

The Voter Newsletter March 2026

75 Years of Serving the communities of
Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park,
Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Harper Woods

Calendar

March: Women's History Month

March 8: International Women's Day

March 17: LWVGP Board Meeting, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 7 p.m.

March 28: No Kings - Mass Mobilization (see article below)

April 6: New Member Orientation, Home of Judy Masserang, 7 p.m.

April 21: LWVGP Board Meeting, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 7 p.m.

April 21: Voter Registration—HW High School, 10:00 a.m.

May 1: Voter Registration—GP North High School, 7:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

May 1: Voter Registration—GP South High School, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

May 4: Voter Registration—University Liggett, 9:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

May 30: Annual meeting, *details to follow*

President's Message

Greetings, folks!

Our national League is busier than ever when it comes to litigation to protect our voting rights. The landscape changes on almost a daily basis; the LWVUS is involved in dozens of lawsuits nationwide. The Supreme Court has recently ruled against the president's tariffs. The SAVE Act is working its way through Congress (see article below). These are just a few of the most recent events happening on the national scene.

A troubling effort is underway targeting our personal data. The federal government is "requesting" unredacted voter records from nearly every state, claiming it is necessary to ensure "accurate state voting processes." It has filed lawsuits against 24 states and the District of Columbia for refusing to comply. The LWVUS has filed to intervene in 7 of these cases. We are advocating that this is a blatant and illegal violation of voter privacy.

Michigan is one of the states that refused to turn over our voter data. On February 10, 2026, the federal court ruled in favor of Michigan. Of course, this will probably be appealed by the Department of Justice, and the US Supreme Court will likely have the final say. Michigan has one of the most secure voting processes in the country, involving 83 county clerks, 281 city clerks and 1,240



township clerks, Michigan's election system is administered by 1,604 county and local election officials, making it the most decentralized election system in the nation.

In Michigan, a 2025 review of the voter rolls found that noncitizens voting accounted for approximately 0.00028% of all ballots cast in the 2024 general election—15 confirmed or suspected cases out of more than 5.7 million votes. Michigan's election system has been confirmed by official post-election audits and recounts to be secure, accurate, and reflective of voters' will. Michigan does not need the federal government interfering with our election process!

The LWVUS has also filed suit against the Department of Homeland Security, challenging the government's attempt to pool data across several federal agencies. Why should we be so concerned about the government's grab for private data? Our position is that this will result in unlawful purges and possible criminal prosecution of lawfully registered voters. Once they have the data, they could create a massive intra-agency database with unfettered access to our personal data. There's no telling how that information might ultimately be used.

In closing, I quote our LWVUS CEO, Celina Stewart:

The Department of Justice should be protecting voters, not putting their personal information at risk. There is no justification for the federal government to demand access to sensitive voter data under the guise of election security. These actions erode public trust and undermine democracy.

Lynne Pierce, President

February 11th Program Planning Meeting Summary

Each year, local Leagues gather to review the national program of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). The program outlines key governmental issues selected by members for study and action.

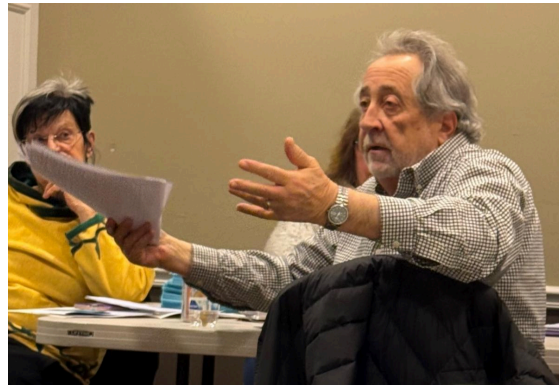
This year's focus areas include Voting Rights, Election Protection, Redistricting, Individual Liberties, Immigration, and the Presidency. After thoughtful review and discussion, members of the LWVGP unanimously approved all six areas. Members also recommended adding two additional program topics for consideration: Money in Politics and an International Agreement on Bridges.

