

VOTER - Macomb County

Highlights January – June 2022

Message from the Board

The year has been, and will continue to be, a busy year for us, especially with the upcoming elections in August and November. We have been working on voter education videos and presentations, helping to register high school seniors, helping with voter rights petition drives, building the data base for Vote411 and organizing candidate forums. All important parts of making democracy work! Come to the meetings, follow us on Facebook and check out our web site to see what we are doing and see how you can help. Democracy is not a spectator sport!

We held our annual meeting on May 26th. This was our first in-person meeting in over two years. Members also had the option to attend on-line. At this meeting we voted for officers, approved budgets and voted on minor changes to our by-laws. Katherine Labuhn, who ran unopposed, agreed to stay on as president for another two years (through 2024), but would like to step back into other roles after that. The vice-president position is still open. If you are interested in getting more involved and learning more about the leadership aspects of our league, the vice-president spot is a great place to learn. If you are interested in this position, let Katherine Labuhn or Kathy Poore know.

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Candidate Forums

During the last week of June, LWV Macomb organized or co-sponsored two candidate forums for upcoming primary elections on August 2nd.

Candidate Forum
U.S. Congress, District 10
Wednesday, June 29, 2022, 7PM
Clinton Macomb Public Library Auditorium
40900 Romeo Plank Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48038
Meet the candidates.
Get your questions answered.
No campaign or political messages allowed: includes caps, clothing, signs.
Free and open to the public.
Civility, please.
For more information: lwvmacomb@gmail.com

VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUM
Michigan House of Representatives 11th District
The Primary Election-Tuesday, August 2, 2022-is coming soon!
Are YOU Informed and ready to vote?
Co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters Detroit and League of Women Voters Macomb County
Invited Candidates:
Patrick Borge, D
David Maynard, D
Marvin Griffin, Jr., D
Svenetta Pate, D
Mark T. Foster, R
Athena Lynn Thornton, D
Paul Robert Francis, D
Ricardo White, D
Christopher Jeffery, R
Regina L. Williams, D
Alex Marwell, D
Private Forum via Zoom on Tuesday, June 28, 2022
You can view the recorded forum anytime on or after June 29.
You can participate by submitting your questions for the candidates to LWVGrossePointe.org. Questions must be received by noon on June 27.
LWVGrossePointe.org
Facebook/LWVGP
LWVDetroit.org
LWVMacombcounty.org

The LWV is a non-partisan organization and prides itself on being fair to all candidates. To that end, the LWV has set procedures for all candidate forums. All candidates for an office have to be invited. A minimum number of candidates need to agree to participate. Questions for the candidates are solicited from the public, either at the event or prior to it. At an event there is a minimum of a moderator and a time keeper. At a live event there are also greeters, and question gatherers and sorters. Each candidate that participates is allowed a 1-2 minute introduction and, at the end, a 1-2 minute closing statement. In between, questions are asked by the moderator to all candidates. Each candidate is allowed 1 minute to respond, in rotating order. This is to insure an orderly and fair procedure.

Candidate Forums, continued

LWV Macomb organized the forum for the new U.S. House District 10. It was held in person on June 29th at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library auditorium in Clinton Township. Questions for the candidates were solicited from the audience. The forum was well attended. Five of the seven candidates that were invited participated, and there were over 50 people in the audience. This forum was recorded by the local cable channel. A link is available on the LWVMacombCounty.org web site and shown below.

LWV Macomb assisted LWV Grosse Pointe with a virtual candidate forum for the new Michigan State House District 11 on June 28th. Because this was a virtual forum, questions from the public were solicited ahead of the event. The event was recorded and is available for viewing through the LWVGrossePointe.org and LWVMacombCounty.org web sites and with the link shown below.

Thank you to **all** those who volunteered to help with these events! Special thanks to Kathy Poore for organizing the U.S. House District 10 forum and to Maria Rivera for moderating it.



