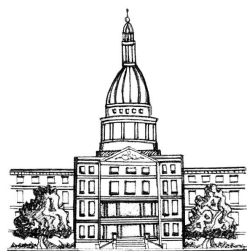




## League of Women Voters - Lansing Area

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy



### *CAPITOL VOTER* SEPTEMBER 2018

#### **CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

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#### **FALL KICK OFF EVENT!**

#### **CANDIDATE FORUMS**

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#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Thursday, September 20** - LWVLA Fall Kick-Off and Panel Discussion, Securing Our Elections: Challenges for Local Clerks. 5:30 - 8:00 pm, All Saints Episcopal Church, Abbot Road, East Lansing. Light supper.

**Monday, October 1** - Luncheon: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. Olga's. Frandor Shopping Center, 354 Frandor Ave., Lansing. Caitlyn Perry Dial, Executive Director, Michigan Women Forward. #Her Story: new initiatives and opportunities

**Monday, October 8** - Book group discussion: *What the Eyes Don't See* by Dr Mona Hanna Atisha, 10:00 - 11:30 am. Grand Traverse Pie Company, East Lansing

## BOOK GROUP NEWS



The LWVLA Book Discussion Group will discuss *What the Eyes Don't See* by Dr Mona Hanna-Atisha. All are welcome to come and join the discussion, even if they haven't read the book.

**For the October meeting, the group will meet on Monday, the 8th.**

Time: 10 am.

Location: Grand Traverse Pie, East Lansing.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have welcomed five new members in the past month:

- Kathleen Crooks, East Lansing
- Angela Fosse, Mason
- Clyde and Teresa Thomas, Dansville

**Thursday, October 11** - Community Forum: 2018 Ballot Proposals. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing, 7 - 9 pm.

**Thursday, November 8** - Mark your calendar for our post-election event, 5:30 - 7 pm. More details to follow.

**November 11-17** - Schuler Book Days fundraiser for LWVLA.

**Thursday, November 15** - Community Forum: New Americans: Examining Immigration and Refugee Policies, 7 - 9 pm, more details to follow.

## AN EXCITING TIME FOR THE LEAGUE CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT



Election season is always busy for local Leagues, but this year is presenting LWVLA with many new opportunities. As reported widely, there is increased interest in voting and individuals and groups are turning to the League for voter information. We have a terrific cadre of volunteers who are willing to register voters in all sorts of circumstances (Lugnuts games, festivals, etc.). We have also established some new alliances in the community, with groups such as Action of Greater Lansing, NAACP, Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. See the article below for the full array of voter service activities in the weeks leading up to November 6.

We will be distributing more state and local voter guides than ever before and handing out more VOTE411 Bookmarks to remind people about voting. As we work to meet the increasing demand, please consider making a donation today: *DONATE on line, or, send a check to LWVLA, P.O. Box 971, East Lansing, MI 48823 (Made out to League of Women Voters Education Fund for tax deductible, and to League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area for the*

- Susan Schroeder, Battle Creek

*general fund. Thank You!)*

## KICK-OFF EVENT FOCUSES ON ELECTION SECURITY

The League kicks off its 2018-19 programming with a special presentation on Thursday, September 20, from 5:30 - 8 pm. This is a great opportunity to learn about current initiatives, sign up for an issue work group or for distributing voter guides. It is also a good time to meet other League members and to enjoy a "small plates" supper.

### 2018 - 2019 LWVLA BOARD

#### Co-Presidents

Beth Moore  
Margo Smith

#### VP Program

Ann Marston

#### Secretary/ 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

#### *Securing Our Elections - the Challenge for Local Clerks*

Four local clerks will discuss the issues they face in protecting the security of our electoral system: equipment, training, external threats, etc. Describing the current environment in a moderated discussion will be:

- Barbara Byrum, Ingham County Clerk
- Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
- Mary Clark, Delta Township Clerk
- Adam Cramton, DeWitt Charter Township

The panel represents different sized jurisdictions throughout the tri-county area.

RSVP to Elaine Fischhoff at [elaineDFlwvla@gmail.com](mailto:elaineDFlwvla@gmail.com) by Tuesday, September 18th. Reservations are not required but are appreciated. Guests are welcome!

### CANDIDATE FORUMS HELP VOTERS MAKE DECISIONS



LWVLA organized four candidate forums prior to the primary election and three more are planned before November 6th. Here's the list of upcoming forums:

**Parliamentarian/  
Government**

Cele Friestater

**Publicity**

Carol Swinehart

**Voter Service**

Marilyn Wilson

- September 26-East Lansing School Board-7 pm Hannah Community Center, Abbot Road, East Lansing
- October 2-24th Michigan Senate-7 pm, DeWitt City Hall
- October 9-MSU Board of Trustees-7 pm Hannah Community Center, Abbot Road, East Lansing. Co-sponsored by MSUVote.

