



## League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



### *CAPITOL VOTER*

OCTOBER 2015

#### **LWVLA CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- October 20 - Constitutional Amendment Consensus**  
7 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church
- October 28 - Redistricting in Michigan Community Forum**  
7 pm, Delta Twp. Library
- November 5 - Redistricting in Michigan Community Forum**  
6 pm, Meijer Branch Library, Jackson
- November 10 - LWVLA Book Group**  
10 am, Grand Traverse Pie, East Lansing
- November 10 - Redistricting in Michigan Community Forum**  
7 pm, Hannah Community Center
- 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

#### **In This Issue**

Report on Youth Well-Being

Message from the Co-  
Presidents

**Money in Politics Consensus**

**Redistricting in Michigan**

**Jackson Unit News**

**League Provides Election  
Information**

**East Lansing Re-broadcasts  
Forum**

**A MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
CO-PRESIDENTS**



**Taking Part in the  
Consensus Process**

**REPORT LOOKS AT CHILD AND  
YOUTH WELL-BEING**

Mary Scoblic, LWV-LA Children and Youth chair, has compiled a report addressing factors that influence the health, safety and well-being of infants, children and adolescents in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Jackson Counties. It looks at the numbers and percent of the pediatric population living in poverty, those included in state and federally supported health coverage and the numbers and percent of the pediatric population fully immunized for the appropriate age. [CLICK HERE](#) for a copy of the report.

**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

**We strongly encourage you to attend the upcoming League meetings on Amending the Constitution and on Money in Politics and to take part in the consensus process for both issues. Among the organizations across the country that take positions on policy issues, the League is rather unique. Our positions enabling political action are determined by member study and consensus, not by the decisions of an executive director or a board of directors. It is a process that fosters credibility and respect. Therefore, it is vitally important that we have wide representation of the membership taking part in these discussions on two important issue areas:**

- **The first meeting, on October 20, will give guidance to the national League board as to the circumstances and criteria for amending the U.S. Constitution.**
- **The second meeting, on November 19, will provide an opportunity to examine the issues related to Money in Politics and to update**

provided.

## LEAGUE PROVIDES ELECTION



## INFORMATION

Voters in East Lansing, Lansing and Williamston can access the candidates' answers to questions posed by the League, as well as other election information, in the on-line Voter Guide available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). Patience Drake-Rosenbaum and Judy Karandjeff compiled the information. The League is also very grateful to the Lansing City Pulse for inserting the Voter Guide in the September 30th edition of the newspaper.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Emilie Baker, East Lansing  
(transfer member from Bay  
City)**

**Laura Schlecte, Jackson**

**Pam Shaheen, Williamston**

## CONSENSUS

*A DEFINITION REVIEW*

A general agreement about an idea or opinion that is shared by all the people in a group. From

**the League's position on campaign finance. The central issue is whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The consensus meeting will take place on December 1.**

**Taking part in the consensus process is an important part of being a League member. We look forward to seeing you on October 20, and on November 19 and December 1.**

## POVERTY IS FOCUS OF OCTOBER 13 BOOK GROUP



Two current books on poverty in the US will be the topics for discussion at the League Book Group, meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. The books are *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America* by Linda Tirado and *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Katherine Edin and Luke Shaefer. Come join us, even if you haven't read the book. The group will also be selecting titles for future sessions. Contact Beth Moore at [mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu) with any questions.

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.

#### Quick Links

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

#### VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



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## MEMBERS EXAMINE CRITERIA FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Issues such as campaign finance or an Equal Rights Amendment or a Balanced Budget Amendment capture sectors of the public attention and groups on both sides talk about amending the U.S. Constitution. Join your League friends on Tuesday, October 20, for an interesting discussion on the process of amending the U.S. Constitution. The discussion and consensus meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 East Grand River in Lansing.

Leagues throughout the country are currently taking part in a study and consensus process to provide guidance to the national organization as to what are the circumstances that would compel the League to endorse a constitutional amendment or an Article V convention. The consensus questions are in three parts:

- 1) What are the guidelines for evaluating proposals for amending the Constitution?
- 2) What are the important considerations for conducting an Article V Constitutional Convention?
- 3) How do we balance between emphasizing the

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**PUBLICITY**

process for amending the Constitution and the content of the proposal itself?

Excellent background materials and the consensus questions are available on the [LWVUS web site](#).

The LWVUS committee for this study is chaired by Pat Donath, long-time LWV-LA member and a current member of the national board.

**Money in  
Politics****Re-Scheduled  
for November  
19**

The community program on Money in Politics has been rescheduled from October 20 to Thursday, November 19 at 7p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church. Lynn Jondahl, League member and former state legislator, will facilitate the program. On December 1 at 5:30 p.m. League members will gather for a dinner meeting at Coral Gables in East Lansing and answer a set of consensus questions.

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

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**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](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com).

available on the [LWVUS web site](#). Local League members Ann Marston, Beth Moore, Sherlyn Hogenson and Cele Friestater are reviewing these materials and other members are welcome to join these discussions

**REDISTRICTING  
IN MICHIGAN:  
SHOULD  
POLITICIANS  
CHOOSE THEIR VOTERS?**



This fall the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area is helping to educate citizens about how legislative districts are drawn, who draws them and why this issue is critically important to people who care about fair representation. Two identical educational forums on redistricting boundaries will be held in the Lansing area and one in Jackson. One program will be Wednesday, October 28, at 7 p.m. in the Delta Township Library, one at 6 p.m. on November 5 at Jackson District Library, Meijer Branch and another on November 10 at 7 p.m. at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center. Be sure to attend one of these important sessions and bring your friends and colleagues. Throughout the state, LWV-MI has already conducted more than 70 programs on this issue.

**NEWS FROM  
THE JACKSON  
UNIT**



Nearly 100 people attended the Jackson Unit's first candidate forum on September 24. The 90-minute event featured the city's two mayoral candidates, answering 42 questions from a very appreciative audience. The event had very good coverage from Channel 6 News and was taped by Jackson's local channel for rebroadcast during the next month. The League was especially grateful to Jerry Burden, LWV in Oakland County, for moderating the forum.

More than 20 new voters were registered by League volunteers at the Personal Care Ministry, at Jackson's last Classic Car Night in September, and at two locations at Jackson College on Constitution Day.

The League is sponsoring a Redistricting Forum on November 5th in Jackson and the Women for Equity group is a partner.

Mary Lee Clark, Chairperson

**EAST  
LANSING  
RE-  
BROADCASTS  
CANDIDATE FORUM**



The City of East Lansing made it possible to videotape the September 30 League candidate forum, featuring six candidates for three council positions. More than 100 people attended the event but many more can view it during the next three weeks. It will be available on East Lansing's cable Channel 22 on Sundays and Mondays, noon and 8 p.m., and Fridays at noon. It is also available anytime on the

[East Lansing website.](#)

The forum was organized by Marilyn Wilson, Voter Service Chair, and moderated by Camilla Davis. Kathy Esselman, Debbie Starnes, E.J. Buss, Carol Swinehart, and Bob Miller assisted with the event.