



***League of Women Voters - Oakland Area, Michigan
November 2023 Newsletter and Events***

Holidays are approaching as LWVOA, LWVMI, and LWVUS have lots going on.

Take a few moments to learn about events happening this month.

(1) LWVOA Presents:

***MSU Professor Matthew Grossmann
Polarized by Degrees: How the Diploma Divide and the Culture
War Transformed American Politics***

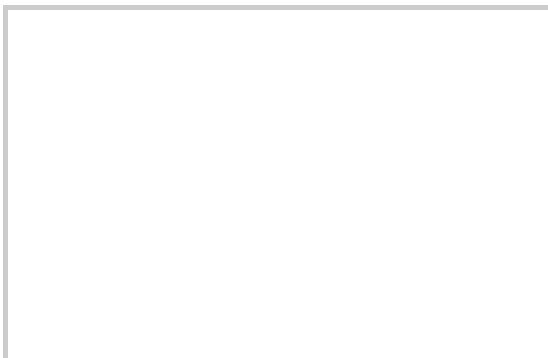
***Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @7p
at the Bloomfield Township Public Library***

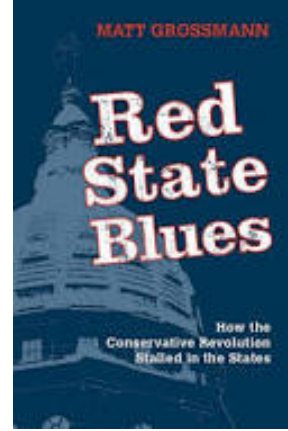
Matt Grossmann is Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) and Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University. Most recently, Dr. Grossmann published ***How Social Science Got Better: Overcoming Bias with More Evidence, Diversity, and Self-Reflection*** (Oxford University Press, 2021) on the topics of Trump's election, the Great Recession, what makes humans unique, models of infectious disease, social immobility, and racial bias in policing.

His book, ***Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States***, is from Cambridge University Press. He finds that while the Republican Party has gained substantial political control of state governments it has largely failed to enact policies that advance conservative goals.

In this presentation, Professor Grossmann will be discussing the upcoming elections and the effects of redistricting.

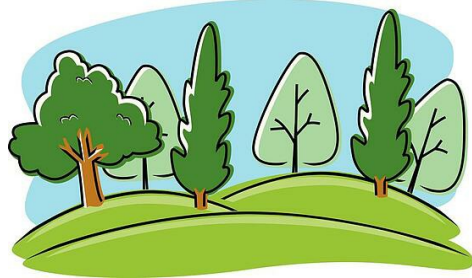
Please join us for this interesting and informative event.
This event is open to the public. LWV members are encouraged to bring a family member or a friend to learn about this important topic.
Light refreshments will be provided.





**(2) The Nature Conservancy group:
Thursday, November 2nd at 6p at NEXT
located in Birmingham, Michigan**

Director, Helen Taylor, will present information on the collaborative action with business, community, and environmental groups to address both environmental crises and innovative preservation/restoration projects.



This event is free for NEXT members and \$5 for the public.

Reservations required. Contact LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(3) LWVMI Statewide Firearm Safety Network Group: Tuesday, November 7th at 7p via Zoom

This group's focus includes Michigan laws that provide background checks, safe storage laws, and extreme risk protection orders (ERPO or red flag laws). Presenters have included Michigan Senator Rosemary Bayer, Moms Demand Action, and other activist groups.

Contact LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(4) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Wednesday, November 8th at 2p via Zoom

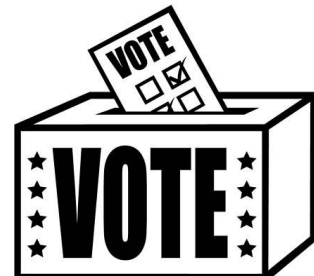
This group plans and implements events and activities that members and the public may participate in. Ideas and connections for future presentations are always welcome.

Contact Geri Rinschler at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

**(5) Oakland County Board of Canvassers
observation: November 8th through November 15th,
time TBD**

After every election, LWVOA members observe the tallying of votes by the Oakland County Clerk in Pontiac, Michigan. Final times and dates will be provided as acquired. This is an opportunity to learn the intricacies of the voting process as well as participate in the promotion of fair and open elections.

Contact Jim Treharne at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



**(6) LWVMI - Money In Politics
Network: Thursday, November 9th at 7p via
Zoom**



This statewide group informs and encourages awareness of the finances and dark money involved in politics. Monthly speakers provide insight into the secret money in politics. See the website for a copy of prior presentations.

Contact Robbi Duda at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for

more info.

(7) LWVOA Marketing/Communications working group: Wednesday, November 15th at 12:30p at the Honey Tree Grill

This group facilitates social media to increase awareness and participation in LWVOA activities. See the website below for forms to notify this group of upcoming events to publicize.

