

### [Wednesday Noon Live](#)

Watch this 22-minute video to clear up leftover questions you may have about the new legislative district maps that will impact state elections! Jay Heck of Common Cause was in the forefront of working on fair maps for Wisconsin, which has been among the most

gerrymandered states in the country. Hear about the following:

- What just happened to our Wisconsin maps?
- Are the new ones much fairer?
- Why did Republicans hang on to the old ones?
- Why were some Democrats against the new ones?
- How long-lasting are the new maps?

After watching the video, please feel free to contact Jay with questions: [jheck@commoncause.org](mailto:jheck@commoncause.org) or call 608-512-9363

For more information on gerrymandering, we have a resource written by LOPPW's former intern, Kyle Kretschmann: [Money and Politics](#). Kyle is currently the Budget and Policy Analyst at the Wisconsin Department of Administration State Budget Office.

"Government becomes evil when its goals, policies, and programs are designed or transformed into vehicles for harming the neighbor—such as voter suppression laws and gerrymandering." ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement.



An improved Electric Vehicle Infrastructure will help Wisconsin's environment and economy! Federal dollars are already available to make that happen. We just need a change in the law. [Support Senate Bill 791 and the Assembly Amendment!](#)

The federal government has created the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that would see Wisconsin receive \$78.5 million in federal funding if certain changes are made to our regulation of electric vehicle charging stations. This money would be administered by Wisconsin's Department of Transportation and would see Level 3 DC Fast Electric Vehicle Charging Stations every 50 miles on major state highways. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation states that there are 1,223 publicly available chargers, including 360 fast chargers in Wisconsin. Currently, Wisconsin ranks 36 in the country in the ratio of EVs to public chargers. Moreover, we are one of two states (the other being Nebraska) that have not passed the necessary law to meet the federal guidelines of the NEVI funding.

Current Wisconsin state law only allows regulated utilities to charge by the kilowatt hour. Senate Bill 791 would exempt private businesses from this regulation so that instead of charging by the amount of time an electric vehicle is charging, businesses could charge by the amount of energy. This change is necessary to meet the NEVI requirements that have a March deadline. The Senate now needs to pass this bill with an amendment by the Assembly that would allow state agencies to own, operate, manage, or lease an electric vehicle charging station with a low-level charge. We believe this law would greatly expand Wisconsin's ability to have a green energy transition as this infrastructure would encourage more people to consider owning electric vehicles. Wisconsin Public Radio Article: [Bipartisan effort to unlock federal funds for EV charging stations moves forward](#)

Electric vehicles are not the magic answer to decreasing all carbon dioxide emissions, and it takes energy to produce electric vehicles. However, they are a significant part of the solutions we have available to care for God's creation. We also recognize how this bill will make it possible to help our economy.



Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program [Take  
action to  
fund WIC and  
SNAP](#)



[fully](#)

[SNAP](#)

We invite you to again consider acting on these two important programs! One of the programs, SNAP, is part of the Farm Bill.

Formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, SNAP is the nation's most important anti-hunger program. Currently, a handful of law makers have created a movement to cut SNAP. Even though the fall is now the earliest time when the Farm Bill will likely pass, steadily raising our voices is important.

At a House Agriculture Committee hearing on February 14, Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA) proposed a funding framework for the farm bill that included a \$30 billion cut in SNAP benefits over ten years. Congress should reject Chairman Thompson’s proposal. In addition, "the chairman’s proposal would limit USDA’s future adjustments to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), which is used to set SNAP benefits, to account only for food price inflation... Limiting future reevaluations of the TFP would ignore scientific evidence and lead to SNAP benefits becoming out of step with a healthy, achievable diet." Read more in this article from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: ["House Agriculture Committee Chairman Proposes Cut in SNAP Benefits, Reversing Bipartisan Directive to Improve the Thrifty Food Plan"](#)



### **DACA Bills Update**

After hosting our advocacy day in January around four Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) bills, we wanted to provide an update to our advocacy efforts on the legislation. The state assembly had their last floor session on February 22nd. Unfortunately, the legislature was unable to garner enough support to pass three of the DACA bills—one to create a tax credit, granting DACA recipients professional licensing, and allowing DACA recipients to pay in-state tuition. Given that these bills did not pass the assembly, they will be unable to become law this session. These bills had bipartisan support and the authors of the bills are committed getting them passed. We are confident that they will have a good chance of passing in the future.

