

Subj: **LWVGP Voter: October 2015**
 Date: 10/19/2015 8:57:12 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: thevoter@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org
 To: league@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org

Wed 10/21: "Redistricting" Town Hall & Thurs 10/29 "Amending the Constitution" Consensus Meeting

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

4 GP League events for LWV's three studies:

Wed, Oct 21, 7:00 pm
"Redistricting in Michigan" Town Hall
 GP War Memorial
 32 Lake Shore Rd, GPF
 Speaker: Judy Karandjeff, LWV-MI

Thurs, Oct 29, 7:00 pm
"Amending the Constitution"
LWVGP Membership Consensus Meeting
 Home of Fran S
 264 McMillan Rd, GPF

Thurs, Nov 12, 7:00 pm
"Money in Politics" Town Hall
 GP United Methodist Church
 211 Moross Rd, GPF
 Speaker: Rich Robinson, [Michigan Campaign Finance Network](#)

Tues, Nov 17, 7:00 pm
"Money in Politics"
LWVGP Membership Consensus Meeting
 Home of Jan W
 472 Shelbourne Rd, GPF

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

LWVGP Members: Here are the Links to the Consensus Questions

LWVGP is informed in two national-level studies. To review each question individual leagues must answer, click below:

["Amending the Constitution" consensus questions](#)

["Money in Politics" consensus questions](#)

October 2015

Presidents' Letter

At our October Board Meeting there were thirteen items on the Agenda! Obviously a hardworking core of League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe members are making all of this happen. Some have ongoing positions that you don't read about in the Voter, like our Secretary Martha Shumaker and our Treasurer Tom Wells. Others have positions that focus on more short term but often intense activities. You will read about many of these activities elsewhere in this Voter, but I'd like to highlight just a few:

* On **October 21** our League is sponsoring a meeting at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial entitled "Redistricting in Michigan: Should Politicians Choose Their Voters?" If a ballot proposal comes to the voters, it will be important that there be a cadre of citizens who understand the issue, so bring your friends - the more attendees the better!

* **This year we are studying and seeking consensus on two issues:**

1) We now have the consensus questions for "The League and a Constitutional Convention," which we will take on Thursday, October 29. You can download the consensus questions elsewhere in the Voter. If you cannot attend the **October 29th** meeting, you can mail your responses ahead of time so they will be counted in our consensus.

2) Rich Robinson will present timely information for "Money in Politics" at a public forum on Thursday, **November 12th** at Grosse Pointe Methodist Church. There will be a consensus meeting on Tuesday, **November 17**.

* As our League discussed ways of increasing our visibility, it became obvious that we needed to have a plan. Our Publicity Chair Laurie Aurora has consented to form a Marketing and Public Relations Committee to create such plan. Please contact Laurie if you are interested in being a part of exciting project.

* This [Macomb County Voter Services](#) group continues to amaze with their energy. This small group has scheduled three redistricting meetings and Vote411.org information for the Sterling Heights Council and Mayor contests.

Voter Guides for GP Park & GP Shores City Council Elections. Check Them Out at Vote411.org

To build your personalized voter guide, go to Vote411.org, which provides voter guides; helps the electorate find their polling place; check voting hours; and read tips about voting in Michigan.



- 1) Type in your complete address
- 2) Click "Get personalized information on candidates and issues"
- 3) Click "Show my races"
- 4) Click the individual candidates to read their responses and compare their qualifications

Voters need simple, helpful tools to navigate the voting process and election day, and Vote411.org is the nation's premiere, on-line election resource now available.

LWV - Macomb County Voter Services

LWV - Macomb County has scheduled opportunities for its citizens to learn more about "Redistricting in Michigan". Two more presentations are set for:

Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

North Branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library
16800 24 Mile Rd., Macomb Twp.

Speaker: Betsy Cushman, President of the League of Women Voters of Dearborn - Dearborn Heights

Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.

Main Branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library
40900 Romeo Plank, Clinton Twp.

Speaker: Kathy Ling, League of Women Voters Michigan Advocacy Committee

Contact 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

Action in the Arctic

The US Department of the Interior has announced that they are canceling ALL offshore drilling leases in our portion of the Arctic Ocean. This removal will continue for the next two years. The US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has denied the requests of both Statoil and Shell Oil Companies for an extension of their leases in the same area.

If you believe as many of us do that drilling for oil is dangerous to our air and our water, you are encouraged to write your President, asking President Obama to cancel the proposed leases on both coasts. He has an opportunity to do so for leases from 2017

* Monica Bihar-Natzke is in charge of Running and Winning, which will take place in March. She is on track for organizing this very important event.

