



October 2018

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER**

Sue Smith, President



### **President's Message for October It's Not Too Late!**

**As I am writing this, there are only 16 days left before Election Day. As a League we have been working towards this day all year.**

**We have registered hundreds of students, seniors and underrepresented voters. Hundreds more have learned about the candidates and ballot proposals through our Candidate Forums, Town Halls, VOTE411 and the print voter guide. Winning posters from our high school GOTV poster contest are posted in AATA buses, libraries and local stores and cafes.**

#### **Proposal 3, Promote the Vote**

**Still there's work to be done! Our League members collected thousands of signatures for Promote the Vote to put Proposal 3 on the ballot. These common**

sense election reforms such as no-reason absentee voting and the ability to register to vote up to and including Election Day would help Michigan to catch up with many other states in the country. Now we need to help get Proposal 3 passed! We need people to help with phone banking and canvassing. Here's how you can help.

**Phone Banking:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 3 pm on October 23 and 25; October 30 and November 1 at Ann Arbor office. Bring phone and laptop. Short training provided.

**Canvassing:**

Monday-Friday, noon-8:00 pm. Drop by office for short training and to pick up addresses and materials. Canvass on your own time.

**Ann Arbor Office:**

3502 W. Liberty Road, near Wagner Road, west of Ann Arbor

**Brighton Office:**

8028 Grand River

Let's make sure all those voters we registered and educated show up at the polls!

Sue

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**VOTE411**

[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) continues to be a "one-stop-shop" for election related information.

This innovative voter resource provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information. Register to vote, find candidate information, and much more at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

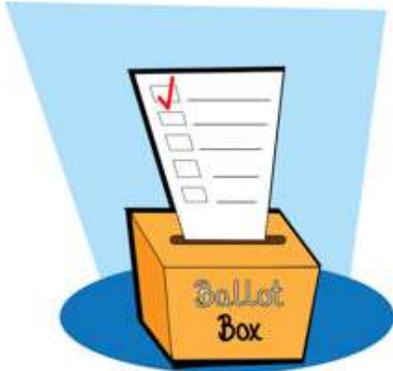


**Why it matters:**

Election rules differ state by state, and sometimes change from year to year. Using [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), voters can confirm their polling location, check if ID is required, and see what their personal ballot will look like. Confirming this information before heading to the polls saves voters time and helps voters make more informed decisions.

**What we've been doing:**

We have long been a trusted source of objective and nonpartisan election information. Since 2006, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) has served tens of millions of voters. By entering one's home address on [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), voters can see ballot questions they will be voting on, compare candidate responses to League questions and much more!



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## **What's on you ballot? 2018 Statewide Ballot Proposals:**

This fall eleven of our League members took the LWVMI training to be part of our local League Speakers Bureau on the 2018 State Ballot proposal. A total of nine Town Halls were held in Adrian, Ann

Arbor, Chelsea, Howell, Tecumseh and Ypsilanti. Town Halls in Ann Arbor also included the Ann Arbor Ballot Proposals.

Another 13 ballot proposal presentations were given to churches, senior residences and other groups in response to requests received by the League. Many thanks to our presenters, to Margaret Leary who coordinated the requests with the speakers, equipment and handouts and to the support teams who greeted the public and presented them with handouts on the Town Hall program and the League.

### **Additional information:**

Here are links for on-line viewing of candidate forums and proposal presentations sponsored by LWVAAA for the November 6, 2018 election.

### **CANDIDATES:**

Sept 25 [Ann Arbor Board of Education, Group A](#)

Sept 25 [Ann Arbor Board of Education Group B](#)

Sept 27 [Ann Arbor City Council Wards 1 & 4](#)

Sept 27 [State Senate District 18](#)

Oct 1 [MI State Representatives Districts 52 & 55](#)

Oct 1 [MI State Representatives District 53](#)

Oct 4 [Judicial Candidate Forum](#)

Oct 5 [US House Dist 12](#)

### **YPSILANTI FORUMS**

Oct 9 [Ypsilanti Mayoral Forum](#)

Oct 10 [Ypsilanti City Council Ward 3](#)

### **BALLOT PROPOSALS:**

Oct 1 [What's on Your Ballot? A review of the three state ballot proposals](#)

Oct 3 [Students debate Proposal 2 - Redistricting](#)

Oct 3 [Students debate Proposal 1 -Marijuana](#)

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### Proposal A, the Ann Arbor Library Lot: Urban Park or Development?

