

Subj: **LWVGP Voter: November 2015**  
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 From: [thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](mailto:thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org)  
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# Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

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

## Calendar

### Activities This Month:

**Fri, Dec 11, 5:00-7:00 pm**  
**LWVGP Members Holiday Soirée**  
 Home of Aphie Roumell  
 Your invitation will be sent separately.  
 To RSVP, contact Aphie, 881-8844 or  
 Jan, [program@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](mailto:program@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org)

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

## Running & Winning Workshop: March 18th

Running and Winning is planned for Friday, March 18, 8:30-2:30 (with a backup date of April 8).

Please let Monica Bihar-Natzke know if you are available to help in preparations and/or that day. You can contact her at:  
[RWworkshop@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](mailto:RWworkshop@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org)



## LWV-Macomb County Voter Services

Happy Holidays from the LWV-Macomb County Voter Services team!

We had a very successful season with three presentations in Macomb County on Michigan re-districting. There appears to be interest in Macomb County with the desire to take action against how district lines are drawn in Michigan. Of the 43 attendees, 19 (44%) completed forms saying they wanted to stay in touch on this issue, perhaps helping in

## November 2015

### Presidents' Letter

Dear League Members,

Over the past two months we have covered a lot of territory. Stephen Henderson got our year rolling with insights on Detroit. Carol Todd, VP for Voter Services organized two candidate forums for local elections and Tom Wells helped the candidates sign up on Vote411.

We participated in LWV Michigan's effort to educate citizens around the state on redistricting by organizing a speaker for the local Soroptimist International Chapter, and organizing three town hall meetings in Macomb County and one in Grosse Pointe. These attracted many non-members and were a welcome source of information for our community.

On the national level, all local LWV's were asked to complete a consensus on "Money in Politics" and "Amending the Constitution". In preparation for the Money in Politics consensus, Rich Robinson, executive director of Michigan Campaign Finance Network, spoke on campaign financing in Michigan. Our consensus meetings are finished. We thank our Program Vice Presidents Jan Wells and Aphie Roumell and Arrangements Chair Mary Jo Johnson for arranging speakers and venues for all of these meetings!

This is the last Voter until early January, so I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season.

Ann Nicholson,  
 Presidential Team

## Dec 11th: Holiday Soirée

Now it is time for a breather in the form of a casual holiday get-together. Come alone or with a friend or significant-other to enjoy a glass of wine, a few hors d'oeuvres, and good conversation.

Our gathering this year is on Dec.11, at Aphie Roumells' home and you will be receiving your invitation separately.

On & Off-Board members will be contributing hearty hors d'oeuvres for the event. Other guests are certainly welcome to



future actions; one group, Women's Civic League of St. Clair Shores, expressed interest in partnering with us on this issue and in future forums; and one individual joined our organization. We are excited about getting more people involved with our group and this was a good way to get the word out, now that we're in Macomb County!

I credit the success of these town meetings to Kathy Poore; her vision, her advertising, her constant follow-up and her flawless execution. Nance and Roger Halle (and Nance's leader dog in training!) also participated with printing and distributing flyers, attending and helping at the meetings. The speakers were well-informed and professional, handling the very lively Q&A periods with ease. Tom Wells and Christina Schlitt continue to offer their unwavering support of our efforts.

Our immediate next steps are to follow up with the interested parties, to work on honing our Vote411 activities, and to publish a Your Government Officials guide for a few select communities (Macomb is too large to target them all at this time). We also plan to participate in the upcoming high school outreach project for next spring. There continues to be positive feedback from various city officials about our presence and a desire to have our non-partisan organization run the candidate forums. Another target of ours for next fall!

Thanks to all and have a great, and safe, holiday season!

Respectfully,  
Maria Rivera  
LWV - Macomb County Voter Services

Contact [lwvmacomb@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmacomb@gmail.com) for additional information or to join the effort to bring Voter Services and Education to Macomb County.

And check out: [www.facebook.com/lwvmacombcounty](http://www.facebook.com/lwvmacombcounty)

## Membership Matters

The League welcomes new members:

**Michael LaBuhn**  
**Edward and Chris Keelean**

Thank you for your support. We hope to see you at the Holiday Party!

Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-Director, Membership

*Do you know a family member or friend who is thinking*

donate.

Valet parking will be provided. The cost will be \$5.00 per person, and guests are welcome.

Please RSVP to Aphie at 881-8844 or Jan at [program@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](mailto:program@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org).

## Save The Date: January 20th

Mark your calendar: The Program Planning meeting will be

Wednesday, January 20  
6:00 p.m.  
Ann Nicholson's  
222 Cloverly  
Grosse Pointe Farms

This year we will be reviewing the National Program in preparation for the National Convention in June. Will it be Chinese? Italian? Watch for you next Voter early in January.

## Consensus Results

Here is a brief synopsis of the results of the consensus meetings held last month regarding the League's 2 national-level studies.

### ***"Amending the Constitution"***

Ann Kondak and Lynne Pierce led the discussion on the Constitutional Amendment consensus questions at a meeting on October 29 at Fran Schonenberg's. There was lively discussion on several questions, but consensus was reached on all but one question.

Part I was designed to develop guidelines for evaluating amendment proposals, and our League felt any effort to amend the Constitution should be acutely important and focused on strengthening democracy or individual rights.

Part II asked us to consider aspects of a Constitutional Convention called for by the states. Our League agreed that if a Convention were to be called, it should be conducted in public, that delegates be elected according to population, and that it should be limited to a specific topic. Our preference would be to oppose an Article V Convention being called at all because of unresolved questions of power s and processes.

Thank you, Ann and Lynne, for leading us through this thought provoking topic.

### ***"Money in Politics"***

The League has had a position on Money in Politics since 1974 that has focused on the potential of corruption of candidates by contributors. The position has not considered the concept of a political contribution as a form of speech, and this revisit of the League position is an attempt to address this aspect of campaign contributions.

Ann Nicholson and Sylvia Sanders presented the questions to the group, and Connie Frey recorded them. The group found some of the questions ambiguous enough to not be able to agree as to what they meant, but agreed that the media should not be restricted by legislation and that there should be some spending limits on every type of

*about joining?*

[Hand them one of our membership forms to mail in!](#)

## Get Well Soon!

*We wish Ann Lawson and Sharon Ruggioli a speedy recovery to good health.*

## Oct. 21: "Redistricting in Michigan" Town Hall

Ann Nicholson, LWVMI's President Judy Karandjeff, Judy Morlan, and Mary Zahler are pictured at LWVGP's "Redistricting in Michigan" Town Hall on October 21 at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.



*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.*



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organization and individual. There was no consensus on whether there should be limits on political parties' support of candidates.

When asked about the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation, our League agreed that political equality for citizens, protecting democracy from being distorted by big spending, and enabling candidates to compete equitably were important. Ensuring that regulation took corporate and economic interests into account was not considered important by our League, and the group could not reach consensus as to whether a purpose of these regulations ought to be candidates having sufficient funds. Our League felt the League should support legislation instituting mandatory public financing of elections where spending limits are set.

Responses from both discussions have been sent to LWVUS.

## League Links

**"Amending the Constitution" consensus questions**

[Click here!](#)

**"Money in Politics" consensus questions**

[Click here!](#)

**Want to contact one of your government officials?**

[Click here!](#)

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

[Click here!](#)

### [Forward email](#)



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