



League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County  
Established in Livonia in 1960

# VOTER

[www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org](http://www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org)

Serving: Belleville, Canton, Garden City, Livonia,  
Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter Twp, Van Buren Twp, Wayne and Westland

**September, 2018**

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

### **Forum: Ballot Proposals**

Wed. Sept. 25  
7 pm— 8:45 pm

Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, Redford

### **Candidate Forum**

Wed. Oct. 3  
7 pm – 9 pm

Livonia School Board & Wayne County Commission, 9<sup>th</sup> District  
Livonia City Hall

### **Candidate Forum**

Thurs. Oct 4  
6 pm – 8:30 pm

Wayne County Circuit Court Judges  
Henry Ford Community College, Berry Auditorium, Dearborn

### **General Meeting**

Sat. Oct. 6  
10 an - 12:30 pm

Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton  
(see article on page 5)

### **Town Hall: Good Government**

Mon. Oct. 22  
7 pm – 8:45 pm

Plymouth Public Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth  
(see article on p. 5)

### **Auction**

Sat. Oct. 27  
11 am – 2:30 pm

Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia  
(see article on p. 3)

### **General Election**

Tues. Nov. 6  
7 am – 8 pm

To find the most current news about the league, go to the website

[www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org](http://www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org)

or

<http://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersOfNorthwestWayneCounty>

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2018--2019:

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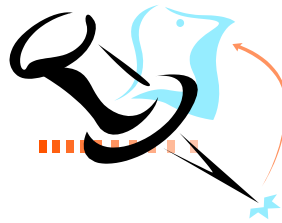
**LWV of NW Wayne County**

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Membership is open to anyone  
age 16 & older.

Dues: Student \$5; Individual  
\$60, Household \$85.

The League of Women Voters is  
a non-partisan, political organi-  
zation that encourages informed  
and active participation in  
government, works to increase  
understanding of major public  
policy issues, and influence  
public policy through education



## *President's Message*

Over the years that I've been involved with the League, we've addressed many issues. It's been everything from prison reform to agriculture to education to regional transit. While all of those were important issues to address, I've been pleased to see that for the last several years the League at all levels has focused on voting rights, redistricting, and campaign finance reform.

In 2012 the State League formed a committee to revise its existing redistricting position. At the time, the position was little more than stating that the process should be transparent and open to the public. I served on that committee and learned a lot about how other states handle redistricting. After our group studied the issue extensively and developed questions to go to the local Leagues, those Leagues took action. They conducted their own review of the subject, submitted their responses, and a consensus was reached. The State position now supports an independent commission for the state's redistricting. What does that mean? It means that the commission is independent of the state legislature. It will not be the elected officials who decide where the district lines are drawn.

That brings us to 2018. The State League has filed a lawsuit against the state for the redistricting that occurred in 2012. A number of League members, including me, are plaintiffs in that lawsuit. It's a slow process, but it will be an interesting path to follow.

For the November election, the League is supporting two ballot proposals related to our mission. Proposal 2 is the Voters Not Politicians redistricting plan. Proposal 3 is Promote the Vote, a comprehensive voting rights bill that was started by a group including the League. Some of you gathered signatures for one or both of these ballot proposals, so you are already invested in these proposals passing.

There are a number of upcoming events mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, including candidate forums and the October 22 Center for Michigan Town Hall meeting. The next general meeting will be on October 6, and I'm planning to bring a supply of VOTE bookmarks. We recently got a call from a lady who received one of the bookmarks at an event. She was so impressed by it, she asked for a supply to pass out. Even though she lives in Oakland County, we agreed to give them to her.

We have a great opportunity to get our name out there to family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and strangers about the ballot proposals and about using Vote411.org for candidate information. If you can't make it to any of the upcoming events, including the general meeting, let me know if you'd like some bookmarks. We have a lot invested in this election, and the more we spread the word, the better chance there is that the ballot proposals will pass.

I hope to see you soon. As always, thank you for supporting the League.

*Angela Ryan*

## *FALL AUCTION- SATURDAY, OCT.27*

Lena Packer

This year's live auction will be at Livonia's Greenmead Historical Park on Newburgh near 8 Mile Rd. The auction will start at 11:30 with viewing of items starting at 11:00. This is our big fundraiser for the year, so **we really need your participation** for its success. We would really appreciate your help in one of the following ways:

- **Donate an item** such as holiday décor, baked goods, event tickets, jewelry, gift cards, household items, gift baskets, or any other items you choose. Items should be new or "almost new." Items can be brought to Greenmead starting at 9:30 on the day of the auction.
- **Organize a tour or plan a luncheon or card party at your home.** and set the amount each participant will pay to participate in your activity (usually between \$20-\$30). At the auction, members will sign up and pay for participation in your event.
- If you cannot donate an item, **be an Auction Angel** by making a monetary donation. Please mail it to our treasurer: Linda Curry, 15145 Fairlane St., Livonia MI 48154
- **Please come to this event** and bring friends and family as our guests.

Donations will need item sheets or event sheets to provide bidders information about the items. These documents were emailed on Sept. 17th, and they will also be available at the auction. If you have any questions, please send an email to [lena.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lena.packer@yahoo.com) or call Lena at 248-536-2583.



