



The Voter Newsletter
September 2022

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

Calendar

August 27 - LWVGP at After Six on Kercheval in GP Park
August 29 - DEI Committee Meeting (see article)
August 31 - Picnic at Neff Park in Grosse Pointe, 6 p.m.
September 20 - LWVGP Board Meeting at Ewald Branch Library, 7 p.m.
September 27 - School Board Candidate Forum at Brownell, 7 p.m.

** visit the [Membership Events](#) only page on the website, under About Us

President's Message

Community. One of the best legacies we have, from the years of Leagues of Women Voters who have gone before, is a framework for action and a community already built to support us as we JUMP ahead in **Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy** this year.

Our challenge is to accept this gift, honor it, and work to pass along an even better community, a deeper commitment and bigger hopes and dreams. To that end, our board and members have spent the summer working on some new ideas, some firsts, and some focus on building our community for the coming year.

Some highlights of what we already accomplished this summer:

- We have a new [Strategic Plan for 2022-23](#) developed with new goals for each of our six functional areas. Note that DEI undergirds it all AND note the wide variety of Member Opportunities we can offer this year on page 18 of the plan and below.
- We had a BIG new Voter Services event already in July with our first [US Congressional Candidate Forum](#) before the primary.
- Our new in 2021 Observer Corps has grown to a dozen members already. They met last week to compare notes on how well our local councils and boards are responding to the larger community.

And some highlights of what we have coming up in the very near future:

- We have new programs coming up, beginning with our first Kickoff Picnic on August 31 at 6 pm at Neff Park. It's an in-person, outdoor event, geared to fun and those member opportunities. Contact me for one of the last five reservations.
- We'll have our first *post-Covid in-person* Candidate Forum on September 27 at Brownell Middle School for the candidates for the GP School Board.
- We are training a new LWVMI speakers' bureau this month and in early September to be able to offer presentations this fall on Promote the Vote 2022 and other proposals expected to be on the ballot. We will offer these programs to our League members, the public, and community groups (Realtors, Rotarians, etc.). If you know of a community group with an interest in the upcoming election, contact me for details and dates. Speaker training sessions will be conducted on September 12, at 7 p.m. and September 14 at 3 p.m. All training will be conducted via Zoom.
- We are promoting membership in our League, voting information, proposal information, and enjoying meeting our neighbors at our first After 6 on Kercheval street party in West Park on August 27. **Contact Marge Freundl** to help or find us at the party.

Yes, there are a lot of new things and a lot of firsts. We have big plans this year, but they ONLY work if we have members willing to say "I'll help with that." If you aren't involved YET, we need you to find a fit for your interests, gifts, and skills (see LWVGP Opportunities box below). Find a friend in-League, or invite a friend to join the League. Contact any board member to volunteer. It's more fun when we act in Community.

Join us? We'll get it done together.

Sue Acton, President, LWVGP. shacton@gmail.com 313 434-5768

LWVGP Opportunities

Contact us to volunteer to be part of the community and part of Defending Democracy.

- **Voter Services:** Forum greeters, moderators, timekeepers and question sorters, voter registration drive workers, poll watchers, canvassers.
- **Programs:** Program planning, set-up, hospitality.
- **Membership:** Membership/DEI Council, database and survey help, speaker arrangements.
- **Communications:** The Voter and website trainees, publicity, annual photo planner, social media.
- **Special Programs:** Observer Corps members, DEI book club members, Environmental Network Committee members, advocates.
- **Finance:** Fundraising, mailing assistance, finance committee, budget committee.



Promote the Vote 2022 One Step Closer to November Ballot

As this newsletter is being finalized, the Michigan Bureau of Elections staff confirmed that the Promote the Vote 2022 ballot campaign submitted a sufficient number of signatures from registered voters and recommended placement on the November 2022 ballot to the Board of Canvassers. The Board meets on August 31 for the final decision.

A huge thanks to the many LWVGP members who worked diligently gathering signatures from friends and neighbors, as well as at public places like the library, community gatherings and Wayne County Community College.

These members include Sue Acton, Diana Domin, Dawn Drozd, Catherine Dumke, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Wilhelmina Giblin, Vicki Granger, Lauri Kingsbury, Melissa Levasseur, Carol Lufburrow, Judy Masserang, Laura McEnery, Julie Rayes, Lauri Read, Joan Richardson, Steve Trowbridge, and Mary Zahler.

We know that members Laura Larson and Mary Jo Johnson also gathered signatures for the PTV proposal on behalf of Voters Not Politicians.

A huge thanks to Lauri Kingsbury and Judy Florian, who organized and handled the training sessions, and to Sue Acton and Marge Freundl who were part of the organizing team.

The next step to getting this passed is to provide information at local meetings - see the note about the LWVMI Speakers' Bureau in the President's Message.

– Vicki Granger, LWVGP Chair, Promote the Vote 2022

Members Observe Board of Canvassers Election Certification

A special thanks to Judy Masserang, Julianne Phillips, Kathryn Poremski and Judy Florian who served as observers during the Wayne County Board of Canvassers (BOC) meetings following the August 2 primary. The purpose of the canvass is to certify the election results.

All three members participated as part of the LWVMI BOC program. A total of 150 members participated statewide. The Board of Canvassers is composed of 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats. Meetings were conducted at the Office of the Wayne County Clerk beginning August 3, with the final certification vote taken on

August 16. The vote was unanimous that the Wayne County Election results be certified.