* Our Ed Fund, which funds many of our Voter Services activities, can only help if it has sufficient funds. The LWVGP Ed Fund will be sending out "ask" letters soon. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Ed Fund.

* Our second "Coney Night" committee, led by Joan Morris, promises to have an exciting, well attended event next Spring. Stay tuned.

Mary Zahler
Presidential Team

Oct 21: "Redistricting in Michigan" Town Hall

A presentation about the issues of redistricting has been scheduled in Grosse Pointe for:

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:00 pm

**GP War Memorial
32 Lake Shore Rd
GP Farms, MI 48236**

The speaker will be Judy Karandjeff, President, LWV-Mi

The LWV-Michigan announced that it will host over 30 Town Halls throughout the fall to educate the public on the importance of redistricting. The presentation will explore how legislative lines are drawn in Michigan, who draws them, and why it is a critically important question for those concerned about fair representation.

Please attend and learn of the many aspects of this very important issue!

Oct 29: "Amending the Constitution" Consensus Meeting: Calling All Members!

Our League will be taking consensus on "Amending the Constitution"

Thursday, October 29

**Home of Fran S.
264 McMillan, GPF
7:00 p.m.**

To read the consensus questions, [click here](#).
For background information, [click here](#).

For those members who are unable to attend the "Amending the Constitution" consensus meeting on the 29th, you may answer the questions and send them to Ann Nicholson by Oct 24. Your comments will be considered at the meeting on the 29th.

Our answers will be submitted to the national committee which will tally answers from around the country to arrive at a position on this topic.

Please let Jan Wells at program@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org know if you plan to attend so that there are sufficient handouts.

**"Money in Politics":
Nov 12-Town Hall &
Nov 17-Consensus Meeting**

until 2022. I believe this would help protect our climate by keeping carbon fuels in the ground instead of in our air and in our oceans.

You can communicate with our President by submitting your comments at www.whitehouse.gov; phoning your comments to 202-456-1111; or by writing him at:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Hopefully you will express your concerns today!

Gordon Morlan
Environmental Chairman

Candidate Forum Thank You's to Our Many Volunteers!

On Tuesday, September 29, 2015, the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe held their first Forum of the year for candidates seeking Municipal Offices in Grosse Pointe Park.

Thank you to Mary Zahler, our terrific moderator, and Tom Wells who very nicely represented the Presidential Team. George McMullen, and Mary Morshead did a terrific job as Question Sorters. Thank you to our Time Keeper, Gordon Morlan, who was impeccable with his time-keeping. Jan Wells and Suzanne Suski were efficient and very good as our League Question Gatherers.

On October 1, 2015, our second Forum was held for the Grosse Pointe Shores candidates. The audience was able to hear each candidate's plans, ideas, and hopes for the Shores during the next 4 years. Sharon Riley, our Moderator, did a wonderful job. Judy Morlan, a member of the Presidential Team was terrific, as were our Question Sorters, Maria Rivera and Martha Shumaker. Our Question Gatherers, Jan Wells and Kathy Poore, were exceptional. Once again, thank you to our dedicated League workers.

Grosse Pointe War Memorial taped our Forums and rebroadcasted them the weeks of October 5th and 12th.

Carol D. Todd
Vice-President, Voter Services

Running & Winning Committee Organizing

The 2016 Running and Winning workshop has become a signature event presented by the LWVGP and supported by the LWVGP Ed Fund. We have presented this workshop for several years with positive feedback from participants. This interactive workshop for high school girls is focused on introducing them to leadership skills through the opportunity for role-play as they develop their own mock-election. Women in leadership positions, including elected officials, participate as



Thurs, November 12th:

We have Mr. Rich Robinson coming to speak to us on Nov. 12 about "MONEY IN POLITICS".

Mr. Robinson has been the Executive Director of the [Michigan Campaign Finance Network](http://MichiganCampaignFinanceNetwork.org) for 15 years; which is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. He has served the public sector for over 38 years, including the Peace Corp, and all 3 levels of the government. Mr. Robinson's commentaries have appeared in many newspapers and lectures at most MI colleges.



Rich Robinson

The League is very fortunate that he is available to speak to us about Money In Politics. Please attend this most important meeting and bring a friend!

