

The Voter Newsletter August 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

July 25-August 2: Early Voting (see article below)

August 4: Primary Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

August 5-18: Board of Canvassers Observation (see article below)

August 8: National Day of Action, 5:00 p.m. GP Congregational Church (see article below)

August 26: Annual Member Picnic, 6-8 p.m. Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park (see article below)

Greetings, Folks!

Approximately 1000 people attended the LWV National convention with 200 attending virtually. The convention was held in Columbus, Ohio. Our delegates were Liz Martin, Deb Sloss and me. Susan Acton and Laura McCourt represented other Michigan Leagues, Judy Florian attended as a state delegate and Loren Mannino and Ray Andary attended as observers. Read our blog on the website to see reports from all the attendees regarding the breakout sessions they attended.

See link to our blog posting [here](#).

The delegates voted to support all of the 2026-28 priorities recommended by the board: Voting Rights, Election Protection, Redistricting, Individual Liberties, Immigration, and the Presidency.

The following bylaws amendments were passed:

- Moved the Member Rights and Responsibilities from the policies into the bylaws to strengthen their standing as part of the League's governing documents.
- Added an emergency powers provision to allow the board to operate in case of emergency.
- Added a provision to allow removal of a member of the Nominating Committee.
- To allow the Treasurer to chair the Budget Committee.



The following resolutions were recommended and passed:

- Recommitment to non-partisan civil service.
- Support of District of Columbia statehood.
- Hold Congress accountable for the constitutional crisis – Do Your Job!
- Support for National Popular Vote.
- Oppose human trafficking.
-

The Texas League's motion to support religious freedom (not recommended by the board) passed on a 2/3 concurrence vote.

I was excited to see more young people at this convention. There has been a real effort to engage younger people in our organization and in the voting process in general. Many GenZers (ages 14-29) have never voted before and know little about the way our government works. The overall message to young people is: You have a Voice-Learn How to Use It Effectively!

I am proud to say that our local league has been working diligently to engage young people. Julianne Phillips chairs our Youth Outreach Committee, and we are working hard to come up with ways to reach younger citizens. If you are interested in being on this committee, just email Julianne or me at lwwgrossepointe@gmail.com.

Our next event is the Annual Member Picnic. This is a fun time for all and a great way to meet other League members. Hope to see you there!

Lynne Pierce, President

LWVGP Board Supports Wayne County Transit Millage

At its July 12th meeting, the LWVGP Board of Directors approved its support for the Wayne County Public Transportation Millage that appears on the August 4 Primary Election ballot.

The League's support is based on its long-standing public policy position that accessible, affordable, and reliable public transportation is essential to a strong community. Public transportation expands access to employment, education, healthcare, and civic participation while helping older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, and others maintain their independence.

APRIL 2026 **SMART**

TRANSIT IN WAYNE COUNTY

AN OVERVIEW OF SMART'S TRANSIT SERVICES AND COUNTYWIDE NEEDS

WHO IS SMART?
SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) is the public transit provider serving communities across Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. These services include:

- Local Bus Service**
- SMART Flex**
an on-demand ride option in select areas
- Paratransit**
door-to-door services for people with disabilities who can't use regular bus service

HOW HAS SMART GROWN?

Bus ridership increased **17%** between 2022 and 2026.

SMART Flex on-demand rides doubled.
3,334 rides → **8,027** rides
NOVEMBER 2022 MARCH 2026

Paratransit services increased by 9%, helping people stay independent.
5,997 rides → **6,533** rides
NOVEMBER 2022 MARCH 2026

TRANSIT MILLAGE FAQ

"What is a millage?"
A millage is the rate used to calculate how much property tax you pay each year.

"What would the millage cost?"
About \$8 per month for a typical \$200,000 home.

"Is this a new tax or a renewal of an existing one?"
This is a countywide transit millage. Communities with current SMART service would not see an increase in their millage rate.

"What does the millage fund?"
Improvements to current bus and on-demand service, along with expanded service across the county. Revenue is distributed to Wayne County, SMART, DDOT and other community and regional providers.

