



# LWV Mpls VOTER

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## April Topic: Global Climate Change—A Top LWV Priority

The LWVUS Board announced recently that *Global Climate Change* will be one of our top legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Top priority issues are ones on which major congressional action is expected and on which the LWVUS will seek to be an active player.

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health, and economy of our nation. Largely caused by human-triggered emissions of greenhouse gases, recent scientific studies show that global warming already is causing environmental changes that will have significant global impacts such as severe droughts, heat waves, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires. Climate change can devastate crops, create drinking water shortages and increase the spread of diseases.

Now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce pollution that causes global warming by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, making cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shifting to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are adopting many of these strategies, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining.

Facing the growing evidence that burning fossil fuels is contributing significantly to global climate change, policymakers are evaluating strategies for reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The one most likely to be at the forefront this coming year is "cap and trade."

In a **cap-and-trade system**, policymakers set a limit on the quantity of a pollutant (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub>) that can be emitted in a given period. The total emissions allowed under this cap are divided into permits. The permits are then allocated to the sources covered by the program (e.g., power plants). Since the number of permits is limited, they have financial value. Companies able to reduce their emissions at low cost can sell the permits they don't need to companies for whom the cost of reducing emissions is high. Each company has the flexibility to choose how to meet its emissions target, but market incentives encourage them to develop new,

cleaner technologies. Over time, the cap is lowered to achieve more aggressive emissions-reduction goals.

**LWVUS believes** that the United States, as the world's largest per capita source of greenhouse gas emissions, must set a firm limit, or cap, on such emissions. The cap must decline over time to meet pollution-reduction goals based on the best scientific information. Enforceable interim and long-term goals are needed to compel early and effective action and guard against irreversible damage.

**LWVUS supports** a cap on greenhouse gas emissions that is at least 20 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2020 and 80-100 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050, without loopholes that will undermine the cap. Establishing the declining cap will be the single most important issue in climate change and energy legislation this year. While there are many additional significant issues, no other is at the core of the climate change problem. Without a scientifically based cap on emissions, other public policies cannot hope to succeed in protecting against catastrophic damage to public health, the environment and economies around the world.

### Find Out More

Convention 2008's panel "The State of Climate Change - What We Know and What We Don't" is now available online. The panel featured V. (Ram) Ramanathan, Victor Alderson Professor of Applied Ocean Sciences and

**Cont. on p. 4**

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## From the President

Janet Gendler

*LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

Put **Monday, June 1**, on your calendar for our annual meeting. We call it City Convention, and all members will be voting on important LWVMpls business items. This is when we adopt our program for the coming year—action to implement our principles and positions and issues for concentrated study and action. We'll adopt a budget and elect officers and directors. Few organizations give members so much opportunity for involvement.

A member of the Minneapolis City Council recently attracted citizen attention with proposed changes in city government structure, including abolishing an independent Park Board. **Jeanne Andre** represented our League at a contentious Charter Commission meeting in March, speaking to our position in support of abolishing the Board of Estimate and Taxation and our support for a process that is open and accessible and provides for substantial public comment and involvement. These positions were formed with **member involvement**.

Nearly five years ago, members voted at City Convention to study local government structure. The result was a two part study publication, *Minneapolis Government: A Balancing Act*, and an updated policy position. (Go to our website, [www.lwvmpls.org](http://www.lwvmpls.org), for a copy of that publication or stop by the office for a print copy.) Some have suggested we revisit the issue of an independent Park Board. Others encourage more public discussion and action to safeguard our wonderful city park system.

Be part of making a difference in our city by attending LWVMpls City Convention.

A continuing challenge for us is communication---getting timely, succinct information to members in a cost-efficient manner. LWVUS Board of Directors voted to suspend publication of *The National Voter*. (See the announcement below.) Web sites seem an obvious choice for posting information, but they depend on viewer initiative. State and Na-

tional LWV leaders send regular activity updates, but few Minneapolis members have joined those e-lists. LWVMpls is fortunate to have part-time paid office staff and a volunteer webmaster, **Julaine Heit**, to keep those information paths available. The rest depends on us. That means sharing e-mail addresses for use by our office and local members and signing up for email lists on the [lwvmn.org](http://lwvmn.org) site.

