



*The Voter Newsletter*  
February 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

### **\*March - Women's History Month**

March 1 - Program on the National Popular Vote vs. the Electoral College (see below for more info and how to register)

March 21 - LWVGP Board meeting - GP Memorial Church, Room 215, 7 p.m.

April 18 - LWVGP Board meeting - Ewald Library, GPP, 7 p.m.

May 19-21 - LWVMI State Convention-Kellogg Center, East Lansing

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

## President's Message

**Advocacy.** As I write this note, our city and state are still reeling from the MSU shootings. When it happens so close to home (and MSU IS close to home and heart for many of us), our sentiments turn quickly from “Thoughts and Prayers” to “Policy and Change.” What does that mean for League members?

First, you are aware that as a 501(c)3 non-profit, our focus is primarily on education. Specifically, voter education. We educate through our Community Programs, our publications such as the *Your Government Officials* brochure (look for our new 2023 green ones), our special programs on statewide proposals, and our newsletters to members from national, state and our own league. Our education efforts are focused on issues (not parties or

candidates) because of our strong NonPartisan Policy. We are informed and aware!

**What we DO with that education is why the League has existed since 1920 and still matters today.** Advocacy is what we do when we are informed. It is how we tell our leaders what we care about so that “Policy and Change” can happen. This year, I am encouraging stronger advocacy. We hope and trust that as individuals, you are getting the information you need to advocate for the issues you care about. We did it together when we educated ourselves and the voters about Promote the Vote proposals 2018 and 2022 and the MICRC.

**Our new position supporting library book selection** without political interference was added to our toolkit. Our petitions, letters, postcards and service hours made a difference and changed our state for the better.

**So what issues are in our League future? National Popular Vote (NPV)** is a big one. If you don't know what that is yet, see article below on our March 1 program. Will Michigan join the compact by legislation or ballot initiative? Also, upcoming at the LWV Michigan Convention will be workshops focused on **Gun Safety, Censorship and NPV**. All LWVGP members (not just the board) are invited to the Convention in East Lansing (again, see article below). Please email me if you will attend-the first seven of us will be Voting delegates, but anyone can be a delegate.

Just a reminder, informed League members make great advocates for their own issues, too. What Policy and Change will you work toward today?

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

# Electoral college vs. popular vote



**Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.  
Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross Road, GPF**

## *An Evening of Conversation & Learning*

Since the early 1970s, the national League of Women Voters has taken a position that direct election of the President by popular vote is essential to representative government and that the Electoral College should be abolished. The state league has endorsed both of those positions and is preparing to advocate for legislation that would put Michigan on a path to support such a change.

We have designed a two-hour conversation that will introduce Grosse Pointe League members to the various issues underlying the question of popular vote vs. Electoral College. This is not a “sit- and listen” event. Following a brief introduction, we will break into small, facilitated discussion groups so that we can dig more deeply into the topic. We will provide some background reading material in advance of this evening. Our goal is to encourage conversation and networking among our members and to help prepare each of you to have conversations with friends and neighbors as this issue becomes more public later this year.

Parking is available behind the church. Please enter through the sanctuary doors, which is handicap accessible. A LWVGP member will be there to direct you to the designated meeting room.

- [Register at this link](#)
- [Read more](#)
- [National Popular Vote Document](#)
- [Electoral College Document](#)
- [Wolfram Testimony](#)

## LWVGP Partnering with Grosse Pointe Public Library, Detroit Disability Power for StoryCorps

You may have listened to StoryCorps on NPR - interviews with Americans of all ages, from diverse backgrounds. It's now in its twentieth year and is the largest oral history archive in the world - so large that it's part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

DEI committee members & others belong to the Thoughts to Action book club at the Grosse Pointe Public Library. They're now in the final planning stages for the Disability Visibility project: coordinating interviews of our disabled community members using StoryCorps apps.

We have two partners. Detroit Disability Power is an organization which connects disabled people to resources and services; promotes voting rights; advocates for political and social inclusion; and much more.

The Full Circle Foundation works with Grosse Pointe Public School System special needs students. They provide teenagers and young adults with skills necessary for independent living. Participants operate Upscale Retail on Mack & Cadieux and a commercial laundry. A bakery and coffee shop, Michael B's on Kercheval in the Park, is in the works.

If you, a family member, friend, or neighbor would like to participate, please contact Cathy McAdam, Chair, DEI committee at [mcmcadam@gmail.com](mailto:mcmcadam@gmail.com).



**Program Planning Meeting-  
Revised Library Position  
Adopted**



At the January 2023 Program Planning meeting, the LWVGP members in attendance unanimously supported the revision of our LWVGP position on libraries. The library position was over a decade old, and the update reflects our commitment to the professional decisions our Library staff make in selecting materials without political interference. The changes made are also consistent with our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policy. This position statement has been sent to LWVMI for review. See link below for the revised position on libraries. [Click here](#)

Pictured at the program planning meeting are (top) Chris Kaiser, Jaime Rae Turnbull, (center) Blondell Doughty, Marge Freundl (bottom) Lauri Reed, Lynne Pierce, Dagmar Tonn

## **It's State Convention Time!** **May 19 - 21, 2023**

LWVMI is ready to welcome members to its biennial convention at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. LWVMI will conduct its business in three plenary sessions, plus provide workshops, shared meals, networking opportunities, great speakers and a silent auction fundraiser. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow League members from all over the state. The convention is in-person only, with no virtual option, and promises to be informative, productive, and fun.

Select the link below for all the information you need to know about the convention, including registration and hotel accommodations. We hope you will attend!

## LWVMI 2023 Convention

### Membership Committee Update

We currently have 121 active members. Welcome to the following new members (as of Feb. 17, 2023):

- Joanne L Difazio, GPF
- Gerianne Lapratt, HW
- Kathryn Loren, GPF
- Michelle White, GPP

New member special-Bonus months of membership. People who join LWVGP this Spring become our members through the next fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. This is one more reason to invite a friend to join you for our March 1 meeting.

A new member orientation, in virtual format, is planned for March/April 2023. Details to follow.

Membership Directors  
Marge Freundl, Catherine Dumke

### Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for the following committees. We hope members will consider the following:

Committee to review our Education position. If interested, please contact Lynne Pierce at [lynnepierce@att.net](mailto:lynnepierce@att.net)

Members needed for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. Please contact Cathy McAdam at [mcmcadam@gmail.com](mailto:mcmcadam@gmail.com).

### Turnout Among Young Voters

Researchers say the 2022 election had the second highest voter turnout among voters under age 30 in at least the past three decades. So far, the highest turnout during a midterm for this voting bloc was 2018, when about 31% of young people who are eligible to vote cast a ballot. Read the full article from NPR at this [link](#).



## 19th Amendment Project

LWVMI is working with the Muskegon Intermediate School District on project-based learning with 4th grade students. The curriculum focuses on the 19th Amendment as a way to understand how responding to inequalities can lead to positive social change. The students are reading *The Hope Chest* by Karen Schwabach, a book about women's suffrage and the passing of the 19th Amendment. Students will do research, explore current inequalities and develop a plan to address an inequality in their community. There are 8 volunteers from local Leagues across the state working on this project, including 3 from our Grosse Pointe League-Judy Florian, Marge Freundl and

Lauri Kingsbury. The volunteers met with the students via Zoom and provided information on the LWV, elections, voting and advocacy. All reports indicate it has been a rewarding experience not just for the volunteers, but also the students and teachers.

**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
- 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/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY\\_2SB30w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w)

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

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