



## THE VOTER

### BLOOMINGTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWSLETTER

#### SUMMER 2023



**Welcome, members and friends of LWVB to our Newsletter!**

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**Quick Fact: Every election year, Minnesota leads the nation in voter participation!**

#### **Welcome New and Renewing Members:**

- Cathy Cheeseman
- Matt Dymoke
- Nelly Korman
- Mia Olson

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT**

The Voter Registration & Outreach, Voter Services and Welcome Committees have opportunities for additional volunteers. Our League is entering our “busy election season” so there will be many opportunities to volunteer.

Watch for the event sign-up email notices that are sent to members or email us at [lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org).

## Upcoming 2023 Election Dates

- August 1 - August 15, until 5 p.m. filing date for 2023 Bloomington candidates
- August 23, 2023: First debate of the Republican presidential primary, moderated by Fox anchors Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum
- The Democratic Party does not plan to hold presidential primary debates.
- September 22 through November 6 [Vote early in person](#)
- October 17 [Register in advance](#) at the City of Bloomington City Hall by October 17 to save time on Election Day, when you can register at your polling place
- November 7, 2023, **ELECTION DAY**

### School Board Elections Bloomington (ISD 271)

The term for a School Board member is four years. School Board members are elected in the odd years. The next election will be November 7, 2023. There is no primary election for School Board members. The term of three current School Board members expires December 31, 2023: Nelly Korman, Mia Olson, and Heather Starks.

## LWVMN 2023 Legislative Session Recap and Next Steps

The 2023 MN Legislative Session was a productive one for LWVMN's legislative priorities. Members engaged in many ways on a variety of issues impacting our communities. Hear from those who advocated at the Capitol, make sense of what passed, and learn about what is next.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZL-gnxO0PA>

## Voting Information

*“Democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the others that have been tried”*  
– Winston Churchill.



On election day Tuesday, November 7, Bloomington voters will consider three separate ballot questions – one for each of the three projects in the Bloomington Forward plan.

If voters approve the ballot questions, a half-percent citywide sales tax will be authorized to fund the projects. Voters can approve using the half-cent sales tax option for each project separately.

**2023 General Election** Bloomington voters will use ranked choice voting in the November 7 city election. Voters will have the following races on their ballots:

- Mayor
- City Councilmember At-Large
- City Councilmember At-Large (special election, two-year term)
- District Council Members (1-4)

Interested in learning about the qualifications to run for an office?

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/become-a-candidate/candidate-qualifications/>

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## Calendar



### [Bloomington Summer Farmers Market](#)

East Lot, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road

The 2023 summer Farmers Market is held each Saturday, June 10 - October 14, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. outdoors at Bloomington Civic Plaza. Farmers, growers, and producers sell their own products directly to the public. Our league will have a booth on September 30.

## [Fifth Annual EV \(Electric Vehicle\) Expo](#)

September 23, 2023

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church  
2200 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church is hosting the annual Electric Vehicle Expo on Saturday, September 23, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Test drives, food, and fun for kids will all be available. Those who have attended in prior years agree that this is a not-to-miss event!

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## RECENT LWVB MEMBER NEWS

**May** Corinne Shepherd, LWVB president, led the group through a brainstorming exercise on topics around misinformation and disinformation for the 2023-24v work plan.

### **Member Breakfast**

A small group of members met on May 1 for breakfast and to celebrate May Day! Members below L-R: Marilyn Kelly, Katharine Husted, Lynn Lundeborg, David Zarkin, Terry Mackin.

It was a nice, social get-together. Sorry, no food photos provided!



## Kennedy High School Voter Registration



Our Voter registration volunteers were at Kennedy High school in May. It was fun to register new voters and try to stump them with our “spin the wheel quiz. L-R Chris Clark ( Committee co-chair ), Lauren Braswell, Cindy Royce. Thank you volunteers!

## Community Resource Event at VEAP

Volunteers Denise Royer (committee co-chair), Marcia Wattson and Lori Roy participated at the recent Community Resource Fair at VEAP. This event gave participants information about resources available in Bloomington and gave LWVBloomington additional exposure. Thank you for volunteering.



## The ECO Fair in Richfield

Several LWVB members attended the Earth Day Eco Fair hosted by the LWV Richfield. It was a very comprehensive exhibit. Program co-chairs, Annette Robinson and Angie Begosh attended the event as a show of support for our League neighbors.



## Recent member meetings



**June** The member meeting on June 6 featured a speaker from Blue Cross/Blue Shield who gave an overview of the Citizen Blue program they developed to educate employees about Civic Engagement. It is a long-running, innovative, and successful program. CitizenBlue's approach focuses on providing nonpartisan information to associates as a key part of their civic engagement efforts. CitizenBlue's approach focuses on providing nonpartisan information to associates as a key part of their civic engagement efforts.

