

The Leelanau VOTER November 2018

VOTE

From the President

What a jam packed fall it has been! Beginning with a very successful, first of its kind Voter Appreciation Open House that received national and even international attention, Yes, I even got an inquiry from a reporter from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation wanting to talk with someone who was, "Trying to hold things together down there", to announcing to our members the just before elections November 1 updates to VOTE411 available at lwvmi.org. We managed to assist with even more Voter Services events than we ever could've anticipated. Every time another request came in, our members stepped up, from providing just one more voter registration event to having a few hundred more local voter guides printed off and inserted for distribution around the county. No matter what the outcome of individual races and ballot proposals, we will know we did our part to support an informed and hopefully record turnout. Possibly even more remarkable than our voter service activities was all the other events we managed to squeeze in... Between the mid-term election activities we hosted two programs related to October Substance Abuse Prevention Month, one of which featured nationally known speaker Michael DeLeon, a special evening forum with former "US Border Czar" Alan Bersin, and co-Sponsored a free community showing of the Fred Rogers documentary "Won't You Be My Neighbor" that was attended by more than 120 people. Eight of our members, including myself and my 16 year old daughter, through the support of Barbara Reinert Memorial Scholarship funds were able to attend the 11th Annual Freshwater Summit, "Blue Economy-Healthy Water, Resilient Communities" hosted by Northwestern Michigan College Freshwater Studies Program on October 26th. We received a lunch address from Senator Gary Peters who delivered an impassioned update on the state of our Great Lakes. Look for highlights from presenters at the summit in upcoming issues of the Voter. The moment of my greatest satisfaction this fall was probably over lunch at the summit when keynote speaker, Drew Gronewold of NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, proudly pulled from his briefcase of important papers a wrinkled copy of the LWV Non-Partisan VOTER Guide and declared to me and the others at our table his love for the "League" and all the important work it supports. Go League!

In Service, Tricia Denton

Calendar

November 2018

- 6 ELECTION DAY
- 7 FORUM "Make Your Voice More Powerful - How to Be an Effective Advocate for Public Policy", noon at **Government Center**

December 2018

5 Holiday Luncheon Noon at Govt Center

January 2019

9 First Forum on 2019 (save the date)

BOOK DISCUSSION: Next April, the Leelanau League of Women Voters will gather to discuss a book we have read. As is our custom, we will select that book at our December 5, 2018 Holiday Luncheon, by casting ballots.

Do you have a title to recommend? If so, send the name of the book and author to Joan Hunault at jbhunault@gmail.com Please make your recommendation before Tuesday, November 20. That way Joan can share the complete list with the LWVLC board at its November meeting.

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

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy. Imagining a Democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate

CANDIDATE FORUMS, COMMUNITY EVENTS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

"It takes a League" to hold four candidate forums hosting over 200 voters, and completing registrations at four high schools. Together with the Grand Traverse League a three day registration event was held at NMC registering a record number of nearly 80 students, checking registration status for 20, six absentee ballots and sharing voter literature with 243 students. Also, a registration event was held in Peshawbestown.

A big THANK YOU to all the League volunteers who participated in the events. Also kudos to the Leelanau County Clerk's office for making Clerk Lyn Drzewiecki available to register voters.

For the first time the League has developed a Leelanau County Voter Guide that was inserted in the Voter Guide developed by the Michigan League. The Guide includes candidate-provided information on Probate and District Court judges and County Commission races. Guides are available at libraries and on-line at Vote411.org.

After months of careful planning, the LWVLC joined with the Leelanau County Democratic Party and the Leelanau County Republican Party to host a first ever Voter Appreciation Open House on September 23 from 2 to 5 pm at the VFW Little Finger Post 7731 on East Duck Lake Road in Lake Leelanau. This inaugural event was designed with the idea that Leelanau County residents have much more that unites us than that divides us, including the desire to be informed voters and vote. The setting was social, no debates or statements. All county commission candidates were invited, as well as road commission and district and probate judge candidates. Over 150 people stopped in and had the opportunity to meet 16 candidates for local office all in one stop. No speeches or question-and-answer periods took place, but each candidate had a table where they talked one-on-one with voters and shared materials. Beyond that it was just socializing and good food. Initial reactions have been positive and we plan to make this a staple part of voter support going forward! Thanks to all who made this event a success! It truly wouldn't have been possible without you!

