



The Voter Newsletter October - November 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

October/November

Tuesday, October 17: LWVGP Board meets at GP Memorial Church, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18: Observer Corps Training, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 13: *From Darkness to Light: How Michigan's "Sunshine Laws" Impact Your Civil Liberties*, GP War Memorial, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5: Save the Date: Holiday Party, Sue Acton's house, 6:00 p.m.

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

President's Message

Greetings, everyone!

By the time you receive this newsletter our candidate forums will be over. For an off-year election, we sure were busy! We held 3 in person forums and one virtual forum. Lauri Read and Julianne Phillips, along with many, many volunteers, did an outstanding job! It takes a tremendous amount of work to pull these off and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

Our September 27th program *Your Voting Rights* was attended by 25 League members and people from the community. For those who couldn't attend, the recording is available on our YouTube channel, which you can access from our website at lwgrossepointe.org. It is imperative that you have a good

understanding of the changes in the law so YOU can provide informed information to others when you are out and about.

We need volunteers for the following:

- Anyone who has graphic design experience and would like to work on designing some of our materials
- Assisting the president with correspondence

As promised, I would like to expound on our guiding principle: Representative government, individual liberties, balance of powers. Our candidate forums are a prime example of our support for representative government. Our active observer corps is another. We pledge to be vigilant in protecting these rights; they are the essence of our democratic process. Our support of individual liberties and most recently be highlighted by our position against banning books and local libraries. Everyone should have the freedom to read what they wish. It seems so simple and yet librarians and libraries are being attacked nationwide. Banning books starts a slippery slope toward censorship of all kinds. Look for upcoming programs about this issue. We hope to take this position to the national convention also.

Lynne Pierce, President

Facebook Page Temporarily Out of Service

On September 22, our Facebook administrators, Vicki Granger and Judy Florian, discovered that the LWVGP Facebook page had been “suspended” and will not allow us to generate any posts. Online research indicates that other small businesses and nonprofits have also encountered unknown suspensions. We have contacted the communications team at LWVUS for assistance in getting this resolved.

In the meantime, please check our website, as that is regularly updated, for links to the candidate forums, registration for upcoming events, etc.

Voter Services Candidate Forums

Our local candidate forums were a huge success, thanks to the excellent efforts of our Voter Services team, Lauri Read and Julianne Phillips. A special thanks to the following members who volunteered at the forums as moderators, timekeepers, question sorters and greeters.

Sue Acton, Laurie Arora, Laurie Coplin, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Mary Garlough, Jo Ann Kelly, Lauri Kingsbury, Judy Masserang, Joan Richardson, Steve Trowbridge, Jaime Rae Turnbull and Mary Zahler.

The forum recordings are available on our YouTube channel. You can access them at the following links:

[Harper Woods City Council](#)

[GPP Mayor and City Council](#)

[GP Municipal Judge](#)

[GP City Council](#)

Lauri Read and Laurie Arora at
GPCity Municipal Judge Forum

Jo Ann Kelly, Timekeeper, with
Julianne Phillips at GPCity Municipal
Judge Forum

Harper Woods City Council
Candidates

Approved School Library Position

On October 4, 2023, our membership approved an amended position on schools that includes updating both our school position and adding school libraries. The position updates our commitment to public education for all students regardless of their circumstances. It also supports clear policy and procedure for parents that want to remove a book from the school library. This position supports the American Library Association's standards for school librarians and teachers' selection of reading material. It also clearly supports the right of a parent to restrict what their child can read, but not what another child can read. For a full reading of the position, click [here](#). A special thanks to the committee for their excellent work on this position: Joan Richardson, Chair, Marge Freundl, Julianne Phillips, Mary Smale, Annie Spence, and Maria Williams.

**November 13 Program: *From Darkness to Light: How Michigan's
"Sunshine Laws" Impact Your Civil Liberties***

Do you ever get a sense that your local government isn't being forthcoming with the whole truth? Have you ever suspected that meetings are being held behind closed doors when they should be open to the public?

Michigan's "Sunshine Laws" – the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), were designed to make government processes and information more open to the public and they are used everyday by citizens just like you to uncover the truth.

At this workshop, you'll learn about these laws, how to file a FOIA request for records owned by the public and steps to take if you believe a local government body has violated the OMA. Speakers to be announced.

Attendance is **free** and open to all, but we ask that you register and submit any questions you have in advance. The registration link will be sent to members in the next week.

League Members Engage with Local Clerks

LWVGP members engaged with local clerks to assist with absentee voter ballot mailings at Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms before the September 28th deadline to get them out to registered voters. A special thanks to Jackie Adragna, Carol Bendure, Melissa Levasseur, Julianne Phillips, Jaime Rae Turnbull, Heather Ulku (Grosse Pointe Park) and Carol Bendure, Andy Dervan, Chris Kaiser, Judy Masserang, Ann Nicholson, Julianne Phillips, and Jaime Rae Turnbull (Grosse Pointe Farms).

Observer Corps

We are always recruiting for this important role of the League. Want to join the dozen members already observing our local councils and boards? You may choose a specific council or board to follow, work in partnership with another League member or be available as a substitute. A Group Training will be held October 18 at 7:00 p.m. if we have enough interest expressed by October 11. Contact Liz Martin (lizzie5698@gmail.com) or Sue Acton (shacton@gmail.com) to volunteer or for more information.

2023 Student Voting Summit - Oakland University

Julianne Phillips, Director of Voter Services, attended the Student Voting Summit on October 6 at Oakland University. This event brought together students, teachers, administrators, community partners, and election officials from across Michigan to share skills and knowledge while building a nonpartisan, **pro voter** community. This year, the summit expanded to include high school students. A total of 300 people were in attendance

Together we can maintain the nation's highest youth voter turnout in 2024! According to a report by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learnings and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, Michigan voters ages 18 -29 turned out at a rate of 37% in the 2022 midterm election, higher than any other state CIRCLE analyzed, and significantly higher than the national average youth turnout rate of 23%. Michigan was one of only four states where youth turnout was higher in 2022 than in 2018.

Landon Myers, Michigan coordinator for the Campus Vote Project, stated "Michigan students continue to lead the way towards full voter participation. Let's lead the nation again!"

Contact LWVGP! To reach anyone on the board, with a question or a suggestion, or to volunteer, use the 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
- Liz Martin: Observer Corps

- 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
 - Sarah Coats: Vote411 Coordinator
 - Annie Spence: Historian
- Nominating Committee** Laura Larson (chair), Judy Gafa, Julianne Phillips
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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
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Email: lwgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwgrossepointe.org

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

LWVGP on YouTube - no subscription necessary
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w