



## League of Women Voters - Lansing Area

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy



### *CAPITOL VOTER*

JULY 2018

#### CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

**CONSIDER  
BECOMING AN  
ELECTION  
INSPECTOR**

**NEW EDUCATION  
WORK GROUP**

**MI DEPT. OF ED  
SEEKS INPUT ON  
SOCIAL STUDIES**

**STANDARDS**

**GUN VIOLENCE**

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

##### Candidate Forums:

- July 17-Michigan House District 68 (7:15 PM) and House District 69 (6 PM)-Lansing Public Media Center
- July 25-Michigan House District 69, 6 PM-Delta Township Library
- July 31-Michigan House District 67, 6:30 PM-Unitarian Universalist Church

##### Other Events:

**PREVENTION WORK  
GROUP INFO**

**CO-PRESIDENTS  
MESSAGE**

**NEW BOARD  
WELCOMED**

**REDUCED  
MEMBERSHIP FEE  
FOR STUDENTS**

**PROMOTE THE VOTE  
PETITIONS  
DELIVERED**

**LWVLA REGISTERS  
2000+ NEW VOTERS**

**VOTE411 NOW ON-  
LINE**

**GET-OUT-THE VOTE  
CAMPAIGN**

**LWVLA SPONSORS  
CANDIDATE FORUMS**

**BOOK GROUP TO  
DISCUSS  
SOTOMAYOR BOOK**

**PROTECTING  
MICHIGAN'S  
WATERS**

**LWV-LMR SPEAKER  
ADVOCATES FOR  
WATER**

**DIVERSITY &  
INCLUSION FOCUS  
OF LWVUS  
CONVENTION**

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**CONSIDER  
BECOMING AN  
ELECTION**

- **August 14-Book Group at 10 AM at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing**
- **August 27th-Women's Equality Day lunch at Hall of Fame Café-11:30 AM**
- **September 20-Fall Kick-Off Program-5:30 pm-light supper and panel discussion on election security.**

**MESSAGES FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS**

*The May 15th annual meeting brought changes in leadership for LWVLA; the messages below reflect those changes.*

**A thank-you from Beth Moore:**

Camilla Davis, the other half of the co-president team for the past four years, decided to step down but is still devoting considerable time in support of the League. We all appreciate the wonderful organizational skills and friendly approach that Camilla brought to the role. Camilla will continue to format the Voter and also will be helping with membership responsibilities. We wish Camilla and Gary terrific adventures in this next phase, minus all of the League demands.

I am remaining in the co-president role only for one more year, to make the transition through the election. Margo Smith is serving as the other co-president.

**A Message from Camilla Davis:**

It's been an honor to serve as co-president of LWVLA for the past four years. The opportunity to work with so many talented and exceptional people has been beyond expectation. Many thanks to members so willing to volunteer in support of League activities, to the LWVLA board for their dedication and thoughtfulness, and to Beth Moore for her commitment to working together to make this League grow and prosper. Best wishes to Margo and Beth as they begin this new chapter in LWVLA. As Beth mentioned in her message, I'll still be involved in League activities, helping in any way I can. I won't be disappearing from something that's been an important part of my life for the last four years

## **INSPECTOR**

Several speakers at the LWVUS convention encouraged League members to work at the polls on election-day as a way to learn more about the election process. Contact your local clerk for more information.

## **LWVLA LAUNCHES NEW EDUCATION WORK GROUP**



League members interested in educational issues are encouraged to attend the first meeting of this new workgroup on Tuesday, July 25 at 5 PM at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. The committee will explore League positions on education and consider

**An Introduction from Margo Smith: Coming Full Circle In Hilo, Hawaii, where I first joined the LWV, I worked on voter education, developing a workshop on education and advocacy. When we relocated to Michigan in the 1970s, I joined LWVLA and served as chair of the international relations committee, president, secretary, and now will serve as co-president. In early 2017, I retired from MSU College of Human Medicine where I directed programs in Service-Learning, Global Health, Graduate Studies, and was assistant director for the MD-PhD program. Previously, I worked as a legislative aide to former State House Representative Lynn Jondahl, 69th district. Now I will be coordinating the LWVLA Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign.**

## **NEW BOARD WELCOMED**

In addition to Margo, three new members were welcomed to the board: Sherri McConnell is the new secretary, Jill Kroll is the chairperson for the new education workgroup and Bob Miller joins the board in an at-large position. We also said farewell to Deanna Hanieski who had served on the board for a long time in many roles.

