



**League of Women Voters -
Lansing Area**
**Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy**



CAPITOL VOTER

OCTOBER 2018

**CAPITOL VOTER
HIGHLIGHTS**

**LEAGUE
FUNDRAISER AT
SCHULER BOOKS**
**MEMBERSHIP
NEWS**
**DRAIN
COMMISSIONER
TO DISCUSS
WATER ISSUES**
**CO-PRESIDENTS
REPORT**
**EXPANDING
VOTER
REGISTRATION**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 24 - Community Forum,
Critical Water Issues with Pat Lindemann, Ingham
County Drain Commissioner, Haslett Public Library,
7 - 8:45 pm.

Thursday, October 25 - Candidates' Forum,
Williamston Community School Board, Discovery
Elementary School, 350 Highland Street,
Williamston; 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, November 6 - Election Day--**VOTE!!**
Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm.

WHAT CAN YOU DO BEFORE THE ELECTION

VOTER PROTECTION PROGRAMS

POST-ELECTION

LEAGUE GATHERING

LEAGUE TO EXAMINE IMMIGRATION &

REFUGEE POLICIES

VOTE THE ENVIRONMENT!

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TO STUDY DOMESTIC

ABUSE

BOOK GROUP CHOOSES TITLES

Thursday, November 8 - Celebrating the League's voter engagement efforts and featuring journalist Chris Christoff analyzing the election results, 5:30 - 8:00 pm, Henry's Place, 4936 Marsh Road (Meridian Town Center). Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase.

November 11-17 - Schuler Book Days fundraiser for LWVLA.

Tuesday, November 13 - LWVLA Book Group discussing *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* by Anthony Ray Hinton, at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing, 10 - 11:30am.

Thursday, November 15 - Community forum: New Americans: Examining Immigration and Refugee Policies, 7 - 9 pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos.

DRAIN COMMISSIONER LINDEMANN TO DISCUSS CRITICAL WATER ISSUES



Shop at Schuler's and Support the League



Schuler Book Days will take place for our League during the week of November 11 through 17. Twenty per cent of all sales

Do you worry about flooding in our climate-threatened future? Are you interested in learning about landscaping with grasses that help the environment? Do you know who has the responsibility for managing the rivers, drains and storm water in our county? Are you curious about the creative plans afoot for protecting and transforming our physical environment, including the Red Cedar/Frandor area? You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindeman satisfy your curiosity

identified by the password VOTE will be given to the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area. This includes all sales at the Meridian Mall store or on-line ordering, but not in Chapbook Café. In 2017 we earned nearly \$500 for the League!

Tell your friends and family about this wonderful opportunity to shop and earn money for the League at the same time.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have welcomed four new members in the past month:

Julie Roy, East Lansing

Nikola Schreiber, East Lansing

Heidi Thornley, Lansing

Cindy Wilkinson, Lansing

about the environmental challenges and opportunities of water management.

The event is open to the public and takes place on Wednesday, October 24, 7 - 8:45 pm, at the Haslett Public Library on 1590 Franklin Street (not a sponsor). Hosted by the League's environment work group, questions may be directed to Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS --

THE LAST PHASE: GETTING OUT THE VOTE



Now that voters have been registered, VOTE411 is operational, and voter guides have mostly been delivered, it is time to focus our efforts on Getting Out the Vote (GOTV). There are many possible approaches and the League is working in coalition with other groups who are using different strategies. Some groups are offering rides to the polls, others are knocking on doors in targeted neighborhoods. The League's primary approach is to have volunteers in high-traffic areas during the two weeks before the election, handing out VOTE411 bookmarks, asking people if they would like nonpartisan information about candidates and issues.

Please contact Margo Smith (smithmk@msu.edu, 517-881-2836) if you can help with this initiative. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Terry Link, Jill Kroll, Barb Bidigare, Trudy Bower, and others who have volunteered. Thanks for any help you can give to empower voters.

**KEEP UP WITH
THE LATEST
LWVLA
HAPPENINGS!**

**VISIT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE**



**BE SURE TO LIKE
US!**

**SHARE LEAGUE
NEWS WITH
YOUR FRIENDS!**

QUICK LINKS

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

[LWVLMR**](#)

****LWVLA is a
member of the
LWV - Lake
Michigan Region.
Click on LWVLMR
for an update of the**

VOTER



REGISTRATION: EXPANDING THE POSSIBILITIES

In addition to registering more than 3,000 high school and college students this year, the League was involved with two new initiatives:

- Voter Service Director Marilyn Wilson and a group of volunteers visited ten senior citizen residences during the weeks prior to the registration deadline to assist residents with voter registration, changes of address, and applications for absentee ballots. These visits also provided opportunities to talk about the ballot issues and other items on the ballot. The visits were appreciated by staff and residents.
- On September 24th, LWVLA co-president Margo Smith joined volunteers from Michigan Power to Thrive, Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and the Ingham County Clerk, Barb Byrum, to help 67 residents at the Ingham County Jail register to vote, update addresses, and apply for absentee ballots. Margo explains, "When I asked Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth at a panel discussion for chiefs of police and sheriffs if he would allow the League of Women Voters to register detainees, he was receptive and asked me to come see him. Sheriff Wrigglesworth, his officers and deputies, developed a plan to bring 5 detainees at a time to meet us at an unused dormitory." Margo also notes that the residents ranged from youthful to elderly, men and women, and many were non-white. Residents were very respectful and appreciative. The chief deputy in the room explained that many detainees could not pay the bond fee and were waiting for their court

organization's initiatives.

dates. He said, "Residents have rights, and voting is one right they still have."

