

2024 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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Follow us on Instagram

The League adheres to [League of Women Voters of Illinois](http://www.lwvil.org/) (<http://www.lwvil.org/>) and [League of Women Voters of the US](http://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 Ideas Forum Meetings on the second Wednesday of most months. 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. Please read through the opportunities below to see which might be a good fit for your skills, interests, and time availability.

Voter Service

What Is Voter Service?

The Voter Service Committee coordinates activities that are designed to provide voters with unbiased, factual information that can be used as a basis for understanding the election process. These activities include conducting candidate forums and updating Vote411.org for each election cycle, birthday boxes for students turning age 18 and thereby eligible for voter registration, get out the vote (GOTV) efforts, and other events that might present themselves as opportunities to support our Voter Service mission.

Voter Registration



Marcia Patterson, Voter Outreach Director

lvwnaperville.voterservice3@gmail.com

Many of our members are deputy registrars as 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 deputy 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.

National Voter Registration Day is typically celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of September. The day has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), the National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED), 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 age 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.” 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 ongoing effort involves 2-4 hours of volunteer work 3 or 4 times per year. Interested members can contact Annette Smith at prspt@aol.com

VOTE411



Gail Ryan, Voter Service Director, Vote411 and High School Educational Programs

lvwnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com

VOTE411.org is a nonpartisan online voter guide brought to you by The League of Women Voters Education Fund. It allows voters, based on their address, to see what’s on their ballot, check their voter registration, and discover upcoming candidate forums in their area. Our Voter Service Assistant enters 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 lvwnaperville.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

lwvnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com

Our forums have been online utilizing Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube. This virtual delivery model allows us to reach numerous community members at their convenience. Following our mission of being nonpartisan:

- We only use League trained moderators from outside of the district
- League adheres to all LWVUS and Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations; we do not hold 'empty chair' forums
- All named candidates on the ballot are invited
- Each candidate has equal time for statements and to answer identical questions

Candidate forums are held during appropriate election cycles. Forums require contacting candidates, writing unbiased questions, creating publicity, setting up the technical side of a forum, scheduling moderators, training timers, and more. If you'd like to help out with forums and other candidate events, please contact our Voter Service Director at lwvnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com.

Issues and Advocacy Committee



Director - Eileen Rico

lwvnaperville.advocacy@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 Lobby 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 developing targeted messaging skills. Environmental issues are one of our ongoing areas of focus.

Environmental Issues

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, to advocating for a sustainable energy source that will free Naperville from its dependency on coal power. The environmental committee holds regular events throughout the year. Contact Susan to help plan events and support these efforts.

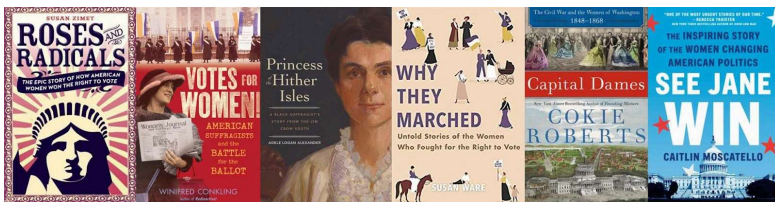
Event Programing

Julie Kulak, Events Director

lwvnaperville.eventschair@gmail.com

Volunteers help plan and produce monthly programs (the Monthly Ideas Forum meeting mentioned above) that line up with timely events and reflect LWVN annual program concerns, e.g. Climate Emergency. If you'd like to help out with our monthly programs, please contact our Events Director.

Book Group



Mary Ellen Middleton

mem4books@gmail.com

Book Group holds Zoom discussions on the third Friday of each month at 12:30 pm *and* the following Tuesday at 7pm with both groups

discussing the same book. The schedule of dates and books to be read for the year are listed at www.lwvnaperville.org/events/. Participating in Book Group is a great way to read and discuss topical non-fiction and also to become familiar with the LWV Naperville and some of its members. We ask you to register for the discussions at the League [website](http://www.lwvnaperville.org/) or in the *Voter*, the monthly email newsletter. There is no obligation to either be a LWVN member or to attend each month. Come when time and interest allow. For more information, contact Mary Ellen at mem4books@gmail.com.

Social Media



Social Media Director, Allison Casey

lwvnaperville.socialmedia@gmail.com

Social Media includes all types of electronic communication, including the website, Facebook 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, Donna Cheesebrough

lwvnaperville.membership@gmail.com

The Membership team 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.

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

lwvnaperville.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.

