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Christina Reardon

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathy Henry - Chair

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Program Planning for 2022-3

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 at 7p the annual Program Planning meeting will be held.

The purpose of this meeting is to review national positions in preparation for the June 2022 LWVUS convention. After reaching a consensus on positions and/or agreement on a request for a new study, LWVOA will complete the online LWVUS survey form and submit it by March 1, 2022.

In addition to review of all LWVUS positions, local leagues have been asked to address the following:

1. LWVNY requests concurrence support from local and state Leagues for portions of the LWVNY Health Care position that they believe will improve and update the current LWVUS' 1993 Health Care position. The LWVMI State Board agrees that discussion of the concurrence is valid. (See LWVNY website for additional info)
2. LWVUS position on selection of President with focus on education and advocating for abolishment of the Electoral College (see LWV.org for more info)

Making Democracy Work

On Jan. 12, 2022 at 7p - LWVOA presented via ZOOM a Make Democracy Work presentation - update on voting rights here in Michigan. The presentation may be viewed at the [LWVOA website](#).

LWVMI Voting Rights Advocates File Lawsuit Against MICRC

LANSING – The League of Women Voters of Michigan, along with a coalition of voting rights advocates, filed a lawsuit today against the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission on the grounds of partisan fairness.

The lawsuit was filed today in the Michigan Supreme Court and is specifically meant to ensure the Michigan State House map is fair from a partisan perspective.

“When Michigan voters overwhelmingly passed Proposal 2 in 2018 establishing the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, they spoke loud and clear in their support for

partisan fairness,” said Christina Schlitt, co-president of the Michigan League. “Our new maps must be as fair as possible from a partisan perspective because the maps will impact our elections for the next decade.”

The Hickory Map includes a disproportionate partisan advantage for the Republican party, and the suit alleges the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission failed in its mission of ensuring a district map for the Michigan State House is free of partisan advantage. An expert report on the partisan fairness of the Hickory Map showed Republicans are likely to win most seats even if they win the fewest votes.

“Unfair, biased maps run counter to what Michigan voters have asked for throughout the redistricting process,” said Paula Bowman, co-president of the Michigan League. “The approved Hickory Map shows partisan bias and should be replaced with a fairer map.”

The other plaintiffs in the lawsuit are American Citizens for Justice, Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote – Michigan, Detroit Action, LGBT Detroit, North Flint Neighborhood Action Council, Rising Voices and several individual registered voters across Michigan.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan was heavily involved in the redistricting process, engaging in educational outreach and helping ensure every Michigan voter had a voice. Last spring, local Leagues hosted over 30 town halls to educate voters about the MICRC, and in the fall the Michigan League hosted eight regional town halls to discuss the proposed maps. The League also offered training to Communities of Interest.

View a [PDF of the filing](#). View the [expert report on the Hickory Map](#), as well as the [briefing](#) filed and [proof of service](#).

Pro-Voter Ballot Initiative Launches in Michigan

MICHIGAN – Today, Promote the Vote 2022 launched a ballot initiative to improve both security and access to the polls in Michigan. Partners in the campaign gathered for a virtual press conference as part of the campaign launch.

“This initiative is to ensure that our elections are secure and accessible and that voters can vote free from harassment, intimidation and interference,” said Khalilah Spencer, board president of Promote the Vote. “Voter freedom and power are critical to the success of our state and our country. We must create a voting system that provides secure options for voters, equitable access to the polls, and ensures all our voices are heard when it comes time to vote.”

The 2020 election was the most secure and accurate on record, and the voters of Michigan turned out in record numbers. Promote the Vote 2022 picks up where Proposal 3 of 2018 left off by taking the extra steps necessary to create a voting system that works for everyone and making sure that voting is a fundamental right enshrined in our state constitution.

“Promote the Vote 2022 provides common sense voting policies to move Michigan forward,” said Christina Schlitt, co-president of League of Women Voters of Michigan. “Michiganders want secure and accessible elections, we want people to be able to vote without fear of intimidation, and we want to be confident that our votes will be counted. This ballot initiative takes a great step towards modernizing our elections and protecting our freedom to vote.”

The initiative includes public funding and resources to help local election officials do their jobs including funding for postage for absentee ballots and ballot tracking, and secure ballot dropboxes for every 15,000 voters in a municipality. The initiative will also preserve the authority of local governments to accept funding from publicly disclosed, public and charitable sources.

“It’s critical that our city and township clerks have the resources they need to securely and accessibly run our elections,” said Aghogho Edevbie, Michigan state director for All Voting is Local. “Local election officials across Michigan rely on donated spaces for polling locations, and while other ballot initiatives want to take away this essential service, this proposal would empower Michigan voters by securing this and other critical resources for local clerks to effectively do their jobs.”

