

The Voter Newsletter April 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

- April 6:** New Member Orientation, Home of Judy Masserang, 7 p.m.
April 21: LWVGP Board Meeting, virtual on Zoom, 7 p.m.
April 21: Voter Registration—HW High School, 10 a.m.
April 22: *Eliminate the Electoral College Program*, GP Library, Central, 7:30 p.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, GP Memorial Church, 9 a.m. (see article below)

President's Message

Greetings, folks!

One of the League's basic tenets is that voting is a fundamental right of all citizens and it must be guaranteed.

Today, we are seeing attacks on voting rights across the country. The SAVE Act is currently in the Senate and is dangerously close to becoming law. This law would require documentary proof of citizenship to vote. A driver's license or state ID is not enough. A birth certificate, passport, or citizenship papers would be required. These documents are not readily available to many citizens. Aside from logistic issues, the cost can be beyond reach for many people.

A recent survey by the Brennan Center for Justice found that 21 million people nationwide could be disenfranchised. **If you haven't already contacted your US Senator to oppose this act, please do so at this [link](#).**

The Michigan House (HB4765) has a similar bill working its way through the legislature. LWVMI has an Action Alert at this [link](#).



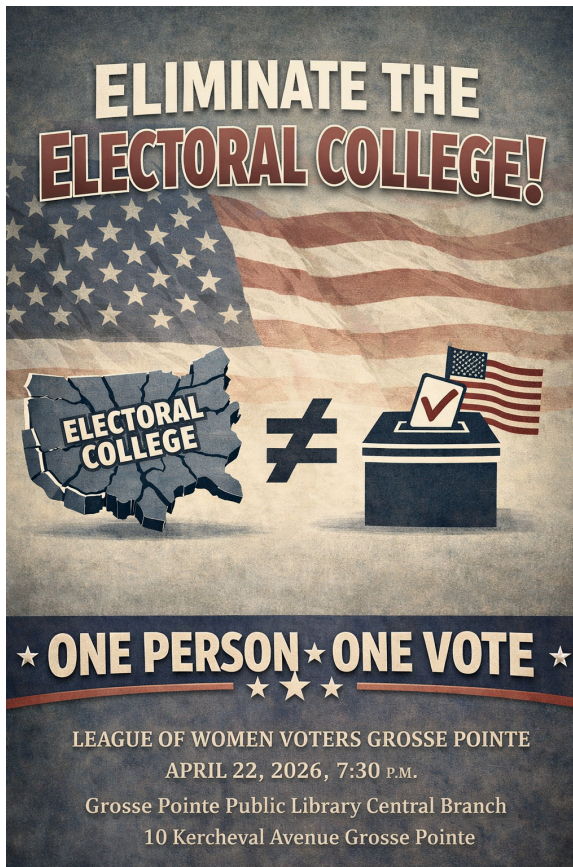
The League also strongly supports our rights under the First Amendment. We believe that our individual liberties are guaranteed by the Constitution. The First Amendment begins with the following:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

Amid the many challenges and pressures we face today, it's easy to overlook our fundamental right to practice any religion—or none at all. James Madison, who is largely credited with having a key role in writing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, was very concerned about this issue. It is the first right protected under the First Amendment. Mr. Madison believed it was our civic responsibility to support religious freedom and that to do so creates a stronger democracy, where differences in beliefs can coexist. Today's administration is doing its best to marginalize religious minorities. Madison witnessed similar oppressions during his lifetime. This is another example of the current administration's attempt to unconstitutionally limit our personal liberties.

This is not the time to let up! Keep up the good fight! It is easy to get discouraged, but there is so much to lose! We can't allow our personal liberties to continue to be eroded. We must speak up! Hopefully, you were able to make it to the **No Kings Rally** last week. If not, there will be more!

Lynne Pierce, President



Program: Eliminate the Electoral College

Five times in American history, the presidential candidate who received the most votes nationwide did not win the presidency—overriding the will of the people and leaving millions of voices unheard.

These outcomes stem from the Electoral College, a system that awards the presidency based on state-by-state results rather than the national popular vote. Critics argue that it can distort voter representation and shift decisive power away from the broader electorate.