(A complete list of board members appears in the left column. )

## **LEAGUE OFFERS REDUCED MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR STUDENTS**

The Lansing LWV board recently voted to set the annual dues at \$5 for students, following actions by the national and state LWV boards to eliminate Per Member Payments for students. A student is defined as an individual enrolled either full or part-time in an accredited institution. The minimum age for a voting membership is 16, according to the LWVUS Bylaws.

issues that need attention. If you have questions or are interested in this committee, contact Jill Kroll, chairperson, at [jck0120@gmail.com](mailto:jck0120@gmail.com).

**MICHIGAN  
DEPT. OF ED.  
SEEKS MORE INPUT  
ON  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
STANDARDS**

With the public interest in the development of the revised Social Studies standards, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is extending the public input period to September 30, 2018. For a list of the public hearings, a description of the development process, and a link to the standards, see the [Michigan Department of Education website](#).

**GUN VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION**

**PROMOTE THE VOTE PETITIONS  
TURNED IN TO SOS**

Boxes of signed petitions supporting the proposed constitutional amendment to make voting more convenient and accessible were presented to the Michigan Secretary of State on July 9. Members of the sponsoring coalition (ACLU, LWVMI and NAACP) thanked volunteers from throughout the state for collecting the 430,000 signatures and recognized that now the campaign to educate voters begins.

The Lansing Area League collected more than 800 signatures, thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers. Melinda Frame did a terrific job of keeping track of the petitions.

## **COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO MEET**

This group is continuing to meet regularly to explore issues and examine resources. Two members, Marty Couretas and Melinda Frame, have authored a research-based paper for LWVMI titled "Gun Violence: Protecting Our Children." [Click here](#) for a link to the paper.

The next meeting is August 11 at the East Lansing Library.

For more information about this committee, please contact Marty Courtaes at [couretam@comcast.net](mailto:couretam@comcast.net) or 517-337-8165).

## **2018 - 2019 LWVLA BOARD**

### **Co-Presidents**

Beth Moore  
Margo Smith

### **VP Program**

Ann Marston

## **LEAGUE REGISTERS MORE THAN 2000 NEW VOTERS**

Marilyn Wilson, Voter Service Chair reports: "We have had a very successful high school voter registration season, with 12 high schools participating, along with two successful drives at Peckham Industries, for a total of 483 newly registered voters. Twenty League members have worked at voter registration sites over the past three months." One of the high school students wrote to thank the League for helping him learn more about the electoral process and another wrote "thanks to the League for helping me in another step towards having my voice heard."

The newly registered high school students were asked for contact information and they will receive text messages with information about candidate forums and where to get information about candidates and issues.

This summer, League volunteers have been working at the MSU Academic Orientation Program to register more than 1900 new voters, with another week remaining in the program. Volunteers mention how enthusiastic the students are about being registered.

There will still be voter registration efforts through the summer and fall. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marilyn Wilson at [wilsonmlwvla@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonmlwvla@gmail.com) or 517-927-7164.

## **VOTE411 IS NOW ON-LINE**

Lansing area voters can now access the League's on-line voter guide ([www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)), containing biographical information about state and local candidates and their views on issues. Type in your address and see information on everything that is on your ballot,

**Secreatry/  
Membership**

Sherri McConnell

**Treasurer**

John Hanieski

**Director-at-Large**

Bob Miller

**Education**

Jill Kroll

**Environment**

Ellen Link

**Finance/Fund  
Raising**

Debby Starnes

**Membership/Web  
Master**

Judy Culham

**New Member Liaison**

Barbara Bidigare

**Parliamentarian/  
Government**

Cele Friestater

**Publicity**

providing a handy reference for election-day. A recent Facebook exchange, answered a frustrated voter with a series of comments promoting the value of VOTE411. Tell your family, friends and colleagues about this important resource. Thanks to Anna Scott for working so diligently to get VOTE411 posted.

