



## League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



### *CAPITOL VOTER*

**OCTOBER 2016**

#### LWVLA CALENDAR

- Oct. 27** - Shrinking Local Services: Where Will the Money Come From? community forum and panel discussion, 7 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing
- Nov. 8** - ELECTION DAY - Be sure to vote!! LWV observers will be at selected polling places in Lansing and East Lansing
- Nov. 10** - LWV lunch celebrating our voter service efforts-Hall of Fame Cafe
- Nov. 14** - LWVMI Government Finance consensus meeting-details later
- Nov. 15** - LWV Book Group, 10 a.m. at Burcham Hills Retirement Center, 5th Floor Card Room.

#### Clarifying the League's Policy

The League, as an organization, never supports political parties or candidates but we do take positions on issues, based on member study and consensus. League members, however, can be as active as they choose in supporting

particular candidates or political parties. Only the League President (or co-presidents) or Voter Service Director cannot be involved with candidates or political parties.

### **LEAGUE POLL WATCHING PROJECT**

**About 30 League members will observe the voting process on election-day at precincts in Lansing and East Lansing. The Public Advocacy and Voter Protection (PAVP) project is part of an ongoing national League effort to better understand and to protect the integrity of the electoral process. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Camilla Davis by [email](#) or phone (668-6156) immediately.**

### **SUPPORT THE LEAGUE -- RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

As we move through this busy fall of voter service activities, the contributions of time and money from our members are especially important. Membership renewal forms were recently mailed to everyone who had joined prior to January

### **MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS**



#### **"I Know My Vote Will Count"**

As we enter the final two weeks prior to this critical election, the League's nearly 100-year history of encouraging an informed and involved citizenry and working to protect the integrity of the electoral process are coming into sharp focus. A recent message from Chris Carson, LWVUS President, urges all of us to share the message: "I'm voting, and I know my vote will count." She reminds us that the League is the first to speak out when there is a problem with the voting process and that "false claims about our elections belittle the real challenges too many American voters have faced in recent years."

A recent article titled "Why America's Votes Will Be Counted," ([Brennan Center for Justice at the New York School of Law](#)) is an excellent summary of the voting process. Each of us, as League members, can be prepared to speak out about the importance of voting and our belief in the integrity of the election system.

*Beth Moore & Camilla Davis*

31, 2016. Complete the form and mail it in today, or go to [LWVLA's web site](#) and click on PAY NOW to use a credit card to renew your membership. THANK YOU!

**BOOK GROUP  
DISCUSSES  
CLIMATE &  
ECONOMY**



On November 15, the League book group will be holding its monthly discussion at Burcham Hills Retirement Center, hosted by League member Margaret Rockwell. The gathering is at 10 a.m. in the 5th floor card room. The group will be talking about Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. The book is available at both Schulers and everyone is welcome to attend. We will not be meeting in December and will return to the Grand Traverse Pie Company in January. Contact Beth Moore ([mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu)) if you'd like more information.

**PROVIDING LOCAL  
SERVICES WITH  
SHRINKING STATE  
RESOURCES**



Funding local services such as police and fire protection, public works, and housing in the face of shrinking state resources is a crucial issue facing government officials in Mid-Michigan. The League is sponsoring an important community forum on this topic at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 27, at Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 East Grand River in Lansing.

Bob Kleine, Acting Director of the MSU Extension Center for Local Government Finance and Policy, will lead the panel discussion with an overview of the financial challenges confronting local governments throughout the state. Highlighting the financial situations in these local municipalities will be:

- East Lansing City Manager George Lahanas
- Lansing Finance Director Angela Bennett
- DeWitt Township Manager Rod Taylor

The speakers will discuss how their governmental bodies try to balance declining state resources with increasing needs and demands for services.

## WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE

LWVLA's membership total is now 140! We have three new members.

*Sarah Comstock*  
East Lansing

*Donna Mullins*  
East Lansing

*Penny Wallace*  
Lansing

## JACKSON UNIT SPONSORS FORUMS



The Jackson Unit organized three successful candidate forums this fall. Fifty-five residents came to learn about the people running for Jackson County Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney and three county commission positions. LWV member Jim VanHecke moderated that session. The second forum, with

## CONSENSUS DISCUSSION ON GOVERNMENT FINANCE ISSUES

Join other League members for dinner on Monday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. 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 LWVMI taxation and budget position. The October 27 program on local government finance will relate to the consensus discussion, but the state study also looks at state government expenditures and at the budget process. 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. 11th to Camilla Davis at [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com) or 517-668-6156.

**CELEBRATE THE  
LEAGUE'S VOTER  
SERVICE WORK**



Throughout the 2016 electoral season, League members have been working tirelessly to register voters, provide VOTE411, deliver voter guides, conduct candidate forums and observe polls. We will celebrate that outstanding effort at lunch on November 10th at 11:30 a.m. at the Hall of Fame Café in East Lansing. We'll de-

candidates for the 7th Congressional District and Michigan House Districts 64 and 65, had an audience of 75. Kyle Melinn, editor and Vice President of the Lansing MIRS Newsletter, moderated the forum. A third session was titled "Vote the Whole Ballot" and focused on local offices and the voting process.

### VOTING ABSENTEE?



An absentee ballot application must be submitted by 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election (Nov. 5) and the ballot returned by 8 p.m. on election-day. Check the websites for either the [Lansing](#) or [East Lansing](#) City Clerk for information about extended hours for picking up and submitting an absentee ballot.

brief the various election season activities, including the poll-watching project. Everyone is welcome! The cost of lunch is each person's responsibility and we'd like to have a count in advance to plan space. Please RSVP by Nov. 8 to Camilla Davis at [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com).

### GO SHOPPING AND HELP THE LEAGUE!

Schuler's Books is designating November 13 through 19 as a *League of Women Voters Book Days* event. The League will receive 20 percent of any purchase at either store (Eastwood or Okemos), or the website, that is designated with a special League code. You will be getting more information closer to the event, but mark your calendar now and plan your book and gift shopping for that week. Thanks to Debby Starnes for setting up this great opportunity for the League to raise funds after making considerable expenditures this fall for our important voter service work.

VOTER GUIDES AVAILABLE



More than twenty League members have been working this week to distribute the state voter guide and the guides for each of the three counties Ingham, Eaton

