



# Oakland Voter

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

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Thank You! ..... 

The graphic is a five-pointed star with a red, white, and blue striped pattern. The word "VOTE" is written in white, bold, capital letters across the center of the star.

2016 – 2017 Issue Five

April, 2017

## Gerrymandering and Redistricting Should Politicians Choose Their Voters?

**April 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**  
@ [Bloomfield Township Public Library](#)  
1099 Lone Pine Road at Telegraph

***“He who controls redistricting can control Congress.” ~ Karl Rove***

When politicians draw voting maps that manipulate elections – maps that keep the politicians and their party in power, it defies representative democracy. The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports an **Independent Redistricting Commission** as a solution to the problem, and a means of putting control back in the hands of the voters where it belongs.

**Please join us for an informational meeting on this important topic, and the League’s plans to address it in the coming year.**

**Guest speakers will be:**

**Judy Karandjeff, President of League of Women Voters of Michigan  
Professor David Dulio, Chairman of Oakland University Political Science Dept.**





## Legislative Interview Volunteers Needed:

We are beginning our Legislative interviews. League members will contact their legislators to ascertain their views on topics of interest to the League. This activity is a perfect time for a new member to team up with an old member. LWVMI has provided 6 priority and 7 optional questions to ask of State Senators and Representatives. View a link to the questions by clicking [here](#).

Meeting places can be the legislator's office, a library, or coffee shop. One member will ask the questions while the other takes notes. The information we obtain will only be used by LWV when we contact legislators about proposed legislation. It is not provided to anyone else.

Oakland Area has 5 State Senators and 14 State Reps.  
Senate Districts 11,12, 13\*, 14\*\* & 15  
House Districts 26, 27, 29, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41\*, 43, 44, 45, 46 & 51\*\*.

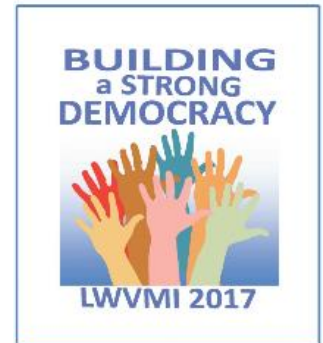
Responses need to be submitted to LWVMI by June 1, 2017.

\*Shared with Troy League  
\*\*Shared with Flint League

Please contact Jerry Burden [jburden41@ameritech.net](mailto:jburden41@ameritech.net) or call the office if you are available to participate in this interesting project. 248-594-6602

## “Building A Strong Democracy”

Call to Convention LWVMI  
May 19 – 21, 2017



The League of Women Voters of Michigan 2017 Convention will be held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. This year's Keynote speaker at Saturday's Awards Banquet will be Zoe Clark, Program Director for Michigan Radio. Ms. Clark is also the co-host of *It's Just Politics*, a weekly look at politics in Michigan.

LWVOA is allowed 8 voting delegates, and we currently have at least 3 open spaces still available. League will pay the registration fee of \$180 which includes 3 plenary meetings, choice of workshops, Friday welcome reception, all 3 Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast. Delegates are responsible for their own hotel rooms. The rate for a double occupancy room at the Kellogg Center will be \$112 per night plus taxes. To get the League rate, reservations must be made by April 19, 2017. Contact Jerry Burden at [jburden41@ameritech.net](mailto:jburden41@ameritech.net)

Delegates will:

- Adopt the 2017 - 2019 state program, including any state studies
- Adopt the LWVMI budgets for the next two years, including the per-member-payment
- Elect LWVMI Officers and members of the Board of Directors
- Consider Amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws

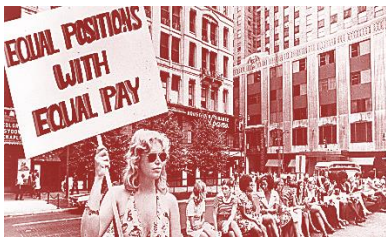
Non-voting members may purchase Saturday only tickets for \$50 (including meetings, lunch and workshops) and \$35 for the Saturday evening banquet.

For more information go to [LWVMI.org](http://LWVMI.org) to see detailed schedule and registration packet.

## Equal Pay Day:

The League of Women Voters is a co-sponsor of a demonstration taking place on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 from 12:30-1:30 at the State Capital Steps in Lansing.

Join us in Lansing on the 25th to hear from advocates of pay equity. A workshop will be held prior to the events on the Capital steps. Go to [www.miequalpay.blog](http://www.miequalpay.blog) for more information.



## New Members:

The next New Member Meet and Greet will be on Monday, April 10, in Beverly Hills at the home of Tera Moon.