In addition to program planning, Leagues review and vote on proposed positions that may be placed on the agenda for the upcoming biennial convention. One position was submitted to local Leagues this year for review and concurrence. Concurrence allows members to agree with a position reached by another League, enabling the issue to move forward for broader consideration. The League of Women Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset submitted proposed additions to the national League's Privatization Position. Following a spirited discussion, members voted: 12 in favor of concurrence, 11 opposed, and 5 abstained. Our League's results will be forwarded to the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) and LWVUS. While our delegates are not bound to vote a particular way at convention, the concurrence process ensures the issue will be debated.

Twenty-nine members attended the meeting, including new members Lynne Aldrich, Clara Dixon, Gail Mixa, Bernadette Pieczynski, and Jan Vern.

Announcements

- Unite and Rise 8.5 actions include coalition-building efforts, guidance for participating in marches and public events, and more. **See article below.**
- Members are encouraged to contact Michigan's U.S. Senators to voice opposition to the SAVE Act (see related article in this newsletter).



League members listen and participate in the program planning discussion on February 11.

What is the SAVE Act?

- Requires Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) to register to vote
- All voters must show proof of citizenship (Passport, Birth Certificate, or Naturalization Certificate)
- Passed House, now pending in the Senate

Tell your Senators: Protect Voting Rights!
www.lvv.org/save-act

Barriers to the Ballot: Documentary Proof of Citizenship and the SAVE Act

False claims that large numbers of noncitizens voted in the 2024 general election have precipitated a surge of proposed legislation in 2025. Among these proposals is the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE

America) Act. The SAVE Act would require individuals to provide Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) in order to register to vote. Under such proposals, voters would need to present a citizenship document—such as a passport or birth certificate—when registering or updating their voter registration.

The SAVE Act is not a voter ID requirement. It would require individuals to present documentary proof of citizenship—documents people may not have

readily accessible or may not possess at all. According to the U.S. Department of State, primary evidence of citizenship includes a birth certificate, U.S. passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Certificate of Citizenship, and Naturalization Certificate. Michigan's Enhanced Driver's License is sufficient to confirm citizenship, but citizenship is not actually indicated on the license. While Real ID-compliant driver's licenses are sometimes assumed to verify citizenship, they do not conclusively establish it.

In addition, many birth certificates do not always reflect a voter's current legal name. Individuals who have changed their name through marriage or court order may need to provide additional documentation—such as a marriage certificate—to connect their proof of citizenship (for example, a birth certificate) with their current proof of identity (such as a driver's license). This added requirement increases the likelihood that eligible voters may not have the necessary documents readily available when attempting to register.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the SAVE Act. It is not yet law and is now in the Senate for consideration.

If enacted, the SAVE Act would place significant new burdens on both voters and election administrators. If you have not yet contacted your U.S. Senators, now is the time. If you have already reached out, thank you for taking action.

Please help spread the word. Encourage family members, friends, and colleagues—especially those in other states—to learn about the potential impact of this legislation and to contact their U.S. Senators to express their views.

Tips for Engaging Others

- Use a friendly, professional tone.
- Keep your message brief and factual.

Suggested Talking Points

- “Federal and state law already prohibit noncitizens from voting.”
- “In Michigan, a 2025 review of voter rolls found that noncitizens accounted for approximately 0.00028% of all ballots cast in the 2024 general election—15 confirmed or suspected cases out of more than 5.7 million votes.”

(Source: Michigan Secretary of State)

- “Petition circulators—whether paid or volunteer—are not required to provide a complete or accurate summary of an initiative.”

Here is a [link](#) to an article from the *Michigan Advance* about the SAVE Act.



Voter Services Update

Nine League members met at the home of Sue Acton to bundle 6000 Your Government Officials (YGO) brochures. These brochures are distributed to local clerks in the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communities.

Thanks for the help! Thanks to Sue Acton, Carole Bendure, Holly Cory, Catherine Dumke, Judy Masserang, Penny Pitts, Jan Ryndress, Deb Voorhees, and Deborah Weatherston (pictured above).

Voter Registration dates have been scheduled at Harper Woods (April 21), both GP North and GP South (May 1) and University Liggett (May 4). All dates/times are listed in the calendar above. We need volunteers-please use this [link](#) to sign up.

