

THE VOTER

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Noteworthy

We've Gone Digital!

With this issue of the Voter, Board President Sarah Delia decided the Voter is going totally digital. This means that the Voter will no longer appear in your US Mail postbox, so be sure and check your email! The Voter will come from Lara Raisanen, with the subject "MPALWW Voter".

Should you prefer to receive your copy of the Voter via US Mail, please let a League board member know.

In the future, this will allow the Voter to be published more frequently and with additional content available (see below).

The Voter & The Internet

Beginning with this issue of the Voter, if you receive your copy electronically, items in purple are hyperlinks!

Just click on the text and you will be taken to additional information.

President's Message



Dear Leaguers,

Happy Fall!

There's a lot going on this fall and everyone's support and participation is necessary to make our efforts successful. See calendar for dates and places.

In September, we examine the new LWVUS study, Amending the US Constitution and take consensus.

It's a big year in our municipal election! Seven candidates are running for three seats on the Mount Pleasant City Commission. This is an unprecedented number. A Voter Guide will be published by October 1 on our website and Vote 411. We will hold a candidates forum on October 15, 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers. Mount Pleasant public schools will ask voters to renew operating millage and the City of Mount Pleasant will ask voters to approve a revision to term limits for appointed members of city agencies, boards and commissions. Part of our mission is to inform citizens about candidates so their voting experience is a knowledgeable one.

We're registering voters on CMU campus on September 2 and 22.

We are sponsoring a Town Hall Forum on Redistricting the Michigan Legislature on October 20 and finally we are discussing Money in Politics on December 1 and January 19, 2016.

Sarah



Member Notes

Dear Sarah,

Thank you so very much for remembering my 50+ years' membership and service to LWV. It's always been an important organization to me. Even though I've slowed down in service in recent years, my interest and concern have not.

Many thanks and kudos to you for helping to keep us going. Bless you.

As I mentioned at the annual meeting, LWV's participation in voter service is of utmost importance and we must continue to provide it.

By the way, the coffee mug design is for left-handers. Hurray! I love it.

With affection,

Marilyn

Welcome New Members!

Sandy Thompson

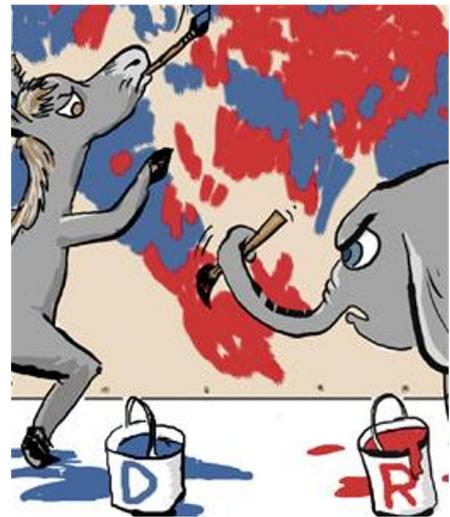
Caroline Ross

Redistricting

With the recent revival of the **Redistricting** issue in the United States, which you have been reading and hearing about, the League of Women Voters in Michigan has stepped forward to present a series of informational Town Hall Meetings around our state. There is a tremendous flurry of interest among all the Leagues and other groups to sign up. Ten well-informed speakers are available.

In Michigan, as in many states, voting districts are determined by the political party in majority power after each decennial census. Gerrymandering voting districts has been happening for a very long time. The party redraws districts to favor its candidates.

However, there are other ways to determine district boundaries, and several states are using those methods. The town hall meeting will discuss these various methods for creating political districts and what the processes would look like in the state of Michigan.



Introducing... *Words and Wine*

Over the summer, member Lara Raisanen spoke with other Leagues around the country about their book clubs. September 17, she kicked off the MPALWV's community book club, dubbed **Words and Wine** by member Susan Horgan.

Invitations are sent to all League members and interested local residents via [Paperless Post](#). Stay tuned for your October invite! If you are not interested in book club at all, let Lara know (lara.raisanen@hotmail.com). She will remove you from the invitation list.

Thank You to Kristin Moutsatson, owner of [The Bookshelf](#), for supporting our new club. Kristin is ordering and shelving our book selections - make sure you let her know you want your copy!

SAVE the DATE

Fall Calendar of Events and Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at the Rosewood Community Room, 1515 E Gaylord, Mount Pleasant.

Directions to Rosewood Community Room:

Travel **East** on High Street; crossing Mission Street. At the four-way stop sign, turn **Right** onto Crapo Street. Turn **Left** at the first street onto Gaylord. At the **second street**, turn left. The community room is straight ahead. Parking is limited; carpool if you can!

IMPORTANT: MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES HAVE CHANGED!
Meetings are the **3rd Tuesday of each month** unless otherwise indicated.

Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m.: Amending the Constitution

See the Presidents' message for links to LWVUS webpage, the study information and the consensus questions.

Monday, October 5: Voter registration ends for November election

Thursday, October 8, 10:30 a.m.: Board Meeting*, Cil Lorand's home

*League members are welcome to attend any board meeting.

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.: Candidates' Forum

City Commission Chambers, 320 West Broadway, Mount Pleasant
7 candidates are running for 3 seats in the city commission race.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.: Town Hall Meeting, Redistricting of the Michigan Legislature (see article on page 2 for more information)

Veterans Memorial Library Annex, 301 S. University, Mount Pleasant

Tuesday, November 3: ELECTION DAY. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.: Holiday Party and Money in Politics

LWVUS created a 47 page publication entitled [Money in Politics: Developing a common understanding of the issues](#) for Leaguers to learn more about this subject. In addition, their website has great deal of [information on the topic](#). This discussion is part 1 of a 2 part series.

Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.: Money in Politics, part 2

Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.: LWVUS Program Planning
preparation for the June 2016 Convention.

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

