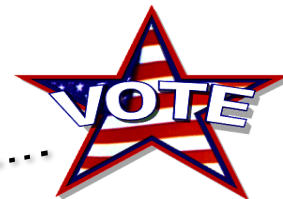




# Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area  
*Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, MI*

Phone: 248/594-6602  
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Use your voice....

2016 – 1017 Issue Two

September - October, 2016

## In This Issue



**REGIONAL  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

**WHAT IS THE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN? WHAT IS RAPID BUS TRANSIT? WHAT IS THE MASTER PLAN? HOW WILL IT AFFECT ME?**

**LWVOA is hosting an educational meeting with representatives of the RTA to provide more information and answer your questions. See page 3 for full details on this important event happening on October 1, 2016**

### Next Candidate Forum:

**Oakland County Probate Court and Circuit Court**  
Commissioner's Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac  
Thursday, September 20, 2016 (use South entrance)  
6 pm – 7 pm Probate Court  
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Circuit Court  
**See page 5 for the full schedule.**

### Government Finance Study:

This winter, Michigan Leagues will be doing a study regarding updating the current position on taxation and budgeting. If you are interested in taking a look at the materials, **see page 5** for links to a few of the resources. More information will be in the next Voter.

**VOTE411.org** is one of the League's most important voter education tools. **On page 6**, we've included a flyer which could be printed if you know of an appropriate place to share it such as an employee breakroom, or community room bulletin board.

## Editor's Note

This will be the last printed issue of The Oakland Voter to be sent out to all members. Going forward copies will be sent digitally with the exception of members who have not provided us with an email address. If you would like an emailed copy and did not receive one, please send an updated email address. Make sure to add us to your email contact list, so that your copy does not go into a spam folder.

If you know of someone that you think might be interested in becoming a League member, please encourage them by sharing the digital Oakland Voter, and direct them to [lwvoa.org/join](http://lwvoa.org/join).

September 27, 2016 is National Voter Registration Day. Do you know anyone who has moved or turned 18 lately? Make a note to call them that day and remind them to get registered. If you host or attend an event before the October 11 registration deadline, please take photos and send them to me so I can include them in the next Oakland Voter! [kathy.lwvoa.editor@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.lwvoa.editor@gmail.com)

Thank you for all that you do!

Kathy Bartley,  
Editor

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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.

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**LWVOA Welcomes 2 New Members!**

Donna Olson of Pickney  
and  
Shannon Husband of West Bloomfield



**REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Now is the time to start anew. We have weathered the long, hot summer, had boat rides, enjoyed golf, fishing and shared all kinds of fun events with friends and family. But the summer is almost over. We get back to regular things, send the children off to school, and go to work without dreaming of what we are going to do on the weekend. We still have football and playoff baseball to fill the voids and the beautiful colors of a Michigan autumn to look forward to.

Here at the League, we never stop our citizen education and advocacy as we plan more candidate forums, provide voter guides and look toward to the election in November. We had our new board organizational meeting, planned fall programs and are getting ready for the winter consensus on **Government Finance**.

Our fall program is an educational meeting on transportation in southeast Michigan (**see flyer on page 3 for details**). Representatives of the Regional Transit Authority will provide information and answer questions about the RTA ballot proposal that we will see in November. Our fall meeting would normally be a League fundraiser, but in order to ensure the maximum attendance at this important meeting, we made the decision to keep it open to all. Anyone who would like to make a donation to the League can still do so by sending a check to our office.

The attack on voting rights continues. We must work to renew the Voter Rights Act. The courts have issued an order to maintain straight ticket voting in Michigan for the upcoming election. Please make sure your friends and family are aware of this important detail. We are continuing our work to improve voting for all citizens by supporting issues such as early voting and no reason absentee. All of this is part of the League's mission of Making Democracy Work.

I would like to welcome new board members Ann Megalizzi and Cheryl Rozier and returning board members Kathy Bartley and John Magary. Now we ask that all members become a part of this very active group. Your ideas and input will help all to do more.

Remember – October 11 is the last day to register for the November 8 election.

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT**

**JERRY BURDEN**  
PRESIDENT LWVOA

# REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

THE PLAN IS TO CREATE A TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT IS:  
RAPID, RELIABLE AND REGIONAL  
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AND HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

## **The League of Women Voters Oakland Area**

is pleased to host the RTA  
for an informational meeting

**Saturday, October 1, 2016**

**10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon**

**@ Bloomfield Township Library**

[1099 Lone Pine Road](#)

[\(East of Telegraph\)](#)

This November, voters in Oakland, Macomb, Wayne and Washtenaw counties along with the City of Detroit will decide if they wish to fund the implementation of the Master Plan.

