



March 2019

President: Mary Boschult  
 President-Elect: Paula Eurek  
 Secretary: Vacant  
 Treasurer: Sue Howe  
 Lunch & Learn Chair: Karen Dienstbier  
 Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

**Calendar of Events**

**Mar 7 (Thursday):** Noon-1:00 p.m.  
 LWVLL Lunch & Learn.  
 Ann Hunter Pirtle  
*Stand for Our Schools –  
 Protecting Public Education*  
**Graduate Hotel,**  
**141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**  
*See article at right; also see  
 complete schedule for remaining  
 speakers at bottom of this page.*

**Apr 9 (Tuesday):** 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
**Primary Election Day,**  
**City of Lincoln**

**Apr 11 (Thursday):** Noon-1:00 p.m.  
 LWVLL Lunch & Learn.  
 James Goddard, JD  
*Farm Bill / Changes to SNAP  
 Affecting Nebraska Families*  
**Graduate Hotel,**  
**141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**

**May 7 (Tuesday):** 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
**General Election Day,**  
**City of Lincoln**

**March 7 Lunch & Learn discusses Public Education**

League of Women Voters Lincoln-Lancaster County Lunch & Learn, noon – 1 pm, Thursday, March 7, 2019 at the Graduate Hotel, 141 N. 9th St. Ann Hunter Pirtle “Stand for Our Schools – Protecting Public Education” \$15 for members. \$17 for nonmembers. Includes speaker and buffet lunch. Binding reservations due by Monday, March 4, 2019. Call 402-475-1411 or email [lww-ne@inebraska.com](mailto:lww-ne@inebraska.com).

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LUNCH AND LEARN SCHEDULE FOR Winter/Spring 2019**

**GRADUATE HOTEL, 141 N. 9TH ST, LINCOLN, NE**

For reservations please contact via email: [lww-ne@inebraska.com](mailto:lww-ne@inebraska.com) or phone 402-475-1411. Listen to the prompt on the phone and press 1 to sign up for L&L. Cost for lunch is \$15 for members, \$17 for non-members.

Reservations must be made by the **Monday** prior to the meeting. Meetings take place on the **First Thursday** of each month from **noon – 1 p.m.**, Sept. – May, except for the April meeting which will be on the Second Thursday.

**Reservations are binding.**

*Lunch & Learn schedule, March-May 2019*

March 7	<b>Stand for Our Schools – Protecting Public Education</b>	Ann Hunter Pirtle Executive Director, Stand for Our Schools
April 11 – <i>note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.</i>	<b>Farm Bill / Changes to SNAP Affecting Nebraska Families</b>	James Goddard, JD Economic Justice & Health Care Access Program Director, Nebraska Appleaseed
May 2	<b>Title X Changes, What it Means for the Clients</b>	Meg Mikolajczyk, JD Associate General Counsel & Sr. Public Affairs Manager Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

*League testimony delivered February 7, 2019, to the Legislature's Judiciary Committee regarding LB627, a bill relating to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.*

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

4600 Valley Road  
Suite 306  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-475-1411  
[www.lincolnleague.org](http://www.lincolnleague.org)

February 7, 2019

The Honorable Senator Steve Lathrop, Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 94644  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB627, a bill to prohibit discrimination

Dear Chairman Lathrop and members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County is writing to support LB627, a bill related to employment that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose candidates. We work to increase understanding of public policy issues and to increase voter participation in elections.

The League of Women Voters believes that there should be equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age sexual orientation or disability.

The League supports policies that advance and provide for the full and fair participation of all members in our communities. This bill supports those goals.

We urge you to advance this bill to general file.

Sincerely,

Mary Boschult, President  
League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County

*League testimony delivered February 7, 2019, to the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee regarding LB255, a bill that would reduce the cliff effect of terminating SNAP benefits when people become employed or advanced in their employment.*

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February 6, 2019

The Honorable Senator Sara Howard, Chair  
Health and Human Services Committee  
P.O. Box 94606  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chairwoman Howard and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County is writing to support LB255, a bill that would reduce the cliff effect of terminating Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits when people become employed or advance in their employment.

