

The Voter Newsletter October 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

October 8: Education Program: Senior Services Millage Proposal, Wayne County Community College, 7 p.m. (see article below)
October 15: Board Meeting, GP Memorial Church, 7 p.m.
October 26-November 3: Early voting in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods
November 5: Election Day-Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

President's Message

Greetings, folks!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the voting will be well on its way. If you have a Vote411 sign, put it out! If you need one, let me know. I will deliver it to your home.

What can you still do? You can volunteer to work the polls, you can observe the Board of Canvassers post-election certification. You can continue to encourage people to register to vote and to vote. You can correct misinformation and disinformation. You can refer people to our website for more information on voting and other election-related issues.

What have we already done? We have sent postcards to over 2,000 homes in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods with non-registered or infrequent voters. We will be text banking to reach 1200+ voters. We have provided our materials at community events, programs and our candidate forum. We have spoken with many groups about the new voting laws and mis/disinformation. We have circulated written Voter guides throughout the community.

LWVUS is mailing over 200,000 postcards to Michigan women, between the ages of 18-45, who voted in 2020, but not 2022. Our state League has diligently worked to provide us with support, including grant monies and we have done our best to take advantage of their resources.



If you are working/volunteering on Election Day, keep your eyes open and be safe! There is likely to be civil disruption in Michigan. We are considered one of the hot spots. The nation will be watching very closely. As League members, we are the “watchdogs of Democracy”. If you see any actions that are concerning (on Election Day or before), call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-888-OUR-VOTE and contact the local clerk. This hotline is handled by a rapid response team and attorneys who are prepared to step in. You can also contact me if need be.

I know we are all suffering from “election fatigue”, but we are in the final stretch! Keep up the good work! Our democracy needs you!

Lynne Pierce, President

Program on Senior Services Millage Proposal

LWVGP will host a panel discussion on the Senior Services Millage Proposal on Tuesday, October 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m. The program will be held at the Wayne County Community College auditorium, 19305 Vernier Road, Harper Woods. This proposal will be on the ballot for the November 5 election.

Specifically, voters in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods will consider a 6-year 0.35 millage proposal to fund essential senior services. If passed by the voters, this millage will provide necessary resources and support to promote and protect the health and well-being of senior residents in the community.

The three panelists include:

Prudence Cole-Klimisch, President Emeritus, The Helm

Thomas H. Jankowski, PhD, Interim Director, Institute of Gerontology, Wayne State University

Krista Siddall, Executive Director, The Helm

Panelists will respond to questions from the audience after their presentation. Registration for this program is available at this [link](#):

If you require accommodations, please notify the League at lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com. We hope you will join us.

GPPSS School Board Candidate Forum

All nine candidates for the Grosse Pointe Public School Board of Education Trustees participated in our candidate forum on September 18th at Brownell Middle School. A total of 150 people attended in person, with many viewing via live stream. A recording of the forum is available on our YouTube channel at this [link](#):

We thank the Grosse Pointe Public Schools for providing their auditorium and Steve Geresy for recording the forum. A special thanks to the following League members for helping make this event a success: Sue Acton, Producer; Judy

Florian, Moderator; Julianne Phillips, Timekeeper; Patti Cardoze, Lauri Kingsbury, and Jaime Rae Turnbull, Question Sorters and Kathy Gardner, Laura Larson, Judy Masserang, Lynne Pierce, Penny Pitts, Jane Rousseau, Wendy Saigh, Deb Sloss, Sue Stanley and Maria Williams, Greeters and Hospitality. Pictured below are the school board candidates, Sue Acton and Judy Florian at the Brownell Middle School Auditorium.



LWVMI Conducts Supreme Court Forum

The League of Women Voters of Michigan conducted a closed candidate forum for the Michigan Supreme Court on September 26. The candidates participating included Kyra Harris Bolden, Patrick William O'Grady and Kimberly Ann Thomas. You can view the forum recording at a link on our [website](#).

