

The Voter

October 2022

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings, members.

Election season is upon us! Be sure to check our [online event listings](#) so you can watch all of our upcoming candidate forums or view recordings. Our main resource for all things voting is [Vote411.org](#). Please share this resource on social media and with friends and family. Not only can you find your polling place and register to vote at the site, but you can learn about where candidates stand on issues that matter—our voter's guide is available on Vote411 after you enter your address.



L to R: Nona Beining, Joann Ellis, Amy Perna, Heidi Kloempken, Cheryl Bailey and Pam Mercier at a recent Board get-together.

Like many of you, we're concerned about threats to our democracy. Now more than ever we need to be paying attention to what's going on at the local level. If you'd like to join the League of Women Voters Minnesota's current effort to do this, the County Observer Corps is for you! Interested? Email Civic Engagement Director [Sam Struekens](#) (sstruekens@lwvmn.org).

We know that countering misinformation about our elections can be hard. That's why LWVMN recently launched [Elections411](#), a resource that helps educate the public about statutes, best practices, and safeguards associated with Minnesota elections. You can also hear about election fairness, accuracy and security at a League Zoom event on October 4. See the listing on page 2.

Your membership matters! Thank you for supporting LWV St. Paul, where we work to educate and inform voters and strengthen our democra-

cy. Your dues help pay for things like stipends for high school students to do voter engagement work with their peers, candidate forums and our online voter guide. If you haven't done so yet, please take time to [renew online](#) by visiting our website.

Thank you!

—Amy Perna & Heidi Kloempken

IN THIS ISSUE

- Events 2
- A Message From Membership 3
- We Choose Us Kickoff 3
- Morning Book Club 4
- Evening Book Club 5
- Remembering Norma Finnegan 5

EVENTS

Candidate Forums

With elections just a month away, we'll host our last two candidate forums this month.

October 3, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Senate/House District 64. Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy, St. Paul.

October 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Senate/House District 65. Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) studios, 550 Vandalia St., #170—just north of the I-94 Cretin Avenue exit.

Both are open to the public, and will be streamed live from SPNN. To watch, [visit the SPNN Face-book page](#) for a link.

The first three forums, held in September for Senate/House District 66 and County Commissioner Districts 2 and 6, are available to [view on the LWVSP website](#).

October Member Pop-Up: Everyone Welcome

Saturday, October 15, 4 to 6 p.m.

Bang Brewing
2320 Capp Road, Saint Paul

See more in "A Message from Membership" on page 2.

Election Accuracy and Security

2022 Elections: Will They Be Fair, Accurate and Secure?

Tuesday, October 4, 4:30 p.m.

To celebrate National Voter Registration Day, October 4, join Minnesota League members for a special Zoom call with staff from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State.

Minnesota Elections Director David Maeda and Deputy Director Paul Linnell will discuss how counties are working to provide accessible, fair, and accurate elections. Learn about:

- The many safeguards already in place
- Resources to help the public identify election misinformation
- Ways you can play an active role in your local communities, by serving as a witness to our election process, and helping to educate and empower your fellow voters

Please go online to [register for this Zoom event](#).

Are Metro Area Elections Secure?

Saturday, October 15, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

A focus on Minneapolis–Saint Paul metro area elections with Paul Linnell, Deputy Elections Director, Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State.

Questions? Contact CMAL Chair [Karen Schaffer](#) at (schafferka@gmail.com). [Join online via Zoom](#).



Tweetable, Likable, or Grammable?



Visit us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or Instagram.



Follow us: [@LWVStPaul](#)

A Message from the Membership Committee

Our August pop-up was so successful that we decided to make it bi-monthly event! Meet us on October 15, 4 to 6 p.m. at [Bang Brewing](#), 2320 Capp Road, Saint Paul. It's in an industrial park north of the University Avenue Menard's, east of Raymond Avenue.

Please stop by, enjoy a beverage, and talk to your fellow League members and board. It will be a great opportunity to build relationships and strengthen your connection to LWV.

With autumn comes candidate forums, elections, and League programs. Before you know it, we'll be sending information for our much-loved December Luncheon. This fun annual event will be **Saturday December 3**. Please save that afternoon

on your calendars and look for more information via email or online.

Welcome to our new members, who joined since August 1:

- Rachel Babbitt
- Susan Mielenhausen
- Marie Ruzek

To you three and others who've recently joined LWVSP, be watching your stoop in October for a small gesture of our appreciation for your membership, your energy, and your support of fair elections and an educated populace.

—Nona Beining

We Choose Us Kickoff

On Friday, September 23, LWVSP members attended the [We Choose Us](#) campaign kickoff in Ramsey County, celebrating the start of in-person absentee voting and the shared goals of a multiracial democracy in Minnesota. We heard from leaders in the partners organizations such as [UNIDOS MN](#), [Jewish Community Action](#), and [Isaiah MN](#). Though it was overcast, we left energized and excited for the upcoming election season.