For information on elections, candidates and voter information go to VOTE411.org and/or MICHIGAN.GOV/SOS









"Make Your Voice More Powerful – How to Be an Effective Advocate for Public Policy" is the topic of the public forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters Leelanau County on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 12 noon in the lower level of the Leelanau County Government Center. Renell Weathers, the Public Engagement Director with the Michigan League of Public Policy in Lansing will speak on how you can influence public policy at the local, state and federal levels. Using early childhood advocacy as a model, she will talk about how public policy is built and provide strategies to affect change.

The Michigan League of Public Policy has worked in our state capital for decades to build public policy that protects all people in Michigan, particularly those who are often left out of political decisions. In this workshop, the presenter will share how we can all be more active participants in our democracy. The forum is open to the public. Many bring a sack lunch. A LWVLC business meeting will follow the presentation. For more information call 231/313-0359, visit LWVLeelanau.org or follow LWVLC on Facebook at League of Women Voters Leelanau County.

ONCE YOU HAVE VOTED ...

MAKE YOUR VOICE MORE POWERFUL HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Presenter:



RENELL WEATHERS,
Public Engagement
Director with the
MICHIGAN LEAGUE OF
PUBLIC POLICY, will
speak on how you can
influence public policy at
the local, state, and federal
levels. Using early
childhood advocacy as a
model, she will talk about
how public policy is built
and provide strategies to
affect change.

Wednesday Nov. 7 12 noon

Leelanau County Government Center Lower Level

The public is invited. Bring a sack lunch.

Presented by the League of Women Voters Leelanau County



lwvleelanau.org

LWVLC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Early Childhood Needs and Service: The LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee cohosted a showing of "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" the documentary about Mr. Rogers on October 29 at the Bay Theatre in Suttons Bay. Over 120 people attended. The League was part of a coalition of community organizations that supported showing the free film. It was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Maggie Sprattmoran and included Beatriz Cruz formerly of Parenting Communities, now Suttons Bay Schools outreach support for Latino families, Anne Donn, former preschool teacher Leelanau Children Center & longtime foster parent, Josh Stoltz from Grow Benzie, and Ty Schmidt of Norte.

The Committee is also providing a number of presentations on the importance of supporting early childhood services in the county, with members presenting to the Leelanau Christian Neighbors Board in October. The November LWVLC Forum will feature Renell Weathers of the Michigan League for Public Policy speaking on the topic of understanding and building effective public policy around early childhood issues. **Next committee meeting will be Friday November 16 at noon at the Munnecke Room in Leland.**

Energy and Natural Resources: Next meeting is November 7 at 10 AM Government Center Conf. Rm. 2. Also, Peter Sinclair will be coming to T.C. with the latest on Climate Change and what we can do locally Thursday, Nov. 8th, 6:30 PM Scholar's Hall Room 109 NMC Campus T.C.

Supporting alternative energy sources such as generating electricity from renewables coupled with changing agricultural practices, curtailing the unsustainable extraction of nature's resources, changing transportation behaviors are just a few items needing strong leadership at all levels. That leadership clearly must recognize the urgency of our global predicament and be willing to vigorously tackle it. That is why this election is so very importance and voting for those politicians who put people and planet first is critical.