### LWVUS Suspends Publication of *National Voter*

At its January 2009 meetings, the LWVUS Board of Directors decided to suspend publication of *The Voter* magazine (paper and digital) until the League's finances are healthier. Publication costs for *The Voter* are prohibitive in a time of budget cutbacks. The LWVUS Board and the LWVUS staff are committed to finding new ways to deliver information to our members and supporters. They pledge to keep us informed as we move forward.

Please read the weekly Leaders' Updates on the Web site at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Questions and comments can be sent to Board Member Nancy Eitreim at [neitreim@speakeasy.net](mailto:neitreim@speakeasy.net)

Visit the "Login" section of the LWVUS Web site to update your contact information in the LWVUS database. Members who already have registered (i.e., set up a password) can login and use the "Update Profile" option on the left side of the page to update your address, phone number, email, and preferences about how to be contacted by the LWVUS. If not previously registered, you may register on the right side of the "Login" area. Please note that members who have not yet entered their email addresses into the database may still use this process; they should follow the prompts after entering in first and last names.

#### A Timely Reminder: Get your LWVMpls Voter via email!

Save the cost of paper and postage by getting your *Voter* delivered to your email. Contact the office at 612.333.6319 or email to: [vote@lwvmpls.org](mailto:vote@lwvmpls.org)

## Politics and Popcorn



In a fascinating article on suffrage portrayals in films, Eric Dewberry of Georgia University writes about the history of suffragist

imagery. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, suffragists were marching and lobbying for the vote.

It was also the beginning of the film industry, and silent movies sometimes depicted these women negatively. The cause was about much more than the right to vote. The movement was a challenge to Victorian traditions and suffragists were depicted as neglectful of children and husbands; a threat to American values.

Newsreels focused on dramatic and sensational events, many times showing English suffragists who were more militant. The National American Women Suffrage Association and the Women's Political Union appreciated the power of the visual message and strove to get positive images in the press and the movie houses. Marchers wore white dresses and yellow sashes. Formal hats indicated that they were "respectable" women and should not be looked at as threatening.

Four films were produced from 1912-1914 to promote the suffrage cause and counter the negative propaganda from other sources. This early attempt to use cinema for advocacy of a cause was groundbreaking according to film scholar Shelly Stamp. Unfortunately,



like so many silent films, these have been lost to modern viewers.

### Knowing our history, seizing our future

As we acknowledge our history and plan for our future, LWVMpls is once again using the power of media to promote civic activism.

For our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration we are sponsoring a contest for young filmmakers on the theme: *State of Democracy*. Look for glitz, glamour and good government at the spring fundraiser where you can walk the red carpet for democracy.

**Source:** *A Happy Medium: Women's Suffrage Portrayal in Thanhouser Films, 1910-1916*, Eric Dewberry <http://www.thanhouser.org/research.htm>

~Deborah Jindra

As part of its 90<sup>th</sup> year celebration, League of Women Voters Minneapolis Invites you and your guests to attend its annual Spring Benefit

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, TAKE ACTION!**

Join us for an evening of entertainment with music by The New KVT Trio, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and the opportunity to be a film critic for the LWV sponsored "State of Democracy" Film Contest for young filmmakers. Finalists will debut their films and guests will vote for the winner.

**Thursday, May 7**

**6 - 9 PM**

**Zuhrah Shrine Center  
at the Harrington Mansion  
2540 Park Ave S., Minneapolis**

RSVP by April 20

Questions?

