



The Voter Newsletter September 2025

*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 3:** *Join or Die* film, Edsel Ford House, 6 p.m.
- September 9:** Candidate Forum, GP Mayor and City Council, Unitarian Church, 7 p.m.
- September 16:** Board meeting, Central Library, 7 p.m.
- September 16:** *Join or Die* film, GP Central Library, 6 p.m.
- September 23:** Candidate Forum, GPP City Council, Pierce Middle School, 7 p.m.
- September 30:** Candidate Forum, HW City Council, Wayne County Community College, 7 p.m.
- October 1:** *Join or Die* Event, GP War Memorial, 6-9 p.m. (see article below)
- October 5:** 75th Anniversary Celebration, Country Club of Detroit, GP Farms, 4-6 p.m.

President's Message

Greetings, Folks!

I can't believe autumn is almost here! We have several important matters on our agenda in the next couple of months. The first is our local elections. As always, the League has planned and scheduled candidate forums for these elections. Who our representatives are, at the local level, can have a huge impact on our daily lives and the quality of our lives. Please consider participating in these forums in some way. Our Voter Services Team does a tremendous job informing our citizens of the candidates on the November ballot.



Recently, I was reading about the late Margaret Chase Smith, Republican Senator from Maine. Senator Chase Smith was one of the first to speak out against the tactics of the House Un-American Activities (HUAC) Committee on

the Senate floor during the 1950's. She spoke about the four principles of Americanism: The right to criticize, the right to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest, and the right to hold independent thought. In many ways, these are the four cornerstones of democracy. Our mission is to protect democracy and citizen's right to vote without unreasonable obstacles. In today's world, these words still hold meaning.

Our democracy is never something we can take for granted. It is currently under attack. The League is fighting against these attacks. At the national level, we are part of a campaign called Unite & Rise 8.5. Our state League has created a Mobilization Network to assist with this effort. See the article below about how you can participate. Thank you to Vicki Granger for chairing this at our local level.

Our state League has joined with the Promote the Vote (PTV) Action Committee to advocate against signing petitions requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote. In addition, there are many other petitions being circulated on a variety of issues. We are encouraging citizens to ask questions before they sign petitions and to be sure it is something they support. Petition circulators are often hired from outside the area and will often times lie about what the petition actually represents. The **Know What You Sign** campaign is underway. See article below about how you can access the language for the potential ballot petitions for 2026.

We had a great turn-out for our annual picnic. It was wonderful to see so many faces, some old and some new. As we begin our fall activities, I hope you can find a place to help. See you at the candidate forums!

Lynne Pierce, President



Annual Picnic Wrap-Up

Over 50 people attended our Annual Membership Picnic at Neff Park on August 26. President Lynne Pierce welcomed new members and read an inspiring message from LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart; Sue Acton, VP for Voter Services,

provided an update on election related activities (see article on candidate forums below); Judy Masserang updated members on the 75th Anniversary Celebration; Liz Martin provided an update on Observer Corps; and Lauri Kingsbury gave an advocacy report. It was a pleasure to welcome local elected officials, Michelle Hodges, Mayor GPP, Valerie Kindle, Mayor Harper Woods, Sheila Tomkowiak, Mayor GP City, and council members Vicki Granger GPW, and Gerianne LaPratt HW, and Nicole Castka, Judge Third District Court-Wayne County.

Attendees savored a variety of delicious dishes, including many yummy desserts! A special thanks to Chair, Diana Domin and members Catherine Dumke, Mary Jo Johnson, Geri LaPratt, Erin O'Mara, Kathy Rogers, Jan Ryndress, Deb Sloss, Deb Voorhees, and Mary Zahler for their hard work in making this annual event a success!



Celebrating our Past, Present and Future: 75th Anniversary Event

Invitations are in the mail for our 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Date: Sunday, October 5

Time: 4-6 p.m. (program begins at 4:45 p.m.)

Location: Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms

This is a formal event and a fundraiser for our League. The cost is \$75/person, which includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Our guest speaker will be Barbara McQuade,

former US Attorney, author and University of Michigan Professor. The response deadline is September 15th.

To make this event a success, we invite you to help in one (or both) of the following ways:

1. Make a personal contribution, beyond the \$75 ticket price. Your gift, no matter the size, directly supports both this special event and our ongoing voter service work.
2. Reach out to potential sponsors. Local businesses, organizations, and community leaders may be eager to support this historic celebration.

