



*The Voter Newsletter*  
**August-September 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**

### **August**

Wednesday, August 30: LWVGP Picnic in the Park

### **September**

Monday, September 11: LWVGP Candidate forum for HW City Council

Tuesday, September 12: LWVGP Candidate forum for GPP Mayor and City Council

Tuesday, September 19: LWVGP Board meets at GP Memorial Church

Tuesday, September 19: National Voter Registration Day

Wednesday, September 20: LWVGP Candidate forum for GP City Municipal Judge

Monday, September 25: Voter newsletter published

Tuesday, September 26: LWVGP Candidate forum for GP City Council - virtual/not open to the public.

Wednesday, September 27: LWVGP Town Hall - New Voting Rights Under Prop 2 of 2022

### **October**

Wednesday, October 4: LWVGP members only - Zoom meeting on the revised school library position

Tuesday, October 17: LWVGP Board meets at GP Memorial Church

TBD: FOIA and OMA: Your Right to Know

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

## **President's Message**

Greetings! I am honored and privileged to be asked to lead this hardworking, energetic group! I have been a member of LWVGP for over 30 years. In that time,

I have seen us grow and become a leading voice in our community. The dedication of our members is truly remarkable! Now that I am semi-retired, I am ready and willing to take on this responsibility.

In reflecting what the League means to me, I am reminded of League's guiding principles. Our overall goal is "Defending Democracy, Empowering Voters." In the current election climate, this goal has become key to protecting our voting system and voters' rights. Our history and stellar reputation as a nonpartisan organization puts us in a unique position to speak out about these issues. Our democratic system cannot be taken for granted. The League is at the forefront of defending these principles.

Each month, I will spend a few moments discussing the LWV's principles. In brief, we believe in:

- Representative government, individual liberties, balance of powers.
- Citizen's right to know, adequate notice, open meetings, open records.
- The right to vote, free public education, equal opportunity, no discrimination.
- Efficient and economical government responsive to the will of the people, equitable and flexible taxation, conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, a sound economy, domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- Cooperation with other nations, the promotion of world peace.

As we prepare for our local elections, you will see we have several candidate forums scheduled in September. We hope that these will be informative to our members and the community. Thank you to all our members who assist with this very important task. We also have a program scheduled on September 27: LWV Town Hall: New Rights Under Proposal 2 of 2022. This program will inform the public of the changes made in our voting laws that will impact us now and in 2024. In October, we will provide a program to the public about the open meetings act.

Last, but not least, on October 4, we will be holding a general membership meeting via Zoom to discuss and vote on our new schools/library position the board has approved. This [position](#) was emailed to you in late June. Our bylaws require 60 days' notice to our members before we can vote on a new position. We will resend the proposed position to all members, along with a Zoom link, a few weeks before the meeting.

Well, that's all for now! Feel free to reach out to me or any board member if you have any questions or concerns about our League. We want to hear from you!

Hope to see you at the picnic!

Lynne Pierce, President

**Deadline for Kickoff Picnic is August 23**

Join us for our *Picnic in the Park* on Wed., August 30, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at Neff Park in Grosse Pointe. [Map](#)

- Be sure to wear red or blue for our LWVGP Membership Photo at 6:10 p.m. Please be on time to be included!
- LWVGP is providing the entree (most likely ham), drinks (tea, lemonade, wine), and paper products.
- YOU should bring a side dish or dessert (include serving utensils, please).
- GUESTS ARE WELCOME! We're always looking for ways to grow our membership and this would be the perfect event to bring a friend who wants to learn more about what we do.
- Cost is \$5 for you, \$10 if you bring a friend.
- Register before Wednesday, August 23, as we must provide the list of names to the City of Grosse Pointe for check-in at the park gate when you arrive.
- [Yes, I want to attend the picnic](#)
- Questions? Contact Dawn Drozd via [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) or call 586.531.1191

We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Voter Services Hosting Four Local Candidate Forums**

Our LWVGP Voter Services team - Vice President Lauri Read, Director Julianne Phillips, and Vote 411 Coordinator Sarah Coats - has been extremely busy the past few weeks, lining up locations for the candidate forums in three of our six communities. The elections in Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods are not contested so no forums will be conducted for those candidates.

- You are invited to submit questions for the various forums.
- Question sorters for each forum will review these submissions and prepare a list of questions.
- The public is also encouraged to submit questions for the candidates.
- No questions will be accepted at the actual forum events.
- As in the past, due to time constraints, the League may prioritize or combine questions based on general interest and to avoid redundancy.
- If your question isn't asked, please contact the candidate(s) directly.

See the [blog post](#) with information on the date and location of each forum, as well as the link for you to submit questions. *Note there is a deadline for question submissions.*

We encourage all members to attend the forums and even volunteer to serve as greeters, and if not a resident of that municipality, as timekeepers and/or question sorters. [Sign up here!](#)

**A recording of each event will be added to the LWVGP YouTube Channel a few days after each forum.**

## **September 27, 7 p.m. - Town Hall on New Voting Rights**

LWVGP is partnering with the Grosse Pointe Public Library for this town hall presentation on the changes in Michigan's voting laws as a result of the passage of Proposal 2 in November 2022 by over 60% of the vote.