[vote@lwvmpls.org](mailto:vote@lwvmpls.org) or 612.333.6319

## Voter Services Committee Establishes Priorities for 2009

Minneapolis citizens will be voting in November to elect the following government officials: Mayor, City Council (13 seats), the Board of Estimate & Taxation (2 at-large



seats), and the Park & Recreation Board (3 at-large and 6 district seats). At this time, the City is planning to conduct the election using Ranked Choice Voting (also known as Instant Runoff Voting, or IRV). This

means we will **not** have a Primary Election in September.

At its February meeting, the Voter Services Committee set the following priorities for the 2009 election season:

- ✓ **Support for candidate forums** – LWVMpls will provide moderators and timekeepers for candidate forums sponsored by community organizations. Due to the large number of races in this year's

election, we anticipate a high demand for candidate forum services (which are revenue-generating), particularly moderators. To help meet this demand, we plan to hold at least one moderator training session this year.

- ✓ **Voter education** – The committee plans to collaborate with the City of Minneapolis Elections Department and FairVote Minnesota to educate voters on the mechanics of Ranked Choice Voting. Since this will be the City's first election using this type of ballot, we can expect voters to have many questions.
- ✓ **Voter information cards** – As in the past, LWVMpls will produce voter information cards in multiple languages (pending funding), and will work with a variety of local organizations to distribute them to citizens whose primary language is not English.
- ✓ **Voter hotline** – Because there are no statewide races in the 2009 election, the LWVMpls hotline will be a necessary resource for Minneapolis voters. Hotline volunteers will need to be prepared to answer questions about Ranked Choice Voting.

If you are interested in assisting with any of these essential activities, please contact the LWVMpls office to get your name on our volunteer list.

~Lynn Pepple  
Voter Services Chair

### Looking for Active Involvement? Contact your LWVMpls Committee Chairs

**City Government Structure**  
Joan Niemiec, 612.822.7171

**Education**  
Contact: Judy Farmer, 612.379.7429

**Housing**  
Jean Andre, 612.926.7627

**Voter Services**  
Lynn Pepple, 612.789.3021

**Membership**  
Kelsey Johnson, 612.333.2374

**Minneapolis Libraries**  
Julia Wallace, 612.378.9429

**Speakers Bureau**  
Marilyn Dean, 612.377.4223

### Climate Change Cont. from p. 1

Distinguished Professor of Climate and Atmosphere Sciences, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC-San Diego, and Heather Kaplan, Senior Policy Advisor on Climate Change, Oxfam America. The discussion covered a review of our state of knowledge on climate change as well as its impact on the developing world.

The full article, the panel, video and related information can be found at:

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GlobalClimateChange>

~Karen Harder  
Program Co-chair

## A Report from LWVMpls Treasurer Stresses Careful Stewardship

After a cumulative loss of close to \$50,000 over the last two fiscal years, LWVMpls has stabilized itself financially. The seven months through January of this year show a profit of \$7,000. This improvement came about primarily because of contributions to the 90th Anniversary campaign. Thank you to all contributors, and to those working on the campaign. Others should note that the campaign is still underway and give it their gracious consideration. The League lives primarily off the generosity and hard work of its members.

LWVMpls does have cash balances to carry out its mission, but they had dropped about \$43,000 during the period of operating losses and year-to-date recovery. Since income producing events vary from year to year, it is important to have a cash cushion. Also, the League endowment fund which was \$172,800 on June 30, 2007, has dropped to \$105,000 as of January 31 of this year because of market conditions. This suggests we will receive lower income from these funds.

The office is very carefully managing expenses. Just recently the President and the Executive Director were able to secure more favorable terms on the office lease,

### Honor the Unsung Volunteer

It is time to nominate that someone—a person you know who has been an active and dedicated member for many years in varied ways—for the Bess Mlnarik Award.

Please send your nomination by letter or email to Carol Green, last year's recipient (carol.green43@gmail.com) or to the LWVMpls office. Nominations are due by May 1. Your nomination should include:

- ✓ Nominee's name.
- ✓ A description of the nominee's dedication and involvement in LWVMpls. Be sure to include activities beyond the unit level, such as work on studies or other committees. Note leadership positions as well as fund-raising and organizational tasks that warrant the nomination.
- ✓ List current activities and interests, anecdotes about him or her that inspired your nomination.
- ✓ Your name and contact information.