We Choose Us is a campaign coalition of grassroots organizations, unions, and advocacy groups fighting for multiracial democracy in Minnesota. As partners, League members are invited to join We Choose Us and others at events and in early voting.

We'll keep you informed on other We Choose Us partnership opportunities as they arise.



Heidi snaps a selfie with Dan Hume (Isaiah Project), sporting a LWV button. (Dan is married to LWVSP board member Cheryl Bailey.)

History, Politics, Climate Change—and a Natural Antidote to It All

The early birds have once again planned ahead! Below are books for the next eight months.

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Contact [Mary Palmer \(mgp33@msn.com\)](mailto:mgp33@msn.com) for location and other information.

Month	Title & Author	Description
October	<i>The Shortest History of China: From the Ancient Dynasties to a Modern Superpower</i> , by Linda Jaivin	Jaivin charts a path from China's tribal origins through its storied imperial era and to the modern Communist Party under Xi Jinping. She covers the rarely told story of women in China and the specters of corruption and disunity that continue to haunt the People's Republic today.
November	<i>Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America</i> , by Kurt Andersen	The epic history of how America decided that big business gets whatever it wants, only the rich get richer, and nothing should ever change—and charts a way to a better future.
December	<i>The Singing Wilderness</i> , by Sigurd F. Olson	Olson's first book is a series of essays on the wilderness that is now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Illustrated by Francis Lee Jaques, it's been called "an antidote to the trials of modern life."
January 2023	<i>The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution</i> , by Eric Foner	Foner traces the arc of the three foundational Reconstruction amendments—the 13th, 14th and 15th—from their origins in antebellum activism to their virtual nullification by Supreme Court decisions and Jim Crow state laws. Still, Foner argues, these amendments remain strong tools for achieving the American ideal of equality.
February	<i>Fight Like Hell: The Untold Story of American Labor</i> , by Kim Kelly	Kelly shows how the rights the American worker has today—the 40-hour workweek, safety standards, child-labor restrictions, protection from workplace harassment and discrimination—were earned with literal blood, sweat, and tears.
March	<i>Generation Dread: Finding Purpose in an Age of Climate Crisis</i> , by Britt Wray	As today's youth face a future upended by climate change, Britt illuminates how we can learn from the past, from our emotions, and from each other to help young people thrive in a changing world.
April	<i>The Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City</i> , by Andrea Elliott	A child named Dasani comes of age just as New York City's homeless crisis has exploded, deepening the chasm between rich and poor. Elliot follows her as she guides her siblings through a world of hunger, violence, racism, drug addiction, and the threat of foster care.
May	<i>Political Tribes: Group Instincts and the Fate of Nation</i> , by Amy Chua	Chua offers a bold prescription for reversing our foreign policy failures and overcoming our destructive political tribalism at home.

EVENING BOOK CLUB

Fall Focus on SCOTUS

Join us at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month via Zoom. Here are upcoming books:

October 3: *Elena Kagan: A Biography*, by Meg Greene

November 7: *Making Our Democracy Work: A Judge's View*, by Stephen G. Breyer

December 5: *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor

Contact [Karen Williams](mailto:kare14will@gmail.com) (kare14will@gmail.com) to be added to the email list for reminders and to receive the Zoom link.

Remembering Norma Finnegan

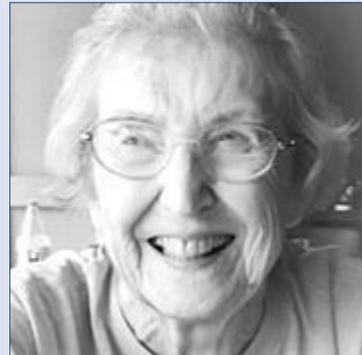
Beloved lifetime member Norma Corrine Finnegan passed away on August 5.

Norma joined the League of Women Voters St. Paul in 1961 and worked on housing, neighborhood and election monitoring.

She was instrumental in developing St. Paul District Council system, an innovative approach to citizen engagement and participation, that still exists today. In 1970 she was honored with the Faye Lyskett

Award for her exemplary service to the League. We appreciate her dedication to LWVSP and St. Paul.

Read more about Norma's remarkable life in [this obituary](#).



The Voter Seeks Writers and Editors

Itching to do some writing or editing? Know a young person who's looking for experience?

The Voter welcomes those with a penchant for journalism or public relations to propose, write, and/or edit stories, help with planning, and condense oral histories into compelling nuggets for publication.

[Email Diane](mailto:dianeReally@hotmail.com) (dianeReally@hotmail.com) to find out more.

The Voter is published every other month by the League of Women Voters St. Paul. To submit suggestions or news, [contact Diane Hellekson](mailto:dianereally@hotmail.com) (dianereally@hotmail.com). Deadline for submittals is two weeks before the first of the month of publication, with exceptions for time-sensitive information.