"How much funding will this generate?"
10-year millage generating approximately \$50 million annually. Revenue collected in Detroit stays in Detroit, approximately \$8 million annually will be reinvested in Detroit transit and the communities around it.

The ballot proposal would authorize the Wayne County Transit Authority to levy a countywide property tax to fund, operate, maintain, improve, and expand public transportation services throughout Wayne County. If approved, the millage would be levied at a maximum rate of 0.9831 mills—approximately \$0.98 per \$1,000 of taxable value—for a period of ten years, beginning with the 2026 tax year and ending with the 2035 tax year. For a home with a taxable value of \$100,000, the cost would be approximately \$8 per month.

Revenue generated by the millage would support public transportation providers throughout Wayne County, including SMART and the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), as well as other community transit providers. Funding would maintain existing transit services while expanding fixed-route bus service, increasing paratransit services for seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, and developing additional on-demand microtransit options to better connect residents with jobs, healthcare, education, and other daily destinations.

"Reliable public transportation is an important public service that strengthens our communities and helps ensure that all residents can access essential opportunities and services," said League President Lynne Pierce. "The League supports policies that promote equitable access to transportation and improve mobility for people throughout Wayne County."

The League encourages all voters to become informed about the proposal before casting their ballots on August 4th. Voters can review a sample ballot, verify their voter registration, and find polling place information through the Michigan Voter Information Center at michigan.gov/vote.

The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a dark blue background. At the top, there is a red diagonal banner with the text "EARLY VOTING" in white. Below this, in smaller white text, it says "JULY 25-AUGUST 2, 2026" and "8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. DAILY". Underneath, the heading "EARLY VOTING SITES" is followed by a list of locations: "Grosse Pointe Council Chambers, 17145 Maumee Ave.", "Grosse Pointe Farms Council Chambers, 90 Kerby Rd.", "Grosse Pointe Shores City Hall, 795 Lake Shore Rd.", "Grosse Pointe Park City Hall 15115 E. Jefferson Ave.", "Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr.", and "Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Ave.". At the bottom, there is a red banner with a white location pin icon and the text "GROSSE POINTES/ HARPER WOODS". To the right of this, it says "LEARN MORE AT: WWW.MI.GOV/VOTE". At the very bottom, a small white note states: "*Note: Grosse Pointe Shores hours are 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM".

Early Voting Schedule for August Primary

Early voting is happening across the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods! From July 25 to August 2, 2026, you can cast your ballot before Election Day.

Find your nearest early voting site:

Grosse Pointe: Council Chambers, 17145 Maumee Ave. (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Grosse Pointe Farms: Council Chambers, 90 Kerby Rd. (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Grosse Pointe Shores: City Hall, 795 Lake Shore Rd. (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Grosse Pointe Park: City Hall, 15115 E. Jefferson Ave. (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Grosse Pointe Woods: Community Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr. (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Harper Woods: City Hall, 19617 Harper Ave. (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Please note the specific hours for Grosse Pointe Shores!

Volunteers Needed: Observe the Board of Canvassers

One of the most important, yet often unseen, parts of the election process takes place after Election Day. During the post-election canvass, each county's Board of Canvassers reviews election materials from every precinct, verifies their accuracy, and officially certifies the election results.



The canvass will begin on the Wednesday or Thursday following Election Day, and the Board has up to 14 days to complete the process. The League of Women Voters of Michigan trains volunteers to serve as nonpartisan observers, helping ensure transparency and public confidence in the election process.

LWVMI is seeking volunteers to observe the Board of Canvassers in Wayne County. If you are interested in serving as an observer, please contact Judy Florian, Vice President for Voter Service at voterservice@lwvmi.org. She will provide information about the training and observation process.

We hope you will consider this opportunity to play an important role in protecting the integrity of our elections.

Unite & Rise for Voting Rights — a Nationwide Day of Action on August 8.



