



The Voter Newsletter
April 2024

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

Calendar

April 1: LWVGP New Member Orientation, 7-8 pm

April 3: LWVGP New Member Orientation 2-3 pm

April 16: LWVGP Board meeting at GP Central Library, 7 pm

May 8: LWVGP Program: *Assessing Risks to American Democracy*, 7 pm
Grosse Pointe Methodist Church

June 18: LWVGP Annual meeting - more info in the May Voter

President's Message

Greetings, Folks!

LWVUS is undergoing a massive restructuring of how our dues are collected. Here is what we know so far. Starting January, 2025, we will be paying our dues directly to National. The amount of the dues will be flexible. Each member can elect to pay anywhere from \$20 to \$70, or more! National will then transfer a percentage of the dues to state and local Leagues. What is important to remember *is only a portion will be returned to us.*

We are asking that you do several things this year:

1. Our LWVGP dues run from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. We are hoping to collect **all** dues by July 1, 2024. This year we will be sending out invoices (by email and snail mail) to remind you to pay your dues early. This will help our membership team and Treasurer reduce glitches during the start-up of the new system in January 2025.
2. If you would like to donate to LWVGP, please separate your donation from your dues. Please send donations *directly* to LWVGP. When LWV's nationwide dues payment goes into effect in 2025, the amount each member pays will be considered dues, with no donation coming to our local League.
3. Please be patient with us as we go through this process. We are learning as we go along. We have an excellent team working with LWWUS on this dues process: Carol Lufburrow, Catherine Dumke, and Lauri Kingsbury are attending the LWWUS Zoom meetings set up to keep everyone informed of their progress with the transition. We still have many questions; our team is working on those with the national League.
4. Our Engage Democracy project is focused on increasing voter registration and participation this year. If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your donations to LWVGP via check or our PayPal option at lwvgrossepointe.org.

Our final League principle is: We believe in cooperation with other nations and the promotion of world peace. We live in a global world now. We cannot put our head in the sand and expect everything will be okay. We must continue to encourage our leaders to look for peaceful solutions that help all of us feel more secure in today's world. We urge our elected officials to work together to find solutions. This is the key to our democracy continuing to function. Staying engaged in the process as voters is a basic right and obligation in our society. We can all be proud of our role in continuing to preserve democracy and empowering voters.

Lynne Pierce, President

Voter Services Holding High School Voter Registration Events

Our LWVGP Voter Services team will be at the four local high schools for voter registration events during April and May. This is a fun event to engage our young new voters. We provide a QR code so students can use their phones to access the MI Department of State website. We will also have the traditional voter registration forms. The volunteer's job is to engage with the students, collect the forms, and answer any questions the students may have. It's very straightforward and students are excited for this opportunity to register to vote.

Some additional volunteers are still needed. [Sign Up Genius link](#)

Monday, April 15

University Liggett HS Voter Registration, 9:30 am - 1 pm

Wednesday, April 24

Harper Woods HS Voter Registration 10-11:15 am

Wednesday, May 1

Grosse Pointe North 7:30 am-12:20 pm

7:30 am - 9:30 am (need 1 volunteer)

9:30 am-12:20 pm (need 1 volunteer)

Monday, May 13

Grosse Pointe South 8 am-2:30 pm

10:00 am- 12:00 pm (need 2 volunteers)

12:00 pm - 2:30 pm (need 1 volunteer)

Questions? Contact **Julianne Phillips**, Director - Voter Services at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

Membership News: 18 New Members since July 1, 2023

We currently have 129 active members, including 18 new members since July 1, 2023.

Welcome to the following new members

- Ruth Hoover, St. Clair Shores
- Lisa Ragone, Grosse Pointe Park
- Juli Rybicki, Grosse Pointe Park

New member orientation sessions, via Zoom

- April 1: 7 - 8 pm
- April 3: 2 - 3 pm

If interested in attending an orientation session, contact Jaime Rae Turnbull at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Game Day!

Join other LWVGP members at “Game Day,” on Thursday, April 11, at 12:30 pm at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center. This is a fun way to meet other members and maybe learn a new game! Games include, but are not limited to, Scrabble, Uno, and some interesting fantasy board games.

If interested in participating in Game Day, contact Carol Lufburrow at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com

May 8 Program: Assessing Risks to American Democracy

Join two Michigan political insiders for a frank discussion about what lies ahead in this extraordinary election year. This is an in-person event on Wednesday, May 8, at 7 pm at the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church.

Our speakers are former Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer and former Republican Party Executive Director Jeff Timmer, who host the weekly podcast *A Republic, If You Can Keep It*. In their podcast, Brewer and Timmer provide a steady diet of analysis about politics from two men who know it inside and out.

At our program, they will explore current political topics, including what happens if one of the two presidential nominees is unable to run or unable to serve and what events could signal threats to American democracy.

The program is free of charge, but we ask you to [register here](#).

Mark your calendars and tell your friends and family!

March Program Follow Up

Our March 12 Program, *The Battle for Ideas: Inside Schools and Libraries' Response to Book Bans* was a great success, with 44 people attending. Our panel of experts did a great job!

Thanks to our terrific Program Committee! Dawn Drozd, Joan Richardson, Diana Domin, Catherine Dumke, Mary Jo Johnson, Geri LaPratt, Erin O'Mara, Mary Zahler, and Wilhelmina Giblin.

Pictured below: Program VP Dawn Drozd, Steven McGhee, Harper Woods School Superintendent, Kristen Valyi-Hax, Director of the HW Library, and Jessica Keyser, Director of the GP Library



LWVMI News: Spring Workshops, League Links, Action Alerts

LWVMI Spring Workshops

LWVGP Members are encouraged to attend one or more of the LWVMI Spring Workshop Series. These are all online Zoom meetings, and a great opportunity to learn.