If you wish to attend and have not yet received an invitation please contact Jerry Burden:  
[jburden41@ameritech.com](mailto:jburden41@ameritech.com)  
or Tera Moon:  
[tlcmoon@gmail.com](mailto:tlcmoon@gmail.com)

## League of Women Voters Oakland Area Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 24, 2017**

Plum Hollow Golf Club  
21631 Lahser Rd, Southfield 48033

Registration 10 am, Business meeting 10:30 am  
Luncheon 12 pm, Speaker at 1:00 pm



### Topic: The State of Public Education in Michigan



*Casandra Ulbrich, Ph.D. (D-Rochester Hills) was elected in 2006 to an eight-year term on the Michigan State Board of Education, and re-elected in 2014. She currently serves as the Co-President of the Board.*

*Casandra has spent the majority of her career in higher education administration. She currently serves as the Vice President for College Advancement and Community Relations at Macomb Community College, responsible for overseeing the college's Marketing and Communications; Public Relations; Foundation; and Cultural Affairs.*

*Before joining Macomb Community College in 2011, Casandra was employed at Wayne State University for over ten years, serving in various administrative positions, including Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Previously, Casandra served as a Press Secretary to former U.S. House Democratic Whip David Bonior, acting as the official spokesperson for the Congressman.*

*Casandra is the immediate Past President of the Women Officials Network, an organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in elective and appointive office regardless of party affiliation; serves on the board of Healthy Neighborhoods Detroit; and is an active volunteer K-9 handler with Search and Rescue of Michigan.*

The LWVOA Nominating Committee is in the process of selecting nominees for open board positions. The Annual Meeting Mailer will be sent to all members no later than May 24 and will include a registration form with menu options, recommendation to retain local program positions, no Bylaw changes, a budget for next fiscal year, and board nominees to be elected.

The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to treat a friend to lunch, and support the League at the same time. If you have a friend or neighbor who has expressed an interest in League activities, bring them along!

## The Redistricting Majority Project (REDMAP)

The word Gerrymander was used for the first time in the *Boston Gazette* on March 26, 1812 in reaction to a redrawing of Massachusetts state senate election districts under Governor Elbridge Gerry. Two hundred years later, this happened...

The following are excerpts from [The 2012 REDMAP Summary Report](#):

### 2010 State Elections: REDMAP's Execution

*As the 2010 Census approached, the RSLC (Republican State Leadership Committee) began planning for the subsequent election cycle, formulating a strategy to keep or win Republican control of state legislatures with the largest impact on congressional redistricting as a result of reapportionment. That effort, the REDistricting MAjority Project (REDMAP), focused critical resources on legislative chambers in states projected to gain or lose congressional seats in 2011 based on Census data.*

*The rationale was straightforward: Controlling the redistricting process in these states would have the greatest impact on determining how both state legislative and congressional district boundaries would be drawn. Drawing new district lines in states with the most redistricting activity presented the opportunity to solidify conservative policymaking at the state level and maintain a Republican stronghold in the U.S. House of Representatives for the next decade.*

### 2012 Congressional Elections: REDMAP's Impact Michigan

*The effectiveness of REDMAP is perhaps most clear in the state of Michigan. In 2010, the RSLC put \$1 million into state legislative races, contributing to a GOP pick-up of 20 seats in the House and Republican majorities in both the House and Senate. Republican Rick Snyder won the gubernatorial race, and with it Republicans gained control of redrawing Michigan's 148 legislative and 14 congressional districts. The 2012 election was a huge success for Democrats at the statewide level in Michigan: voters elected a Democratic U.S. Senator by more than 20 points and reelected President Obama by almost 10 points. But Republicans at the state level maintained majorities in both chambers of the legislature and voters elected a 9-5 Republican majority to represent them in Congress.*

Project REDMAP was a calculated endeavor taken by the Republican Party, however Democrats are not excluded from using Gerrymandered districts to their advantage. The need for an **Independent Redistricting Commission** has never been more important.

<p><b>Salon Cardon</b> <b>Rita Trebble</b> 32352 Woodward Avenue Royal Oak, MI 48073 248.629.7522</p>	 <p><b>Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce</b> Rochester • Rochester Hills Oakland Township</p>	<p>Generous contributors like you.</p> 
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 <p><b>MEA</b> Michigan Education Association www.mea.org</p> <p>Rochester Education Association 200 East Silverbell Lake Orion, MI 48360 Ofc: 248-874-1832 Fax: 248-377-0520 Email: dhill@mea.org</p>		



**League of Women Voters® Oakland Area**  
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A Voice for Citizens,  
A Voice for Change

## Time Dated Material Enclosed

### Calendar of Events

**Mon., April 10**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**New Member Meet and Greet (See pg. 4)**  
@ Home of Tera Moon (rsvp to [tlcmoon@gmail.com](mailto:tlcmoon@gmail.com))

**Tues., April 18, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Gerrymandering and Redistricting (See pg. 1)**  
@ Bloomfield Twp. Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd.  
Speakers: LWVMI President Judy Karandjeff, Prof. David Dulio

**Tues., April 25**

**Equal Pay Day Event (See pg. 4)**

**Thurs., May 4, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

**Fri – Sun**  
**May 19 – 21, 2017**

**LWVMI State Convention (See pg. 3)**  
@ The Kellogg Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI  
To register for convention and reserve hotel room by 4/19,  
go to [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org)

**Sat., June 24, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**LWVOA Annual Meeting (See pg. 4)**  
Plum Hollow Country Club, 21631 Lahser, Southfield