League Essentials

League Calendar Guideline

January	Annual Planning meeting/program planning process begins
February	Program Planning meeting; State Issues Briefing, an LWVIL event
March	Legislator Interviews
April	Lobby day in Springfield
April/May	Candidate forums as needed
May/June	Annual meeting
June	Convention (state/national alternate years)
July	Membership renewals, League year begins
July	New board orientation
September	Candidate forums - based on election cycle

Meet the Board

President	Susan Craighead	lwvnaperville.president@gmail.com
Vice President	Julie Niles	lwvnaperville.vicepresident@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Vernon	lwvnaperville.treasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Linda Mabee	lwvnaperville.secretary@gmail.com
Issues and Advocacy	Eileen Rico	lwvnaperville.advocacy@gmail.com
Membership Director	Donna Cheesebrough	lwvnaperville.membership@gmail.com
Voter Service Director	Anne Mathews	lwvnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com
VOTE411 Director	Gail Ryan	lwvnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com
Voter Outreach Director	Marcia Patterson	lwvnaperville.voterservice3@gmail.com
Events	Julie Kulak	lwvnaperville.eventschair@gmail.com
Social Media/Website	Allison Casey	lwvnaperville.socialmedia@gmail.com
Director At Large	Annual opening to person interested in learning about board operations	

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair	Karin Snodgrass	lwvnaperville.nominating.chair@gmail.com
Nominating Committee	Shirley DeCorte	sdecorte1@gmail.com

Board Meetings

Meetings are open to all members. Contact the Board President for more information at lwvnaperville.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 political parties or 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 for 2024-25

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 [Impact on Issues](#).

- **Organize and implement responses to issues on local, state, and national levels through local actions as appropriate**
Responses include, but are not limited to:
 - Letters to the editor
 - Speaking to civic and government entities (*not limited to city council specifically*)
 - Attending city government meetings
 - Witness slips
 - Rallies
 - Lobby Day, lobbying legislators
- **Advocate for issues that are important to Naperville, DuPage and Will Counties**
 - Monitor the status and outcomes of recently adopted government actions/decisions previously supported by the League, for example:
 - Assault weapons sales ban
 - Appointment process to City Boards and Commissions
 - 708 mental health boards
 - Organize and implement responses to local circumstances as appropriate (*not limited to city and county specifically*)

- **Advocate for Naperville Energy Concerns and other environmental issues**
 - Educate voters about the source of their electricity
 - Monitor contract negotiations with IMEA (Illinois Municipal Electric Agency) and take action to support sustainable outcomes
 - Monitor other environmental concerns as needed
 - Work with allies on efforts to promote sustainability with a particular focus on climate change
- **Support election integrity and ballot access in Will and DuPage Counties**
 - Continue to observe and support DuPage County and Will County election processes to ensure free and fair elections
 - Advocate for the protection of all participants in the election process *(added during meeting)*

League of Women Voters of Illinois Recommended Program for 2023-25

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. Details are provided in [Where We Stand 2021-2023](#).

LWV Naperville supports the proposed program focus of LWVIL as outlined in Where We Stand 2021-2023. This positioning document covers the following issues for the state of Illinois:

- **Representative Government**
 - Constitutional Implementation and Amendments
 - County Government Structure
 - Consolidation of Governmental Units
 - State Election Laws
 - State Redistricting
- **Natural Resources**
 - Land Use Policies
 - Large Scale Livestock Facilities
 - Pesticides
 - Water - Great Lakes Ecosystem
- **Social Policy**
 - Children's Services
 - Criminal Justice
 - Death Penalty Abolition
 - Gun Violence Prevention
 - Immigration
 - Income Assistance
 - Low and Moderate Income Housing
 - Mental Health
 - Schools
 - State Fiscal Policies

League of Women Voters US Program for 2024-2026

For informational purposes, following are the [LWVUS priorities](#) :

- LWV Naperville supports the proposed program focus of the US League, continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Redistricting, Money in Politics, and Direct Election of the President).
- LWV Naperville also supports adding the climate change threat to the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®.
- The proposed rationale is as follows: *Climate change threatens our democracy. Climate change is fueling extreme weather -- heat, wildfires, flooding, drought causing food shortages, creating refugees, threatening the biosphere, and impacting our economy, health, and national security. LWV must push harder for immediate reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to preserve civilization.*

Notable League of Women Voters of Naperville members

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

Becky Simon: Becky is LWVIL president for the 2023-2025 term. She is a former president and Issues and Advocacy director for the Naperville league.

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

Judy Brodhead: Judy was 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 and a 50-year member.

Barb Billardello: Barb is a 50-year member of The League.

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 the 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 and get out the vote (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 assault weapons ban.
- 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 Leagues 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. LWVIL conventions are held in odd-numbered years.

The League of Women Voters Bylaws and Policies

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