Contact Leslie Fleming at MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com for more info.



(8) LWVOA 2024 Candidate Forum planning meeting: Wednesday, November 15th at 2p at Judy Bateman's home

With more than 60 municipalities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, plans need to be made for the 2024 election year.

Contact Judy Bateman at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(9) LWVMI Environmental Network group: Thursday, November 16th at 11a via Zoom

This group continues to facilitate monthly presentations by experts and authorities on climate change and promoting clean energy.

See the website below for past presentations including one by LWVMI member and author, David Allen, an environmental advocate for the Great Lakes Region.

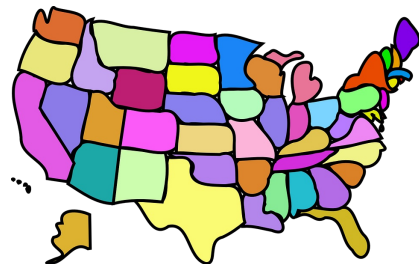
Contact Sandy Sorini-Elser at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(10) LWVUS Abolish the US Electoral College focus group: Friday, November 17th at 1p (Michigan time) via Zoom

This group, directed by LWV-Illinois, has monthly presentations by knowledgeable speakers regarding the history and present-day issues for electing the US President and Vice President. Previous presentations are recorded and available for viewing.

As set forth by LWVUS at its 2022 National Convention, abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment has been elevated to one of the League's top priorities.

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(11) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, November 27th at 7p via Zoom

Monthly LWVOA meetings discussing business, programs, and events.

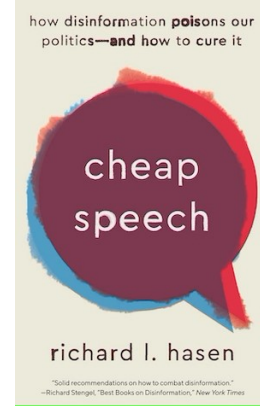
All members are welcome and may participate.

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(12) LWVOA Book Club: Wednesday, November 29th at

This month's book is: ***Cheap Speech: how disinformation poisons our politics—and how to cure it (2022) by Richard Hasen***

"As Rick Hasen says of the moment we're in, 'the matter is urgent, and the stakes could not be higher.' He's right. Hasen's book could not be timelier and more salient. If you want to understand the problems we face at the intersection of speech and elections, this is the book to read."



Tera is working on the list of books to read in 2024 so if you have recommendations please send them to LWVOAMi@gmail.com. Books should have a publication date a year or more old to ensure that copies will be widely available.



(13) LWVOA Vote411.org: Help needed

Starting in January 2024, assistance to update and process the LWV internet voter guide is needed for the 2024 elections. LWVOA member and University of Michigan political science faculty member, Debra Horner, has facilitated

the website in the past and will direct this effort.

Contact Debra Horner at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

HATS OFF to LWVOA members for events accomplished in October :

- **11 candidate forums** before the November 2023 election were held throughout Oakland County.
- More than 20 LWVOA members helped plan, facilitate, moderate, screen questions and provided an opportunity for communities to learn about candidates.



On 10/26/23 LWVOA sponsored:

"Beyond Banning Books - Protect Your Right to Read " a fascinating presentation by BTPL Director, Tera Moon and President, Dani Gillman, Library Board of Trustees.

They discussed the national trend of attempting to ban books and holding library funding hostage that are real threats to our democracy.

Actions suggested include:

- **USE your local public library**
- **READ lots of books, especially those challenged**
- **VOTE when library millages are on the ballot**
- **RESEARCH candidates for school and library boards**
- **SPEAK up for the right to read at local public meetings**
- **WRITE to legislators**
- **COMPLIMENT library workers**

Websites mentioned:

American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif>

MI Right to Read - resources for librarians and the public to defend the right to read

<https://www.mirighttoread.com/>

Top Banned Books of the 2022-2023 school year

<https://pen.org/banned-book-list-2023/>

PEN America - stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect open expression in the United States and worldwide.

<https://pen.org/>

EveryLibrary - helps public, school, and college libraries win funding at the ballot box; supports grassroots groups that support their local library against book banning, illicit political interference, and threats of closure.

<https://www.everylibrary.org/>

Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for the lives we have and the hope for a better future for all our friends and families.

History shows that many groups helped each other during times of need. The book mentioned below documents how one particular group of Native American Women helped early settlers on Mackinac Island. ***The Founding Mothers of Mackinac Island:***

The Agatha Biddle Band of 1870 tells the history of the Agatha Biddle Band, a band of primarily Native American women who lived on Mackinac Island in the 1800s. The band was unique because it was composed of 66 women, and eight men, each of which were owed annuity payments from the U.S. government for land given up in the 1836 Treaty of Washington, D.C. This story depicts how they lived as well as taught others their customs and values.



Maria Woloson

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