Engage Democracy Update

The Engage Democracy Committee has been working on various projects since our January, 2024 planning meeting. Here is a summary of their progress to date:

- National Voter Registration Day: Although results were disappointing, we fostered great relationships with our clerks in Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods. We had great displays at our local libraries.
- Get Out The Vote (GOTV) postcards: We sent cards to over 2,000 homes in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods with not registered or infrequent voters.
- Text Banking: We are participating in the LWVMI pilot project on text banking, led by Lauri Kingsbury and Judy Florian. We will send four messages, with the first scheduled for October 7. Our goal is to reach 18-45 year olds who did not vote in 2020—approximately 1200 in the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and portions of Macomb County.
- Vote Poster Contest: Flyers have been distributed to the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods schools and our local libraries. We received great publicity from the *Grosse Pointe News* to promote the project. We are awaiting entry submissions—the deadline is October 10.
- Video Project—*My Future, My Vote*: Martha Hutting is working with students and the Social Studies Department at Grosse Pointe South to produce a video on new voting rights in Michigan. We've received a brief clip from Secretary Benson as part of the video. See article below about t-shirts to

support this project.

Committee members include Sue Acton, Janet Burke, Patti Cardoze, Sarah Coats, Dawn Drozd, Catherine Dumke, Judy Florian, Connie Frey, Marge Freundl, Kathy Gardner, Wilhelmina Giblin, Martha Hutting, Mary Jo Johnson, Lauri Kingsbury, Geri LaPratt, Laura Larson, Melissa Levasseur, Carol Lufburrow, Liz Martin, Judy Masserang, Cathy McAdam, Julianne Phillips, Lynne Pierce, Margrit Poynter, Kathryn Rogers, Julie Rayes and Annie Spence,



My Future, My Vote T-Shirts

As part of our video project with Grosse Pointe South students, we are selling T-shirts to support the cause. Martha Hutting is ordering the shirts (see Martha with T-shirt in photo at left). The cost is \$15.00-\$5.00 for the shirt and \$10.00 as a donation to our League. Checks are payable to *LWV Grosse Pointe*. If any member wants to purchase a shirt, please contact Martha at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com (please put t-shirt in the subject line).

LWVMI's Nonpartisan Voter Guide Available

The League of Women Voters of Michigan has published its 2024 Non-Partisan Voter Guide. This guide is an unbiased, nonpartisan source of candidate and election information for voters.

This guide contains candidate information for the U. S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Board of Regents, Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Wayne State University Board of Governors, Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals. The Guide also provides information on early voting, absentee ballots, in-person voting and voter registration. The guide is being distributed by our League members to our local libraries and many places of business in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. If you know of someone who would like a supply of guides, please contact Sue Acton at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.



**GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5
POLLS OPEN 7AM-8PM**

League of Women Voters of Michigan presents

**2024 Non-Partisan
Voter Guide**

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The League of Women Voters of Michigan thanks the following organizations for their financial support to produce this Voter Guide:

MichiganVoting.org | m-n-a | LIVE | MICHIGAN VOICES

Contributors to the League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund

Also see VOTE411.ORG for additional election information

Vote411.org, our online voter guide, contains supplemental information on local,

county and state candidates, proposals and races, including our local GPPSS Board of Education Trustees, GPPSS school millage and the Senior Services Millage Proposal. Vote411.org is now live and available to view local and state election information. Thanks to Sarah Coats, our Vote411Coordinator, for an excellent job with the online guide.

A QR code that links to the guide is available on our website at lvvgrossepointe.org.

Thanks to the following League members for delivering the Voter Guides: Sue Acton, Patti Cardoze, Diana Domin, Dawn Drozd, Judy Florian, Wilhelmina Giblin, Geri LaPratt, Laura Larson, Joan Richardson, Kathy Rogers and Mickie Verderbar.