Maria moderating the candidate forum for U.S. District 10. Candidates, from l to r: Huwaida Arraf, Carl Marlinga, Angela Rogensues, Rhonda Powell, and Henry Yanez

You can view the recorded candidate forums on **YouTube:**

U.S. House District 10 held on June 29th :

<https://youtu.be/qbVvjwYwTwc>

Michigan State House District 11 on June 28th :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdNKEyHXTf4>

New Voting District Maps

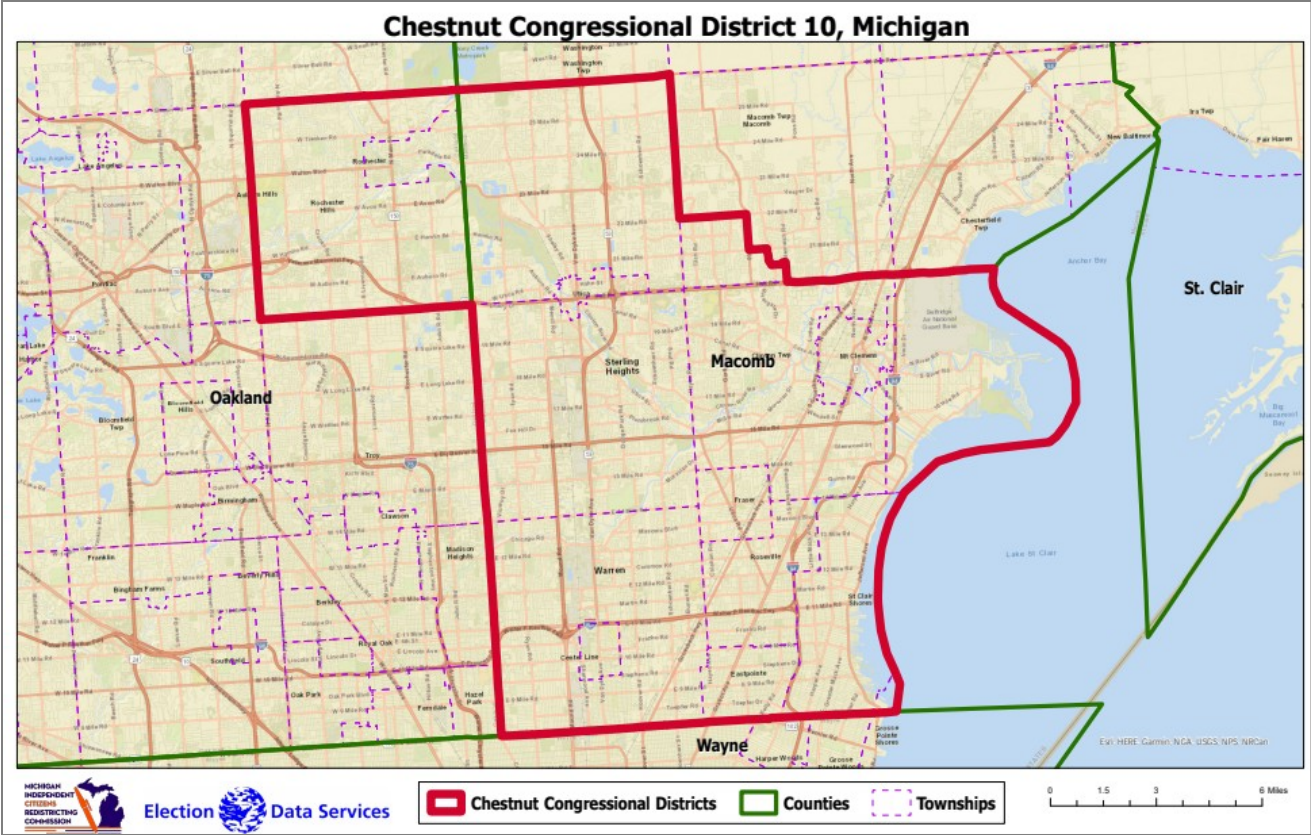
All of the districts in the forums are new - the result of the redistricting processes that occurred after the 2020 U.S. Census. As a result of the recent redistricting, everyone should be getting new cards from their local clerks telling them where their polling locations are, and what their new voting districts are. These will include the Congressional (U.S. House), MI State Senate, MI State House, and County Commissioner districts, as well as your local school board district.

