



Tribute to Larry: Wisconsin League Update - Nov. 19, 2010

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Making Democracy Work®



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1. Drawing the Line on Redistricting
2. State League president honored
3. Reform champion led a "life of purpose"

Gerrymandered election districts deprive voters of meaningful choices and heighten partisanship. Under the Wisconsin Constitution, the state legislature is required to redraw legislative and congressional districts every ten years following the decennial U.S. census. Unfortunately this gives incumbent office holders the power to "[choose their voters](#)" rather than the other way around. With support from The Joyce Foundation, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is working with other groups to increase the transparency of the 2011 redistricting and bring about positive reforms for the future.

LWVWI President Melanie G. Ramey was honored this week with the 2010 Ruth Gordon Award from the Madison Area Service Clubs Council. The League of Women Voters is fortunate to have her as our leader, but we are just one of her many volunteer commitments. She was also [featured](#) in the October issue of Dane County Lifestyles magazine.

Larry Hansen, vice president of The Joyce Foundation and an avid supporter of democracy in the Midwest and nationally, passed away this week. Larry was devoted to helping reform groups work together, knowing that together we added up to more than the sum of our parts. His legacy continues through the [Midwest Democracy Network](#), which he helped to create. MDN offers needed camaraderie, information and technical support for state-based groups, including the League, in 5 midwestern states. Larry was inspirational, encouraging and fun, and he will be sorely missed by those of us fortunate enough to have worked with him. Read more about his remarkable career [here](#).

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