View the moving documentary about two 1965 Selma marchers, and hear from the two sisters in a panel following the film. All are invited to the event on August 8, 2026
Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall
240 Chalfonte, GP Farms. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
The film begins promptly at 5:00 p.m.



National Day of Action

The League of Women Voters of Michigan invites community members to join them for a special event on **Saturday, August 8, 2026**, for the film, *Three Marches, Two Sisters, One Bridge*, a powerful documentary and discussion honoring the enduring struggle for voting rights.

This event is part of the League of Women Voters "Unite and Rise for Voting Rights" Nationwide Day of Action. *Three Marches, Two Sisters, One Bridge* tells the inspiring story of two sisters who participated in the historic 1965 Selma voting rights marches. Following the film, attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from the sisters during a live, via satellite, panel discussion. They will reflect on their experiences, the significance of the Selma movement, and the continuing importance of protecting the freedom to vote.

LWVGP's program will be held at **Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms**. Doors open at **4:30 p.m.** Welcome and introduction is at **4:45 p.m.** The documentary will begin promptly at **5 p.m.**, followed immediately by the panel discussion. The event will conclude at approximately **6 p.m.**

The fight for voting rights is an important chapter in our nation's history and continues to shape our democracy today. This event offers an opportunity to learn from those who lived this history and to reflect on the importance of ensuring that every eligible voter has the freedom to participate in our democracy.

The League encourages members to share this information with friends and family of all ages to attend this free community program. The event is part of the League's ongoing commitment to voter education and civic engagement through nonpartisan public programs. No reservation required. Hope to see you on August 8.



LWVGP Annual Members Picnic

You're invited to the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe's Annual Members Picnic! Join us for an evening of great food, conversation, and fellowship as we celebrate another year of civic engagement together.

Whether you're a longtime member or recently joined the League, we hope you'll spend the evening with us. It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends, welcome new members, meet the Board of Directors, learn about upcoming League activities, and discover ways to get involved.

Wednesday, August 26

6:00–8:00 p.m.*

Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park

14920 Windmill Pointe Drive, Grosse Pointe Park Map link [here](#).

Cost: \$10

*One of our favorite picnic traditions is our annual group photo! To be included, arrive **no later than 6 p.m.** and wear red, white, or blue. The photo will be taken promptly at 6 p.m., so don't be late!

The cost per person includes the main dish, drinks (wine, lemonade, fizzy water), and paper products. If you'd like, please bring a side dish or dessert to share, along with the appropriate serving utensil.

All attendees must RSVP at this [LINK](#) no later than Monday, August 10 (the Tompkins Center requires two weeks' notice so they can plan the table and facility set up). We also need to leave names of attendees at the gatehouse for entry.

Payment in advance is required. Payments must be received by August 10. You can pay via PayPal or personal check (see below). Be sure to include guest, if applicable, in your payment.

- Click [here](#) to use PayPal
 - Select OTHER for the amount
 - Use the DROP DOWN menu and select LWVGP Event Fee
- Mail a check, payable to *League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe*, to 32 Lake Shore Road, GPF, 48236. Please add Picnic in the memo section.

We hope to see everyone on August 26th!



LWVUS Convention Wrap-Up

LWVGP was well represented at the LWV Convention, June 25-28 in Columbus, OH. The theme of this year's convention, **Women Unite and Rise**, brought together over 800 energized in-person and 200 virtual delegates for three days of intense plenary and thought-provoking sessions.

Voting delegates representing LWVGP included President Lynne Pierce, President-Elect Liz Martin, and VP for Voter Services Deb Sloss.

Other attendees included Sue Acton, Ray Andary, Judy Florian, Loren Mannino and Laura McCourt.

LWVGP delegates have each provided a summary report of their breakout sessions. See link to our blog posting [here](#).



Pictured l to r: Loren Mannino, Liz Martin, Deb Sloss, Lynne Pierce, Laura McCourt, Ray Andary, Sue Acton and Judy Florian.



President Lynne Pierce and President-Elect Liz Martin.



Pictured l to r: Sue Acton, Deb Sloss and Judy Florian.



The Michigan Delegation at Convention.

