

If you missed the candidate forum for the State Reps for districts 1 & 2,

[you can check it out on YouTube now](#)

District 1=GPW, HW, GPS --&-- District 2=GPP, GP, GPF

The Primary Election is AUGUST 7TH
Voter Guides Available at Vote411.org

Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

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

Activities This Month:

Tues, Aug 7
Primary Election
Don't Forget to Vote!

Thurs, Sept 27
Kick-Off Meeting
November's Ballot Issues
GP War Memorial
GPF, 48236

Keep reading below for additional details. Hope to see you there!

A reminder about "primary voting": ***You can only vote in one political party's column***

"In the August Primary, you cannot "split" your ticket (i.e., vote in more than one party's column) when voting. *Voters participating in an August primary must confine their votes to a single party column.*"

From the [Mi SOS Elections & Voting FAQ](#) page

Any nonpartisan proposals or candidates (usually for judgeships) will be in a separate column or section of the ballot.

August 2018

From the Prez...

As I mentioned in the last Voter - stay tuned.

Well, the convention was invigorating, informative, and time well spent by four of your erstwhile members which included Judy Florian, Sue Acton and Wilhelmina Giblin. Their thoughts and experiences are included in this issue.

As for me, as budget chair for National, it was all about learning more of the Transformation process. What impresses me is the dedication and "all-in" attitude of the National staff, the National Board, and many of the attendees at the convention that I observed. "Making Democracy Work" is not just a phrase or fancy words to these men and women, it's something to work at and be proud of.

We still need to understand how the Transformation will work for our local League in tandem with the State and National Leagues. I am optimistic that it is going to make the League more visible and relevant in our society.

As for now, be sure to Vote on August 7th, support the forums, and volunteer if you see or hear of an activity that you think may fit your needs and desires.

Tom

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

Promote the Vote Signature Drive



Judy Florian, Sue Acton, Wilhelmina Giblin, & Tom Wells

Preview a Sample Ballot

Some of our local city halls provide a digital sample ballot on their website to help you prepare for the election day.

They are:

GP Woods [Sample Ballot](#)

City of Grosse Pointe
Sample Ballot
[Precinct 1](#) or [Precinct 2](#)

Check out LWVGP Voter Guides

Learn about the candidates who want to lead your community!



Voter Guides for **US Senate, US Congress, Michigan Governor, Michigan's Senate, & Michigan's House of Representatives** are provided.

To build your personalized voter guide, go to [Vote411.org](#), which provides voter guides as well as polling place, voting hours, and tips about voting in Michigan.

Before voting Aug 7, check out online the video of the State Reps Candidate Forum

Here is the link to LWVGP's [House Districts 1 and 2 Candidate Forum](#)

Please share this link on your own Facebook page or Twitter account, and also send the link via email to family and friends.

Thurs, Sept 27th:
Save the Date

The drive to collect signatures for this November ballot initiative, [Promote the Vote](#), to expand voter rights and put them in the Michigan constitution, ended with the delivery of all the petitions to the Secretary of State in Lansing on July 9th. LWVGP contributed 631 signatures to this effort. Thirteen active members and two friends of the League collected petition signatures.

A huge League thank you goes to Mary Morshead and Maria Simon, each of whom obtained more than 95 signatures. Other outstanding help came from Sue Acton, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Mary Jo Johnson, Anna Kondak, Pamela Loomis, and Tom Wells. Each one gathered more than 30 signatures.

As of July 2, 2018, the Leagues of Women Voters in Michigan have contributed 19,513 signatures with the Ann Arbor League leading the way with 4,651 of those. Also of note: the Macomb League gathered 886 signatures.

The petitions were submitted Monday, July 9, at 10:30 am. As of early July, [Promote the Vote](#) had 535,379 signatures, 49,452 were from volunteers. This should be more than enough; the original number sought was 315,654. Once approved for the ballot, you'll be hearing about our next steps to educate the voters about it before November 6.

State House Candidate Forum Report

Voter Services conducted a combined Candidate Forum for Michigan House of Representatives, Districts 1 and 2 on July 18th.

The following candidates participated in the forum:

District 1:

Mark Corcoran (R), Gregory Creswell (L) and Tenisha Yancey (D)

District 2:

Willie Bell (D), Latisha Johnson (D), John Palfy (R), Joe Tate (D) and Carla Tinsley-Smith (D).

Questions focused on car insurance rates, charter schools, how to improve our public schools, gun violence in Michigan and Detroit, programs for the aging population in Michigan and how to work collaboratively with other legislators. A total of 73 people attended.

I was very pleased with the attendance at the forum-the attendees posed thoughtful and important questions to the candidates. The forum was video recorded by Steve Geresy, **SKG Digital Designs**, which is available on [YouTube \(Click here\)](#) and the WMTV community television station.



