



*The Voter Newsletter*  
*April-May 2023*

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

**Calendar**

*All LWVGP Meetings and Programs are at 7 p.m.*

- April 18 - LWVGP Board Meeting at Ewald Branch GPPL
- April 26 - Program *Equity and Minority Health* at WCCC Auditorium -Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center
- May 16 - LWVGP Board Meeting at Woods Branch GPPL
- May 17 - LWVGP Annual Meeting at GP Memorial Church, Fellowship Hall
- May 19-21 - LWVMI Convention at Kellogg Center, East Lansing

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



**President's Message**

## **Amplify**

When we work alone, our voice is small. When we work together, we can take on a mission as big as “Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.” When we worked together this year, our local league created an amazing list of highlights that will be presented at our upcoming Annual Meeting. We will do more to amplify our voice in two big ways this month.

## **Library Recommendation Headed to Convention**

At its March 11 meeting, the LWVMI Board of Directors concurred with our revision to the library position, approved at our January 11 Program Planning Meeting.

The next step is to present this position during the Plenary sessions at the LWVMI Convention, May 19-21. A workgroup of the following members has completed the formal process: Sue Acton, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Vicki Granger, Lauri Kingsbury, and Lynne Pierce.

We have submitted the required documents to the LWVMI Co-Presidents, Paula Bowman and Christina Schlitt, as well as local League Presidents, for their review prior to Convention and possible adoption statewide. The amplified voices of the League are needed for this issue, and we are pleased to be on the leading edge, fighting back on the book banning political interference making headlines, especially those from well-funded outside groups.

## **Action Alerts Make a Difference**

We want to amplify our individual voices even more at the state level. [LWVMI recently sent out Action Alerts](#) in support of Michigan bills: the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, National Popular Vote, and Firearms Safety. Our Legislature has been very busy. An Action Alert is a notice from LWVMI to all members that action is needed on state legislation. You are encouraged to respond to Action Alerts if you agree with the legislation. If everyone lets their legislator know of their support, one voice becomes almost 3,000 voices.

## **Delegates Prepare for May LWVMI Convention**

The LWVMI Convention will be held on May 19-21 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. We have ONE more opening for a non-voting delegate who can have his/her registration covered by LWVGP. Amplify your voice even more by learning and attending at the state level.

- The following LWVGP members will serve as Voting Delegates (our local League covers their registration and hotel fees): Sue Acton, Dawn Drozd, Marge Freundl, Carol Lufburrow, Cathy McAdam, Julianne Phillips, and Lynne Pierce.
- The following LWVGP members will serve as Non-Voting Delegates (our local League covers their registration): Connie Frey and Sue Stanley.

- *Please contact me if you are interested in serving as a Non-Voting Delegate.*
- LWVMI Voting Delegates The following two members will serve as voting delegates for LWVMI, with their fees paid by LWVMI: Judy Florian (LWVMI VP Voter Services) and Judy Masserang (acting Secretary for this event).

Congratulations! The following LWVGP members have been nominated for LWVMI Board positions for 2023-25:

- Judy Florian, VP Voter Services
- Cathy McAdam, Director-at-Large
- C. Thompson (Tom) Wells, Treasurer

### **LWVUS Transformation Plan**

The League Structure Transformation Plan is underway, with the development of groups to address implementation. This Plan is an initiative to grow League membership in number and diversity, strengthen our grassroots power, and bolster our ability to empower voters and defend democracy. Michigan has representation on these groups from the following Leagues:

- Business Modeling - Connie Mitchell, Dearborn/Dearborn Heights
- Data Modeling - Betty Bishop, Washtenaw
- League Capacity - Kathy Poore, Macomb
- Functional Specifications - Christina Schlitt, LWVMI

We will keep you posted as these plans develop and the implications for local Leagues across the state.

