



May 2020

President:	Mary Boschult
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Secretary:	Jim Johnson
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Lunch & Learn Chair:	Karen Dienstbier
Voter Editor:	Jim Johnson

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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### Calendar of Events

**May 12 (Tuesday): 8:00 am-8:00 pm**  
**Primary Election Day**  
**in Nebraska**  
*See article at right.*

**May 14 (Thursday): 5:00 p.m.**  
**Strengthening Democracy:**  
Live-stream discussion on voting at home, sponsored by **Civic Nebraska** and the **National Vote at Home Institute and Coalition**.  
*See article on page 5.*

**May 1 to May 28: all day**  
**Give to Lincoln Day**  
Donate to the League of Women Voters Education Fund of Lincoln-Lancaster County, and the Ed Fund will receive a proportional gift from the Lincoln Community Foundation.  
*See article on page 3.*

**All other upcoming LWVLL events are either  **canceled**  or in an on-hold planning status at the current time, due to health concerns.**

We will make decisions later in the summer after the status of the coronavirus becomes clearer.  
*See article at right.*

### **Nebraska Primary Election – May 12**

Many of our members requested and received mail-in ballots. If you are among them, and if you received your ballot but have not yet returned it, it's now too late to mail it, so it will need to be placed in the drop box at the Election Commissioner's office, 601 N. 46<sup>th</sup> St. in Lincoln. If you did turn in your ballot you can check the status of your ballot at <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/voterview>.

If instead you have chosen to vote at your polling place:

- Stay safe – be sure and practice social distancing, and
- Be advised that many polling places have changed due to health concerns; see the list for Lancaster County at:

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4871/News-Release----Polling-Place-Changes-for-May-12th-Primary-Election>.

### **League Meetings and Activities Canceled Due to Coronavirus Pandemic**

Voter registrations from March 13 through May 1 were canceled. The Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting set for May 2nd was also canceled. Lunch and Learns for April and May were also canceled. The Money in Politics sessions cosponsored with Common Cause Nebraska and OLLI were canceled.

The Lincoln League Board held a virtual meeting via ZOOM on April 28, 2020.

We will advise when our regular League activities can resume.

### **2020 Census – Respond today!**

Have you responded to the 2020 Census yet? If not, do so today at <https://www.census.gov/>. And see the article on page 6 of this newsletter, from Diana Buchanan at the Census Bureau.

## League of Women Voters Membership Renewal

*Sandy Blankenship, Membership Chair*

It's that time of year—to renew your membership in the League of Women Voters Lincoln and Lancaster County!

2020 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters. As the Nebraska Woman Suffrage Association dissolved (after gaining the right to vote) the Nebraska League of Women Voters was founded. Much has been accomplished over the past century, but there is much yet to be done.

Here are just a few examples of how our Lincoln/Lancaster County League has provided support to area citizens: Lunch & Learn sessions keeping community members updated on important issues, assistance in getting citizens registered to vote, organized forums with candidates to help voters make informed decisions, and letters or testimony to the Legislature. The League is non-partisan and does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We strive to increase understanding of public policy issues and to increase voter participation in elections. Check out our web site for more details: <https://lincolnleague.org>.

There are two ways you can renew your membership:

- 1) We have a revised web site where you can quickly renew your membership. <https://lincolnleague.org/join-us>.
- 2) OR Complete the form below and return it to the address listed.

Our community needs leaders like you to help ensure that our community is a strong, safe and vibrant place to live!

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**Membership Renewal.** *(If renewing by check, please print this form and send it to the office.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am volunteering for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership is \$50 year, \$10 for high school or university students.

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to LWVLL

\_\_\_\_\_ Friend of LWVLL (I don't want to join, but want to be a friend and donate to LWVLL)

Make checks payable to the League of Women Voters Lincoln Lancaster (LWVLL) and mail to:

**League of Women Voters Lincoln Lancaster**

**4600 Valley Road, Suite 306**

**Lincoln, NE 68510**



**Give to Lincoln Day 2020** is a bonus fundraising opportunity because donations to LWV/LL Education Fund will be increased by a proportional share of a \$500,000 match fund made possible by the Lincoln Community Foundation.

