

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

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**LWV MEPH Board**

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## Ranked Choice Voting on the Move in MN: Learn More Presented by FairVote MN

**9:30 - 11:00 AM, Saturday, January 12, 2019**  
**City Council Chambers, Minnetonka Community Center**  
**14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345**

Many cities and states are interested in reforming the election process to help improve how our government functions. Ranked Choice Voting is a proven process that allows voters to rank their preferences instead of choosing a single candidate. The ranking process ensures that the candidate with the broadest support is elected on a single high-turnout election day. It's easier, more cost-effective and more democratic. Learn how it works and get your questions answered. This presentation is by [FairVote Minnesota](http://FairVote Minnesota), an advocate for RCV.



**Ranked Choice Voting:**

- ✓ More inclusive
- ✓ More choice
- ✓ More positive
- ✓ More representative
- ✓ No spoilers or wasted votes
- ✓ Less influence of money

Free and open to the public. Hosted by LWV Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins.

[www.FairVoteMN.org](http://www.FairVoteMN.org)

**LWV MEPH Special Announcement:** Before the presentation, we will be providing YoYo Donut Holes and voting ballots to help (1) give us hands-on experience with Ranked Choice Voting, (2) determine which ones we like the best and (3) break any New Year’s Resolutions that you might have made pertaining to carbohydrates



## Action Update

Action Team: Winnie Sipprell, Helen Sears and Ellen Silva (chair)

Our chapter holiday party with its action-themed discussion was truly energizing. It's clear that a key reason you all joined the League was to make a difference! The Action Team is here to help you do just that.

Here's what you told us are important issues to you, the members:

- **Globally:** Climate Change, World Peace.
- **Nationally:** Women's Rights, Women's Health and Reproductive Freedom, Threats to Democracy
- **Statewide:** Public Education, Transit & Mobility, Homelessness, Environmental Issues, Children's Issues
- **Locally:** Ranked Choice Voting, Voter Education, Kids' Voting, Affordable Housing

### Upcoming Efforts:

**Local Advocacy:** The Action Team is beginning to develop an approval process for local advocacy efforts in the name of LWV MEPH . More to come on this in January.

### Legislative Interviews:

- The LWV MEPH Action Team will be organizing an information-gathering interview with Representatives Laurie Pryor — 48A, Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn — 48B, and Senator Steve Cwodzinski — 48, time and place TBD.
- St Louis Park LWV is holding a town hall on January 17 from 6-8pm in the SLP city hall council chambers to hear from representatives Ryan Winkler — 46A, and Cheryl Youakim, 46B and Senator Ron Latz.
- Wayzata-Plymouth LWV will interview Senator Paul Anderson — 44 and Representatives Ginny Klevorn — 44A and Patty Acomb — 44B and Jerry Hertaus — 33A.

If you'd like to take part in these interviews, a great, low pressure way to develop a relationship with your elected officials while learning where they stand on important issues, let us know.

### LWV MN Observer/Lobbyist Corps:

We've got 3 members of LWV MEPH taking part in the LWV MN Observer/Lobbyist Corps! We'll be attending committee meetings in the coming state legislative session, keeping an eye on what's happening and reporting back to LWV MN. Those who are on the lobbyist corps may occasionally provide testimony on League positions on critical legislation. This is a great way to build our advocacy muscles and get to know how our government really works, and most important, to make a real difference in what the government enacts!

There is still time to register and be trained for the corps. The next training session (on-line only) is January 5, 2019, from 1:00-3:30 pm. Contact Nick Harper, state lobbyist for LWV, at [nharper@lwvmn.org](mailto:nharper@lwvmn.org) if you are interested. If you can't make the training but would like to take part, contact Ellen Silva and we'll work out some one-on-one sessions.

If you are interested in joining the Action Team on an ongoing basis, contact Ellen Silva at [e.silva@comcast.net](mailto:e.silva@comcast.net) — we'd love to have you involved!

## CMAL Study on Metropolitan Council Governance

Our Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues is wrapping up a study of the Metropolitan Council Governance. What's that about, you wonder? Well, it's been a political issue because the Met Council is entirely appointed by the Governor, not elected, yet has powerful authority over all the metro-area cities on matters involving the 25-year comprehensive plan, transit and wastewater management.