I extend a very special thanks to the following League members who helped make both forums a success:

Sue Acton (scheduler, flyer developer, question gatherer/greeter), question gatherers: Marge Freundl, Wilhelmina Giblin, Peggy Hickey, Mary Jo Johnson and George McMullen; question sorters: JoAnn Kelly and Carol Todd; timekeeper: Deb Sloss; moderator: Rhonda Craig-President of the Detroit League; promotion/news

LWVGP's annual **Kick-Off meeting** will be at the War Memorial this year on Sept. 27. The meeting will feature a presentation on the ballot issues this November.

Our sympathies

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dennis Hickey earlier this month. His wife, Peggy, has been an active member of our League, and her many League friends offer their support and condolences in this difficult time.

Membership Matters

Welcome new members:

*Crescentia Strong
Margaret Lommis
James Quinlan
Nancy Patek*

Thank you to all members who mailed their membership dues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. If you have not mailed your dues, please do so as soon as possible. Dues are \$60 for an individual or \$90 for a household. If you lost the dues envelope that was mailed to your home in June, please mail your check payable to:

*LWV of Grosse Pointe
32 Lakeshore Drive
Grosse Pointe Farms,
Michigan 48236*

Thank you,

Wilhelmina Giblin,
Co-Membership Director

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

Convention Report - Wilhelmina Giblin

articles: Laurie Arora and Vicki Granger, and Tom Wells, our President, for the banner set up and for his kind remarks to candidates and attendees. I also thank the many other League members who attended to support Voter Services and the forums. It is greatly appreciated!

This forum was co-sponsored with the LWV of Detroit.

Judy Florian
VP for Voter Services

Convention Report - Judy Florian

It was an honor and privilege to represent our League as a voting delegate at the National Convention, June 28-July 1 in Chicago.



The credentials report filed at the Convention showed the following:

- Total number of Leagues, including ILO's (Inter League Organizations): 762
- Total number of states represented: 49 plus the District of Columbia
- A total of 52 League members from Michigan attended.
- This was the largest National League Convention on record, with 1136 attending!

In addition to great speakers, I attended the following sessions from which I received great information. Here is a summary.

National Popular Vote (NPV)

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a bi-partisan agreement among enacting states to award their electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who receives the most votes nationwide. The Compact would guarantee that:

- Every vote in every state would matter
- Votes are equal across the country; millions of ignored voters are enfranchised
- Candidates run true national campaigns, campaigning in all states, responding to a greater range of voters and promoting agendas that unite the greatest number of voters
- The Electoral System as envisioned in our Constitution remains intact and states retain control over elections.

As specified in Article II, section 1 of the Constitution, states have exclusive power to appoint and direct their Electors. The leadership of the state, party in power and/or legislature chooses electors.

Red and blue states representing 172 of the 270 Electoral College votes needed for the Compact to take effect have already enacted NPV, with 18 states having submitted NPVIC bills in their legislature.

In Michigan, our lower House passed HB6610 by a vote of 65-36, but it died in committee in the Upper House.

The LWVUS approved a motion to provide support for the NPV initiative.

Get Out the Vote Strategies That Work

This session was conducted by the LWV in South Bend, Indiana, San Diego and South Carolina, all of whom are making the most of their community networks, partners and League volunteers to get out the vote in key communities. They provided some useful tips on strategies they

During plenary sessions, it was reported that



LWVUS is facing internal and external challenges to empower voters and defend our democracy.

Two major challenges facing the league is the lack of a centralized database to tell the league's story. All leagues collect information differently, and LWVUS lacks a unified database to collect information about all leagues, and therefore, cannot tell the league's story in a meaningful way to legislators, donors or the community in general. Second, the league is a very homogenous organization; it lacks diversity in age, race and gender. The majority of members nationwide are white, middle age women, which does not reflect our changing community. The league has begun a Transformation Initiative that includes activities to promote diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

I learned during a diversity training that embracing diversity, equity and inclusion is core to the League's mission to empower voters and defend our democracy. How do we interact with new volunteers, partners and voters to present a welcoming and diverse organization?

I also thoroughly enjoyed the session that discussed youth engagement in the democratic process. A recent high school graduate and college students from Anchorage, Alaska, spoke eloquently about their youth-driven initiatives. The Anchorage League has provided training and

have used. One service is TellMy Cell, which allows mass text messaging to selected populations. They use it to send reminders to newly registered voters to check their status, find their polling place, etc. They also registered voters at new citizen events (Naturalization ceremonies). Data shows the most effective strategies to register voters are in the classrooms at high schools and community colleges. We hope to implement this next year with our League.

The San Diego League has adopted the slogan "Make Voting Fun Again" by having parties before Election Day, going into 15 high schools and registering over 1000 students, and working within the community to get people to the polls. They consider voting a civic duty shared with others; when working together, they have increased the turnout significantly.

