



1920-2024

# **NEW MEMBER GUIDE**

***Welcome to the  
League of  
Women Voters  
Bloomington!***

## **LWV BLOOMINGTON: ABOUT US**

The League of Women Voters Bloomington (LWVB) is a non-partisan, political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The Bloomington League has a long history in the community and is a resource for questions about issues, candidates, voting procedures, and resident involvement.

We meet regularly throughout the year, and register voters, coordinate candidate forums, community service projects, informational events, and other activities.

## **MESSAGE FOR NEW MEMBERS from LWV Minnesota**

You are now a member of a vital and historic organization. The League has local, state, and national levels, parallel to our three levels of government, and you are now a member of all three. You can work on local issues through your local League, state issues through the state league ([LWVMN](#)), and on national issues through the national League ([LWVUS](#)).

Anyone who supports the mission of LWV is welcome and we strive to represent the entire community. In addition to meeting others who are also passionate about civic engagement, you will have opportunities to learn new skills and learn about public policy issues. *Welcome!*



## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS U.S.: MISSION AND VISION**

The League of Women Voters ([LWVUS](#)) encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. Welcome!



# STAY CONNECTED!

- **Member Meetings:** *First Tuesday of Each Month (6:30pm-8:00pm) in person via zoom or phone conference.*
- **Board Meetings:** *Third Tuesday of the Month (6:30pm-8:00pm) – All members are invited to attend.*

## 2024 LWVB MEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

Member meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month except for Fourth of July holiday and general election day conflicts. See League website [lwv-bloomington.com](http://lwv-bloomington.com) for topics.

*There are three ways you can attend the meetings:*

**In-Person:** Bloomington City Building – McLeod or Dakota Conference Room

**Zoom (virtual):** Will be advised via email with monthly agenda.

**Phone Conference:** Will be advised via email with monthly agenda.

## LWVB ANNUAL CALENDAR:

*Additional activities and event updates are issued monthly.*

See League website [lwv-bloomington.com](http://lwv-bloomington.com).

# LWVB COMMITTEES

*Join a committee or volunteer for an event any time! You are always welcome. Sign up or share interest/questions to [lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org).*

## **Voter Services (Voter Education) Committee**

This is the League's year-round efforts to help citizens become informed voters, including organizing candidate forums and a salad supper with local candidates.

## **Communications Committee**

This committee manages social media communications and public/member outreach.

## **Voter Registration and Outreach Committee**

This collective is our year-round efforts in registering voters and providing voting information.

## **Membership and Welcome Committee**

The "welcome wagon" orients new members, and connects interests with actions and resources.

## **Advocacy and Action Committee**

Local League members act on current LWV positions and principles through testimony, letters, phone calls, coalitions, community outreach, and media campaigns.

## **Educational Programming Committee**

Designed to involve the membership and citizens through local priorities fostered by opportunity in current events and the community.

## **Youth/Student Projects**

Fosters healthy connections between LWVB and Bloomington schools, and advises committees and the Board of Directors on relevant matters and scholarship awards.

# VOLUNTEER FOR ANNUAL EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Volunteer for an event or a project at any time! You are always welcome. Send us your questions or share your interest: [lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org).

## The list keeps growing!

- ★ Civics Bee
- ★ Earth Day
- ★ Candidate videos
- ★ Candidate Forums and Candidate Salad Supper
- ★ Phone bank volunteers
- ★ Voter registration
- ★ Voter Guide
- ★ Citizenship ceremonies
- ★ Send postcards to elected officials supporting LWV positions on issues

## FAQS



*From the LWV Minnesota New Member Guide.*

### **What is the member's place within the LWV?**

Every member is a member of all three levels of LWV: national, state, and local. Members work on local issues in the community through the local League; act on problems of state government through the state League; and work on

national governmental issues through the national League. If LWV Minnesota or a local league is part of an Inter-League Organization (ILO), a member could also work on the county level, a river basin, or a multistate metropolitan region depending on the geographic area represented by the ILO.

### **What kinds of activities are available for individual members?**

There are many opportunities for individual League members to learn about the LWV, participate in its deliberations and express personal points of view:

- Committees in the League can be local, state, or national and they offer members the opportunity to work on a League activity or to study an issue.
- Members can also work on state League committees like communications, membership, budget, nominations, voter service, inclusion, or action.
- Workshops/Trainings/Forums are open to all members. They can focus on a policy area, assist members in various leadership roles, or both.
- Meetings offer an opportunity for wide discussion and exchange of ideas; and allow the board to inform members of its plans and actions, to receive suggestions, vote on issues, and socialize.

### **Who is eligible for membership in the League of Women Voters?**

Anyone who wants to become informed about issues and actively participate in the democratic process may join the League. Voting League members are at least 16 years of age. ***Men are welcome and we do have male members.***

### **What do I receive for paying my dues?**

When you pay your dues, you become a member of the national, state, and local Leagues. League membership offers you unlimited opportunities to make a difference, become a leader, and develop skills speaking in public, interviewing, organizing, event planning, and writing. It is also a way to form friendships and build professional networks based upon mutual enthusiasm and concerns. Perhaps the most valuable benefit is becoming a better-informed and more effective citizen!

Dues are collected each year; dues for members and friends are as follows:

- Individual \$ 75.00
- Household \$ 110.00
- Student \$ 13.50
- Financial Hardship \$ 13.50 (for questions, contact the LWVB President)

### **What information will I receive?**

You will automatically receive the following emails:

- Capitol Letter
- People Powered Fair Maps™
- Action Alerts MN
- All Member News MN

*You may unsubscribe to these automatic emails at any time.*

For additional MN information, visit <https://www.lwvmn.org/member-resources>



## LWVB QUICK CONTACTS

### **LWVB CONTACTS**

President Corinne Shepherd: [lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org)

### **LWVMN CONTACTS**

Michelle Witte, Executive Director [mwitte@lwvmn.org](mailto:mwitte@lwvmn.org) 651-424-4600

Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director [sstreukens@lwvmn.org](mailto:sstreukens@lwvmn.org) 651-424-4606

### **IMPORTANT WEBSITES**

Local: [WWW.LWV-BLOOMINGTON.COM](http://WWW.LWV-BLOOMINGTON.COM)

State: [WWW.LWVMN.ORG](http://WWW.LWVMN.ORG)

U.S.: [WWW.LWV.ORG](http://WWW.LWV.ORG)

### **Member Resources from the League of Women Voters Minnesota**

Helpful links to everything from Action and Advocacy to Voter Services

<https://www.lwvmn.org/member-resources>

*Please contact us if you need this in another language!*

***Welcome to LWV Bloomington!***

***We look forward to sharing activities and friendship with you!***