



The Voter Newsletter November 2021

*Serving the communities of
Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park,
Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Harper Woods
Since 1950*

Calendar

November 8 DEI Committee Meeting
November 9 New Member Orientation (Zoom)
November 17 LWVGP Board Meeting - contact Sue Acton for link
November 18 Observer Corps Training (in-person)
December 15 Holiday party (tentative)
January 11 Annual Program Planning Meeting
February 9 Program: What History Are Students Learning

President's Message: Commitment

Commitment. It shone through our members' actions in SO many ways this month. Our league works best when no one does everything, but everyone does something. How will you commit to our goals of *Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy*? We have many ideas, please join us in these events coming up or invent your own!

- Our Membership Directors, Marge Freundl and Diana Domin, have welcomed 12 new members since July 1. The new member orientation is Tuesday, November 9, for any new or returning after an absence member who joined anytime in 2021. More information below.
- Our Observer Corps planning group has been meeting regularly and has an Observer Corps Training Session planned for November 18. More information below.
- Our DEI group continues our partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public Library with a book discussion on the second Wednesday of each month. I understand LWVGP members are the most active participants! Contact DEI Committee Chair Wilhelmina Giblin, stormmimi@yahoo.com, for more information.

- Our Voter Services and Program committees presented two terrific programs during October. Both are available on our [YouTube Channel](#).
- **“Secure and Fair Elections,”** presented by Carol Pierce, Senior Election Specialist, Security & Standards Section of MI Secretary of State, who shared information about security threats of all kinds and what the state is doing about them. Other presenters included our own Poll Workers (thank you Judy Florian, Mary Zahler and Carol Lufburrow), who provided practical information about what it’s like to be a Poll Worker/Absentee Ballot Counter and gave us a “behind the scenes” look at the security measures followed in each local election. Finally, I presented a look to our future and the impact the petition drive “Secure MI Vote” will have on Michigan voting should it become law. The presentation was developed by LWVMI and it is critical that we ALL know what is in the petition and what we can do about it.
- **“Mapping Michigan’s Future”** presented demographer Kurt Metzger, founder of Data Driven Detroit, who provided some fascinating charts and analysis on what happened to our population and therefore our representation over time. Sue Smith, the LWVMI VP for Advocacy, followed with information about the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC), what they’ve accomplished so far and what they have yet to do. Watch the video, then [click here](#) to comment on the final set of maps. The vote is set for December 30.
- Contested elections are the heart of our democracy, and LWVGP made an impact with seven Candidate Forums viewed nearly 3,000 times as of Election Eve. This is a service to the community that matters. I am particularly thankful for new leadership and commitment to service in the moderator positions as Joan Richardson and Laurie Arora were trained and led three of the forums. Mary Zahler and Mary Garlough are also to be thanked for their service.
- And finally, the LWVMI, the state League, has revamped its [website](#). I highly recommend you visit starting with voting rights and advocacy. Some wonderfully committed members are working hard to keep us informed.

Looking ahead, I want to celebrate with you – Covid willing. I am tentatively planning a holiday party at my home on December 15. Save the date and work toward low Covid numbers. If CovidActNow.com shows cases per 100,000 < 10, in Wayne County, in December, the party is on. Further details to follow.

Sue Acton, President
League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe
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Members Elected to Local Governments, Work at Local Polls

Congratulations to these LWVGP members who won elections in their local communities as a result of the November 2 election:

- Grosse Pointe Farms: Sierra Donaven (City Council)
- Grosse Pointe Park: Michele Hodges (Mayor)
- Grosse Pointe Woods: Vicki Granger (City Council)
- Harper Woods: Valerie Kindle (Mayor)

Thank you to all of our LWVGP members who worked at the polls on November 2:

- Detroit: Carol Lufburrow
- Grosse Pointe: Sue Acton, Deb Sloss, Steve Trowbridge
- Grosse Pointe Farms: Mary Garlough
- Grosse Pointe Park: Judy Florian, Mary Zahler

Membership Plans New Member Orientation

Membership snapshot:

- 4 Lifetime members
- 94 paid members for the 2021-22 year

New members: Welcome Cheryl Denman, Laura VerBeek, and Melissa Levasseur

New Member Orientation: Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Marge Freundl mmfreundl@comcast.net to be sure you are on the list to receive the Zoom link.

