

The Voter Newsletter June 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

- May 29** LWVGP Engage Democracy Committee meeting, 7 p.m. –GP Central Library
May 30 LWVGP Town hall on Michigan's New Voting Rights, 6:30 p.m.–The Helm [Map](#)
June 11-13 Redistricting Commission Public Hearings (see article below)
June 15 GP Pride March, 12 p.m.-2 p.m., Grosse Pointe Village
June 17 LWVMI Pre-convention Meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.
June 18 LWVGP Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., GP Memorial Church (Board meets at 6 p.m.) [Map](#)
June 19 Juneteenth Event, 1-4 p.m., Wayne County Community College [Map](#)
June 26-30 LWVUS Convention-Washington, DC
July 22 LWVMI Board of Canvassers Training, 7 p.m.; Sign up [here](#).
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President's Message

Greetings Folks,

I wish I could tell you all to have a great summer and see you in the fall. But this year, with a crucial election coming up, we won't be able to take a break from League duties. There is too much at stake! Between now and November we will be doubling down on our efforts to register, engage, and inform voters.

The League, at local, state, and national levels, will be working hard to protect your right to vote. It is time to sound the alarm: Our Democracy is at stake! Our speakers (Jeff Timmer and Mark Brewer) at our May event really honed in on what it means to continue to have a strong democracy. They stated that while the majority of citizens are "pro-democracy," our democracy is only strong when the minority accepts the results. They warned that we will be dealing with the aftermath of this election for a long time.

The League will be at the forefront of preserving our democracy! What kinds of things can we expect? For one, we know there will be mass challenges of voter laws and registrations. In Michigan, a battleground state, the Secretary of State has already been sued in federal court by a group alleging the voter rolls are out of date. The Secretary of State insists she is following the law. The LWVMI has filed a motion to intervene in this case. To stay up to date on LWVMI's advocacy actions, click [here](#).

There are lawsuits challenging voting practices throughout the nation. The LWVUS has intervened in many of these challenges. Click [here](#) for the LWVUS Legal Center to find out more about their involvement in these cases.

The experts anticipate there will be massive attempts to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to disrupt our election process. This will include disinformation and misinformation on social media platforms. If you see this, don't repeat it and let others know it is not true.

We anticipate there may be civil disruption at voting locations, absentee ballot counting boards and Board of Canvasser locations. (Remember what happened in Detroit four years ago?) In many places, city clerks are under attack.

What more can we do? Show up and observe! Participate as election workers, observe at absentee ballot counting locations and act as observers at the Board of Canvassers. Our presence at the polls helps reassure voters that our elections run smoothly and are fair and secure.

Stick up for democracy We must continue to say it loud and clear. The League's integrity as a nonpartisan group puts us in the unique position to stand up and speak out for democracy. Collectively, we do a phenomenal job doing just that! Keep up the good work!

Lynne Pierce, President

Annual Meeting June 18, 2024

We hope you'll join us to celebrate our many accomplishments over the past year, elect a new slate of officers (see blog post [here](#)) and approve our annual budget. It's a great opportunity to reconnect with old and new friends alike as we enjoy refreshments, applaud our successes and hear what's coming up for 2024-25. We hope you can join us because it just won't be the same without **you!**

Please RSVP to lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com by Friday, June 14. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pictured above, left to right, are Dawn Drozd, VP for Programs, Mark Brewer, Jeff Timmer and Lynne Pierce, President.

May 8th Program a Resounding Success

Over 90 people from the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods attended our May 8th program: *Assessing Risks to American Democracy*.

The speakers, Mark Brewer and Jeff Timmer, two Michigan Political insiders, provided attendees with amazing insights on the current political landscape during this important election year. It was an enlightening and informative program.

Voter Services Conducts Record Registration Events

Congratulations to the Voter Services team for an excellent turnout at our Spring high school voter registration events.

Over 300 students were registered/pre-registered at our four local high schools. We also registered students from the following 13 municipalities: Detroit, Clinton Township, Fraser, Harrison Township, Macomb, New Baltimore, Ray Township, Roseville, St. Clair Shores, Sterling Heights, Warren, West Bloomfield and Ypsilanti.

A special thanks to Julianne Phillips, Director of Voter Services, for her excellent work in coordinating these very successful voter registration events and for the following volunteers who were not recognized in the last Voter since the events were conducted after

May 1:

- Bridgette Bowdler (Clerk-GPP)
- Danielle Caudill (Deputy Clerk - GPP)
- Diana Domin
- Catherine Dumke

- Kellie Egan
- Laura Larson
- Gretchen Miotto (Deputy Clerk - GPW)
- Margrit Poynter
- Julie Rybicki
- Cynthia Sohn
- Maria Williams

Above: Grosse Pointe Park Clerk Bridgette Bowdler assists students at GP South High School

Above: LWVGP volunteers Julianne Phillips, Diana Domin, Cynthia Sohn, Kellie Egan and Jaime Rae Turnbull.

Volunteers Needed to Help GP Farms Clerk

Help serve the Grosse Pointe Farms community by volunteering an hour of your time to prepare absentee voter ballot envelopes for mailing. Sign up by emailing elections@grossepointefarms.org and indicating your willingness to participate. All you need to bring is yourself! They need 10-20 volunteers. See flier below for details.

Membership News

Welcome to the following new members

- Kathleen Cernok, Grosse Pointe Farms
- Nancy Patek, Grosse Pointe Woods
- Jane Rousseau, Grosse Pointe Woods
- Laura McCourt, Grosse Pointe
- Anne RP Ballew and Tom WB Porter, Grosse Pointe Shores

Time to Renew YOUR LWVGP Membership

We currently have 137 members, with 6 new members joining since April 16, 2024. Membership dues renewal notices for FY2025 will be sent to all members by June 1st via email. A renewal/application form and survey will be included with the email. Members are strongly encouraged to renew their dues by July 1, 2024 due to an upcoming change in the dues structure by LWVUS in 2025.

