

The Voter Newsletter
September 2021

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



Say 'Cheese'!

(Above) Several LWVGP members gathered on the front steps of the GP Woods City Hall recently for a group photo. Rain was heading in, and kudos to our photographer, Mike Florian, for capturing this photo as the drops began!

(Left) A second photo was also taken in the GPW Community Center.

Calendar

NOTE: All candidate forums are being conducted virtually. Read more in **Voter Services Article below.**

Candidate forums:

- Sept. 8 - Grosse Pointe Park
- Sept. 14 - Grosse Pointe City
- Sept. 22 - Harper Woods

Sept. 15: LWVGP Board Meeting

Sept. 28: National Voter Registration Day. *More info below*

September: Observer Corps Training (see Observer Corps)

Oct. 20: Secure and Fair Elections Virtual Program (see Voter Services)

Oct. 27: Mapping Michigan's Future (see Program)

President's Message

Transitions. Sometimes transitions are easy, sometimes there's a story. We are a fortunate League this year. I'm happy to report a smooth transition happened this summer. For that, I have to thank our past president, Judy Florian (pictured at right), and all the members of the board, both incoming and outgoing. Our leadership teams have worked well together.



Thanks to Judy Florian and Vicki Granger who currently hold LWVMI Board positions. Because of their dedication, LWVGP is greatly connected to policy, programs, and communication at the state level.

Meanwhile, it's time to get started on the local level. Our board has already opened many doors and is ready for our members (YOU!) to step through. I urge you to become involved!

I'm happy to share a few of our many successes (and some opportunities):

- At our annual meeting, the membership accepted our ad hoc Ways and Means Committee's **Strategic Plan**. We have a path forward for each focus area of our league this year.
- **Voter Services** conducted Candidate Forums for the August primaries and has plans for five more in September. We also

trained two moderators this summer: Joan Richardson and Laurie Arora.

- We have a “reinvigorated” **Observer Corps**. *More info below.*
- Our **Communities of Interest Committee** for the **MICRC** educated us *and* the community, resulting in all five Grosse Pointes passing resolutions to support a unified Community of Interest combining all the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Thank you Lauri Kingsbury, Carol Lufburrow, Cathy McAdam, and Judy Florian. Big win!
- We have added **seven new members** since July 1. Please welcome them, include them. *More info below.*

More things to watch for, join, lead, or attend (and do invite a friend):

- Our early October “Kickoff” meeting has a **MICRC** Focus at a key point in the process. *More info below.*
- Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has met and is planning to continue the LWVGP Book Club this fall. Contact **Wilhelmina Giblin** to participate.
- A pre-election forum “Secure Free and Fair Elections,” is planned for October 20. *More info below.*

And lastly, E.B. White said this first. I keep the quote on my desk. Want to join me in this mission this year?

*I get up every morning determined to both change the world
and have one hell of a good time.
Sometimes this makes planning my day difficult.*

Sue Acton, President
League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe
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The Election – **Tuesday, November 2, 2021** – is coming soon.

Are YOU informed and ready to vote?

Candidates will answer questions from the community.

VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUMS

Forum Dates

Grosse Pointe Park
Mayor and Municipal Judge
Wednesday, September 8

Grosse Pointe
City Council
Tuesday, September 14

Harper Woods
Mayor and City Council
Wednesday, September 22

Candidates who ran in the August primary already have a recorded video posted. Candidates running for the contested offices noted on the left have been invited to Forums.

You can participate by submitting your questions for the candidates to the LWVGP.

Follow the link at LWVGrossePointe.org Questions must be received by noon one day before each forum.

You can view each recorded forum one day after each forum via:

Webpage - LWVGrossePointe.org

Facebook/LWVGP

YouTube - LWV Grosse Pointe



Voter Services: Five Local Candidate Forums

The Voter Services team is busy preparing for FIVE candidate forums during September. The schedule includes

- Grosse Pointe Park - mayor, municipal judge
- Grosse Pointe - city council
- Harper Woods. - mayor, city council

These forums will be conducted the same way we have during the past several months: a virtual Zoom call with just the candidates, the moderator, and the timekeeper. The forums are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel. (link below and through our website).

You are invited to submit questions for consideration; the moderator and question sorters for each group will review the day before. **Link** to submit questions; the link is also on our website.

Voter Services Program

Secure and Fair Elections-October 20, 2021, time TBD

This will be a virtual program via Zoom. City clerks will discuss the facts underscoring the integrity of mail-in voting and the methods used to keep ballots and votes secure. They will also address the pros and cons of voter ID laws. What is required and why and the security of

affidavits. Registration information will be sent to members closer to the program date.

High School Voter Registration

LWVGP is not conducting in-person Voter Registration drives at the high schools this fall. [Learn more at this link](#)

National Voter Registration Day

LWVGP has signed up for National Voter Registration Day, which is September 28. Voter registration reminders will be provided to the community to encourage people to register prior to the November 2nd election.

