



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

FEBRUARY 2016

LWVLA CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS WINTER/SPRING 2016

February 9 - LWV Book Group, 10 am, Grand Traverse Pie Company, East Lansing, *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins...*

February 18 - Voter Service Committee, Thursday, February 18, 1:00-3:00, LWVMI office, 600 W. St. Joseph, Lansing.

February 29 - *Status of Children in the Tri-County Area*, Lunch meeting, 12 noon, Coral Gables, Alicia Guevara Warren, Michigan League for Public Policy

March 8 - Michigan Presidential Primary. VOTE!

March 8 - LWV Book Group 10 am, Grand Traverse Pie Company, East Lansing

March 15 - Children's Health Issues, 7 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing

March 28 - **NEW!** *Lunch with the League Series*, Judy Karandjeff, LWV - MI President

April 12 - LWV Book Group, 10 am, Grand Traverse Pie Company, East

Lansing

April 21 - Environmental Issues, 7 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church

May 10 - LWV Book Group, 10 am, Grand Traverse Pie Company, East Lansing

May 17--LWVLA Annual Meeting, 5:30 pm dinner, Spartan Hall of Fame Café, David Hollister speaking on regional economic cooperation.

CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

LEAD POISONING IN MICHIGAN
LANSING SCHOOL BOND STUDY
NEW MEMBERS
EAST LANSING HIRING POLL WORKERS
HEALTH CARE DIRECTORS REPORT
STATUS OF TRI-COUNTY CHILDREN
MAPPING VOTER SERVICE
MARCH 8 PRIMARY VOTE
BOOK GROUP NEWS
MI VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION
Article Headline

LEAD POISONING: THE MICHIGAN SITUATION

INSIGHTS ON LEAD POISONING

Mary Scoblic, LWV-LA Children and Youth Chairperson, has written a brief paper for League members on lead poisoning, particularly as it relates to the crisis in Flint. Mary supervised the

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

As the League of Women Voters organization celebrates its 96th anniversary this week, it is an especially fitting time to highlight the proposal from the LWV-US Board, calling on the organization at all levels to focus for the next two years on Making Democracy Work. This initiative would build on the 2014-16 focus on Key Structures of Democracy. That effort included a study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, a review and update of the League position on campaign finance, and a review of the redistricting process. The organization will continue to direct attention to these core democracy issues as well as emphasizing voter rights and voter protection at every level of government.

The Making Democracy Work initiative was discussed briefly by the membership at the January 28 Agenda for Action meeting and then the LWV-LA board unanimously approved this proposal at their February 1 meeting. One member commented "This is the core of the League of Women Voters." In this important election year, and in the current political climate, nothing could seem more compelling than to direct all of the

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in the Michigan Department of Public Health (later Community Health) for fifteen years. League member Carol Swinehart provided input on water quality issues for this paper and Dr. Dean Sienko also provided input. We greatly appreciate the work put into writing this timely paper. [CLICK HERE](#) for a more general report on lead poisoning in children and information about the authors.

LOOKING AT LEAD ISSUES IN THE LANSING AREA



SMALL GROUP FORMING FOR STUDY & POSSIBLE ACTION

At the January 18 *Agenda for Action* program, Mary Scobic, Children and Youth Chairperson, gave an important overview of the issue of lead poisoning in communities throughout the state. When League members returned the *Agenda for Action* feedback sheets, several people indicated an interest in exploring this issue locally. Mary Scobic has agreed to convene a small group to look into the options for

League's energy and talents to the spirit of this initiative. YOUR help will be needed in a variety of ways. Watch future issues of the *Capitol Voter* for more information.

Beth Moore & Camilla Davis

STATUS OF CHILDREN IN THE TRI-COUNTIES

Monday, February 29 Luncheon

Join other League members for lunch on Monday, February 29 at Coral Gables in East Lansing to hear an important presentation titled *The Status of Children in the Tri-County Area*. Alicia Guevara Warren, Michigan League for Public Policy, will provide an overview of recent child well-being trends in the state and discuss recommendations to improve the lives of children and their families. Ms. Guevara Warren is Director of the Kids Count Project for Michigan and she will also talk about using data to advocate for kids.

