

# Grosse Pointe *VOTER*

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

## Upcoming Events

**September - October**  
Candidate Forums

**Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m.**

Gerrymandering, Redistricting, and the  
Census

Wayne County Community College, Harper  
Woods campus

**Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.**

Holiday gathering at the home of Sue  
Acton. Details in the next *Voter*.

**Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 p.m.**

Annual program planning at the Annex, GP  
Unitarian Church. Details regarding  
registration in the next *Voter*.

## Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to new members Sandy  
Barrett, Barry Berk, Joanne Difazio, Laura  
Larson, Marcia Powell, Joseph Samecki,  
Peggy Walsh-Samecki, and Barb and  
Kathy Thompson.

## Renew Your Membership

Thank you to our 79 members who have  
paid their dues!

For the rest of you - a friendly reminder that  
it's time to renew! Your membership  
supports important activities at the local,  
state, and national level focused on  
keeping democracy strong. We are  
heading into a busy election season with a  
full schedule of programs and forums. Take  
care of your dues today so you can focus  
on our mission of educating voters. Our  
group is made up of about 100 strong  
members - renew today!

Membership forms are [here](#)

Please send your dues to LWVGP, 32  
Lake Shore Rd. Dues are \$60, which  
includes national, state, and local dues.  
You are welcome to include something  
extra for the purposes of LWVGP  
operations, and such things as printing of  
brochures, and the costs of running a  
volunteer organization.

Sarah Coats, Membership, Director

## President's Message

In reading last month's letter, I feel I could just replicate it. The forums now begin in earnest; by the time you read this, one will be in the past. Five more to go. Please use this opportunity to become more active in this wonderful organization. If not forums, then be a poll worker. Contact your local clerk for details.

Having been associated with the League for almost a decade now, I feel so honored to be part of it. I recommend that new retirees find something that they are passionate about and pursue that. It could be a non-profit or a money maker; it doesn't matter. Waiting for the grim reaper will assure his early arrival. In my case, I have found the League of Women Voters. If you are a new member, please find an area in which you will enjoy participating. Please let someone know your interest. We love and welcome all who want to participate and contribute. That's what makes us viable and successful.

This summer, I had the extraordinary experience to provide the Sermon one Sunday at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. I had the opportunity to not only give some history and reasons for our existence, but also to explain how we advocate for issues that are basically the "right thing to do" from a humanitarian standpoint.

So that's enough about me. Now read on for more League accomplishments and opportunities to engage.

Tom

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

## League Purchases New Audio Equipment

In response to a need from Voter Services, the League has purchased microphone and speaker equipment. Many sites we use for candidate forums do not have sufficient microphones for the moderator and candidates.

The new equipment consists of 4 wireless handheld microphones and a speaker with equalizer. The equipment can be used for our programs as well.

We introduced the new equipment at our September 19th program at the Cook School House. We were very pleased with the results and know this will enhance our forums and other meetings.

--Judy Florian and Sue Acton  
Voter Services

## WCCCD Welcome Week

The League was invited to have a display table at Welcome Week at the Mary Ellen Stemple University Center on September 11. Various information materials were provided to students, including voter registration forms, new Voters Rights brochures, Your Government Officials brochures and membership applications.

Special thanks to George McMullen who assisted with this event.

## Good News about the Environment

Let's hear it for some good news about the environment!

In this world of terrifying environmental events, I would like to thank Christiana Zilke from LWV, Cass and Berrien Counties, for bringing attention to some good environmental news in their September *Voter*.

For example, Sudbury, Ontario, was long famous for air pollution from mining and industry, but it has been working for several decades to restore, then conserve, cleaner air. And it has worked - the air quality in Sudbury is ranked among the best in Ontario. The landscape has come alive with trees and lakes that once were acidified have become thriving ecosystems. College curricula have been created around Sudbury's work!

The Eleko dumper is a 45 ton construction vehicle used in the Alps to move rock down hill. A regenerative braking system creates and stores electricity as the vehicle takes 65 tons of rocks down. That is more than enough power for the empty vehicle to return uphill for another load. The amount of diesel fuel it does not use is breathtaking. Hats off to Switzerland.