Mary Zahler, LWVGP VP Voter Services

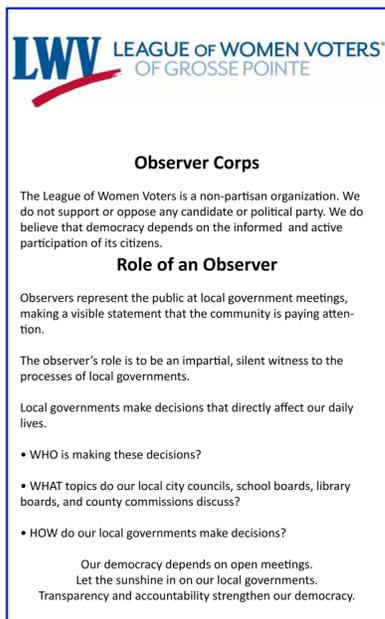
Mary Garlough, LWVGP Director Voter Services

Vote 411 signs!

Time to make sure your **Vote411 sign** is ready for the November 2 General Election. 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.



Observer Corps

For many years, LWVGP has had an Observer Corps, serving as the eyes and ears of the community. In recent years, however, the Corps has not been as active, as members left the community for warmer climates and well-earned retirements.

This past summer, LWVGP has revived the Observer Corps (OC), with several meetings to discuss recruitment and training materials.

View our brochure here. [LWVGP OC Brochure](#)

Vicki Granger and Lauri Kingsbury are co-chairx, and have met with a committee that includes Sarah Coats, Connie Frey, Judy Florian, Sue Acton, and new member Catherine Dumke.

The group has developed some recruitment materials and is planning to present an OC Training meeting the last week of September - September is already filled with five candidate forums in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods!

The OC now has its own page on the LWVGP website, under the Advocacy tab:

<http://lwvgrossepointe.org/advocacy/observer-corps/>.

Read more in the [LWVGP Blog!](#)

If interested, contact [Lauri Kingsbury](#).

Membership

Welcome to our eight new and returning members. They include:

- Catherine Dumke, GP Woods
- Jeanette (Jen) Evans, GP Park (returning)
- Aimée Fluitt, GP Park
- Michele Hodges, GP Park (returning)
- Sheila Minetola, GP Park
- Lauri Read, GP Park (returning)
- Mary Rouleau, GP Park
- Jamie Turnbull, GP Park

[Read more](#) about our new members on the blog.

Dues are....due! LWVGP operates on a July 1-June 30 fiscal year. If you are unsure of your dues status, contact either Membership Director [Marge Freundl](#) or Membership Director [Diana Domin](#). Please be sure your dues are paid for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (July1 - June 30). We are updating our membership directory, and want to be sure to include YOU.

Dues are payable online or via snail mail. [Membership info on the website.](#)

Program for October: Mapping Michigan's Future

The Kickoff meeting is October 27, 7:00 p.m. (location TBD)

The focus will be on the [MICRC](#) and the mapping process for the new congressional districts and new state senate and state representative districts. The lead speaker will be longtime demographer Kurt Metzger,

who will set the stage by talking about the population shifts in Michigan, including the 2020 Census. He will be followed by a commissioner from the MICRC who will present the proposed maps and describe some of the thinking underlying those decisions. This meeting is timely, as it is held one day before the scheduled public hearing about the proposed maps at the TCF Center in Detroit. This gives Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods residents the opportunity to hear and review the maps and then follow up the next day with formal testimony before the commissioners.

There will be lots of time for a Q&A, so come prepared with your questions.

LWVGP on Twitter!

[@LWVofGP](#)

[Read more on the blog.](#)

Board - through June 30, 2022

Executive Board Elected

- President: Sue Acton *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President: Program Joan Richardson *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President: Voter Services Mary Zahler *term to expire June 30, 2022*
- Secretary: Judy Masserang *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Elected

- Director (Voter Services) Mary Garlough *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Membership) Diana Domin *term to expire June 30, 2022*
- Director (Membership) Marge Freundl *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Program) Carol Todd *term to expire June 30, 2022*

On-Board Directors Appointed by the President for one-year terms

- Sandy Barrett - Assistant Treasurer
- Wilhelmina Giblin - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Vicki Granger - Communications, Voter Co-Editor, Observer Corps Co-Chair
- Lauri Kingsbury - Observer Corps Co-Chair, Nominating Committee Chair

Off-Board Directors Appointed by the President for one-year terms

- Judy Florian- Publicity, Voter Co-Editor
- Connie Frey - Education
- Kathy Gardner - Webmaster
- Ann Nicholson - Historian

- Ed Trowbridge - Phone
- Nominating Committee** Lauri Kingsbury (chair), Mary Garlough, Joan Morris

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**

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Email: lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwvgrossepointe.org

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

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

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

LWVGP on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPHdVUY_2SB30w

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