Volunteers will once again be recruited to observe these meetings after the November election. Interested volunteers can contact Paula Bowman at paulabowman9000@gmail.com

Thank You Election Workers

Several LWVGP members worked in the August 2 primary. They include

- Sue Acton, Election Inspector, GP
- Mary Ellen Anglewicz, Election Inspector, GP
- Judy Florian, Precinct Chair, GPP
- Lauri Kingsbury, Election Inspector, GPP
- Judy Masserang, Precinct Chair, GPW
- Deb Sloss, Election Inspector, GP
- Steve Trowbridge, Election Inspector, GP
- Tom Wells, Election Inspector, Dearborn
- Mary Zahler, Absentee Ballot Counting Board, GPP

We have two other members who will work in November:

- Mary Garlough, Election Inspector, GPF
- Carol Lufburrow, Election Inspector, Detroit

Voter Services: Gearing Up for Schools Candidate Forum

After a busy June and July presenting FOUR candidate forums, including our first-ever Congressional candidate forum, Voter Services is now preparing for an in-person forum of the GPPSS School Board candidates at Brownell Middle School on September 27, at 7 p.m.

Questions must be submitted ahead of time. No questions will be gathered at the forum. The link to submit your question(s) will be posted on our website.

Thank you Candidate Forum Volunteers

A huge thank you to these LWVGP members who helped in some way with the June/July forums:

Moderators

Sue Acton, Joan Richardson

Timekeepers

Denise Allen, Sarah Coats, Julianne Phillips, Deb Sloss

Question sorters

Sarah Coats, Dawn Drozd, Jennifer Goosen, Jo Ann Kelly, Judy Masserang, Shelia Minetola, Sue Stanley, Jaime Rae Turnbull, Deb Voorhees

Script Readers:

Rhonda Craig, (Detroit League), Lauri Read, Mary Zahler

Technical Coordinators:

Judy Florian, Vicki Granger, Lauri Kingsbury

We also thank the Detroit and Macomb Leagues for co-sponsoring forums with us.

-- Lauri Read, VP Voter Service, 313-717-8777 lauri.read@gmail.com

-- Mary Garlough, Director Voter Services
313-5304698 marygarlough@gmail.com

Membership News

Over half of the LWVGP membership has renewed for 2022-2023. Dues cover the fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. [Click here to renew!](#)

The Membership Committee is looking for additional members to work creatively on ways to expand our outreach and grow our membership.

-- Contact Marge Freundl mmfreundl@comcast.net

Observer Corps

Our LWVGP Observer Corps met recently and shared highlights from their various assignments to city councils, school boards, and library boards.



Read the highlights on our [website blog](#).

Becoming an Observer requires some training, and Observer Corps Co-Chair Lauri Kingsbury can arrange to meet with you for an individualized session.

A huge thank you to our current Observer Corps members:

Andrew Dervan, Dawn Drozds, Catherine Dumke, Karen Feldman, Marge Freundl, Connie Frey, Joan Hall, Melissa Lvasseur, Julianne Phillips, Wendy Saigh, and Deb Sloss.

-- Observer Corps Co-Chairs Vicki Granger and Lauri Kingsbury via lwgrossepointe@gmail.com

**DEI Update: Sign Up Now for
Thoughts to Action Book Club**

The GP Library's Thoughts to Action Book Club is going to continue meeting virtually via Zoom on the 4th Thursday of the month (except November) at 7 p.m. Dates are

- Thursday, September 22, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, November 17, 7 p.m.

The selected book is *Disability Visibility: First Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Alice Wong. Books will be available at the Ewald branch, or let Librarian Annie Spence know if there is a more convenient way to get the book to you.

DEI Committee Meetings:

Monday, August 29, 7 p.m. at the home of Cathy McAdam

Future meetings scheduled for the 4th Monday of the month, 7 p.m., either in person or via Zoom, TBD.

Disability Voting Rights Week To mobilize disabled people more effectively as voters, volunteers, paid staff and core leaders.

Presented by Detroit Disability Power

September 12-16, 2022

<https://www.aapd.com/advocacy/voting/dvrw/>

-- Cathy McAdam, DEI Committee Chair

LWVUS Convention Notes

LWVGP had in-person representation at the 2022 LWVUS Convention in Denver, with Sue Acton and Judy Florian serving as in-person delegates. Lauri Kingsbury was a virtual delegate. Thanks to these members who prepared in advance for the event by attending several pre-convention webinars. [Read their convention report](#) on our LWVGP website blog.

Board - through June 30, 2023

Executive Board Elected

- President: Sue Acton *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- President Elect: : Lynne Pierce *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President: Program Joan Richardson *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Vice President: Voter Services Lauri Read *term to expire June 30, 2024*
- Secretary: Judy Masserang *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow *term to expire June 30, 2024*

On-Board Directors Elected

- Director (Voter Services) Mary Garlough *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Membership) Catherine Dumke *term to expire June 30, 2024*
- Director (Membership) Marge Freundl *term to expire June 30, 2023*
- Director (Program) Dawn Drozd *term to expire June 30, 2024*

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

- Sue Stanley - Assistant Treasurer
- Cathy McAdam - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair
- Vicki Granger - Communications, Voter Co-Editor, Observer Corps Co-Chair
- Lauri Kingsbury - Observer Corps Co-Chair

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

- Judy Florian- Publicity, Voter Co-Editor
- Connie Frey - Finance Committee
- Kathy Gardner - Webmaster
- TBD - Historian

Nominating Committee Judy Gafa (chair), Laura Larson, Marge Freund

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: lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwvgrossepointe.org

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

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

LWVGP on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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