



September 2018

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER

Sue Smith, President



President's Message for September

Friends,
“**Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy**” is the League’s new mission statement. Thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of our many volunteers, our League is empowering voters in numerous ways.

Voter Registration

Our Voter Registration Team: Roddy Waters, Paige Nong, Cathy Whitaker, Trudy Hughes and Jeff Bieszki continue to register voters at libraries, community fairs, high schools, senior centers and resident facilities. We are making a special effort to extend our outreach to underserved populations. This fall, we will be registering voters during special events at “HopCat” and the YMCA.

Candidate Information

Donna Crudder and her team held Candidate Forums for many local elected offices for the August Primary. They are gearing up for more forums for the General. All are broadcast over CTN. Contact Donna if you would like to help. Nancy Schewe and her VOTE411.org team have collected candidate

information for every elected office in Washtenaw County, for both the Primary and the General elections. Candidate information will be posted on VOTE411.org by September 22.

The state League is publishing a print Voter Guide that will cover all state wide races. We will deliver copies to local libraries, clerks' offices, etc. the first week of October. Contact Sue Smereck if would like to help. The same information will also be available in the on-line Voter Guide, VOTE411.org by September 22.

Ballot Proposal Town Halls

This year, there will be up to five statewide ballot proposals on the November ballot. Our League is sponsoring nine Town Halls in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Howell, and Tecumseh. Educational presentations, including the ballot language, and Pros and Cons for each proposal will be given by trained speakers. Margaret Leary is coordinating these events as well as handling requests from other groups.

Under the leadership of Jeanine Delay, Debate Teams from Dexter and Saline will debate two of the ballot proposals on CTN.

GOTV

Of course, this is all for naught unless people go to the polls. One of our major GOTV activities is distribution of the top posters from our high school GOTV poster contest. These marvelous posters will be on display on the AATA buses, in libraries, and throughout the community. Contact Nan Elder if you can help with their distribution.

Sue



**The
November election is
coming!**

Hi, my name is Barb Brown, and I am the LWVAAA Membership Engagement Director. As you may imagine, we are very busy preparing for the November election, so if you've been sitting around wondering how you can make the world **Safe for Democracy**, you've come to the right place!

The great thing is, you don't have to be able to fly or see through walls in order to be a superhero with the League of Women Voters. Whatever your superpower is, we've got a place for it. For instance:

Greeters

Do you like making people feel at home? Then you're in luck! We have several candidate forums requiring Greeters. All you need to do is, well, greet people as they come in, make sure they have the information they need, and make them feel welcome. And, depending on the forum, you might also

get to meet your state or federal representative or other candidate that you might not otherwise get to see.

Timers

Do you like watching the clock? Great! We need two Timers at each of our forums, and, for those shy people among us, you don't even need to talk—just hold up the signs we give you, indicating how much time each speaker has left. Most of our forums are less than two hours, so you won't even wear out your sign-holding hand. In most cases, you'll be back home in time to catch the news before bed.

Moderators

Do you like asking questions and controlling a room? Then we've got just the job for you! We still need moderators for a couple of our forums. This involves asking questions that have been prepared for you, and making sure that the candidates follow the rules and don't get out of control. If you've ever had kids, you'll know exactly what to do.

Delivery people

Do you like Defending Democracy while you run errands? Then we need you! We need people to deliver our printed Voter Guides to various locations in the Ann Arbor Area. All you need to do is take them to the addresses we give you, and you will have done your part in creating an informed electorate.

Voter Registration

Do you want to give the next generation of voters their start? Then you've come to the right place! Voter Registration is one of the most important things the League does, and you can be a part of it. You have to be trained (next class is September 5th), but there is still time (October 9th is the deadline) to create a new batch of voters. When it comes to Defending Democracy, there is no more important task.

So there you have it. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but these are some of the jobs we desperately need to fill going into the election. They don't require a long-term commitment, and at least one of them can be done on your own time. We have plenty of others, so if you don't see what you want (and especially if you do), please give me a call or text (781-284-6685) or an email (speckle.bb@gmail.com) to let me know what you're interested in, and I'll make sure that you are Saving Democracy with the rest of us.

Thanks, Barb

Learn more about your candidates!