## LWVMN Annual Convention, June 2-3, New Ulm. MN



The Bloomington Delegation to the State convention included L-R: Denise Royer, Corinne Shepherd, Pat Meyer, Lynn Lundeberg, Katharine Husted, Judy Jones.

**July 11, Mike Dardis**, President of Bloomington Remembers Veterans, provided an overview of the organization's project dedicated to the mission of honoring and recognizing veterans from all times of service. Local veterans and volunteers established a nonprofit in 2018 to build a permanent veterans tribute in the city they call home. The nonprofit, Bloomington Remembers Veterans Inc., has since worked closely with the City to plan for a future memorial on the grounds of Civic Plaza.

The six military branches will be recognized in the design through armatures and service emblems. Individual recognition will be provided through symbolic dog tags hanging from the armatures with QR codes that visitors can scan to learn more about the veteran listed and their service. the armatures with QR codes that visitors can scan to learn more about the veteran listed and their service

To learn more about donating or volunteering with the project visit [bloomingtonveteransmemorial.org](http://bloomingtonveteransmemorial.org).

A blue poster for the 'JULY MEMBER MEETING' of the LWV League of Women Voters of Bloomington. The poster features the LWV logo and the organization's name at the top. In the center is a circular emblem for 'Bloomington Remembers Veterans Inc.' with an American flag and 'est. 2018'. To the right, the text reads 'JULY MEMBER MEETING' in large yellow letters. Below that, it specifies the date and location: 'Tuesday, July 11, 2023, Bloomington Civics Plaza, McLeod Conference Room'. It also lists the time: '6 p.m. Social | 6:30 p.m. Call to Order'. At the bottom, it identifies the guest: 'GUEST: MIKE DARDIS, PRESIDENT | BLOOMINGTON REMEMBERS VETERANS'.

# THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON HAS A NEW WEBSITE TO INFORM RESIDENTS ABOUT A PROPOSED INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Bloomington Sun-Current

The City of Bloomington has officially launched a new website – [BloomingtonForward.org](https://BloomingtonForward.org) – designed to inform residents about a proposed \$159 million investment in community amenities that bring residents together and enhance their quality of life. The website contains a broad range of details about a long-term City plan, called **Bloomington Forward**, to invest in three major capital projects that support health, wellness, athletics, and recreation in the community.

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## LWV Registers Newly Enfranchised Voters

On July 7, LWV partnered with US Probation and Pretrial Services, Department of Corrections, and other community partners to host multi-site voter registration events in 6 cities (Mpls, St. Paul, Rochester, Duluth, Bemidji, and Fergus Falls), to support the voter registration and educational needs of our newly-enfranchised voters who have left prison behind. A special thanks to our local Leagues in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, Duluth, and Bemidji for their leadership of these successful events. LWV remains relevant and needed, as we work to implement the new election laws in support of our voters!

Check out the excellent news coverage of our initiative:

[Fox9 News](#) **League of Women Voters Minnesota Partners with Department of Corrections and --Others to Host Voter Registration Events for Recently Enfranchised People**

# Citizenship Ceremonies

Citizenship ceremonies are the culmination of the naturalization process and are a momentous and celebratory time for all involved! For over 30 years, the League of Women Voters Minnesota, the US Federal Court System, and US Customs and Immigration Services have worked together to host these milestone ceremonies for Minnesota's newest citizens, more recently swearing in 1,000 people per ceremony. To volunteer, [click this link](#).

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## August

- Monday, August 28, 2023
- 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM



- Minnesota State Fair 1265 Snelling Avenue North Saint Paul, 55108 ([map](#)) Please note that the August 28 Ceremony is being held at the Minnesota State Fair on the International Bazaar State, NOT at the St. Paul Center

## Communicating about “Electoral College”

If you like to discuss politics, "electoral college" may be in your vocabulary. For the 2023 election, check your pronunciation. It is pronounced "e-LEK-tor-al," not "e-lek-TOR-al" (this editor pleads guilty).

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**\*\*JOIN THE BLOOMINGTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023! \*\***

### ABOUT US

LWVB is active all year. We invite both men and women to join us. We register voters, create, and distribute voter information, conduct candidate forums, and sponsor events such as the Civics Bee for students. Our monthly member meetings offer an opportunity to make friends with other members. We get in-depth non-partisan information and discuss on topics such as Ranked choice voting, Citizen Blue, ERA and to meet elected and appointed community leaders such as Bloomington's Racial Equity Coordinator and Bloomington's City Clerk.

[BLOOMINGTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS \(lww-bloomington.com\)](https://lww-bloomington.com) and click on the RENEW/JOIN page.

## CONNECT WITH LWVB!

Website: <https://lww-bloomington.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVBloomingtonpage/>

Email: [lwwbloomington@lwwmn.org](mailto:lwwbloomington@lwwmn.org)