On October 25, at 7-8:30 pm the League is hosting an educational meeting at the downtown AA Library on “Proposal A, the Library Lot: Urban Park or Development?” There will be a panel discussion by representatives from the pro and con sides who will give their views, followed by a Q and A.

Those representing the Pro side will be:

Alan Haber, Ann Arbor Committee for the Community Commons

Will Hathaway, Ann Arbor Central Park Ballot Committee

Those representing the Con side will be:

Linh Song, Protect Our Future

Jessica A.S. Letaw, YIMBY

League President, Sue Smith, will be the Moderator.

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**Zou Zou's Cafe Presents**  
★ **Free Concert to** ★  
**Get Out the Vote!**  
Monday, Nov. 5th  
8 pm  
101 N. Main St., Chelsea, MI

Annie & Rod Capps  
Allison Downey  
Shari Kane & Dave Steele  
Pale Dave Duo

Representatives will be on hand from The League of Women Voters to answer questions about voting.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**The Last Word presents**  
★ **Free Concert to** ★  
**Get Out the Ann Arbor Vote!**

David Rossiter  
Judy Banker  
Johnny Williams  
Dave Boutette

Monday, November 5, 2018  
7:30 - 9:30 pm  
The Last Word  
301 W Huron St / Ann Arbor

Representatives will be on hand from The League of Women Voters to answer questions about voting.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Get Out the Vote Concerts at two locations! Bill Edwards and other area musicians will be promoting voting. LWVAAA is co-sponsoring.

Zou Zou's Café 101 N Main St, Chelsea  
AND  
The Last Word Bar 301 W Huron St, Ann Arbor



## LWV “Vote 2018” Winning Poster Hits The Streets

**Jack Weddell, Pioneer High School senior places his winning poster, “Your Vote, Your Voice. Don’t Be Silenced.” AAATA is donating space on over 100 buses until election day, November 6, for this Get Out the Vote contest winner sponsored by the League of Women Voters.**

**“One of my dreams has been to be a published artist,” says Weddell, “and here my first winning effort is going all around the county and on over a 100 buses!” Weddell believes that his generation is concerned about prejudice, justice and voting rights. “We are forward thinking and very active.”**

**The contest, open to high school students from Washtenaw County, had the non-partisan theme to promote voting. Over 103 entries were received and 10 posters received awards. The top 3 winners, including Jack, Morgan Knox from Pioneer High and Anna LeChard from Saline High, are being distributed in hundreds of locations in low-voter turnout areas around the county by students, League members and friends over the next few weeks.**

**Students at WEMU, WCCC and the UofM are also distributing posters on campuses as part of a state-wide effort to get young people voting. Nan Elder, League member and chair of the poster contest said that some of the lowest voter turnout is recorded around campus areas. “Young people speak to other young people, and we believe these posters’ words and images will inspire voting among their peers.”**

## A Grand Thank You!!

### **Alley Bar**

The Poster Committee is very happy to announce that the fundraisers held by The Alley Bar in June netted the LWV \$476.00!

The Alley Bar donates 10% of sales on Giveback Thursdays for one month to different non-profits, and the 2018 LWV Poster Contest was the happy recipient for the month of June. Huge thanks to Robben Schulz and his staff for their generous support. The Alley Bar is located at 115 West Liberty in Ann Arbor and is open after 7 p.m. ( Pssst! They make a grand cocktail.)



### **Get Out The Vote Posters On Exhibit Now In County Libraries**

The LWV would also like to thank our local libraries. Every one of the 103 posters submitted to the 2018 League of Women Voters high school poster contest is on exhibit during October and November in libraries throughout the county.

The contest was open to high school students from Washtenaw County, and had a non-partisan theme to promote voting. Over 103 entries were received and 10 posters received awards.

