

Thurs, Jan 17th: Chinese Dinner/Program Planning

[Print out the RSVP form here](#)

Hope to See You There!

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:

Thurs, Jan. 17

6:30 pm

Chinese Dinner/Program Planning Meeting

The Annex at the Unitarian Church

17150 Maumee

Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

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

Cost: \$17.00

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

Chinese Dinner & Program Review: Thurs, Jan 17th

Every other year LWV-Michigan asks local Leagues to review the state program we use as a basis for advocating on issues at the state level. These positions - in government, social policy, education and environmental issues - were arrived at through a process of study and consensus.

Our goal at the Chinese dinner is to review these positions and recommend to the State Board that we keep, delete or amend positions, or begin a new study. If we wish to recommend a new study or amend an existing position, we will need to be prepared to work on this project. This is our opportunity to familiarize

December 2018

From the Prez...

I firmly believe that we helped make a difference in the November 6th election. All the proposals that we endorsed, both locally and statewide, were passed. Thanks to all of you that put forth so much effort. Congratulate yourselves with a hardy backslap. A special shoutout to Judy Florian and Sue Acton for their extra effort in making sure all the voter guides, both online and printed, were distributed.

The Climate Change Meeting on November 15th was awesome! Not only was the presentation concise and understandable, Mary Garton's organization really has a workable solution. FYI, both ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil have signed on and contributed over \$3 million to support the carbon tax idea.

An item to add on the climate change conversation was Stu Dow's presentation about the crisis in the recycling process. Since then, I have learned that each local Police Station has inside what looks like a mail box that is for disposing unused and old medicines. If you are wondering how to safely get rid of these items, it's an easy way to do so now.

The work of the League does not stop with the election. **Please mark your calendar for our upcoming Chinese Dinner /Program Planning Meeting on January 17th.** [Please RSVP](#) ! I look forward to seeing most of you there.

Tom

C. Thompson Wells, Jr. President

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe

Citizens and Conservation: Stopping Climate Change

What do we know about climate change? We know carbon dioxide creates a cozy blanket around this planet creating a natural greenhouse. Without it, Earth would be like other planets - hot where it faces the sun and freezing on the dark side. Through the eons the Earth's temperatures have varied slowly both up and down, giving plants and animals time to adapt. Since the Industrial Revolution in the 1880's when coal and then oil became widely used fuels, the level of carbon dioxide in the air has risen 43%. Seventeen of the Earth's AVERAGE hottest years have been

ourselves with state positions and have a great evening together.

Thurs, Jan 17

6:30 p.m.

The Annex at the Unitarian Church

17150 Maumee

Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

*Mail check for \$17.00 to:
LWVGP, 32 Lake Shore
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
48236*

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

LWVUS Recognizes Two LWVGP Members with the Lifetime Status

The League is recognizing two members who have achieved Lifetime Status: Jo Ann Kelly, and Florence Rhodes.

Flo Rhodes joined the League in Whitewater, Wisconsin in 1966 when her husband became a faculty member of one of the branches of the University of Wisconsin. The Whitewater League was formed in 1965 and is still going strong. Florence joined the Grosse Pointe League after moving to the area in 2010. Florence has served on the League Board of Directors working on Voter Services issues.

Jo Ann Kelly joined the League of Women Voters in 1968, initially with the Detroit League as Voter Services Director. She later joined the Grosse Pointe League. As a member in Grosse Pointe, she has been active on the Board of Directors as Vice President for Program, Membership, and later as President. Jo Ann has also moderated several local candidate forums and has worked on advocacy issues with the Michigan League.

in the past eighteen years. We know warm air holds more water, causing heavy rain and snow events. Heat waves cause drought, bringing wild fires, water shortages and fewer productive acres. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, mass migrations from unproductive lands cause political instability.

Is this inevitable? Scientists around the world, many political leaders and members of the [Citizens Climate Lobby](#), an all volunteer group with 487 chapters across the country, say NO. **Mary Garton from Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)** described the concept of a carbon fee and dividend system at a recent meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Although a well designed cap and trade program would also be effective, it is more susceptible to loopholes than a fee system, according to CCL. This free market approach is appealing to business and politicians on both sides of the aisle. To learn more about CCL's lobbying program go to [Citizensclimatelobby.org](#) or contact local volunteer jimrine22@gmail.com.

Can you be a part of the solution? Changing small habits can make a definite impact, like driving less, combining trips, washing clothes in cold water, avoiding single use plastic bags and containers. Reduce water use, turn your household temperature down at night, support the education of women, reduce your beef intake. Also, higher income households use more carbon. Usually their homes are bigger, they travel more, and often have bigger cars. An aware person sees many opportunities to reduce personal carbon use.



Stu Dow and speaker Mary Garton of CCL

Vote411 Post Election Report

We received information from Megan Brown, Vote411 Coordinator for LWVUS on the final usage of Vote411 for the 2018 election. Vote411 educated more voters than any other election cycle! This means more voters turned to the League and our online voter education resource than in the 2016 Presidential cycle-something that has never happened before in Vote411's history.

This year, Vote411 had nearly 7 million sessions from January 1 through Election Day and over 5.5 million of those sessions included the online voters' guides. That represents a 100% increase in sessions nationwide to voters' guides on Vote411 as compared to the 2016 cycle, and a 490% increase over the 2014 mid-term election cycle. These are amazing numbers and show just how much voters turn to the League to find the information they need on Election Day.

Michigan's Vote411 data was significant, with 525,945 Vote411 sessions in 2018, compared to 218,066 in 2016. Eva Packard, the Michigan Vote411 coordinator, attributes the increase to the following:

1. Significant increase in Michigan voters



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[New Member Handbook](#)

League Links

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

Want to check LWVGP's calendar for the latest updates?
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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.



2. Additional League Counties in 2018: Lenawee, Livingston, Bay and Marquette
3. MLive.com referencing its readers to Vote411 in counties such as Kent and Washtenaw, Allegan, Kalamazoo, Genesee, Jackson and Saginaw.

Here are the Vote411 usage statistics for the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

City	Users	New Users	Sessions
GP City	82	76	92
GP Farms	429	390	568
GP Park	331	298	450
GP Woods	326	292	413
HWoods	85	78	104

Also, after each election cycle, the LWVUS asks local leagues to complete their Election Activities Survey. The responses to this survey provide information to LWVUS on areas where they can give future support to local Leagues, which we completed on behalf of President Tom Wells.

And finally we received this very kind email from a Grosse Pointe resident after the election that we wanted to share. A special thanks to all members who supported LWVGP's efforts with their time and energy during the 2018 election year!

*Hi,
I just want to thank your for your voter education efforts. An informed & educated citizenry is essential for a functioning democracy. In particular I am grateful for your attention to local issues, like the School Board Election.
I was raised in the Pointes & went to public schools there (& my mother was a teacher there for many decades). I now live overseas. My daily life & my wife/ family & job are all over here, but I still vote in Grosse Pointe, as I have my whole life. I do follow national & state politics still, & have family ties in Michigan & the Pointes, too, but local issues are the hardest to sort out from a distance. Your candidate forum & the fact you made it available on YouTube - these were invaluable to me in making an informed decision about School Board race & the recent millage proposal. Great work! Thanks again to you & your whole organization!*

Judy Florian
VP for Voter Services