



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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**Sustainability In Our Cities  
How Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, and Hopkins  
are addressing this important issue**

**Saturday, February 16, 2019 9:30 - 11:00 AM  
City Council Chambers, Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345**

If we are thinking globally but acting locally, our cities are the starting point of a sustainable environment and economy. Find out what our cities are doing for the environment from three of our city council members.

Deb Calvert: Minnetonka  
 Kathy Nelson: Eden Prairie  
 Brian Hunke: Hopkins

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

**Legalize Equality: ERA**

**Saturday, February 23, 2019, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM  
Plymouth Public Library  
15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55446**

Did you know that the ERA "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex" was never added to the United States Constitution? Come view a short film "Legalize Equality" to learn about efforts to ratify the ERA. The film covers efforts in Minnesota and national efforts to reach the threshold of states required to ratify (only one more state is needed). Heather Allison, President, ERA Minnesota, will also speak. The event, hosted by the West Metro Alliance of League of Women Voters, is free and open to the public.

## Special Member Meeting:

### CMAL Study and Consensus on Metropolitan Council Governance

**Monday, March 4, 2019, 3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**Ridgedale Library, Room 275 “Ladyslipper”**  
**12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305**

Our LWV Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues has just wrapped up a study of the Metropolitan Council Governance. What’s that about, you wonder? Well, it is a political concern to many because the Met Council is entirely appointed by the Governor, not elected, yet has metro-wide responsibilities for long-range planning, land use planning, transportation, parks and open space, wastewater and water, and housing.

The study surveyed city Mayors and Managers about their thoughts on the Met Council Governance and working relationship. Pros and cons to a number of facets regarding governance are reviewed. We will use LWV’s traditional “Consensus process” to update the CMAL position. All members are invited respond to the Consensus questions, and agreement by a substantial majority will determine our LWV CMAL position update. Peggy Kvam, LWV MEPH President, will lead LWV MEPH Members in a presentation of the study and the consensus question discussion.

The study report and other materials are available to read in advance of our meeting at <https://lwvmn.org/local-leagues/council-metropolitan-area-leagues-cmal>. If you are unable to attend or download the report, please contact Peggy at 612-414-6154 or [lwvmeph@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvmeph@lwvmn.org) for alternatives to provide your input. Please attend the consensus meeting, to express your thoughts on how the Metropolitan Council should be governed! This meeting replaces LWVMEPH’s March program. Only LWV members may vote, but members of the public are welcome to attend.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR METROPOLITAN LEAGUE MEMBERS (Full text at <https://lwvmn.org/sites/default/files/05-CMAL-IndividualResponse.pdf>.)

1. Members of the Met Council should be:
2. If Council members are appointed, appointments should be made by:
3. Chair of Met Council should be appointed by:
4. If Council members are appointed, their terms should be:
5. If Council members are directly elected, their terms should be:
6. Members of Met Council should meet the following criteria:
7. If Met Council members are to be appointed by the Governor, there should be a nominating process that includes the following:
8. If Met Council members are to be appointed by the Governor, there should be a nominating process that meets the following criteria:
9. To whom should Met Council members be accountable?
10. The number of Met Council members should be:

## Action Committee News

Committee Chair: Ellen Silva [e.silva@comcast.net](mailto:e.silva@comcast.net)

The Action Team is taking action to better serve our LWV-MEPH members.

- Working with other local leagues, we've assessed where local representatives stand on issues critical to the LWV. Our team attended the town hall put on by the District 48 elected officials (Sen. Cwodzinski, Rep. Pryor, and Rep. Kotyza-Witthuhn) and found them to be supportive, sometimes extremely supportive, of key League priorities and positions such as ending the use of large omnibus bills and restoring voting rights to felons. If any member would like the detailed notes from this town hall, please contact Ellen. The team is hard at work to develop an action process so that when you identify an issue that you'd like help from our members to work for or against, you will get a quick response on whether it is a fit for our league and help in sending out action calls. Even if it doesn't fit, we'll provide you with ideas and guidance on how to take action as an individual citizen.
- LWV-MEPH is well represented in the state League Observer/Action Corps! Helen Sears and Wilson Gibbins are on the Observer Corps and Ellen Silva is on the Lobbyist Corps. It isn't too late to join – contact Ellen if you are interested. And be sure to sign up for the Capitol Letter sent out by the state league to learn what our team is seeing at the capitol. To sign up, just provide your email at the LWV-MN website. You can sign up for other good stuff there, too, like the Action Alerts that help the League get their good work done through the voice of members like you.

Would you like to take action with us?

- Consider attending the LWV-MN Day at the Capitol. Mark your calendars for March 6, when you can join members of the Action Team and League members from around the state to meet with representatives and advance our positions to protect our democracy. More info to come.
- Join the Action Team! Get in touch with Ellen to learn more.

Subscription link: <https://lwvmn.org/subscribe>

## Fair District Maps

The LWV and Common Cause are partners in the fight for Fair District Maps – the League supports redistricting principles and methods that provide effective representation and prevent gerrymandering. One of those principles is to have an independent commission draw the maps, not the legislature as is currently the law in MN. Common Cause is running a petition campaign to let Minnesota citizens voices on this issue be heard. A [recent column in the Star Tribune](#) points out that the time to act is now — now no one knows which party will control the legislature in 2020, so both parties may be motivated to remove the threat that the other party will draw the district lines to their advantage. If you are interested in adding your voice to this important discussion, please go to the [Common Cause petition page](#) and let your thoughts be known!

More information on the League's position on this issue can be found [HERE](#).

Link to the Star Tribune column: <http://www.startribune.com/lori-studeviant-redistricting-reform-can-t-wait-so-say-its-advocates/504892902/>

Link to Common Cause page: [https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/demand-an-end-to-gerrymandering?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/demand-an-end-to-gerrymandering?source=direct_link&)

Link to LWV issues page: <https://lwvmn.org/where-we-stand/fair-district-maps>



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
Minnetonka Eden Prairie Hopkins  
**c/o Barb Link**  
**8505 Flying Cloud Dr. #303**  
**Eden Prairie, MN 55344**