CTN events are broadcast live on Community Television Network (Comcast channel 19) and later can be streamed at <https://a2ctn.viebit.com/>
All other events listed are open to the public.

Monday Sept 24 at CTN: AA School Board, 7 to 8pm and 8:30 to 9:30 pm (4 candidates at each session)

Wednesday, Sept 26 at CTN: Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners District 2 &7, at 7pm to 8 and District 8 & 9 at 8:30 to 9:30 (4 candidates at each session)

Thursday, Sept 27 at CTN: AA City Council, Wards 1& 4 at 7 pm to 8 pm (4 candidates) and State Senate, District 18 at 8:30 to 9:15 (3 candidates, maybe)

Monday, Oct 1 at CTN: State Representatives, 2 candidates per half hour sessions. District 52, 7-7:30 pm, District 53, 8-8:30, District 55, 9 to 9:30

Wednesday, Oct 3 at CTN: Student debate teams take on ballot proposals. At 7:00 pm the Saline High School team will present the marijuana proposal - pro and con. Then at 8:30 pm the Dexter High School team will present the minimum wage proposal. Both Saline and Dexter are star debating schools who have won several competitions over the years.

Thursday, Oct 4, 7-8:30 pm at Washtenaw County Learning Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave (next to Sheriff Dept and District Court).

Candidate forum - judicial. Washtenaw County 14A-1 District Court forum including uncontested judges. This event is open to the public.

Co-sponsored with Washtenaw County Bar Association and Dispute Resolution Center.

Friday, Oct 5 at CTN: US House of Representatives District 12: Candidates are Debbie Dingell, Jeff Jones, Niles Neimuth and Gary Walkowicz, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Tuesday, Oct 9 at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti -Ypsilanti Candidate Forum for MAYOR. Candidates will respond to questions from both the moderator and the audience. 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 10 at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N Huron
Ypsilanti City Council Ward 3 is the only contested Ypsilanti City Council race this November. This forum will include Anthony Morgan and Desirae Simmons. 6:00 pm

Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6pm at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N Huron, Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti Community School Board

Three seats are open on the seven-member board of the Ypsilanti Community Schools. The candidates to fill those seats are Ellen Champagne, Gillian Ream Gainsley, DaQuann Harrison, Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Robert E. Oliver, and Tyler Weston.



What's on your ballot?

Our League is sponsoring nine Town Halls in Adrian, Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Howell, Tecumseh, and Ypsilanti for educational presentations on all the state ballot proposals. Check the lwvann Arbor.org website for dates, times, and venues.

Included in the presentations will be the 100 words that will appear on the ballot, how each would work if passed and their pros and cons.

This year there will be up to five state ballot proposals on the November ballot. At press time, three have been placed on the ballot by the state Board of Canvassers. The other two are still being considered. The deadline for putting them on the ballot is September 7.

Two of those already approved are supported by the League:

- an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission proposal put forth by Voters Not Politicians and
- a Voting Rights proposal put forth by Promote the Vote coalition (League is a member)



A SAMPLE PETITION from Clean MI, the ballot committee seeking to make Michigan's Legislature part-time, is displayed. (Source: Michigan Secretary of State)

Each proposal, if passed, would amend the Michigan Constitution. Only a vote of the people could change it. It could not be changed by the Legislature.

The dates of the ballot information sessions are:

September 26, 2018, 7pm at the Chelsea Library 221 S Main St, Chelsea

October 1, 2018, 7pm at the Ann Arbor District Library - Downtown 343 S 5th Ave, Ann Arbor

October 3, 2018, 7pm at the Ann Arbor District Library - Westgate 2503 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor

October 3, 2018, 1pm at the Adrian District Library - 143 E Maumee Street, Adrian

October 7, 2018, 1pm at the Tecumseh District Library - 215 N Ottawa St, Tecumseh

October 9, 2018, 6pm at the Howell Carnegie Library 314 W Grand River Ave, Howell

October 10, 2018, 6:30pm at the Adrian District Library - 143 E. Maumee Street, Adrian

October 11, 2018, 7pm at the Ypsilanti District Library 5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti

October 15, 2018, 6pm at the Riverside Arts Center 76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti

Gerrymandering explained

LWVMI Redistricting Lawsuit

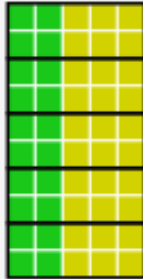
Fighting Gerrymandering

The League is fighting against gerrymandering in Michigan in two ways. One, we are supporting the Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission ballot proposal put on the ballot by Voters Not Politicians. If passed, the Commission, instead of the Legislature, will draw new district

Gerrymandering: drawing different maps for electoral districts produces different outcomes

Disproportionate Outcomes "Gerrymandering"

50 Precincts
60% Yellow
40% Green



5 DISTRICTS
5 Yellow
0 Green
YELLOW
WINS ALL



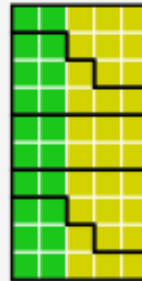
5 DISTRICTS
3 Green
2 Yellow
GREEN WINS
MAJORITY

Proportionate Outcomes

50 Precincts
are to be
apportioned
into 5
districts,
10 precincts
each district.



5 DISTRICTS
3 Yellow
2 Green



5 DISTRICTS
3 Yellow
2 Green

Green and yellow win in
proportion to their voting

voting maps in 2021, based on the 2020 Census.

Two, the state League has filed a lawsuit in federal court against Secretary of State Johnson, claiming the current district maps are unconstitutional under the U.S. Constitution. Our trial date is February 2019. If successful, the current district maps will be re-drawn before the 2020 election.

Financing the Lawsuit

The League's attorneys have been and will continue to represent us pro-bono. They have also covered over \$200,000 in expenses. We need to raise an additional \$260,000 to cover additional expenses for expert witnesses, discovery, etc. Thanks to gifts from foundations, local and state Leagues and individuals, we have reached more than half our goal. Our Ann Arbor Area League gave \$5,000 from our Memorial Fund to the League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund for the lawsuit.

Fundraiser, September 23

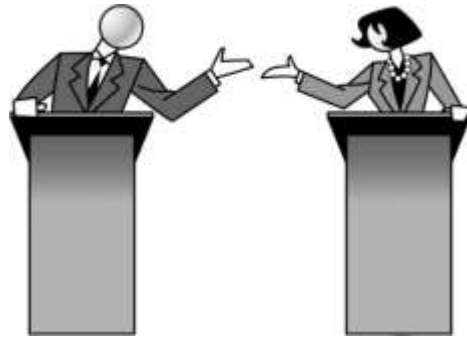
Several Ann Arbor women have organized a fundraiser on September 23 to help support the lawsuit. The Ann Arbor League is co-sponsoring the event. You will soon be receiving an email invitation. I hope to see you there!

If you cannot attend, please consider giving to the LWVMI Legal Fund by writing a check to League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund or using PayPal on the LWVMI website.

by Susan Smith, LWVMI
Redistricting Director

Student Debates are Here!

The League of Women Voters' high school debate program is a treasure. We have done three debates since 2016. The previous debates were about local or county wide proposals. The participants included: Ann Arbor Greenhills School (first debate in 2016); Washtenaw Technical Middle College (second debate in 2017); and Saline High School (third debate in 2017). For the November 7th election, we are organizing two debates about proposals impacting the state:



Saline High School will be debating the marijuana proposal.

Dexter High School will be debating the minimum wage proposal.

These debates are Oxford-style or public forum style debates. They last about 40-50 minutes. The format includes timed opening statements; rebuttals; a question period by the moderator; and closing statements. Two students outline the "for" position; and two the "against" position. The research, however, is done by the entire team. They are just not on camera...but are invited up to be recognized, along with their coaches at the end. Both the Saline and Dexter teams are stellar debaters--both have won many awards and competitions. Their coaches have also been recognized for their excellence. The Saline debate team is coached by Shelly Venema. The Dexter team is coached by Debora Marsh.

This year the moderators are: John Chamberlin (minimum wage) and Erin Mattimoe (marijuana proposal). John has been involved with this project from the beginning when I asked him to try this new approach. He is excellent in this role. Erin Mattimoe joins us for the first time this year. She is a skilled public speaker and has worked with high school students for at least a decade. If you need additional information about the moderators, please let me know. Finally, Zoe Behnke and Donna Crudder will be representing the League as well.