So many current issues related to agriculture, water, industry, loss of biological diversity, over extraction of nature's limited resources, transportation and infrastructure, immigration, conflicts, over-population, economic contraction, health, pollution, and much more can be tied to the overriding issue of climate change. For this reason our committee's current focus is on developing plans for educational projects, programs, presentations, all to support community outreach and generate potential do-able solutions. The committee is planning to implement a multi-year series of programs/discussions/action items related to "Living Lightly for a Sustainable Future"...along with partnering with local organizations engaged in similar projects. Initially we are focusing on the multiple issues related to our Water Resources and partnering with others with a Tour of Best Management Practices for Water Usage. We are exploring other projects that encourage the diminishing use of all energies with less consumptive and often wasteful lifestyle behaviors we're sure would lead to more satisfying, healthy living. Ultimately building strong community connections, and being willing to make some major changes in lifestyle, hopefully would give us all a window of time to mitigate these issues as best we can before catastrophic climate change makes those efforts null and void.

Equal Rights Advocacy Committee: The ERA committee will meet at 5pm on Tuesday November the 13th **at the Leland Library Munnecke Room.** There is a sub-committee coalition meeting of the ERA committee that will meet at the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City at 5:30pm on Wednesday November the 7th. Anyone interested in these committees is cordially invited to come to either or both of these meetings

Farm Labor Task Force: Next Meeting is November 19, 9:30 am at the Government Center.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The holiday luncheon will be held at noon on December 5 at the Government Center. We will feature Anna Oginsky and Jake Kaberle, board members from the North Manitou Light Keepers Organization. They will speak about the restoration of the Crib in the Manitou Passage of Lake Michigan as well as other lighthouse restoration projects in the Great Lakes. This presentation will be a fun "light" event to carry us all through the shortest days of the light that occur in the month of December. Please plan to join us for this Holiday Luncheon and presentation. MORE DETAILS TO COME......

From Judy Karandjeff, President, League of Women Voters Michigan:

The League of Women Voters Michigan remains opposed to the transport of oil on, in or under the Great Lakes. Governors Snyder's announcement today of plans to construct a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac for this purpose is no exception...

- A Canadian tunnel under the Straits is not permissible under Michigan's Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act (GLSLA), common law public trust doctrine, and would violate the 1836 Treaty with Michigan Tribes protecting the Straits fishing grounds. These protections safeguard the Great Lakes, state officials must enforce them, and Enbridge can't ignore them. One protection requires Enbridge to prove that there are no other alternatives to Line 5 or the Straits, when in fact other alternatives exist.
- Gov. Snyder's intends to use a law intended to operate the Mackinac Bridge to bypass public scrutiny and environmental reviews while providing a major financial benefit to a Canadian oil transport company that puts Michigan taxpayers at risk for footing the bill in the event of a tunnel collapse or if one day Enbridge decides to abandon Line 5.
- Gov. Snyder's proposal ignores safer, less costly alternatives that would address Michigan's energy needs and guarantee the Great Lakes would never be at risk from a Line 5 oil pipeline rupture.
- This proposed deal means putting Michigan's future in the hands of Enbridge, a corporation that has made numerous false claims about the condition of Line 5
- And an overall track record in Michigan that includes \$177 million in civil penalties, \$1.3 billion in damages and more than 1.2 million gallons of spilled oil.
- A backroom deal with Enbridge means supporting the construction of a Mackinac Straits tunnel for a Canadian company to haul Canadian oil to southern Canada under the world's largest source of fresh surface water.
- A backroom deal with Enbridge could transform Line 5 into yet another dangerous Enbridge tar sands oil conduit, creating an invitation for Enbridge to green light its North American tar sands oil operations here in the Great Lakes.
- A backroom deal with Enbridge means Michigan turns down a chance to eliminate a source of
 pollution that adds to the warming of our planet and unnecessarily commits future generations
 of Michigan residents to permanently contributing to climate change.

In Response to Gov. Snyder's anticipated proposed agreement with Enbridge on Line 5 From the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition

Gov. Snyder's Mackinac Straits oil tunnel is no solution for the Great Lakes. This proposal leaves an aging, dangerous 65-year-old pipeline that faces multiple threats in place for up to 10 years while the state takes all the risk to build Enbridge a new oil tunnel through the heart of the Great Lakes.