Check out [goodnewsnetwork.org](http://goodnewsnetwork.org) if your spirits need a lift.

Ann Nicholson

## Recycling News

ALL plastic bags (clean and dry) can be dropped off at the lobby front desk at The Helm (formerly known as SOC). The bags are used to make sleeping mats for the homeless. The bags are cut and looped together to make plastic yarn, called PLARN.

The Grosse Pointe News published a recycle option for batteries: [call2recycle.org/25years](http://call2recycle.org/25years) or call [2recycle.org/locator](http://2recycle.org/locator). Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety has a battery drop off in its lobby. Best Buy stores all take batteries, as well as any and all electronics.

Grosse Pointe Woods will host a Hazardous Waste Day, Oct. 19, for Woods residents with proof of residency. The other Grosse Pointes will collaborate on a Hazardous Waste Day next April. We will follow up on this issue.

## Voting Rights Info. Attracts Large Crowd

Nearly 40 members of LWVGP, along with some members of the public, attended the September 19 presentation on Voter Rights. This was a great turnout, and several of our new members were also in attendance.

Sharon Dolente, Voting Rights Strategist for the ACLU, updated the group on the progress of the implementation of Proposal 3 - the ballot proposal LWV supported in 2018. Along with no excuse absentee voting, the proposal increases opportunities to register. Printed materials, provided by LWVMI, were available.

This presentation is the first of two this fall on important topics championed by LWVMI. The second presentation is Thursday, November 19, at 7 p.m., at Wayne County Community College in Harper Woods, and focuses on the 2020 census and the process of redistricting.

LWVMI has offered a \$400 grant for these programs. LWVGP is using the funds to cover the costs of any venues and printed materials.

Thanks to new member Julie Baumer who handled the sign in table, George McMullen who set up refreshments, and to Mike Florian, husband of Judy Florian, who set up the wireless microphones LWVGP Voter Services purchased this fall for use at our meetings and candidate forums.

We were able to use our own LWVGP projector, purchased last spring, and used at the June annual meeting for the first time.

Having our own equipment is important as that is one less thing for the program committee to be concerned with as we move from one venue to another to promote LWVGP and put on programs.

Pictured below: The LWVGP membership filled the Cook Schoolhouse to hear the voting rights presentation. Pictured bottom: New member Julie Baumer handles the sign in table.





Any prescription drugs, or over the counter pills or vitamins, can be dropped into containers at the Woods or Park city offices. NO LIQUIDS, CREAMS, SALVES, COSMETICS, etc.

There will be a waste day in the WCCC District, 21000 Northline, Taylor. October 19.

You can purchase Compostable bags at the Better Health, on Mack. The GP Woods municipal offices also sell the bags.

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Kate O'Neill, the author of *Waste* and an environmentalist at UCLA spoke in an NPR interview on the topic of recycling. Some topics addressed included E-waste (all electronics, including old appliances), global plastics, lack of recycling centers, problems with disposing solid waste, etc. Hear the interview at this [link](#):

In conclusion, there are still lots of questions to be answered: Why don't our communities have a more comprehensive waste and recyclable program?? Of course, it will cost more money, but like our schools, this community must afford them for the benefit of our community and our planet. If any of our members want to give us information, please contact Jan Wells at 313.884.6904.

## Lake Michigan Conference

LWV Lake Michigan Region is holding its Annual Meeting in Michigan this fall, **October 25-26, at the Lakeside Inn in Lakeside, MI**



This is a beautiful venue and a registered historical site.

The keynote speaker topic is "Groundwater, the 6th Great Lake".

To register or learn more go to <https://www.lwvwmr.org/>.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Webinars

The spring series of DEI webinars has ended, and LWV offers a deeper dive into this topic in a new series that began June 27. These webinars offer tools any member



## Local Candidate Forums Scheduled

Voter Services has been very busy finalizing plans for the candidate forums for contested races in Harper Woods and all five Grosse Pointes. We are pleased to have many League members volunteer their time for these very important events. Below is the schedule. A full summary of the completed forums will be in the next Voter.

