

**From:** League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe <thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org>  
**To:** league <league@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org>  
**Subject:** Grosse Pointe VOTER August/September 2012  
**Date:** Sun, Aug 19, 2012 9:17 pm



# Grosse Pointe | VOTER

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Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores,  
Grosse Pointe Woods, and Harper Woods

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**To League of Women Voters  
Grosse Pointe**

**August-September Issue**

**2012**

Our traditional Mum Sale will take place at the Grosse Pointe Farmers Market September 15th between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park.

We're working with a new grower VanThomme on 23 Mile Rd. in Macomb. A price is not set yet, but I'm sure it will be affordable. Jennifer Meldrum from the market is familiar with the new vendor and working with me negotiating a price. We will need help that day--if you want to volunteer call me or Sharon and we will make a schedule convenient for all. I'm hoping for the same location we have always been by Muelier's Market. We will deliver if you can't come to the Market that day.

Hope to see you there and/or receive an order by phone from you.

Betty  
313.4994095  
Sharon  
313.8825132

[Event Calendar for the year](#)

[Board Meeting Minutes of April](#)

## Additional Snippets

## Kick - Off Meeting September 19, 2012

7:00 P.M. Grosse Pointe War Memorial On September 19th, we will be pleased to present Mr. Rich Robinson, to speak to the League, and the public, on the topic of CAMPAIGN FINANCE. What's wrong with it, and what we can do to fix it! The title of the program will be: CANDIDATES FOR HIRE; the story of Campaign Finance. Mr. Robinson is the Executive Director of the non-partisan Michigan Campaign Finance Network, out of Lansing. He is the principal overseer of political donations in Michigan. We are very fortunate that he has agreed to speak to us on this very controversial topic! I hope we will have an enthusiastic audience to show our interest and appreciation for his presentation.

Jan Wells  
Program Vice President

## From the Prez...

Welcome back fellow Leaguers from hopefully a wonderful summer!

Our members have been working diligently to put together an interesting program for this coming year. Our new Vice President of Program, Jan Wells and the program committee have a great schedule for this next League year. In conjunction with the LWVUS focus on campaign finance reform, our first meeting will be devoted to the need for openness and transparency in campaign finances and your participation in helping to make that happen. This program will be presented by Rich Robinson. Mr. Robinson is the Executive Director of the non-partisan Michigan Campaign Finance Network, in Lansing. He is the principal overseer of political donations in Michigan. We are very fortunate that he has agreed to speak to us on this very controversial topic!

The kick-off meeting is Wednesday, 19 September at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

The Kick-off meeting will be a Town Hall Meeting, but we will also have a short business meeting. We do encourage you to bring guests. Hopefully we can turn your guests into members. This should prove to be a very

Please note:

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Wilhelmina Giblin, will be meeting very soon. Check your Annual Report for the positions that will be filled for the 2013-2015 terms. If you would like to volunteer for one of those board positions or would like to nominate a member, please contact Wilhelmina by phone or email.

The Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee has met this past summer and has reviewed the original document. The changes and updates that have developed over the past five years will be noted in an updated version of the Long Range Plan. The committee is chaired by Vicki Granger and includes Judy Morlan and Christina. Vicki is the off-board director this year and will be presenting the LRP updates to the board at the September meeting.

In an effort to keep LWVGP records organized, vital documents to the fiber of this League are accessible to the board on-line. Susan Leithauser-Yee has been organizing documents on a Yahoo network. No more searching through boxes or file drawers of old paper to read the bylaws or Nonpartisan Policy!

## **DUES REMINDER**

Dues for the new League year (July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013) have been coming in over the summer. If you've not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible by sending your check to or dropping it by our mail box at the War Memorial.

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

See the LWVGP calendar for the year enclosed with this newsletter and be part of the interesting and fun year that your board has been developing over the summer months.

Individual dues \$60

interesting meeting for members and our community considering this important election season.

The LWVGP program calendar is in this issue. Print and attach it to your own. Please note that the program committee can always use help in putting together the events. Please call Jan and offer your time and talent. This program is yours-own it.

After a very active Primary Election season this summer with the implementation of Vote411 and a candidate forum for Wayne County Commission, District 1 we look forward to October being equally as busy with the General Election and the candidate forums. In addition to the high profile races, we have school board and judicial elections. Candidate forums and the voter guide on Vote411 are opportunities to have good information from the candidates for you to be an informed voter. Please refer to our website ([www.grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](http://www.grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org)) for dates, times and locations. Our Voter Services Vice President, Susan Leithauser-Yee and Voter Services Director, Flo Rhodes have been busy putting the fall schedule together. Voter Services is a cornerstone of what we do. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, candidate forums are an interesting couple of hours. Call Susan.

On behalf of the board, I hope that you will continue to enjoy the new Voter format. It is visually very appealing. We have a new and very apt newsletter director, Alex Martin, daughter of member Beth Martin, our webmaster. Alex is a student at South and is working to bring the Voter to you. There is more information than what you see at face value throughout the newsletter. The links will take you to the complete article or to other sites. We continue to include board minutes as an additional feature. We welcome your comments, questions and advice. There is an email contact listed for that purpose. I will review each.

Thank you for a new and different opportunity to work with the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe. I am looking forward to the challenge and to working with each of you.

Christina Schlitt  
President  
LWVGP

## **LWV GP Voter Services Report of Aug 9, 2012**

### **Vote411.org**

The LWV Voter Guide was published for the primary in the form of the Vote411.org website and will be updated for the general election. The public is using the site. The Michigan pages have received over 17,000 hits!