However, the fourth bill which would give DACA recipients the right to become police officers in the state has already passed the assembly as AB51 and has some chance at passing the senate as SB78. We encourage you to go to our action alert here to contact your lawmakers to get this bill passed: [Support Allowing DACA Recipients to Become Police Officers!](#) Our hope is that if this bill passes, it will pave the way for legislators to consider the other three bills next session, or that all four will pass during the next session. Thank you for your continued advocacy!

The Wisconsin legislative session is winding down. Look for more legislative updates next month.



We have a new office! Oh, and a new coffee maker! After a long thoughtful process on the part of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Lakeview Lutheran Church in Madison, the SCSW moved its office suite into Lakeview a couple

of weeks ago. LOPPW has leased space from the South-Central Synod for several years and are pleased to be able to continue our relationship. If you're in the area, drop in to see if we're around. Have coffee and tell us what's on your mind! Or email ahead of time to set up a coffee/teatime.



### **What's happening with voting? Ask Frances!**

There are several elections occurring in Wisconsin this year and the next one is coming up in April. Here is a general overview of the statewide elections happening in the state:

April 2, 2024: Presidential preference primary and Spring general election

August 13, 2024: Fall primary

November 5, 2024: Fall general election

The next election on April 2nd will allow voters to decide what presidential candidate they want a political party to choose. This vote is advisory and not binding meaning that Wisconsin law does not require Wisconsin's party members to vote for that individual at the party's national convention. However, the Spring general election will see binding results on various local positions throughout the state. County board of supervisors' elections will occur in all 72 of Wisconsin's counties. Other local elections with primary winners from the February elections and races with just two candidates.

Check [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) for details about what will be on your ballot. Ballots are typically available 21 days before state and local contests.

If you are interested in voting Absentee, check out this guide to ensure your vote is counted [Vote Absentee myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov). Make sure to send in your ballot 7 days before the election date or drop off your ballot at your clerk's office. Go to [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) for more information.

Polling places will be open from 7am until 8pm and voters who remain in line when the polls close should remain in line and will be able to cast a ballot.

Register to vote at the polls by bringing an approved photo ID and proof of current residence.

Find info about polling places and how to register to vote also at [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)

### **Statements from the Conference of Bishops!**



Read full press release:

[ELCA Conference of Bishops calls for permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza](#)

### **Conference of Bishops Statement of Solidarity with Migrants in Texas**

Read full press release [here](#)

Living Lutheran article on the Statement [here](#)

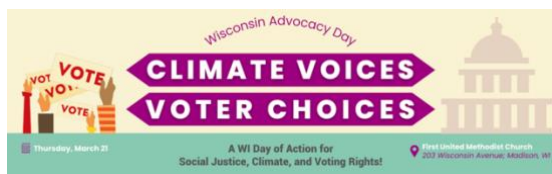


## Resource



Learn about hunger in Wisconsin and the Healthy School Meals for All efforts with Frances J. Dobbs, our Hunger Advocacy Fellow. Use as a resource to show in its entirety or parts of. Also feel free to ask for a workshop. Thank you to the Wisconsin/UP ELCA World Hunger Leaders for hosting this event! Watch [here](#).

## Events



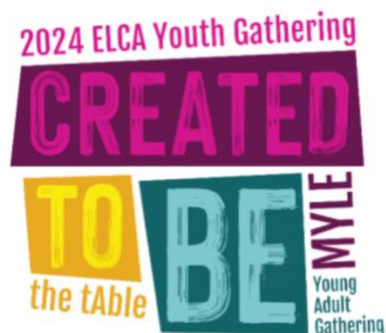
Join Faith in Place and their partners for an impactful day of action advocating for voting rights, climate justice, community welfare, and beyond!

<https://secure.everyaction.com/9bkqGYuBSUINHfC5OzAbTg2>

Event Details

Thursday, March 21 | 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. CT

First United Methodist Church: 203 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703



Find more information and register here:

<https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/congregations>

Thank you for taking time with us!