



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

NOVEMBER 2015

LWVLA CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 19 - Money in Politics

7 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church

December 1 - Money in Politics - Consensus Questions

5:30 pm, Dinner Meeting, Coral Gables, East

Lansing

December 7 - LWVLA Board Meeting

6 pm, LWVMI Office, 600 W. St. Joseph, Lansing

In This Issue

**Message from the Co-
Presidents**

**Book Group Announces
2016 Titles**

**Money in Politics
Information Program**

**A MESSAGE FROM
THE
CO-PRESIDENTS**

**REFLECTIONS ON
LEAGUE ACTIVITIES**

**Money in Politics
Consensus Dinner**

Jackson Unit News

**Encouraging Voters at an
Early Age**

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

**New members joining the
League include:**

**Sara and Matt Preisser
from East Lansing**

Nell Pizzo from Lansing

**Deborah Herbert from
Jackson**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
REPORT COMPARES
STATISTICS**

Mary Scoblic, Children and Youth Director, has compiled comparative data for Ingham, Eaton, Clinton and Jackson Counties related to school proficiency, high school graduation rates and teen pregnancy. [Click here](#) to read this interesting data.

**A MESSAGE FROM
THE
CO-PRESIDENTS**



**REFLECTIONS ON
LEAGUE ACTIVITIES**

As we look back on the weeks of a full schedule of League activities, we note with pride:

- The impact of well-attended LWV candidate forums in Jackson and East Lansing.
- The visibility for the League of VOTE411 and of having the Voter Guide published in the Lansing City Pulse
- Ongoing, active voter education efforts
- The rich quality of the discussion about serious criminal justice issues at the program on mass incarceration, bringing together diverse interests and experiences.
- The engaged consensus discussion concerning the process for amending the U.S. Constitution.
- The intense interest expressed at three community forums on Redistricting: Who Should Draw the Lines?
- The work of two study committees to prepare for consensus discussions and the work of the Program Committee to establish an interesting program calendar for the League.

We are very grateful for the involvement of the many League members who made the above events possible. Look for a new calendar of League activities in the

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE BY RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Whether you have time to be involved in League activities or just want to support the League by being a member, your membership is important!

Membership renewal forms were mailed on October 1. If you've misplaced yours, click here to [DOWNLOAD](#), complete the form and return it to the address provided.

CONSENSUS

A DEFINITION REVIEW

A general agreement about an idea or opinion that is shared by all the people in a group. From the LWWUS Handbook for Successful Consensus Meetings: The consensus reached by League members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity, but refers to overall sense of group.

weeks ahead and think of ways that you might like to be more involved. Be sure to join us for the two upcoming programs on Money in Politics.

Beth Moore and Camilla Davis

BOOK GROUP ANNOUNCES 2016 TITLES



The LWVLA book group selected books for the first months of 2016:

- January 19 - *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* by Linda Hirshman
- February 9 - *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Compass* by Kirstin Downey.

The book group meets at 10 am at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. Books will be available at both Schuler's Book stores. Contact Beth Moore at mooreeee@msu.edu with any questions.

There will be no meeting in December.

Quick Links

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



BE SURE TO *LIKE* US!

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

PART 1 COME DISCUSS MONEY IN POLITICS ON NOVEMBER 19



Recent headlines highlight new levels of political campaign spending and advertising strategies in local elections. Come discuss these and other issues related to Money in Politics at the League community forum, 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 19 at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing. Lynn Jondahl, League member and former state legislator, will facilitate the program. The central issue is whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment.

This fall, Leagues throughout the nation are examining the issue of Money in Politics in an effort to reach member consensus and to update the LWVUS position on campaign finance. An extensive set of resource materials is available on the [LWVUS website](#). Check out some of the articles about hard, soft and dark money. Look over the very readable articles on Supreme Court rulings related to money in politics. A small group of League members (Ann Marston, Beth Moore, Sherlyn Hogenson and Cele Friestater) has been meeting on Wednesday mornings to review this set of materials and plan the two upcoming program meetings.

AT-LARGE

Sherlyn Hogenson -
s.hogenson@sbcglobal.net

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
leaguewvjackson@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

PART 2

**JOIN THE CONSENSUS
DISCUSSION ON DECEMBER 1**

Join other League members for dinner on Tuesday, December 1 at 5:30pm at Coral Gables Restaurant in East Lansing. This will be a time to discuss and reach member consensus on a set of questions designed to update the LWVUS position on money in politics. Copies of the questions will be distributed at both meetings and they are also available on the [LWVUS website](#).

At dinner, members will order off the menu and pay for their own meals. We do need a count of those planning to attend, so please RSVP by Nov. 30th to Beth Moore at 517-332-0096 or mooreeee@msu.edu.

**JACKSON UNIT
CO-SPONSORS
BRIDGES TO
JUSTICE SERIES**



Jackson League members are co-sponsoring a community education series focused on mass

wilsonm@msu.edu

WEBMASTER

Judy Culham -
judyculham@yahoo.com

**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.

incarceration-- causes, costs and reforms. As part of the program on "Bridges to Justice Day", several formerly incarcerated people shared their experiences with the group and offered advice on working with someone who is incarcerated. The session on parole readiness provided detailed information on the challenges of successfully preparing for and getting parole and how to support someone going down this path. The second program in the series was titled "Pipelines to Prison" and explored the juvenile justice crisis.

The Jackson Unit, along with the group Women 4 Equality, sponsored a community forum on redistricting. This was part of the LWV-Mi statewide educational effort titled "Redistricting: Who Draws the Lines". Thirty-two people attended the forum and Camilla Davis and Beth Moore presented the information.

Since becoming a unit of the Lansing area League in February, members have registered 109 people at various civic events.

Mary Lee Clark, Chairperson

**ENCOURAGING
VOTERS AT AN
EARLY AGE**



Marilyn Wilson and other members of the Voter Service committee worked with the office of Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope in an effort to help elementary age students learn about voting. Using real voting machines, they voted on ice cream flavors and whether or not they supported year-around schooling.

Committee members are also conducting voter education programs in local high schools.

East Lansing, St. Johns, Pewamo-Westphalia, and Waverly have all requested presentations of the Power Point about voting and the opportunity to register to vote for those who will be 18 years old by the next election. Four members of the committee plus three members from the Jackson Unit participated in a training session.