The RTA will share a presentation about the Regional Master Transit Plan followed by a session to take your comments and answer questions.



*Rapid Bus Transit Station  
Simulation*



## Member Action:



LWVOA is looking for someone to plan and coordinate refreshments for League events occurring typically 2-4 times per year. If you would like to volunteer to be our Hospitality Person, please contact the office.

## Special News Flash:

On September 1, 2016, as we kick off the new year, we received some bad news. The League of Women Voters Lake Erie Basin Committee will suspend all activity indefinitely because no volunteers have stepped forward to fill vacant leadership positions. This committee keeps us aware of issues affecting Lake Erie and water quality.

Just a reminder: **WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS** and your help is always needed and appreciated no matter how little time you can give. Contact any board member if you would like to help at an event or serve on a committee. Every little bit of time you can give benefits the League and the communities we serve.

## Renate Soulen: Moving On

This coming year our League will be missing an active and dedicated member of the Board, Renate Soulen. Since joining the League, Renate has contributed at every level from moderating forums to organizing educational speakers to chairing two consecutive PSA contests. As Chair of Health Care, she sponsored and organized two public forums, one on end of life care and a second on navigating the Affordable Care Act. Renate also hosted two consensus meetings and a board meeting at her home and made many contacts for the finance drive. Her insights at Board meetings, attention to detail, and her eagerness to jump in and help will be missed. Renate and her husband Dick are relocating to a suburb of Baltimore where she is already a member of the local League and ready to resume her active role.



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## Oakland Area Welcomes Fox Run Unit:

On August 30, 2016, we met with State President Judy Krandjeff and about 20 members of the Fox Run Retirement Community in Novi. The event was organized by Claire Glasser who joined OA this past May. Five of our members, including Claire, are residents. We explained the Mission and History of the League and how they can become a part of the League of Women Voters Oakland Area. President Burden spoke about current things going on within the League; Eva Packard spoke on Voter Service, Voter Guides and Vote 411. Linda DePoorter talked to the group about membership and our dues structure. This unit could have their own meeting and programs for the residents at Fox Run, but would follow the bylaws and policies of the Oakland Area. After the presentation many questions were asked and answered. The Residents will meet, and then make the decision as to how many members will be in the group to start.

We welcome and support all of the new members into the Fox Run Unit!



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*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.*

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## Upcoming Candidate Forums



**Oakland County Probate Court and Circuit Court**  
Commissioner's Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph,  
Pontiac  
Thursday, September 20, 2016 (use South entrance)  
6 pm – 7 pm Probate Court  
2 candidates – vote for 1 – 6 year term  
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Circuit Court  
2 candidates – vote for 1 – 6 year term

**Bloomfield Hills School Board**  
5 candidates – Vote for 3 – 4 year term  
Doyle Center, 7275 Wing Lake Rd.  
Monday, September 26, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

**Sylvan Lake City Council**  
5 Candidates – 2 highest vote totals – 4 year term  
Community Center, 2456 Pontiac Dr.  
Tuesday, September 27, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

**West Bloomfield School Board**  
4 Candidates – vote for 2 – 6 year term  
West Bloomfield High School, ICenter  
Thursday, September 29, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

**Novi School Board**  
4 Candidates – vote for 2 – 6 year term  
Novi Schools Admin. Bldg., 25345 Taft Road  
Monday, October 3 @ 7:00 pm

**Birmingham School Board**  
7 Candidates – vote for 4. The 2 highest vote totals  
have a 6 year term, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> highest vote totals  
have 4 year terms.  
Birmingham Schools Admin. Office  
31301 Evergreen, Beverly Hills  
(Adjacent to Groves High School)  
Wednesday, October 5, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

**Farmington School Board**  
The 13 candidates for Farmington Public School's  
Board of Education will be recording 3-minute  
individual interviews at the TV 10 facility. These will be  
played on TV 10 and on the [District's Video-on-  
Demand site](#). Look for them after September 30.

Visit [lwvoa.org/candidate\\_forums](http://lwvoa.org/candidate_forums) for updates and additions. All forums are recorded. Check with your local cable channel for viewing times of previous forums.