Volunteers are still needed for some of the forums.

- two more question gatherers on 10/17 (GPW) and one more on 10/22 (GPC).
- greeters for the last four forums: 10/8, 10/15, 10/17, 10/22.

Contact [Sue Acton](#) if you can help.

can use in League work or in other aspects of life. The webinars are free and one may choose either to participate or simply listen.

The next one is  
**Sept 26** ([Register here](#))

You can find recordings of the previous webinars and [additional information here](#).

Leagues around the country have been putting these ideas to use in their activities, so tune in to learn what it is all about.

Questions? Call me.  
Wilhelmina Giblin  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director

## League Links

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

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



Are you informed and ready to vote? Learn about the candidates and the issues. No RSVP needed.

**Election Day is  
Tuesday,  
November 5**

# CANDIDATE FORUMS

## Harper Woods – City Council Race

City Council Candidates (Three to be Elected)  
David M. Calus, Cheryl Costantino, Tom Jenny,  
Ernestine R. Lyons, Veronica Palz, Regina L. Williams  
Monday, September 23, 2019, 7-8:30 pm  
WCCCD, Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center,  
19305 Vernier Rd., Harper Woods



## City of Grosse Pointe Shores City Council Race

City Council Candidates (Three to be Elected)  
Ryan P. Case, Danielle Gehlert,  
Douglas Kucyk, John T. Seago  
Monday, October 7, 2019, 7-8:30 pm  
The War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Rd., GPF



## City of Grosse Pointe Park City Council Race

City Council Candidates (Three to be Elected)  
John E. Chouinard, Daniel E. Clark,  
Aimee Rogers Fluit, Vilkas Relan  
Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 7-8:30 pm  
GP Park Courtroom, City Hall, 15115 E. Jefferson Ave, GPP



Sponsored by the  
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[www.facebook.com/LWVGP](http://www.facebook.com/LWVGP)  
[www.grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org](http://www.grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org)

## City of Grosse Pointe Farms City Council Race

City Council Candidates (Three to be Elected to a four year term)  
Sierra Leone Donaven, Joe Ricci, Neil Sroka, Lev Wood  
City Council Candidates (One to be Elected to a two year term)  
Anthony Chalut, Andrew Dervan, Jamie Dingeman,  
Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Catherine F. Saurbier,  
John W. Steininger  
Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 7-8:30 pm  
Brownell Middle School Auditorium, 260 Chalfonte, GPF



## City of Grosse Pointe Woods City Council Race

City Council Candidates (Three to be Elected)  
Arthur Bryant, Kenneth Gafa, Michael Koester,  
Richard Shetler, Jr., Seth A. Winterholler  
Thursday, October 17, 2019, 7-8:30 pm  
GP Woods Courtroom, City Hall, 20025 Mack Ave., GPW



## City of Grosse Pointe – Mayoral Race

Mayoral Candidates (One to be Elected)  
Christopher Boettcher, Sheila Tomkowiak

## City of Grosse Pointe – City Council Race

City Council Candidates (Three to be Elected)  
Matthew Boddy, David T. Fries, Donald J. Parthum, Jr.,  
John Stempfle, Terence A. Thomas  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 7-8:30 pm  
Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave., GP



## Harper Woods Candidate Forum

Almost 50 LWV members and Harper Woods voters attended this Fall's first voters' forum for Harper Woods City Council candidates.

Judy Florian led the introductions and was Producer. Susan Acton was moderator. Chapter members served in a variety of roles, including Greeter, Timekeeper, Question Gatherers and Sorters. Mike Florian assisted with the set up and use of our new AV equipment.

Pictured below are Jan Wells and Wilhelmina Giblin who handled the LWVGP information table at the forum. The picture below shows the candidates at the forum with moderator Judy Florian.

