



Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area

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2014-2015 Issue 5

March –April 2015



Making Your Vote Count: REDISTRICTING, Who and Why?

Speaker: Sue Smith, President, LWV of Michigan

Saturday, March 21st, 10 am

West Bloomfield Library

4600 Walnut Lake Rd, 48325

(in the West Bloomfield Civic Center, west of Orchard Lake Rd.)

*Michigan's 14th Congressional District
meanders from Oakland's county seat to Wayne's county seat*

Sue Smith will discuss what Redistricting is and why it is currently a problem in Michigan. The League in Michigan studied the issue and adopted a position in 2012 based on input from its local Leagues across the state. Sue will present possible solutions to the problem, including actions taken by other states, and describe the League of Women Voters of Michigan's position on the issue. A Question and Answer session will follow.

Redistricting happens every 10 years after the Census. Currently the Michigan Legislature determines our state's Congressional Districts (14 based on 2010 Census) and its 38 State Senate and 110 State House Districts.

The event is OPEN to the public.

Invite your friends and neighbors to learn about this topic which has a major impact on the legislative make up of Congress and our state legislature.



Work of Art or Gerrymander?

Page 3: Sat., April 25, 10 am – **The Affordable Care Act in Michigan:** A Five-Year Checkup

Page 4: Wed., April 8, 7 pm – **May 5 State Ballot Proposal:** What is it; What would it do?

*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 through education and advocacy.*

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THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. It is published six times a year by the LWVOA. Articles and Letters to the Editor, with writer's name, address and phone number may be sent to the LWVOA office.

LWVOA ON FACEBOOK!

If you are not already a member of Facebook, you can sign up at

www.FACEBOOK.com

and make "League of Women Voters Oakl Area" one of your Facebook friends.

Invite your friends to learn about League activities and upcoming programs.

President's Message

I want to start this message by thanking my board and officers for all the support over the past six weeks as I went through health problems that started with bronchitis and ended with gall bladder surgery. We completed the tasks before us and without all the help, it would not have been possible. Program has been planned, TRY's updated and on the way to the printer. March and April events finalized and working on State Convention and Annual meeting. We have welcomed new members and work to attract more members. LWVOA will be supporting some school district proposals in Oakland County.

I have sent a letter to the Oakland County communities that have opted out of the SMART regional transit plan. Thanks to Dorothy Warren who initiated this effort and personally also sent letters to those communities.

I am working with my board and we are setting up information seminars on the May ballot proposal on funding for roads and increasing the sales tax from 6% to 7%. State is preparing a power point presentation for these seminars. See page 4 for local events.

The new legislature is at work and it is our duty to continue to remain in contact with them. We must support or oppose those items brought before them on which we have positions. We will be doing legislative interviews in March when we get the forms from State.

This will give League an idea where they stand on issues that affect the people of Michigan. Please contact Mary Ann Barkach if you would like to be involved in these interviews.

As always I would like to recognize more of our members for a job well done: our Government Chair Barbara Suhay, Communication Patricia Finn and Voter Editor Mary Ann Barkach.

Lastly, a special thank you to Vicki Lange who once again opened her lovely home to us for our program planning meeting and potluck .

**HOPE YOU ALL HAD A WONDERFUL VALENTINE'S DAY.
YOU ALL DESERVE SWEETS**

Jerry Burden

The Affordable Care Act in Michigan: A Five Year Checkup

When: Saturday, April 25, 2015

10:00 A.M. - Noon

**Where: Bloomfield Township Public Library
(Corner of Lone Pine and Telegraph)**



Speaker: Josh Fangmeier, MPP

The Affordable Care Act is five years old! How has it impacted Michigan? What can we expect in 2015? Mr. Fangmeier will separate fact from hyperbole and provide information specific to our state. There will be time for questions.

