



The Voter Newsletter June -July 2021

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

President's Message

In this last message to you as your President, my reflections of this past year are both excitement with our many accomplishments, but also a sense of anxiety about the threats to our democracy.

First, our accomplishments! Our 71st Annual Meeting on May 11, 2021 featured an excellent presentation by Cynthia Sohn and Clare Pfeiffer on the upgrades to the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House. If you haven't had a chance to visit the new facilities, I encourage you to do so! If you were unable to attend our meeting, you can view the recording, the annual meeting booklet, and the annual meeting minutes on our website, under [Events/Past Events](#).

Our League provided the opportunity for 12 members to attend the 2021 LWVMI Convention: Defending Democracy. Voting delegates included Sue Acton, Denise Allen, Marge Freundl, Cathy McAdam, Mary Zahler and myself. Non-voting attendees included Connie Frey, Mary Jo Johnson, Lauri Kingsbury, Laura Larson, Carol Lufburrow and Judy Masserang. Vicki Granger served as a LWVMI voting delegate. I've asked each attendee to provide their reflections/comments on the convention. [These can be viewed on our blog](#). Cathy McAdam also served as a presenter for the workshop entitled: Building More Diverse, Inclusive and Equitable Leagues.

Congratulations to the following League members who received well-deserved recognition as Belle Ringer awardees: (Read more on our [LWVGP Blog](#)).

- Advocacy: Marge Freundl
- Voter Services: Mary Ellen Brayton
- Member Recruitment and Engagement: Sarah Coats and Laurie Coplin
- Strategic Planning and Fundraising: Carol Lufburrow

The Estate of George McMullen sent, at his bequest, a check in the amount of \$1,500. As stated in the letter, this was a donation to the league, "an organization that he loved." We are extremely grateful for this gift and will use it to continue

George's legacy as we review options to reinstitute an Observer Corps in his memory.

The work of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) continues, with two public hearings conducted in Detroit on June 15 and June 17. Three of our members, Marge Freundl, Jennifer Goossen and Laura Larson, served as volunteers for these hearings. Your Communities of Interest (COI) team (Lauri Kingsbury, Carol Lufburrow and Cathy McAdam) continue to work with local organizations to emphasize the importance of mapping COI's to influence legislators.

Now for my anxiety. Between January 1 and May 14, 2021, at least 14 states have enacted 22 new laws that restrict access to the vote. At least 61 bills with restrictive provisions are moving through 18 state legislatures. The Michigan legislature has jumped on the bandwagon by introducing 39 voter suppression bills. On June 16, the Michigan Senate voted to pass three bills expanding ID requirements for voters before their ballots can be counted. The bills remove the option to vote by affidavit if a voter does not have a suitable ID and require voters to submit identifying information for an absentee ballot application.

The LWVMI has opposed these proposed bills. "In 2018, Michigan voters overwhelmingly voted to make voting more convenient, not more restrictive," said Christina Schlitt, president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. "These anti-voter bills will lead to voter disenfranchisement and make it more difficult for voters to exercise their rights. Michigan's elections are fair and secure; there is no need for this legislation."

It is up to each of us, as members, to contact our State Legislators and encourage them to vote against these bills. The very foundation of our democracy is at stake. A comprehensive description of the bills is found at this link: <https://lwvmi.org/documents/39BillsSummary6-16-21.pdf> We will keep you updated as the legislature continues discussions.

A special thanks to the 2020-21 Board of Directors and Off-Board members for their support during my leadership. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your President and to work with such a talented and committed group of individuals. The League will be in excellent hands as I turn the gavel over to Sue Acton as your incoming President. I will continue as an off-board member handling publicity and as Co-Editor of The Voter. I will also serve as the Vice President for Voter Services for the LWVMI for the next 2 years. Wishing you a happy summer as we begin to venture out again to some sense of normalcy.

Judy Florian, President
League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe
jflo@comcast.net
313-402-6786

Voter Services



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Municipal Judge - Grosse Pointe Farms / Grosse Pointe Shores
The Primary Election – Tuesday, August 3, 2020 – is coming soon.

Are YOU informed and ready to vote?

VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Invited Candidates
Charles T. Berschback
Dean C. Metry
Kevin M. Smith



Recorded via Zoom on
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
7 – 8:30 pm

You can participate by submitting your questions for the candidates to the LWV before noon **June 22**. We'll use as many as we can. Follow the link at LWVGrossePointe.org

You can view the recorded forum **after June 24** via:

Webpage - LWVGrossePointe.org

Facebook/[LWVGP](https://www.facebook.com/LWVGP)

YouTube - [LWV Grosse Pointe](https://www.youtube.com/LWVGrossePointe)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

City Council - Grosse Pointe Park

The Primary Election – Tuesday, August 3, 2020 – is coming soon.

Are YOU informed and ready to vote?

VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Invited Candidates
Brian A. Brenner
Thomas J. Caulfield
Christine Gallagher
Jeff Greer
Tim Kolar
Darci McConnell
Max Wiener



Recorded via Zoom on
Thursday, June 24, 2021
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

You can participate by submitting your questions for the candidates to the LWV before noon **June 22**.

Follow the link at LWVGrossePointe.org

You can view the recorded forum **after June 25** via:

Webpage - LWVGrossePointe.org

Facebook/[LWVGP](https://www.facebook.com/LWVGP)

YouTube - [LWV Grosse Pointe](https://www.youtube.com/LWVGrossePointe)



We are conducting two virtual candidate forums this upcoming week. Be sure to submit your questions via the website by Tuesday, June 22.