League Members Engage with Local Clerks

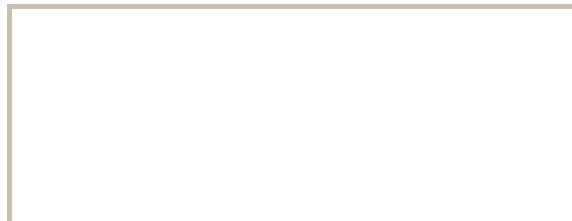
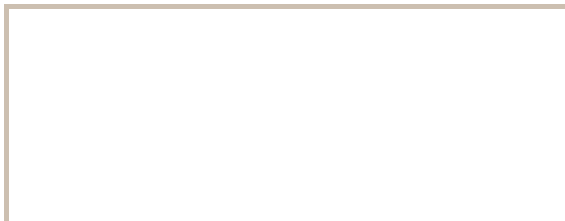
Our League members stepped up to assist clerks in Grosse Pointe Park (September 23) and Grosse Pointe Woods (September 24) to help process absentee ballots for the November 5th election. Both clerks were very grateful for our help. Clerk Derrick Kozicki made a financial donation to our League, which is greatly appreciated.

Grosse Pointe Park volunteers

Sue Acton, Sarah Coats, Holly Cory, Diana Domin, Mary Garlough, Lauri Kingsbury, Judy Masserang, Deb Sloss, Heather Ulku and Mickie Verderbar,

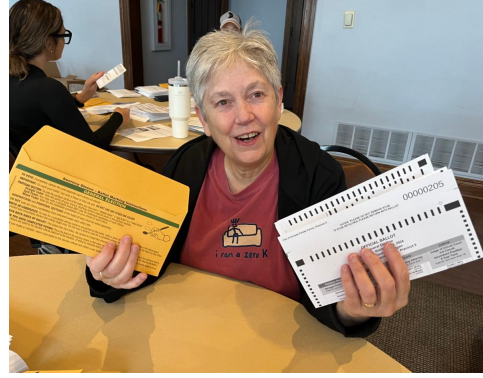
Grosse Pointe Farms volunteers

Patti Cardoze, Rick Cardoze, Karen Feldman, Judy Florian, Mary Garlough, Martha Hutting, Laura Larson, Carol Lufburrow, Liz Martin, Judy Masserang, Julianne Phillips, Marcia Powell and Julie Rayes.





Marcia Powell processes absentee ballots in GP Woods.



Carol Lufburrow sorts absentee ballots for mailing in GP Woods.

Protecting Our Freedom to Read

The American Library Association publishes a “snapshot” of the books challenged or banned the previous year. The ALA documented 4,240 titles that were challenged or banned in 2023. That’s a 65% increase compared to 2022. Take a look at the Top 10 list [here](#).

The League of Women Voters takes a clear, firm stand against book bans. LWVGP showed the way when we adopted local advocacy positions on school and public libraries last year. LWV Michigan asked us to prepare and propose a similar position at our 2023 convention. We went national earlier this year presenting a workshop to more than 150 people at the national League convention. Our website has links to these positions [here](#).

At the League’s Candidate Forum for School Board Trustee on September 18th, each candidate was asked the following question: *What is your position on removing or banning books in school libraries and in curricula?* You can view their responses on our YouTube [channel here](#).

Help protect our freedom to read. Support our public libraries - borrow a book, video, or a tool. The Grosse Pointe Public Library has a wide variety of hand and power tools available free of charge. Grosse Pointe Rotary started this collection years ago. Check it out [here](#). Get homework help. Relax for 30 minutes and read a book or magazine. Attend a community program. Join the Friends of the Library. Patrons can even access [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) from home.

The Harper Woods Public Library has a dedicated children’s section and a comfortable reading area. Visit their website at this [link](#).

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Jane Jasper, GPP

Julia Miller, GP

Penny Pitts, 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* 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Questions about membership? Contact our Membership Committee at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

With Sympathy

We are sorry to report the loss of Lifetime Member, Sylvia Sanders, who passed away on July 29th in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Sylvia served the League in various capacities, including voter services and membership. She will be remembered most for her efficient work as the League's Historian. She maintained the League's historical records for many years. Sylvia was initially a member of the Detroit League, then transferred to the Grosse Pointe League. For a few years, she co-owned a resale toy store, Moms' Toy Attic. In her later career years, she was an architectural librarian at Albert Kahn Associates in Detroit. Sylvia treasured her League work and would do just about anything to further our mission. She will be missed.

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, 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): Marge Freundl
- 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

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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