Josh Fangmeier is a health policy analyst at the Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation (CHRT). He is responsible for providing policy analysis and analytical support for a variety of health policy projects, including issues related to implementation of healthcare reform at the state and federal levels. Prior to joining CHRT, Josh was a health policy intern at the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C. He also served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in West Virginia. He holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and a B.A. in Political Science and History from Hastings College.

Coffee and light refreshments will be served before the presentation.

MAY 5 STATE BALLOT PROPOSAL: What Is It; What Would It Do?

Speaker: Eva Packard, Voter Service Director, LWV of Michigan

Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm

Southfield Public Library

26300 Evergreen Rd, 48076

in the Southfield Civic Center, south of 11 Mile (I-696)

The major focus of the state proposal on the Tuesday, May 5th election ballot is to increase funding for repair of roads and bridges and do so without negatively impacting education, local communities, and low-income families. The League of Women Voters will provide information on the ballot proposal to amend the Michigan Constitution and on new laws that will be triggered if the amendment is approved by the voters. The presentation includes information on how state revenue would be increased and how it would be spent. Pros and cons of passing the legislation will also be discussed. A Q&A session will follow.

Every voter in Michigan can vote on this complex proposal. Join us to learn about how it changes the tax structure in Michigan. The event is OPEN to the public.

The League will also be doing a presentation on the state proposal on Thursday, April 16, at 7 pm at the Fox Run senior complex in Novi. We have a limited number of seats for League members for whom that place and date works better. Since Fox Run, which is on 13 Mile Rd west of Haggerty, is a gated community, we must provide a list of names of attendees. Please email packardeva@gmail.com and let Eva know by April 14th if you plan to attend the Novi presentation.

MAY 5, 2015 STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSAL 15-1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Eliminate sales / use taxes on gasoline / diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career / technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges / universities.
- Give effect to laws, including those that:
 - Increase sales / use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendment.
 - Increase gasoline / diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
 - Expand **competitive** bidding and warranties for road projects.
 - Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

YES []

NO []

They Represent You

2015

brochures represent a lot of work! By Tera Moon

The *They Represent You* brochures are being updated and printed. They should be delivered to municipal offices, school district offices, and public libraries by the end of March. They will be available on our website at www.lwvoa.org/try.html even sooner than that.

The *They Represent You* (TRY) brochures are a prime example of voter service, something the League of Women Voters does very well. For many members of the public, these brochures are the only contact they have with the League. The brochures make sense of a complicated web of representatives, from federal offices down to library board members. For a League like Oakland Area, which covers 60 communities, compiling contact information and other details for every representative is no small task. Eight brochures contain contact information, term end dates, party affiliation, and salary information for Oakland County's two top federal officials, two US Senators, four US Representatives, four top State Officials, five State Senators, 14 State Representatives, eight State Board of Education members, 24 university board members, seven community college trustees, six top county officials, 21 County Commissioners, over 60 judges, plus over 400 local officials, nearly 200 school officials - that's nearly 900 elected officials to keep track of!

As with all big jobs, many hands make light work, or in the case of the TRYs, having Ann Edwards on your team makes light work. Ann is the unsung hero of these brochures. She has spent many hours making phone calls and proofreading. These brochures would not be as accurate as they are (hopefully they are!) without her. Ann is also coordinating delivery of these brochures to municipal offices, school districts, and public libraries.

Other League members who assisted with making sure the brochures are as accurate as possible are Cheryl Bruins-Rozier, Sharon Kelly, Karen Linnell, and Sue Whalen. They made many, many phone calls to verify details across many TRYs. Thank You!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Also a huge "Thank You" to Tera Moon for all her work on this year's TRY's.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OCBA by Jerry Burden

The Oakland Area League has been a partner with the Oakland County Bar Association for 9 years now. This association has brought in the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, and this year for the first time, Detroit Public Television.

We have done candidate forums for all contested District and Circuit and Probate Court races in the county. This amounted to about 100 judicial forums since 2006. With Detroit Public Television on board, we were able to do a statewide forum of the Supreme Court which was available state wide, moderated by our State President Sue Smith. We look forward to the judicial Court races in the 2016 election year, and are already planning for those forums.

