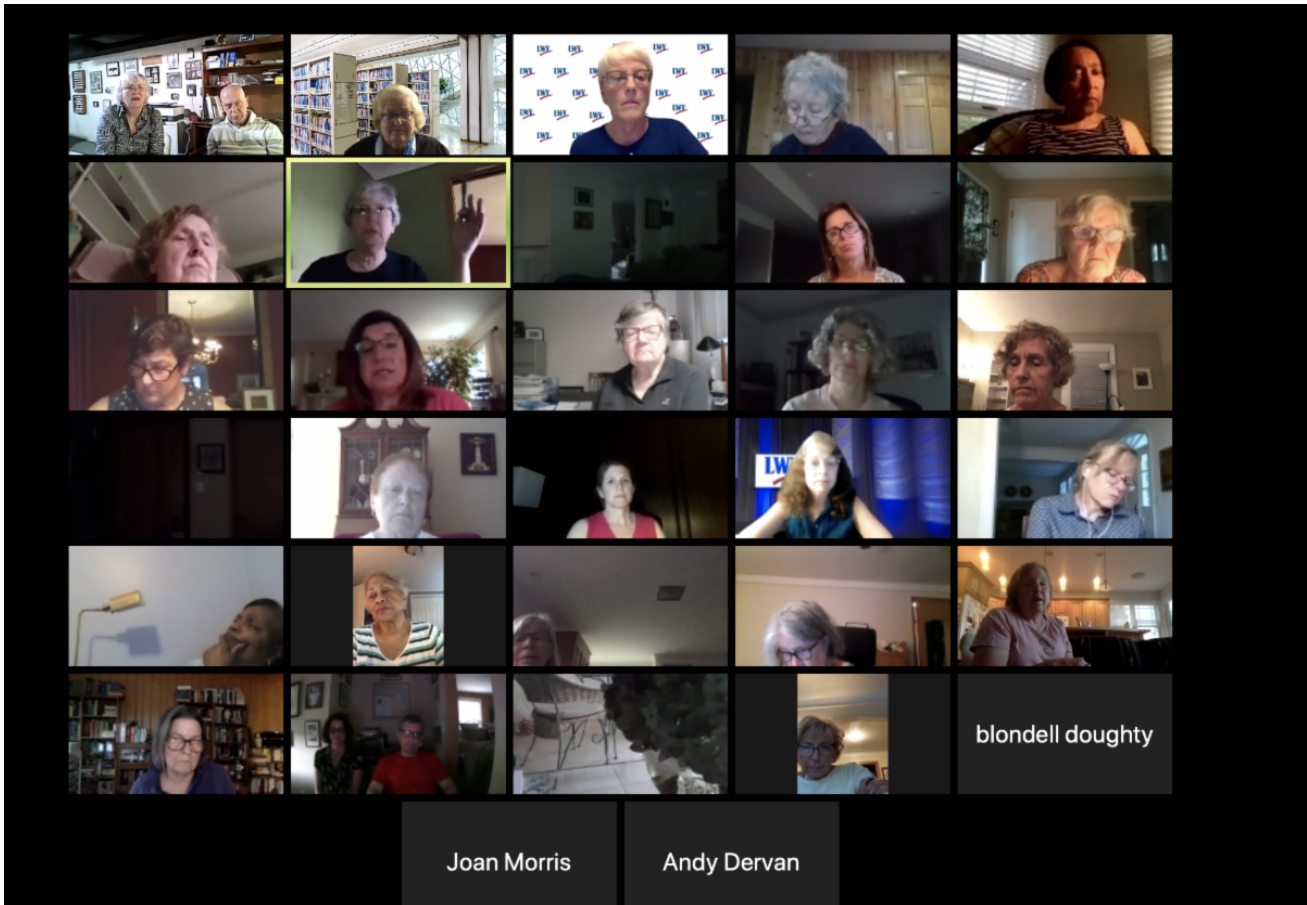




# The Voter

## League of Women Voters, Grosse Pointe

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



### **League of Women Voters, Grosse Pointe Annual Meeting (via Zoom) May 27, 2020**

#### Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your LWVGP membership.

We are a League chapter of 111 members strong. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30, meaning annual dues should be paid by the end of each June.

In the absence of an in-person annual meeting, where we usually pass out pre-addressed envelopes for your use, we ask that you visit our [website](#), print the

#### President's Message

We are facing difficult issues, starting with a higher than normal level of tension and anxiety because of the global pandemic, stay at home, shelter-in-place, loss of jobs/ income and an uncertain future. Couple that with the tragic death of George Floyd and others, and frustrated and passionate protestors exercising their rights of freedom of speech. Yes, we've had a few episodes of violence, but thankfully, the protests have been orderly. These are extraordinary times in our community and country.