The lunch at Coral Gables will begin at noon and members will order from the menu. Reservations are necessary so please contact Camilla Davis at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com or call 668-6156.

MAPPING VOTER SERVICE STRATEGIES FOR 2016

The upcoming 2016 election cycle will be presenting many opportunities for the League of Women Voters - Lansing Area. The Voter Service Committee is meeting on Thursday, February 18, 1:00-3:00, to map out strategies for the upcoming elections. The meeting will be held in the LWVMI office, 600 W. St. Joseph, Lansing, MI (The Fox 47 building). Anyone who'd like to attend to

study and possible action. Contact Mary at scoblicm@comcast.net or 214-4807.

LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN

Mary Scoblic, LWVLA Children and Youth Chairperson, has prepared a report specific to the Michigan situation. [CLICK HERE](#) to read.

SCHOOL BOND PROPOSAL IN LANSING



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDY AND ACTION

Plans are underway for bringing together League members who live in the Lansing School District. We will explore what role our organization might play to improve voter understanding of the bond proposal that is to be on the May 3 ballot. Please contact Beth Moore for more information at mooreeee@msu.edu or 332-0096.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

provide input and to join the committee's efforts in the following ways is welcome.

- New legislative changes in voting requirements
- Candidate forums
- High school and community voter registration opportunities
- Increasing media attention to voting issues
- Vote411 data collection
- Upgrading Voter Guides and increasing distribution lists
- Collaboration with city clerks' offices for voter education outreach
- Work with community groups on issues of voter advocacy

Contact Marilyn Wilson at wilsonlwvla@gmail.com with any questions.

MARCH 8 MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY



Michigan's Presidential Primary is a "closed" Primary, in which voters must choose the party they wish to vote for before being issued a ballot. That ballot will have only the candidates of the party corresponding to the voter's choice.

Polls will be open on March 8 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the normal polling places in your community.

Any registered Michigan voter can participate in the Presidential Primary. In Michigan, voters do not register as Republicans or Democrats.

Voters must choose the party in whose Presidential Primary they wish to vote when they fill out the Application to Vote/Ballot Selection Form on Election Day or the

Trudy Bower,
East Lansing, a former
librarian, and a member of
the League book group.

Deborah Devine,
Lansing, a retired
Assistant Attorney General
of Michigan

Terry Link,
Laingsburg, retired MSU
sustainability director and
librarian, co-chair Peace
Education Center,
columnist for City Pulse

CITY OF EAST LANSING HIRING POLL WORKERS

The East Lansing Office of the City Clerk is in need of election inspectors to work in polling locations on March 8.

Both half and full time positions are available. The pay is \$60 for half-day shifts and \$120 for full day. Paid training (\$10/hour) is provided. For more information, contact Marie Wicks, East Lansing City Clerk, at 517-319-6914 or email her directly at

Absentee Voter Ballot Application Form if voting absentee. This requirement is in place only for a Presidential Primary; you will not need to choose a party in any other election, nor will you need to vote for candidates only in that party in other elections.

Your Presidential Primary political party ballot selection - Republican or Democrat - is a matter of public record. The candidate you vote for will NOT be made public. The vote is by secret ballot, so the candidate you vote for is never disclosed.

There are 13 Republican and 4 Democratic candidates for President on the March 8 ballot.

You may choose to vote for no candidate by selecting "uncommitted," a choice that appears on each party's ballot. If enough voters cast "uncommitted" votes, the party may send delegates to the national nominating convention who are not committed to a specific candidate.

www.VOTE411.org has information on upcoming Presidential Candidate Forum dates and will have candidate response information for Michigan's Presidential candidates closer to the March 8 election.

Marilyn Wilson, Voter Service Chairperson

BOOK GROUP NEWS

LWV BOOK GROUP DISCUSSES FRANCES PERKINS IN FEBRUARY

On February 9 the book group discussed *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Compass* by Kirstin Downey.

