

Save the Date: Annual Meeting and Breakfast, Sat. June 1

**Print out the RSVP form**

# Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

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

## Quick Preview: Activities This Month:

**Thurs, April 11**

**6-9 p.m.**

**GPPSS: Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting**  
**Parcells M.S. Auditorium**

20600 Mack  
GP Woods, 48236

**May 17-19**

**LWVMI State Convention**  
**Embassy Suites by Hilton**

19525 Victor Parkway  
Livonia, MI 48152

**Sat, June 1**

**8:30 am**

**Annual Meeting & Brunch**

**Speaker: Josh Elling**

**Country Club of Detroit**

220 Country Club Drive  
GP Farms, 48236

[Print out the RSVP form here](#)

*Keep reading our Voter for additional details.  
Hope to see you there!*

## GPPSS Blue Ribbon Reconfiguration Committee

GPPSS is considering a reconfiguration of the school district.

All committee documents are posted on the district website,  
[GPSchools.org/BlueRibbonFacilitiesCommittee](http://GPSchools.org/BlueRibbonFacilitiesCommittee).

The [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) is updated regularly.

The next Committee meeting will be:

**Thurs, April 11, 6-9 p.m.**  
**Parcells Middle School Auditorium,**  
**20600 Mack**  
**Grosse Pointe Woods**

It is open to the public.

## Membership Matters

Thank you Adura and Robert Calhoun, new members, who volunteered at the schools forum

## April 2019

### From the Prez...

Sometimes, I find it hard to describe my feelings for the League. But what is not hard to explain is the inspiration I get when I see so many of our members engage in such a wide variety of activities that interest them. YOU inspire me! As a volunteer organization, I believe that we do make a difference.

So, for those that are working on

•Voter Registration •Voter Forums •Educational Programs  
•Recycling Information •Voter Information •Action Alerts  
•Membership Engagement •Fundraising Efforts •Legislative  
Interviews •Convention Activities, etc.,

I thank you for inspiring me.

For those of you that may be thinking of what to be engaged or involved in, look for more details on current activities, and please take the time to read on.....

Tom

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

## Jun 1: Annual Spring Meeting and Breakfast

### What's Happening Along East Jefferson?

Josh Elling, CEO of Jefferson East, Inc. is the featured speaker at the League's Annual Meeting June 1.

[Jefferson East Inc.](#) began in 1994 as the Jefferson East Business Association, a grass roots organization in the Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood to bring modern retail to that area.



In 2009 the organization expanded its focus and changed its name to encompass all five neighborhoods along Jefferson between Alter Road and downtown. It developed a comprehensive plan to transform East Jefferson into a pedestrian friendly streetscape.

Since then JEI has promoted safety improvements, streetscape enhancements and business development. Its development arm has launched more than \$100 million in mixed use, mixed income redevelopment projects. JEI also helps residents in the area apply

February 26, 2019, at Pierce Middle School. There are follow-up articles in the *Grosse Pointe News* and *Detroit Free Press* regarding possible reorganization of the schools in Grosse Pointe. Our league will be monitoring discussions of local leaders regarding this important issue.

All members are encouraged to attend the **LWVGP Annual Meeting June 1, 2019**. Step up and participate at this important meeting. We will have an outstanding speaker and elect new officers to the board of directors. What better way to also see old friends and introduce yourself to new members, while enjoying a great breakfast in a beautiful setting. The [meeting RSVP form](#) can be printed out here and additional details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition, all members are encouraged to attend the **LWVMI State Convention May 17-19 in Livonia**. This is a great opportunity to learn about the business of the state league and how local leagues can influence decisions at the state level. You may visit the [LWVMI website](#) for more information. Please let me know if you register to attend the state convention so you can be introduced to other attendees.

As discussed at the Program Planning meeting in January, leagues are encouraged to participate in the **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)** initiative sponsored by the national League of Women Voters (LWVUS). Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-Membership Director, provided an overview of this initiative at the January meeting.

LWVUS will host three webinars on DEI this Spring. Topics will include knowledge sharing on terms and theories in the DEI space and how and why DEI should intersect with your League work.

All League members with an interest in these important topics are invited to attend.

All webinars will be recorded and shared on the League Management Site. Webinars will be held on **March 28**, **April 25**, and **May 23** (the fourth Thursday of the month) from **7:00 pm to 8:00 pm ET**.

Click on the blue dates above to find the appropriate registration form. I encourage you to register for these webinars.

There will be discussions and recommendations regarding DEI at the state convention that will assist our local league in its implementation of DEI.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting June 1.

for City of Detroit interest free loans for home repairs, and works to prevent home foreclosures.

Josh Elling has a background in commercial real estate and urban planning, and is a champion for making the East Jefferson corridor a great place to live, work, invest and play.

**Saturday, June 1.**  
**Country Club of Detroit**  
**220 Country Club Drive**  
**GP Farms, MI 48236**

Registration and coffee: 8:30 a.m.  
Breakfast: 9:00  
Speaker and Annual Meeting: 10:00

Cost: \$25  
Make check to LWVGP and send to  
LWVGP, 32 Lake Shore, GP Farms, MI 48236

[Print out the RSVP form here.](#)

JEI represents 5 distinct neighborhoods along the east Jefferson corridor and provides programming within a boundary area of 18.4 square miles



*JEI represents 5 distinct neighborhoods along the east Jefferson corridor.*

## May 17-19: LWVMI Convention

Nine members will represent LWVGP at LWVMI May 2019 Convention

The **2019 LWVMI convention is May 17-19**, in Livonia, MI. LWVGP is sending six board members as voting delegates; three others are also attending as alternates. The group includes Tom Wells, Sue Acton, Judy Florian, Wilhelmina Giblin, Marge Freundl, Connie Frey, Mary Jo Johnson, Carol Lufburrow, and Vicki Granger.