Our **April 22** program, *Eliminate the Electoral College*, will explore this issue and its implications for American democracy.

This program will be presented at the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, at 7:30 p.m.

In 2022, the League of Women Voters of the United States identified eliminating the Electoral College as a top priority and launched a multi-year effort to advance this goal.

Our speaker, Maria Woloson, became deeply engaged in this topic following the 2000 and 2016 presidential elections—both of which resulted in a president who did not win the national popular vote. Since then, she has been active in a national movement advocating for Electoral College reform and elimination.

Maria currently serves as President of the League of Women Voters Oakland Area and is a member of the League of Women Voters of Michigan Advocacy Committee. She previously served on the LWVMI State Board. An attorney with more than 30 years of experience in the Detroit metropolitan area, Maria brings both legal expertise and a strong commitment to civic engagement.

No registration is required. Join us for this timely and informative discussion and encourage your friends and family to come!

Voter Registration Volunteers Needed

Our Voter Services team is still seeking volunteers to assist with voter registration events at our local high schools. This important effort is a core part of our League's work, helping ensure that students are registered and ready to vote in this year's elections. If you're interested, please sign up at this [link](#).

LWVGP Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars!! Join us for our 2026 Annual Meeting.

- Saturday, May 30
- Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lake Shore Drive, GPF
- 9:00 a.m.

Our keynote speaker, Kevin Deegan Krause, Ph.D., professor of political science at Wayne State University, will present: *Understanding Accountability: Why It Matters, Why It's at Risk, and What We Can Do About It*.

A continental breakfast will be available at 9:00 a.m. and the business meeting and keynote will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. A registration form will be sent to members in the near future.

Member Spotlight: Wilhelmina Giblin

Wilhelmina Giblin devoted more than 40 years to nursing, with a strong focus on public health. A graduate of Wayne State University, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and two master's degrees: Public Administration and Guidance and Counseling. Her career included leadership roles in community health, most notably as Director of Personal Health Services for the Wayne County Department of Public Health. She also worked on school-based health programs in partnership with Children's Hospital of Michigan. She retired in 2016.

Wilhelmina joined the League in 2001, inspired by her mother-in-law, a founding supporter of the Education Fund. With a long-standing commitment to women's rights and civic engagement, she quickly became an active leader. She has served in many roles, including President (2007-2011), Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Chair, Membership Director, Vice President of Programs, Nonpartisan Policy Committee member, *Voter* Editor and continues to participate in League tabling events and annual program planning.



Wilhelmina most enjoys the opportunity to work alongside like-minded women committed to community service and civic education. She values the League's role in helping citizens understand how to engage with government, speak to legislators, and participate meaningfully in democracy.

Wilhelmina values the League's mission of civic education and especially enjoys program planning and helping shape meaningful topics and encouraging member involvement. She is also a strong advocate for mentorship and is passionate about connecting experienced members with newer and younger participants to build future leadership.

Beyond the League, she serves on the Board of Directors for The Children's Center in Detroit, where she has been involved for about 15 years. In retirement, she has embraced her passion for painting and is an active member of the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, exhibiting her work throughout the region.

Wilhelmina is married to Paul, has three daughters, and is the proud grandmother of three.

Wayne County Takes a Stand Against Voter Suppression Ballot Initiative

All four local Leagues in Wayne County collaborated to place the Resolution in Support of Local Democracy on the Wayne County Commissioners' March 19, 2026 agenda. The resolution reaffirmed the county's commitment to protecting voting rights and opposed the requirement for Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC). It was sponsored by District 1 Commissioner Tim Killeen, who represents the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods and has been a member of LWVGP for nearly 20 years.

Lauri Kingsbury served as Project Coordinator, working closely with Ben Gardner of All Voting Is Local, a coalition partner of LWVMI, along with League leaders from Dearborn/Dearborn Heights, Detroit, and Northwest Wayne. League leaders contacted commissioners representing their communities and followed up with letters urging support. Members were also mobilized through Action Alerts to attend the meeting and submit public comments.

Speaking on behalf of all four Leagues, President Lynne Pierce delivered a prepared statement highlighting Michigan's A+ election security rating, the potential for DPOC requirements to disenfranchise voters—particularly women—and the unfunded administrative burden such requirements would place on local clerks.

