

Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

Serving the Communities of
Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores,
Grosse Pointe Woods, and Harper Woods

Preview: Fall Activities

Thursday, September. 19 , 7 p.m.

Kickoff Meeting

Promote the Vote update

GPW Cook Schoolhouse

20025 Mack Ave, GPW

Speaker: Sharon Dolente, Voting Strategist, ACLU

September - October

Candidate Forums

Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m.

Gerrymandering, Redistricting, and the Census

Wayne County Community College,
Harper Woods campus

Local WCCC Leader Robinson Passes

We were so sorry to hear that Dr. Sandra Robinson, Provost of the Wayne County Community College District, recently died unexpectedly. She spoke at our annual meeting a few years ago about the offerings at the College, and has been a wonderful supporter of our League activities. We are so grateful for her interest and will miss her kind and gracious ways.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Webinars

The spring series of DEI webinars has ended, and LWV offers a deeper dive into this topic in a new series that began June 27. These webinars offer tools any member can use in League work or in other aspects of life. The webinars are free and one may choose either to participate or simply listen. The remaining dates, usually the last Thursday of each month, are:

Aug 29 ([Register here](#))

Sept 26 ([Register here](#))

You can find recordings of the

From the Prez...

Fall is almost upon us, and that means forum time. This is an off year for state and national elections, but local elections take front and center attention. And we have 6 contested elections, which means we will have 6 forums.

This would be a great time to become more active in the League and volunteer to help. Shortly, you will receive an email from Judy Florian and Sue Acton, our stalwart Voter Services representatives, asking for assistance.

Consider becoming more active in the election process by working as an election inspector. It is fun and rewarding. Call or contact any of the local city clerks. The minimum qualifications for becoming an election inspector are being a registered Michigan voter, and being able to attend a daytime training session. Election inspectors are paid for their work on Election Day. Rates vary and can be found on each city's website or by calling your local clerk. The State of Michigan Election Inspector Application [can be found here.](#)

I promised myself that after the last election that I would not let another election pass without experiencing this opportunity. So, come join me!

Our fall kickoff meeting is on September 19, and we will have, in addition to the great speaker outlined elsewhere in this missive, a vote to adopt the new and improved Bylaws.

Enjoy the last of this wonderful Summer (after it arrived on July 4th without a Spring), and I look forward to seeing you at the forums and working at the polls.

Tom

C. Thompson Wells, Jr. President
League of Women Voters, Grosse Pointe

Proposal 3: New Rights for Michigan Voters

Last year, our LWVGP members were big supporters of the petition drive for Proposal 3. This was a measure that expanded voting rights by making voting more accessible to more people. Our work helped get it on the ballot and it passed last November. We haven't had a local election since then. LWVGP thinks it is important to remind people about their new rights.

Our new brochure highlights some of these expanded rights:

- register to vote anytime (even through election day!)

previous webinars and [additional information here](#).

Leagues around the country have been putting these ideas to use in their activities, so tune in to learn what it is all about.

Questions? Call me.
Wilhelmina Giblin
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Director

Lake Michigan Conference

LWV Lake Michigan Region is holding its Annual Meeting in Michigan this fall, **October 25-26, at the Lakeside Inn in Lakeside, MI.**



This is a beautiful venue and a registered historical site.

The keynote speaker topic is "Groundwater, the 6th Great Lake".

To register or learn more go to <https://www.lwvlmr.org/>.

League Links

Want to contact one of your government officials?
[Click here!](#)

Want to check LWVGP's calendar for the latest updates?
[Click here!](#)

[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)
[LWV Michigan](#)
[LWV United States](#)

The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government; works to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is strictly nonpartisan, neither endorsing candidates nor supporting political parties. The LWVGP, in both its values and its practices, reaffirms its commitment to diversity. Membership is open to men and women of all ages.

- vote early by absentee ballot
- apply for a "no reason" absentee ballot
- use the expanded hours at City Hall to register to vote and vote by absentee ballot.

The brochure also includes the details about where, when and how to register and links to make sure a voter is ready to vote. The info is directly from the Michigan Secretary of State's office.

[Click here](#) to download your own copy of the LWV-GP brochure "New Rights for Michigan Voters."

We plan to distribute these brochures in our City Halls, our libraries, at our Candidate Forums and at our programs.

Your help is needed for distribution (Sue Acton at shacton@gmail.com) if you can make deliveries. Please send out your own emails to friends and "like" our Facebook page when we post the link.

Sue Acton, VP Voter Services
League of Women Voters, Grosse Pointe

Local Candidate Forums Scheduled

The Grosse Pointe communities have contested elections in several races in November. Voter Services has scheduled the following candidate forums so voters in the community can meet the candidates and be informed before Election Day!

Monday, September 23, 2019 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. ***
*** location and time pending final confirmation
Election: Harper Woods City Council
6 candidates for 3 seats

Monday, October 7, 2019 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Grosse Pointe War Memorial (Alger Room), 32 Lake Shore Drive, GPF
Election: Grosse Pointe Shores City Council
4 candidates for 3 seats

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Grosse Pointe Park Court Room/Council Chambers, 15115 E. Jefferson
Election: Grosse Pointe Park City Council
4 candidates for 3 seats

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Brownell Middle School, 260 Chalfonte Avenue
Grosse Pointe Farms City Council
Election: 4 candidates for 3 seats (full term)
Election: 6 candidates for 1 seat (partial term)

Thursday, October 17, 2019 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Grosse Pointe Woods City Council Chambers, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive
Election: Grosse Pointe Woods City Council
5 candidates for 3 seats

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.



Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, GP
Grosse Pointe Mayor and City Council (combined forum)
Mayor: 2 candidates for 1 position
Council: 5 candidates for 3 seats

Voter Services needs help from our members for the six candidate forums scheduled above.

We are seeking greeters, question gatherers, question sorters and timekeepers. Please contact Sue Acton at 313.434.5768 or Judy Florian at 313.402.6786 if you can assist with these forums.

DEI: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

After the January Program planning meeting, a DEI committee was formed to develop recommendations to the board for implementing DEI principles. Committee members Wilhelmina Giblin, Valerie Kindle, and Marge Freundl created a brief orientation for the Board meeting August 14.

The presentation focused on the nature of personal bias. Think about bias as stories or beliefs that we make up about people before we know them. They are often passed on from relatives, friends, the media, etc. Acknowledging our biases can make us feel uncomfortable, but it is the first step toward supporting the need to build mutually beneficial relationships with individuals unlike ourselves. These steps will help to reduce racism, and increase empathy and compassion towards disenfranchised populations. We become advocates and allies with a common goal: to stand up to injustices, voter suppression, and racial and economic inequality.

To remain relevant, our League must eliminate barriers for full participation at League events by members of our community. An example would be to collaborate with the NAACP for a meeting, or host meetings at non-traditional locations. Goals will be set and action plans developed during the year by the board of directors for implementing DEI principles.

Look for articles in the future regarding the DEI initiative, implementation and trainings. If you have ideas to share that will help the League successfully implement DEI, please contact me.

Wilhelmina Giblin, DEI Director

Tell Congress to do its JOB

Enough! Tell Congress To Do Its Job.

Mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton gripped the nation's attention a few short weeks ago. The public outcry for stronger gun laws was loud and clear. Even President Trump joined the chorus. Now the NRA has his ear, and we cannot count on his leadership.

Congress reconvenes after Labor Day. Earlier this year the U.S. House passed a bill calling for universal background checks. Now

is the time to demand that the Senate pass such a bill, as well as a national Red Flag law and a ban on automatic weapons.

Fortunately, Michigan's U.S. Senators are on the right side of this issue. But they are not in the majority. I urge you to contact friends and family in other states asking them to tell their senators to pass sensible gun legislation now.

Jo Ann Kelly, LWVMI Advocacy Team
Member, LWVGP

Revised Bylaws: Vote on September 19

With the merger of the Ed Fund, and the LWVGP, we have to adopt new bylaws.

The LWVGP Board voted to recommend these bylaws to the membership, for voting on at the September 19 meeting. More information on that meeting is in this Voter newsletter.

[Click here](#) to view the bylaws document

- Much of the wording is the same.
- The only thing changed may be the order, sentence structure, order of information.
- Attempted to clarify so that information in a section is complete and doesn't require reading thru all the bylaws to find that information.
- Where you see YELLOW highlights in the document, that refers to the information in that section, and provides the rationale for the change.

Many thanks to Ann Nicholson, who provided rationale in the various sections, Stu Dow who served on the committee, Judy Florian for her always expert proofreading, Wilhelmina Giblin and Sarah Coats who provided valuable input, and the board for their diligence in ensuring we have a document that will carry the LWVGP for at least the next few years without any further changes.

NOTE: The bylaws link was sent to all the membership via email on August 18, which was the required 30 days notice per the current bylaws.

Vicki Granger, Bylaws Chair

Proposal 3 Passed: Now What?

As referenced elsewhere in this newsletter, Proposal 3 has made voting easier than ever. But even with all the changes, so overwhelmingly supported in the November 2018 election, there is still work to be done for a smooth implementation.

Join us on Thursday, September 19, at 7 p.m., at the Grosse Pointe Woods Cook Schoolhouse, for a presentation by Sharon Dolenty. Sharon spoke at the LWVMI state convention in May, and is the Voting Rights Strategist for the ACLU. She was intimately involved with Promote the Vote, and is now working with the

secretary of state and the state elections director on ways to help make the process run smoothly.

This is also our Kick Off meeting, and we will be voting on the bylaws, introducing the board, and providing the new Voting Rights flyer.

Please consider bringing a friend or two to introduce him or her to League!

Val Kindle, Vice President Program
Vicki Granger, Director Program

Your Membership Dues are.... DUE!

It is easy to sit back and enjoy summer, and ignore one of the happiest activities of all: rejoining LWV, and make democracy work! In fact, LWVUS is promoting the motto: MAKE DEMOCRACY STRONGER!

Please send your dues to LWVGP, 32 Lake Shore Rd. Dues are \$xx, which includes national, state, and local dues. You are welcome to include something extra for the purposes of LWVGP operations, and such things as printing of brochures, and the costs of running a volunteer organization.

Sarah Coates, Membership, Director
Laurie Coplin, Membership, Assistant Director



["Like" the LWVGP on Facebook! And check out our activities here!](#)

[Join the League! Print out our membership form to mail in](#)

[New Member Handbook](#)

[The 2019 Membership Directory](#)

League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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