



The Voter Newsletter October 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

October 5: Investiture Ceremony, Honorable Nicole L. Castka, GP Congregational Church, 5:30 p.m.

October 7: Community Joiner Fair, War Memorial 5:30 - 8 p.m. (see article below)

October 20: Ballot Proposals and Election Information: What You Need to Know, GP Public Library, Central Branch, 6-6:50 p.m.

October 20: LWVGP Board Meeting, GP Public Library, Central branch, 7 p.m.

October 21: Ballot Proposals and Election Information: What You Need to Know, The Helm, 158 Ridge Road, GPF, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

October 24-November 1: Early Voting period

November 3: Election Day

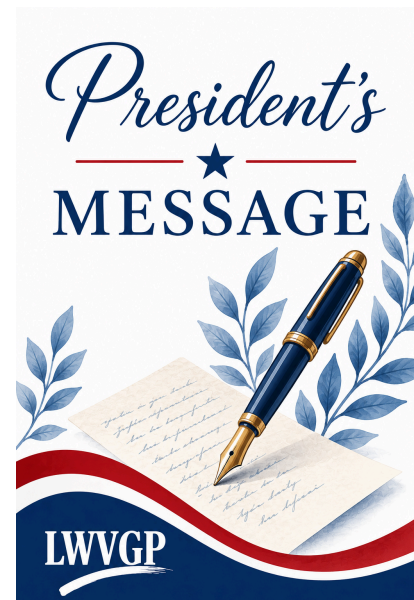
December 8: Holiday Party (TBD)

March 11: Women's History Month Fundraiser, TBD (see article below)

President's Message

Greetings, folks!

September has been a busy month for our Grosse Pointe League. We started with our wonderful picnic at the end of August and moved right into election activities. We had National Voter Registration Day displays at our local libraries, a panel discussion supporting the library renewal millage, a candidate forum for the Grosse Pointe School Board Trustees, presentations throughout the community on the ballot proposals, text banking, Get Out the Vote postcard writing, and absentee ballot assistance for the clerks in Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Park.



We successfully advocated with our legislators to stop the SAVE Act—at least for now! Our National League also joined other organizations to oppose the Administration's USPS mail-in voting executive order. This issue will likely resurface again.

Almost every one of us has been involved with at least one of these activities! We have an incredibly dedicated group of women and men who work hard everyday to continue our mission to empower voters and preserve democracy. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

I am also excited to inform you we are finally making some inroads with younger citizens. Our National League has made it a priority to try to recruit Gen Zers (ages 16-29) to our organization.

There are several reasons for this:

1. Many of this age group have little or no experience voting,
2. They are living in a hostile political climate and which is all they have ever known,
3. We need to recruit young people if our League is to stay relevant and continues to thrive.

We have an active Youth Outreach Committee led by Julianne Phillips. We are participating in a civics/election class at University Liggett High School, where we have direct contact with 17 juniors and seniors. We are in touch with interested teachers at Grosse Pointe North and South to plan some student-driven extracurricular activities.

We have a new student member, Annalise Sgambato, who is helping us with our media/publicity. We are joining with our local Girl Scouts to assist with badges related to civics and voting. We are recruiting 18–29-year-olds to act as observers for the Board of Canvassers post-election meetings. And we are inviting, one-on-one, any Gen Zer we know personally to join our League for free. We are fortunate to have received some grant money from national and state to allow us to implement these plans.

The Youth Outreach Committee members include Julianne Phillips, Chair, Sue Acton, Holly Cory, Kathy Cernok, Martha Hutting, Mary Jo Johnson, Geri LaPratt, Laura Larson, Bernadette Pieczynski, Margrit Poynter, and me. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact Julianne or me lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

That's all for now! See you at the polls!

Lynne Pierce, President

Ballot Proposals for the November 3 General Election

Michigan voters will consider two statewide ballot proposals on November 3, 2026. Here is a brief overview of what each proposal would do.

Proposal 2026-01: Constitutional Convention

Proposal 2026-01 asks voters whether to convene a constitutional convention to draft a general revision of the Michigan Constitution. The question appears on the ballot every 16 years under Article XII, Section 3 of the Michigan Constitution.

If approved, Michigan would elect delegates to a constitutional convention. Any proposed changes would then be submitted to voters for approval or rejection. If rejected, the question would next appear on the ballot in 2042, following the regular 16-year schedule.

