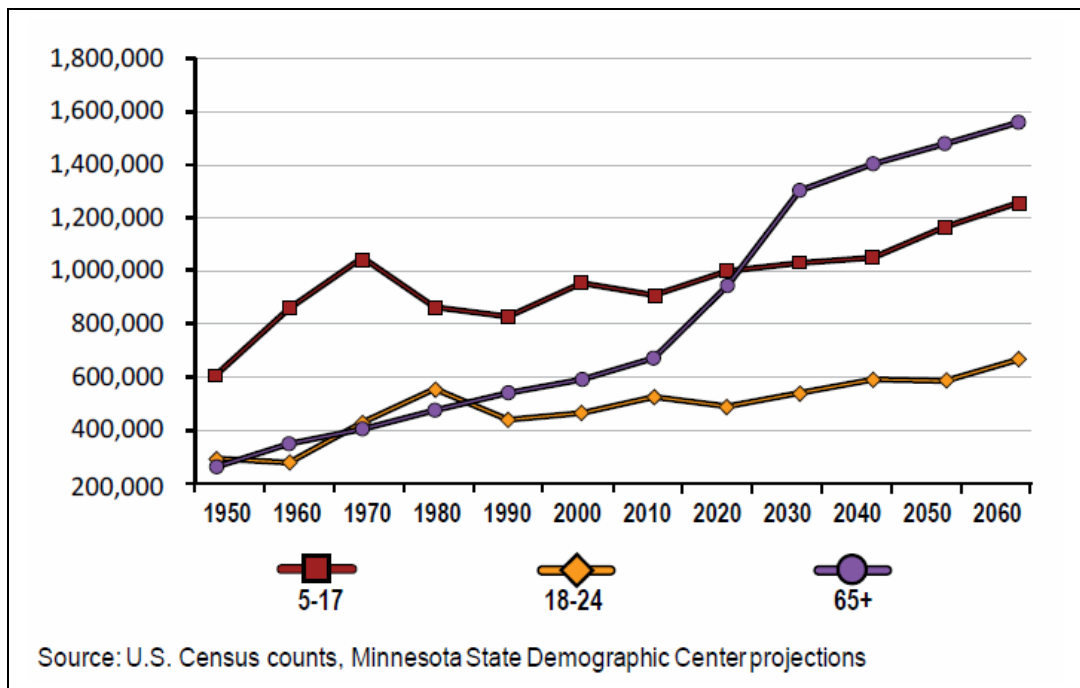
**Geographic Mobility**

How much moving do the St. Louis Park residents do? 21% of SLP citizens have moved in the last year. This includes moving within St. Louis Park.