You can see the posters mounted at the following locations until November 6:

- Ann Arbor Libraries, top 10 winners
- Chelsea District Library, top 10 plus Chelsea students
- Dexter District Library, top 10 plus 23 Dexter High students
- Salem/South Lyon, top 10 plus 8 from Chelsea, Dexter, Huron, Saline
- Ypsilanti District Libraries, top ten plus Ypsilanti High and WAVE students.
- Saline Library hosted the posters in August.



## LWV's Lunch and Learn

Looking for something to engage your critical thinking? Something that's linked to League positions? Something that gives you insights from experts as well as your fellow League members. Then Lunch & Learns are waiting for you.



Generally held on the fourth Friday of each month with the exception of December and August, League members and friends gather at Cedars of Dexter (in Dexter) to take up topics that range from the county's preparation for upcoming elections to the news media today and the history of voting rights. About every six months, we read a book and have had some lively discussions about our government's role in discrimination and the final months of the struggle for the right to vote.

This month, Larry Kestenbaum, Washtenaw County Clerk, will make a return visit to talk about the steps taken to protect our vote and he'll probably take a side trip into the very interesting history of voting. Next month, Al Chambers will be back to look at the media, its coverage of the election, and voters' perceptions. He's another great speaker who has stories on the history of journalism and our democracy.

We'd love to have you join us – the [calendar](#) will list upcoming Lunch & Learns, giving you information on the next topic and how you can sign up to join us. You must sign up to join us because seating is limited.

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## The LWV in Action

### **Candidate Forums**

Donna Crudder reports that the LWV held 13 forums, including the high school debates on marijuana and redistricting for the Ann Arbor area and 3 more occurring under Shoshanna Wechter and Barb Brown's leadership in Ypsilanti. Altogether Donna has had over 40 volunteers either working the actual events as moderators, timers and greeters or behind the scenes, helping with questions and logistics and other



activities that made these forums so successful. We have continued to partner with CTN and their production professionals to bring this important information to the public. Our new partnership with the Washtenaw Bar Association and Dispute Resolution Center to produce the Judicial Forum was a great event attended by community members with questions and concerns examined from many sides. Along with the primary forums held in June/July, we have produced 30 forums in 2018 and developed training sessions of our own volunteers and in other League areas, both Brighton area and Tecumseh.

### **Report on Voter Guide Distribution**

Sue Smereck reports that this year LWVAAA received 5600 voter guides. These were distributed throughout Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Livingston Counties to libraries, senior retirement sites, senior centers, city clerk offices, and some campus locations. Sue Smith also reported that information from the Voter Guide was published in The Ann Arbor News on October 21, 2018. This was a great effort! Thanks to all involved. After the election we can evaluate this process to prepare and adapt for the 2020 election.

She would like to thank all those who worked so hard to deliver all of these voter guides:

Barbara Billings

Barb Brown

Leslie Daniel

Joann Green  
Daniel Kresh  
Ellen Lafferty/ Mary Helfinger for the Brighton/ Howell Unit  
Jan Salsberry and Carolyn Vertin for the Tecumseh Unit  
Joan Sampieri  
Nancy Schewe  
Sue Smereck  
Roddy Wares  
Sue Wooley



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LWV In The Public Interest at WEMU, our series of bi-weekly interviews, continues at WEMU (FM 89.1, All Things Considered with Lisa Barry).

In August , League member Margaret Leary talked about [ballot proposal #2](#) to stop gerrymandering. Margaret's interview about [ballot proposal #3](#) – Promote the Vote – aired Monday Oct 24.



You can see all interviews on our [website](#)



**It's time to celebrate all of the hard work!**

We'll be gathering at the Chelsea Depot at 125 Jackson Street, Chelsea at 5:30 on Monday, December 3rd. Plan to bring yourself, a friend, your significant other, and a favorite dish to share. There will be laughter, stories, good company and good food as we close out this successful year.



RSVP at [Signup Genius](#)

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## LWV-AAA Events on the Calendar

**Thursday,  
October 25, 2018  
7:00 - 8:30 pm**

**Ann Arbor  
District Library  
Downtown  
Branch  
343 S. Fifth Ave  
Ann Arbor**

**Ann Arbor Library Lot ballot proposal**  
The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area will host a panel discussion on Proposal A, the "Library Lot" on Thursday, October 25, 7-8:30 pm at Downtown AADL. Representatives from groups that support or oppose Proposal A will present their views and answer audience questions. This is a public event.