Supporters say a convention could address broad issues in Michigan government and the Constitution. Opponents have expressed concerns about the cost and the possibility of significant or unexpected changes to constitutional rights and government policies.

LWVMI has taken a position in opposition of Proposal 2026-1.

Learn more at ProtectMIConstitution at this [link](#).

Proposal 2026-02: Campaign Finance

Proposal 2026-02 is an initiated law that would change Michigan's campaign finance rules.

If approved, the proposal would:

- Prohibit certain regulated electric and gas utilities and government contractors receiving more than \$250,000 annually in government contracts from making direct or indirect campaign contributions to certain candidates and officeholders.
- Expand campaign finance disclosure requirements to certain communications that mention candidates or ballot questions, even if they do not explicitly urge voters to support or oppose them.
- Require disclosure of who paid for certain political communications on the internet.
- The proposal would amend the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Supporters describe the measure as a way to increase transparency and limit potential conflicts of interest. Opponents have raised concerns about free-speech implications, potential legal challenges and the effect of additional campaign finance requirements.

LWVMI has taken a position in support of Proposal 2026-2.

Learn More Before You Vote

The League of Women Voters of Michigan sponsored two presentations on the statewide ballot proposals, providing information about each proposal and arguments from supporters and opponents.

September 10, 2026: Proposal 2026-1

A link to the recording is [here](#).

September 14, 2026 - Proposal 2026-2: Michigan Utility and Government

A link to the recording is [here](#).

Additional Resources: Proposal 2 Messaging 101

An overview of Proposal 2, including the campaign's core messaging and talking points. [MMOP Messaging 101](#)

League members will present an educational program titled *Ballot Proposals and Election Information: What You Need to Know*, provided by the League of Women Voters of Michigan. This presentation provides an overview of the ballot proposals and important election information voters should know before the November election.

Tuesday, October 20 | 6 p.m.

Grosse Pointe Library, Central Branch

Presented by Liz Martin, President-Elect

Wednesday, October 21 | 10:30 a.m.

The Helm, 158 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms

Presented by Deb Sloss, VP for Voter Services

No registration is required. Join us to learn more about the ballot proposals and other important election information.

Renew the millage Nov 3

**LWVGP Program Updates****Public Library Millage: Get the Facts Panel Presentation**

On September 16, LWVGP hosted a community panel discussion about the Grosse Pointe Public Library millage renewal question on the November 3 ballot. Panelists discussed library funding, operations, governance, and the role of community support in providing library services.

LWVGP has a longstanding advocacy position supporting public library funding and the freedom to read. The Grosse Pointe Public Library operates three branches and provides a wide range of print, digital, educational, and community resources.

Special thanks to the panelists

- **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 Magee**, President, Friends of the Grosse Pointe Library

In addition, the following League members assisted with the event:

- President Lynne Pierce, Welcome
- VP for Programs Lauri Kingsbury, Moderator
- Advocacy Director Loren Mannino, Introduction to League Advocacy
- Events Committee: Co-Chairs Melissa Levasseur and Margrit Poynter, and members Diana Domin, Catherine Dumke, Geri LaPratt, and Joanne Swanson
- Tech Support: Judy Florian

NOTE

- You can access the recording of this event on our YouTube channel at this [link](#).
- Learn more about the library millage at this [link](#).

Community Joiner Fair-War Memorial

The second annual Community Joiner Fair will be held at the GP War Memorial on October 7, at 5:30 p.m. Keynote: *In Conversation with Priya Parker* with Ann Delisi of WDET. The program is free, but registration is required. You can register at this [link](#).

Celebrate Women's History Month—March 11, 2027

Volunteers Needed! Help us plan this exciting fundraiser for the League. Carrie Moon-Dupree, President, League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne County, will share her collection of antique, vintage, and modern swimwear while exploring the connections between women's fashion, social trends, the suffrage movement, and women's rights. Audience members will also be invited to share their own "bathing suit stories."

Interested in helping make this event a success? Join the special planning committee and share your talents and skills. The first committee meeting will be held in late October.

To volunteer, contact L. Kingsbury at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com with "Swimsuits" in the subject line.