Sue Acton, President, LWVGP, [shacton@gmail.com](mailto:shacton@gmail.com) 313 434-5768

## **Equity and Minority Health Program**

Our next program will be held on April 26, at 7 p.m., at the Wayne County Community College Auditorium, Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier Road, Harper Woods. The LWV's DEI committee is planning this event, which includes a presentation about a recent state study of equity and minority health.



The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated pervasive inequities among racial and ethnic minority populations but also presented opportunities for change. Learn about the State of Michigan's plans to address health disparities in diverse communities in

Michigan.

This event includes speakers from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Office of Equity and Minority Health. You can read the full report, *Moving Health Equity Forward* [here](#).

This is an in-person program and will not be recorded. Seating is limited, so registration is open to only LWVGP members and their guests. [Register here](#)

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee has finalized the following slate of candidates for terms beginning July 1, 2023.

VP Programs: Dawn Drozd (2-year term)  
 Director, Programs: Joan Richardson (1-year term)  
 Director, Voter Services: Julianne Phillips (2-year term)  
 Director, Membership: Jaime Rae Turnbull (2-year term)  
 Nominating Committee: Laura Larson, Chair, Judy Gafa, Committee member; an additional member is approved by the Board of Directors (1-year terms for all)

These nominees will be elected at the May 17th Annual Meeting.



## Proposed Budget for 2023-24

Treasurer Carol Lufburrow submitted the following budget to the LWVGP Board on March 21st. The Board unanimously recommended to submit this budget to the membership for approval at the May 17th Annual Meeting. [View the budget](#)

## Voter Services

### Local League Legislative Interviews

LWVMI has asked local Leagues to conduct interviews of state elected officials, the purpose of which is to build relationships and *listen*, not educate or advocate. The interviews cover five areas: environment, education, public health and safety, criminal legal reform, and priorities. We have been asked to coordinate with other local League chapters where the legislator's district covers more than one local

League's area. We overlap districts with both the Macomb and Detroit Leagues. We will conduct interviews with the following:

- Senator Kevin Hertel, Michigan Senate District 12 (covers the Grosse Pointes and portions of Macomb County)
- House Speaker Joe Tate, Michigan House District 10 (covers portions of the Grosse Pointes and Detroit)
- Representative Veronica Paiz, Michigan House District 11 (covers portions of the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, and Macomb County)

The interviews need to be completed by October 1, 2023. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee for these interviews, please contact Lauri Read at [lauri.read@gmail.com](mailto:lauri.read@gmail.com).

### **High School Voter Registration - Coming in April/May**

A special thanks to these members who distributed the **2023 Your Government Officials (YGO)** brochure to local city halls, public libraries, churches, and other locations and businesses in our community: Catherine Dumke, Deborah Voorhees, Mary Ellen Brayton, Anastasia Koutsopoulos, Judy Masserang, Marge Freundl, Dawn Drozd, JoAnne DiFazio, Peggy Hart and Laurie Coplin.

## **Membership Committee**

Welcome to the following new members, as of March 21:

- Erin O'Mara, Grosse Pointe
- Michelle Smith, Grosse Pointe
- Deborah Ruboyianes, Harsens Island
- Lisa Vallee-Smith, Grosse Pointe Farms
- Jeff Smith, Grosse Pointe Farms

**Contact LWVGP!** To reach anyone on the board, with a question or a suggestion, or to volunteer, use the [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) email address - your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

## **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: Programs 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
- Melissa Levasseur - Environmental Network

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

- Judy Florian- Publicity, Voter Co-Editor, Facebook
- Connie Frey - Finance Committee
- Kathy Gardner - Webmaster
- Sarah Coats - Vote411 Coordinator
- Annie Spence - Historian

**Nominating Committee** Judy Gafa (chair), Laura Larson, Marge Freundl

## **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](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

**Website:** [lwvgrossepointe.org](http://lwvgrossepointe.org)

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

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

**LWVGP on YouTube**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIoWa1Hw9PPhDvUY\\_2SB30w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIoWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w)

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

[Unsubscribe lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!