

2021 Member Handbook

Welcome

League of Women Voters Naperville is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, and works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government. The League works to influence public policy through citizen education and advocacy.



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

(630) 277-9582 www.lwvnaperville.org

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The League participates in [League of Women Voters of Illinois](http://www.lwvill.org/) ([https://www.lwvill.org/](http://www.lwvill.org/)) and [League of Women Voters of the US](http://www.lwv.org/) ([https://www.lwv.org/](http://www.lwv.org/)) policy positions.

Now That You Have Joined – What Next?

We hope that you will use your membership as a chance to become more involved in your community and to meet others who share your interests and concerns. Some of our members just want to stay informed and join us at our variety of events.

Some members are ready to get more involved.

Our Activities and How You Can Get Involved

Join us for our Monthly Action Meetings on the second Wednesday of every month. We'll have updates on activities and generally a speaker of local interest. Currently the meetings will be held by Zoom.

We have a variety of activities that rely on volunteers' ongoing commitment. We have other one-time opportunities that might fit your schedule better. Here are some of them.

Voter Service and Voter Education

What Is Voter Service?

The League's voter services activities are designed to provide citizens with unbiased, factual information that can be used as a basis for understanding the election process and reaching their own voting decisions.

What Is Voter Education?

The League's citizen education activities, on the other hand, provide information on public issues, including those on which we have a position such as the climate and environmental policy; diversity, equity and inclusion; the Equal Rights Amendment; and the Illinois Fair Tax Amendment.

Voter Registration



Marcia Patterson, Voter Registration Director,

lvwnaperville.voterservice3@gmail.com

Many of our members are voter registrars and voter registration is a key component of our mission. Typically we hold registration events throughout the year and you'll have many opportunities to help out. Contact our Voter Registration Director to learn how easy it is to become a registrar and fulfill a key part of our mission. Once you are trained, this ongoing effort typically requires a few hours a couple times a year based on your availability.

National Voter Registration Day

League of Women Voters of Naperville is a partner in [National Voter Registration Day](#), a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy. First observed in 2012, it has quickly gained momentum ever since. Nearly 3 million voters have registered to vote on the holiday to date.

Celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of September, National Voter Registration Day will next take place on September 28, 2021. The holiday has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and the National Association of Election Officials (The Election Center). For more information about how you can help, please contact our Voter Registration Director.

Birthday Boxes



Annette Smith, prspt@aol.com

Birthday boxes are distributed to high school students turning 18 in hopes of turning them into life-long voters. The boxes contain important information about how to register, the importance of voting, and how to vote if the student goes away to college or university. They also contain handwritten notes wishing the student a “happy birthday”. We also reach out to students via their electronic *backpacks*. Volunteers are needed throughout the year to write notes, assemble the boxes, deliver and distribute the boxes to the schools in Districts 203 and 204, review and generate new ideas for the boxes, and revamp the contents as needed. This on-going effort requests 2-4 hours 3 or 4 times per year. Interested members can contact Annette Smith at prspt@aol.com

VOTE411



Gail Ryan, Voter Service Assistant and Director, Vote411 and High School Educational Programs. lwnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com

VOTE411.org is an online voter guide brought to you by The League of Women Voters Education Fund. It allows you, based on your address, to see what’s on your ballot, check your voter registration, and discover upcoming candidate forums in our area. Our Voter Services Assistant enters our local information, contacts candidates, verifies information, works with the website administrator and more. In recent years, the League has partnered with local high schools to educate students about the voting process. Please contact lwnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com if you have interest in helping. Much of this work can be done from home at your convenience.

Candidate Forums



Anne Mathews, Voter Service Director,
lwnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com

COVID-19 caused us to pivot to a new delivery mechanism for our forums. During the pandemic, we moved our forums online utilizing Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube. This change allowed us to reach a record number of community members and thus will be our ongoing

delivery mechanism for the forums. Following our mission of being nonpartisan:

- We only use League trained moderators from outside of the district
- League adheres to all LWVUS and FEC regulations; we do not hold ‘empty chair’ forums
- All official candidates are invited and each candidate has equal time during the forum

Candidate Forums are held during appropriate election cycles. Candidates need to be contacted, questions written, venues planned, moderators scheduled, timers trained, and more. If you’d like to help out with forums and other candidate events, please contact our Voter Service Director at lwnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com.