Several League members also participated in the meeting. Judy Florian, Lynne Pierce and Lauri Kingsbury attended in person, while Ray Andary, Carol Dumke, and Judy Masserang joined via livestream. Additional members submitted written comments to the Acting Clerk, which were entered into the official record. Wayne County includes 43 municipalities, with local Leagues serving 23 of those communities.

The resolution passed by a 12–1 vote, signaling unequivocal support for voting rights. A copy will be shared with elected officials in Lansing and municipal clerks across the county. With this action, Wayne County joins Washtenaw County and the cities of Detroit, Pontiac, and Ypsilanti in opposing the petition drive "Americans for Citizen Voting" and Michigan House Bill 4765. Momentum continues to build across Michigan in opposition to DPOC requirements. The resolution can be viewed at this [link](#).

A recording of the Commissioners meeting is available on YouTube at this [link](#).



Commission meeting attendees, left to right, Lynne Pierce, Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen, Judy Florian and Lauri Kingsbury.

LWVUS Biennial Convention is June 25-28

The League of Women Voters (LWVUS) Biennial Convention will take place June 25–28 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme, *Women Unite and Rise*, will guide the program and discussions.

Our League will be represented by delegates Lynne Pierce, Liz Martin, and Deb Sloss. Additional attendees include Sue Acton, Ray Andary, Loren Mannino, Laura McCourt, and Judy Florian (a delegate for LWVMI).

All members are welcome to attend. For more information, please visit this [link](#).

If you have questions, contact Lynne Pierce at lvvgrossepointe@gmail.com.



March 2026 Board Meeting Highlights

- Total membership stands at 144, with 4 new members added.
- Board approved revision to bylaws regarding Article IV, Section 6: Vacancies on Board of Directors. Access revised bylaws at this [link](#).
- Observer Corps' Director Liz Martin and Advocacy Director Lauri Kingsbury are mentoring the Livingston County League with organizing and formalizing their own Observer Corps.
- Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates (see article below).
- New member in-person orientation scheduled for April 6 at Judy Masserang's house.
- Treasurer's report: Approved memorial contributions to LWVMI Education Fund for Cathy McAdam (\$100) and former member, Gordon Morlan \$50)
- Youth Outreach Committee following up with students from past Voter registration events for possible civic engagement activities; also preparing application for LWVMI's Youth Engagement Grant.



No Kings Recap

LWVGP was well represented at the No Kings Rally on March 28 in Grosse Pointe, part of a national movement and endorsed by LWVUS. Over 7 million people participated nationwide.

Established by the No Kings organization, this peaceful movement continues to grow. “No Kings” is more than a slogan—it reflects the very foundation of our nation. Rising from the streets, voiced by millions, and carried on signs and in chants, it resonates from city neighborhoods to rural town squares, bringing people together in a shared stand against authoritarianism.

This country does not belong to kings, dictators, or tyrants. It belongs to We the People—the individuals who care, who participate, and who stand up for dignity, affordability, and genuine opportunity.

Special thanks to Sue Acton for organizing our table at the event and the following members who managed it: Holly Cory, Jan Deters, Ruth Hoover, Martha Hutting, Geri LaPratt, Liz Martin, Judy Masserang, Penny Pitts, Kathy Rogers, Deb Sloss, Annie Spence, and Maria Williams.



Slate of Candidates for 2026-2027

The Nominating Committee has completed its work and is pleased to announce the following Slate of Candidates for 2026-27:

- Elizabeth Martin, President-Elect
- Deb Sloss, VP for Voter Services
- Carol Lufburrow, Treasurer
- Catherine Dumke, Director, Membership
- Kathy Cernok, Chair, Nominating Committee
- Jan Ryndress, Member, Nominating Committee

A special issue of *The Voter* will be sent to members with the bios of each candidate. Members will vote on this slate at the annual meeting on May 30.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the following new members:

- Sherryl Benton, Grosse Pointe
 - Kathleen Carolin, Grosse Pointe Woods
 - Lisa Fuller, Grosse Pointe Woods
 - Sue Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods
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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: 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
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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