– pictures and information provided  
by Marge Freundl, LWVGP Director for Publicity





## DEI: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As discussed in the last Voter, league members are encouraged to watch TED talks and participate in webinars regarding the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative. Recorded webinars and TED talks may be found at the link on the left.

The DEI initiative is a journey of learning how the League may provide a positive, meaningful, and welcoming environment and to connect with marginalized communities in a way that shares power, shrinks disparities, and leads to more equitable outcomes.

Our board of directors participated in a second DEI training in September. Examples of implicit and explicit bias were discussed and how unconscious bias may impact how we plan league activities. For example, when we have planned events in the past, they were for the able-bodied privileged- those who have no problem attending our events. We need to now consider:

- location- hosting events in communities we hope to encourage to join the league
- public transportation- how will attendees get to the event
- visibility- consider those with impaired sight
- acoustics- consider those with hearing impairments
- mobility-consider those who may be in a wheelchair or have other mobility impairments
- technology- consider those who may need to use adaptive devices
- service animals- consider access and space for service dogs
- and we should advertise barrier-free facilities where we host events.

As a start, please watch at least one TED talk; they are short and very informative, and also relate to the webinars. [Click here to view.](#) I hope to host a membership meeting in the coming months where we can discuss the TED talks as they relate to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Check out what the Dearborn-Dearborn Heights League has done, as featured on the LWVUS website. [Click here.](#)

--Wilhelmina Giblin, DEI Director

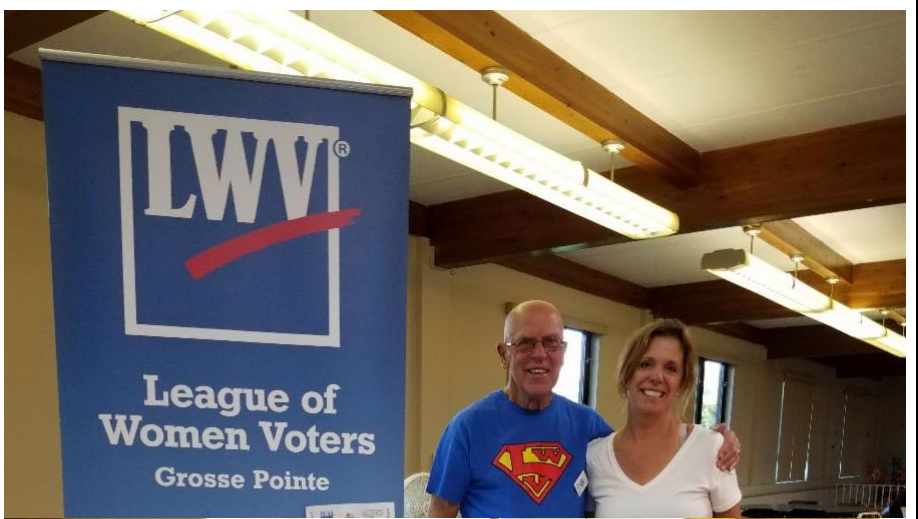
## **LWVGP Supports Soroptimists of GP**

Thanks to the invitation from new LWVGP member, Maryellen Brayton, our local chapter partnered with Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe by sponsoring a table at the SIGP September 21 Stop Traffic 5K Walk/Run, held in St. Clair Shores.

The SIGP strives to educate the public and provide support for efforts to combat human trafficking. Marge Freundl, Deb Sloss, and Tom Wells staffed our display and provided information on voter registration, candidate forums, the new "Rights for Michigan Voters" and LWV membership for a good number of runners and others who attended. This provided a good opportunity to be visible as a local chapter in our community.

Pictured below are President Tom Wells and Mary Ellen Brayton, a member of SIGP and a new member of LWVGP.  
Bottom picture includes Marge Freundl, Deb Sloss, and Tom Wells.





## Bylaws Revision Approved

The proposed revisions to LWVGP's bylaws were adopted at the September 19 meeting. If you wish a copy, download [HERE](#) and print. If you do not have access to the internet, and would like to have a copy, contact [Ann Nicholson](#) who will send you a copy.



["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](#)

[The 2019 Membership Directory](#)