

THE VOTER

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Candidate Forums

All events begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Mt Pleasant City Hall Commission Chambers

Thursday, October 13th

We welcome Candidates for the 99th House District seat, Mr Bryan Mielke and Mr Roger Hauck. Following them will be the candidates for Mount Pleasant City Commission, Ms Kathy Ling, Mr Tony Kulick, and Mr Will Joseph.

Thursday, October 20th

This forum will provide voters a chance to listen to the candidates for County Clerk, Ms Chelsea Plevinski and Ms Mindè Lux. Following them will be the slate of candidates for each of the County Commission districts.

Attendees will have an opportunity to submit questions for the candidates.

President's Message



Dear Leaguers,
Happy Fall!

It is with great excitement that I anticipate the fall lineup of League Meetings. We kicked off the fall with Mr Craig Mauer, Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network. It was a fitting capstone to our earlier research into Money and Politics. We are again hosting Candidate Forums on October 13 and 20 (see sidebar at left).

We've held many Voter Registration events, at Mount Pleasant High School last spring, at CMU on August 31 and September 14, at Mid Michigan Community College on September 27, and at the Mount Pleasant Fall Festival on October 8th. Our efforts registered over 150 new voters!

In November, we begin our study on Michigan Finance. We'll study where the money comes from, how it is spent, and all the processes in-between. Please contact Kathy Ling (kling914@gmail.com) if you would like to participate on the study committee.

Finally, our holiday party will be held Wednesday, December 7th at St John's Episcopal Church. Here you will have an opportunity to meet and mingle with your elected representatives.

I look forward to seeing you at all of these events!

Sarah



Welcome New Members!

Nicholas Madaj and
Kayleen Schumacher-
Madaj

Laura Frey

Lesley Hoenig

Claire Bowen

Mindè and Charles Lux

LWVUS Programming

During the convention this June, attendees recognized that there is one overarching issue affecting our members, and thus adopted a unique program, Making Democracy Work. While the League has not abandoned any of its earlier adopted positions, our focus for the next biennium is on Voter Protection, Engagement, Education and Advocacy.

Please see [Our Work](#) for in-depth descriptions on how these areas will impact local League focus, and learn more about the exciting work ahead.

Michigan Campaign Finance Network

by Kathy Primeau

On Tuesday, September 20, a group of us heard an informative presentation by Mr Craig Mauger, Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network. This is particularly timely because Michigan is now ranked 50th in the United States for campaign finance accountability and transparency.

Mr Mauger spoke about the various sources of campaign funds: regulated funds, individual campaign contributions, corporate donations, PACs, as well as the non-regulated funds, or dark money often used by Super PACs. We learned about the role each kind of funding can play in our elections, and how state and federal laws can shield donors from the public eye. He also showed us a variety of political ads and explained how the donors behind the ads used our Michigan law and legal loopholes to hide their identity from voters.

He feels it is important that we pay attention to SB638, currently making its way through the Michigan legislature. This bill goes further than Citizens United in that it allows Super PACs and candidates to share staffing and allows for blatant violations of contribution limits by creating new loopholes. It is quite possible this controversial legislation will come to the floor during the December "lame duck" session.

The Michigan Campaign Finance Network is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. If you would like to know more about, or contribute to the work they do, please visit www.mcfn.org.

A few facts of special interest for you:

- Many Congressmen spend four hours a day fundraising.
- 50 families gave half of all Super PAC monies.
- Individuals can give \$1000 to a candidate; Corporations can give \$10,000.
- In the 2012 Michigan Supreme Court elections, \$13.8 million was spent on undisclosed ads, meaning we have no idea who gave the money
- If a political ad does not say "Vote For..." then the ad can say whatever the person paying for the ad would like it to say.



SAVE the DATE

Fall Calendar of Events and Meetings

Please note our meeting location changes, and each calendar entry will give both time and place.

Thursday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.: **Candidates' Forum**
City Commission Chambers, 320 West Broadway, Mount Pleasant

Thursday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.: **Candidates' Forum**
City Commission Chambers, 320 West Broadway, Mount Pleasant,

See sidebar on page 1 for more information about the Candidate Forums. Also, if you are volunteering, please arrive by 6:15 p.m.

The Forums will be shown live on MAC TV 191 and later repeated. For additional information on the candidates please visit www.Vote411.org.

Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 p.m.: **Words and Wine**
location TBD, Give Us the Ballot through page 206.

November 8: **ELECTION DAY**. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.: General Membership Meeting
First Presbyterian Church Witherspoon Room, 1250 Watson, Mt
Topic: Update on LWVMI position on taxation and budgeting.

Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.: **Words and Wine**
location TBD, Give Us the Ballot completion, and holiday festivity!

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.: **Holiday Party**
St. John's Episcopal Church, 206 West Maple, Mount Pleasant
A time to celebrate our many accomplishments this year, look forward to next year, and meet our elected officials.

SPECIAL EVENT: Friday, .October 21: Adm. David W. Titley, USN (Ret.) speaks on **Climate and National Security**.
CMU Park Library, Auditorium, 1:40-3:15 p.m.
MMCC Mt Pleasant Campus, CLAB Community Room, 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by Mt Pleasant CCL, CMU Political Science, and MMCC.
Contact Marie Koper (mkoper5@gmail.com) for additional information.

10 Reasons to Vote

1. Your vote does count.
2. Democracy only works if we vote.
3. If you don't vote, others decide your future.
4. You cannot change a situation by ignoring it.
5. Voting is power.
6. Elections determine leaders and politics.
7. Without your vote, your voice will not be heard.
8. When you don't vote, special interests take control.
9. If you don't vote, don't complain.
10. People have died for the freedom to vote.

– LWV of the Kalamazoo area

Community Events Are Coming to the Voter!

Future editions of the Voter will include an additional community events calendar featuring events central to our League's mission and programming. If you want your event featured, please contact Lara Raisanen (lara.raisanen@hotmail.com).