

The Voter Newsletter May 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

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 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)

June 22: An Evening with Barbara McQuade/Stephen Henderson, GP War Memorial, 6:30 p.m. (see article below)

June 25-28: LWVUS Convention, Columbus, Ohio

August 8: LWVUS Unite and Rise for Voting Rights, Detroit location TBD

President's Message

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, we in the League know that democracy is something we must support and preserve on a daily basis. Voting is at the heart of our democracy and our voting rights are being challenged across the nation. The SAVE Act failed to pass the U.S. Senate this time around, but it can resurface at any time. The Michigan version of this bill, HB4765, passed the House. The legislation will now face a Democratic-controlled Senate next, though it is unlikely to pass.

Please respond to the **Action Alerts** when LWVMI sends them out. This allows our representatives to know their constituents do not support this bill.

As we all know, our democracy is unique in that we have a Constitution that supports our democracy. This year there will be a special event at the Henry Ford Museum in honor of our 250th anniversary. From July 9 to July 26, the museum will have on display original documents from the National Archives. These documents include:

- An original engraving of the Declaration of Independence.
- Articles of Association from 1774 signed by all 53 delegates, urging colonists to boycott British goods.



- Oaths of Allegiance signed by George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Aaron Burr.
- Draft documents of the Constitution (including handwritten notes), and other original documents.

This is a rare opportunity to view these documents without traveling to Washington, DC. The event is free and open to the public. Watch for a group of us “nerds” planning to attend in the next newsletter—join us if you’re interested!

Our program on *Eliminate the Electoral College* was a huge success! We had many non-members attend. The turnout shows us people are concerned! We are shouting out as loud as we can: Protect Our Democracy! (See article about the event below.)

A special shout-out to Martha Hutting and our DEI Committee for their outstanding work, in partnership with the LWVMI Membership and Voter Service Committees, to present a virtual meeting on the Detroit Disability Power early voting and polling location accessibility audits. The meeting was held on April 30, and a link to the recording will be available soon on the League of Women Voters of Michigan website. Our DEI Committee carried this program forward in memory of our member, Cathy McAdam, who passed away earlier this year. This was a cause close to Cathy’s heart, and it is wonderful to see her vision come to fruition in her honor.

Our annual meeting is coming up on May 30. Please consider coming to hear about all the things we accomplished this past year and what our plans are for the upcoming year. We have a dynamic speaker scheduled: 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*. (See related article below.)

See you on May 30th!

Lynne Pierce, President

LWVGP Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is coming soon!

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

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. **To register, please complete the form at this [link](#).**

Members will vote on the following:

- Slate of Candidates submitted by Nominating Committee (sent to members on April 20, 2026). You can review the nominees again at this [link](#).

- 2026-27 Budget, approved by the Board at their April 21st meeting. You can view the budget at this [link](#).
- Retaining our current League positions (see [link](#)).

Please join us as we review our successes in 2025-26 and plan ahead for 2026-27!



Help Strengthen Our Elections: Become an Election Inspector

Free and fair elections depend on dedicated community members who are willing to serve. One of the most important ways League members can support democracy this year is by signing up to be an Election Inspector for the August 4 and November 3 elections.

Election inspectors play a vital role in ensuring that every voter has a smooth, secure, and accessible voting experience. They help open and close the polls, assist voters, check in voters, process ballots, and make sure election procedures are followed accurately and fairly. It is meaningful, hands-on work that directly supports confidence in our electoral system.

League members are especially well suited for this role. Our commitment to civic engagement, voter participation, and nonpartisanship makes us valuable contributors at the polls and early voting sites. Serving as an Election Inspector is a practical way to put our values into action and help our communities.

Training is provided, and most jurisdictions offer compensation for service. Whether you are a first-time volunteer or have previous experience, your time and commitment can make a real difference. You also don't need to be an Election Inspector in the city in which you live.

Please consider signing up to serve in the August 4 primary and the November 3 general election. Encourage friends and family members to join you as well. When League members step forward, we help ensure elections are well run, welcoming, and trustworthy for every voter.

To learn more about being an Election Inspector or serving on an Absentee Voter Ballot Counting Board, contact your local clerk's office.

Member Spotlight: Loren Mannino

Loren graduated from Rochester Adams High School in 1971. He earned a Bachelor of General Studies, with distinction, from the University of Michigan and attended Wayne State Law School, graduating in 1979. He was sworn in as an attorney later that year.

While in law school, Loren worked for three years as a clerk to Oakland County Circuit Judge Steven Andrews. He later entered private practice, focusing



primarily on trial-related work in several areas of law; he continues to practice on a limited basis.

Loren joined the League out of concern for the state of our democracy and politics, and because his former boss and longtime friend, Lynne Pierce, was being named President of the Grosse Pointe League.

Since becoming a member, Loren has chaired a committee to revise the League's local bylaws and has served as an Observer for both Grosse Pointe City and Harper Woods City Councils. He has participated in a panel presentation on constitutional rights, attended last year's LWVMI

Convention, and plans to attend this year's National Convention. He also serves as an Election Inspector for Grosse Pointe Farms.

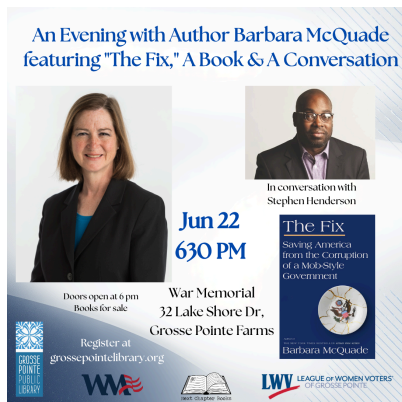
What Loren values most about the League is the opportunity to work with and get to know the League's brilliant and determined women. He also appreciates that the organization is well run and steadfast in its nonpartisan mission.