This is not a solution for Michigan, but a solution for Enbridge to keep the Mackinac Straits at risk from their Line 5 oil pipelines and for Canada to get its oil processed using Michigan as a shortcut.

The Snyder deal with Enbridge is an extraordinary and illegal action by a lame duck governor that attempts to prevent Michigan's next governor and attorney general from removing the threat of Line 5 when they take office in January.

Line 5 faces multiple threats that will remain in place while a new Canadian tunnel is built through the Straits. Anchor strikes, such as the one that occurred in April, threaten to tear Line 5 apart, currents that could disperse oil swiftly throughout the region, a spill response plan from Enbridge that many worry is understaffed and under-resourced, and the questionable ability of federal government resources to respond in force and in time all intersect to pose a grave danger to Michigan's economy and environment.

A the worst-case scenario of a Mackinac Straits rupture would leak more than 2 million gallons of oil, contaminate 437 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, and cost \$1.86 billion in damages, according to a study spearheaded by Professor Guy Meadows from Michigan Technological University. This threat will remain in place for 7 to 10 years while an oil pipeline is constructed for Canada.

Even after a Line 5 oil tunnel is built, the oil pipeline will remain a permanent threat across its entire 645-mile length, putting more than 200 waterways at risk, including the storied AuSable River and watersheds that flow directly into Lake Michigan.

Michigan should not take shortcuts around environmental laws, violate an 1836 Treaty with native tribes while failing to implement other options that will protect Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Gov. Snyder should instead begin taking immediate action to decommission Line 5 and remove oil pipelines from the Mackinac Straits instead of spending his final months in office doing deals with Enbridge that attempt to handcuff his successor.

October 3 Forum "Understanding and Preventing Substance Abuse in Leelanau County." The forum was taped and is at LWVLeelanau.org under Video Links. Co-hosted with Leelanau County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Marian Kromkowski, our LWVLC representative to the Coalition noted "It has been a real pleasure and educational opportunity to work with all four of our speakers on the coalition and also on its committee known as the Prevention Workgroup responsible for youth services."

Lisa Anderson urged all gathered to talk about "substance use" rather than "substance abuse," because, she said, "drugs abuse people, not the other way around." When people become addicted to drugs, it is not a moral failing. Anderson pointed out that drug addiction runs in families; scientific studies indicate that people have a predisposition toward certain kinds of addictions. Both legal and illegal drugs can be addictive, and she noted that it is never anyone's goal to become a drug addict. The first substance used is often tobacco. Tobacco "vaping is huge in local schools." Students experiment with tobacco, and then alcohol. If, in their biology, those drugs have "an awesome effect," then they will move on to others.

Anderson observed that we have a culture of drug/substance use; that is, we believe "there's a fix for everything." There is lots of experimental substance abuse near colleges, and in the military, after young people leave their homes. We can change this culture. For example, Anderson noted that when chaperoning a high school senior prom in 2010, the prom favors for boys were etched beer steins, while the prom favor for girls were etched wine glasses.

Currently, a popular drug is high potency marijuana that looks like amber colored glass, but is THC. It temporarily paralyzes the user for 45 seconds or so; users call the effect being "couch stuck." They cannot move; cannot speak. Another common gateway substance is oxycodone, available by prescription. People often are prescribed too much of it when, for example, their wisdom teeth are extracted. If you have too many pills, they should be turned in to the county sheriff's office for proper disposal. Anderson noted that individual brains work differently: Some crave pain killing drugs, and find them awesome; others want nothing to do with them. Using the substance changes the structure of a user's brain, and alters the user's natural release of dopamine—a hormone that gives a feeling of pleasure. Overuse of a drug—an addiction to it—results in a person being unable to feel happiness or pleasure at any time about anything.