Stroll to the Polls



Voter Service Director, lwnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com

Stroll to the Polls is an award winning get-out-the-vote precinct canvassing project coordinated with Naperville High School teachers and students. It takes place before certain election cycles. We need volunteers to help assemble the packets about a week before the Stroll takes place. Then we generally need 4-6 League members to help on the day of the Stroll to help the teachers distribute materials to the high school students. If you’d like to help out, please contact our Voter Service Director.

Event Programing



Kelly Mahoney, Events Director, lwnaperville.events@gmail.com

Volunteers help plan and produce monthly programs that line up with timely events and reflect LWVN annual program concerns, e.g. Climate Emergency. Other events that require planning help include “fun” membership building events, the Annual Program Planning Meeting, and the Annual League Meeting. Contact our Events Director to help organize.

Voter Girl Project and Youth Outreach



Laurie Donahue, laurie.donahue37@gmail.com

Volunteers work together in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana to run civics education events for Girl Scouts in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. Committee members work with Girl Scouts to plan event dates, coordinate needed materials, and assign tasks for the day's events. Voter Girl Project is a great way to encourage the next generation of voters to become informed, active citizens. We are always looking for ways to interact with future voters. With new ideas and to help, contact Laurie at laurie.donahue37@gmail.com.

Book Group



Mary Ellen Middleton,
mem4books@gmail.com

Book Group is a great way to meet interesting people, read topical non-fiction, join in thoughtful discussions, and learn

about LWV Naperville. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm AND the 3rd Friday of the month at 12:30 pm by Zoom. Both groups read the same book the same month - come when you can! We ask you to register for the event by going to the League [website](#) or by checking The Voter newsletter each month. For more information about the books scheduled for specific dates, contact Mary Ellen at mem4books@gmail.com or go to the League website: <http://lwvnaperville.org/lwv-naperville-book-group/>

Social Media



Social Media Director, Allison Casey lwvnaperville.socialmedia@gmail.com

Social Media includes all types of electronic communication, including the website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Volunteers with interest and expertise in any of these areas are welcome. Volunteers in this position also often help with print media needs.

Membership

Membership Director, TBD, lvnaperville.membership@gmail.com

The Membership committee reaches out to new members to welcome them to the League, give them information about involvement opportunities, and provide information about committees and events. Membership also conducts regular and intentional outreach to current and potential members.

Environmental Issues

Cathy Clarkin cclarkin@twocanoes.com & Susan Greenwood sgreenw288@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Naperville has a long history of advocating for local environmental issues; from founding curbside recycling in Naperville, to working for cleanup of lead shot at Sportsman's Park. The environmental committee holds regular events throughout the year. Contact Cathy or Susan to help plan events and support these efforts.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Tom Craighead tcraighead@gmail.com

The DEI Committee works to bring diversity, equity, and inclusion to LWV Naperville. We are looking for ways to expand our reach into the community. Contact Tom for more information.

The Voter Newsletter



Kay Severinsen, Newsletter Director lvnaperville.thevoter@gmail.com.

The League newsletter, The Voter, goes out monthly via Mail Chimp.

Individuals submit material and The Voter editor assembles the material, designs, completes and schedules the newsletter. Contact the Newsletter

Director with comments, questions or to volunteer.

Action and Advocacy Committee

TBA lvnaperville@gmail.com

The Advocacy Committee exists to promote awareness and action on League positions and issues. This is achieved in numerous ways. When applicable, action alerts from National, State and local Leagues are published on our website and in the monthly *Voter* newsletter. An advocacy component on relevant topic issues and/or

current events are featured at every League Day. In addition, we actively collaborate with the League committees to educate them on the legislative process, identifying effective ways in which to advocate and develop target messaging skills.

League Essentials

League Calendar

January	Annual Planning meeting/program planning
February	State Issues Briefing, an LWVIL event
March	Legislator Interviews
April	Lobby Day in Springfield
April/May	Candidate Forums as needed
May	Annual Meeting
June	Convention (state/national alternate years)
July	Membership renewals, League year begins
July	DuPage Legislator luncheon
July	New Board Orientation
September	Candidate Forums - based on election cycle

Meet the Board

President	Becky Simon	lwnaperville.president@gmail.com
Vice President	Susan Craighead	lwnaperville.vicepresident@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jeff Knezovich	treasurerforlwn@gmail.com
Secretary	Linda Mabee	lwnaperville.secretary@gmail.com
Events Director	Kelly Mahoney	lwnaperville.events@gmail.com
Membership Director	TBD	lwnaperville.membership@gmail.com
Voter Service Director	Anne Mathews	lwnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com
Voter Service Assistant/ VOTE 411 Director	Gail Ryan	lwnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com
Voter Registration Director	Marcia Patterson	lwnaperville.voterservice3@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair	Julie Niles	lwnaperville.nominating.chair@gmail.com
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Board Meetings

League of Women Voters of Naperville board meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7-9 pm. Meetings are open to all members. Contact the Board President for more information at lwwnaperville.president@gmail.com.

