



VOTER - MACOMB COUNTY

From the Director

First, I want to thank our outgoing chair and founding member, Kathy Poore. She has done a fantastic job taking us from the voter services arm of the Grosse Pointe League to a State Member-At-Large Unit. I know I speak for all when I say thanks for all your hard work Kathy and you left big shoes to fill! I will do my best.

Second, I want to welcome our new members, it is exciting to see our group growing. I also want to make sure that everyone knows that the League is now waiving membership fees for all students. So if you know of any students who might be interested in getting involved in our activities please let them know they can join the League for free until 2021. This is a great way to get younger people involved in the political process.

Vote411 is up and running for the August 7, 2018 and huge thanks goes out to Nance Halle our Vote411 Lead. She and our intern, Heather Leach, put together some great questions for the candidates so please encourage all your friends and family to utilize Vote411.org.

The position of Vice Chair is still open as are a number of directorships. If you'd be interested in taking a leadership role in the group we'd love to hear from you!

Lastly, we will not be meeting in July so our next meeting will be on Sept 27th at 7pm the Mt Clemens Public Library. Until then I hope everyone has a enjoyable summer, stay cool!

Katherine Labuhn

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BOARD MEMBERS

Chair

-Katherine Labuhn

Vice Chair

*-Open Position—
How About You?*

Secretary

-Terri Serra

Treasurer/Vote411

-Nance Halle

Fundraising

-Kathy Poore

Membership

-Nanette Noorbakhsh

Voter Services

-Kathy Poore

Newsletter Editor

-Open

Public Relations

-Katherine Labuhn

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Empowering Voters

Defending Democracy



SAY YES TO PROTECT VOTER RIGHTS! THIS WILL HOPEFULLY BECOME A BALLOT PROPOSAL IN NOVEMBER.



Between two jobs and four kids, Angela Willson has little time to spare. So Willson figures she should be able have the option of voting absentee in elections---without giving a reason. "Allowing all registered voters to choose to vote absentee would make my life a whole lot easier," said Willson, a nurse anesthetist from Grosse Pointe Park. "And it would help our state line up with 37 others that allow all registered voters to cast their ballots on or before Election Day."

Willson made her comments on January 22, 2018 at the kickoff for **Promote the Vote** campaign, an effort to place on the November ballot a constitutional amendment to provide comprehensive election reform for Michigan. Citing the need for an accessible and secure ballot for all, a coalition which includes the League of Women Voters, the ACLU of Michigan and the state and Detroit branches of the NAACP filed ballot language Monday with the Secretary of State's office, organizers announced.

In addition to no reason absentee, the amendment would give military members more time to vote; let citizens register closer to Election Day; allow straight party voting, automatically register citizens when they do business at the Secretary of State's office, protect a secret ballot and add audits for election results. The group called the reforms "common sense" designed to give more individuals a secure and accessible ballot. "We're all better off when more Americans---Republicans, Democrats and independents---participate in our democracy," said Judy Karandjeff, president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. "Providing a system that works for all isn't hard; it just common sense."

The changes mirror reforms enacted in 40 states that make voting more accessible. Once the ballot language is approved, the coalition has to collect approximately 316,000 signatures to get the measure on the November ballot. "Putting voters first means making sure that our system is fair and has integrity," said Ismael Ahmed, a longtime community activist. "Under this amendment, our votes would be protected because our elections could be audited."

Updating the voter rolls and making the system more secure is good news to Michelle Mills, who had to cast a provisional ballot in 2017 because of inaccurate information at her polling site. "We need a system that works for all," she said.

For more information, watch this [\(Facebook\) video](#), or go to www.promotethevotemi.com.

Sign on to www.lwvmi.org for more information.

REDISTRICTING REFORM IN MICHIGAN

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the ballot proposal initiated by Voters Not Politicians (VNP), that calls for an Independent Commission to establish district lines. On December 18, 2017, VNP submitted the requisite number of petition signatures to the Secretary of State's office. We congratulate VNP on its successful efforts.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan continues to educate Michigan voters about the need for redistricting reform. Redistricting is a complicated topic, but citizen involvement to make this process fair is critical. Click here to visit our [Redistricting "Issue" page](#) to read more about the process in Michigan. The League is committed to redistricting reform in Michigan and to working to form a diverse coalition. Using the [attached Power Point presentation](#), League members are travelling around the state educating voters about the redistricting problems in our state and the need for an Independent Commission. If you represent a group that would like a presentation by a LWV speaker, please contact the League of Women Voters of Michigan's state office at 517-484-5383.

Sign on to www.lwvmi.org for more information.