Contributions can be sent, by check payable to *LWV Grosse Pointe*, to 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or electronically by using PayPal at this [link](#). Contributions will be accepted through September 20th.

Every effort — big or small — will make a difference! Thank you for supporting the League and helping us mark 75 years of empowering voters and defending democracy!

We hope you will join us to help us celebrate this important milestone for LWVGP!

Questions can be directed to 75th Anniversary Committee Chair Judy Masserang at lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Candidate Forums Scheduled

All voting is local and we will have the following contested municipal races in our communities on November 4.

Grosse Pointe City

Mayor Candidates: (1 open seat)
Sheila Tomkowiak
Christopher Boettcher

City Council Candidates: (3 open seats)

David Calcaterra
David T. Fries
Maureen Juip
Chris D. Walsh

City of Grosse Pointe Farms*

Mayor Candidates (1 open seat)
John J. Gillooly
Joe Ricci

Harper Woods

City Council (3 open seats)
Teresa Foster
Sheila Hakim
Vivian M. Sawicki
Ivery Toussant, Jr.

City of Grosse Pointe Park

City Council Candidates (3 open seats)
Thomas J. Caulfield
Patrick Gleason
Olga Merametdjian
Max Wiener

The candidate forum schedule is as follows:

September 9, City of Grosse Pointe [Click here to submit questions](#)

Mayor and City Council combined, 7 p.m.
Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Avenue, GP 48230

September 23, City of Grosse Pointe Park [Click here to submit questions](#)

City Council, 7 p.m.
Pierce Middle School, 15430 Kercheval Avenue, GPP 48230

September 30, Harper Woods [Click here to submit questions](#)

City Council, 7 p.m.
Wayne County Community College, 19305 Vernier Road, HW 48225

*It is unfortunate there will be no candidate forum for the Grosse Pointe Farms Mayor race since one candidate declined to participate.

Voter Services needs help with question sorters, timekeepers, greeters and setup. You can sign up for one or more of these activities at this [link](#).

Even if you can't sign up to help, we encourage all League members to attend our candidate forums!

Questions? Contact Sue Acton, VP for Voter Services at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Other Voter Services News

National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)

September 16 is a nationwide day set apart to promote voter registration. We have partnered with the GP Public Libraries to highlight the day with a promotional display, including materials from NVRD and LWVGP, plus related books from the library. Check it out at any branch. Tell your friends.

Absentee Ballot Preparation

Both Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms are seeking volunteers to prepare the mailing of absentee ballots for residents that have requested them. Save these dates:

Grosse Pointe Park— September 17, 9 a.m. at City Hall, Clerk's Office
Grosse Pointe Farms—September 23, 10 a.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

You can sign up for either of the above locations at this [link](#).

Poll Workers

Consider being a poll worker this year. It's the best way to learn about the outstanding security procedures for elections in Michigan. Bonus: you'll get paid.

LWVUS Unite and Rise 8.5

LWVMI has established a Unite and Rise 8.5 Mobilization Network in response to National's initiative.

At least [31 states have enacted 114 voting](#) laws to make it harder for people to vote!

What can you do right now? Tell Congress to guarantee the right to vote!
Equality — and our democracy — cannot wait.

[Click and send a letter](#) to your representatives in support of an amendment to the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), that was introduced by the late Congressman John L. Lewis. See more in the Advocacy article below.

Equality — and our democracy — cannot wait.

Vicki Granger, LWVGP rep to LWVMI Unite and Rise 8.5 Network



Advocacy Committee Update

State Study Group Will Review LWVMI Advocacy Position on Election Law

This September, LWVMI will hold the first meeting of the Michigan Election Law Study Group. Local League members Carol Lufburrow, Joanne Swanson, and Lauri Kingsbury will participate in this project reviewing the state Advocacy position. You can read these position at <https://lwvmi.org/lwvmi-positions/>. Click on Government.

In case you missed this . . .

Five minutes of your time - Advocate for Democracy

Every single call and email is important. Thanks for contacting our elected officials.

Protect Your Right to Vote

When Senators Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin return to Washington, D.C. in September, the *Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act* will be on the agenda. It requires documentary proof of citizenship, placing an unnecessary burden on every voter and our hard-working clerks. The House of Representatives passed this bill in April 2025. Tell Senators Peters and Slotkin to vote “No” on the SAVE ACT.

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-your-senators-oppose-save-act>

Tell your representatives and senators to vote for the *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*.