*Welcome New Members. . .*

Maureen Schneider, Plymouth

Tanya Pitkin, Northville

Sherrie Brindley, Plymouth

Deanna Master, Northville



## VOTER SERVICE

Paula Bowman

One only has to look at the calendar on the League's website to understand how busy our Voter Service team is this fall. Some candidate forums are already completed and the video is available on the website, and we're still working on others. An educational forum about the state's proposals is set for Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at the Redford Library. Even if you haven't volunteered to help at a forum, we welcome you to attend and participate.

Megan Chenoweth is hard at work assembling our on-line voter guide at VOTE411. We are aiming to go live at the end of September. Print copies of the voter guide will also be prepared and delivered to local libraries in early October.

**Help is needed** at our voter guide "stuffing" event. The tentative date is Thursday, October 4, 2:00 pm at Paula Bowman's house. By that time, we will have received 2,500 copies of the voter guide prepared by the LWVMI, and the voter guides for the local offices should be back from the printer. The local voter guides need to be "stuffed" into copies of the state's newsprint guide. This is always a friendly, no-experience-necessary meeting filled with good conversation and a few laughs. Those who are able are also asked to help deliver the voter guides to libraries. If you can join us, contact me at [paulabowman9000@gmail.com](mailto:paulabowman9000@gmail.com). Thanks!

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Lena Packer

We have been very busy these past 2 months holding registration drives in a number of locations. On Aug. 24 we were at Cambridge Towers on Evergreen in Detroit. This is a property owned by Jonathan Rose Properties whose management requested our services. On Sept. 18 another drive was held at the Jonathan Rose complex of Ziegler Place Apartments in Livonia., and on Sept. 28 we will hold our third drive at one of their locations in Farmington. On Aug. 27 we registered voters at Western Wayne Family Health Center in Inkster. Our annual voter registration drive at Schoolcraft's School Daze was held on Sept. 19 and 20 where we registered 73 new voters.

Thank you to Rosemary Doyle, Roberta Young, Marjorie Lynn, Sue Wabeke, Lori Gilbo, Lisa Asquini, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Susan Rowe, Maureen Hughes, Carin Meyers, Laura Callow, Earlene Fisher, Maggie Hineman, and Angela Ryan for volunteering to register new voters.



Almost everyone has paid their dues, but there are still a few members who haven't. Individual dues are \$60. Household dues are \$85. You can pay through PayPal on the League's web site at [lwnnorthwestwayne.org](http://lwnnorthwestwayne.org), or you can send a check to Linda Curry, 15145 Fairlane, Livonia, Mi 48154. If you joined the League less than a year ago, Linda Curry will provide you with a prorated rate that covers membership through June 30, 2019. Her phone number is 734-464-2269.

## *TOWN HALL: GOOD GOVERNMENT*

Co-sponsored with Citizens for Peace, the Center for Michigan will facilitate a "Community Conversation," which will ask for citizen input about policy issues. Pragmatic grassroots ideas will be collected, and submitted to our state elected officials. This event is on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 – 8:45 pm at the Plymouth Public Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth 48170.



## *WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2018*

Paula Bowman

The Women's Equality Day Luncheon was on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Livonia. The NW Wayne County League was well represented, with over a dozen in attendance. Our own Laura Callow presented a history of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Only 35 states of the necessary 38 had ratified the amendment by the 1982 deadline. In 2011, legislation was introduced to speed ratification of the ERA, and to remove the deadline. Spurred by the resurgent interest, Nevada ratified the ERA in

2017, followed by Illinois in May, 2018. Only one more state to go!

To remove the deadline for ratification of the ERA, call Senate Judiciary Chair, Chuck Grassley to demand a hearing on S.J. Res. 5 and House Judiciary Subcommittee Chair, Steve King to demand a hearing on HJ Res. 53. It is the fervent hope of all ERA supporters we can soon celebrate this long-awaited constitutional amendment.

Lisa Brown, Oakland County Commissioner and former member of the Michigan House of Representatives, was the keynote speaker. She discussed the need for more women in politics to over-ride prejudices about women's issues and their role in government, stressing equality.

*"Most reforms, most problems, are complicated. But to me, there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."*

Alice Paul, Author of the ERA.

## *MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 6TH*

After several years of meeting in restaurants, we're trying a new location for the October 6 general meeting, Geneva Presbyterian Church. It's at 5835 Sheldon Rd., near the corner of Sheldon and Ford Roads in Canton. Board members have volunteered to provide coffee, tea, pastries, fruit, and other snack foods. If you'd like to bring something of your own to eat, feel free to do so. We'll incorporate some time to socialize so that we don't lose one of the benefits that we've had at past meetings. We hope to have someone from Schoolcraft College to give us a brief presentation regarding the November millage vote, and there is much League activity to discuss at this meeting. I hope you'll be able to join us.



## *MADONNA UNIVERSITY EVENT*

Angela Ryan

On September 13, Megan Chenoweth, Lori Gilbo, and I participated in a Livonia Jaycees'-sponsored Candidates' Meet and Greet event at Madonna University. We had a table by the entrance, so we were able to engage with nearly everyone who attended. Through the enthusiastic assistance of two Madonna employees, we registered 7 attendees to vote. We also dispensed VOTE bookmarks, They Represent You brochures, and information about the September 25th Ballot Proposal Presentation. We are hopeful that we'll be able to help with voter registration and/or class presentations on voting issues at Madonna in the future. My thanks to Megan and Lori for their participation.

## *STATE CONVENTION 2019*

May, 17 - 19, 2019  
at  
Embassy Suites  
in  
Livonia