1918 TEA

Although the weather was rainy and cool it did not stop folks from coming out to our first fundraiser, the 1918 Tea. About 50 people came out on April 17th for tea and desserts and to hear from our guest speaker, Elizabeth A. Homer. Ms Homer is a teacher, historian, author and a former director of the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in Lansing. She told us some great stories about the fight for women’s right to vote in Michigan and also some of her experiences with educating people on women’s history in Michigan. We had a number of elected officials attend including Ms. Corinna Guererro, New Haven City Clerk, Ms. Kim Meltzer, Clinton Township Clerk, Ms. Denise Mentzer, Mt Clemens City Commission, Mr. Henry Yanez, Michigan State Representative for the 25th District and Mr. Steven Bieda, Michigan State Senator for the 9th Senate District. Additionally, Senator Bieda presented the League with a Special Tribute Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote in Michigan.

LET IT BE KNOWN, That it is both a pleasure and a privilege to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s voting rights in the state of Michigan. On November 5, 1918, Michigan women obtained the right to vote in state elections, prior to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment that granted women’s voting rights at the federal level.

Founded in 1919, the League of Women Voters is an organization which encourages citizens to be informed and knowledgeable about governmental and public policy issues. Members of the League of Women Voters study issues and distribute information on candidates and on a variety of topics to create a more aware voting public. Form the local to the state and national levels, the members of the League of Women Voters have exerted strong influence for voter participation in the political process and informed political action, and we are proud to honor them.

The concerned members of the League of Women Voters – Macomb County have taken seriously the It is signed by Steve Bieda, State Senator, the Ninth District

We plan to ask the Mt. Clemens Library if they would interested in hanging the plaque for the time being since we hold our regular meetings there.

- Katherine Labuhn

“...it is both a pleasure and a privilege to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s voting rights in the state of Michigan...on November 5, 1918...”.

- Senator Steve Beida



TOP: Special Tribute from Senator Steve Bieda.

LEFT: Katherine Labuhn addressing 1918 Tea attendees.



VOTER EDUCATION & VOTER REGISTRATION

As the nation's largest and longest-standing grassroots voter registration organization, the League of Women Voters (LWV) works year-round to make sure all eligible Americans have the opportunity to register and vote. The LWV Macomb unit has been actively working voter registration this summer.

We have had a table at the Warren Farmer's Market this summer on each Sunday morning from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. We are registering voters; passing out voter registration forms and absentee voter forms; answering questions; and educating people on the Ballot Proposal *Promote the Vote*. Recently, we have started educating voters on Proposal 2, the Voters Not Politicians ballot proposal to stop gerrymandering. If you are interested in assisting this effort contact Laurie Artz at 586-295-7782.

On August 20th and 21st the Macomb LWV unit had a table at the Macomb Community College Central campus during *Welcome Week*. We passed out information about the League, (online voter guide) and educated students on the two ballot proposals on gerrymandering and voting rights.

On the same day the Macomb LWV unit joined with the Warren City Clerk's office at a table at the Macomb Community College South campus. We passed out information about the League and explained Vote411.org. We were also allowed to register voters and accept absentee voter applications. We registered 61 students. The students were very receptive to having us there. We offered a fast and friendly way to register to vote and get their voting questions answered. The event was so successful that we have been invited back for the October Fall event on October 3rd.

The next *Welcome Week* at MCCC is January 7th and 8th, 2019. We intend to register voters at south campus. Only an employee of the Clinton Township Clerk's office, who is a deputized Election Official may register voters at MCCC center campus. We need to identify any LWV member who is an election inspector in Clinton Township or is willing to become an Election Inspector or is currently employed by the Clinton Township Clerk's office. Please identify yourself to Laurie Artz if you meet this criteria and are willing to register voters at center campus.

If you know of any non-partisan event where we can register voters please let Laurie Artz know.

We need your help! Please call me..

Laurie Artz

586-295-7782

MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®



Vote411.org (online voter guide)

Our Macomb County MAL Unit covered Vote411 for the Michigan 2018 Primary election by sending a series of questions 59 total candidates running for:

- Macomb County Executive (4 candidates, 2 Republicans, 2 Democrats)
- Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds (17 candidates, 11 Republicans, 6 Democrats)
- All 13 of the Macomb County District Commissioners (38 candidates)

We received 25 responses which is not quite 50%. This response rate was actually pretty good but I think we should take it as a challenge for us to do more follow-up with the candidates. The Vote411 team can do that formally but it would also be great if all our members who notice candidates that did not respond would contact them directly and ask them why they didn't feel it was worth their time to provide information to the constituents! Tell your friends and neighbors also. There will be an opportunity to do that again with the General Election - let's get these candidates to be responsive to the electorate!

Want to help? Please let Katherine know. This could be your new passion (at election time!).

Macomb County Community College Intern

Our group is very fortunate to be developing a growing relationship with Macomb County Community College. One of the first initiatives we took with them is to host a student intern. Professor Brooke Allen (Political Science) proposed the opportunity and together we worked out a series of tasks for which an Intern could provide support. We made sure that it would provide constructive and positive outcomes for both our LWV group and the Intern. Professor Allen knew she had just the right person for us and she was right! Heather was a great asset to us during her winter term. It was great having a young person

with tech savvy to help us develop our website and the foundations for this newsletter. Heather was also provided great input for Vote411 by researching local issues in Macomb County and developing the questions we presented to the candidates. We were proud to present her with her very own Vote411 T-shirt at our annual meeting!