The Congressional and State Senate and House districts were all determined by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC), created as a result of voters approving the ballot proposal known as "*Voters Not Politicians*." Many of these districts look vastly different from the previous districts you may have been in. The final maps can be viewed at: www.michigan.gov/micrc/mapping-process/final-maps.

The draft district maps were identified by names during the process. The final maps chosen for were: Congressional - Chestnut; MI Senate - Linden; and MI House - Hickory. At the above link, the "Statewide District Map" tab shows the new districts for the whole state on one map. The "District Map" tab has a page for each district. You may need to download them to view them.

There are two Congressional districts that include parts of Macomb County - District 9 (northern Macomb) and District 10 (southern Macomb). There are seven MI Senate Districts that include parts of Macomb - 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 24, and 25. There are 13 MI House Districts that include parts of Macomb - 11, 12, 13, 14, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65 and 66.

On the next page are maps for the districts covered in our candidate forums.



Congressional District 10

Now covers Shelby Township, Utica, Sterling Heights, Warren, Centerline, Eastpointe, St Clair Shores, Roseville, Fraser, Clinton Township, Mt. Clemens, Harrison Township and the southwest portion of Macomb Township.



MI State House District 11

Includes: St Clair Shores south of 12 Mile, Harper Woods and a portion of Detroit.

Voter Registration

The *MI Vote Matters/Inspire2Vote High School Challenge* got underway this spring when the Michigan Secretary of State challenged all the high schools in the state to participate in this nation-wide program.

#MIVoteMatters
HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION CHALLENGE



In our area, ten Macomb County schools and one St. Clair County school elected to participate: Anchor Bay, Chippewa Valley, Clintondale, Cousino, Eastpointe, L'Anse Creuse North, Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center, New Haven, Sterling Heights, Warren Mott, and Cardinal Mooney. The LWV Macomb offered to provide resources including a LWVMI developed presentation called "*Your Voice Your Vote*," and in-person assistance with their voter registration drives. Debbie Griffith took the lead on this project and Linda Addis contacted all the schools.

Two schools, Chippewa Valley and Clintondale, asked to have the PowerPoint presentation forwarded to them for their use, and this was done. Two schools, Cousino and Eastpointe, requested our assistance in conducting in-person voter registration drives. Sterling Heights asked for an in-person presentation.

Kathy Poore, Kathy Koetters, and Debbie Griffith registered students on April 26th at Cousino and collected 46 "Pledge to Vote" cards. On May 18th Kathy Koetters, Nancy Halle and Debbie Griffith registered students at Eastpointe and collected 32 "Pledge to Vote" cards. The cards from both schools were forwarded to Inspire2Vote.

Sterling Heights' AP Government teacher had assigned her class to conduct a voter registration drive for their school. To help them prepare for this project, she asked for a member of the LWV Macomb to meet with her class and provide information regarding the importance of voting for young people and the voter registration process. On May 6th Cathy Novak made the presentation, and Debbie Griffith assisted. They were very well received by the teacher and the students. The teacher later reported that over 50 Sterling Heights students had registered to vote at their drive the following week.

Many thanks to ALL who helped with this effort!



*Voter Registration at Eastpointe High School, May 18th.
Debbie Griffith, Kathy Koetters and Nancy Halle.*

Voter Education

As part of the requirements for a Voter Education Grant from LWV MI, Macomb league members gave presentations on voter rights in Michigan, mis- and dis-information, and all the petitions being circulated to put issues on the November 2022 ballot. Terry Gibb did an in-person and on-line presentation in April with the Fraser Library, and Terry and Kathy Poore teamed up in May for one at the Clinton-Macomb Library.

The money we received from this grant was used to produce three short educational videos where actual city and township clerks explained what procedures are in place to insure safe and secure elections. These are posted on our YouTube channel.

<https://youtu.be/7WW-Zb9oqqk> Adam Wit, Harrison Township Clerk, discusses Michigan Election laws and safety measures local clerks take to make sure your ballot and vote are safe and secure **before** election day. Learn about registering to vote, different methods of voting in Michigan and where to go for information.

https://youtu.be/1fjsrozEg_0 Kim Meltzer, Clinton Township Clerk, discusses Michigan Election laws and safety measures local clerks take to make sure your ballot and vote are safe and secure **on election day**. Learn about how your ballot is protected during the election and how Michigan clerks keep voting equipment safe and secure.