Remembering Member Carol Bendure

A celebration of the life of Carol Bendure will be held on Saturday August 15th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. Those with the means and motivation to contribute to the Carol Bendure Peace & Justice scholarship fund can follow the progress of the fund

Bendurescholarship@gmail.com.

Many thanks to everyone who has shared their love and respect for Carol with the family, as it helps to bear the loss knowing how many people Carol's life touched in a positive way.

The Bendure Family

Member Spotlight: Martha Hutting

Martha joined LWV in 2023 because of her concern about the need for nonpartisan civic engagement and informed participation in our democracy.

She said, "I have been fortunate to serve on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. The DEI Committee in the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe was founded in 2018 by its first chair, Wilhelmina Giblin, and was later led by the late Cathy McAdam. The committee's work is inclusive and supports the mission of every League committee."



Martha is chairing the DEI Committee this year. She noted, "Our projects have included working with newly registered young voters to help them understand recent changes in Michigan voting laws and the importance of voting. This year, we have partnered with the state DEI committee and Detroit Disability Power to promote compliance with polling place accessibility requirements."

She added, "Belonging to the League of Women Voters is a privilege. Its members are intelligent, informed, and open-minded. They listen to one another and learn from one another. I enjoy being part of an organization that values education, thoughtful discussion, and meaningful community service." Martha says her favorite part of LWV work is collaborating with dedicated people who are committed to strengthening our community through education, civic engagement, and respectful dialogue.

Martha earned a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Wayne State University and worked in a variety of roles in home health care throughout her career. After retiring, she volunteered as a school counselor and, more recently, as a literacy tutor for children.

She enjoys chair yoga, attending activities and community events, and dining in downtown Detroit. Martha also treasures spending time with her family, especially her five-year-old granddaughter.

Welcome New Members

Our current membership stands at 153. We welcome the following new members:

- Marianne Balton, Grosse Pointe Woods
- John Baugh, Grosse Pointe Park

- Lisa Fuller, Grosse Pointe Woods
- Elizabeth Gray, Grosse Pointe
- Rachel Huber, Grosse Pointe Farms
- Susan Stoner, St. Clair Shores

LWVGP Members in the Community

Several short-term community projects provided opportunities for LWVGP members to volunteer and make an impact. See the stories and photos below.

Volunteers Assist With Absentee Ballot Preparation

LWVGP continued its tradition of supporting our local clerks by assisting with the preparation of absentee ballots for the August Primary election. League members worked alongside City Clerk Derrick Kozicki of Grosse Pointe Farms and City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler of Grosse Pointe Park to prepare more than 5,000 absentee ballots for residents in their communities.

A special thank-you to the following members for volunteering their time and making this important voter service effort a success: Sue Acton, Janet Burke, Laurie Coplin, Jan Deters, Diana Domin, Judy Florian, Ruth Hoover, Martha Hutting, Mary Jo Johnson, Lauri Kingsbury, Laura Larson, Carol Lufburrow, Loren Mannino, Judy Masserang, Gail Mixa, Penny Pitts, Margrit Poynter, Jane Rousseau, Carla Teagan, Maria Williams and Mary Zahler.



Pride March

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe provided Bronze-level financial support for the Grosse Pointe Pride March on June 20, sponsored by WeGP.

League members Margrit Poynter and Deb Sloss staffed the League's information table, with assistance from Julianne Phillips and Martha Hutting. Throughout the event, the League provided voter education, distributed materials, and shared information about League membership and activities.

With approximately 500 attendees participating in the Pride March, League volunteers engaged with many community members, particularly young people preparing to leave for college. Volunteers discussed absentee voting options and emphasized the importance of developing a voting plan to ensure participation in upcoming elections. The League also answered questions and provided nonpartisan voter education to attendees who visited the table.

The event offered an excellent opportunity to connect with the community, promote civic engagement, and encourage informed participation in the democratic process.