None of this would have been possible over the years without the cooperation of our Voters Service team and staff members of the OCBA, especially past Director Lisa Stadig-Elliott and current Director Terri Ticknor Gilbert. The eight forums planned for the 2014 election season used a total of 39 members of the League, media and OCBA to put these together.

A very big Thank You and Job Well Done to all those involved over the years.

Oakland County News

Oakland and 4 Other Counties Taken Off Pipeline Route

The proposed ET Rover pipeline will still have a presence in southeast Michigan. One resident calls that "arrogant."

By [Beth Dalbey](#) ([Patch Staff](#)) February 4, 2015 at 3:03am

Five Michigan counties – Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Genesee, Shiawassee and Lapeer – have been removed from the proposed route of the proposed ET Rover pipeline.

Rover Pipeline, a subsidiary of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, plans to build the 42-inch natural-gas transmission pipeline to move more than 3 billion cubic feet of gas per day from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio to Midwest markets through a hub near Sarnia, Ontario, the [Detroit Free Press](#) reports.

The change in the route comes from a deal between Rover Pipeline and DTE Energy and Canadian oil and gas transport giant Enbridge, which jointly operate the Vector pipeline, which would interconnect with the ET Rover pipeline.

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, hailed the deal, which she says limits inconvenience to residents whose lives were disrupted for months in 2013 as Enbridge replaced its Line 6B pipeline. Miller asked the Federal Regulatory Commission to "thoroughly and transparently" address residents' concerns.

"I have long advocated for greater access to energy, and that obviously means additional infrastructure to transport it, but we must ensure that we do it in a way that minimizes disruption for homeowners and local communities," she said in a statement. "Now, as a result of this contract, local residents will gain greater access to affordable energy without the hassle and worries associated with new construction."

The ET Rover pipeline will still run through the counties of Lenawee, Washtenaw and Livingston.

Richard Knopf, who lives near the Washtenaw-Livingston county line in Pinckney, is steeling himself for the chaos of months of construction and possible environmental contamination down the road.

"I'm taken aback by the arrogance: 'We've got the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on our side, so we can take your property through the courts if we have to,'" he said.



Democracy is not a spectator sport
VOTE!

Help the League! Help Yourself!

To advertise the LWV, and fund-raise for LWVOA, we have developed post-it notes and list pads as illustrated. The post-it notes are 3" X 3" with 50 sheets per pad. The list pads are 3.66" X 8.5" with 25 sheets per pad. Price for each kind is \$3.50 per pad. We plan to offer them at the State Convention and our educational events. They are also great for little gifts and for personal use, and available for purchase in the office!.)

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A Voice for Citizens,
A Voice for Change

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

Sat. Mar. 21	10am	Redistricting in Michigan, Who and Why Speaker: LWV State President Sue Smith West Bloomfield Library, 4600 Walnut Lake Rd.
Wed. Apr. 1	7 pm	LWVOA Board Meeting , Globe Midwest, 25800 Northwestern, Southfield
Wed. Apr. 8	7 pm	May 5 State Ballot Proposal: What is It? What Would it Do? Speaker: LWV State Voter Service Director Eva Packard Southfield Public Library, 36300 Evergreen
Thur, Apr. 16	7 pm	May 5 State Ballot Proposal: What is It? What Would it Do? Fox Run, 13 Mile just west of Haggerty. Reservation required.
Sat. Apr. 25	10 am	Affordable Care Act in Michigan: A Five Year Checkup Speaker: Josh Fangmeier, MPP Bloomfield Township Public Library, corner of Telegraph & Lone Pine Rd.
Fri-Sun May 15-17		2015 State Convention at Four Points Hotel in Kalamazoo
Sat. June 6	10:00 am	LWVOA Annual Meeting – Business Meeting Plum Hollow Country Club. 21631 Lahser, between 8 and 9 mile Rds.
	1 pm	Speaker: Barbara L. McQuade, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan