

The Voter Newsletter June 2026

*Over 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

- 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
- July 13:** Documents that Forged a Nation-Henry Ford Museum Field Trip, 10:00 a.m. (see article below)
- July 25-August 2:** Early Voting period for August Primary Election (check with local clerk for hours)
- August 4:** Primary Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
- August 8:** LWVUS Unite and Rise for Voting Rights, Detroit location TBD
- August 25:** Annual Member Picnic, 6:00 p.m., Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park

President's Message

Greetings, Folks!

As we approach this next election, there is much trepidation. For the League, one of the biggest concerns is that every person gets to exercise their right to vote. Nationwide, voting rights are being attacked and eroded. The League is working hard to protect every citizen's vote! Often, this requires litigation. I would like to mention just a few of the legal accomplishments we have attained recently.

The Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger signed the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact bill after years of advocating by LWV Virginia. (Sometimes you have to play the long game!) This now totals 222 Electoral Votes, needing 48 more to enact the National Popular Vote by 2028. (No, Michigan has not passed it yet!)

The State of Maryland passed a historic voting rights bill after four years of the LWV Maryland working closely with the legislators through advocacy and education.



In South Carolina, five Republicans joined with the Democrats to oppose the state reopening redistricting; The LWV of South Carolina were instrumental in this effort.

In Alabama, although redistricting passed, there were widespread protests fueled by the LWV of Alabama that ultimately forced the legislative session into recess.

And of course, Michigan is doing its part! Our LWVMI Advocacy Committee is gearing up to work against any petitions that might make it on the ballot requiring Documentary Proof of Citizenship (birth certificates, passports, etc.) to register and vote. They are also building coalitions with other non-partisan voting organizations to better utilize our efforts. LWVMI filed an amicus brief to stop the U.S. Justice Department from trying to obtain private voter data. (Our Secretary of State is being sued in Federal Court on this issue).

Locally, we are preparing for a busy fall. Not only do we have state and national elections, but also our school board elections. Only time will tell what else will be on the ballot. But rest assured, we will be ready!

Lynne Pierce, President

LWVGP Annual Meeting Recap

A total of 53 members attended our annual meeting on Saturday, May 30.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Kevin Deegan-Krause, Professor of Political Science at Wayne State University. His presentation, *Understanding Accountability: Why It's Important, Why It's At Risk, and What We Can Do About It*, provided members with a framework for understanding the three forms of democratic accountability and how they work together:

- Vertical accountability — the electoral process, including voting rights and free and fair elections;
- Horizontal accountability — institutional safeguards such as the separation of powers and checks and balances;
- Diagonal accountability — the role of civic organizations, watchdog groups, the media, and engaged citizens.

Professor Deegan-Krause acknowledged that democracy faces significant challenges but emphasized that there is reason for optimism. He encouraged attendees to build and strengthen alliances and to continue engaging family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues in conversations about voting and voting rights.

He also commended the League of Women Voters for its steadfast commitment to nonpartisanship, noting that the League's grassroots work remains one of the strongest pillars supporting and protecting democracy.

Those in attendance listened attentively to the presentation and left with a renewed sense of purpose and determination to continue the work of defending democracy. If you would like a copy of his presentation, please contact us at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Congratulations to the new members joining the board, along with those transitioning to new positions. All were unanimously elected by attendees: President-Elect: Liz Martin; Vice President for Voter Services, Deb Sloss; Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow; Membership Director, Catherine Dumke; Nominating Committee Chair Kathy Cernok and Nominating Committee member Jan Ryndress.

Members approved the 2026-27 budget and to retain our local positions. President Lynne Pierce also reviewed our many successes as a local League for 2025-26. Don't forget to access our annual report to review our great work this past year. You can review it at this [link](#).

A very special thanks to Kathy Rogers, Acting Director, Programs and her excellent committee members



I to r: Carol Bendure, Jan Ryndress, Kelly Larson and Molly Cleary



I to r: Deb Sloss, Sue Acton, Holly Cory and Penny Pitts.



I to r: Lauri Kingsbury, Speaker Dr. Kevin Deegan-Krause and Lynne Pierce.



I to r: Loren Mannino, Liz Martin, Ruth Hoover and Marge Freundl.

I to r: Carla Teagan, Judy Masserang, Margrit Poynter and Diana Domin.



I to r: Kathy Cernok, Clara Dixon and Martha Hutting.

New and transitioning 2026-27 board members with President Lynne Pierce, I to r: Carol Lufburrow, Jan Ryndress, Lynne, Liz Martin, Loren Mannino, Kathy Cernok, Lauri Kingsbury and Melissa Levasseur. Not pictured: Catherine Dumke and Deb Sloss.



I to r: Melissa Levasseur, Carol Lufburrow and Joanne Swanson

Volunteers Needed for Absentee Ballot Preparation

LWVGP continues our tradition of helping our City Clerks with the job of preparing mailings for Absentee Ballots. These ballots are for the upcoming primary election on August 4. It's a big project, but many hands make light work. Choose to help Grosse Pointe Farms or Grosse Pointe Park with this important task.

Grosse Pointe Farms—June 22—10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Grosse Pointe Park—June 23—10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Use this [link](#) to sign up.

Voter Registration Drives a Huge Success!

Voter Registration events at Harper Woods (April 21), both GP North and GP South (May 1) and Liggett (May 4) were very successful with more than 600 students participating. A great change this year was that we asked the students to use a QR code to check to see if they were already registered. Many expressed surprise that they were registered. If they were not yet registered, a different QR code took them to the State of Michigan registration page. If they were unable to use that system, we collected a paper form. Holly delivered these to the city clerks.