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-congress-guarantee-right-vote>

Cuts to essential services

The *One Big Beautiful Bill*, enacted in July, defunded Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, Planned Parenthood, and other essential services that our tax dollars pay for. Tell our elected officials affects you and your family. Find a call script at <https://www.lwv.org/take-action/hold-congress-accountable-one-big-beautiful-bill>

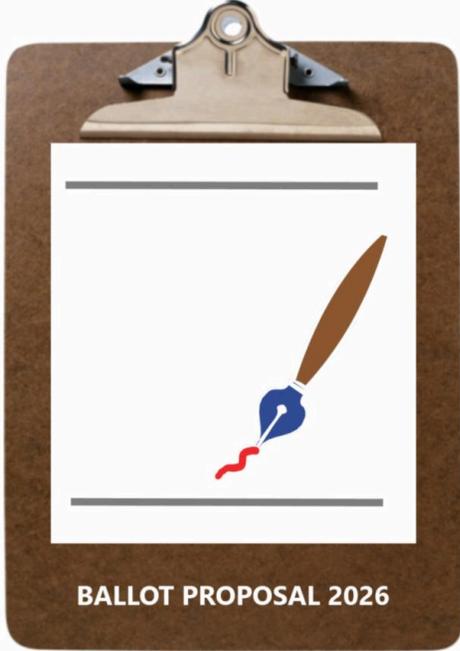
Every action we take strengthens our community and our democracy!

Lauri Kingsbury, Advocacy Director

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MICHIGAN

Know What You Sign!

When Signing a Ballot Proposal Petition



What is said in **PETITIONS** and about them, can be misleading and confusing. Be certain you know exactly what the ballot proposal will do and how it will affect you.

Use the QR code for information about the 2026 Ballot Proposals.
Or use this link: lwvmi.org



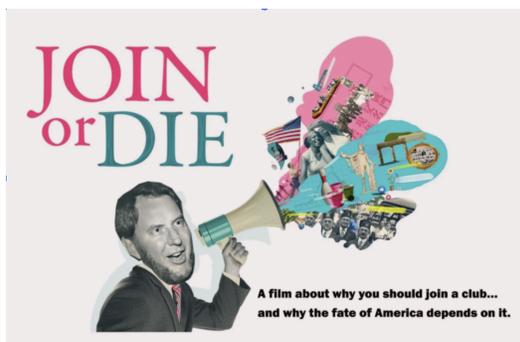
Know What You Sign Campaign

LWVMI has initiated the Know What You Sign campaign related to the potential ballot proposals for 2026. Their approach is to educate our communities on what ballot proposals have currently been approved by the Board of State Canvassers.

1. AxMITax – a constitutional amendment
2. Protect Voters' Rights – a constitutional amendment
3. Voters to Stop Pay Cuts – a referendum on Public Act (PA) 1 of 2025
4. Rank MI Vote - a constitutional amendment
5. Americans for Citizens Voting – Version 1 - a constitutional amendment
6. Americans for Citizens Voting – Version 2 - a constitutional amendment
7. Invest in MI Kids – a constitutional amendment
8. Michiganders for Money Out of Politics - an initiative

The petitions have a long process to complete before we know if any of them will be on the statewide ballot in November 2026. A brief description of these petitions is available at lvvmi.org under **Know What You Sign** on the home page.

One proposal will automatically be on the November 2026 ballot. The Michigan Constitution, Article XII requires that every 16 years the question of a general revision of the constitution at a constitutional convention shall be presented to the Michigan electors.



Join or Die Program-War Memorial

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial is hosting a powerful community event inspired by the acclaimed documentary *Join or Die* on October 1. While this event will not include a full screening of the film, it will feature a live conversation and audience Q&A with award-winning co-filmmaker Rebecca Davis. The program

will explore the film's urgent themes — from the decline of civic engagement to the transformative power of joining local organizations.

Following the conversation, their Community Joiner Fair will provide a space to connect with local clubs, nonprofits, and civic organizations. Whether you're passionate about a hobby, a cause, or simply meeting new people, you'll find opportunities to get involved and make a difference.

Note: The film will be shown in its entirety on September 3 (Ford House) and September 16 (Central Library). Both events begin at 6 p.m. Check their respective websites for further information.

Registration is required-use this [link](#).

Membership Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Membership Committee is seeking volunteers for the following event:

Friday, October 24: North/South Tailgate party, that precedes the Grosse Pointe Homecoming football game, which will be played at GP South this year. We need 3 more volunteers for this event. The tailgate is from 5-7 p.m., with set up any time after 4 p.m. Previous volunteers indicate this is one of the most fun events of the year. Please send an email to lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com with the subject line: Volunteer for Oct. 24 Tailgate Party.