~Carol Green

and the preliminary budget for the coming fiscal year has been conservatively drawn to show a profit. However, this budget does rely on the continued success of the 90th Anniversary campaign, and the implications of reduced expense levels must still be discussed in detail.

The goal of your financial stewards is to manage resources so that the League can continue its legacy of 90 years and serve the citizens of Minneapolis with objective authority and professionalism, and keep your confidence in the League's stability.

~Donald M. Hall  
Treasurer, LWVMpls

### New Citizen Voter Registration

One great way to make a difference is to support the LWV voter registration program at citizenship ceremonies each month. Approximately 70 receive their citizenship at each Minneapolis ceremony.

Registration begins 45 minutes before each ceremony, usually scheduled at 11 AM and 2 PM.

For more information, contact the LWVMpls Office at 612.333.6319 or Judy Stuthman, from LWV RO-MAFH (Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon Heights), at 651.644.8588



**☸ We Remember ☸**  
**Maria O'Leary**  
 1919-2009

The LWVMpls salutes Maria O'Leary, a longtime Leaguer who died in January at the age of 90. Maria became a member of the LWVMpls unit at Becketwood in south Minneapolis eleven years ago, immediately after moving here from Sun City, Arizona. An active and informed participant in discussion sessions, she was also a strong leader who chaired the unit energetically for several years.

Previously, as a young wife and mother, she had focused her leadership skills on the LWV of Minnetonka and then, during her early retirement years, transferred her loyalties to the Sun City LWV. Memories of her will live on in all three locations.

~Fran Paulu

### Development Corner

Thank you to the following members and friends of the LWVMpls who have contributed since the last issue.

#### 90th Anniversary

Thomas Joyce  
Annette Akins

#### Corrine Inez Wilson

**Deming Memorial**  
Betty Josewich

### Many Thanks For...

#### Voter Mailing

Claire Olson  
Sue Verrette

#### Voter Proofing

Pat Kovel-Jarboe  
Julia Wallace  
Janet Gendler

#### Finance/Fundraising

Don Hall  
Barb Kimer  
Sue Verrette

#### Web Update

Julaine Heit

#### Healthy Legacy Committee

Kay Kessel  
Grace Harkness  
Glenda Larson  
Emily Moore  
Lisa Mills  
Julie Mellum

Joan Higinbotham  
Connie Cameron  
Kay Schimke

And **special thanks** to

Peter Starzinski and  
Lindsay Dahl, Healthy  
Legacy Coalition



## Looking for Lively Conversation?

### April Unit Meetings: *Climate Change*

#### Unit 1

Mon, April 13, 7:15 PM  
1246 Minnehaha Pkwy.  
Contact: Lindsey Thomas, 612.824.4489

#### Unit 11

Tues., April 14, 7:15 PM social, 7:30 meeting  
5125 Harriet Av. S.  
Contacts: Jan Midtbo, 612.926.0954  
Judy Walter, 612.927.5847

#### Unit 25/29

Tues., April 14, 7:00 PM  
912 18th Av. S.E.  
Contacts: Carol Green, 612.789.6314  
Kate Donahue, 612.378.9538

#### Unit 48

Mon, April 13, 7:00 PM  
TBD  
Contact: Jennifer Johnson, 612.377.6084

#### Unit 49

Please call for information.  
Contacts: Gerry Sell, 612.823.3248  
Marilyn Kelly, 612.824.6404

#### Unit 53

Tues., April 21, 7:30 PM social, 8:00 meeting  
1948 Drew Av. S.  
Contacts: Elaine Lindstrom, 612.377.3262  
Marilyn Dean, 612.377.4223



## **Transit Update: Dibble and McLaughlin Speak to Public Policy Committee of Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce**

Minneapolis Legislator, Senator Scott Dibble, and Hennepin County Commissioner, Peter McLaughlin, spoke to the Public Policy Committee of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) in early February. The discussion centered on transit.