The weekend event is \$190, and being held at the Embassy Suites.

If interested, please go to the convention registration link <https://fs16.formsite.com/lwvmi/convention19/index.html>

You **MUST** register by April 27 for the convention, and if interested in a room at the hotel, by the same date. There are late fees!

Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-Director, Membership.

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Do you know a family member or friend who is thinking about joining?  
Hand them one of our [membership forms](#) to mail in!

## Oak Tree Alert!

Do you have oak trees on your property? Protect them by only trimming during late fall and winter when the sap is not running. If emergency pruning is necessary at other times, immediately paint the wound with tree wound or latex paint.

The beetles which spread the *oak wilt infection* can find that sweet sap in less than 15 minutes. There is no cure for an infected tree. To learn more go to [michiganoakwilt.org](http://michiganoakwilt.org). Spread the word!

## Local Program and Advocacy

Do you have ideas about local positions our League has taken, or thoughts about informational programs for the community?

Pass your ideas along to President Tom Wells or Program Vice President Stu Dow.

## 2019-20 Proposed Budget

Members will be asked to approve the attached 2019-20 budget submitted by the Budget Committee consisting of Tom Wells, Carol Lufburrow, and Chair Connie Frey.

[Check out the 2019-2020 Budget here](#)

## Proposal to Combine LWV-Grosse Pointe and the Education Fund of LWV- Grosse Pointe

At its meeting on March 20, the Board voted to recommend to the membership at its Annual Meeting on June 1, that the League and its Education Fund merge into one 501(c3) organization.

The IRS has changed the lobbying requirements that kept the League a 501(c4), and after consultation with LWVUS and LWVMI a study committee composed of Tom Wells, Carol Lufburrow, Connie Frey and Peggy Hickey recommend that the two organizations become one.

There are two advantages. Our League is not large and one board would free up manpower

The convention also offers a Saturday only option, for \$50, which includes the morning business session, lunch, and afternoon workshops.

Read through the information at the link CAREFULLY. At the end, you may pay via credit card.

This link is an overview of the ENTIRE schedule for the weekend. <https://lwvmi.org/documents/ConvenOverview2019.pdf>

If you plan to attend, please contact Vicki Granger at [grangergpw@aol.com](mailto:grangergpw@aol.com) or 313.460.5250 who is organizing our group's information for this event.

## Voter Services Report Voter Registration

### Proposal 18-3 and Voter Registration Update

The Secretary of State branch process is now "automatic voter registration". When eligible citizens who are not already registered to vote complete a Michigan driver's license or Michigan Identification Card application, they will automatically be registered to vote, unless they affirmatively decline.

Also, the deadline to register to vote is no longer 30 days before an election. Under the new law, voters may register in person, by mail, or online up to 15 days prior to an election. Voters may also register in person with their local clerk within 14 days of an election, up to and including Election Day. A voter registering during this time period will need to provide proof of residency in addition to proof of identity (or an ID that proves both). Because a voter may register on Election Day, the clerk or a deputized staff member (not an election inspector) must be available for voter registration services at the Clerk's Office all of Election Day.

In addition, passage of this statewide proposal provides that all eligible and registered voters in Michigan can now request an absentee ballot without providing a reason.

### LWVGP High School Registrations

Voter Services is gearing up for our annual Student Voter Registration Campaign at our local high schools in April 2019. The Secretary of State has eliminated the "must vote in person" requirement for first-time mail-in registrants or if students register with our group without a clerk present. This means students will not have to vote in-person the first time they vote. They can register and request an absentee ballot for their first election. This is a great benefit to our first-time student voters, especially those heading to College in the fall.

If you are interested in participating in our Student Voter Registration Campaign, please contact Judy at 313-402-6786, [jflo@comcast.net](mailto:jflo@comcast.net) or Sue at 313-434-5768, [shacton@gmail.com](mailto:shacton@gmail.com). We will contact you with the dates and schedule.

Judy Florian  
Sue Acton

and simplify accounting. Also, all dues and donations would become tax exempt to the donor. The committee could not identify any down side to this merger.

If you have questions, contact any committee member.

## Bylaws Revision Update

Subsequent to the proposed Bylaws changes being printed in the February-March Voter, the Board is recommending that the membership approve a merger of the League and its Ed Fund.

This will involve additional Bylaws work, so the Board voted to postpone a vote on Bylaws changes until the vote on the merger has taken place.

The Bylaws changes proposed in the last Voter will not be voted upon on June 1.

*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.*



## Recycling Progress

We are still in the investigative process concerning recycling issues. Some of our committee attended a meeting (Designated TRASH TALK), in Lansing this past week, and garnered much info concerning their recycling efforts. Since their biggest client is MSU, they have a much different set of parameters to satisfy. However, our field trip was great fun, and gave us much to think about when tackling the issue here in our community.



Thanks to Connie Frey, Carol Lufburrow, Mary Jo Johnson, and Tom Wells (our driver), who accompanied me, it was a great learning experience, and a friendly, informative experience.

More in the next Voter.

Jan Wells

## Tues. Mar 12: Step Up & Serve Panel

Many thanks to our esteemed local officials, Judy Gafa (GP school board), Val Kindle (Harper Woods city council), Ken Poynter (Harper Woods mayor), Vicki Granger (GP Woods city council), and George McMullen (GP Woods city council) who came out March 12 to share advice, insight, and stories of being an elected government official.



Also thank you to Laurie Arora who moderated the informative evening.



["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 Links

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

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