League members are encouraged to attend and bring family and friends. Please contact Marilyn Wilson if you'd like additional information ([wilsonm@msu.edu](mailto:wilsonm@msu.edu))

**KEEP UP WITH THE  
LATEST LWVLA  
HAPPENINGS!**

**VISIT OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE**



**BE SURE TO LIKE  
US!**

**SHARE LEAGUE  
NEWS WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS!**

**THREE PHASES OF  
VOTING****Voter Registration -**

We have registered far more voters than in the past: more than 400 high school students, 2200 at MSU orientation, at least 200 at LCC. As we move closer to the October 9th deadline for registration prior to the November election, we have two new voter registration projects:

- On September 24th, Co-President Margo Smith and other coalition members will be registering voters at the Ingham County Jail.
- A group of League members is making contact with Senior Living Centers in the tri-county area to help residents with registering, changing addresses and/or applying for absentee ballots.

**Voter Education -** We will be helping voters obtain information prior to voting in several ways:

- Candidate forums - See the story above.

**QUICK LINKS**

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)  
[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)  
[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)  
[LWVLMR\\*\\*](#)

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

- VOTE411 - Our online voter guide will be available at the end of September. This is a complete source of voter information.
- Voter Guides - Printed state and local guides (for each of the three counties) will be ready for distribution the first week in October.

**Get Out the Vote (GOTV)** - The coalition is working to send messages through various means (church bulletins, signs at schools and businesses etc.). In addition, during the week prior to the election, League volunteers and others will be on campus and downtown Lansing handing out VOTE411 bookmarks and reminding people to vote. Voter Service Director Marilyn Wilson is a part of the MSUVOTE committee, finding new ways to reach MSU students.

## LEAGUE GROUPS STUDY ISSUES

This League currently has three issue work groups that are examining League positions and exploring possibilities for local action. We will use this space in each issue of the Capitol Voter to highlight the work of these groups.

**Eco Watch - LWV-LA Environment Work Group** --Maybe you've heard about PFAs, industrial compounds that have contaminated water in some communities, and the revelation that warnings around since 2012 went unheeded. Or perhaps you want the whole story behind demands to shut down the Line 5 Pipeline that runs beneath the Mackinac Straits. You may be worried about the likelihood of more Michigan cities having lead in their water, or wonder what's going on in our state to combat climate change.

But you may also know that the League of Women Voters advocates on behalf of the environment-that it monitors legislation, formulates policy, and takes action as new challenges to Michigan's environmental integrity continue to arise. For example, in Feb. 2017, LWVMI President Judy Karandjeff submitted comments to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality opposing Nestle's water

withdrawal request in Osceola County. A month later she sent a letter to members of the Michigan House Oversight Committee opposing HB 4205, which would restrict the adoption of rules more stringent than the federal and thereby put the Great Lakes at risk.

One of the LWVUS's positions on the environment is, "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment." With threats to our environment and therefore to our health and our children's future on the increase, members of the environment work group feel a responsibility to keep LWV-LA members informed and offer ways to take aim at these threats. Unfortunately, there's no dearth of problems demanding attention, from Line 5 and PAHs to neonicotinoids harming bees and invasives transforming the Great Lakes-the list goes on and on. We hope you'll look for our column, "Eco Watch," in The Voter, and lend your voice to the cause. Please contact Ellen Link for more information about this issue group ([elink767@gmail.com](mailto:elink767@gmail.com)).

**Gun Violence Prevention Study Committee -**

This group meets on the second Saturday at 10-30-noon at East Lansing Public Library. This study group welcomes new members as they begin a more formal study of the causes leading to firearm violence and the resulting effects on families and communities. The group will use the research-based paper "Gun Violence: Protecting Our Children"" (<http://lwvmi.org/documents/GunViolenceBriefing.pdf>).

In addition, the group will explore the gun-sense positions of candidates running in the November elections and relevant bills in the Michigan legislature. Please contact Marty Couretas, [couretam@comcast.net](mailto:couretam@comcast.net) or Melinda Frame, [mframe80@gmail.com](mailto:mframe80@gmail.com) if you have questions.

**Education Work Group** - This is the newest of the groups and they are still exploring options for action. They will soon be publicizing new opportunities for giving input to the Michigan Department of Education regarding social

studies standards. Please contact Jill Kroll if you are interested in joining this group  
(jck0120@gmail.com)