Chet Janik reported that the Leelanau Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is using, as a model, the Macomb County (Michigan) experience with prevention. Our Leelanau Coalition members have met regularly since April 2018, when 30 citizens came to the Government Center, ready to develop short-term and long-range drug prevention plans. They work with a \$30,000 grant, and will now apply for a four-year federal grant of \$125,000-\$150,000, to begin in October 1, 2019. Twelve members from the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians are members of the Coalition. The coalition has four task forces: 1) prevention /education; 2) medical services; 3) law enforcement; and 4) treatment.

John Boonstra offered several PowerPoint slides to share the statistical evidence of illicit drug use in our region, compiled by the University of Michigan, and based on self-report surveys. Over the past 18 years (since 2000), drug use has stabilized in the United States, although marijuana use is up some, but not a lot. Boonstra noted that fully 45 percent of his young clients through Family Court are the children of parents with substance abuse problems. To prevent their addiction, he serves as a mentor, to offer them protective factors that enable them to engage with their peers conventionally. Studies indicate that the longer a young person delays his or her first use of an addictive substance, the greater the likelihood that addiction can be avoided. For example, if a person's first use is at age 14, they have a 50 percent likelihood of addiction. That likelihood drops to 5 percent, if first use is delayed to age 21.

Mike Carmean noted that October is Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. He said the Leelanau County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition has a motto: "It Takes A Community". He invited all in attendance to "be part of the solution." Carmean announced the Coalition has invited Michael DeLeon from "Steered Straight" to visit all Leelanau County school students over a three-day period in mid-October. He further explained how to safely dispose of any unneeded and unused drugs: The Leelanau County Sheriff's Office has installed a prescription drug drop box inside the lobby of the Sheriff's Office, located at the Government Center. This location is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Further, a drop box is also located at the Grand Traverse Band Medical Lodge in the medical clinic lobby. This location is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Report from the October 17 Forum U.S. Customs and Border Protection Today The forum was taped and is at LWVLeelanau.org under Video Links.

On October 17, 2018, Alan Bersin spoke to 72 League of Women Voters members and guests at the Leelanau Government Center. Bersin's expertise is immigration enforcement. Beginning in 1993, he was U. S. attorney in San Diego. Then in 1994, the president appointed him 'border czar' to oversee a border-wide crackdown on illegal immigration and drug smuggling as head of the U.S. Border Patrol. Beginning in 2008, he was the commissioner of Customs and Border Protection with 58,000 officers to patrol air, land, and sea ports of entry. A few years later, he worked as assistant secretary at the Department of Homeland Security. In 2012, Bersin served a three-year stint as vice president of INTERPOL for the Americas Region. In 2016, he chaired the advisory committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Today, he is an inaugural fellow for the Homeland Security Project at Harvard's Belfer Center.

Bersin said that "nobody paid much attention to the border separating four states in the U.S—California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas—and six states in Mexico (Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas), until 1986 when the U. S. Congress passed the Immigration Reform Act. That federal law put an amnesty in place, and everyone thought the new law would solve everything! Instead, subsequent events have divided us as a nation.

Bersin explained the turbulent relationship between the United States and Mexico dates to the U.S./Mexican War of 1846-1848. At that time, Mexico included most of the western states, extending as far north as Oregon. [See the map of Mexican States in 1824.] When Mexico lost that war, half of all Mexico was ceded to the United States. "This great loss," said Bersin, "is a fact that Mexicans never forgot, and that Americans never knew." For many years, there was no cooperation at the "new" border between the two countries. U.S. policy declared it was a civil misdemeanor to cross the border into the U.S. without a visa; what's more, to do so twice was a felony. Mexican policy made no such declaration; their policy treated the border as open and accessible, like the old days before the war.

That changed in 1993—nearly 150 years after the end of the U.S./ Mexican War—when the Mexican and U.S. Presidents began to cooperate on immigration policy, and to enforce limitations on entry. In 1994, three-hundred border agents were placed at two entry points: one in California, at San Diego/Tijuana where most immigrants entered as they headed to Los Angeles, and a second in Texas, at El Paso/Juarez, a highly-traveled entry for many immigrants who dispersed throughout the United States. The fortification of the border occurred after California voters passed Proposition 187—to deny public funds and state programs to undocumented immigrants. [Five years later, Proposition 187 was declared unconstitutional by the courts.]

