



League of Women Voters Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

NOVEMBER 2014

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WILL THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE CHANGE THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE?

Judy Karandjeff

LWVMI Vice President for Advocacy



During the lame duck session, between election day and the end of December, a majority of the Michigan Legislature may pass legislation to change the electoral college votes so that the votes are allocated by congressional districts. Michigan, as most other states, has a winner take-all system for allocating electoral college votes. Democratic candidates for president have carried Michigan in every election since 1992. Michigan has 14 congressional districts, 9 Republican and 5 Democrat.

[Click here](#), then scroll down to read more of Judy Karandjeff's article about this possible change, including ways LWVMI urges League members to get involved.

**From the Co-Presidents:
Enjoying Successes**



America Votes speaker Sally Williams (second from left) with Beth Moore, Marilyn Wilson and Camilla Davis.

Sally Williams with the Michigan Bureau of Elections talked to League members and guests on October 21 about the election process in Michigan. She said that this state's electoral system is much more decentralized than most other states. We have 1517 election officials and 4800 precincts, with 978 of those jurisdictions having just one precinct. The session provided an especially good background for League members who were participating in the PAVP project.

Quick Links

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

and Thinking Ahead

As we all move into this post-election season, we are especially mindful of the outstanding efforts put forth this fall by local League members to provide citizen information about candidates and issues. Our League continued the long tradition of candidate forums, voter guides--printed and on-line--and registering voters. Special highlights were forums that reached different audiences and brought in new members, the distribution of the Voter Guide in the Lansing City Pulse, an expanded VOTE411 that included Eaton and Clinton Counties, and great member participation in the PAVP project.

The wonderful turn-out at the post-election lunch was a confirmation of those efforts. We extend our thanks for a job well-done to everyone who assisted with these projects.

We are especially grateful to Marilyn Wilson for coordinating the voter service efforts and to Judy Karandjeff and Patience Drake-Rosenbaum for their dedication and persistence with VOTE411.

We also find ourselves thinking about all of the possibilities that these successful efforts posed. How can we help provide more information to students so that they check their registration on-line before going to vote? What can we do to provide more information to the general citizenry to help make the process less confusing? How can we more effectively advertise VOTE411 so that people see it as an essential

DUES REMINDER

HELP SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

It's time for LWVLA members to pay dues for 2105. Send your check for \$65 (\$97.50 for household) to

LWV-LA

P.O. Box 971

E. Lansing, MI 48826

[Click here](#) to download the renewal form.

LAME DUCK ALERT



The opening article in this edition of the Capitol Voter informers members about possible changes to the state's electoral vote allocation. Be on the alert for other bills which may be introduced during the lame duck session that are in opposition to LWVMI positions. Among other things, there's a

resource for voting? These are just the beginning of a list of questions that we all will ponder in the coming months.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PROGRAM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18



Just a reminder that we have a very interesting program planned for Tuesday, November 18. "The Affordable Care Act" will be the topic of a presentation by Jan Hudson, senior policy analyst for the Michigan League for Public Policy. The 7 PM program will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Avenue in Lansing. Hope you can join us.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Gary Davis

Julie DeRose

Kathleen Johnston-Calati

Frank Rosenbaum

Judy Samelson

League Members Observe Voting Process



Twenty-three local League members and friends were busy on election-day, gathering information about what was happening in 13 East Lansing and Lansing precincts. They were participating in the LWV-MI Public Advocacy and Voter Protection (PAVP) project. The information will be shared with local clerks and it will be used to help improve the League's voter outreach and education efforts.

possibility that the Educational Achievement Authority will be expanded to take over more school districts - including Lansing.

NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE BOOK GROUP



Pioneers, Reformers, & Millionaires, by Liz Homer, is the title for discussion at the next meeting of the LWV book group on Tuesday, January 13. It's the story of the influential pioneer settlers who built a capital city out of the wilderness area that is now Lansing.

The February selection is *Dollarocracy: How the Money and the Media Election Complex is Destroying America* by John Nichols and Robert McChesney. Books will be available on the book group table at both Schuler's.

A more detailed report of the findings by Lansing area League observers will be in the December Capitol Voter, but here are some initial findings:

- A number of MSU students did not know where they were actually registered to vote. Some of the reasons were registration at a home address, moves, a change in driver's license, turning 21 and getting a new license.
- There were a few problems with ballots sticking together and problems feeding the finished ballot into the reader.
- The length of the ballot and overall confusion about the voting process were also noted.

At the post-election lunch on November 6 many observers commented on the friendly reception that they had received and also noted that the election inspectors worked patiently to address problems that arose.

A special thanks is extended to all of the PAVP observers who devoted the time to this project: Jenny and Juan Alvarez, Jean Brisbo, Camilla Davis, Chris Dolan, Deanna and John Hanieski, Sherlyn Hogenson, Judy Hood, Rita Klein, Val Lafferty, Ellen Link, Jean McManus, Ann Marston, Bob Miller, Ralph and Sharon Monsma, Sharon Parks, Judy Samelson, Mary Scoblic, Debby Starnes, Marilyn Wilson. Beth Moore and Camilla Davis were co-directors of the project.

MEET YOUR LWVLA BOARD



Kathy Esselman is the health care chairperson and had served as the LWV-LA president for ten years. She said that she was recruited to edit the LWVLA Voter Guide because

**LWVLA CALENDAR
FOR
NOVEMBER &
DECEMBER**

**Tuesday, November
18**

**The Affordable Care
Act (See above item
for details.)**

**Monday, December
1**

**Board meeting, 6
PM**

**LWVMI office
600 W. St. Joseph
St.
Lansing**

of her background as a TV reviewer and entertainment editor on the State News. She spoke of all the League leaders "who personify the values, courage and reverence for good government identified with the League since 1920."

Judy Culham is the LWV-LA webmaster and she began working as the LWV-MI office manager about ten years ago. She says that she especially enjoys working with all of the local Leagues and with the state board. Judy came to work for the League after retiring from General Motors and she has long-standing family ties in the Haslett area.