**Help Wanted: League volunteers are needed in late August to call candidates and remind them that their VOTE411 information is due. Contact Beth Moore if you are available to help with this important task ([mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu))**

**GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CAMPAIGN  
PLANNED BY LEAGUE**

Margo Smith will be coordinating activities with League members and with leaders of organizations in the larger community who will be planning similar actions. The focus for the campaign is to talk with potential voters, answering questions about the mechanics of voting and adding personal encouragement about the importance of voting. One idea from NAACP is to enlist the help of churches in displaying information on their message boards about the last day to register to vote, and reminders to vote on Election Day. Margo says: "I did this with my church, and they will put up messages! Please consider asking your churches."

The League efforts are focused on both the primary and the general election. The voter turnout in primaries is typically below 20 percent of eligible voters and the campaign efforts are intended to increase those numbers. League volunteers will be at key locations in Lansing and East Lansing, handing out information about VOTE411 and answering questions about voting. This effort will take place daily from 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM. Monday-Friday, July 30 - August 7. The primary spots initially targeted for passing out the VOTE 411 cards include: 1)The MSU Campus: Footbridge between the

Carol Swinehart

**Voter Service**

Marilyn Wilson

Administration and Wells Hall; MSU Union; Brody Hall 2) Downtown Lansing: Washington Square and Allegan; Capitol and Allegan 3) East Lansing Public Library. Please contact Margo Smith if you are interested in helping with any of the Get-Out-the-Vote Activities: [smithmk@msu.edu](mailto:smithmk@msu.edu) or 517-881-2836.

**SEE PHOTOS OF  
LWVLA VOTER  
REGISTRATION**

**VISIT OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE**



**BE SURE TO LIKE  
US!**

**LEAGUE SPONSORS FOUR CANDIDATE FORUMS  
PRIOR TO PRIMARY**

Two candidate forums will be held before the primary elections for the **68th and 69th House Districts** on **Tuesday, July 17**, at the Lansing Public Media Center, 2500 South Washington Avenue, Lansing. Co-sponsoring with the League are the local chapters of the ACLU, NAACP, and Represent Us. Candidates for the 69th district, which includes the City of East Lansing and Meridian Township, will begin to speak at 6:00 PM. The forum for the 68th district, located in Lansing, begins at 7:15 PM.

**Wednesday, July 25**, is the forum for candidates for the **71st state House of Representative** seat in Eaton County, sponsored by the League of Women Voters. The forum is scheduled for 6 PM at the Delta Township Library. Contact Deanna Hanieski for more information, [haniesd@lcc.edu](mailto:haniesd@lcc.edu).

**Tuesday, July 31**, is the forum for candidates for the **67th state House of Representatives** seat in south Lansing and the out-county area, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Action for Greater Lansing. The forum is scheduled for 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church on South Pennsylvania Ave. For more information contact Margo Smith, [smithmk@msu.edu](mailto:smithmk@msu.edu).

**QUICK LINKS**

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

[LWVLMR\\*\\*](#)

**LEAGUE BOOK GROUP WILL  
DISCUSS SOTOMAYOR BOOK**

**\*\*LWVLA is a member of the LWV - Lake Michigan Region. Click on LWVLMR for an update of the organization's initiatives.**

Plan to join members of the League Book Group on Tuesday, August 14 at 10 a.m. at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. The group will be discussing Sonia Sotomayor's memoir, *My Beloved World*. East Lansing/MSU's One Book One Community Program has chosen this book, so there will be opportunities to hear the Justice on Sunday, August 26 at the East Lansing High School Theater on Monday August 27 at the Reading