**Policy Landscape**

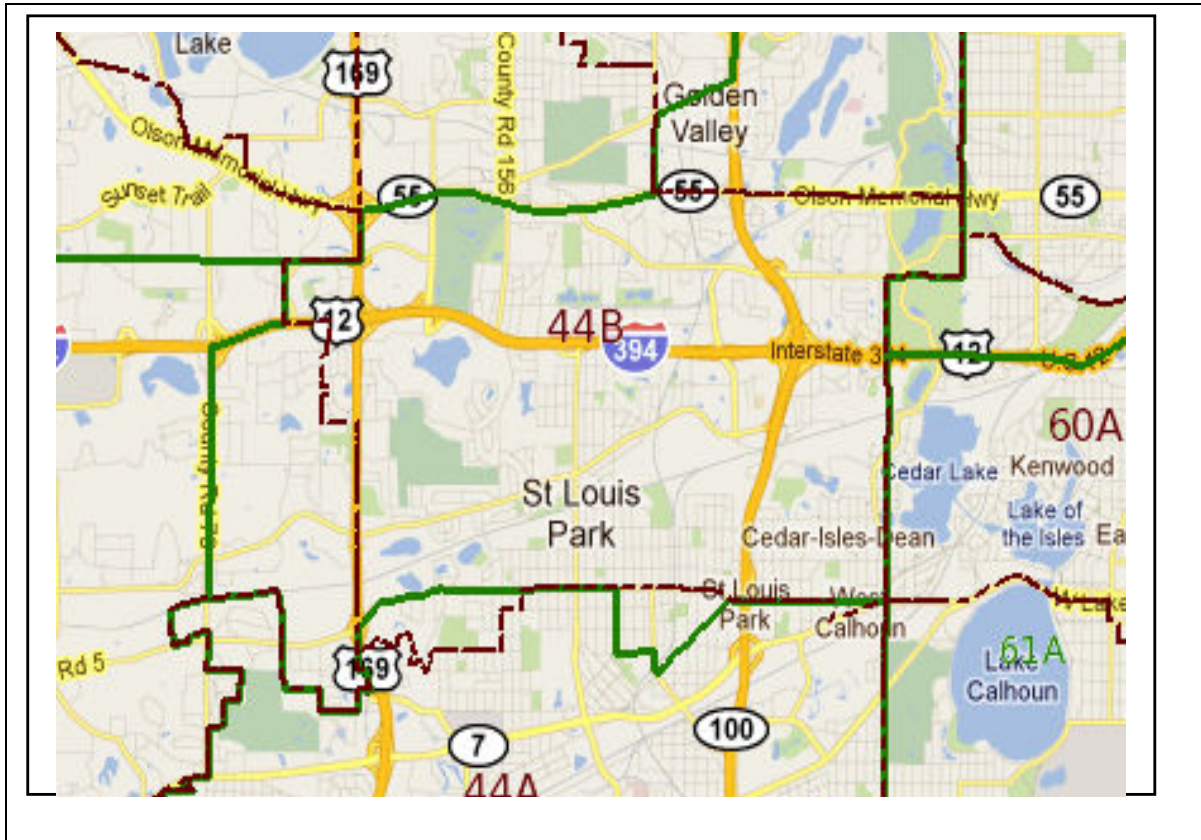
How is the St. Louis Park policy landscape changing? An increasing number of citizens 65 and over will create different spending pressures.



Results from the 2010 Census, continued....

**Redistricting**

Visit <http://www.gis.leg.mn/html/redistricting.html> for more information on the redistricting efforts. The dotted lines are the current house districts.



***September 29, 1986 – Democrats and Republicans set aside their political differences to introduce sweeping tax reform legislation***

## August Planning Meeting



Barbara Aslakson, Dorothy Karlson, Eilseen Knisley, Debbie Blake, Aggie Leitheiser, Allyson Sheldrew, Deb Brinkman and Barb Person planned the 2011 – 2012 LWV SLP Program in August. All LWV SLP members are invited and encouraged to participate in this annual planning session. If you are unable to attend, but have suggestions or ideas for topics or speakers, please contact a board member.

## Observer Reports

Observer Coordinator: Judith Cook 952-928-9846

**Judy Cook is coordinating the 2011 – 2012 Observer Reports. If you can attend a City Council Meeting or School Board meeting and type up a brief review of the meeting, please contact Judy at the number listed above. Remember to wear your pin at the meetings – our presence at the meetings is noted and appreciated.**

### **Test Your Knowledge** Answer

The short answer is that **YES**, when you register to vote your name goes into a pool where the names are selected for jury duty. But the fact is that your name can get on that list many different ways, including applying for a driver's license, buying a home and paying taxes, among other things. And you're eligible for jury duty whether you vote or not.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
Making **Democracy** Work®

**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2011-2012**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Aggie Leitheiser  
Vice President: Debbie Blake  
Secretary: Allyson Sheldrew  
Treasurer/W.Metro: Barb Person

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Observer/Publicity: Judy Cook  
Voter Service: Eilseen Knisely  
Membership: Judy Cook  
CMAL: Dorothy Karlson  
Voter Editor/Web: Deb Brinkman

**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 (dues and subscriptions are not tax deductible):**

- First Year Introduction \$25.00
- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
- Family Membership (household) \$70.00

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

Judy Cook  
4010 Highwood Lane  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
(952-928-9846) [jcook422@comcast.net](mailto:jcook422@comcast.net)



4327 Alabama Avenue, South  
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(952-928-9846  
[jcook42@comcast.net](mailto:jcook42@comcast.net)

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**LWV Mission Statement**

*The League of Women Voters, 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. <http://www.lwvmn.org/local/Leagues/SLP>*