Important League Information

- The League is nonpartisan.
- The League of Women Voters of Naperville was founded in 1956. LWVUS was founded in 1920, just prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment. League of Women Voters is the direct modern descendant of the National American Women's Suffrage Association which fought for and won the right for women to vote.
- **Mission:** Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.
- League is a grassroots organization. The League is not a *top-down* organization.
- We do not endorse or oppose candidates for public office. Ever.
- We partner with other nonpartisan organizations.
- The League takes action on issues where we have adopted a position arrived at by study and consensus.
- Membership is open to men (since 1974) and anyone 16 or older.
- Archives are maintained at North Central College.

LWV Naperville Program

The League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward.

League Principles and positions on public policy issues are included in the LWVUS Bylaws.

- Continuation of Vote411
- Continuation of voter service initiatives, candidate forums, voter education for upcoming elections, and voter registration
- Support for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives
- Advocate for voting by mail to become the main means of casting a ballot
- Continuing support for environmental initiatives. The Environmental Committee is concentrating on two areas: working with IMEA (Illinois Municipal Electric Agency) to promote alternative energy resources and working with NEST (Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force) to support local efforts.

League of Women Voters of Illinois Recommended Program for 2021-22

Every two years, the 41 local Leagues that comprise League of Women Voters of Illinois make recommendations on **official LWVIL positions** ahead of the biennial convention. This year LWVIL asked local Leagues for feedback

on recommendations on 18 different current LWVIL positions ahead of the 2021 convention. Details are provided in [Where We Stand 2019-2021](#).

League of Women Voters US Priorities for 2021-22

For informational purposes, following are the [LWVUS priorities](#) with the new national administration:

- Pass the 'For the People' Act to increase voter access
- Restore the Voting Rights Act
- Implement fair redistricting
- Ensure equal rights for all
- Comprehensive immigration reform
- Address the climate change crisis
- Ensure quality health care for all Americans
- End gun violence in America
- Ensure peace and climate justice abroad

Notable League of Women Voters of Naperville members

League of Women Voters of Naperville values and learns from the experience of our members.

Bev Parker: Bev is a former LWV Naperville Board member and a 50-year member of The League.

Judy Brodhead: Judy is a member of Naperville City Council and professor at North Central College.

Mary Ellen Barry: Mary Ellen is a League member, past president of LWVIL and past member of the Board of Directors of LWVUS.

Peg Price: The late mayor of Naperville was our city's first and so far only female mayor. Peg was also a League member who lived true to League's mission by being active in civic affairs.

How The League of Women Voters Is Organized

- LWV Naperville is both a 501(c)3 for voter service, and a 501(c)4 for issues advocacy and education.
 - LWV Naperville acts as a 501(c)3 when we conduct voter education, such as candidate forums, GOTV efforts. Our funds for this are held by LWVIL in an Education Fund.
 - LWV Naperville acts as a 501(c)4 when we advocate for issues where we have a position, such as the Equal Rights Amendment and the Fair Tax Amendment.
- League of Women Voters has organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Your League of Women Voters of Naperville membership also makes you a member of League of Women Voters of Illinois and League of Women Voters of the U.S. Local League's work on local issues and concerns.

- DuPage Area Leagues: League of Women Voters of Naperville works together with DuPage Area Leagues on areas of common interest. Leaders meet monthly. Aurora Area, Central Kane County, Downers Grove Woodridge Lisle, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, Roselle-Bloomingtondale, and Wheaton.
- ILO memberships: Inter League Organizations are formal League entities. Naperville belongs to the League of Women Voters of the Upper Mississippi River Region (LWVUMRR) <https://www.lwvumrr.org> and League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) <https://www.lwvlmr.org>.
- LWV Naperville Annual Meeting: Every year in late May or early June, LWV Naperville holds an annual meeting to elect new officers and amend bylaws. These meetings are open to all members.
- LWVIL and LWVUS hold biannual conventions in alternating years. LWVUS conventions will be held in even-numbered years: 2022, 2024, etc. LWVIL conventions are held in odd-numbered years: 2021, 2023, etc.

The League of Women Voters Bylaws and Policies

Please go to our website at lwvnaperville.org for our bylaws and other policies.