

**EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**



**THE
CAPITOL
VOTER**

**OCTOBER
2022**

IN THE OCTOBER CAPITOL VOTER

- President: Our Election Work Continues
- Election Challengers and BOC Observers Needed
- November Book Group: *Diary of a Misfit*
- Education: Discussing School Vouchers
- Learn About Greener End-of-Life Choices
- October is Membership Renewal Month

LWVLA CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 8. Election Day! ...*voting is the single most important way to participate in a democracy.* - LWVLA President, Donna Mullins.

Tuesday, November 15, 10 am. The Book Group will discuss *Diary of a Misfit*, by Casey Parks. See below for more info and Zoom link.

OUR ELECTION WORK CONTINUES
Donna Mullins, President



What's important to you? Reproductive rights? Economic justice? Equal rights? Environmental issues? Education? Criminal Justice? Taxes? Infrastructure? Your family? Democracy? All of the above??? League members know that voting is the single most important way to participate in a democracy. And we are willing to work to encourage that more have and use that right.

The community is bursting with nearly 20,000 local Voter Guides. We have 2-3 presentations a week to local groups about what's on November's ballot. So many of you have helped us with this! There's still plenty more to do as we reach the finish line to this election cycle.

So, this month's message is a short one: Be sure to read VP for Voter Service Joanne Winkelman's column below. She outlines what you've accomplished and what you still can do to help ensure that our community participates in this democracy. Democracy is at risk. We are part of the answer when we work

Together,
Donna

LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS PROMOTE INFORMED VOTING

Joanne Winkelman, Vice President, Voter Service

Voter Guides

More than 25 league volunteers contacted community locations and dropped off state and local voter guides throughout the tri-county area! This is a monumental task that takes an army to fulfill. I am so appreciative for the response to my call for help. If you know of places that need more guides or if your friends and relatives want them, please let [me](#) know. More guides are available at places such as libraries, state and local clerks' offices, senior and community centers, churches and local businesses.

Board of Canvassers Observers Needed

After the November 8 election Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties will begin the canvassing process to certify the results of the election. The LWV Michigan is again requesting that all leagues observe the local canvassing boards after the election to ensure that the process is free of partisan politics.

The November 8 ballot is long with many offices, proposals, and millages. Thus, the canvassing will be lengthier than the primary canvassing. It is expected that some of the boards (i.e., Ingham) may take the entire 14 days to finish the canvassing. Therefore, we will need more volunteers to fill time slots for the Clinton and Eaton Boards of Canvasser meetings in person and the Ingham Board either in person or online.

Please consider being an observer. It's not exciting but our presence helps to ensure our democratic processes are not compromised. If you have not been trained as an observer in the past, training will be provided by the LWVMI on what to look for during the canvassers' meetings and how to fill out the daily online reporting form. Check your in-

boxes for the October 26 email sent from LWVLA asking for volunteers.

Volunteer to Protect Election Integrity

The November 8 general election is around the corner, and LWVMI is working hard to protect and defend the right to vote. One of the ways that we're doing this is by participating in the state's nonpartisan Rapid Response Program, which is designed to address misinformation and voter suppression whenever and wherever it occurs. Nonpartisan election challengers are a crucial part of this program.

Challengers are needed throughout the state on Election Day, both at the polls and at absentee ballot counting boards. If you're interested in volunteering to be a nonpartisan election challenger, please sign up [here](#). Our partner, Promote the Vote, will follow up shortly with additional information. If you have questions, please contact [Melanie Macey](#), Promote the Vote's Election Protection Coordinator.

League Members are the Best – Thank You!