### **Limited Resources and Plenty of Competition**

As with other departments there is a shortfall in the transit management budget since the state has seen a dramatic decline in collections of the motor vehicle sales tax. Additionally, there will be, according to Senator Dibble, a \$45 million Metro Transit operating shortfall in the next biennium.

The West Metro has advanced their transit plans with self-funded, ongoing, pre-transit studies and a long-term commitment to transit. This has allowed for the advance in queuing of projects, the most recent being the Northstar Commuter Rail line and SW Light Rail corridor. The West Metro has been able to satisfy the ridership, commerce and population density formulas needed to meet the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) requirements for funding. This has created friction with the East Metro, which has not emphasized funding of pre-transit studies. The East Metro has become more motivated of late and has assembled a coalition to plan transit initiatives for the East Metro and nearby outstate areas.

Commissioner McLaughlin expressed the need to create a Regional Equity Plan for the success of future transit in a regional system. Ongoing discussions and planning should be based on quantitative study and best use/best benefit policy.

The Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) was created by 2008 legislation to use a ¼ percent metro sales tax and a \$20 motor vehicle sales excise fee to invest in and advance transit projects throughout the region. Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties voted to participate in the CTIB, which is working in collaboration with the Metropolitan Council and neighboring Scott and Carver counties.

Eight months after the Minnesota Legislature allowed metropolitan counties to enact a transit sales tax, approximately \$86 million of that revenue has been awarded in grants by the CTIB. The grants were awarded in October for capital and operating costs for a

variety of commuter rail, light rail and bus rapid transit projects.

McLaughlin focused on the issue of High Speed Intercity Rail from Chicago to Minnesota. There is consideration for a dual hub (St. Paul Union Depot to Minneapolis Intermodal Station) of this rail initiative. There are some indications that St. Paul might be the only hub. In contrast, MRCC members and community business leaders discussed the importance of a dual hub study. Transit decisions should be based on real numbers and issues such as ridership, commerce and residential density. It would be appropriate and of best use to study a dual hub, St. Paul/ Minneapolis, for Chicago Intercity Fast Rail service. Peter McLaughlin feels that we "need to take a regional vision."

Intercity High Speed Rail would be operated by joint powers or be owner-operated and contracted with Amtrak. The infrastructure needed for the line, will not necessarily use existing track.

### **The Challenge**

The basic challenge in transportation planning, according to McLaughlin, is "to help the region and state make decisions about infrastructure based on real numbers (ridership, commerce and residential density) and real issues." He posed the question, "Who are we trying to serve?" It appears further study may be on the horizon.

~Karllynn Fronck

LWVMpls Representative  
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Policy Study Committee



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#### MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

*Janet Gendler, President*  
*Ginny Craig, VOTER Editor*

*We're on the Web!*  
*[www.lwvmpls.org](http://www.lwvmpls.org)*



## Upcoming Events Save the Date!

**Wed., April 1**  
**Voter Copy Deadline**

**SAVE THESE  
DATES!**

**Tues., April 21**  
5:30-7:30 PM  
Board Meeting  
LWVMpls Office

**Thur., May 7**  
Spring Benefit  
6 - 9 PM  
(See p. 3)

**Thur., May 14 -  
Sat. May 16**  
LWVMN State  
Convention

**Mon., June 1**  
LWVMpls City  
Convention

## The Census Counts!



Join us for a discussion of  
the *2010 Census* and why  
it matters.

**Wednesday, March 25th**  
**6:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Minneapolis Central Library**  
**Pohlad Hall**

Sponsored by LWVMpls in partnership with the Hennepin County Library and the Library Foundation of Hennepin County

**Guest speakers:** State demographer Tom Gillaspay; LWVMN Executive Director Keesha Gaskins; Marcia Avner of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits; Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin.

**Please note:** Parking is available at the library, the snacks will be fabulous! Come early, come late, but do come!