Vote411 Advanced Training

This session provided an update on Vote411 by Megan Brown, Vote411 Coordinator, LWVUS. She provided excellent information on the "new look" for the candidate pages, how to find Geographic Information System (GIS) data for smaller races, providing candidate information in alternate languages, ask candidates new scale questions and uploading races and candidates from a spreadsheet.

The Convention was energetic and empowering. It was great to network with attendees from other Leagues and learn from them! I thank the League for providing me the opportunity to attend the Convention and bring back ideas we can implement locally.

Judy Florian
VP for Voter Services

Convention Report - Sue Acton

August 26, 1920

Sad to say, until attending the LWV-US convention this month, that date didn't have any special meaning for me. I don't recall seeing the typical commemorative articles - 50 years - 75 years - 90 years - that so often correspond to "Great Dates in American History" mention this date. America commemorates everything, the important and the trivial: Pearl Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, Kennedy's death, President's birthdays, the decades since the Lions/Tigers/Pistons/Red Wings championships, even the invention of the Hula Hoop.



August 26, 1920. No, I don't recall ever seeing an event, a parade, even a news article to make note of the date when the 19th Amendment was declared to be in effect following ratification. It was such an important date. Women finally had the right to vote nationwide as of August 26, 1920. The last state to ratify, Tennessee, had acted just 8 days before. The National American Woman Suffrage Association became the League of Women Voters at their convention in 1920. Their battle was all but won at that convention and they looked ahead to a new direction, voter education. We were told they celebrated with a conga line. We recognized Carrie Chapman Catt, the President of NAWSA who proposed the idea, and Maud Wood Park who was the first president of the League.

Perhaps our League can commit to making it a priority, in 2020, to celebrate the 100 years since August 26, 1920 and make sure that our foremothers are recognized in a BIG way. The next LWV-US convention will be in Washington DC in 2020. I'm certain the conga line will form again.

"Remember the Ladies"

Abigail Adams wrote those words in 1776, encouraging her husband John to consider women in forming a new government. He forgot. We could have been commemorating the 19th amendment these past 98 years since its ratification. We forgot. It shouldn't be a surprise. The

financial support to the youth group since 2002. This youth group holds candidate forums, registration drives, and other activities. Our league has begun working with Wayne County Community College District to also engage youth and young adults in the political process.

I also obtained two CDs at other sessions that our league should consider showing during a public viewing: *Legalize Equality (Equal Means Equal)* regarding pay equity and opportunity for women, and *Fix It: HealthCare at the Tipping Point*; suggesting that continued assaults on healthcare is a form of social injustice.

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.

usual mechanisms that we use to recognize American giants, sadly don't seem to include women much.

Our history books, faces on our money, statues in our parks are not reflecting examples of our women leaders. Our symphonies play few women's pieces, our museums contain little art made with female hands, our sports leagues assume men are doing the playing, e.g. NBA v WNBA. Women represent 23% of Senators, 20% of US Representatives, 12% of Governors, and 5% of CEO's in the S&P 500. Our Constitution is missing an Equal Rights Amendment. Did we forget all of these?

At the LWV-US National Convention in Chicago, we learned that there are many who are working to make sure we "remember the ladies."

- The state of Illinois passed the Equal Rights Amendment on May 30, 2018, you read that right, 2018. It was the 37th state, one more is needed before going back to Congress for a deadline extension. The LWV-US committed to supporting the efforts to have one more state ratify and any legal challenges that may arise out of extension or rescission rules.
- **Rosie Rios** spoke at the convention. She was the Secretary of the Treasury under Barack Obama who led the effort to redesign US paper currency to include women. The \$10 will be redesigned first and will include suffrage leaders on the back. Harriet Tubman, on the front of the \$20, will follow. The goal had been to have this accomplished by 2020, although the timing is uncertain under the current administration. A bill (HR 5308) to put women on the obverse of the quarter, in a program similar to the 50 state program, was introduced in March, 2018. It is still in committee.
- Ms. Rios is also behind Empowerment 2020 with a website, TeachersRightingHistory.org, that shares the stories of women's achievements. She is also behind an effort to have real women appear in statues in prominent places after noting that there are no REAL women among 22 historical figures in Central Park. She did not include those called "notable women" by others, Mother Goose, Alice in Wonderland or Shakespeare's Juliet, in that total. A statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony in Central Park is now underway.
- A keynote speaker at the convention, Elaine Weiss, has just published "The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote." She spoke at length to help us remember the ladies of the 1920's who were marching, writing, and speaking out in order to pass the 19th amendment.

With 2020 not so far away, and the #MeToo movement in full swing, now might be a great time to consider raising our hand and raising up our sisters in our mutual efforts for inclusion and recognition at all levels. Let's make sure we remember.



["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](#)