

## *The Voter Newsletter* October 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**

**October 1:** *Join or Die* Event, GP War Memorial, 6-9 p.m.

**October 5:** 75th Anniversary Celebration, Country Club of Detroit, GP Farms, 4-6 p.m.

**October 13:** GPPSS 2025 Bond Forum, Brownell Middle School, 7 p.m.

**October 18:** No Kings 2 Mobilization (see article below)

**October 20:** New Member Orientation via Zoom, 7 p.m. (see below)

**October 21:** New Member Orientation via Zoom, 2 p.m. (see below)

**October 21:** LWVGP Board meeting, GP Central Library, 7 p.m.

### **President's Message**

Greetings, folks!

We certainly have a busy fall for a “non-election” year. Of course, we have local elections; we are almost done with our candidate forums. We encourage citizens to take advantage of the permanent absentee ballot list if they are interested.

We will be hosting an informational meeting about the school millage on October 13. See below for more details.

The LWVUS has been very busy trying to fight the rising tide of authoritarianism we are facing in this country. We had over 600 Leagues nationwide participating in National Voter Registration Day. Hopefully, you saw our displays located in our local libraries.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has issued a mandate barring groups like the League from attending naturalization services. Traditionally, local Leagues have provided voter registration materials to new citizens. Our national League is developing strategies to deal with this.

Recently, LWVUS decided to partner with the No Kings 2 event scheduled for October 18. If you are interested in participating, see the article below. Since it is



now an approved partnership, we are free to attend these rallies using our LWV identifiers.

On the state level, we are providing information to citizens regarding the various petitions circulating, especially those placing restrictions on voting rights. We have partnered with the Promote the Vote Action Committee for advocacy purposes. Locally, we will be doing educational presentations on Know What You Sign. LWVMI will provide grant funding, up to a maximum of \$400, for these presentations. Look for these events in the upcoming months.

We have over 100 people signed up for our Anniversary event on Oct. 5, so registration is closed. It promises to be a grand event. Hope to see you there!

Lynne Pierce, President

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The poster is for the LWV League of Women Voters' of Grosse Pointe 75th Anniversary (1950-2025). It features the LWV logo and the text "Celebrating our Past, Present and Future". A large red banner with "SOLD OUT!" is overlaid on the poster. The event is scheduled for Sunday at the Club of Detroit, 7 Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms. The guest speaker is Barbara McQuade, Former US Attorney and U of M Law Professor. The event includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Reservations are required, and contact information is provided: lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF GROSSE POINTE

Celebrating  
our Past,  
Present and  
Future

**75th**  
ANNIVERSARY  
1950 – 2025

Sund

**SOLD OUT!**

Club of Detroit  
7 Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms

**Guest Speaker**  
Barbara McQuade  
Former US Attorney  
U of M Law Professor



Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres

Reservations required. Contact [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com)

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**NO KINGS 2 – LWVUS is a NATIONAL PARTNER.  
Please join an event!**

From our President, Dianna Wynn: “LWVUS has decided to become an official partner for this day of mobilization to stand in solidarity with partners and stand up against hate and authoritarianism. The League has consistently and boldly spoken up in the face of rising authoritarianism. This is an opportunity to put words into action and show up in defense of democracy and as an effective ally.

“We encourage Leagues to lean in locally and participate in activations with partners on the ground in a nonpartisan manner. We understand that we cannot control how other partners show up, and participating in any event comes with some risk. For Leagues who decide to mobilize for No Kings, please utilize our protest safety guidance ...on the League Management Site. If representing the League or wearing LWV shirts (which we encourage), please use good judgment when creating signs and participating in nonpartisan chants.”

**No Kings 2 - Eastside Rally**

Saturday, October 18, 11 am-1 pm

Corner of Mack and Cadieux

Organized by: Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Coalition Democracy Coalition

**No Kings 2 - Detroit Rally**

Saturday, October 18, 3 - 5 pm

Roosevelt Park, 2231 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48216

Organized by: No Kings with partners including Mobilize, 50501 and more

Register at: <https://www.mobilize.us/nokings/event/841630/>

We hope you will attend one or both of these events.