Promote the Vote 2022 will increase accessibility by creating a true early voting system, with nine days of early, in-person voting where voters will be able to feed their ballot into a tabulator. The initiative will also allow voters to request that an absentee ballot be mailed to them for all future elections, without having to apply each time as long as the voter remains qualified to vote.

“A voting system that works for everyone means that voters have options when it comes time to cast their ballot,” said Shelli Weisberg, political director for ACLU of Michigan. “Creating a true early voting system means busy working parents have more options for how and when to vote and giving our military families the time that they need to return their ballots is critical to ensuring that every voter can cast their vote and that every ballot is counted.”

The initiative would also ensure that the outcome of Michigan elections is determined solely by the votes cast by Michigan voters by directing the Board of Canvassers to certify election results based on a count of votes cast and clearly establishing that the Board of Canvassers is responsible for certifying the results of an election.

“Voters should decide the outcome of our elections, not politicians,” said Nancy Wang, executive director of Voters Not Politicians. “Unlike other ballot proposals that would take away the rights already afforded voters; this proposal gives voters more secure options for voting in Michigan. And, unlike other ballot initiatives that intend to proceed through the legislature and avoid a vote of the people, our initiative will be on the ballot this November so that voters, not politicians, decide the future of elections in Michigan.”

Voter Services News

A special primary election will be held March 1st to fill the State Representative seat of the late Andrea Schroeder of the 43rd District. This district included Clarkson, Independence Township, and part of Waterford.

On February 16th LWVOA is hosting virtual candidate interviews for the 1 Democrat and 4 Republicans who have filed for that seat which will be aired on the LWVOA web site. The 2 winners will face off in a May 3 special election. The candidates are:

- Democrat, Kent Douglas
- Republican, Anthony M. Bartolotta
- Republican, Mike Harris
- Republican, Heidi R. Warrington
- Republican, Linda Ybarra Bozzone

For anyone considering running for office this year April 19 is the filing deadline for the August 2nd Primary Election and July 26 is the filing deadline for the November 1st General Election..

Book Club

This is a great way to get to know other League members and expand your mind by reading and talking about what you read. If you've never been part of a book club before, it's okay! Your take on the reading is important. Anyone can join the discussion any time. This book should be available at your local public library in a variety of formats: print, audio, and digital!

How Emotions are Made (2017) by Lisa Feldman Barrett

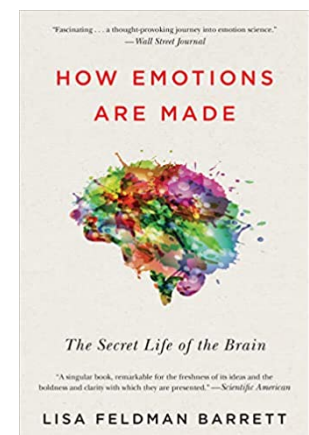
Theorizes that we construct each instance of emotion through a unique interplay of brain, body, and culture, and reveals the profound real-world consequences of this for everything from neuroscience and medicine to the legal system and even national security.

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Caste (2020) by Isabel Wilkerson

The author explores a phenomenon that “beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate.”

Wednesday, May 25, 2022



Garbology: our dirty love affair with trash (2012) by Edward Humes.
A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist takes readers on a surprising tour of the world of garbage.
Thursday, July 28, 2022

Project Hail Mary: A Novel (2021) by Andy Weil

This one is a departure from our usual fare. A science fiction novel! But before you poo-poo it, here is the summary: Survival of the species depends on a lone astronaut who is far from home, unsure of where he is or how to tackle the monumental task that lies before him. Doesn't that sound like the work we do in League?

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Under a white sky : the nature of the future (2021) by Elizabeth Kolbert

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author explores humanity's transformative impact on the environment, now asking: After doing so much damage, can we change nature, this time to save it?

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Email Tera Moon tlcmoon@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Stay tuned for a list of books for 2022. Book club meets 6 times per year.

Upcoming Events

Please join other LWVOA members for any or all of the following zoom events:

1. **Monday, Feb. 14, 2022** League of Women Voters 102nd birthday (see LWVUS website for info on activities)
2. **Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 at 7p** - LWVOA Program Planning for 2022-2023 - all members are welcome to participate in setting priorities for LWVOA.
3. **Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022 at 5:30p** - LWVOA Advocacy meeting; Observer Corps info
4. **Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022 at 5:30p** - LWVOA Community Engagement Committee; presentation by Oakland County Commissioners with explanation of elections in March 2022

**Thank you to
our sponsors!**



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