Beginning on May 1 and continuing through May 28 online donations may be made to [www.givetolincoln.com](http://www.givetolincoln.com).

Due to the Coronavirus, this year the Lincoln Community Foundation will accept donations by mail. Checks must be postmarked by May 23, written to “Lincoln Community Foundation” with “League of Women Voters Education Fund Lincoln/Lancaster” in the memo line, and mailed to Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, Ste. 100, Lincoln NE 68508.

Donations to the Education Fund are tax deductible.

Past **Give to Lincoln** donations were used to publish a [Directory of Elected Officials](#) last fall, and to share with Common Cause the cost of a movie on Dark Money offered free to the public. The movie served as background information for a seminar on Money in Politics sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Common Cause and OLLI.

Last year the Education Fund earned \$2917.89 through the generosity of 36 donors. Please consider donating in 2020!

**STRENGTHENING  
DEMOCRACY  
2020**

5 PM CDT   
MAY 14



**VOTE at HOME**



**AMBER  
McREYNOLDS**  
CEO, National Vote at Home  
Institute and Coalition



**WESTIN  
MILLER**  
Director of Public Policy  
Civic Nebraska

How did the Nebraska Primary go in the era of coronavirus? What impacts did vote-by-mail have on participation, deliberation, and COVID-19 mitigation? And what does all this mean for the general election in November? Join Civic Nebraska at 5 pm May 14 for a special live-streamed discussion. Live-streamed Q&A on the Nebraska primary and voting from home. Featuring VoteAtHome's Amber McReynolds and Civic Nebraska's Westin Miller.

Event is free; no ticket needed. However, if you RSVP from the EventBrite link on the Civic Nebraska website at <https://www.civicnebraska.org/sda2020/>, you will have a chance to win exclusive merchandise from Civic Nebraska.

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### **StarTran seeks additional feedback regarding a Multimodal Transit Facility**

StarTran is wrapping up a Multimodal Transit Transfer Center (MTTC) Feasibility and Conceptual Design Study exploring improvements to transfer operations for Lincoln's transit system.

On the StarTran Multimodal Transit Center Study project page you are invited to provide input on passenger amenities, design elements – such as incorporating artistic elements and community space by completing an online survey. On this web page there is also a virtual open house that includes a presentation by WSP Consulting.

Please check our website project page at: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/startran/mttc/>.

Thank You  
Mike Davis  
StarTran Transit Manager, City of Lincoln



Dear members of the League of Women Voters of Nebraska:

We are pleased to announce that Vote411 -- the League of Women Voters online voters' guide -- is now launched in all 93 counties. Here is the link: <https://www.vote411.org/nebraska>

Please assist us by promoting Vote411 in your networks as well as encouraging candidates on your personal ballots who have not yet responded to do so before the May 12 primary. Also, if you have time, we encourage you to thank the candidates who have responded to our questions.

For the 2020 election cycle (primary and Nov. 3 general election), the LWVNE board of directors approved plans to expand Vote411 by including local, county and district races in all counties as well as state and federal races.

As of April 16, Nebraska's Vote411 platform includes 27 races in Douglas County and 96 races in Nebraska's other 92 counties. In Douglas County, invitations to participate were sent to 86 candidates, of which 61 responded -- a 71% response rate! In the state's 92 other counties, invitations to participate were sent to 298 candidates, of which 161 candidates have since opted in -- a 54% response rate! Additional candidates who respond before the May 12 primary will be included within 24 hours of their submission.

Vote411 not only provides voter education regarding candidates and their platforms, but also offers free publicity to candidates running for public office to share their ideas with citizens. Candidates who wish to add their information to Vote411 can contact us at [NebraskaVotersGuideLWV@gmail.com](mailto:NebraskaVotersGuideLWV@gmail.com).