Prop 2 created new and improved voting rights that include your right to:

- Early voting in every statewide and federal election
- Sign up to become a permanent mail voter
- Improvements in absentee voting
- An enhanced tracking system for absentee ballots and applications
- Secure audits and certification of election results, plus more!

This town hall will provide you with the information you need to understand your new rights and serve as a knowledge base for family and friends.

**Location:** Grosse Pointe Library – Woods Branch, 20680 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

**To Register:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-new-voting-rights-tickets-703771869607>

## **Membership News: On the Road in Harper Woods!**

LWVGP participated in the *Lost in the Woods Art Festival* at Salter Memorial Park in Harper Woods on August 5.

Member volunteers shared information with festival goers about the League's mission, voter registration, and membership, and showcased our new display board with the history of the League.

Special thanks to League member and Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle for the invitation to participate and to our volunteers Dawn Drozd, Wilhelmina Giblin, Gerianne LaPratt, Laura Larson, Cathy McAdam, Julianne Phillips, and Jaime Rae Turnbull. This was a wonderful community event to increase the visibility of the League in Harper Woods. For pictures, check our website [blog post](#).

A reminder to renew your membership NOW! [Membership renewal](#)

## Advocacy Committee/Observer Corps

NEW! - Permanent Advocacy Committee for LWVGP

This July, LWVGP formed a permanent Advocacy Committee. Marge Freundl, Judy Masserang, and Lauri Kingsbury are developing guidelines for our new committee, with a training seminar planned for mid-November 2023.

### What is advocacy?

Advocacy is nonpartisan, issue-based League actions on subjects that relate to voting rights. It is the right message delivered to the right audience at the right time. Advocacy defends democracy.

### Local Advocacy in Action

At our annual meeting this past May, LWVGP members unanimously approved our local advocacy position on public libraries. Less than two weeks later, we presented the position at the LWVMI state convention as an amendment to the LWVMI Social Policy Position on Public Libraries. It was enthusiastically adopted.

Three days later, on May 24, 2023, Priscilla Burnham, President, LWV Marquette County, took action. She utilized it in front of the large crowd at the local library's public meeting which was considering removing *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson from the library. The Peter White Public Library Trustees voted unanimously to keep the book on the shelf.

### Public School Libraries - Advocacy Position

The special committee created to review the local League's positions on K-12 education recommends that members support a new position regarding school libraries. The LWVGP board voted in June to place it before the membership for their consideration.

School libraries and school librarians face several situations that make their issues and concerns different from those of the community public library. In particular, the clientele of school libraries are students who are almost all minors. In this position, we are trying to address the broader issues of how schools select resources to share with students while being mindful of parental concerns about access to materials they may consider problematic.

If you have questions, please contact Joan Richardson, Special Committee Chair, at [joan.richardson@comcast.net](mailto:joan.richardson@comcast.net). Committee members who drafted the school library position include Marge Freundl, Julianne Phillips, Mary Smale, Annie Spencer, and Maria Williams.

President Lynne Pierce will conduct a special membership meeting, via Zoom on October 4, 7 p.m. for all members. **The meeting has one agenda item:** the **Public School Libraries Advocacy Position**. Watch for an email with further information and the Zoom link.

**Advocacy Myth: Advocacy is hard, difficult, and scary.**

It's not that hard – nearly every community is considering important public policy issues on which the League can take action. Advocacy can be as simple as responding by email to action alerts or as comprehensive as a League study, community meetings, work with the media and direct lobbying.  
- from “League Myths about Advocacy,” LWVMI

Curious about Advocacy? Find out more - come to the picnic, Wednesday, August 30. Lauri Kingsbury will be there to talk about advocacy and answer your questions.

### **From our Observer Corps**

Several of our local communities are reviewing and revising their master plans. Check our [website blog](#) to read what Grosse Pointe Farms is up to!

**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, 2024**

### **Executive Board (Elected)**

- President: Lynne Pierce
- Vice President Programs: Dawn Drozd
- Vice President Voter Services: Lauri Read
- Secretary: Judy Masserang
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow

### **On-Board Directors (Elected)**

- Director (Voter Services): Julianne Phillips
- Director (Membership): Catherine Dumke
- Director (Membership): Jaime Rae Turnbull
- Director (Program): Joan Richardson

### **On-Board Directors (Appointed by the President)**

- Sue Stanley: Assistant Treasurer
- Cathy McAdam: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Vicki Granger: Communications, Voter Co-Editor
- Lauri Kingsbury: Advocacy Committee Chair
- Melissa Levasseur: Environmental Network

### **Off-Board Directors (Appointed by the President)**

- Judy Florian: Publicity, Voter Co-Editor, Facebook, Parliamentarian
- Connie Frey: Finance Committee
- Sue Acton: Webmaster, Observer Corps
- Liz Martin: Observer Corps
- Sarah Coats: Vote411 Coordinator
- Annie Spence: Historian

**Nominating Committee** Laura Larson (chair), Judy Gafa, Julianne Phillips

## 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/>

**LWVGP on YouTube - no subscription necessary**  
[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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