Outside the League, Loren is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and currently serves on the board of the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe.

For many years, Loren's primary hobby has been buying and selling collectible books through his eBay store, Goss Books, while continuing to learn about the book trade. He is also an avid reader and a lifelong Detroit Tigers fan.

Above all, Loren says his favorite part of League work is making new and interesting friends and working alongside his wife, Liz Martin, to take action in the face of the many challenges our democracy faces today.

An Evening with Barbara McQuade/Stephen Henderson



In partnership with Next Chapter Books, the Grosse Pointe Public Library, the League of Women Voters GP, and The War Memorial present: *A Vital Conversation* featuring Barbara McQuade, Law Professor, University of Michigan/former U. S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan and award-winning journalist Stephen Henderson, discussing

Barbara's timely new book, *The Fix: Saving America from the Corruption of a Mob-Style Government*.

Date: Monday, June 22

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: The War Memorial

Registration is required and can be done at this [link](#). Doors open at 6:00 p.m. **Registration will close on June 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

Books will be sold onsite by Next Chapter Books.

New Member Orientation

Ten new members attended the orientation hosted by Judy Masserang on April 6. President Lynne Pierce provided an overview of our local League and invited new members to share what inspired them to join. It was an excellent introduction that offered valuable insight into how these members connect with our League.

Sue Acton, Vice President for Voter Services, Liz Martin, Director of the Observer Corps, and Judy Florian, Director of Communications, shared information about their respective areas and explained how new members can get involved in these activities. Attendees included Lynne Aldrich, Kay Carolin, Molly Cleary, Jan Deters, Lisa Fuller, Kelly Guyman, Sue Mack, Anne McAlpine, Elizabeth Mikos, Gail Mix, and Carla Teagan. Sydney Steinhaus also attended. We hope she will join!

Special thanks to Judy Masserang, Co-Director of Membership, and committee members Dawn Drozd, Marge Freundl, and Mary Jo Johnson for their hard work in planning this event.



New members at orientation.



Membership Committee members, l to r, Judy Masserang, Dawn Drozd, Mary Jo Johnson, and Marge Freundl.

Attention New Members!

We're looking for volunteers with communication skills to help strengthen our outreach and visibility. If you have experience or interest in any of the following areas, we'd love to hear from you:

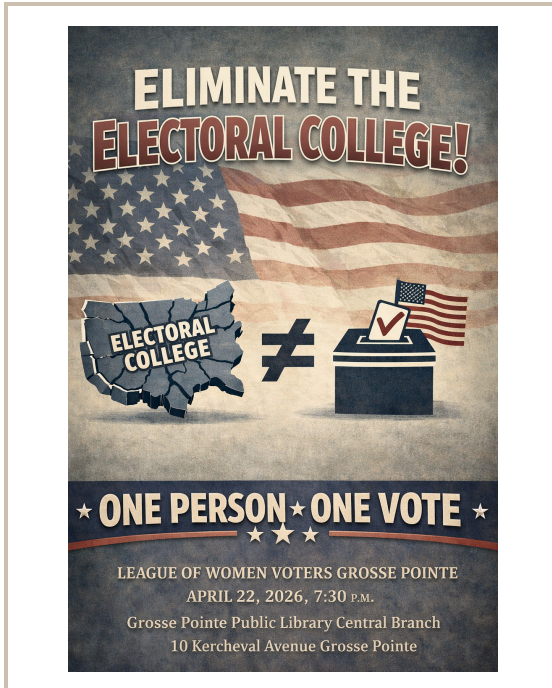
- Website development
- Social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- Graphic design (Canva or other artistic skills)
- Press releases
- Other communications support

Your talents can make a real difference in helping us connect with our community and advance our mission.

Please contact Judy Florian, Director of Communications, at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com if you're interested in getting involved.

Eliminate the Electoral College Program

Approximately 50 people gathered at the Grosse Pointe Public Library for the *Eliminate the Electoral College* Program on April 22. Maria Woloson, Oakland Area League, presented the pros and cons of this issue, with an excellent post-presentation question and answer period from the audience! A recording of the program can be viewed on our YouTube channel at this [link](#). Special thanks to Kathy Rogers, Acting Director of Programs, and Lauri Kingsbury, who provided technical support.



Speaker Maria Woloson with
Kathy Rogers

Suffs: The Musical

Several members of the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe attended *Suffs: The Musical* at the Fisher Theatre on April 18. *Suffs* tells the story of the American women's suffrage movement, focusing on the activists who fought for voting rights in the years leading up to the 19th Amendment. The production explores the movement's internal conflicts, friendships, and differing strategies, while highlighting tensions across generations and racial lines.

For those who are interested in viewing *Suffs, The Musical*, it will be broadcast on PBS May 8, at 9:00 p.m.

Some LWVGP Members wore their sashes, which commemorate the fight for the 19th Amendment.

Front Row, l to r:

Liz Martin, Sue Acton, Judy Masserang, Marge Freundl, Judy Florian, Wilhelmina Giblin.

Back row, l to r:

Ruth Hoover, Loren Mannino, Melissa Levasseur, Mickie Verdebar and Laura Larson.

Not pictured: Margit Jackson



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: Vacant
- 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: lwgrossepointe@gmail.com

Website: lwgrossepointe.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVGP/>

LWVGP on YouTube - no subscription necessary
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloWa1Hw9PPhDvUY_2SB30w

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