The League of Women Voters believes that one of the goals of social policy should be promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective programs are those that prevent or reduce poverty.

Benefit levels should be sufficient to provide decent and adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. Work should be encouraged and participants' total income should increase as earning increase.

There should be financial incentives for job advancement and success.

Revising the income tests and consideration of expenses provides an incentive for success in achieving and maintaining independence from public assistance programs rather than slamming the door shut when gross earnings reach 130% of poverty.

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Sincerely,

Mary Boschult, President  
League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County

### **Report on February Lunch & Learn**

Isabel Salas, Community Organizer from the South of Downtown Development Organization gave a presentation on Community Investment without Displacement. She laid out the grassroots work that her organization does. The area of the city in which South of Downtown focuses is the Everett and Near South neighborhoods. She and others spoke to over 2,000 residents in the area and heard their comments. 94 % of the properties in the area are rental properties.

They are focusing on several areas:

**Stop and Listen** door to door communication – asking for points of pride in the neighborhoods and points of concern

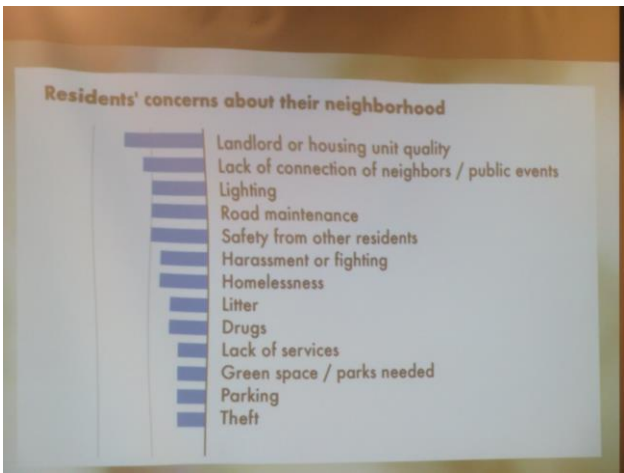
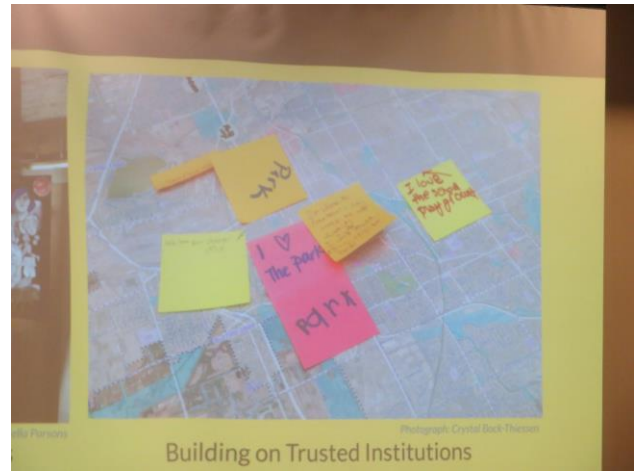
**A B C Development** – Asset Based Community Development – sustainability, local businesses, creating community spaces in parks and other places, even unexpected places like neighbors gathering on a front porch, building trust, and repurposing vacant buildings

**Building Community** among the people who rent and own property in the area – they look for open spaces to hold community gatherings such as picnics and potlucks, buildings that can be utilized by the community for neighborhood meeting spaces, and ways in which people and neighborhood associations can collaborate on projects.

**Centering a Community Voice** – creating opportunities for residents’ voices to be heard, creating opportunities for resident leadership, and pride in the ethnic diversity within their neighborhoods. As an example of residents’ voices being heard, they had input into the upgrading of S. 13<sup>th</sup> recently.

**Hot Topics in South of Downtown** – housing affordability and adequacy, safety and infrastructure, creative place-making, working with landlords who don’t keep up their properties, purchasing the abandoned property at 1105 E St. to demolish it and make apartments for 2 families. Good article in LJS, Saturday, Feb. 23rd Neighborhood Extra about the South of Downtown Art Gallery on S. 11<sup>th</sup> receiving \$20,000 from one of the Rotary Clubs in Lincoln.





The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*  
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Time Dated Material  
Please Do Not Delay