The LWVUS has provided several resources to help you support the protests (see links below).

- [LWVUS responds to police killing George Floyd](#)
- [How to be good allies with the black community](#)
- [George Floyd protests - how to help](#)

[membership form](#), and mail, along with your check to:

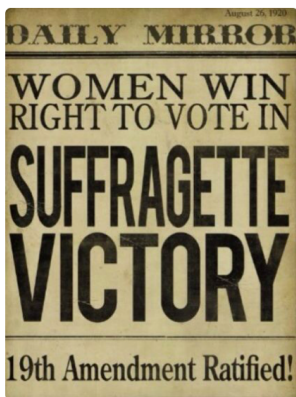
LWV Grosse Pointe,  
32 Lake Shore Drive,  
Grosse Pointe Farms 48236

- Membership dues are \$60.00 Individual
- \$90 Household of 2 or more at the same address
- \$5 Student

Thanks in advance for your renewal dues!

Sarah Coats  
[sarah.coats@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah.coats@hotmail.com) or  
Laurie Coplin  
[lcoplin@sprynet.com](mailto:lcoplin@sprynet.com)

### Upcoming Events



We are planning a group picture in early August to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote.

More details to come later in June or early July as to location and date.

Check out the sashes for sale at the bottom of the right column.

**Stay Safe! Stay Home!**

### LWVGP Directory

**President**

In the meantime, we, as a League, know we have work to do. Despite the challenges facing us, we have a duty to continue on with our work to protect our democracy and educate our community to vote.

Our first Virtual Annual Meeting was held on May 27 and attended by 35 people. We had excellent speakers: Christina Schlitt, President, LWVMI and Sue Smith, VP for Advocacy, LWVMI. Our annual business meeting focused on approving our 2020-21 budget and electing new officers. Congratulations to the following individuals who will serve on the board for 2020-21:

- President-Elect Sue Acton
- VP for Voter Services Mary Zahler
- Treasurer Carol Lufburrow
- Director, Voter Services Mary Ellen Brayton
- Director, Program Carol Todd
- Nominating Committee Chair Mary Jo Johnson
- Nominating Committee Mary Morshead

A special thanks to all members who attended this meeting. We are in a new normal and our meetings in the foreseeable future will continue to be virtual. If you haven't learned the Zoom software, now is your chance to get acquainted with its use so you can participate.

For those who could not attend the meeting, here is the [video recording](#) and the [annual meeting booklet](#).

Thanks to George McMullen (Parliamentarian), Connie Frey and Laurie Coplin, Minutes Reading Committee, and Vicki Granger for her technical expertise.

A special thanks to Ann Nicholson for her 6 years of service as Co-Editor of The Voter. Marge Freundl will replace Ann in this role. In addition, Vicki Granger will serve as an appointed director in charge of the Communications Committee.

The LWVUS will conduct its 54th Biennial Convention virtually from June 25-27, 2020. Sue Acton, Wilhelmina Giblin and I will be the LWVGP's delegates to this convention.

To quote Chris Carson, President, LWVUS Board of Directors,

"Our foremothers worked through a pandemic - the 1918 flu pandemic - to get the vote over 100 years ago, so it almost feels fitting that we honor them a century later by moving the work forward through the COVID-19 pandemic."

Beth Martin has done a superb job on our new website, which is now live. I urge you to go to [lwgrossepointe.org](http://lwgrossepointe.org) and take a look. A special thanks to Beth for her diligence and expertise with this monumental project. I am sorry to report Beth is stepping down as our webmaster, a responsibility she has handled for our league since 2008. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her excellent work with our website. I am pleased that new member Kathy Gardner has agreed to replace Beth as our new webmaster. Welcome, Kathy, to your new role.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will include the old/new board on Tuesday, June 16, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. If you

**Judy Florian**

**President Elect  
Sue Acton**

**VP Program  
Val Kindle**

**VP Voter Services  
Mary Zahler**

**Secretary  
Diana Domin**

**Treasurer  
Carol Lufburrow**

**Director Membership  
Laurie Coplin**

**Director Membership  
Sarah Coats**

**Director Program  
Carol Todd**

**Director Voter Services  
Mary Ellen Brayton**

**Voter Co-Editors  
Marge Freundl and Vicki  
Granger**

**Assistant Treasurer  
Sandy Barrett**

**Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion Chair  
Wilhelmina Giblin**

**Webmaster  
Kathy Gardner**

**Nominating Chair  
Mary Jo Johnson**

[LWVGP email](#)

[LWVGP website](#)

[LWVGP Facebook](#)

[LWVGP YouTube Channel](#)

[LWVMI website](#)

[LWVUS website](#)

**Mailing Address:  
LWVGP**

would like to join us, please contact me so I can send you the meeting link. We encourage you to attend.