Member Spotlight: Joanne Swanson



Joanne Swanson's lifelong commitment to advocacy began in the early 1970s, when, as a reporter for the *Cadillac Evening News*, she covered the tragic slaughter of cows exposed to toxic PBB contamination. Witnessing the emotional toll on farmers, she realized she wanted not just to report the news, but to advocate for change. That moment sent her back to Detroit and into law school at Wayne State University, where she graduated in 1981.

Joanne went on to spend almost 42 years at the Detroit law firm of Kerr, Russell and Weber, becoming a partner and working on major antitrust, business, and appellate litigation, including landmark auto parts and Microsoft antitrust cases. A past president of the Detroit Bar Association, she continues her professional involvement as editor of *The Detroit Lawyer*.

A Grosse Pointe native and graduate of Grosse Pointe North, Joanne has lived in Grosse Pointe Farms since 1985. She has four children and four grandchildren. In 2025, she joined the League of Women Voters, motivated by a desire to respond constructively to political challenges and strengthen civic engagement. Since then, she has served on the Judicial Study Committee, participated in statewide election advocacy, and contributed to program planning.

Joanne says she values the League's integrity, credibility, and impact. "The people are smart, dedicated, and deeply compassionate. Being part of the League is both meaningful and gratifying."

In her spare time, Joanne enjoys gardening, reading, church involvement, and spending time with her family. She is grateful for the welcoming spirit of the League and is happy to contribute her experience and energy to its mission.

Senior Services Secured for Our Community

After two years of dedicated effort, senior services are now funded in our communities. Here's a look at the key steps that brought us to this milestone.

Spring 2024: The LWVGP Board approved the formation of a study group to examine senior services in our community. Led by LWVGP member Prudence Cole, the group included Sue Acton, Marge Freundl, and Vicki Granger. After a thorough review of local demographics, a survey of senior services across Michigan counties, and in-depth consultation with geriatrics specialists at Wayne State University, the group recommended adoption of a new local advocacy position.

Late Summer 2024: The Board approved the proposal, and members voted to add senior services to our local advocacy positions. See position statement at this [link](#).

Fall 2024: Voters in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods considered a six-year millage to fund senior services. The proposal passed in five communities. In Grosse Pointe Shores, the measure fell just short.

Spring 2025: The five participating communities appointed representatives to a newly formed Active Adult Commission (AAC), charged with overseeing and providing senior services. Working collaboratively with The Helm and Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services (PAATS), the AAC developed contracts acceptable to all parties. The Commission also contracted with the City of Grosse Pointe Farms to serve as the “city of record.”

January/February 2026: Millage funds from Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Harper Woods were transmitted to Grosse Pointe Farms, with the first electronic transfers completed on February 12, 2026.

Meanwhile, The Helm began redevelopment of a vacant office suite on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms to house a new adult day care program. The program will provide caregivers with needed respite time to run errands, attend appointments, and manage daily responsibilities. Funding for PAATS ensures that residents who rely on transportation services will continue to receive this vital support.

Serving on the AAC are LWVGP members Vicki Granger, chair; Maureen Juip, secretary; and Michele Hodges.

View all LWVGP positions at this [link](#).

February 2026 Board Meeting Highlights

- Molly McGrane-Cleary will fill the role of Historian due to the resignation of Annie Spence. The board unanimously approved this appointment. Welcome Molly! A very special thanks to Annie for her excellent work keeping our history updated and handling the archive records.
 - Motion made by Advocacy Committee that the LWVGP Board of Directors approve participation in the county-wide project to submit a Resolution opposing Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) to the Wayne County Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Director Kingsbury will coordinate this project with an anticipated due date the end of February/early March.
 - The Observer Corps held its 2nd Quarterly Meeting on February 5 at the GP Library, Central Branch. Andy Dervan was recognized for his exemplary work in observing the Harper Woods School Board.
 - Pursuant to the October 16, 2023 meeting to create a 501(C)(4), the board decided to pursue this status. This wasn't acted upon previously due to lack of volunteers to set up and administer.
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No Kings Partnership – Mass Mobilization March 28

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has once again chosen to serve as an official partner for the March 28 No Kings Day of Mobilization—a nationwide effort to stand in solidarity with our partners and push back against hate and authoritarianism.