*League member help is needed. If you are available to attend, and volunteer to be a greeter, timer, question screener, or page, email Judy Bateman at [judybateman@comcast.net](mailto:judybateman@comcast.net).*

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## Government Finance Study

*"Financing state and local government is the focus for this study which seeks to update the current LWV-MI position on taxation and budgeting. As the questions were developed, the committee was cognizant of the state positions on Education and on Intergovernmental relations (Local Government). The consensus questions are organized into three sections: state revenue, state expenditures and state/local fiscal relationships."*

Our study presentation meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 19, 2016. Here are a few links to some of the resources we will use for the study if anyone would like to get a head start.

**Citizen's Research Council of Michigan: ["Outline of the Michigan Tax System"](#)**

**Great Lakes Economic Consulting: ["Michigan's Great Disinvestment: How State Policies Have Forced Our Communities into Fiscal Crisis"](#)**

Here is a short video with Robert Klein of Great Lakes Economic Consulting discussing some of the key findings of their study  
<https://vimeo.com/168136652>

*\*If you are reading the printed copy, all information is available on the LWV Michigan website.*

# Looking for candidate and ballot information? Go to: [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

## VOTE411.org

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- Early voting options (where applicable)
- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines

## Sample Voter Guide

The screenshot shows the VOTE411 Voter Guide interface. At the top, there's a blue header with "VOTE411 Voter Guide" and a "Start Over" button. Below that, a dark grey bar contains "View My Races" and "Progress: 1 of 8". The main content area is titled "Oakland County Executive" and includes a description of the role, a list of duties, and a list of candidates: L. Brooks Patterson (Rep), Vicki Barnett (Dem), and Mark Danowski (Dem). A yellow callout box points to the candidates list with the text: "The League sends each candidate a nonpartisan questionnaire. You can find their response here."

An important component of VOTE411.org is the polling place locator, which enables users to type in their address and retrieve the poll location for the voting precinct in which that address is located. The League has found that this is among the most sought after information in the immediate days leading up to, and on, Election Day.

**Disclaimer:** All statements and videos are posted directly by the candidate, unedited by the League of Women Voters and do not express the views of the League. The League never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.



**REMEMBERING WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO:**

*Birthday greeting to Elizabeth Cady Stanton from Susan B. Anthony, published in Pearson's Magazine, shortly before her death in 1902. ( View original at [Library of Congress](#) )*

My Dear Mrs. Stanton;

I shall indeed be happy to spend with you the day on which you round out your four score and seven, over four years ahead of me, but, in age as in all else, I follow you closely. It is fifty-one years since first we met, and we have been busy through every one of them, stirring up the world to recognize the rights of women. The older we grow, the more keenly we feel the humiliation of disenfranchisement, and the more vividly we realize its disadvantages in every department of life and most of all in the labor market.

We little dreamed when we began this contest, optimistic with the hope and buoyancy of youth, that half a century later we would be compelled to leave the finish of the battle to another generation of women. But our hearts are filled with joy to know that they enter upon this task equipped with a college education, with business experience, with the fully admitted right to speak in public—all of which were denied to women fifty years ago. They have practically but one point to gain—the suffrage; we had all. These strong, courageous, capable young women will take our place and complete our work. There is an army of them, where we were but a handful; ancient prejudice has become so softened, public sentiment so liberalized, and women have so thoroughly demonstrated their ability, as to leave not a shadow of doubt that they will carry our cause to victory.

And we, dear old friend, shall move on the next sphere of existence—higher and larger, we cannot fail to believe, and one where women will not be placed in an inferior position, but will be welcomed on a plane of perfect intellectual and spiritual equality.

Ever lovingly yours,

*Susan B. Anthony*

<p><b>Salon Cardon</b> <hr/><b>Rita Trebble</b><hr/><b>32352 Woodward Avenue</b> <b>Royal Oak, MI 48073</b> <b>248.629.7522</b></p>		<p><b>Generous contributors like you.</b></p>
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**League of Women Voters® Oakland Area**

725 S. Adams Road, Suite L-144  
Birmingham, MI 48009

A Voice for Citizens,  
A Voice for Change

**Time Dated Material Enclosed**

**Calendar of Events**

See Candidate Forum Events on Page 5



**September 24, 2016**

**Absentee ballots available**

**October 1, 2016**  
**10 am - Noon**

**Fall Meeting**  
Topic: *Regional Transit Authority*  
@ Bloomfield Twp. Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd.

**October 11, 2016**

**Last day to register to vote for November election**

**October 13, 2016**  
**7 pm**

**LWVOA Board Meeting**  
@ 25800 Northwestern, Real Estate One Bldg., Southfield

**November 8, 2016**

**General Election - polls open 7 am to 8 pm**

**November 19, 2016**

**Government Finance Study Presentation Meeting**  
Location TBA