The State League has taken responsibility for State and federal offices. Local leagues have concentrated on city and county offices. Populating the data has not been without its share of challenges. As it has in the past, the completeness of the voter guide depends on responses from candidates. We have found the response rate for some Wayne County offices to be disappointingly low. I expect a more

Household dues (two members at one address) \$90  
Student dues \$25

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions.

Jo Ann G. Kelly  
Membership Director  
(313/821-0467)  
(jkelly764@sbcglobal.net)

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.*



### Have you considered this?

From Ann Nicholson

As I was checking my emails a few weeks ago I came across an article by Holly Shreve Gilbert in the Funeral Information Society newsletter that struck a chord with me, and I am sharing a shortened version with you. To read the entire article go to [www.funeralinformationsociety.org](http://www.funeralinformationsociety.org).

### Preparing for end-of-cyberlife

Although I have made a will and done other things to "put my affairs in order", I have not given a thought to all the everyday business I do on the computer, not to mention all those photos and

complete (though smaller) data set for the general election.

### 2012 Election Road Show:

LWV was also a collaborator, together with with Center for Michigan, Detroit Public Television and University of Michigan in producing interviews with candidates for the Michigan legislature. The 5-minute interviews can be accessed online at <http://mivote.org/mi-election-2012/>

### Candidate Forum:

We hosted our first candidate forum of the season for Wayne County Commissioner, District 1 on July 24. It was attended by all four candidates, Frank Accavitti, Jr. (D), Tim Killeen (D), Shirley Hanna Nagel (R) and Robert Sheehy (R). District 1 includes the Grosse Pointes as well as Harper Woods and a large section of Detroit (borders are 8 Mile, Mt. Elliot, McNichols and the lakeshore. Special thanks to:

Christina Schlitt  
Judy Morlan  
Jan Wells  
Susan Kopf  
George McMullin  
Steve Trowbridge  
Kermit Potter

Participating in the production of a candidate forum is a great opportunity to become familiar with the issues and to pose your own questions of candidates. The general election will bring many exciting races to cover including the races for District 1 and District 2 State Representative. Volunteers will be needed in the September/October timeframe for the roles of moderator, question sorter, timer and question gatherer. Please contact Susan Leithauser-Yee at [leityee@comcast.net](mailto:leityee@comcast.net) or 313 770-4009 to express interest in a particular role or a particular race.

### LWVMI Hires Executive Director

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is pleased to announce that we have hired Will Hathaway as our Executive Director. Mr. Hathaway has a variety of legislative

documents stashed away there. And I'm not alone. About 80% of American adults use the internet on a regular basis. With an enlarged digital footprint, it is important to leave your e-assets in capable hands.

If you were hit by the proverbial bus tomorrow, have you made arrangements for the disbursement, deletion or management of your e-business? Does anyone know how to find your log-in and password information, access bank accounts, etc.?

In the book *Your Digital Afterlife*, authors Evan Carroll and John Romano advise those who wish to manage their own digital estate to inventory, appoint and stay organized..

- (1) Prepare an inventory of log-ins and passwords. Don't put it in your will unless you want it to be part of the public record.
- (2) Appoint someone you trust, and who understands the internet to be in charge, with specific directions about what you want done.
- (3) Keep this up to date so your appointee won't be searching for accounts or documents deleted long ago.

The Internet is a wonderful tool, but it can make life (and death) more complicated, can't it?

## League Links

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[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)

[LWV Michigan](#)

[LWV United States](#)



and administrative experience. He also worked for various non-profits that sought to influence public policy at the local, state and federal levels.

We believe that his skills in management and organizational leadership as well as his commitment to the League's mission will enable us to increase our effectiveness as a voice for good government.

We are joining many other state Leagues who have Executive Directors. Hiring professional staff to oversee some League operations will enable us to leverage the efforts of our volunteers.

The state Board will continue its policy-making role in the governance of our state League. The Executive Director will report to the President who is accountable to the Board.

We look forward to providing an opportunity for League members to meet Will. In the meantime, feel free to stop by the League office and say hello. Will starts at LWVMI in August, but because of some pre-planned family events, he will not be in the office on a regular basis until September 10.

Look for more details about Will in the upcoming issue of the VOTER.

Sue Smith  
President

## Powering the Vote Through the Summer

July 2012

### We thought June was a busy month...

As Leagues nationwide have tirelessly stood up for voters in state legislatures and in the courts, the organized assault on voting rights has been stopped or stalled in many states. In fact, this month, there was another court victory for Wisconsin voters, and the Minnesota League has argued in the State Supreme Court that a ballot measure to embed voter photo ID in the state's constitution is itself unconstitutional. As we continue the fight in states that now have new or tighter voter ID requirements, our Leagues are also working to educate voters so they are ready on Election Day. And, we are also back in the business of registering voters in Florida, trying to make up for lost time.

On another front, the U.S. Senate refused to engage in open and honest debate of the DISCLOSE Act. As a result, voters will continue to be deluged with campaign advertising funded with secret money by wealthy special interests. But the League is not giving up, and we invite you to join our action on this vital issue!

This election is also about the role of voters in our democracy. As Election Day nears, we must ask does power lie with individual voters or in the deep pockets of special interests? Our democracy depends on many individual voters doing small things faithfully - registering to vote and casting ballots on Election Day. The power of those votes represents the best defense against the special interests. Our voices are

needed now more than ever, and together we will Power the Vote to power our democracy. Please read more of this month's news below, and tell us what you are doing via Facebook and Twitter.

**Elisabeth MacNamara**  
**President, LWVUS**

**Forward email**



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