



*The Voter Newsletter  
September 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**

- September 10:** Special Membership Meeting-Senior Services Position, Zoom, 7 pm
- September 17:** National Voter Registration Day
- September 17:** Board Meeting, GP Memorial Church, 7 pm
- September 18:** GPPSS School Board Candidate Forum, Brownell Middle School, 7 pm
- September 22:** National Banned Books Week
- October 8:** Education Program-Senior Services Millage, Wayne County Community College, 7 pm

**President's Message**

Greetings, Folks!

**I can't believe the summer is almost over!** We have been busy working on getting people registered to vote, reminding them to actually vote, and educating them on candidates, issues, and mis/disinformation. By the time of the election, we will have reached over 2000 new/infrequent voters. Our strategy has been to avoid the super-voter (those who always vote) and concentrate on infrequent voters, newly registered voters, and residences where no one is registered to

vote. By starting our planning in February, we have had time to access various data banks to gather a list of names. We have followed up with mailings and texts (for the young people) to remind them to vote.

**As part of our outreach in the community, we will be participating in National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) on September 17.**

We will be present at three locations: Harper Woods Public Library, Grosse Pointe Park City Hall, and Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center. We will be providing citizens with information on Vote411.org, mis/disinformation, how to vote (copies of sample ballots will be available), and assisting any unregistered voters. The city clerks are working with us on this event, and we are very excited to be working with them. Our members who are elected officials in these communities are also supporting this effort. Thank you, Vicki Granger, Michelle Hodges, Val Kindle, and Geri LaPratt!



Read more about NVRD in this issue and the sign up link to be a part of this important effort.

**As we move forward towards the election, we will be doubling down on our efforts.** You can help by becoming informed on how to counter mis/disinformation (see article below), reminding people to vote, offering unbiased information for those who ask for it, and volunteering to help us continue to meet our mission. If you want to help, but are not sure what to do, ask any board member (member listed at the bottom of this newsletter)! We will be glad to help you.

**Please remember, when you represent the league, you are in a non-partisan role.** It does not matter if you are a Republican, Democrat, or Independent. We provide non-partisan, reliable information to voters. Our history and reputation put us in a unique position to offer voters an opportunity to become informed without all of the distractions that sometimes accompany ads, mailings, etc. We

are the most trusted group in our political process for a reason: we never take sides in partisan politics!!!

**Remember, we will be voting on our Senior Services position on September 10 at 7 p.m.** This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom, so hopefully you can attend (see related article below).

Hope to see you at upcoming events!

Lynne Pierce, President

### **Special Membership Meeting-Senior Services Position**

The meeting to vote on the Senior Services position is scheduled for September 10 at 7 pm via Zoom. A link will be sent to members prior to the meeting. There will be two agenda items:

- Discussion from members about this position
- A vote on whether to adopt the position as an official LWVGP Advocacy Position

The LWVGP Bylaws require that our members vote on a position before it can be adopted. Members must receive the complete position statement within 60 days before a vote is called. This statement, along with the position paper, was sent to all members, via email, on July 5, 2024.

In May, our Board of Directors approved the full study, which can be viewed [here](#).

#### **Proposed Position Statement**

*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.*

We hope you will join us for the full discussion of this position statement and potential approval.

**Candidate Forum**  
**Grosse Pointe School Board Trustee**  
September 18, 2024, 7:00 pm  
Brownell Middle School Auditorium  
**Open to the Public**  
Forum will also be live streamed through the GPPSS website

**Invited Candidates**



- Terry Collins
- Clint Derringer
- Melissa Fradenberg
- Diana Gellci
- Kate Hopper

- Laura Hull
- Timothy Klepp
- Heath M. Roberts
- Colleen Worden



The General Election  
Tuesday, November 5, 2024  
is coming soon! Are **YOU**  
informed and ready to vote?

Questions will not be accepted at the forum, but may be submitted  
for consideration ahead of time. Submit questions **no later than**  
**noon on Monday, September 16** at [lwvgrossepointe.org](http://lwvgrossepointe.org). You can  
**view the recorded forum** after September 18.

