



## *The Voter Newsletter* 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*

### November Calendar

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

**Tuesday, November 14:** Observer Corps Quarterly Meeting: *Parliamentary Procedures Revisited*, GP Public Library, Central Branch, 7 p.m. Members welcome. Registration link in article below.

**Wednesday, November 15:** LWVMI DEI Virtual Presentation on polling locations-7 p.m. Zoom registration link in DEI article below.

**Wednesday, November 29:** LWVGP Board Meeting, Virtual (new date and time due to Thanksgiving week), 1 p.m.

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

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

### President's Message

Greetings, everyone!

Our LWVGP board received great news from our LWVMI state board last month. We are eligible for a grant for **Get Out the Vote** efforts for the November election. We have placed ads in the local community newspapers,

and the costs associated with our candidate forums will also be covered. We will have enough left to stock up on our Vote411 materials.

We are also making a serious effort to reach out to Harper Woods voters. While they do not have a local community newsletter, we have connected with the school system and have been well-received. We hope to have an ad in the school newspaper, and they have invited us to have a presence at their school events.

Our membership unanimously passed the amended school library position at our general membership meeting on October 4. A copy of the position can be found [here](#).

This position is different from our public-school library position; the primary difference between the two is that the school library position includes the right of a parent to supervise and control what their child reads, but not what other children read. Please read the entire position so you are well-informed about this hot-button issue.

We are starting to receive some information from LWVUS about our new dues structure. Starting next year, our dues will be submitted directly to LWVUS. They will return a small portion (yet to be determined) to the state and local leagues. We believe the dues amount will be \$75.00.

The LWVGP board has one very big CONCERN: You will no longer have the option to make additional donations to our local League with your dues payment; any additional amounts donated will be kept by LWVUS. Therefore, **I ask you all to be generous when considering our annual direct appeal.** Letters will be going out in November asking you to make direct contributions to our local League to help cover the cost of implementing our mission: empowering voters and defending democracy. Next year will be a big year for voting issues and we want to be able to plan and be prepared to effectively get out the vote.

The LWV principle for this month is: The right to vote, free public education, equal opportunity, and no discrimination. Our primary mission is to ensure all citizens have the right to vote. We support that effort in many ways: Get out the vote activities, appearing at local events with our registration and voting information, to name a few. Our voter services team tries to reach out to all the schools in our district to register high school seniors. Our DEI director Cathy McAdam and her committee actively look for ways to be more inclusive in all our activities. Our position against book banning clearly shows we believe in equal opportunity, free from discrimination. Our position on free public

education was also recently updated to make it clear our public schools must serve all children, regardless of their station in life.

That's all for now! Hope to see you at our November 13th program and at the holiday cookie exchange!

Lynne Pierce, President

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## Like Us on Facebook, Share the Posts!

On September 22, our Facebook administrators, Vicki Granger and Judy Florian, discovered that the LWVGP Facebook page had been “suspended” and would not allow us to post anything! We contacted LWVUS and earlier this week, our page was restored after being unavailable for posting or viewing from the public for 35 days. We have no idea **why** this happened, but we do know that several other Leagues also experienced shutdowns.

While we all have way too many emails and communications from various groups, Facebook is one of the **key** components in getting the word out about elections, registering to vote, absentee ballots, candidate forums and more! We also promote our own programs via Facebook. **Your role** in spreading the word to our community is vital! When you are on Facebook, all you do is click **share** and the LWVGP post will show up on your feed. You can also share to a group to which you may belong.

**Note:** Not on Facebook? Consider excerpting items from this newsletter to email to friends. Want to get on Facebook? Contact Communications Chair Vicki Granger and have a 1-on-1 session to learn more.

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## Voter Services Candidate Forums

Just a reminder: as we get closer to election day, the candidate 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](#)

These forum recordings are an excellent way to view the candidates' responses prior to completing your Absentee Ballot or voting at the polls on Election Day. Please encourage your family and friends to view these recordings.

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**November 13, 7 p.m. 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 program, 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.

**Confirmed Speakers**

Catherine MacDonald, award-winning Detroit Free Press Investigative Editor  
Ralph Sampson, Attorney & Freedom of Information Act expert  
Gouri Sashital, Attorney with Keller Thoma and OMA expert

Attendance is **free** and open to all, but we ask that you register in advance and submit any questions you may have. You can register [here](#).

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**November 14, 7 p.m. Observer Corps: *Parliamentary Procedures Revisited***

The quarterly meeting of the LWVGP Observer Corps will be held on November 14 at 7 p.m. at the GP Public Library, Central Branch. The topic is:

***Parliamentary Procedures Revisited***

Everything you wanted to know about the principles and practices of facilitating efficient and democratic decision making.

***Speaker: Gretchen Denton, Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PRP)***

In addition to Observer Corps members, LWVGP Board of Directors and LWVGP members who participate on any council or board are strongly encouraged to attend. Effective meetings depend on members knowing these procedures.

Space is limited: [Click here to sign up](#)

Questions about Parliamentary Procedure are welcome  
Please send them to Liz Martin at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) by  
November 12.

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## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Report**

The LWVGP DEI Committee is reviewing ways to include members from Harper Woods in our League activities. They are pursuing various methods of communications to reach Harper Woods residents.

Mark your calendar! On November 15 at 7 p.m. the LWVMI DEI Team will sponsor a virtual fall DEI program on accessibility of polling locations. The presenters will include Kenia Flores from Detroit Disability Power and her partner on the polling location audits project: Sarah Bahovec from the Carter Center. They helped to train volunteers to conduct accessibility audits of 261 polling locations in Metropolitan Detroit on Election Day in November 2022. Kenia and Sarah will focus on what volunteer observers, including poll workers, can look for and offer suggestions for addressing deficiencies with the clerks.