Voter Services—Part 1

Postcards to the Polls

Voter Services held a successful Postcards to the Polls Party on September 3. Many thanks to the following who participated to make it a success: Sue Acton, Holly Cory, Judy Florian, Marge Freundl, Mary Garlough, Vicki Granger, Gerri

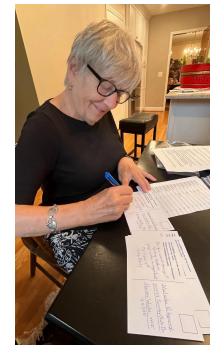
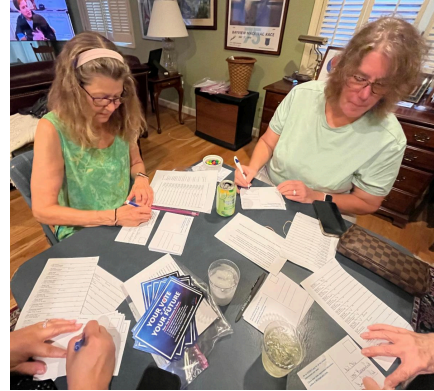
LaPratt, Laura Larson, Judy Masserang, Laura McCourt, Penny Pitts, Deb Sloss, Mickie Verderbar, and Deborah Weatherston.

Those completing post cards at home included Kathy Cernok, Marsha Cron, Diana Domin, Catherine Dumke, Kathy Gardner, Kathy Hadden, Rachel Huber, Martha Hutting, Margit Jackson, Kelly Larson, MaryBeth Kane, Sue Mack, Laura McCourt, Bernadette Pieczynski, Jane Rousseau, and Carla Teagan. A total of 1500 postcards were completed with this team effort!



Top: l to r: Judy Masserang, Deb Sloss, Penny Pitts and Holly Cory.

Bottom: l to r: Sue Acton, Sarah Coats, Mickie Verderbar, Vicki Granger, Mary Garlough, Marge Freundl and Laura McCourt.



Top: l to r: Laura Larson and Geri LaPratt.

Below: Deborah Weatherston.

Voter Services—Part 2

Absentee Ballot Preparation

A special thanks to the members who assisted our local clerks in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms with preparing absentee ballots: Kathy Cernok, Barbara Choate, Marge Freundl, Martha Hutting, Mary Jo Johnson, Lauri Kingsbury, Carol Lufburrow, Loren Mannino, Liz Martin, Laura McCourt, Ann Nicholson, Penny Pitts, Deb Sloss, Carla Teagan, Mickie Verderbar, Ann Walton, and Deborah Weatherston.



Voter Services–Part 3

GPPSS Trustee Candidate Forum

Over 100 people attended the candidate forum for the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Board of Trustees on September 22 at Brownell Middle School. The community submitted 64 questions for the event. Four candidates participated for 3 open seats: Walter Fitzpatrick, Jake Howlett, Ginny Jeup, and Michelle White.

A special thanks to the following League members for their help with this event:

- **Moderator:** Sue Acton
- **Timekeepers:** Marge Freundl and Jane Rousseau
- **VP for Voter Services:** Deb Sloss
- **Question Review Committee:** Loren Mannino, Judy Masserang, Joanne Swanson, and Deb Vorhees

- **Hospitality/Greeters:** Geri LaPratt, Laura McCourt, Jan Ryndress, and Maria Williams
- **League Information Table:** Catherine Dumke.

Special thanks to Steve Geresy, GPPSS, for recording the event. The recording is available on the League's YouTube channel at this [link](#).



School board candidates, l to r, Jake Howlett, Walter Fitzpatrick, Ginny Jeup, and Michelle White.



Above, l to r, Forum Moderator Sue Acton and VP for Voter Services Deb Sloss.

Pictured at left: Jude O'Meara, *The Tower* GP South Student Newspaper and Steve Geresy, Videographer, GPPSS.

Voter Services—Part 4

VOTE411 is Live!

Everything you need to prepare for the upcoming election is now available at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), the League's online voter guide. Enter your home address to view a personalized sample ballot with all the races, candidates, and ballot measures that will appear on your November 3 ballot.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to explore [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) and make a plan to vote. An informed voter is an empowered voter.



A special thanks to member Annie Spence for decorating the tables at each Grosse Pointe Public Library branch for National Voter Registration Day. The display pictured below was at the Ewald Branch in Grosse Pointe Park.