April 8: LWVMI Spring Workshop Series: *Conversations in an Election Year*, 7 pm. [Register](#)

April 24: LWVMI Spring Workshop Series: *Using Media Literacy to Combat Mis-Dis-Information*, 7 pm. [Register](#)

The first workshop, Civility Project, on May 22 featured Stephen Henderson and Nolan Finley. [View the recording](#)

April 10: LWVMI DEI Network: *How to Be An Effective Ally to the Indigenous Community*, 7 pm. [Register](#) for this virtual event.

League Links - the LWVMI monthly newsletter

LWVMI publishes a monthly e-newsletter called *League Links* which provides updates from the Michigan League related to Voter Services, Advocacy positions and other items of interest. It is important for local League members to be aware of what is happening at the State League level. All members receive League Links. If you're not receiving it, please contact LWVMI board member Judy Florian at jflo@comcast.net. We'll confirm you're on the mailing list.

Action Alerts

Voting rights and redistricting are two of the League's priority issues, but the League also takes action on issues supported by our positions on natural resources, government, and social policy. League volunteers monitor state legislation and alert us to the need for action. We encourage members to respond to these action alerts to contact their state legislative representative in the House and/or Senate. LWVUS also notifies members of action items that should be brought to the attention of our Federal legislators. Make your voice heard by responding to these alerts! All members received action alerts as part of their membership.

Members Only Site

LWVMI also has an LWV Only section on their website that contains information members need to know: a calendar of events with registration links, voter services information on candidate forums, sample forum questions, town hall grants, program planning, and LWVUS convention news. A password is needed to access. Contact us at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com if you need the password.

Local Advocacy News

LWVGP Advocacy goes to Austin, Texas!

LWV Austin Area in Texas (LWVAA) found LWVMI's Public Library Advocacy Position. Joanne Richards, Austin Area League Vice President of Community and Policy, contacted LWVMI leaders, who put her in touch with us. They are now considering including LWVMI's wording, developed by LWVGP, in their public library policy. Even better news is that the Austin Area League wants to take it statewide in Texas.

Senior Services Study Group

Work continues to develop a position expanding our [Human Services position](#). Prudence Cole and study group members Sue Acton, Marge Freundl, Vicki Granger, and Jaime Rae Turnbull are digging into the issues and data concerning Senior Services.

DEI Review Study Group Needed

This is a great opportunity to participate in a short-term study. State and national Leagues have completed DEI reviews. Our current positions need the same. We have guidelines to make your review fast and easy. Contact Lauri Kingsbury, Advocacy Chair via lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com, and include DEI Study Group in the subject line.

Michigan Advocacy News

Public Officials Personal Financial Disclosure

Candidates and elected public officials are now required to disclose financial information to the public. LWV members across the state gathered thousands of signatures from registered voters to get Proposition 1 on the November 2022 ballot. After voters approved it, the Michigan Legislature got busy. Last year, they passed Senate Bills 613-616 and Governor Whitmer signed Public Act 281-284 of 2023 into law. We can now view elected officials' personal finance disclosures. [View this information here](#)

Decline to Sign

There is a petition circulating in Michigan to take power away from the Public Service Commission which oversees and regulates energy and telecommunication services. The petition focuses on wind and solar energy projects.

LWVMI urges all members to **decline to sign this petition**.

Money in Politics

LWV Washtenaw County coordinates an active and informative network which examines this advocacy issue. The group meets via Zoom on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

To get on their list, send an email to mip@lwvashtenaw.org to get a link to the next meeting. [More information](#)

Observer Corps: LWVGP OC is Largest in MI!!

Beginning in April, Margrit Poynter will observe the Harper Woods City Council meetings. This was previously handled by Dawn Drozd.

On March 27, Lauri Kingsbury presented a Zoom Training Session for 57 participants in the LWVMI Observer Corps network. Lauri first developed the Training Session back in 2021, when our LWVGP resurrected its Observer Corps. Note: Our LWVGP Observer Corps is the LARGEST in Michigan!

Looking for a way to become involved, and at the same time learn more about how local governments operate? Your role is vital in helping to identify local issues and concerns that LWVGP may pursue with a study or follow up questions. Observers are also key in suggesting questions for the candidate forums. Contact Liz Martin at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com to learn more.

Nominating Committee Presents Slate

The Nominating Committee has completed its work and will present the following slate of candidates * at the June 18 LWVGP Annual Meeting.

- President-Elect: Dawn Drozd (*term to expire June 30, 2025*) **
- Vice-President Voter Services: Sue Acton (*term to expire June 30, 2026*)
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow(*term to expire June 30, 2026*)
- Director Membership: Catherine Dumke (*term to expire June 30, 2026*)
- Director: Gerianne LaPratt (*term to expire June 30, 2026*)

- Nominating Committee Chair: Vicki Granger (*term to expire June 30, 2025*)
- Nominating Committee Member: Anastasia Koutsopoulos (*term to expire June 30, 2025*)

* More information about the candidates will be in the May Voter newsletter.

** Dawn has agreed to continue as VP of Programs and President-Elect concurrently, with the understanding that she and Lynne Pierce will be Co-Presidents the following two years, 2025-2027. Lynne has agreed to serve a second term.

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee! Chair Laura Larson, Judy Gafa, Julianne Phillips, and Anastasia Koutsopoulos.

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 Positions (Appointed by the President)

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

Off-Board Positions (Appointed by the President)

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

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: lwgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwgrossepointe.org

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

LWVGP on YouTube - no subscription necessary

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIoWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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

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