### **Voter Services Planning School Board Candidate Forum**

Our LWVGP Voter Services team will conduct a candidate forum for the **Grosse Pointe Public School System** (GPPSS) Board on Wednesday, September 18, at 7 p.m., in the Brownell Middle School Auditorium. The forum is open to the public; the forum will be recorded and posted on the League's YouTube channel after September 18.

There are nine candidates vying for four seats. The following candidates have confirmed their participation:

- Terry Collins, Clint Derringer, Melissa Fradenberg, Diana Gellci, Kate Hopper, Laura Hull, Timothy Klepp, Heath M. Roberts, and Colleen Worden.

Community and League members are invited to submit questions by noon on Monday, September 16. Submitted questions should be for all candidates. Questions will not be accepted at the forum. To submit questions, click on this link to the [question submission form](#). The link is also available on our website at [lwvgrossepointe.org](http://lwvgrossepointe.org).

We need volunteers to help with the forum as greeters, question sorters, a timekeeper, and various hospitality tasks (microphones, signs, water, etc.). If you're interested, please sign up [here](#).

### **Harper Woods School Board**

Three out of four candidates indicated they were unavailable for a candidate forum. Per LWVGP policy, we must have at least two candidates present. No forum is scheduled.



### **National Voter Registration Day is September 17**

National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) is a nonpartisan civic holiday recognized by the U. S. Congress in 2012. It's a day dedicated to celebrating our democracy. Tens of thousands of volunteers all over America have given their time to get millions of citizens registered to vote in time to cast their ballots in the next election.

Celebrated each September, NVRD community partners "hit the streets" - both in person and on social media - for a single day of coordinated actions focused squarely on growing our shared democracy. This year more than 10,000 volunteers will participate on this one day drive to register voters.

NVRD is endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State, National Association of State Election Directors, U.S. Election Assistance Commission and the National Association of Election Officials (The Election Center.)

LWVGP will conduct in-person voter registration and voter education activities. We are hosting this one-day event at three locations:

- Grosse Pointe Park City Hall 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Harper Woods Public Library 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

LWVGP volunteers will:

- Register voters
- Demonstrate how to mark a ballot & use a tabulator
- Provide guidance on how to spot mis- and dis-information
- Recommend non-partisan fact-checking sources
- Answer questions about early & absentee voting.

We are very pleased that city officials in Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Shores, Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods public libraries have joined LWVGP to support NVRD.

Never helped register a voter? Brief training will be provided. Interested in volunteering? Sign up [here](#).

### **Absentee Voter Ballot Preparation**

Some of our local clerks ask for League volunteers to help them prepare absentee voter ballots for mailing. This is a great volunteer opportunity. This

project will take place mid-September. We will notify members when we have firm dates and details.

## **Mis and Disinformation: How to Spot It-How To Stop It!**

### **Misinformation**

Sharing false information *without* intent to harm.

### **Disinformation**

Creating and sharing false information *with* intent to harm.

Fight back against false information to ensure that our elections are a fair and accurate reflection of the voters. Check the facts. Share accurate information with family, friends and neighbors. Set the record straight. Share factual messages on your social media accounts. Block users who share mis or disinformation.

Visit [lvvgrossepointe.org](http://lvvgrossepointe.org) for a great guide to fact-checking.

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## CHECK THE FACTS!

### [michigan.gov/sos/faqs/elections-and-campaign-finance/fact-checks](https://michigan.gov/sos/faqs/elections-and-campaign-finance/fact-checks)

Official State of Michigan Election Information  
Accurate & truthful information about Michigan elections & election laws.

### **Associated Press Fact Check** [apnews.com/ap-fact-check](https://apnews.com/ap-fact-check)

Fact-checks political claims.

### **FactCheck.org**

Monitors TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews & news releases.

### **SciCheck.org** Consumer information & advocacy

Focuses on false and misleading scientific claims made by politicians and others who attempt to influence public policy.

### **Science Feedback** [science.feedback.org](https://science.feedback.org)

PhD scientists review climate-related, health & medical claims.

### **Ballotpedia.org**

Nonpartisan encyclopedia of American politics and elections.

