



Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area

Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, MI

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It's a good time to....

2016 – 1017 Issue One

July – August, 2016



Upcoming Candidate Forums

46th District Court: Judge

Southfield Public Library
Monday, July 18, 2016
7 pm

Township of West Bloomfield: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer & Trustee

West Bloomfield Township Library
Tuesday, July 19, 2016
6:15 pm

District Court 52-1

Wixom Community Center
Monday, September 12, 2016
7 pm

Oakland County Probate Court and Circuit Court

Commissioner's Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac
Tuesday, September 20, 2016 (use South entrance)
6 pm – 7 pm Probate Court
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Circuit Court

*See page 3 for more information on videotapes available of these and previously held candidate forums.

League member help is needed. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter, timer, question screener, or page, email Judy Bateman at judybateman@comcast.net.

July 10, 2016

Every election cycle, Leagues across the U.S. host hundreds of candidate forums at no cost to the candidates or the attending citizens. All of the costs associated with these forums, as well as other voter information services such as VOTE411 and the printed voter guides, are covered by dues-paying members and donors who support the League. Without this financial support and the time devoted by League volunteers, none of this work would be possible.

The League's New Year started on July 1st. If you haven't already sent your membership renewal for 2016-2017, you can do so by going to www.LWVOA.org and click on *Join the League* to print a membership form or pay your dues via PayPal.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication!

Kathy Bartley,
Editor



As always, a "YUGE" thank you to Judy Bateman, Jerry Burden, Deb Horner, Tera Moon, Cheryl Rozier, Ann Edwards, Eva Packard and all other volunteers for the important roles they play in providing Voter Service.

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2015-2016

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

The work of the League is financed by the dues of members and by contributions from citizens in the community.

LWVOA Welcomes a New Member!
Claire Glasser of Novi



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

We have been working to ensure that all our citizens can receive factual information when it comes time to use the power that all people in the world do not have... the right to VOTE. Our voting rights have been attacked at all levels. The Voting Rights Act was gutted and struck down by the Supreme Court 3 years ago. Now is the time to repair the VRA and restore the full powers of the Act to level the playing field, and ensure all Americans have fair and equal access to the voting booth.

We attended the LWVUS National Convention in Washington DC which is area of over 670,000 citizens who do not have any representation in the US Congress or Senate. This area has more population than several states. The theme we set for the coming year is *Making Democracy Work*. The goals for League the next two years are voter protection and mobilization, election reform, restoring the Voting Rights Act, countering the influence of money in politics through public financing of Congressional and Presidential elections and Redistricting reform. We will also work at the national level to overturn Citizens United.

At the local level we will continue to educate and inform our citizens with the issues that affect our daily lives through candidate forums, programs and our website. Our by-laws were changed to allow all persons over the age of 16 become members. We are planning our Fall meeting and program, have elected a new board and Directors. Now we ask that all members become a part of this very active group of members. Your ideas and input will help all to do more. It has been said "If you are not at the table you are probably on the menu." Make sure these dates get checked off on your calendar:

- ✓ August 2 - Primary
- ✓ October 11 – Last day to register for November election
- ✓ November 8 – General Election

There are many opportunities to be involved in league events. Please contact me or any member of the board if you would like to help at an event or serve on a committee. Many of the events are a one-time thing and only take a small part of your busy schedule.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

JERRY BURDEN
PRESIDENT LWVOA

How important is your vote?

It is expected that as much as 80% of the 110 Michigan State House races on November's general election ballot, all but a few of the 14 Congressional contests, and most Township races will be decided at the August 2 Primary. The following guide explains to voters how they can learn about the races and candidates on the ballot.

INFORMATION for August 2, 2016 ELECTION

WEBSITES:

www.LWVOA.org = League of Women Voters Oakland Area website

a. Click on **VOTER GUIDES** for info **available Online** for:

PARTISAN Offices:

- U.S. Representative – Districts 8, 9, 11, 14
- State Representative – Districts 26, 27, 29, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51
- County Executive, Prosecutor, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Water Resources Commissioner
- County Commissioner – Districts 1-21
- 21 Townships (Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees, and a few Park Commissions)

NONPARTISAN Offices:

- Judges – District Courts 46 and 51
- Additional information on each candidate for contested court races is available on the website of the Oakland County Bar Association www.OCBA.org.

PROPOSALS:

- County & Local Proposal text

b. Click on **CANDIDATE FORUMS** for the Calendar of forums scheduled.

- State Representative Districts 41 (Troy sponsor) and 45
- County Commissioner Districts 11+16+20 (Troy sponsor), 12 + 13
- Townships of Waterford, Bloomfield, Washington (Macomb), West Bloomfield
- District Court Judges 51 and 46 (Co-sponsors OCBA, Detroit Free Press)

* Forums are **videotaped for rebroadcast on local cable channels**. Check the Candidate Forum listings for Rerun Schedules on cable which will be posted **WHEN** they are provided to us.

You can also check with your local cable provider for schedules.

Check the Candidate Forum listings for links to forums **viewable online**.