Many thanks to Holly Cory for setting up the four events, and to the following members who volunteered: Sue Acton, Betsy Alexander, Susan Budrys, Janet Burke, Kathy Cernok, Holly Cory, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Mary Garlough, Mary Jo Johnson, Gerianne LaPratt, Laura Larson, Melissa Levasseur, Judy Masserang, Gail Mixa, Bernadette Pieczynski, Margrit Poynter, Jan Ryndress, Deb Sloss, Nancy Solak, Joanne Swanson, Deborah Weatherston, and Maria Williams.

Member Spotlight: Judy Masserang

Judy brings a lifetime of communications expertise, leadership, and community service to the League. A graduate of Wayne State University with degrees in Communications and Instructional Technology, Judy built a career at the forefront of corporate communications technology.

Her professional journey began at Detroit Public Television, where she worked with Chrysler Corporation to produce live satellite broadcasts connecting company executives with employees across the country. The experience introduced her to the emerging field of satellite communications and set the course for her career.



In 1984, Judy was recruited by a New York-based start-up, Private Satellite Network, to help launch private video satellite networks for Ford Motor Company and General Motors. When General Motors acquired Electronic Data Systems (EDS) in 1985, her GM client moved to EDS and persuaded Judy to join the company.

Over the next 13 years at EDS, Judy managed and expanded the General Motors Video Satellite Network, introducing interactive distance-learning capabilities to GM plants and dealerships nationwide. In 1998, she joined General Motors, leading the expansion of the network into Canada and Mexico.

Judy joined the League in 2020 after then-President Sue Acton asked if she would serve as Board Secretary. While she readily agreed, her deeper motivation was a desire to strengthen democracy by encouraging more people to vote and become informed participants in the electoral process.

She served as Board Secretary for four years and became Director of Membership in 2025. Along the way, Voter Services became her favorite area of League work. "Not only does it make a difference," Judy says, "it's also how we get to know one another." She values the opportunity to work alongside League members, whom she describes as smart, engaged, knowledgeable, and fun.

For Judy, the best part of League involvement is building friendships while helping community members become active and informed voters. She is especially passionate about welcoming and engaging new members, which inspired the League's mentoring program.

Beyond the League, Judy is deeply involved in community service. She has been a member of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe since 2016, serving as Club President, Foundation President, Treasurer, and in numerous committee leadership roles. Rotary's commitment to local and international service projects, including clean water, education, and community development initiatives, aligns closely with her own dedication to civic engagement.

Judy is also active in Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, where she sings in the choir. Her hobbies include reading, singing, gardening, entertaining family and friends, and, as she jokingly describes it, "all the work I do for Rotary and the League—which many of my friends consider a disease!"

Whether through her professional career, volunteer leadership, or League service, Judy has consistently focused on connecting people, sharing information, and helping communities thrive.

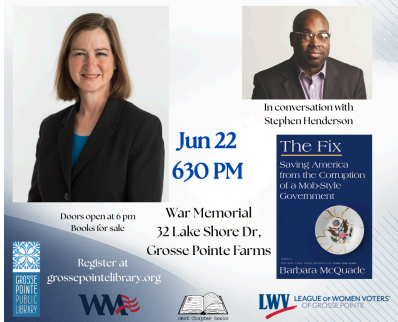
An Evening with Barbara McQuade & Stephen Henderson

Don't forget! 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

An Evening with Author Barbara McQuade
featuring "The Fix," A Book & A Conversation

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: The War Memorial



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

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Books will be sold by Next Chapter Books.

See related article, *Five Questions with Barb McQuade* at this [link](#). She praises the League-nice to get this recognition from a respected author!

Freedom Plane National Tour: Documents That Forged a Nation

We are organizing a group trip to the Henry Ford to view rare documents relating to our Declaration of Independence. The date is Monday, July 13. We plan to meet at a convenient location about 10:00.

Inspired by the **Bicentennial Freedom Train**, the Freedom Plane National Tour will make original documents fundamental to America's founding accessible to Americans across the country as part of the commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

The Henry Ford is honored to be one of eight institutions in the U.S. hosting The National Archives and Records Administration traveling exhibition.

The exhibition is free to the public. Museum admission is not required. However, registration is required-the deadline is June 21. If you are interested, please complete the form at this [link](#).

Of course, you can choose to view the exhibit on your own any time between July 9 and July 26. The exhibit is open from 9:30 – 5:00 daily. If you have any questions, please send them to the above email address.

Resolutions In Support of Local Democracy

Resolutions opposing the SAVE Act and the voter suppression ballot initiative in Michigan continue to gain momentum across the state.

Communities which have recently passed this resolution are:

Canton Township Board
Delta Township Board
Ingham County Commissioners
Inkster City Council

Local Leagues, LWVMI, and its coalition partners will continue to work hard to get this resolution passed in many more communities this summer.

Welcome New Members

Mary Kay Domzalski
Grosse Pointe Park

Roberta Henrichs
Grosse Pointe Woods

Amy Hermon
Grosse Pointe

Daniel Rustmann
Grosse Pointe Woods

Board Meeting Highlights–May, 2026

- DEI Committee collaboration with LWVMI on *Voting Site Accessibility* on April 30. Guest Speaker Eric Welsby, Detroit Disability Power.
- The board approved the job descriptions for VP of Program and the newly created Event Coordinator(s).
- The board approved the appointment of Lauri Kingsbury, VP of Program, Loren Mannino, Advocacy Director and Melissa Levasseur and Laura McCourt, Event Coordinators.
- Judy Masserang, Membership Director, reported on the newly created Membership Mentoring Program. We have mentors assigned to 26 new or newer members, going back to those who joined in late September, 16 of whom attended a New Member Orientation.
- Grant approved for \$700 from LWVMI to fund our youth engagement activities through our Youth Outreach Committee.

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: Mary Zahler
- 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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