Pictured l to r: Martha Hutting, Margrit Poynter and Deb Sloss



The Fix: A Book and Conversation

Approximately 250 people attended the June 22 program, *The Fix: A Book and Conversation*, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe (LWVGP) co-sponsored the event with the Grosse Pointe Library. See link to the book [here](#).

Stephen Henderson, a journalist with Detroit PBS, moderated the discussion and posed questions to Barbara McQuade. The audience was highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions—many centered on, “What can I do?” Both McQuade and Henderson encouraged attendees to get involved by joining the League of Women Voters and serving as election workers.

A special thank you to the volunteers who staffed the membership table and collected and sorted audience questions: Catherine Burke, Dawn Drozd, Catherine Dumke, Wilhelmina Giblin, Lauri Kingsbury, Gerianne LaPratt, Judy Masserang, Laura McCourt, and Mary Zahler.



Pictured l to r: Laura Larson, Liz Martin, Lauri Kingsbury, and Judy Masserang.



Pictured l to r: Wilhelmina Giblin, Lauri Kingsbury, Gerianne LaPratt, Catherine Burke, Laura McCourt, Mary Zahler, and Dawn Drozd.

Logic and Accuracy Testing

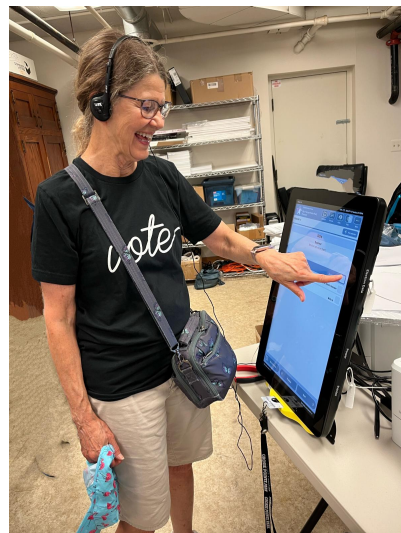
Several members of the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe had the opportunity to observe an important step in the election process—the Logic and Accuracy testing of voting equipment. Grosse Pointe Park City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler, and Deputy Clerk Danielle Caudill, welcomed League members as they observed the testing conducted by Election Source, which conducts testing statewide. In addition, Catherine Dumke observed the testing in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Before each election, local election officials conduct this testing to verify that voting equipment is properly programmed and accurately records and tabulates votes. This public testing helps ensure that the equipment is functioning as intended before ballots are cast.

Observing this process provides a firsthand look at the transparency, preparation, and safeguards that help support accurate and secure elections while strengthening public confidence in the electoral process.



Pictured l to r: Laura Larson, Melissa Levasseur, Julianne Phillips, Clerk Bowdler, Judy



Member Laura Larson checks out the Voter Assist Terminal

LWVGP Board through June 30, 2027

Executive Board (Elected)

- President: Lynne Pierce
- President-Elect: Liz Martin
- Secretary: Ruth Hoover
- Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow
- VP Program: Lauri Kingsbury
- VP Voter Services: Deb Sloss

On-Board Directors (Elected)

- Director Membership: Catherine Dumke
- Director Membership: Judy Masserang
- Director Voter Services: Holly Cory

On-Board positions (Appointed by the President)

- Director Advocacy: Loren Mannino
- Assistant Treasurer: Patti Cardoze
- Director Communications: Judy Florian
- Director DEI: Martha Hutting
- Event Coordinator: Melissa Levasseur
- Co-Directors Observer Corps: Joan Hall, Geri LaPratt

Off-Board positions (Appointed by the President)

- Bylaws Chair: Anne McAlpine
- Financial Review Coordinator: Mary Zahler
- Historian: Molly McGrane-Cleary
- Newsletter Co-Editors: Judy Florian, Vicki Granger
- Parliamentarian: Vacant
- Vote 411 Coordinator: Ray Andary
- Webmaster: Vicki Granger
- Youth Outreach: Julianne Phillips

Nominating Committee Chair: Kathy Cernok; Members: Jan Ryndress (elected)
Martha Hutting (appointed)

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

**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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