



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

AUGUST 2015

In This Issue

Redistricting Education
Planned

LWVLA Calendar

Co-President's' Message

Group to Discuss Criminal
Justice Issued

September 14 Lunch

Michigan Behind Bars
Sept. 29 Program

Fall Voter Service Plans

League Plans Redistricting
Education

Money in Politics
Consensus

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE YEAR AHEAD:

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT

This issue of the *Capitol Voter* highlights a variety of League activities that are part of the 2015-16 program plan being developed by Vice-President for Program Ann Marston, and committee members Jenny Alvarez and Beany Tomber, with valuable input from board members. The goal was to offer a variety of programs at different times and locations, addressing issues of current interest that also connect with LWV positions. This fall

Jackson Unit Update

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kathy Dewsbury-White

from Haslett is an educational consultant and President/CEO of the MI Assessment Consortium.

Doris Sutherland

is a returning League member from East Lansing and a retired librarian from the Lansing schools.

LEAGUE WORKS TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

As the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) was celebrated recently, it is appropriate to note the ongoing role played by the League in protecting and extending citizens' access to voting. LWV-US is actively engaged in efforts to overturn restrictive laws and it is one of the groups that filed suit against a comprehensive North Carolina election law. League members are encouraged to write their members of Congress, urging legislation to make changes to the VRA relative to the 2013 Supreme Court Decision. The [NPR Podcast](#) on August 10, "Block

the calendar is shaped by the need to conduct programs and answer consensus questions on two topics, money in politics and amending the Constitution, as well as voter service activities and a public forum on redistricting. In 2016, League programs will provide a spotlight on programs and services in the Tri-County area, particularly as related to kids. In addition, there will be a series of lunch gatherings featuring the work of various League members. Mark your calendar now for the events this fall!

Beth Moore, Co-president

BOOK GROUP WILL DISCUSS CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES



The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness will be the focus for discussion at the LWV-LA Book Group on Tuesday, September 8, at 10 a.m. at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. This book, by Michelle Alexander, examines the societal impact of our criminal justice policies. If you've read the East Lansing "One Book" selection *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson-your insights will also be a valuable addition to the discussion. On October 13 the book group will discuss *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America* by Linda Tirado.

Everyone is welcome to attend these gathering, whether or not you've read the book. Books will be available at the

the Vote," provides a discussion of voting rights and restrictions. An August 2 New York Times article, "[A Dream Undone](#)," offers a fascinating and thorough account of the history of the VRA and the efforts to overturn it.

LWVLA CALENDAR

- **September 8** LWV Book Group, 10 am, Grand Traverse Pie Company, East Lansing
- **September 14** League Program Kick-Off Luncheon, 11:30 am, Spartan Hall of Fame Café, East Lansing
- **September 29** Michigan Behind Bars, 7pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing
- **September 30** East Lansing School Board Candidate Forum, 7pm, Hannah Community Center
- **October 20** Money in Politics, 7pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing
- **October 27**

book group table at both Schulers. Contact Beth Moore at mooreeee@msu.edu for more information

COME TO THE SEPTEMBER 14 LEAGUE LUNCH

Join other League members for lunch at 11:30am on Monday, September 14, at the Spartan Hall of Fame in East Lansing. This will be an opportunity to highlight League programs for the coming year and discuss the plans for redistricting education. In addition, Marilyn Wilson will discuss plans for voter service. Attendees will order and pay individually.

"MICHIGAN BEHIND BARS" IS TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER 29 PROGRAM

Kristen Staley, Associate Director, Youth Justice Policy, for the Michigan Council of Crime and Delinquency, will make a presentation titled "Michigan Behind Bars: The Cause and Effects of Mass Incarceration Across the State." She will be the featured speaker at the League program on Tuesday, September 29, at 7pm at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing. She explains that "for decades Michigan has been stuck in the "get tough" era, increasing harsh penalties for crimes and over-relying on incarceration. But what has this done for our state? Taxes continue to skyrocket, public safety remains unchanged, and a generation behind bars grows by the

Money in Politics-
consensus questions,
5:30 pm (dinner
meeting), Coral Gables,
East Lansing