Despite the end of the stay at home order, please remain vigilant and stay safe. I appreciate your continued support of our League work.

Judy Florian, President LWVGP  
[jflo@comcast.net](mailto:jflo@comcast.net)  
313-402-6786

### **Voter Services: Candidate Forums, Absentee Ballots, Voter Registration, and More**

#### **New Faces in Voter Services**

Thank you to our outgoing Voter Services team of Judy Florian and Sue Acton, and welcome to our new Voter Services Director Mary Ellen Brayton!

Mary Ellen and I are looking forward to continuing the excellent work done by our predecessors. Thank you, Judy and Sue, for all your help during our transition.

#### **Virtual Candidate Forum: a First for Our League**

Ordinarily LWVGP would host a live Candidate Forum for the August 4 primary election because there are two Democrats (Taylor Harrell and Joe Tate) and one Republican (Mayra Rodriguez) running for the Michigan House of Representatives District 2 seat (District 2 covers Grosse Pointe City, Farms, and Park, as well as northeast Detroit).

Instead there will be a Virtual Candidate Forum, co-sponsored by our League and the LWV Detroit.

Here's the forum schedule:

- You can participate by sending your questions for the candidates before noon on Tuesday, June 16 to [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com).
- The Candidate Forum will be recorded on Zoom on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- You can view the recorded forum after Thursday, June 18, via our [YouTube Channel](#). The link will be posted on both our Facebook page and our website (see links in the Directory at left).

Thank you to LWVGP members who are participating in this event: Susan Acton, Judy Florian, and Mary Zahler. Thanks, too, to Marge Freundl and Beth Martin for publicizing the event.

#### **Absentee Ballot Applications are for Everybody**

In Michigan, anyone can choose to vote by absentee ballot. Every Michigan registered voter should have or will soon receive a Michigan Absent Voter Ballot Application from the Michigan Secretary of State.

On the application you can opt for one of the following:

**c/o Grosse Pointe War Memorial  
32 Lakeshore Rd.  
Grosse Pointe Farms,  
MI 48236**

What action, if any, do you want your members to take? Add a "Find out more" link to additional information that you may have hosted on your website

### LWVGP Mission

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.

### DEI Policy

#### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy**

The League of Women Voters, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism. LWV recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making, and subscribes to

- Both 2020 elections
- August 4, 2020 election only
- November 3, 2020 election only

The form must be signed and dated, and then returned to your City Clerk.

- If you return your application by the Friday before the election, your ballot will be mailed to you.
- If you bring your application in on the Monday before the election, you must vote at the city building.

### Online Voter Registration for High School Seniors

Ordinarily the LWVGP visits our three high schools (Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South, and Harper Woods) to register seniors who will be 18 by Election Day.

Because these events weren't possible this year, we used a two-pronged approach to reach high school seniors.

- One was a flyer that was distributed to all students through their high school media. This flyer pointed out the ways that students could register (online and in person) and why their votes are important (e.g., only 1/3 to 1/2 of adults 18-24 voted in recent elections, the lowest of any age group).
- Voter Services also created a [Power Point](#) presentation especially for young voters. This presentation was sent to the high school principals.

### LWVGP Working with Local City Clerks

Workers in the November Election will be more in demand than ever because of what is expected to be a record number of absentee ballots. In addition, many past workers who are seniors may opt out of working because of COVID19 health concerns. Voter Services will be contacting local City Clerks to help ascertain their needs for Election Day volunteers, raise awareness and help recruit workers.

Please contact Mary Ellen Brayton at 313-882-1733 or [maryellenbrayton@comcast.com](mailto:maryellenbrayton@comcast.com) if you are interested in helping with this project.

Mary Zahler  
VP for Voter Services

more" link to additional information that you may have hosted on your website

### Why Does the League Need to be Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive?

I am sure that most of you have seen the issue of racism rear its ugly head once again: another black man dead at the hands of a white police officer, white men shooting and killing an unarmed black man jogging in a neighborhood; and a black man falsely accused of harassment by a white woman in NY Central Park when he asked her to put her dog on a leash. We have seen increasing incidents in the past several years involving harassment or death of black people at the hands of white

the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds.

Inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs, and therefore, LWV will in both principles and practices promote the inclusion in participation in any activity of LWV all persons whatever their gender, race, socio-economic status, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

people. The latest death happened in the Minneapolis police department, which is majority white. Would this incident have happened if the department were diverse, where different races, perspectives, ideas and friendships could flourish? Would frivolous phone calls to the police by white people about black people occur if more white people formed friendships with black people? We have more similarities than differences.

Black persons interviewed on television recently described their frustration with being devalued, marginalized and discriminated against by white people. Black parents speak of the burden of talking to their children about what to do if approached by a police officer; of having the realistic fear that their own black children would be harmed or killed by the police. These are conversations that white families don't expect to have with their children. White people don't have to carry this burden.

In many parts of our nation, there is one justice system for whites and another for blacks. According to a recent New York Times article, "for most white Americans, interactions with the police happen rarely, and they're often respectful or even friendly. In many black communities, and especially for black men- the situation is entirely different. Black males are incarcerated more frequently than whites. ...and suffer economic and psychological damage after they leave prison."

There is an unfounded fear today of black men, dating back to stereotypes of black people created by white slave owners. Black men live in fear of the fear that whites have about them.

We must have the difficult conversations about our biases, prejudices and fears and work toward freeing ourselves of this cancer that is eating the fabric of our society. Our nation will stand together, or fall together. The choice is ours to make. Henry David Thoreau once said: "It is never too late to give up your prejudices." Martin Luther King Jr. has said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Our League can help to rid our nation of its biases and injustices by reaching out to others unlike ourselves and establishing new friendships; joining the fight for the rights and privileges that all people in our community deserve, regardless of race, ethnicity, or culture; and forming a more diverse and inclusive organization.

Please click on this [link](#) to watch for this month's TED Talk: "Let's Get to the Root of Racial Injustice."

Please also sign up for the webinars listed on our [website](#). They are scheduled for July, August, and September.

If you have not already done so, please complete our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Membership Survey at this [link](#).

Wilhelmina Giblin - DEI Director

Census 2020: Have You Been Counted?



### **The 2020 Census is still in process!**

Traditionally a challenge for some, it has been more difficult for many this year as the usual means to approach residents door-to-door has been impeded by pandemic restrictions.

Additionally, there are some US residents who fear repercussions if the government has their information. The US Census Bureau assures us that it is "bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life".

As of June 9, less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of US households have completed the Census.

- Michigan has a 67% response rate, with 53% completed using the internet.
- In Wayne County, 62% of residents have been counted, with less than 48% by internet.
- Detroit has less than half of its households counted, with less than a quarter being captured online.
- For the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, response rates range from 72% (HW) to 85% (GPW and GPF).

2020 Census field operations have begun in phased restarts as pandemic restrictions are lifted; Detroit restarted the first week of June.

Here are some important dates for the Census:

April 1: This is Census Day, a key reference date but not a deadline.

Mid-April: The Census Bureau mailed paper questionnaires to homes that had not yet responded online or by phone.

July 1 - September 3: Census takers will work with administrators at colleges, senior centers, prisons, and other facilities that house large groups of people to make sure everyone is counted.

August 11 - October 31: Census takers will visit households that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted.

December: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

Hundreds of thousands of businesses, organizations, and individuals nationwide are voluntarily supporting a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census.

In Michigan, volunteers are being trained to staff phone banks to call citizens; this can be done from your own home, with the recipient only seeing the local phone bank number on their caller ID. Michigan maintains a state ["Be Counted" website](#) with more information on how to volunteer and be trained.

Marge Freundl, Publicity

### Let's Celebrate 100 Years!



100 Years of having the right to vote is an important thing to celebrate!

August 26 is also a great chance to promote the LWV in a big, visual way. The LWV board invites as many members as possible to a photo shoot in early August (date, location, TBD). We'll hope to see our photo in the GPNews and other publications, and will post it on our website and on FaceBook.

Be prepared for this historic photo. You'll need white clothes, a mask, and hopefully a sash! Make your own sash or participate in the LWVGP fundraiser by buying one from Sue Acton (proceeds

support LWV-GP, yes, it is a fundraiser for us).  
Email [shacton@gmail.com](mailto:shacton@gmail.com) to order yours.

- One 72" sash with 100 years LWV button \$20.
- Additional buttons (limited quantity) \$5.

We also hope to have an event when we can all dress up again,  
once we can gather safely.

Sue Acton, President-Elect



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