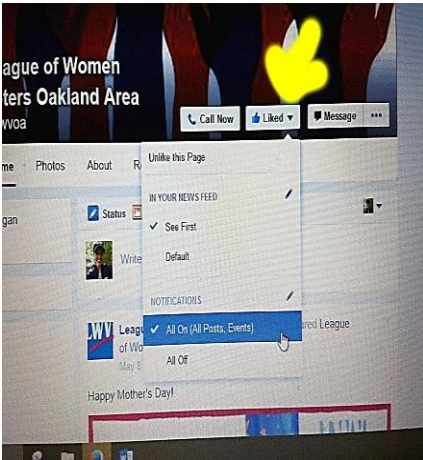
Judicial Forums as well as candidate responses to many additional questions will be available for viewing Online at www.OCBA.org

www.VOTE411.org = LWVUS Education Fund website

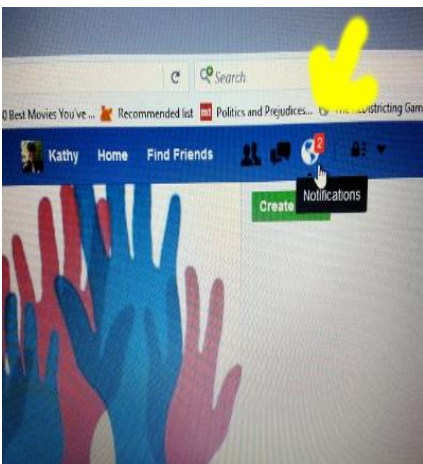
- Provides Online Information **for Voters in ALL of Michigan** including:
 - Election-related Dates and Voting Processes
 - Candidate Responses to LWV Questions + Bio info, compared side by side
 - Proposals on ballot
- Shows Races on the Voter's Ballot based on Voter's Address
 - EVERY FEDERAL and STATE RACE in MICHIGAN is available.
 - Local races may be available in areas having Local Leagues.
 - Other Counties in Southeast Michigan with Local League race information:
Wayne, Macomb (county level races only), Washtenaw

Follow us on Facebook

Change your settings to ensure you aren't missing a post. Go to the League of Women Voters Oakland Area page and hover over the "Liked" button. In the drop down menu change *Default to See First*, and turn on *All Posts and Events*.



Now any posts will show up as *Notifications* here. Do the same thing for any other League page you follow and you won't miss a thing.



Jocelyn Benson, Dean of Wayne State University Law School, was an inspiring speaker at the LWVOA Annual Meeting and Luncheon in May. She has since become the mother of a little boy, and been named one of the 100 Most Influential Women by Crain's Detroit Business. Congratulations Dean Benson!



* * * * *

Did you know the League of Women Voters has a You Tube channel?

In June the League of Women Voters of the United States held its 52nd National Convention. LWVOA was represented by our President, Jerry Burden, and Kathleen Maisner. For those of us not lucky enough to attend, the League has uploaded a series of videos of the various speakers at the convention. There are 11 of them in all. Here are links to a few of the highlights:

[President's Opening Address – Elisabeth MacNamara](#)

[Keynote Address by Ari Berman of the Nation](#)

Ari Berman is the Author of "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights"

[Understanding American Authoritarianism – Amanda Taub](#)

Amanda Taub is a former human rights lawyer and now writes for the NY Times

[CEO Address – Wylecia Wiggs Harris](#)

Wylecia spoke on plans for moving the League into the next century.

THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. Articles and Letters to the Editor, with writer's name, address and phone number may be sent to the LWVOA office for consideration.

Remembering why we do what we do:

"They scattered tons of literature in all the languages read in this country. They spoke on street corners to chance hearers and in larger halls to great audiences. They organized their propaganda and were heard in the church, the theatre, the baseball field, and even the circus. Millions of dollars were raised mainly in small sums and expended with economic care. Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, and hundreds of thousands gave constant interest and such aid as they could. In fifty-two years of pauseless campaign, women conducted 45 State referenda to male voters; 480 campaigns to urge Legislatures to submit woman suffrage amendments to voters; 47 campaigns to induce State Constitutional Conventions to write woman suffrage into State Constitutions; 277 campaigns to persuade State party conventions to include woman suffrage planks, 30 campaigns to urge presidential party conventions to adopt woman suffrage planks in party platforms and 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses. It was a continuous, seemingly endless chain of activity. Young suffragists, who helped to forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists, who forged the first links, were dead when it came to an end."

~ A Message To: Sweet Briar College, The Woman's Century 1820 – 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt, June 9, 1936. Sweet Briar College, Virginia.

**Women's Equality Day
August 26, 2016**

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A Voice for Citizens,
A Voice for Change

Time Dated Material Enclosed

Calendar of Events

See Candidate Forum Events on Page 1



August 2, 2016	Primary Election
August 17, 2016	LWVOA Board Meeting - 7 pm 25800 Northwestern, Real Estate One Bldg., Southfield MI
Sept. – Oct. (TBA)	Fall Luncheon – Topic: <i>Regional Transit Authority</i>
September 27, 2016	National Voter Registration Day
October 11, 2016	Last day to register to vote for November election
November 8, 2016	General Election - polls open 7 am to 8 pm