<https://youtu.be/CsWmKkZT2FY> Melanie Ryska, Sterling Heights Clerk, discusses Michigan Election laws and safety measures local clerks take to make sure your ballot and vote are safe and secure **after** you vote. Learn what safety measures are taken to secure absentee ballots and election-day votes.



Voters rights presentation, April 27th Fraser Library



The Macomb league is only responsible for inputting information to Vote411 for local level elections. LWV MI takes care of statewide and federal elections. To that end, for the August primary over 60 candidates for county and local level elections were contacted about participating in our voter education tool by answering our questions. The Vote411 information for the August primaries is just about complete, only a little follow up with a few candidates remains. Then it is on to planning for the November general election! Katherine Labuhn is leading this effort and she is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help input data, contact candidates or draft questions, let her know.

Civic Engagement

“Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.” [Civic Responsibility and Higher Education, edited by Thomas Ehrlich, 2000]

The LWV Macomb participated in a Civic Engagement Town Hall on April 25th in Warren. It was a non-partisan event that included Michigan Center for Civic Engagement, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and other non-partisan resource partners. The public discussion and presentation of resources focused on educating people about participating in the election process, current voting protections in place, a citizens right to vote, and energize voting participation within the community.

Thank you Kathy Koettters, Bev Bishop and Kathy Poore for manning our information table! And thanks to Rep. Lori Stone who invited us.



Promote the Vote 2022

The group *Promote the Vote 2022* (PTV2022) is continuing the fight to protect voting rights and make voting easier in Michigan that started in 2018. The LWV is one of many organizations working to get the Promote the Vote 2022 initiative on the November ballot. Kathy Poore has been coordinating LWV Macomb's efforts to help gather signatures for the petition drive. The deadline for signing is fast approaching - July 5th for signatures, July 11th for submission to the State Board of Elections. If you would like to help or just want to sign the petition, let Kathy know. PTV2022 is not releasing the actual number of signatures obtained so far, but as of the end of June they say they're on target to meet their goals.

PROMOTE 
the Vote **2022**

Sign the Promote the Vote 2022 petition today to put a measure on the 2022 ballot that will:

- Stop intimidation of voters and interference with voting
- Protect local election funding to keep elections secure
- Ensure we have 9 days of in-person, early voting
- Create a permanent absentee ballot list and online absentee ballot tracking
- Make lines shorter on Election Day
- Guarantee voters serving in the military have time to return their ballot



We are always looking for suggestions on how to engage with the public and get our messages across. And **volunteers**, we are always looking for volunteers!

If you have ideas and would like to get involved - let us know! Attend the meetings. Send us an email...

Election Workers Wanted!

One of the best ways to see democracy at work is to become an election (or poll) worker on election day. The day is long, but so educational and rewarding!

The state of Michigan has lots of information on becoming an election worker on its site:
<https://www.michigan.gov/democracyMVP>.

They also have a set of short videos under "*Training Materials > Key Responsibilities*" that describe what election workers do to open the polls, process voters and close the polls, which will help you see what to expect. There are a variety of jobs election workers do on election day. Some involve some computer knowledge and some do not. There is also mandatory training, no matter what position you take. These are paid positions of trust (you also get paid for training) and require a definite commitment of time and responsibility. Knowing you are helping the democratic process is the best reward!

Communities are almost always looking for more election workers and will be happy to take your application. Go to your local clerk's office or apply through the above State of Michigan web site.

Get out there and help Make Democracy Work!

OUR DEMOCRACY NEEDS YOU!



Sign up today at
Michigan.gov/DemocracyMVP

and be
democracy's
MVP

Make an
impact in your
community

Covid-19 will leave many at-risk election workers home this year. We need **YOU** to be an election worker - the Most Valuable Players on Election Day - and assist clerks to ensure all ballots are safely cast and counted.