Celebration of Life: Longtime member Ann Kondak passed away this past year. Her daughter, our own Diana Domin, invites family and friends to a Celebration of Life luncheon gathering at noon Saturday, November 20. Contact the family at (248) 644-5698 for details. Here is a link to her obituary.

<https://www.grossepointenews.com/articles/anna-kondak/>

On the mend: Longtime member Mary Morshead is now recovering after a serious fall and some broken bones. Cards can be sent to Mary at her home address.

Our condolences: Our deepest sympathies to Melissa Bunker and family whose son, Harris, passed away after suffering a rare blood disorder. Here is a link to his obituary.

<https://www.grossepointenews.com/articles/harris-f-bunker/>

Observer Corps Training is November 18

LWV has a long tradition of observers at public meetings - school boards, city councils, library boards, planning and zoning commissions, and more! This is a great way for an LWV member to become involved as the observations of the corps members help form the basis of questions for candidate forums, as well as alerting the league to topics LWVGP may want to explore further.

Our newly revitalized Observer Corps is ready to conduct training for LWVGP members! The training is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room of the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, just west of Kercheval. The meeting room is on the second floor and there is an elevator! Our thanks to Joan Richardson, a member of the church, for arranging this meeting space for us.

Observers will be learning about their role, the Open Meetings Act and more!

In order to make sure we have sufficient quantities of training materials, please contact Observer Corps Co-Chair Lauri Kingsbury, lauri.kingsbury@icloud.com no later than Tuesday, November 16.

The Observer Corps is on our LWVGP website <http://lwvgrossepointe.org/advocacy/observer-corps/>.

If interested, contact Lauri Kingsbury at lauri.kingsbury@icloud.com.

LWVMI Opposes Secure MI Vote Petition-Don't Sign!

Our LWVGP, along with other local Leagues and the LWVMI, opposes the ballot measures of the Secure MI Vote petition. Don't be deceived by the name! This proposal eliminates options that make voting more accessible to all, especially black and brown voters, seniors, youth, people with disabilities, and rural voters.

Our last presidential election was the most secure in history and Michigan already has safeguards in place for elections. Not only is this proposal unnecessary, but it also disenfranchises voters from participating in our foremost democratic process.

Furthermore, the ballot proposal includes a section that if approved by the Michigan legislature, would prevent a vote of the people from overturning this law, further denying the people of Michigan a vote on this issue.

Voter Services - It Takes a Village!

The past few months, our Voter Services team, led by Mary Zahler, VP of Voter Services, and Mary Garlough, Director, Voter Services, has done an incredible job of conducting candidate forums for Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, and Harper Woods contested elections. LWVGP members involved with the effort include:

- Moderators Sue Acton, Laurie Arora, and Joan Richardson
- Producers Mary Zahler and Mary Garlough
- Zoom and technical coordinator Judy Florian
- Question sorters Laurie Coplin, JoAnn Kelly, Laura McEnery, Mary Rouleau, Wendy Saigh, Tom Wells and Mary Zahler
- Timekeepers Denise Allen, Mary Rouleau and Wendy Saigh
- Publicity Communications Committee Vicki Granger, Kathy Gardner and Judy Florian

Call for Nominations: Strong Leadership Moves Us Forward

Leadership in difficult times has kept our League strong. The 19th Amendment finally became law in August 1920 while the "Spanish Influenza" pandemic killed hundreds of thousands across the country. In the 1920 presidential election, 26 million women were eligible to vote; 36% cast ballots, thanks to the League of Women Voters and others who worked tirelessly on the local level.

Now, 101 years later, we are stronger than ever and we carry on through another deadly pandemic.

LWVGP will elect our leaders at the May 2022 Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for various positions. We need your strengths, skills and life experiences to keep LWVGP strong

One-Year terms

Nominating Committee Chair
Nominating Committee Member
President-Elect (who becomes President in June 2023)

Two-year terms

Director-Programs
Treasurer
Vice President Voter Services

Contact Nominating Committee Chair Lauri Kingsbury, lauri.kingsbury@icloud.com, if you are interested in serving in one of these positions or if you have suggestions for possible candidates.

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 - Nominating Committee Chair, Observer Corps Co-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

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://leagueofwomenvotersgrossepointe.blogspot.com/>

LWVGP on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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