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**Voter Services**

Two of three candidate forums are complete, with the final forum scheduled for September 30 for the Harper Woods City Council. Here are links to the completed forum recordings. Check our [LWVGP YouTube Channel](#) later this week for the Harper Woods Forum recording.

- Grosse Pointe City Mayor/Council-view recording [here](#).
- Grosse Pointe Park City Council-view recording [here](#).

### **National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)**

September 16 was a nationwide day to promote voter registration. We partnered with the Grosse Pointe 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. Special thanks to LWVGP member Annie Spence for her work in developing the displays.

### **Poll Workers**

Consider being a poll worker for the November 4th election. It's the best way to learn about our secure elections, plus you get paid. Sign up with your local clerk or visit this [link](#).

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### **Grosse Pointe Public Schools 2025 Bond Forum**

LWVGP will host GPPSS Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle, who will present information on the school's bond proposal, followed by a Q and A session. The school bond is on the November 4, 2025 ballot in all five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.



The event is Monday, October 13, at 7 pm, at Brownell Middle School (Multipurpose Room).

Residents are invited to submit questions in advance. Residents who attend the presentation may also submit questions that evening. Use the link [here](#) to submit questions.

The Program Committee needs 6 - 8 LWVGP members to welcome attendees and distribute and collect question cards.

Please contact Kathy Rogers at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com) if you would like to assist. Put SCHOOL BOND PROPOSAL in the subject line.

To learn more about the school bond, visit <https://www.gpschools.org/2025bond>.

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### **Member Spotlight: Judy Morlan**

Judy Morlan, a Lifetime Member and a 50-year member of our own LWV Grosse Pointe, joined the League all those years ago when she met JoAnn Kelly. Both Judy and JoAnn had small



children, and they met while their children were part of a church nursery group.

And the rest is history!

Judy became interested in the League and its activities, and joined, becoming one of our League's most active members for many years. Judy is a past president, but also wore numerous hats, including VP for Program and work in Voter Services.

Judy remembers when the League also offered babysitting at events so stay-at-home moms could attend programs.

Judy grew up in Dearborn, and met her future husband, Gordon, also a long-time League member, at Ottawa College in Kansas. They married in 1960 and returned to Michigan. Judy finished her bachelor's degree at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, and they soon returned to the east side of the state. Both Judy and Gordon were teachers, and Judy began her career in elementary schools in Grosse Pointe. She taught reading, science, and English, but later became a middle school science teacher. The majority of her teaching career was at Brownell Middle School (Grosse Pointe Farms) while Gordon taught science at Grosse Pointe North.

After retirement, Judy and Gordon continued to live in Grosse Pointe Park, and after a few years at a senior community in Dearborn, recently returned to the Grosse Pointes. They are now at The Rivers in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Judy continues to attend LWVGP events and we are always happy to see her!

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## Advocacy Committee Report

### How Voters Influence Public Policy: Call Your Legislators!

Our elected officials pay attention to their constituents when we let them know what we're thinking and feeling. One personal email represents 10-50 voters. One phone call represents 100-1,000 voters. **Phone calls have the greatest impact.**

Staffers answer the phones, open the mail, relay messages to the elected official. Legislators rely on their staff to develop, sponsor, and vote on bills. **Talk to the staff.**

**Keep It Short & Simple** Mention a specific issue and make a specific request.

Here's how to begin: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I live at \_\_\_\_\_." This information lets them know you are a constituent and a voter.

Next, describe a specific bill that you feel strongly about. Here's a few examples:

- "Please don't take away Medicaid funding. It's the only health care insurance my elderly neighbor has."
- "I object to your vote on the recent bill allowing any person to carry a firearm on school property. I have school children whose friends have been shot."

The best times to call are Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.- noon, and 2-4 p.m. If your call goes to voicemail, *don't hang up*. Leave a message using your script.

Individual, personal contact counts. Defend our democracy. Let your legislator know your concerns.

What to know more? Michigan State University, The Conversation: "Contacting your legislator? Cite your sources-if you want them to listen to you." Use this [link](#) to learn more.

