

Monday Feb 19th, 7:00 PM  
Understanding the Issues of DACA & Immigration  
with Vickie Thompson-Sandy, President of Samaritas

# 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:

**Mon, Feb 19**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**DACA & Immigration**  
**Vickie Thompson-Sandy,**  
**President of [Samaritas](#)**  
GP Central Library  
10 Kercheval Ave  
GPF, 48236

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

## February 2018

### From the Prez...

If you ever thought that the League was sitting on its hands while the rest of the world was in motion, think again:

- 1 The LWV National has formally adopted the "Transformation Path." This is truly an incredible undertaking and details can be found on our website. [The "Roadmap"](#) and [The "Assessment"](#).
- 2 LWVMI has, in conjunction with an impressive group which includes the ACLU and the NAACP, begun the process to amend the State Constitution, calling it "[Promote the Vote](#)." There is more information later in this Voter.

## April 26: Save the Date

CONEY CAPER  
FUNDRAISER  
The Coney Caper  
Fundraiser is  
scheduled for **April**  
**26th from 5:30-8:00** at the  
enhanced Tompkins Community  
Center in GP Park. Details coming!



- 3 LWVMI, as you may know, has initiated, along with a number of individuals, a lawsuit in Federal Court charging that Michigan was gerrymandered and violated the US Constitution.

- 4 LWVMI has also endorsed the [Voter Not Politician](#) ballot proposal to change the redistricting process to be less partisan and more equitable.

There was a good turnout at the Program Planning meeting, with a spirited discussion on the Transformation, Redistricting, and local election questions. Please read this Voter! There are opportunities galore to get involved. Let me or any Board member know if you want to participate in any of the many current activities that make the League the leader in "Making Democracy Work."

## Coffee Hours For Your State Rep

Visit your Lansing Representative and let her know what's important to you in Lansing!

**Rep Tenisha Yancey, District #1's**  
newly elected representative of the  
Michigan House of  
Representatives will hold regular  
coffee hours as follows:

**First Monday of each month, 9:30-10:30 at**  
**Big Boy, 20710 Mack, GPW and**  
**Third Monday of each month, 9:30-10:30, at**

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

## Mon, Feb 19: Discussion on DACA & Immigration

Each day, the news is filled with stories about changes in immigration laws and the deportation of undocumented immigrants. On February 19 at 7:00 p.m. **Vickie Thompson-Sandy, President of Samaritas**, will join us to discuss DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] and immigration policy reform as well as how we as citizens can address our concerns with our elected officials. Samaritas is one of Michigan's largest refugee resettlement agencies, working with local and national organizations and advocating for those seeking safe harbor in the United States. To see some of their stories, visit [Samaritas.org](#). This presentation will be held in the program room at Central Library.

Detroit Diner, 17017 E. Warren,  
Detroit.

Rep. Yancey serves on 3 House  
Committees : Tax Policy,  
Transportation and Infrastructure and  
Michigan Competitiveness. She can  
be contacted at  
[TenishaYancey@house.mi.gov](mailto:TenishaYancey@house.mi.gov) or 888-  
254-5291.

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**Rep Bettie Cook Scott, District #2's**  
representative in the Michigan  
Legislature, will have a coffee hour to  
meet with constituents on the  
**Second Monday of each month,**  
**9:30-10:30, at the**  
**McDonald's at 3975 Conner (corner**  
**of Mack and Connor).**

Rep. Scott is a member of the  
Commerce and Trade committee and  
the Financial Liability Reform  
Committee. She can be contacted at  
[BettieCookScott@house.mi.gov](mailto:BettieCookScott@house.mi.gov) or  
517-373-1776.

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*Quick Reminder:*  
*Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe*  
*Shores, and Harper Woods are*  
*in Michigan House **District 1.***  
*Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park,*  
*and Grosse Pointe Farms are*  
*in Michigan House **District 2.***

## 2018 YGO Now Available

The YGO, "Your Government  
Officials" pamphlet is now  
available.

This LWVGP's comprehensive  
brochure for 2018 lists the officials  
who represent you in the many  
different levels of government.

Look for it at local city halls,  
schools, libraries and other civic  
institutions, or print it out here:

[Page 1](#) and [Page 2](#)

Sue Acton  
Director, Voter Services



**Mon, February 19**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Central Library's program room**  
**10 Kercheval Ave**  
**Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

***Be sure to invite your friends to come hear how some in our area are working to secure a better future for those arriving in our country.***

As 2018 began, LWVGP had a great programming meeting. The ideas generated will help with next year's programming goals, as well as determine a direction for the chapter. Many thanks to Ann Nicholson for opening up her home and hosting this important meeting. We truly appreciate your hospitality!

Beth Newhart  
Vice President, Programs

## Improving Our Elections

*Michigan's Redistricting*

Gerrymandering is a major issue in Michigan, and LWVMI has initiated a lawsuit challenging the current system.

Also a grass roots petition drive with a specific plan to make the redistricting process less partisan and more transparent quickly gained the required number of signatures and is now in the process which will put it on the November ballot.

Check out [VotersNotPoliticians.com](http://VotersNotPoliticians.com)

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*Michigan and Voting Rights - Promote the Vote*

On January 25 LWV Michigan announced that it is a part of a coalition to add a Voting Rights amendment to the Michigan Constitution. Petition language has been submitted to the Secretary of State's office, and, once language is approved, signatures need to be gathered by July 9 to be on the November ballot.

