

# THE VOTER

## LWVBLOOMINGTON

WELCOME TO OUR APRIL / May 2023 NEWSLETTER!

### LWVB 2023 GOALS

- CLIMATE CHANGE
  - DEMOCRACY, VOTING, VOTER EDUCATION
  - DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
  - LWVB VISIBILITY AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT
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### CLIMATE CHANGE

APRIL WAS EARTH MONTH

## Check OUT What the Watershed District Does for You

... and What You Can Do for the Watershed

<https://www.ninemilecreek.org/>

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## Adopt a Drain! Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

The Bloomington LWV participates in the Adopt-a-Drain program and encourages Bloomington residents to join also.

Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.

The process of choosing one or more drains is easy.

Go to <https://mn.adopt-a-drain.org/> to see available drains.



indicates a drain already adopted.



is one that is available.

Click on one or more close to your home, apartment, church, boy scout troop, etc. It only takes about 15 minutes.

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## Happy Earth Day!

A positive unintended consequence of the pandemic is that we are seeing a significant decline in air pollution in major cities and many other environmental positives. We are seeing in real time that our actions impact the health of our environment.



**DEMOCRACY, VOTING, VOTER EDUCATION**

**Restore the Vote: Putting the New Law into Action**

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# What is the Equal Rights Amendment - And Why Do We Still Need It?



One of LWVB'S 2023 goals is "DEMOCRACY". Our March 7 Member meeting centered around the Equal Rights Amendment.



GUEST SPEAKER: Suzanne Willhite, President of ERA Minnesota

[ERA Minnesota](#), a nonprofit volunteer organization, is working to add an Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution through a ballot measure passed by popular vote. In addition, it joins efforts nationwide to enact the ratification of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The ERA Minnesota is a partner of the LWV Minnesota.

*“The ERA will empower Congress to pass laws that protect against discrimination and give people the power to fight discrimination in the workplace. Those aren’t radical ideas. They are popular ones.”*

Newsweek Magazine

Neither the U.S. Constitution nor the Minnesota Constitution mandates gender equality. The fight to add an Equal Rights Amendment has lasted 100 years.

The Equal Rights Amendment reads:

*Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.*

*Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, with appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.*

*Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.*

In 1923 suffragists whose work helped women get the right to vote in 1919 developed what became known as the ERA, a movement to enshrine full equality in the U.S. Constitution regardless of sex. After a long campaign, in 1972 the ERA was passed by both the Senate and the House in 1972. All that was left was for the states to ratify it.

More recently (2017-2020), a renewed push earned the needed ratification by 38 states, and four additional states have adopted ERAs.

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## Citizenship Ceremony

- Wednesday, May 10, 2023
- 9:00 AM 4:00 PM
- Saint Paul River Centre, 175 Kellogg Blvd West, Saint Paul, MN, 55102USA ([map](#))

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](#) and review dates (tabbed at top of form) and times and sign up!

# Learn What Happened in the 2023 Legislative Session

- Tuesday, May 23, 2023
- 4:30 PM 5:30 PM
- Zoom ([map](#))[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)

Join LWVMN for a recap of the 2023 Legislative Session and next steps for engagement.

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## Bloomington.Tomorrow.Together

Nearly a year after starting the process, the City Council reviewed and approved “**Bloomington.Tomorrow.Together**”, a strategic plan that will guide the City’s work for the next five years. City representatives and community members worked together to develop plans for Bloomington’s future. “Every step of this process, we’ve involved community.

<https://tv.bloomingtonmn.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/51911?channel=2>

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## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

### LWV MN State Convention Update - in New Ulm, MN



Register to attend to learn, to meet interesting people, to have fun. and to see a charming small German town.

Registration closes on April 26.

**Registration Form** <https://www.lwvmn.org/convention-2023>

Details are available at <https://www.lwvmn.org/convention-2023>

Any LWV members who are current on their dues may attend. The Convention is not open to the general public

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

The cost of membership has not increased since 2020 and is tax deductible. The information you need is on the web site on the RENEW/JOIN page.

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## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT**

LWVB is active all year. We have fun registering voters, creating, and distributing voter information, conducting candidate forums, and sponsoring events.

The Voter Registration Outreach and Program Committees are looking for volunteers for high school registrations. If you are interested, please email us at [lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org)



JOIN Us for a social event : Breakfast on May 1, 8:30 at Taste of Scandinavia



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## UNDERSTANDING WORDS USED BY THE PRESS RECENTLY

### DEMAGOGUE

We've repeatedly heard the term “demagogue” in the media and blogosphere, and in political discourse. So just who is a demagogue?

You probably know it refers to a charismatic political leader (or wannabe) whose vociferous words and outspoken opinions are persuasive to many people, but are found to be offensive or threatening by others.

Demagogues tend to be narcissistic and authoritarian, as well as brazen, bombastic and belligerent. Their vitriol appeals to the vulnerable and darker places in psyches and hearts. They fuel emotional fires in their zealous followers with sentiments of prejudice, bigotry, hate, hyper-patriotism, and xenophobia. Source: Psychology Today



## West Bloomington Future site for 2027 WORLD EXPO?

The March  
Bloomington  
Briefing notes that  
the bid committee  
expects more  
than seven  
million unique

visitors to attend.

A decision will be made in June based on risk factors including warmer summer weather, crime, and projected profitability.

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### CONNECT WITH LWVB!

Email: [lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org)

Email us if you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter "The Voter."

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

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