WHAT CAN YOU DO BEFORE THE ELECTION?

2018 - 2019 LWVLA BOARD

Every single one of us can make a difference in terms of this election, simply by talking about it to everyone you come in contact with between now and election day:

Co-Presidents

Beth Moore
Margo Smith

- Encourage getting an absentee ballot if qualified.
- Direct people to www.VOTE411.org for information on the ballot and candidates
- If you are going to events, consider taking Voter Guides or VOTE411 bookmarks (contact Marilyn Wilson, wilsonm@msu.edu, 517-927-7164).

VP Program

Ann Marston

Secretary/ Membership

Sherri McConnell

VOTER PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Treasurer

John Hanieski

Although the League is not organizing a poll watching project this year, there are two opportunities for League volunteers. In Michigan, these efforts are being coordinated by ACLU, MI Election Coalition, NAACP, LWVMI and others.

Director-at-Large

Bob Miller

These are the two programs:

Education

Jill Kroll

1. For lawyers, law students and law clerks, the sign up form is <https://electionprotection.wetheaction.org/>.
2. For grassroots volunteers, the sign up form is: <https://protectthevote.net/>

Environment

Ellen Link

Volunteers are trained, deployed and report problems through whichever program they choose to participate in.

Finance/Fund Raising

Debby Starnes

CHRIS CHRISTOFF TO ANALYZE ELECTION RESULTS ON NOVEMBER



Membership/

Web Master

Judy Culham

**New Member
Liaison**

Barbara Bidigare

**Parliamentarian/
Government**

Cele Friestater

Publicity

Carol Swinehart

Voter Service

Marilyn Wilson

Veteran *Detroit Free Press* reporter Chris Christoff will review the November 6 election results at a special gathering of League members and guests on Thursday, November 8, 5:30 - 8 pm in the back room at Henry's Place in Meridian Crossing, 4926 Marsh Road. Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase. This event also provides an opportunity to highlight what the League has done to inform and empower voters prior to this election and to thank a large group of wonderful volunteers.

**LEAGUE TO EXAMINE IMMIGRATION
AND REFUGEE POLICIES**

Mark your calendar for the informative and timely community forum titled *The New Americans; Examining Immigration and Refugee Policies*, on November 15, 7 - 9 pm, at Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos.

The program will feature an overview of the issues by Susan E. Reed, Managing Attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center. She has practiced immigrant rights law since 2003, with particular interest in the intersection of family and integration law. There will also be a presentation about sanctuary churches. This segment will be followed by a choice of small group discussions with people and groups directly affected by these issues. Taking part in the program will be representatives from the Refugee Development Center, Samaritas, and Action of Greater Lansing.

**ECO WATCH - LWVLA
ENVIRONMENT WORK GROUP
VOTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**



Michigan is home to four Great Lakes and 11,000 inland lakes. Over half of our land area is forested and 25 percent is in crops or pastures. As such, it's no stretch to conclude that the health of our considerable natural resources is indispensable to our own economic health - and our public health! So, why not make your choice of candidates based on who will be the best steward

of Michigan's environment -- for you, your family and our future? It doesn't get bigger than that!

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is non-partisan and never endorses a party or candidate. However, LWV does study issues, develops consensus positions, and supports/opposes policies and proposed legislation. For each election, LWV works to aggregate candidate statements and platforms via a Voter's Guide, which is available online at VOTE411.org, to help voters make decisions based on the best available information. After inputting your specific address, you'll get a list of candidates seeking to represent you and the address of your polling place. There you can compare candidates based on their experience and their self-reported platforms relative to environmental issues.

You may also contact candidates directly via phone, email and social media with your specific questions about the environment and share the information with others. Attending public forums where you pose questions is another approach.

You might also query the websites of active environmental groups in Michigan. Here is a [link](#) to a list of active environmental groups.

The LWV's stated environmental aspiration is "to prevent ecological degradation, and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney or into the landfill." This is a large, encompassing target with tremendous benefit to all of us who live and love Michigan. Environmental change can only be done one step at a time.

Certainly, choosing the candidate that best mirrors your priorities relative to the environment is a foundational step to that end. See you at the polls!

By Val Lafferty

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION STUDY GROUP FORUSES ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

The League Gun Violence Prevention Study Group is continuing to study the issue of Domestic Abuse and Firearm Violence. We are referencing research and organizing information into a brief that will be shared with League members. The team is

committed to sharing data that indicates a relationship between sensible firearm legislation and reduction of deaths and injuries by firearm violence. The next Study Group meeting is Saturday, November 10, East Lansing Public Library, 10:30 - 12 noon. For more information, contact Melinda Frame, mframe80@gmail.com or Marty Couretas, couretam@comcast.net

BOOK GROUP CHOOSES TITLES FOR MONTHS AHEAD



Members of the LWVLA book group have selected the following books for discussion at the monthly gatherings at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing, 10 - 11:30am.

November 13 -- *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* by Anthony Ray Hinton

No book in December

January 14 -- *Hamilton* by Ron Chernow

February 11 -- *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger* by Rebecca Traister

March 11 -- *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh

April 8 -- *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is*

Destroying Our Democracy by Carol Anderson

Everyone is welcome. Contact Donna Mullins (mullindj@outlook.com) for more information.