The League has consistently and courageously spoken out as authoritarian threats have grown. This event offers an opportunity to turn those words into action by showing up in defense of democracy and standing as a strong, effective ally.

A nearby gathering will take place at the corner of Cadieux and Mack from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on March 28. See this [link](#), with further details to follow.



Updated U.S. Postal Service Postmark Rule-Does It Impact Voting?

You may have heard about the new United States Postal Service (USPS) rule and its potential impact on ballots. Under this new rule, which took effect December 24, 2025, mail might not receive a postmark on the day the postal service takes possession of the mail.

According to the USPS, the rule *does not change any existing postal operations or postmarking practices, but is instead intended to improve public understanding of postmarks and their relationship to the date of mailing.*

In Michigan, Absentee Voter Ballots (AVB) must be received by the clerk by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day and therefore are not dependent on postmarks. This postmark rule will not affect most Michigan voters. It is always a best practice for voters to mail their AVB well in advance of the election (no later than two weeks prior to Election Day) to ensure timely receipt and counting of the AVB.

If there is concern that there is not enough time to mail an AVB before the election, voters are encouraged to

- return their ballot to a local drop box;
- deliver their ballot, in person, to their early voting site (if available);
- take their ballot to their polling place on Election Day; or
- take their ballot to their clerk's office.

While news stories covering the issue have indicated that there will be an impact on voting, the **only** potential impact in Michigan will be for ballots under the Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment (MOVE) Act. MOVE ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the clerk by 6 days after the election.

Call for Nominations!

The Nominating Committee continues to seek nominations for the positions listed below. The terms of office are as follows: one-year term from 2026-27; two-year terms from 2026-28.

Vice President for Voter Services (two-year term)
Nominating Committee Chair (one year term)
Nominating Committee Member (one-year term)

If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone, please contact the nominating committee at lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Remembering Cathy McAdam

Cathy McAdam, a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities, passed away on February 23. She joined the League in 2019 and served in numerous leadership roles, including Chair of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and past LWVMI Board member.



Born prematurely in 1946 and blind since age 18, Cathy earned a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University and devoted her career to helping individuals with newly acquired disabilities live independently, including 20 years at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. A passionate champion for disability rights, Cathy also chaired disability advocacy commissions and served as Board Chair of the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Her dedication, resilience, and commitment to service made a lasting impact on her community. Cathy will be missed by her fellow League members and we extend our sincere sympathy to her family during this difficult time.

Visitation for Cathy will be held on Sunday, March 1, 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the A. H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods. In lieu

of flowers, Cathy wanted donations directed to the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind, 26777 Central Park Blvd STE 150, Southfield, MI 48076, a 501(c)(3) charity.

Cathy is pictured above with her leader dog, Betty, alongside fellow convention attendees Marge Freundl and Judy Florian at the 2023 League of Women Voters of Michigan Convention.



Unite and Rise 8.5 - Part Three: Building Power Through Partnerships

The LWVUS campaign, Unite and Rise 8.5, aims to encourage another 8.5 million U.S. citizens to vote in elections.

In addition to voter registration and awareness activities, LWVUS has also encouraged participation with other organizations that have a common mission.

But LWVUS also has guidelines for partnerships and participation in marches. Read the [blog post](#).

Vicki Granger
LWVGP Unite and Rise 8.5 Chair

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the following new members

- Sherryl Benton, Grosse Pointe
- Kathleen Carolin, Grosse Pointe Woods
- Deborah D'Arcy, Grosse Pointe Farms
- John Gillooly, Grosse Pointe Farms
- Angela Jones, Grosse Pointe Park
- Sue Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods
- Anne McAlpine, Grosse Pointe Woods
- Gail Mixa, Grosse Pointe Woods

Our total LWVGP Membership is now 142.

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: Molly McGrane-Cleary
- 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
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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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