Finally, we wish to thank all the volunteers who contributed to this effort -- led by LWVNE Voters Service co-directors Caryl Guisinger and Toni Monette and Kathy Dewell, voters' guide manager for the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Bystrom and Linda Duckworth  
LWVNE Co-Presidents



## Don't Forget to Respond: 2020 Census Reminder Postcards Arriving

**APRIL 27, 2020** — The U.S. Census Bureau is beginning to send reminder notice postcards to an estimated 55 million households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. About [53.4% of households across the country](#) have already responded since [invitations began arriving in mailboxes on March 12](#). Those households that have not yet responded to the census will receive an in person visit by a census taker to collect their information later this summer.

According to the Census Bureau's online response map tracking the nation's participation in the census, almost 79 million households have already responded online, by phone or by mail.

States with the highest response include, (top 5 states).

- Minnesota 64.0%
- Iowa 61.2%
- Wisconsin 60.8%
- Nebraska 60.7%
- Michigan 60.0%

Counties with 250,000 or more population with the highest response rate include (top 5 counties).

- Washington County, Minnesota 73.6%
- Anoka County, Minnesota 72.9%
- Waukesha County, Wisconsin 72.5%
- Dakota County, Minnesota 71.8%
- Macomb County, Michigan 70.2%

The Census Bureau strongly encourages the public to respond online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). Households can respond online [in English or 12 other languages](#) or by [phone](#). Households can also respond by mail using the [paper questionnaire](#) that was recently mailed to every non-responding address. Households that received a census invitation in the mail and have yet to respond will receive a paper questionnaire by April 30.

Households will receive another reminder postcard in the mail between April 27-May 9. The Census Bureau pushed back this mailing to allow the paper questionnaire package to arrive several days ahead of the postcard. The postcard is one reminder in a [series of reminders](#) that the Census Bureau has mailed nonresponding households since mid-March urging them to respond. Census takers will visit every address that does not respond on their own to collect responses in person. Responding now to the 2020 Census will minimize the need for a census taker to visit your home later this year. For more information, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

**Diana Buchanan**, Partnership Specialist, US Census Bureau  
[diana.l.buchanan@2020census.gov](mailto:diana.l.buchanan@2020census.gov)

## **Lunch and Learn Report for 2019-2020**

Thanks to my Lunch and Learn Committee, Charlyne Berens, Jane Bieber, Nancy Comer, Paula Eurek, Kate High, Sue Howe and Meg Mikolajczyk we had planned for another good year of excellent speakers, and until April we were doing just that.

We were planning for the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The celebration was scheduled for April of 2020. We had invited several special guests to attend, including the Lincoln women State Senators, our past League Presidents, the Mayor, and City Council women.

Until March of 2020 our year was going along as scheduled. But as you are aware we had to change plans very quickly. First The committee cancelled the April Lunch and Learn due to the coronavirus, soon after that the Graduate Hotel decided to close for two months, and soon after that they closed indefinitely. By the time the Graduate had closed indefinitely the L&L Committee had decided to cancel the rest of the meeting for the year, which were April and May. As I write this for the Annual General Report we are unsure what will happen in the fall. We will begin planning for next year, but we are not sure if the Graduate will reopen. My guess is that they will if the University holds classes in the fall, and the University has already said that they will hold classes. There are still a lot of questions as to holding our meetings at the Graduate. These questions we can not answer until we have contact with the hotel staff perhaps that will be sometime this summer.

Included in next years programs will be the two programs that we had to cancel which are the Ballot Initiatives on Redistricting with speakers from Common Cause Nebraska, and the other program will be the Open Sky Policy Institute which will present a program An Update on Nebraska's Fiscal Debate. After the devastation that the coronavirus has caused to the state and local businesses I'm sure the update will be quite different from what we had expected it to be when we planned the program a year ago.

Once again, I would like to thank Jane Bieber for her help on the committee. She always provided good suggestion for speakers. Jane has decided to take a break from the committee.

I hope that you have all been able to stay well and we look forward to seeing you as soon as it is possible to hold face to face meetings again.

Respectfully,  
Karen Dienstbier, L&L Chair

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*  
League of Women Voters ®  
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Lincoln NE 68510  
402-475-1411  
<http://www.LincolnLeague.org>



Time Dated Material  
Please Do Not Delay