



League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County
Established in Livonia in 1960

VOTER

www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org

Serving: Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville,
Plymouth, Redford, Wayne and Westland

SEPTEMBER, 2015

September and October League Events

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Livonia: September 24, 6:45-9:00, at Livonia City Hall. Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer and City Council candidates will all be featured.

Plymouth: October 6, 7:00-8:30 at Plymouth City Hall. Eight city commission candidates are vying for 4 seats. **

Wayne: October 7, 6:45-8:00 at the Wayne Library. Both Mayoral and City Council Candidates will take the stage. **

Westland: October 8, 7:00-8:45 at Westland City Hall. Co-sponsored with the Westland Area Jaycees. Clerk candidates will meet the first half hour, followed by the City Council Candidates. **

All our forums will be video-taped and will be available either on cable tv (Livonia) or on the League's website.

**League members are still needed to help at these forums. Please contact Paula Bowman if you can pitch in.

LEAGUE MEETINGS

Saturday, Oct. 3: Membership meeting at Denny's back room in Plymouth (39950 Plymouth Road), 10:00 am.

Wednesday, Oct. 21: Town Hall Meeting at Livonia Civic Center Library, 7:00 pm. Topic: Redistricting in Michigan: Should Politicians Choose their Voters?

AUCTION!!

Saturday, October 17, 11:00 at Greenmead in Livonia.

This is the League's major fundraiser. Funds we earn at this event will allow us to continue to provide non-partisan election information to voters in our communities, and other work of the League. The information that the League supplies to voters is considered the best source of non-partisan information, so help us continue providing this valuable service.

Auction donations are still needed, and we especially need good attendance at our event. This is a fun, quick-paced few hours, so bring some friends and enjoy a good time. Contact Lena Packer with any questions, 248-536-2583 or lena.packer@yahoo.com.

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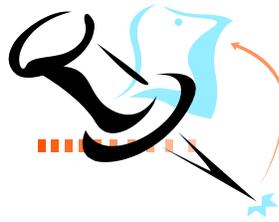
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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The work of the League is financed by the dues of members and by contributions from citizens in the community.



President's Message

The League is amazingly busy this year, despite it being a year of only local elections and a few ballot proposals. At the Annual Meeting and at the last Board meeting, we discussed reaching out to some of the communities we represent but don't focus on as much. To that end, two of the four candidate forums we're hosting for the general election will be in Wayne and Westland.

You may have recently read in the Detroit Free Press that the League will be conducting presentations on Redistricting throughout the state this year. I'll be one of the presenters. So far, I'm scheduled to do a presentation on **October 21** at 7 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center that is open to the public. I'm also speaking to the UAW in Livonia on October 8, and I'm scheduling a presentation for the City of Wayne Rotary Club. There will be other presentations in the area, but dates and locations are not set yet.

On August 28, I gave a presentation to a group of professors at Schoolcraft with the goal of speaking in their classes. I was well received, and one professor asked about taping my presentation for use in an online course, an idea that I will pursue.

The Committee working on the Constitutional Amendment portion of the National study is making progress. Our League submission for this part of the study is due by December 15. We haven't received the questions for the Money in Politics section yet. In the meantime, Linda Curry and I are reading a lot from LWVUS on that topic.

Things are shaping up nicely for the **October 17** auction. You should have received a call from a Fundraising Committee member asking for a donation (or two) to the auction. Remember that if you can't donate an item, you can make a financial donation, get something from a local business, or volunteer to help the day of the auction.

We've scheduled a Members Meeting for **Saturday, October 3**, starting at 10 a.m. at Denny's in Plymouth. Among other topics at that meeting, we'll set a date for a November meeting to address the findings of the Constitutional Amendment Study Committee as well as a date for a **holiday gathering** in December. We need someone to host that one, so let me know if you're willing to host but won't be at the meeting.

I hope to see you on October 3 or at one of the other upcoming gatherings!

Angela Ryan

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

In 2008, six million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2015, we want to make sure no one is left out. On September 22, 2015, volunteers, celebrities, and organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day. This single day of coordinated field technology and media efforts will create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities—allowing us to reach tens of thousands of voters who we could not reach otherwise.

Our League is participating in National Voter Registration Day by registering students at Schoolcraft College's "School Daze" festival. Diane Wittl and her team of registrants will sign up students, answer questions about voting and will make sure all the registrations get to the correct city or township clerk.

Help is still needed: We need to fill the noon-2:00 pm shifts on Sept. 22 and 23. Contact Diane at 734-261-7959 if you can help.