Besides the work mentioned above, I want to personally thank these people for their valuable contributions of time and presence:

- Donna Mullins, Dorothy Engelman, Judith Andre, Bob Miller, Carolyn Brokob, Marilyn Wilson, Nell and Howard Pizzo, and members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Delta Lambda Chapter assisted at the Grand Ledge School Board Forum on September 29.
- The City of Lansing held voter registration drives across the city in August and September. Around 25 league members came out to register voters at the various events! You rock!
- Merry Jo Hill-Hernandez, Liz Kaufman, and Kevin Cavanaugh assisted in registering students at Haslett High School on October 4. We were joined by the Meridian Township Clerk, Deborah Guthrie.
- A special thanks to Anna Scott and Dorothy Engelman for the important roles they played in gathering candidate information for VOTE411 and assembling the 2022 Voter Guide.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Donna Mullins

November's book discussion will be on the third Tuesday, November 15, since the second Tuesday is Election Day. We will discuss Casey Parks' book, *Diary of a Misfit*, the story of Parks' life-changing journey to unravel the mystery of Roy Hudgins, a small-town country singer from grandmother's youth, all the while confronting ghosts of her own. If you are not on the book group email list and would like to join the discussion, email [Donna](#).

In October, we discussed *The Black Church: This is Our Story, This Is Our Song*, by Henry Louis Gates. The book is described as a powerful new history of the Black church in America as the Black community's abiding rock and its fortress. You might enjoy the PBS documentary on which the book was based.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS VOUCHERS

Bettie Landauer-Menchik, Education Committee Chair

The education committee will be discussing Betsy DeVos's initiatives to have school vouchers in Michigan. This is our first meeting of 2022-23 and we welcome anyone who is interested. There's plenty to read and discuss about vouchers.

The committee will meet on Zoom at 5 pm on Wednesday, November 9. Contact [Bettie](#) if you would like to join us.

GREEN BURIALS: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Laura Rogers, EAG Member

Join other league members and interested guests on November 29, at 6 pm at the Okemos Library to learn about the "greener" alternatives to traditional methods for meeting end-of life needs.



Funerals can be costly, not only to the wallet, but the environment. Embalment, caskets made from certain materials, and vault burials pose serious threats by introducing non-biodegradable materials into the earth. Producing the concrete and metals needed for vaults creates carbon emissions, and the land needed for burial plots heavily taxes essential natural resources. It's no wonder that in recent years, many have begun to explore "greener" options. What are some of the major environmental concerns we face, and how can we make more eco-friendly choices?

Join us in November for a fascinating look at how we can make meaningful, greener choices as we approach the end of life. We'll discuss the pros and cons of options like cremation, which has gained popularity due to its relatively lower cost and lighter carbon footprint. We'll also explore the concept of "green burials", which offers several intriguing choices. Learn exactly how practices like water cremation (alkaline hydrolysis) work, by dissolving the body and reducing the amount of natural resources needed for burial. Discover the process of "human composting"; allowing the body to decompose in natural surroundings, without contamination from embalming fluids or loss of natural resources needed for entombment.

You've lived your life advocating for a healthy environment; now, join us for this informative presentation to find out how you can continue being kind to the earth when you are ready to pass it on to future generations!

ONE THING

When cleaning up your garden and flowerbeds this Fall, help preserve beneficial insects that overwinter by delaying the removal of some of that dead foliage until Spring.

OCTOBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

Camilla Davis, Membership Chair

LWVLA needs your support to carry out its mission to defend democracy by promoting voter registration and educating voters about candidates and ballot proposals. Volunteers are genuinely appreciated, but if you can only support the League by paying your dues, you are equally appreciated.

The annual dues for 2022 - 2023 are \$65.00, from which \$32.00 goes to LWV-US, \$23.00 to LWV-MI, and \$10.00 to LWV-LA. The dues for two members living in the same household are \$97.50. There is no cost for a student to join our local League.

If you joined LWVLA before January 31, 2022, October is the month to renew your membership. You can renew online at lwwlansing.org by clicking on Join LWV, or you can [download this form](#), fill it out and send a check for the correct amount to: League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area, P.O. Box 971, East Lansing, MI 48826. If you have questions about paying your dues, contact [Camilla](#).

Welcome New League Members!

Pamela Barc, Lansing

Sara J. Mathews Clark, Eagle

Joy Owen, Holt

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK

All committees would welcome new members. Contact the chairs for more information.

VOTER SERVICE: Contact [Joanne Winkelman](#).

K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Contact [Bettie Landauer-Menchik](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE: Contact [Martha Couretas](#) or [Melinda Frame](#).

ENVIRONMENT ADVOCACY GROUP: Contact [Ellen Link](#) or [Elaine Fischhoff](#).

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