The deadline to register for the upcoming local General Elections in Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods is July 20. At that time, we expect we will have contested elections in at least two cities that will require candidate forums in September.

Our new Voter Services Director, Mary Garlough, will work with the Program Committee to plan the October program tentatively titled "Fair and Free Elections."

We are not holding Voter Registration drives at the high schools this spring. We may hold them in September or might hold off until the spring of 2022.

Mary Zahler, LWVMI VP Voter Services

Mary Garlough, LWVGP Director Voter Services

League of Women Voters of Michigan Voices Strong Opposition to Passing of Anti-Voter Bills

LANSING – The League of Women Voters of Michigan condemned the Michigan Senate's passage of bills to make voting more difficult.

"In 2018, Michigan voters overwhelmingly voted to make voting more convenient, not more restrictive," said Christina Schlitt, president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. "These anti-voter bills will lead to voter disenfranchisement and make it more difficult for voters to exercise their rights. Michigan's elections are fair and secure; there is no need for this legislation."

The Michigan Senate voted to pass three bills on June 16, expanding ID requirements for voters before their ballots can be counted. The bills remove the option to vote by affidavit if a voter does not have a suitable ID and require voters to submit identifying information for an absentee ballot application.

"These bills directly and negatively affect seniors, people with disabilities, people with limited incomes and young people, who all have difficulty obtaining the type of ID that is sometimes required to vote," Schlitt said. "Michigan has voter ID laws on the books, and our system for affidavit options has worked for decades. These new restrictions are unnecessary."

Members can view the bills at the following link:

<https://lwvmi.org/documents/39BillsSummary6-16-21.pdf>

We will continue to update members with the status of these bills as it becomes available.

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The League of Women Voters of Michigan is the state league for the U.S. League of Women Voters, which is a nonpartisan political organization that aims to encourage informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Learn more at lwvmi.org.

Redistricting Opinion Piece

Read the op-ed piece we submitted to the Grosse Pointe News regarding redistricting. [The piece is posted in our blog!](#)

Vote 411 signs!

Time to make sure your [Vote411 sign](#) is ready for the August 3 Primary. These signs help make the League more visible, and provide a reminder to voters that they can learn more about all the candidates on their ballot in one easy spot at [Vote411.org](#)



If you need a sign, contact [Sue Acton](#). Signs are \$10.

Membership

Be sure to send in your dues for the 2021-2022 FY. Every member was emailed an invoice. You can pay online via PayPal, or via snail mail. [Details on our website.](#)

Welcome to our new members Sierra Donaven and Cynthia Sohn. [Read more](#) on our LWVGP Blog.

Communications: LWVGP on Twitter!

[@LWVofGP](#)

That is our new name on Twitter! Go to twitter.com, sign up (remember your username and password), and start following us. Re-tweet frequently! That will help us build followers. Remember the @ is used for the NAME on the account, and the # is used for the TOPICS. When you are on Twitter, you can search for a particular account using the search box with the @, as well as any topics using the #

We are in the early stages of making this Twitter account work for our LWVGP to keep us informed, and to inform the public. If you have suggestions for Twitter accounts to follow, let me know.

Our LWVGP now has its own blog, which expands information for members on items in the newsletter, as well as being a spot for pieces of news of interest to members, more so than the general public. Visit us at our [Blogger site](#).

We continue to be a presence on [Facebook](#), and please SHARE our posts on your own page, and with groups you belong to

Please bookmark these sites - and you can group your bookmarks into a folder on your desktop!

[Vicki Granger](#)

LWVGP Communications Chair

Passing the Torch

Congratulations to our new officers who will begin their duties July 1:

VP for Programs Joan Richardson
Secretary Judy Masserang
Director (Membership) Marge Freundl
Director (Membership) Diana Domin
Nominations Chair Lauri Kingsbury
Nominations member Joan Morris

A special thanks to those members leaving the following positions on the Board:

VP for Programs Valerie Kindle
Secretary Diana Domin
Director (Membership) Sarah Coats
Director (Membership) Laurie Coplin
Nominations Chair Mary Jo Johnson
Nominations member Mary Morshead

The League is positioned to move ahead under the leadership of President Sue Acton.

Board - through June 30, 2021

Executive Board Elected

- President: Judy Florian *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- President-Elect: Sue Acton *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Vice President: Program Valerie Kindle *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Vice President: Voter Services Mary Zahler *term to expire June 30, 2022*

- Secretary Diana Domin *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Treasurer Carol Lufburrow *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Elected

- Director (Voter Services) Mary Garlough *term to expire June 30, 2022*
- Director (Membership) Sarah Coats *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Director (Membership) Laurie Coplin *term to expire June 30, 2021*
- Director (Program) Carol Todd *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Appointed one-year terms, appointed by the President

- Sandy Barrett - Assistant Treasurer
- Wilhelmina Giblin - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Vicki Granger - Communications, Voter Co-Editor

Off-Board Directors Appointed one-year terms, appointed by the President

- Margaret M. Freundl - Publicity, Voter Co-Editor
- Connie Frey - Education
- Kathy Gardner - Webmaster
- Ann Nicholson - Historian
- Mary Jo Johnson - Nominating Committee
- Ed Trowbridge - Phone

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 **ages 16 and older.**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy **Non-Partisan Policy**

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

Email: lwgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwgrossepointe.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVGP/>

Twitter: [@LWVofGP](https://twitter.com/LWVofGP)

Blog: <https://leagueofwomensvotersgrossepointe.blogspot.com/>

LWVGP on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIoWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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

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