We are very much looking forward to meeting our new intern who will become an integral part of our group this fall!

Nance Halle (Treasurer & Vote 411.org) presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to winter student intern Heather Leach.

JUST FOR FUN

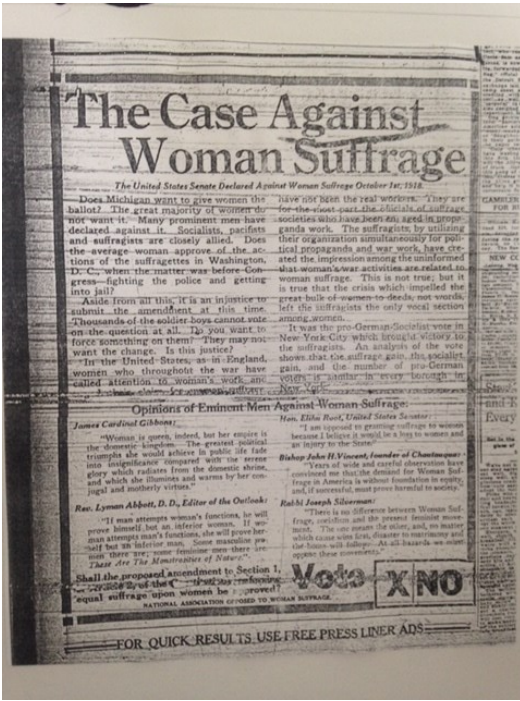
Our dedicated team were able to simply enjoy each other's company and get together just for fun (and for food and drink!). We had a great time at Nance Halle's house for an enjoyable social get together instead of our August meeting. There was interesting conversation on a wide variety of topics ranging from current affairs to vacations to updates on family. And what a selection of food we had! Wonderful salads and dishes galore. Nance particularly was happy to skim off whatever was left over to sneak into her fridge!



*Kathy Poore, Terri Serra and Nance Halle
Enjoying our Just-For-Fun get together!*



FROM THE RICHMOND REVIEW 1918



*Subtitle:
"The United States
Senate Declared
Against Woman
Suffrage October
1st 1918."*

*How far have we
come?*

Why Not Let Her Vote?

Time has come when Michigan should give Women the right which belongs to her.

On Tuesday next the electorate of this great commonwealth has the privilege to extend to women the right to vote. This right will be accorded her in due time if a majority of the voters mark a cross after the amendment of our constitution according her the franchise which rightfully belongs to her.

There are some questions presently to the voters that are worthy of debate. Sometimes the voters are quite at a loss to know or at any rate to realize just what would be better to approve or disapprove. The question of amending our state constitution to accord women the right of franchise on par with men should demand little discussion at this time. Woman has shown herself, in so many ways, to be worthy of the ballot that it would be grossly unfair and unjust to longer deprive her of it.

Michiganders pride themselves of their progress and usually on well founded claims. We cannot then, any longer, lag behind several other states in this great Union of ours by with holding the right of women to vote along with their husbands, fathers, brothers and many others some of whom it would seem are much less capable of exercising the privilege of the franchise than so many of our women folks.

So on Tuesday next let us consider what the women's place is in the affairs of this commonwealth, what she has done and is doing to help the state and country all that we can hope for and rightfully deserve. Let us by an overwhelming majority at the polls place Michigan in the class with those other sister states which have removed the ban and gives unto womenkind what she should not be obliged to ask for, but should have been granted long ago. Vote Yes for the amendment to Section One of Article Three of our constitution.



Membership Information

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MICHIGAN

Macomb County State Member-at-Large Unit

Annual Dues: Individual \$70, Family \$105, Student Free
Checks payable to: LWVMI

302 Cass Ave., PMB 127
Mt. Clemens, MI 48038

Email: lwwmacomb@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/lwwmacombcounty
www.lwwmacombcounty.org (Macomb County)
www.lwvmi.org (State of Michigan)
www.lwv.org (National)

MEETINGS: 4th Thursday of the month,
in the basement: Mt. Clemens Public Library
150 Cass Ave.
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Next meetings are at 7:00 p.m.: Sept. 27
Oct. 25
Nov. TBD

**Have a concern? Want to express appreciation?
Contact your representative!**

President Trump

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

Senator Gary Peter

724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-6221
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

Senator Debbie Stabenow

731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4822
<http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/>

Governor Rick Snyder

P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3400
(517) 335-7858—Constituent Services
FAX:(517) -335-6863

Attorney General Bill Schuette

G. Mennen Williams Building
525 W.Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212 Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-1110
miag@michigan.gov