

The Voter Newsletter September 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

September 3: Postcards to the Polls Party, 7-9 p.m. (see below)

September 15: LWVGP Board meeting, Ewald Library, 7 p.m.

September 16: *Public Library Millage: Get the Facts*, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 7 p.m. (see article below)

September 21: Absentee Ballot Preparation, Grosse Pointe Park, 10 a.m. (see below)

September 21: Absentee Ballot Preparation, Grosse Pointe Farms, 10 a.m. (see below)

September 22: School Board Forum, Brownell Middle School Auditorium, 7 p.m.



President's Message

Greetings, Folks!

Ray and I recently visited our daughter in Washington, DC. We were able to check off a bucket list item when we went to the Library of Congress. What an awesome building! I'm no expert, but the architecture was beautiful and the artwork was incredible! Pictured at right is Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, strategic warfare, and handicrafts, featured at the Library of Congress.

The library was established by an act of Congress and signed by President John Adams in 1800. The building itself is named the Thomas Jefferson Building and houses President Jefferson's personal library of 6,487 books. President Jefferson believed in the power of knowledge and its necessity for a strong

democracy. Two-thirds of President Jefferson's library was subsequently destroyed by fire; the library has been actively tracking down replacement copies to reconstruct his library ever since. We were lucky to have a visionary like Jefferson at the time of our nation's start.

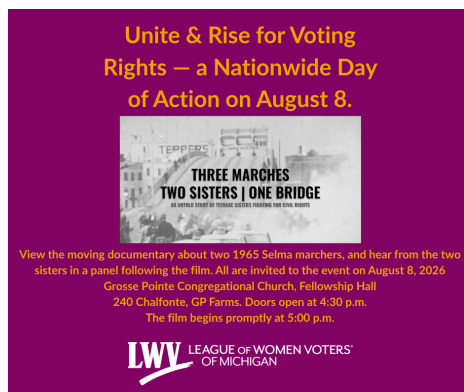
In honor of our 250th year, they also had a temporary exhibit on George Washington. Often called the *reluctant leader*, his conscience would not allow him to turn away from his country. He was unanimously voted to preside over the Constitutional Convention. It is said he was personally responsible for the ratification of the Constitution by waging a letter-writing campaign to each of the individual colonies. He remains the only president in American history to be unanimously voted by the people as president.



Both of these men had something in common—the courage of their convictions. Both faced disagreement and animosity, but managed to discuss and compromise with those opposing them to reach our new form of government.

What we learn from our founding fathers (sorry Abigail Adams!) is relevant today. First, we must have the courage to stand up for what we believe in—democracy and the right for every citizen to participate in our government. Second, despite fear and trepidation, we must speak out when we see our democracy under attack. Our democracy is worth saving and our collective conscience demands it!

Lynne Pierce, President



*Three Marches, Two Sisters,
One Bridge*



Program Committee members,
l to r: Geri LaPratt, Liz Martin,
Ruth Hoover, Lauri Kingsbury
and Laura McCourt.

Honoring the Voting Rights Act

On August 8, 2026, Americans across the country participated in the League of Women Voters' National Day of Action, honoring the 61st anniversary of the

Voting Rights Act of 1965. Our League joined by screening *Three Marches, Two Sisters, One Bridge*, a documentary by Detroit League member Charles Thomas Jr. The film tells the story of his aunts, Alice Moore and Denise Holt, who participated in the 1965 Selma voting rights marches as teenagers.

Growing up in Alabama, the sisters watched their parents repeatedly denied the right to vote. At ages 14 and 16, they joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and participated in three historic marches.

On March 7, 1965—*Bloody Sunday*—Denise, Alice, and 600 other peaceful protesters crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where state troopers attacked them with clubs, tear gas, and whips. Two days later—*Turnaround Tuesday*—they joined a second march led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis, turning around at the bridge in compliance with a court order.

Determined to reach Montgomery, the sisters joined the third march on March 21. They walked 54 miles with thousands of others and, three days later, joined 25,000 people at the state capitol to deliver a voting rights petition to Gov. George Wallace. Although troopers blocked the entrance, a governor's secretary eventually accepted the petition.

On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. The sisters did not speak publicly about their experiences for 50 years. Since the screening, the documentary has been renamed *Selma Sisters March On*. This is their story at the following [link](#).

Public Library Millage: Get the Facts

Renew the millage Nov 3

The League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe will host a panel discussion on the public library millage renewal that will appear on the November 3 ballot.



DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2026

TIME: 7 p.m.

WHERE: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods. [Map](#) The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room are *behind* the church - they do not face Sunningdale Park.

The panel will feature:

- **Jessica Keyser, Director, Grosse Pointe Public Library**
- **Robert Allen, President, Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees**
- **Paige Domzalski, Executive Director, Grosse Pointe Library Foundation**
- **Tracy McGee, President, Friends of the Grosse Pointe Library**

The Grosse Pointe Public Library is asking voters to renew the current millage at the same rate for the next 15 years. The panel will explore the different aspects of how the public library is funded, followed by questions from the audience.

The League has a strong advocacy position in support of public library funding. Learn more about our position [here](#) under Social Policies. In July 2026, the League's Board of Directors voted to support renewal of the library millage.

Public libraries play an important role in a healthy democracy and provide resources and services that benefit our entire community. The Grosse Pointe Public Library offers books, magazines, newspapers and videos in both physical and digital formats, as well as story times, free classes for all ages, the DREAM Lab with 3-D printers, live music, and much more.

The program is free, but please register by September 10 at this [link](#). We encourage you to invite your neighbors, friends and colleagues to this informative community event. The program will also be video recorded and posted on the League's YouTube channel.

If you'd like more information about the millage, visit the library's website at this [link](#).

Voter Services News

Voter Services has been very active throughout the month with text messaging to encourage voters to the polls. Many thanks to Holly Cory, Catherine Dumke, Judy Florian, Jane Rousseau, and Deb Sloss. There will be added opportunities for text messaging closer to the November election. This is a low effort way to engage and encourage our neighbors to **GOTV - Get Out The Vote**.

Many of our members were involved across Detroit, Harper Woods, and the Pointes with both Early Voting and Election Day voting. Thank you to all who served as Election Inspectors, Poll Watchers, Poll Challengers, and on the Absentee Voter Ballot Counting Boards. If you served in any capacity during the August election, LWVMI requests you complete the Election Worker Survey form at this [link](#).

September will be a busy month with many opportunities to give an hour or two of time to make a difference.

Postcards to the Polls Party

We will have a Postcards to the Polls party September 3, 2026, 7-9 p.m. to send our GOTV postcards. Sign up [here](#).

GPPSS Board of Trustees Candidate Forum

LWVGP is will also host a Grosse Pointe School Board Trustee Candidate forum on Tuesday, September 22, 7 p.m. at Brownell Auditorium for the three open seats on the school board. The candidates are Walter Fitzpatrick, Jake Howlett, Ginny Jeup and Michelle White.

This is an excellent opportunity to hear directly from the candidates and learn about their vision for our school district. Questions can be submitted until noon on September 18. Use this [link](#) to access the question submission form.

We will also need volunteers to help with this forum. Sign up at this [link](#).

Even if you're not volunteering, we hope you will attend this event and take advantage of this opportunity to hear from the candidates in person! The forum will also be recorded and posted on LWVGP's YouTube channel after September 23.

Absentee Voter Ballot Preparation

There are two opportunities to help the clerks in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms prepare absentee ballots for mailing. Both events will take place on the same day and at the same time (September 21, 10 a.m.), so you may sign up for only one location. Please use the links below to sign up.

- Grosse Pointe Park sign up at this [link](#).
- Grosse Pointe Farms sign up at this [link](#).

INVITED CANDIDATES
WALTER FITZPATRICK
JAKE HOWLETT
GINNY JEUP
MICHELLE WHITE

**GROSSE POINTE
SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEE**

 **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'**
OF GROSSE POINTE

CANDIDATE FORUM

BROWNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
7:00PM

**Are YOU
informed
and ready to
vote?**

GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

**Questions for consideration
may be submitted in advance
no later than noon on Friday,
September 18th at
lwvgrossepointe.org. The
recorded forum will also be
available for viewing after
September 23rd.**

Update: Americans for Citizen Voting- Michigan's Anti-Voter, Proof of Citizenship Proposal

On Monday, August 24, the Michigan Board of State Canvassers met to determine if the Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan (ACV) ballot initiative will be on the November ballot. **The meeting ended in a 2-2 tie. As a result, ACV will not be placed on the ballot. ACV is therefore expected to petition the Michigan Supreme Court for a final decision, which is likely to be issued by September 4.**

Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan must file their lawsuit by September 2 (within 7 business days of the deadlock). It's highly unlikely that there will be oral arguments at the Michigan Supreme Court; each side will have the opportunity to submit a written argument.