**Friday, October  
26, 2018  
Noon - 2 pm**

**Cedars of Dexter  
Clubhouse  
411 Cedars Lane  
Dexter, MI**

**Lunch & Learn - October 2018.** Topic: Perspectives on the Upcoming Midterm Elections  
Speaker: Lawrence (Larry) Kestenbaum is an attorney, politician, and the creator and webmaster of The Political Graveyard website. He received a Bachelor's in economics from Michigan State University followed by a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University in 1982 and has studied historic preservation at Cornell University.

Larry served as a County Commissioner in Ingham County, Michigan (1983+88) and Washtenaw County (2000+02). Since 2004 he has served as the Washtenaw County Clerk/Register of Deeds.

The Ann Arbor Observer has called Larry, "a walking encyclopedia of political trivia" so come prepared to ask questions! Larry will walk us through the preparations for the upcoming election, discuss the State Supreme Court's decision to ban "straight ticket voting", and (almost) everything you ever wanted to know about elections but were afraid to ask!

Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch  
Reservations required: Use the link to [Signup](#)  
Genius Seating is limited to 30

**Tuesday, October 30, 2018  
7-9:00pm**  
**Tecumseh Center for the Arts  
400 N Maumee Tecumseh, MI**

**Tecumseh Board of Education Candidate Forum.** The Tecumseh Unit of the League of Women Voters of Ann Arbor area, has scheduled a Candidates' Forum for the Tecumseh Board of Education. This forum, which will be run by an LWV trained moderator, will include participation by many of the candidates running for seven BOE positions in November.  
This is a public event and all are welcome.

**Monday, November 5, 2018  
7:30 pm**  
**Zou Zou's Café  
101 N Main St,  
Chelsea**  
**AND**  
**The Last Word Bar  
301 W Huron St,  
Ann Arbor**

**FREE Get Out the Vote Concerts.** Area musicians will be promoting voting at two locations.  
Chelsea: Annie & Rod Capps, Allison Downey, Shari Kane & Dave Steele, Pale Dave Duo  
Ann Arbor: David Rossiter, Judy Banker, Johnny Williams, Dave Boutette  
LWVAAA is co-sponsoring and League members will be there to answer questions about voting.

**Tuesday,  
November 6, 2018  
5:30 pm**

**Your Polling  
place**



**GENERAL ELECTION.** Congressional, state and local races and ballot proposals. Washtenaw County residents can check what will be on the ballot by going to the League website [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to see candidate information and responses to League questions.

**Monday,  
December 3, 2018**

**Chelsea Depot at  
125 Jackson  
Street, Chelsea**

**Help us Celebrate!!**

We'll be gathering at the Chelsea Depot at 125 Jackson Street, Chelsea at 5:30 on Monday, December 3rd. Plan to bring yourself, a friend, your significant other, and a favorite dish to share. There will be laughter, stories, good company and good food as we close out this successful year.

RSVP at [Signup Genius](http://SignupGenius.com)



**We're everywhere!**

In this important election year, voter awareness has grown everywhere and the League has been a key voice in raising that awareness. LWV's past president Sally Allen met these defenders of democracy in New York City.

## LWVAAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

### OFFICERS

President: Sue Smith

Vice President: Joan Sampieri

Treasurer: Betty Bishop

Secretary: Sue Smereck

## DIRECTORS

Barbara Billings, Program  
Sally Allen, Member at Large  
Donna Crudder, Voter Service  
Barbara Brown, Membership  
Carolyn Madden, Advocacy  
Susan Wooley, Communications  
Jan Salsberry, Representative, Tecumseh Area  
Ellen Lafferty, Representative, Brighton/Howell Area

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dee Dishon  
Gwynne Fisher

### Not a member? Wish to join?

Click here to join [using Paypal](#) [mail-in registration form.](#)

[www.lwvann Arbor.org](http://www.lwvann Arbor.org)

### Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, 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.



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area | P.O.Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

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