**Next month:** What to include in a personal letter to your legislator.

Representative Veronica Paiz, MI House District 10  
Lansing office 517-373-0857

Senator Kevin Hertel, MI Senate District 12  
Lansing office 517-373-7315

### **More Advocacy News**

At the Sept. 16, 2025 LWVGP Board meeting, the Advocacy Committee asked for Board approval to submit two Support/Oppose Forms to LWVMI. This form is a formal request for LWVMI action in the Michigan legislature on a state advocacy position.

**The first one** requests that LWVMI oppose the omission of funding for the Library Services and Technology Act. The LWVMI Advocacy Committee declined to support any specific line item in the budget for Fiscal Year 2026. League members have received an Action Alert urging each one to call their state senator and representative to demand they pass a budget to avoid a shutdown.

**Our second request** urged support of House Bill 4251, the District Library Freedom to Read Act. It's currently stalled in committee. This bill empowers library directors with final responsibility for selection of materials in the collection; sets standards for requests to remove an item; prohibits requests for removal based on religion, race, sexual orientation, and other criteria; and establishes penalties for noncompliance. This bill is very similar to the public library position LWVGP developed for our community and subsequently achieved approval as a statewide position.

Our state League Board of Directors will consider this request at their next

meeting, Saturday, October 11.

Advocacy Director Lauri Kingsbury read a public comment describing these actions at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees meeting, Thursday evening, Sept. 25. After the meeting, trustees asked that she give their thanks to all members of LWVGP for all the work they do for our six communities. Lauri will read the same comment at the next Harper Woods Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.

Lauri Kingsbury, Advocacy Director

What are the League's positions on various issues? Click [here](#) to learn more.

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### Observer Corps Holds Quarterly Meeting

The Observer Corps held a lively first quarter meeting on Thursday, September 25, at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

In addition to their regular business, guest speaker Derrick Kozicki, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk for Grosse Pointe Farms, provided information and

answered questions regarding the reduction of voting precincts and the consolidation of polling locations. He also addressed observers' concerns about sound systems and the audibility of speakers at City Council, Library Board, and School Board meetings.

It was an interesting, informative and fun evening!

Photo (L to R):

Back row - Catherine Dumke, Loren Mannino, Melissa Levasseur, Margaret Poynter, and Joan Hall

Front row - Kathy Cernok, Liz Martin, Derrick Kozicki, and Marge Freundl

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### Volunteers Needed for North/South Tailgate

The Membership Committee is seeking volunteers for the following event:

**Friday, October 24:** North/South Tailgate party, that precedes the annual football game between our two GP high schools. The game is 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. You can sign up at this [link](#).

**Welcome New Members**

- Alicia Carlisle (GPF)
- Theresa Fields (GPF)
- Mariel Krupansky (Harper Woods)
- Elizabeth Zatina (GPP)

### New Member Orientation Links

- October 20, 7:00 p.m.; Zoom link [here](#).
- October 21, 2:00 p.m.; Zoom link [here](#).

### Sad News

We are sorry to report that Lifetime member Suzanne Suski passed away in August after a long illness. Suzanne was recognized at our 2024 Annual Meeting as a Lifetime Member, with continuous membership in our League since January 1974.

Suzanne was active with our LWVGP study group on government issues and received calls from LWVMI for needed member actions. She served as our President from 1981-83 and as a delegate to the LWVUS National Convention in Houston. She was a graduate, with honors, from both Northern Michigan University and Wayne State University. She retired after a long career in teaching.

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## LWVGP Board Meeting Highlights

- **Update on 75th Anniversary** event at the Country Club of Detroit.
- **Voter Services**, led by Holly Cory, to participate in LWVMI Text Banking Project to encourage 640,000 voters who voted in 2020, but not in 2024, to sign up for the Permanent Mail Ballot List.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Available funds: \$13,219.40; retained earnings: \$25,822.92. Receiving many donations for 75th Anniversary celebration, plus monitoring membership dues. Encourage those who have not renewed to make payment as soon as possible.

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## 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)

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## **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)



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