The date: **Wednesday, October 3, 2018**

Marijuana proposal debate: 7 to 8pm Saline High School

Minimum wage proposal debate: 8:30-9:30pm Dexter High School

This event is NOT a public event, but a *broadcast event*. There is very little room in the studio for anyone other than the participants. The debate will be live-streamed through CTN and will be available through video on demand and on the YouTube channel of CTN so that voters can watch it once or many times before the election--and share it with other voters!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnann Arbor>

VOTE411

VOTE411.org is 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.



Why it matters

Election rules differ state by state, and sometimes change from year to year. Using 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're doing

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



Posters on Display!

LWVAAA's GET OUT THE VOTE effort started in mid-July with several members taking hot-off-the-press posters to a few locations in one of our low-voter turnout precincts. They received a warm welcome and the posters got a lot of admiration. Store and restaurant owners told us that they want to make sure to have them for the election in November. This is Vicki Honeyman in front of her store *Heavenly Metal* and below are featured *Collected Works* and *Detroit Filling Station*.

In addition, libraries across the area are focused on getting out the vote as well. **Saline** Library held the first poster exhibit through the month of August. The following county libraries will be exhibiting many of the 103 entries from October through early November:

Dexter will have all of the Dexter High School entries plus the winners

Chelsea will have Chelsea entries plus the winners and a few others

Ypsilanti (both branches) will show all of Ypsilanti High School entries, as well as those from WAVE and other schools.

Ann Arbor will have the top 10 at the library branches.

Salem-South Lyon will display 16 of the posters.





Some of the libraries are planning a display to include books and DVDs on voting rights and suffrage. Our librarians are doing their part to Get Out The Vote! Let's thank them when we visit the exhibits.

Other LWV-AAA Events on the Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Saline Public Library

LWV-AAA Pop-up Voter Registration.



Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018
9:00-11:00 a.m.

Ann Arbor YMCA
400 W Washington St,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Voter Registration at the "Y". The League of Women Voters and the Ann Arbor YMCA are cooperating to "Get Our Community Registered to Vote". This is part of the national campaign by the "Y"

Wednesday, September 19, 2018
7:30 on

Pointless Brewery and Theater
3015 Packard Rd, Ann Arbor 48104

Brews & Views for September.
Plugging into Affordable Housing For



people in our community interested in supporting affordable housing, it can be hard to

connect to what's happening. It seems like we only hear about a project after the proposal is denied or read about city council vote after the fact. How do we get involved and stay informed? What are the crucial policy challenges preventing more affordable housing in our community? What kind of work is already being done and how can we engage? Avalon Housing will be with us to answer these questions and tell us about the work they do to increase access to affordable housing in Washtenaw County. This event is open to the public (but must be over 21 to buy/drink alcohol.)

League members are encouraged to invite non-members to attend

**Wednesday,
September 19,
2018
7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Perry Early
Learning Center
550 Perry Ave
Ypsilanti**

Ypsilanti Community School Board Panel Discussion.

Meet and learn about Ypsilanti School Board Candidates

Sponsored by [Educate Youth](#)

**Thursday,
September 20,
2018
4:00 - 7:00 pm**

**Ann Arbor
YMCA
400 W
Washington St,
Ann Arbor, MI
48103**

Voter Registration at the "Y"

The League of Women Voters and the Ann Arbor YMCA are cooperating to "Get Our Community Registered to Vote" as part of the national campaign by the "Y".

**Friday,
September 21,
4-8:00 p.m.
and Saturday,
Sept. 22, 10:00
a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**Downtown
Adrian area**

Artalicious Table Event. Tecumseh Unit of LWVAAA will host a table providing art supplies to children so that they can create their own make and take "Voting" art (hats, drawings, etc).

**Friday,
September 21
7:00 p.m.**

**Historic Howell
Theater 315 E
Grand River Ave
Howell**

2018 Michigan Truth Tour The [Center for Michigan](#) is partnering with community leaders to hold town hall meetings to discuss substantive local and state issues

**Tuesday,
September 25,
2018
11:00 am**

**LISD
4107 N. Adrian
Highway
Adrian, MI**

Links That Educate - Vote Smart. Presenters will provide "Links That Educate" and details on the use of the LWV VOTE411 system. This event is a Lunch and Learn with retired teachers of Lenawee County.