### **Media Bias Fact Check** [mediabiasfactcheck.com](https://mediabiasfactcheck.com)

Rates 7500+ news sources on reliability, bias & political orientation.

**VOTE 411**

## ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS . . .

### **Uncertain or suspicious about the information?**

Go online to check the information. Search using keywords on respected fact-checking sites.

**Is the story old news?** Check the date. It may not match current events.

**Are reputable news sources reporting the same story?** Cross-check information.

**What's the whole story?** Read past the headline. Sometimes a headline doesn't match the content.

**Does the story contain emotionally-charged words?** Disinformation creates division by getting us angry or sad with images and trigger words.

**Is it a partisan website?** Partisan websites are persuasive, but not always factual. Cross-check the statements with a nonpartisan source.

## LWVGP in the Community



Jane Brousseau, Kathy Gardner, and Marge Freundl host the League table at the After 6 on Kercheval event on August 24 in Grosse Pointe Park.

A special thanks to League volunteers who hosted a table at the Racing for Kids event on August 28. These include Kathy Cernok, Jane Rousseau, and Jaime Rae Turnbull.

## Annual Membership Picnic a Rainy Success



*League members pose with the Women's Suffrage Victory Flag, commemorating the 104th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment*

Despite the storm that decided to invade our picnic space, we had approximately 40 people join us for our annual membership picnic at Neff Park in Grosse Pointe. Several new members attended and received updates on our Advocacy, Voter Services, and other activities. We were even joined by Marge Freundl's granddaughter, Stephania Nelson, who is a member of the Copper Country League in the Upper Peninsula.

A special thanks to Dawn Drozd and Program Committee members Diana Domin, Catherine Dumke, Wilhelmina Giblin, Mary Jo Johnson, Geri LaPratt, Erin O'Mara, and Mary Zahler for making this event happen! We were also fortunate to get our traditional group picture completed, albeit earlier than planned, just before the rains came!

### **Membership Update**

Our current membership count is 147. We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Kathleen Allen, GPW

- Emily Everett, GPW
- Mark Gabriel, GPW
- Mary Ellen Geist, GPF
- Julia Hoffmann, GPP
- Kate Hopper, GPF
- Agnes Lewis, GPW
- Angela O'Neill, GPW
- Tracy Schatko, GP

**Membership renewals** were due July 1st. For those members who have not yet renewed, please do so. You can join via our website [here](#). Or, mail your check, payable to *League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe* to 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Questions about membership? Contact our Membership Committee at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com).



### **Tomkowiak Speaks at Observer Corps Meeting**

A special thanks to City of Grosse Pointe Mayor (and LWVGP member) Sheila Tomkowiak, who served as guest speaker at the August 26 Quarterly Meeting of our Observer Corps. She discussed the fundamental structure of city government, budgetary restraints of city government, and keys to making a meeting run smoothly. Pictured at left are Mayor Tomkowiak with Liz Martin, Observer Corps Director.

**Michigan Blazes a Path for Pro-Democracy Reform**

In the battleground state, recent moves by voters and lawmakers have made voting more accessible and election subversion more difficult. Check out the article from the Brennan Center at this [link](#).

**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, 2025**

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

- President: Lynne Pierce
- President Elect: Dawn Drozd
- Vice President Programs: Dawn Drozd
- Vice President Voter Services: Sue Acton
- 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 (At-Large): Gerianne LaPratt

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

- Advocacy Director: Lauri Kingsbury
- Assistant Treasurer: Patti Cardoze
- Communications Director and Parliamentarian: Judy Florian
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director: Cathy McAdam
- Environmental Network Chair: Melissa Levasseur
- Observer Corps Director: Liz Martin

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

- Finance Review Coordinator: Connie Frey
- Historian: Annie Spence
- Vote411 Coordinator: Sarah Coats
- Webmaster: Sue Acton

**Newsletter Co-editors:** Judy Florian and Vicki Granger  
**Nominating Committee:** Vicki Granger (chair), Anastasia Koutsopoulos and  
Judy Masserang

### **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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