Thurs, Nov 12: 7:00 pm
GP United Methodist Church
211 Morross
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Entrance is in the rear

Tues, November 17th:

The consensus meeting itself will be held

Tues, Nov 17: 7:00 pm
Jan W's home
472 Shelbourne, GPF

For those members who are unable to attend the Money in Politics consensus meeting on the 17th, you may answer the questions and send them to Ann Nicholson by Nov. 13. Your comments will be considered at the meeting on the 17th.

"Money in Politics" Review - Preparation for Consensus & Background

League activities in November will address the LWVUS review and consensus on Money in Politics. The following background information is taken from the Introduction and Overview available on the lwv.org web site.

For additional information go to lwv.org, then click on League Management in the upper right hand corner. On the League Management page put your cursor on "Our Work" and click on "Money in Politics Review". Background material and bibliographies are there, as well as the questions.

Current Position (adopted 1974, revised, 1982)

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office - presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

For almost 40 years the Supreme Court recognized that campaign contributions are, or can appear to be corrupting, especially if those

mentors and help light a spark within each girl to consider careers in public service.

Please consider being on our steering committee to complete the planning of this program which inspires the next generation of LWV members. Running & Winning requires at least 10 members to plan and run the day-long workshop. Some of the committee positions that need to be filled include tasks such as:

Follow-up with our local high schools to encourage participation from the students;
Inviting women elected officials;
Preparing the materials for the participants;
Training our workshop facilitators;
Venue and menu;
Overseeing the many tasks related to the program the day of the workshop.

The committee will have fun putting the workshop together!
The committee will be having its first meeting this October; call me or email me if you are interested.

Monica Bihar-Natzke
Running & Winning Coordinator
248-410-6373
RWworkshop@grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org

Membership Matters: Last Call for Membership Renewal

Membership Dues Reminder

There are a handful of members who have not yet paid their dues.

Perhaps your schedule has been hectic or you have been out of town and simply forgotten to mail in your membership dues. Your continuing support of the League would be appreciated. The membership directory will go to print soon, and we want you to be included.

If you want your name in the Directory please send a check payable to LWVGP for \$60 to:

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

Please mail your membership dues today. If you need a membership form for yourself or an interested friend, [click here](#).

Let's keep democracy working!

Thank you.
Wilhelmina Giblin, Co-Director, Membership

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

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

contributions are large or come from the general funds of corporations or unions. That changed with the Citizens United decision, where the court extended its view on free speech to allow unlimited independent spending in candidate elections, discounting danger from undue influence other than "something for something" corruption.

Since 1974 the League has fought for comprehensive campaign finance reform, supporting bills that curbed special interest contributions, and has called for limits to PAC and large contributor donations. It supports a strong and effective Federal Election Commission. The League looks at various limits to counter undue influence, and favors shortening the time period between primaries and general elections. Currently it lobbies for disclosure of donors to outside political groups contributing to federal elections.

Why Money in Politics Matters

It matters because the goal of campaigning is to convince voters. Thus, campaigning is ultimately about communication. In our modern age, this includes speech and money. It is very important that one continually keeps combining campaign, communication, free speech and money in their thinking.

Purpose of a Campaign Finance System (to control and limit money spent on a campaign)

1. Protect right of voters to know who is spending money to influence their vote
2. Prevent corruption, both of specific quid pro quo and undue influence
3. Eliminate a possible unfair advantage from unlimited spending
4. Avoid discounting the role of voters in favor of large donors

Consensus

The task of the Money in Politics Committee is to make this very complex issue understandable to LWV and all citizens. Please print and read the consensus questions ([click here](#)), so that you can ask the extremely knowledgeable Rich Robinson, Director of [Michigan Campaign Finance Network](#), your questions at our town hall **November 12th**. Then attend the consensus meeting on **November 17th** for a lively discussion on these issues.

Dec 11th: Save the Date!

There will be a Christmas party this year on Dec.11, at Aphie Roumells' home. We are having a Christmas cheer party from 5-7, so we can celebrate the season and share good wishes with our fellow members, and guests. Valet parking will be provided. The cost will be \$5.00 per person, and guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Aphie @ 881-8844.



League Links

"Amending the Constitution" consensus questions

[Click here!](#)

"Money in Politics" consensus questions

[Click here!](#)

Want to contact one of your government officials?

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.



[Click here!](#)
Want to check LWVGP's calendar for the latest updates?
[Click here!](#)

[LWV Grosse Pointe](#)
[LWV Michigan](#)
[LWV United States](#)



["Like" the LWVGP on Facebook! And check out our activities here!](#)

[Join the League! Print out our membership form to mail in](#)

[Forward email](#)



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Try it FREE today.

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