Judy Masserang, Director, Membership

Kercheval After 6 Event

Thanks to members Wilhelmina Giblin, Lauri Kingsbury, and Judy Masserang for representing LWVGP at the Kercheval After 6 family-friendly event on August 23.

- Many people stopped by our table to say "Thank you for what you do."
- A young mother with two grade school girls raved about our candidate forums and how they helped her and her husband decide who to vote for.
- A couple, who just moved to Michigan, asked for voter registration information.
- A young woman stated, "I use your election guide every election, I wouldn't vote without it."
- Our League members emphasized using the **Know What You Sign** information before signing any petitions.

This is a great end-of-summer event and nice to know people in our community value our work!



Pictured, left to right: Judy Masserang, Michelle Hodges (member and GPP Mayor) and Wilhelmina Giblin.

Member Spotlight: Diana Domin

Diana Domin earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art from Wayne State University. She began a 20-year career in banking, which included electronic banking (ATM) and reconciliation. After that career, she worked briefly in the Business Office at Pewabic Pottery, then later was approached by a friend to



work in his insurance agency. His philosophy was to hire someone who was not "tainted" by previous experience in the industry, and she was 'fully qualified with no qualifications'.

Diana joined the LWVGP in her late 30's when her children were both in school. Her mother was a member of the Detroit League Diana's entire life, which provided her the recognition of the value of the League to the community. Diana also enjoyed the intellectual stimulation the League provided to

members, which was particularly important in the sixties and seventies, when many women did not work outside of the home.

Diana has served our local League in several capacities, including 1) A member of the Education Fund board; 2) Secretary, 3) Membership Director; 4) Program Committee and currently, as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Diana was also the lead coordinator for this year's Annual Membership Picnic.

Diana feels the candidate forums and voter registration activities are the League's most visible activities and enjoys assisting with these events that emphasize our service to the community. She is pleased to have met many truly inspiring women in the League, and is impressed with the quality of programs our League provides.

In her retirement, Diana enjoys some art activities, babysitting her grandchildren, reading, traveling, and walking and biking in our beautiful community.

Membership Dues Update

Thank you to everyone who's renewed their dues and sent us contributions. We've finally reconciled the payments made through LWVUS's new system to our bank account. It was quite an effort, but worth it now that it's in the rearview mirror.

We've discovered that any payments made directly to our League, then paid through the LWVUS system results in LWVGP receiving our full share with no fees assessed. So our League gained more money with this method that we can use to inform our residents on voting rights issues and candidate forums.

If you haven't yet paid your dues, please consider sending a check directly to our mailing address or making a payment through PayPal on our website.

- Mailing address: 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.
- PayPal [link](#): This is the preferred method for dues payments in the future.

Thanks again for your generosity.

Carol Lufburrow, Treasurer

LWVGP Members Connect With LWVMI

Thanks to the following members who have or continue to represent LWVGP in activities with our Michigan League.

Wayne County Board of Canvassers observers August primary: Diana

Domin, Dawn Drozd, Judy Florian

Local Leaders/Presidents Network: Lynne Pierce

Program Planning Committee and Advocacy Network: Lauri Kingsbury

Treasurers' Network: Carol Lufburrow

Membership Network: Catherine Dumke, Judy Masserang, Martha Hutting (DEI)

Observer Corps Network: Liz Martin

Voter Services Network: Sue Acton, Holly Cory

Unite & Rise 8.5 Network: Vicki Granger

LWVMI Treasurer: Tom Wells

LWVMI VP for Voter Service: Judy Florian

LWVGP Board through June 30, 2026

Executive Board (Elected)

- President: Lynne Pierce
- Vice President Programs: Vacant
- Vice President Voter Services: Sue Acton
- Secretary: Ruth Hoover
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow

On-Board Directors (Elected)

- Acting Director (Programs): Kathy Rogers
- Director (Voter Services): Holly Cory
- Director (Membership): Catherine Dumke
- Director (Membership): Judy Masserang
- 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: Martha Hutting
- 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: Raymond Andary
- Webmaster: Vicki Granger
- Voter Newsletter Co-editors: Judy Florian and Vicki Granger

Nominating Committee: Diana Domin (Chair), Kathy Cernok and Gerianne LaPratt (Members)

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

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!