**Tuesday,
September 25,
2018
6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Saline Public
Library
555 N Maple Rd,
Saline, MI 48176**

LWV-AAA Voter Registration. And it's National Voter Registration Day!

**Friday,
September 28,
2018
noon - 2 pm**

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

Media's Challenges and Voters' Perceptions
Speaker: Al Chambers, a veteran journalist and reputational consultant, will cover how extraordinarily the culture and news have changed in the last 20 years, including the speed of the news in the current 24/7 news cycle.



Lunch buffet at \$7.00 cash or BYO lunch
Seating is limited to 30, so [Reservations required](#)

**Saturday,
September 29,
2018
10-4:00pm**

**Downtown
Clinton, MI**

Clinton Fall Festival LWV table. Tecumseh Unit will have a table at the Festival providing General Election and League information.

**Tuesday, October
9, 2018**

**Your County,
City or Township
Clerk's office**

Last day to register to vote in the November 6 General Election.

**Monday,
November 5, 2018
7:30 pm**

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

Get Out the Vote Concerts

Bill Edwards, local musician and others will be promoting voting

**Tuesday, Your
November 6, 2018
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 http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections

About a month before the election, the League website VOTE411.org will have candidate information and responses to League questions.

Election Inspectors Needed!



Have you considered being an election inspector?

The Washtenaw County Clerk/Register is looking for people to work at the polls, especially in Superior Township, on election day this November. Want to know more? Click "[HERE](#)" for details about the job, and if you're interested, send an email to elections@ewashtenaw.org or 734-222-6730.

Primary Report

Indeed, the 2018 primary election voter turnout set records in Michigan, 27% for the state and in Washtenaw county 34.95%. In the last ten years, for primary elections, we have not had a turnout of voters at this level. In fact, the last time Michigan voter turnout had numbers close to 2018 was 24.4% in 1982 during the mid term of Ronald Reagan's presidency and in the midst of an economic recession.



We have 156 precincts/wards in Washtenaw County. There were 9 precincts with **over 50%** turnout, 42 with **over 40%** and 58 with **over 30%** turnout. The voter turnout in almost all the townships, villages and cities was also in the upper 30 to 40 %. These included Ypsilanti, Dexter, Chelsea, Ann Arbor Township, Lodi Township, Pittsfield Township and Superior Township to name a few.

The requests for absentee ballots were equally amazing for the 2018 primary election. Michigan Secretary of State reported that voters had requested 660,841 absentee ballots which were sent out to voters, compared to only 439,499 in the 2014 primary election. At the beginning of August over 400,000 absentee ballots had been returned to clerks offices. That is a 33.5% increase for absentee

ballots, which is even more incredible when you realize that 2014 was a presidential election year! Remarkable.

Our bi-weekly interviews are continuing with Lisa Barry, EMU host of All Things Considered and they have been great. You can listen to completed interviews by going to the LWV-AAA website

(http://lwvann Arbor.org/WEMU_interviews.html). Pictured is Nancy Schewe, past president of LWV speaking about Vote 411.org.

For September and October, we'll be emphasizing voter information with topics like

- Voter registration for senior citizens (Cathy Whittaker)
- Area student debate teams tackle ballot proposals
- Meet the winner of the poster contest and his teacher (Jack Weddell and Helen Bunch)
- Explanation of the Promote the Vote ballot proposal (Margaret Leary)
- How about The Other Ballot Proposals? (Al McCord and Anne McKee)



Shirley Axon

League life member for over 50 years, Shirley Axon passed away July 2018 at age 89. Shirley served as president and later was the Natural Resources Director for LWV-AAA.

A modern dancer, Shirley was active in environmental and social issues her entire life and founded several Ann Arbor organizations. In the late 70s she began participating in state, regional and local efforts to improve our waters



and the environment. Governor Milliken appointed her to the Michigan Hazardous Waste Management Planning Committee. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments asked her to join the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee. And locally she represented Ann Arbor on the Huron River Watershed Council, a post which lasted for 35 years until her retirement in 2013. She co-founded Huron River Day, Friends of Dance for the University of Michigan Dance Department , International Neighbors, and the Friendship International Cooperative Nursery. Shirley was a prominent community leader, a wonderful friend to many, a loving mother and grandmother.

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.lwvannarbor.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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