LWV TO DISCUSS NEW BOOK *DARK*



mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com

INGHAM COUNTY INFANT MORTALITY COALITION

Kathy Esselman, LWV-LA Health Chairperson, has collected important information about this coalition and about local health issues. [CLICK HERE](#) to view this report to the board.

MONEY IN MARCH

On March 8 the book being discussed will be *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*, by Jane Mayer. This is a new book that was reviewed favorably in last week's New York Times and it fits in well with our recent Money in Politics study. Books are always available at both Schulers' stores.

The group meets on the second Tuesday at 10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. For more information contact Beth Moore at mooreeee@msu.edu.

Quick Links

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

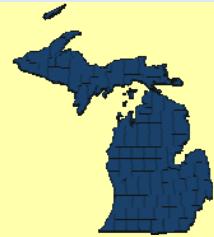
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SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ARE

VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION IN MICHIGAN



Two bills that directly impact voter rights in Michigan recently passed the Legislature and have been signed into law. The state League opposed both bills. SB 13 eliminates straight party ticket voting, which will increase the length of time to vote and require more voting equipment. SB 571 establishes a "gag rule" for certain election officials 60 days prior to the election. Last Friday, however, U.S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara ruled that the bill is unconstitutionally vague, and he has put a temporary halt to the election law bill as passed last December. Stay tuned for further information.

We continue to see more attempts to erode voting rights in Michigan. Two additional bills focus on "no-reason" absentee voting. HB 4724 is good in theory, but it would require voters who don't meet the existing requirements for voting absentee to go the clerk's office to show a valid photo ID, without

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.

ability to sign an affidavit if they don't have photo ID, and it would require them to go to the clerk's office each election. A simpler version of "no reason absentee" voting such as in SB 59 is being endorsed by the LWVMI.

LWVMI also opposes SB 639, which would regulate clerks' office hours for absentee voting, and SB 638, which will permit unlimited campaign contributions through the creation of independent expenditure committees that are not subject to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. SB 638 passed the Senate and is in the House Elections Committee. SB 639 is in the Senate Elections and Government Oversight Committee.

The LWVLA encourages League members to contact their state representatives and senators to express your individual thoughts on these bills.

Marilyn Wilson, Voter Service Chairperson

WHAT IS THE LAKE MICHIGAN REGION INTERLEAGUE?



Did you know that your League along with all the other Leagues in Michigan are members of the LWV Lake Michigan Region? This Inter-League organization is made up of 48 local Leagues within the Lake Michigan watershed and regional planning areas. In addition, the four state Leagues of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin pay dues, entitling all of their individual

Leagues to receive information and to take part in LWVLMR events. Each state League also appoints two delegates and two alternates to serve on the LWVLMR

Board that meets quarterly.

WHO REPRESENTS MICHIGAN ON THE

LWVLMR BOARD?

RUTH CAPUTO, delegate from Kalamazoo, has a PhD in Physical Chemistry. She currently chairs the City of Portage's Environmental Board and the Programs Committee for the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, a group that promotes the use of native plants.

VINA MIKESELL, delegate from Leelanau County, joined the League in Crawfordsville, IN and served as its President and on the LWVIN Board. Vina was instrumental in forming a new League in Leelanau County. She is past president and current editor of the Leelanau VOTER.

SUZANNE DIXON, alternate from Holland, served as past Treasurer and Board member for LWVLMR. Currently in her third term as LWVMI Director of Natural Resources and a Board member, she also holds the same offices in the Holland League. Suzanne is a founding board member of the Allegan County Brownfield Authority and is president of a helping agency for the needy.

CHRIS ZILKE, alternate from Berrien and Cass Counties, lived outside of the country for 8 ½ years during her children's early years. Chris participated in three "Global Volunteers" vacations in Viet Nam, Ecuador and Hawaii. Passionate about education, she served on the Bridgman Board of Education for 8 years, 2 of them as President. Currently Chris is President of the Berrien/Cass League.

LWV Lake Michigan Region is an integral part of and operates under the Natural Resources position of the LWVUS.