Along the 1,900-mile border with Mexico, there are 700 miles of fencing. Further, beginning in the 1990s, walls were erected in urban areas, to direct illegal immigrant traffic away from cities. By deflecting those who were entering to more remote areas, their illegal entry was easier for border patrol agents to detect.

Circumstances at the border changed again in 2001. Bersin noted the attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, were rightly seen as failures at our borders. Nineteen Al Qaeda operatives overstayed their visas, hijacked and weaponized passenger planes, and killed 2,976 Americans. Our borders were violated—the worst attack on our country since 1814 when the British burned Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812.

Prior to 9/11, our country's border agents—about 3,000 people—worked throughout three federal agencies: 1) the U.S. Justice Department handled immigration; 2) the U.S. Department of Treasury handled customs; and 3) the U.S. Agriculture Department handled trade. Generally, three agents were assigned to each of the 46 Mexican ports of entry, and the 127 Canadian ports of entry.

After 9/11, jurisdiction was consolidated when the U. S. Congress established the Department of Homeland Security, and placed the responsibility for all border agents within several agencies under its authority. For example, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one such agency. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is another.

Bersin Continued......

Today, taxpayers spend \$18 billion each year on border protection. Now 22,000 agents patrol the borders—19,000 agents at the Mexican border, and 3,000 agents at the Canadian border. The Department of Homeland Security employs 255,000 people, overall.

Bersin said the U.S. needs a dialog about immigration, and an acknowledgement of the tensions in our immigration heritage. We "must own up to the tensions, if we are to avoid hypocrisy." According to evidence, said Bersin, "the 1,900-mile-long border has never been more secure. Fewer people entered last year than in the past 40 years." Mexico has the 13th largest economy in the world. A greater number of Mexican people return to Mexico through the border checkpoints than attempt to enter the U.S. illegally. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has had a dramatic, positive effect on the Mexican economy, while some of its effects on American workers has been negative. There has been a vast expansion of trade with Mexico, since the agreement was put in place in 1993. That year, trade with Mexico amounted to \$80 billion; today, trade with Mexico is valued at \$700 billion.

Currently most immigrants are coming from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, Bersin explained. They seek entry through our asylum system, which requires they be adjudicated through special immigration courts. While the asylum program allows them to seek protection here, the court adjudication system is overwhelmed with applicants. Each of the "credible fear claims" of those seeking asylum must be adjudicated. However, adjudication hearings for 700,000 backlogged cases are now scheduled between two and four years, after entry. Clearly, the system is broken.

Bersin explained he is "not for amnesty." And, yet he knows, "we don't have the resources to remove 8-million to 11-million people." Instead, Bersin said, we "must get back to problem solving." We must consider both our available resources, and the millions of people who are here. Then we must ask, "Do we arrest them all? Or, do we arrest those who are a danger to the community? What are our priorities? We must have dialog, and set priorities, because "there is_no magic wand."



HAVE A CONCERN? WANT TO SAY THANKS? WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION? CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

President Trump

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

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Governor Rick Snyder

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Contacts for All Elected County Officials at

www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp

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Kaitlyn Wilkins
Meg and Russ Fincher
Tina Greene-Bevington
Wendy Greeney
Denise Grigsby
Nancy Potter
Judy Talbott
Kristi Thomas

LWVLC Membership Form at

LWVLEELANAU.org/join form.html

Send checks to

Nancy Duck, Treasurer
P.O. Box 992 Leland, MI 49654
Single Membership is \$60.
Household Membership is \$90.
Student Membership \$5.
Make your check out to LWVLC.

Scholarships are available for dues from The Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund. Contact Barb Marsh for an application blmarsh@hotmail.com

We appreciate and value our members at any level they choose to participate, from considering their dues as a donation to support our causes, attending our forums, becoming a committee member, or working as a board member.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



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