Registration for this meeting is required in advance. You can register [here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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## **League Advocacy - Issues, Not Politics**

Do you or your family members vote absentee?

Did you sign the petition that put Proposal 2 on the 2022 ballot?

LWVMI Advocacy was instrumental in getting bills out of committee and on to the floors of the Michigan House and Senate. House Bills 4696 (sentencing guidelines for violating early voting procedures), and 4697 (regulating ballot drop boxes) have been signed into law.

Other legislative actions implementing Proposal 2 are pending:

- prohibit firearms at polling places (HB 4127, 4128)
- prohibit harassment of election workers (HB4129),
- provide felony penalties for this harassment (HB 4130),
- allow providing transportation to the polls (HB 4548),
- allow pre registration for voting at age 16 HB 4569
- allow online application for absentee ballots HB 4570
- establish tracking system for absentee ballot applications and ballots HB 4619

Find the up-to-date chart of *all* state advocacy work [here](#).

**Make our League stronger.** Respond to Action Alerts when they hit your inbox. It takes less than five minutes! A list of LWVMI Action Alerts is located [here](#).

**Advocacy in Action:** Supporting a state position from a local level. LWVGP President Lynne Pierce wrote to Speaker Joe Tate, Michigan House of Representatives, urging him to pass House Bills 4156 and 4440, which would implement the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. LWVMI believes that the direct popular vote method for electing the U.S. President is essential to representative government. Both bills are pending in the state legislature.

**Advocacy Myth:** You have to study an issue to take action.

If there is an LWVUS position or state position on an issue, a local League does not have to re-study the issue.

- from "League Myths about Advocacy," LWVMI

Not true. We *can* use an existing position when it applies to local issues.

Here are two positions that directly affect our Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe communities:

- Great Lakes Ecosystem which includes recreational use of our lakes
- Pesticides, including use of lawn and garden chemicals

Find our full LWVMI position statements [here](#).

Do you have a favorite local issue? Join LWVGP's Advocacy Committee to turn your thoughts into actions! Contact Lauri Kingsbury, Advocacy Chair at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com). Please put ADVOCACY in the subject line.

*The League never supports or opposes candidates for elected office and does not support or oppose any political parties.*

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## Membership Report

We currently have 145 active members. A special welcome to the following new members:

- Elizabeth Andary, (GPW)
- Jacqueline Adragna (GPP)
- Prudence Cole (GPS)
- Mary Fitch (GPC)
- Teresa Foster (HW)
- Maureen Krasner (GPF)
- Kelly Larson (GPC)
- Margrit Poynter (HW)
- Jan Ryndress (GPW)
- Heather Ulku (GPP)

New member orientation sessions were conducted via Zoom on October 14 and 24. If new members would like a one-on-one session, please contact Jaime Rae Turnbull at [jrt@jrturnbull.com](mailto:jrt@jrturnbull.com).

Renew your membership now at this [link](#).

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## LWVGP Attends Annual GP North v GP South Tailgate

On October 20, Jaime Rae Turnbull and Marge Freundl greeted students, parents and alumni at the annual GP North vs. GP South tailgate event. Jaime Rae and Marge spoke with some new and potential LWV members, and

provided information on the new voting rights and Vote [411.org](https://www.vote411.org). Our new pop-up tent cover was great to protect them from the rain!

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## Harper Woods Voter Registration Event

LWVGP conducted a voter registration event at Harper Woods High School on October 18. A total of 177 seniors attended the event, with many of them registering to vote via the QR code through the Secretary of State's Office.

This is the first registration event we've conducted at Harper Woods in many years. The event began with a presentation by Judy Florian on the importance of voting and how voter registration works.

Thanks to Julianne Phillips, Director of Voter Services, for making the initial contact with Cristina Agnello, Social Studies teacher.

Principal Dr. Alethea Wells gave an inspiring speech about the importance of voting, and has invited the League to return in Spring 2024.

A special thanks to the following League members who helped with this event: Sue Acton, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Gerianne LaPratt and Lynne Pierce.

**Photo:** President Lynne Pierce and member Gerianne LaPratt help a Harper Woods senior with her voter registration form.

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## 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. Contact Liz Martin ([lizzie5698@gmail.com](mailto:lizzie5698@gmail.com)) or Sue Acton ([shacton@gmail.com](mailto:shacton@gmail.com)) to volunteer or for more information.

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## 2023 Student Voting Summit - Oakland University



Julianne Phillips, Director of Voter Services, attended the annual Student Voting Summit at Oakland University on October 6. This event is sponsored by the Campus Vote Project, All Voting is Local, League of Women Voters of Michigan, and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

The Student Voting Summit brings 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. Over 300 people were in attendance. The goal is to maintain the nation's highest youth voter turnout in the 2024 election.

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 2022 midterm elections, 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 when youth turnout was higher in 2022 than in 2018.

Landon Myers, Michigan coordinator for Campus Vote Project stated "Michigan students continue to lead the way towards full voter participation. Let's lead the nation again in 2024!"

There was a panel of elected officials, including Attorney General Dana Nessel, Senator Jeremy Moss, and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson.

#### **Messages:**

- Hold your elected officials accountable!
- Your vote and voice matters. One vote could make ALL the difference.
- Find your people.

There were also several breakout sessions held in the afternoon. A special thanks to Julianne for representing LWVGP at this important event.

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**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)**

- Advocacy: Lauri Kingsbury
- Assistant Treasurer: Sue Stanley
- Communications, Voter Co-Editor: Vicki Granger
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Cathy McAdam
- Environmental Network: Melissa Levasseur
- Observer Corps: Sue Acton and Liz Martin, Co-Directors

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

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

**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**  
**32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

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

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