BREAKING NEWS

**ANTI-VOTER BALLOT PROPOSAL
MEETS DEADLOCK VOTE AT
COURT OF CANVASSERS**



The Michigan Board of State Canvassers reviewed if the Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan (ACVM) ballot initiative will be on the November ballot. The meeting resulted in a 2-2 vote, meaning the proposal will not be on the ballot. However, ACVM plans to take this to the Michigan Supreme Court. They will determine if the ballot initiative requiring U.S. citizens to provide proof of citizenship documents, like a passport or certified birth certificate, to register to vote or update their voter registration will appear on the ballot this November.

Paid for with regulated funds by Promote the Vote Action,
600 W St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48933



Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan's signature collection process was sloppy and disorganized. They submitted signature sheets written on with crayon and approximately 100,000 signatures were submitted from unregistered voters, not to mention all the duplicate and outdated signatures.

The signature verification process for placing a proposal on the ballot is intentionally thorough and the nonpartisan Bureau of Elections determined that Americans for Citizens Voting-Michigan did not submit enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot.

This anti-voter proposal would make it harder for U.S. citizens to cast their ballots.

A regular driver's license, state ID, or REAL ID is all you need to drive, fly, or get into a bar, and it should be enough to register to vote. **This anti-voter proposal would change Michigan's constitution so you couldn't use any of those IDs to register to vote.**



LWVGP Annual Members Picnic

A total of 56 members and guests attended the LWVGP Member Picnic at the Tompkins Center in Windmill Pointe Park on August 26. Forty-five members arrived in time for the annual group photo!

Members contributed a wonderful variety of picnic dishes and delicious desserts to share. President Lynne Pierce recognized new LWV Lifetime Members Margit Jackson and Judy Morlan.

Several Board members provided updates on upcoming League events, and we were pleased to welcome several new members.

Special thanks to Lauri Kingsbury, VP for Programs, Event Coordinator Melissa Levasseur and Events Committee members Diana Domin, Catherine Dumke, Geri LaPratt, and Laura McCourt. Member Margrit Poynter took on the role of grill master, cooking hamburgers for the event.



VP for Voter Services Deb Sloss and Director of Voter Services Holly Cory with the League's new banner at the picnic.



President Lynne Pierce (center), with new LWV Lifetime members Judy Morlan (l) and Margit Jackson (r).



Member Spotlight: Holly Cory

Holly spent 40 years as a registered nurse, beginning her career at Bon Secours and continuing through the hospital's many transitions. During her career, she worked in a variety of areas, including Medical/Surgical, Surgical Services, the Pain Management Clinic, Home Care, and, for her final 10 years, as a care manager. She retired to devote more time to caring for her grandchildren while her daughter worked.

Holly joined the League during the pandemic, looking for a way to connect with others and learn more about our democracy. She soon realized that our democracy and our rights cannot be taken for granted—they must be actively pursued and protected.

During her first few years as a member, Holly volunteered for several League activities and learned more about how the organization works. When her youngest grandson began full-day school, she stepped into the role of Director of Voter Services, a position that has provided her with a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with others, while gaining a deeper understanding of the voting process. As someone who learns by doing, Holly says the role has been a perfect fit. She believes many people take our democracy for granted and may not fully understand how voting works, making voter education especially important.



Holly is active at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, where she plays in the bell choir. She has served on the Outreach Council several times and has participated in mission trips to Honduras, Cuba, New Orleans, the Dominican Republic, and California. This September, she will lead her second Habitat for Humanity work team to Paradise, California, helping rebuild a community devastated by wildfires in 2018.

In her free time, Holly enjoys reading, traveling, music, and trying new recipes. She is a member of a “fabulous” book club and loves exploring new places. One recent highlight was a week spent at Iona Abbey in Scotland with an ecumenical Christian community focused on peace and social justice. Holly has been married to Mark for 46 years, and together they have three children and four grandchildren.

We’re grateful to have Holly’s energy, experience, and commitment to voter education as part of the League!

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

- Barry Berk, Detroit
- Alesia Bicknell, Grosse Pointe Farms
- Cathy Hadden, Grosse Pointe Woods
- Dawn Riddle, Grosse Pointe Park
- Annalise Sgambato, Grosse Pointe Park.
- Gail Slaughter, Harper Woods

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: lwgrossepoin@gmail.com

Website: lwgrossepoin.org

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

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

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