Congratulations To Our LWVGP Lifetime Members

At the August 26th members picnic, Lifetime Members Margit Jackson and Judy Morlan were recognized and presented with certificates honoring this special achievement. Below are the remarks shared by President Lynne Pierce during the presentation. Congratulations to Margit and Judy on becoming Lifetime Members, and thank you both for your many years of dedicated service to our League!

Margit Jackson

Margit is a retired CPA who was very helpful to our League due to her financial background. She served as treasurer for our League and acted as a guide to the treasurers that followed her who had questions about budgeting, tax status, etc. She also led a retirement planning session to help younger women think ahead.

Margit also was active in LWV's position process and helped on many committees. She often hosted meetings in her home. Ann Nicholson says "Margit worked full-time, so her time and energy were limited, but she has a generous spirit and I've always thought highly of her. She loves music and was a regular patron of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. I haven't seen her for a few years, so maybe she still is. She and I have a link in that we are both from the Seattle area."

Judy Morlan

Judy and her late husband, Gordon, were a mainstay of our League for many years. She was always gracious and friendly to new members, and she has served in many capacities, including president. She was particularly interested in environmental issues and encouraged members to educate themselves regarding threats to our environment and how to protect it.

Judy facilitated programs about water pollution, recycling, citizen responsibility, just to name a few. As retired science teachers, Judy and Gordon organized and led meetings on the environment every Fall as part of the League program schedule. They also participated in the Lake Michigan League conferences regarding the environment and brought back information to share with our members.



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

Member Spotlight: Laura Larson

Laura Larson brings a distinguished musical career and a strong commitment to civic participation to her work with the League. Her professional experience includes serving as principal flute with the Flint Symphony Orchestra, playing flute and piccolo with the Detroit Opera orchestra, teaching flute as an adjunct instructor at Wayne State University, and performing piccolo with the Miami/Florida Philharmonic. In addition, Laura served as a Suzuki Flute teacher trainer.



Laura was drawn to the League because of its nonpartisan approach and its focus on issues that transcend political bickering. She wanted to devote her time and energy to expanding and preserving voting rights and protecting democracy.

The long struggle by women to gain the right to vote is particularly meaningful to her, and she sees her League involvement as one way to honor that history.

Since joining in 2019, Laura has found a variety of ways to contribute. She served for two years on the LWVGP Nominating Committee, an experience that gave her the opportunity to get to know many League members. She has also helped with voter service activities and the youth engagement committee, while helping wherever she can when her time allows.

For Laura, the best part of League work is the people. She appreciates being part of a group whose members are invested in voting rights, voter education, combating mis/disinformation, and encouraging civic participation. Her involvement with the League has deepened her own commitment to preserving what she describes as the building blocks of democracy.

One of her favorite League activities is working alongside like-minded members on projects. She particularly enjoys going into schools and helping high school students register to vote. Those opportunities allow her to connect her commitment to civic engagement with young people who are beginning to participate in the democratic process.

Laura's involvement extends beyond the League. She belongs to Voters Not Politicians, Tuesday Musicales of Detroit, the National Flute Association, the Southeast Michigan Flute Association, the Detroit Federation of Musicians, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Away from her professional and civic activities, Laura enjoys a wide range of interests, including knitting, yoga, golf, reading, playing recorder, gardening, and travel. Her musical background remains an important part of her life, as does her interest in connecting with others through the arts and community activities.

A particularly memorable League experience was attending a performance of *Suffs* with fellow League members. Laura enjoyed both the performance and the opportunity to share the experience with other members, combining her interest in music and theater with the camaraderie she values so much in the League.

Investiture Ceremony-The Honorable Nicole L. Castka

Congratulations to League member Nicole Castka!

You are cordially invited to attend the Investiture Ceremony for the Honorable Nicole L. Castka, 3rd Judicial Circuit Judge of Wayne County.

Date: Monday, October 5

Time: Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.; ceremony: 6:00 p.m.

Reception: Following the ceremony in Fellowship Hall

Location: Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
240 Chalfont, Grosse Pointe Farms

Please RSVP to judgecastkarsvp@gmail.com.

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 (youth member)
- Gail Slaughter, Harper Woods

LWVGP Board through June 30, 2027

Executive Board (Elected)

President: Lynne Pierce

President-Elect: Liz Martin

Secretary: Ruth Hoover

Treasurer: Carol Lufburrow

VP Programs: 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 Coordinators: Melissa Levasseur; Margrit Poynter

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: Sarah Coats

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
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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