Memorial Donation Received

LWVGP received a donation in memory of long-time member, Aphie Roumell, who died on January 2, 2024. The First Wednesday Bridge Club donated the funds, recognizing Aphie as a great supporter and long-time member of their group. They clearly supported her work with the League!

Community Events Need Volunteers

The League participates in many community events throughout the summer. Two of those events are listed below. If you wish to volunteer at our League table, please do so by using the SignUp Genius link [here](#).

Grosse Pointe Pride Event Saturday, June 15, 12 -2 p.m. Village of Grosse Pointe

Juneteenth—Wednesday, June 19, 1-4 p.m., Wayne County Community District- Harper Woods.

There will be more events in August and September. We will notify members when more volunteer opportunities are available.

Questions? Contact Jaime Rae Turnbull at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Town Hall Presentations on New Voting Rights

LWVGP conducted two town halls on Michigan's new voting rights, based on the passage of Proposal 2 of 2022. They were conducted at the GP Mens' Club on May 14th and American House on May 22nd. The third town hall will be held at The Helm, Grosse Pointe Farms, on Thursday, May 30th. These are educational meetings to inform voters in our communities about our new voting rights, just in time for the Primary Election on August 6th and General Election on November 5. Lynne Pierce and Judy Florian conducted the presentations

and the meetings were very well received. As an added bonus, LWVMI will reimburse us \$500 for providing this information to our voters.

Board Approves Local Advocacy Position on Senior Services

An advocacy study group submitted its paper and a proposed position statement on senior services to the LWVGP Board on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. The proposed position statement reads:

The significant increase in the count of seniors projected over the next fifteen years in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods communities requires community-wide financial support from local governments and nonprofit organizations to ensure seniors have access to necessary resources and support. Essential services in public health, specifically senior services, should be integral components of each community's infrastructure to promote and protect the health and well-being of its older population.

This proposed position is based on extensive research from the following: medical and public health sources, demographic projections, and legislative and government agencies at local, state, and national levels.

The Board approved this position statement. It is now up to the members to vote. Our LWVGP Bylaws require that members receive the study itself and the proposed position statement 30 days prior to voting on it. The study and proposed position will be sent to all members in June. A special membership meeting will be scheduled in July. Questions regarding this study and the approved positions can be posed at the Annual Meeting on June 18.

If the members vote to formally adopt the position, our local League will be able to take public action based on this position.

Thanks to the following LWVGP members who served on this study group:

- Susan Acton
 - Prudence Cole
 - Marge Freundl
 - Vicki Granger
 - Carol Klenow
 - Jaime Rae Turnbull
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Advocacy News At the State Level

LWVMI supports the passage of two bills in the Michigan Senate that will require the Legislature and the Governor's Office to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. These bills are SB 669 and SB 670.

Michigan's new gun safety laws took effect on February 13, 2024. They include:

- universal background checks
- safe storage of firearms in homes with children
- extreme risk protection orders, sometimes called "red flag" orders
- protections for domestic violence survivors

Check out our website at lwgrossepointe.org for further information.

Candidates' personal finances are now publicly available at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/disclosure/personal-financial-disclosure> Scroll down and click on "Public access of disclosures" to view filed reports.

Advocacy Committee:

Lauri Kingsbury (Chair), Marge Freundl, and Judy Masserang

Board Approves New DEI Policy

At its May 21st meeting, the LWVGP Board approved adoption of the LWVMI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policy, which reads as follows:

Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including, but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.

DEI updates May 2024

- The Michigan DEI committee will be sending out a DEI survey this summer. The LWVMI Board of Directors is gathering this information about its members to look at state wide representation of those who are doing outreach to voters and how well they represent their communities.
- LWVUS has updated the DEI policy, now on our web page. Our League adopted the approved language of the LWVMI, using the term “disability” rather than “ability status” (see above). This aligns with the Association of People with Disabilities, a widely recognized voter advocacy organization.
- Our local DEI committee is working on a high school video project to promote the importance of voting with youth. Watch for more details in the fall!

Redistricting Commission Redrawing MI Senate Maps

As part of their December 2023 ruling, the Federal District Court found the Senate maps for Districts 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, and 11 unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution because race was too big a factor when the MICRC drew the maps for those districts.

The unconstitutional districts include southern parts of Macomb and Oakland Counties as well as Detroit and much of Wayne County, including the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Adjoining districts may also be impacted.

Residents of affected districts are urged to tell the Commission which of the Senate Draft Proposed Maps they prefer during the Public Hearings on June 11-13. Public Comments can be made in person or virtually. Those wishing to comment virtually must sign up in advance on the MICRC website, www.Michigan.gov/MICRC

Note: League members making comments should identify themselves as residents, not as League members.

The public hearing schedule is as follows:

- June 11, Public Hearing at Cass Tech High School, 2501 Second Ave.
- June 12, Public Hearing at Martin Luther King High School, [3200 E. Lafayette](#)
- June 13, Public Hearing at Detroit Renaissance High School, 6565 W. Outer Drive

The schedule for the above hearings is as follows:

- 10:00 am -3:00 pm (lunch break 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)
- 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

League members are needed to help at the June Public Hearings in Detroit. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Kristen Taylor, taylork54@michigan.gov.

Contact LWVGP! To reach anyone on the board, with a question or a suggestion, or to volunteer, use the lvvgrossepointe@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, Anastasia Koutsopoulos and 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

Website: lwvgrossepointe.org

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

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

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