OTHER VOTING REGISTRATION NEWS

This year we had a voter registration table at Schoolcraft College the week of August 31, the first week of classes. It was a first-time event for the school, so we didn't know what to expect. It turned out to be quite successful. In just six hours, over three days, we registered 62 students. At one point, we were registering six students at once. Many thanks to coordinator Diane Wittl and these League volunteers who helped Roberta Young, Ann Abdoo, Sue Wabeke, Angela Ryan and Lena Packer.



SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE MILLAGE ON BALLOT

The cities in our service area —Livonia, Plymouth, Wayne, Westland, Garden City and Northville—all have elections on November 3rd for mayors, clerks, treasurers, and city councils or commissions. But did you know that Schoolcraft College has a millage proposal on the ballot too? This is the only proposal that will appear, and it means that some voters (townships) in the Schoolcraft College district will only have on this one item on their ballots.

Schoolcraft College district encompasses these school districts: Livonia, Clarenceville, Plymouth-Canton, Garden City and Northville.

Here is the proposal that will be on your ballot:

OPERATING CHARTER MILLAGE PROPOSITION
Shall the total charter tax rate limitation previously approved by the electors of Schoolcraft Community College District, Michigan, on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all taxable property within the community college district be increased by 0.6 mill (\$0.60 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2016 to 2025, inclusive, to be used for operating purposes of the community college district and all other purposes authorized by law; if approved, the estimate of the revenue the community college district will collect in 2016 is approximately \$8,000,000?

ROSIE THE RIVETER

If you want to help Michigan set the record to prove that the people of Michigan can come together to preserve our local treasure of global importance: the Willow Run Bomber Plant, the home of the Original Rosie the Riveter, join others on October 24th at Willow Run as they work toward earning a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the most Rosies in one spot. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.savethebomberplant.org/rosie-world-record/>



NEEDED: A HOST HOUSE

Are you able to lend us your house for the League member holiday gathering in December? This is a daytime, pot-luck event, and no expense is required on your part. If you can be our host, please contact Angela Ryan, or let us know at the October 3rd meeting when this is on our agenda.



VOTER GUIDES ALMOST READY

Hats off to Megan Chenoweth who will be going live with VOTE411, our on-line voter guide, before the end of the month. All the candidates for our city elections were invited to participate. VOTE411 is a national, League program that allows voters to view the candidates on their ballots by simply typing in their home address. The usage numbers for VOTE411 increase at each election, and in 2015, Michigan's VOTE411 had the most visits by voters of any other state in the US for the mid-term elections.

The same information that is published on-line will also be available in a print version. In early October, copies of the Guide for Livonia, Garden City, Wayne, Westland and Plymouth will all be available in the public libraries.

REDISTRICTING IN MICHIGAN: SHOULD POLITICIANS CHOOSE THEIR VOTERS?

The League of Women Voters of Michigan will host over 30 Town Halls throughout the fall to educate the public on the importance of redistricting. The presentation will explore how legislative lines are drawn in Michigan, who draws them and why it is a critically important question for those concerned about fair representation. The presentation in Livonia will take place on October 21, and will be presented by Angela Ryan, one of the 8 speakers who have been trained at the state level.

In Michigan the district lines are drawn by elected officials in the legislature, effectively allowing politicians to choose their voters, rather than voters their elected leaders. This system gives the political party in power at the time a tremendous advantage but is this the best system for voters? Our Town Halls will explore central questions, such as: What are the consequences of partisan drawn districts that favor

one party over another? Is there a better and fairer way to do this? What are the alternatives?

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision on Arizona's Independent Restricting Commission said there is an alternative and that citizens, not just politicians, have the right to decide how Congressional district lines are drawn. The decision has grabbed the public's attention. Some have asked if Michigan, like Arizona, should use an independent commission to draw the lines, not only for the Congressional Districts, but for the State House and Senate, as well. This alternative and others will be explored at the town hall.

A complete list of Town Halls by date and location can be found on the League of Women Voters website at, so if you can't make the October 21 event, there are others in SE Michigan. The events are free and open to the public. All are invited to attend.

LIVE AUCTION!



Saturday, October 17, 2015

Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park

20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia

Preview 11:00 am to 11:30 am

Auction Begins 11:30 am

Auction Items:

Holiday gifts for Friends and Family

Hand made items

Event Tickets

Guided tours

Light Refreshments will be served

Benefit: League of Women Voters NW Wayne County

For information: call 248-536-2583

Next membership Meeting: October 3

League of Women Voters
PO Box 51502
Livonia, MI 48151



Become a Partner for Change with
the League of Women Voters.

Yes, I wish to join the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____ E-Mail _____

Open to any citizen over the age of 18.
My check of \$60 is enclosed.
Make check payable to LWV of Northwest Wayne County
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151