The study surveyed city Mayors and Managers about their thoughts on the Met Council Governance and working relationship. CMAL will host a workshop on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019 to prepare Local League delegates for a consensus meeting. Peggy Kvam, LWV MEPH President, plans to attend this. Then Peggy will lead LWV MEPH Members in a presentation of the study and our consensus meeting on Monday, Feb. 4 at 3:00-5:00PM. We will meet at the Ridgedale

Library in the Lady Slipper Room 275. Please attend the consensus meeting, to express your thoughts on how the Metropolitan Council should be governed!

**Met Council Survey Questions:**

- Please rate the Met Council's current effectiveness overall
- Please list one or two areas where the Met Council is working effectively
- Please list one or two areas where the Met Council is not working effectively
- Please rate the degree to which the Met Council has impacted your city or county
- Please list one or two positive impacts the Met Council has had on your city or county
- Please list one or two negative impacts the Met Council has had on your city or county
- The Met Council is currently comprised of 16 members plus a Chair. The Governor appoints all members to terms, coterminating with the term of the Governor, who has the authority to terminate a member at will. Do you support the current membership structure?
- Would you support any of the following changes in membership structure?
  - A. The Governor appoints members to fixed, staggered terms
  - B. Counties and cities within each District appoint members
  - C. Counties and cities within each District appoint members who are elected officials
  - D. Expand membership to include Citizens-at-Large
  - E. The public directly elects Council members
  - F. Expand membership by increasing the number of Districts within the Met Council
- Currently, the Governor appoints the Chair of the Met Council. Do you support this process?
- Would you support any of the following changes in the Chair selection process?
  - The membership elects the Chair through an internal process between Council members
  - The Legislature develops a process for selecting a chair
- Currently, only the Governor can replace a member for any reason. Do you support this process?
- Would you support any of the following changes in the member removal process?
  - The Council internally develops a process for removing members
  - The Legislature develops a process for removing members
- Currently, the qualifications for membership in the Met Council include: Must live in the District, Must be knowledgeable about urban and metropolitan affairs, and Must fairly represent the various demographic, political and other interests in the metropolitan area and the districts. Do you support these qualifications?
- How important are the following qualifications for candidate nomination to the Met Council? Candidates have experience in local government. Candidates have subject matter expertise. Candidates represent their District's demographics. Candidates can commit to the time necessary to achieve the Council's objectives.
- Currently the Governor has the responsibility to Appoint a Nomination Committee of 7 members to review applications for Council membership for all 16 Districts. From those applications, the Nomination Committee proposes a slate of candidates to the Governor. The slate of candidates is not made public, and the Governor may choose from this slate or select from outside the slate. Do you support this membership nomination process?
- Would you support any of the following changes to the membership nomination process?
  - Expand the Nomination Committee from 7 to 13 members
  - Expand the Nomination Committee to include elected city and county officials
  - Should District Committees be established to receive nominations for their district representation and make recommendations to the Nomination Committee?
  - Should the proposed slate of candidates be published prior to the Governor selecting the final candidates?
  - Should the Governor explain why he did not appoint from the recommended slate of candidates?
- In your opinion, to who should the membership of the Met Council be ultimately accountable?  
Governor/Legislature/Federal rules mandating the Council/Residents of each District/The Metro Region as a whole/Local elected officials
- In your experience, how well do the Met Council and the Transportation Advisory Board work together?
- In your experience, how fair is the current distribution of Met Council transportation funds to your City or County?

## State Legislature Town Halls

Representative	District	When	Where
Senator Steve Cwodzinski	SD 48	Saturday, January 5, 2019, 10:00am-11:30am	Eden Prairie High School, 17185 Valley View Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55346, USA ( <a href="#">map</a> )
Rep. Laurie Pryor	HD 48A		
Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn	HD 48B		
Senator Ron Latz	SD 46	Thursday, January 17, 2019, 6:00pm-8:00pm	St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd, St Louis Park, MN 55416 ( <a href="#">map</a> )
Rep. Ryan Winkler	HD 46A		
Rep. Cheryl Youakim	HD 46B		
Senator Melisa Franzen	SD 49	Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 7:00pm-8:00pm	Edina City Hall, 4801 W 50th St, Edina, MN 55424 ( <a href="#">map</a> )
Rep. Heather Edelson	HD 49A		
Rep. Steve Elkins	HD 49B		

See the calendar on our website (<https://www.lwvmeph.org/>) for more information on these events.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
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