The League of Women Voters – Making a Civic Difference in Our Community

The League of Women Voters has been fighting for voting rights and supporting voters for over 100 years. Shortly before ratification of the 19th Amendment, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League to teach women how to use their newly guaranteed right to vote. Today, there are over 700 local and state Leagues across the U.S. with the mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through advocacy and education. In other words, empowering voters and defending democracy.

From the beginning, the League has been nonpartisan. That hasn't changed. Leagues do not support or oppose political candidates or parties. But the faces of the League have changed…from a group of affluent, white suffragists to a more diverse organization of people from different backgrounds, ages, races, and ethnicities. This change has not come fast enough and is very far from being complete. So, we continue to work at integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion into everything we do. How can we advocate for the U.S. democracy unless we reflect the make-up of our country?

Are you interested in observing a facet of our local government? Providing a discussion forum between legislators and their constituents? Registering voters? Educating on climate change? Check out the LWV of Bloomington-Monroe County (https://lwv-bmc.org) or contact our membership chair, Kaye Hill, at membership@lwv-bmc.org. Membership is open to anyone 16 or older; students pay no dues. Take a look at what the national LWV is doing (https://www.lwvus.org). There's a place for you and we'd love to talk with you about it.