- **November 17**
Constitutional Amend-
ment Revision-
consensus questions,
7pm, Plymouth
Congregational Church,
Lansing

LWVLA 2015-16 BOARD

CO-PRESIDENTS

Beth Moore -
mooreeee@msu.edu

Camilla Davis -
cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com

VP PROGRAM

Ann Marston -
annmarston@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Jenny Alvarez -
alvarezjenny@gmail.com

TREASURER

John Hanieski -
jfhanieski@aol.com

DIRECTORS

AT-LARGE

Sherlyn Hogenson -
s.hogenson@sbcglobal.net

thousands each year." Learn what policies and practices can be changed to prevent Michigan's contribution to mass incarceration. This is a topic currently under discussion at all levels of government. Plan to attend this important discussion and encourage friends and colleagues to join you.

FALL VOTER SERVICE PLANS



Voter registration events, an East Lansing candidates' forum and Vote411 election information are all part of the plans for the voter service committee. Camilla Davis, Ellen Link, Jan Baum, Marilyn Wilson, Kathy Esselman and Jenny Alvarez have handed out voter information and registered voters at recent Farmer's Markets in Bath, DeWitt, and Lansing. League volunteers will also provide voter information at the Brain Injury Association conference and at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act on September 17. A community forum, scheduled for September 30th, will feature the candidates for three seats on the East Lansing City Council.

At a recent meeting of the voter service committee, under the leadership of Marilyn Wilson, members discussed how the League could address some of the issues raised in a recent report titled The Health of State Democracies which gave Michigan an F in ballot accessibility. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Michigan's evaluation.

AT-LARGE

Patience Drake Rosenbaum
pdrfr@comcast.net

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Mary Scoblic -
scoblicm@comcast.net

DEVELOPMENT

Debby Starnes -
deborahcstarnes@icloud.com

HEALTH CARE

Kathy Esselman
esselmank@comcast.net

JACKSON UNIT

Mary Lee Clark
leaguelwvjackson@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Deanna Hanieski -
haniesd@lcc.edu

PARLIAMENTARIAN & GOVERNMENT

Cele Friestater -
cfriestater@tuchinsky.org

PUBLICITY

Carol Swinehart
carol_swinehart@yahoo.com

VOTER SERVICES

Marilyn Wilson
wilsonm@msu.edu

WEBMASTER

Judy Culham -
judyculham@yahoo.com

LEAGUE PLANS REDISTRICTING EDUCATION



The League of Women Voters of Michigan has announced a series of educational programs throughout the state this fall to explain how redistricting works in Michigan, the problems with the current system and the options for change. The Lansing area has been designated as one of the locations for a community forum in mid-October. Watch your email for more details and plan to attend and bring friends and neighbors. The [Detroit Free Press editorial](#) on August 9 talks about the role that the League can play in an educational initiative on this important topic.

MONEY IN POLITICS CONSENSUS



The Lansing Area League is joining Leagues from across the nation to take part in the LWV-US Money in Politics (MIP) review and update. Plan to attend the October 20 community program at 7 pm at Plymouth Congregational Church. This will be an opportunity for members to explore the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment. Leagues are being asked to consider: the rights of individuals and organizations to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in

Quick Links

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK
PAGE



BE SURE TO *LIKE* US!

**SUGGESTIONS AND
COMMENTS ARE
WELCOME!**

If you have suggestions for the content of LWVLA's Capitol Voter or if you have comments about the format, please email Camilla Davis at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com.

the current position.

On October 22, League members will gather for a dinner meeting at Coral Gables in East Lansing and answer a set of consensus questions. Those responses, combined with others throughout the country, will become the updated position on campaign finance for League action

JACKSON UNIT INCREASES VISIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY



The fourteen members of the Jackson unit are working to increase League visibility in the community and to attract new members. They have been registering voters and distributing League materials at community events and a new website and Facebook page have been developed. The League is co-sponsoring a candidate forum for mayoral candidates on September 24 at the Michigan Theater.

The Jackson Unit voted to support the community initiative "Bridges to Justice" which will address the causes, costs and reforms related to mass incarceration. The kick-off will be October 10 with guest speaker Laura Sager, Executive Director, Citizens Alliance for Prisons and Public Spending.