This amendment would:

- Protect the right to vote a secret ballot
- Ensure military service members overseas get their ballots in time for the votes to count
- Fulfill recommendations of local clerks to provide all voters access to absentee ballots
- Allow citizens to register closer to election day, as most states do
- Provide voters the option to vote straight party
- Automatically register citizens to vote when they do business at the Secretary of State office
- Audit election results
- Create fair rules to remove barriers and make voting more secure

The premise of this amendment is that the country is better off when more Americans of all political persuasions participate in our democracy. Check out [PromoteTheVoteMI.com](http://PromoteTheVoteMI.com)

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*LWVGP and Improving Elections*

States are also trying different ways of making the election process easier (or more difficult) to vote, and our GP League is interested in exploring how our voting processes might be improved. If you would like to be on a committee of 4-5 persons to gather local information on this topic, contact Ann Nicholson.

## LWVMI Advocacy Network

Huge thanks to Peggy Hickey, Steve Trowbridge, Marcia Powell, Sharon Riley, Wilhelmina Giblin, Florence Rhodes, and Laurie Coplin who helped me sort and package 7,000 Your Government Officials brochures, then delivered many to the city halls, schools, churches and others

## LWV National Convention

LWV National Convention will be held in Chicago, **June 28-**

**July 1.** More information is at the [LWV.org](http://LWV.org) website, or from our President, Tom Wells. Consider attending!



## Congratulations League Members

Congratulations, Mayor Pro Tem Valerie Kindle!

The League congratulates member Valerie Kindle, the new Mayor Pro Tem of Harper Woods. Valerie has been on the City Council for several years and is an articulate and thoughtful presence there. We wish her good luck in her new position.

LWVGP member George McMullen has been newly elected to the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council. He has been appointed the Council Representative to the Historical and Local Officers Compensation Commissions, and is a member of the Mayor's Mack Avenue Business Study.

## League Links

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

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

Our own Jo Ann Kelly has joined the newly formed LWV Michigan Advocacy Network. She will be tracking pending legislation on Gun Violence Prevention in the Michigan statehouse. Fourteen other members from around the state will be tracking developments in areas of health, education, Great Lakes, Pipeline 5, solid waste disposal, fisheries and social policy. LWVMI will alert members throughout the state via Action Alert to contact legislators when needed.

If you would like to join this network, contact Advocacy VP Joan Hunault at [jbhunault@gmail.com](mailto:jbhunault@gmail.com) to let her know your interest and expertise. LWVMI has positions on a wide range of topics, and if you would like to be the League's eyes and ears on one of them it will strengthen our overall impact.

Jo Ann would love to have members interested in gun violence prevention legislation to join her committee to help lobby and inform. No meetings - just communication. Email her to get on the list.

## Program Meeting Report

The Program Planning Meeting on January 18 focused on the National Program this year. Members agreed that the League as a national organization should work to become known for the tenets of its Making Democracy Work initiative: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting.

Members voted NOT to support a national study at this time on Artificial Intelligence proposed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro League.



Maria Rivera presented the most recent information on the efforts to change the redistricting process in Michigan.

Ann Nicholson will form a small committee to talk with local clerks about what might be improved in election processes from their point of view.

LWVUS has JUST released a document outlining a new vision for the League. Since it arrived the day before our meeting we were unable to discuss it in any depth, but it is on [our website](#) or you can find the links in the Letter from the Prez.

New membership directories and the updated Your Government Officials are available from Sarah Coates and Susan Acton, respectively. "Your Government Officials" is also available on our website.

## Outstanding Community Service

Accolades to Laurie Arora for her tenure on the Grosse Pointe Park City Council. Last year Laurie decided not to run for a third term. Shortly before the November election, her colleagues feted her for her outstanding eight years of service. "You hit the ground running and never ever stopped," said one colleague. Another added, "Laurie made us work and think, and that's a good thing."

Mayor Denner said, "You often were the first person a resident called if they had a concern. That is a great service to be accessible, to be approachable, to be someone the community wants to talk to about a concern."

Congratulations, Laurie. You are an inspiration to us all.

## Membership Matters

Please welcome new members Irene Shelley, Margaret Freundl, Reid Kurvink and Julie Moran. Ms. Shelley and Freundl participated in the New Member Orientation at the League Program Planning meeting on January 18, 2018.

[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.*



2018 Membership directories are now available. Members who are up to date with their dues are included in the directory. If you did not attend the meeting and are an active member, please contact Sarah Coats to arrange to obtain your directory. Those who have not paid their dues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 have been placed on Inactive status. If want to return to Active Status and not miss important league announcements and meetings, please mail your membership check today.

The league is fortunate to have several newer members who have assumed volunteer and leadership roles this past year. Kudos to Sarah Coats, Susan Acton, Beth Newhart, and Carol Lufburrow. You are doing an amazing job! We also have board positions to fill this year: directors and President-Elect. Throw in your hat and become more involved in the league. You may contact me or any member of the Nominating Committee for more information about these positions. Consider saying "Yes" if you are asked to consider a nomination to one of these positions. The long-term viability of the league requires your passion, talents or experience. We need you to help us influence public policy decisions at the local, state and national levels of government.

Thank you.

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!](#)*

*Learn all about the League.  
[Check out the LWV's New Member Handbook here](#)*



["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](#)

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

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