

# THE VOTER

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## The Voter is Changing!

Beginning with the next issue, The Voter will become an e-newsletter.

### What this means:

From now on, you can see The Voter directly in your email viewing screen - no more attachments! It will also be more accessible to those using iPads or tablet computers.

### What will happen:

First, you will receive an email asking you to subscribe to the MailChimp list. You will click (or tap) the accept button, and from there you will get a brief note confirming your subscription. Then you'll receive your Voter email!

### Why this is great:

This will allow more frequent editions of the Voter, with more ways in which we can act to protect our Democracy!

## President's Message



Dear Leaguers,

Happy New Year!

This past fall was certainly busy for our League! Our Voter Service included publication of our local voter guide, available on Vote411, distribution of the State Voter Guide, two candidate forums, registration of over 100 new voters, and observing the voting process at the polls on November 8th.

We did not host our annual holiday party this year.

Before our January meeting, we are hosting a meet-and-greet for new members and those interested in learning more about our League and what we do. Spread the word; invite your friends!

As we look ahead to the new year, in January we will take consensus on an update to the LWVMI position on Taxation and Budgeting in Michigan. This prepares us to act on the State of Michigan's budget. In February, we will review the LWVMI positions and suggest a new study and/or updates of existing positions. In March, we'll view the film One Woman, One Vote. In April, we will discuss the November election with the local clerks. May brings us to our Annual Meeting.

See the calendar for dates, times, and places.

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

Sarah



## Welcome New Members!

Diyonn Fahlman

Pam Lewandos

Gail Mitchell

### How to Take Action:

As mentioned in previous Voter issues, LWVUS has one overarching theme for this biennium - Making Democracy Work. (More information about [Our Work](#))

There will be times when LWVUS, LWVMI, and LWVMPA send out calls for action. Then, we cheerfully don our League buttons, pins, and t-shirts to stand strong, protecting our Democracy.

On other occasions, there will be just as urgent need for citizen action, but those issues fall outside of League's platform. It is then we spread the word, and take action ... as citizens, as individuals, but not as Leaguers.

In the Voter, your Board will make it clear when an action is League sponsored, or when it is information that you may choose to act upon in your capacity as citizen.

## What, exactly, is League? ...

*... and why do we need to know?*

The League of Women Voters is a national, political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in their government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**The League is non-partisan and as an organization does not endorse or oppose candidates or political parties.**

In a time of increased hyper-partisan rhetoric, the League stands for fairness, reason, and facts. Our work aims to improve the lives of all people, and is inclusive to individuals of all political persuasions. Because we are adamantly non-partisan, our voices rise above partisan stalemates to encourage all who serve in elected capacities to work for each and every American.

**SAVE**  
the **DATE**

### Winter Calendar of Events and Meetings

Please note our meeting location may change,. Each calendar entry will give both time and place.

Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.: *About League* meet and greet and at 7:00 p.m., Taxation and Budgeting in MI consensus programming [Veterans' Memorial Library Annex](#), 301 S. University, Mount Pleasant

Tuesday, February 7, 6:15 p.m.: *Words and Wine* screens [Inequality for All](#) [The Coffee Room](#), 110 East Broadway, Mount Pleasant

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.: Review of LWVMI positions (in preparation for LWVMI Convention this year) [Veterans' Memorial Library Annex](#), 301 S. University, Mount Pleasant

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.: Screening [One Woman, One Vote](#) [Veterans' Memorial Library Annex](#), 301 S. University, Mount Pleasant

Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.: Election Review with Local Clerks [Veterans' Memorial Library Annex](#), 301 S. University, Mount Pleasant

Tuesday, May 16, 6:00 p.m.: **Annual Meeting** [St John's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall](#), 206 West Maple, Mt Pleasant

## Being Involved With Your League

by Sarah Delia

### *Public Advocacy Voter Protection*

Our League participates in this program every election. Its purpose is to assist election officials in ensuring our election process is working well. In our community, observers monitored what happened in election precincts, reported back to the LWV with results, and shared the information with local election officials. After a training session, 16 individuals observed the voting process on November 8th. On the whole, the process went well. Election inspectors were friendly and prepared to answer voters' questions - for example, giving directions to the proper precinct when the voter had come to the wrong place. The only real problem was that observers were seated in the public area, which meant they often could not hear conversation at the intake table. This led to much frustration.

A huge thank you to Mary Jo Andera, Joan Basher-Swartz, Betty Clason, Sarah Delia, Ruth Helwig, Ann and Hud Keenan, Pam and Glenn Lewandos, Cil Lorand, Gail Mitchell, Kathy Primeau, Jeanne Reese, Allan R. Riggs, and Connie Richardson.

### *Volunteering*

For members new and old, I remind everyone we are an all-volunteer organization. The more volunteers we have, the more we can do and the greater the impact we have. This includes actions to contact - by phone, email, or letter - your representatives, both state and national. There are two ways to become more involved: you can wait for the phone to ring to be asked, or you can contact a board member to tell us what you're interested in doing. You can reach me at 989.772.1902 or sadelia4@frontier.com. Feel free to contact me any time!

### *Finances*

Some members may wish to support the work of the League via financial support. This is also much needed and appreciated. In addition, every two years we write to members of our community and ask them to support the work of our League. This fall, we sent 44 letters and received 21 responses, raising \$1080, a 48% return rate.

If you see any of these folks, please take a moment to thank them for their generous support of our League. Jim & Marilyn Bidwell, John Dinse, Margaret Hicks, Joan Kadler, Cynthia Kilmer, Dee Kohrman, Erna Marquardt, Gail Mitchell, Gisela Moffit, Dixie L. Neier, Jack & Cora Neyer, Louise Plachta, Jeanne Reese, George & Fran Rouman, Barb Shepherdigan, Doris Sherwood, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Staples, Sharon Stevenson, Sandy Warriner, Marilyn Zorn

### Citizen Action:

**As President Barack Obama gave his farewell speech on Tuesday, 10 January, 2017, he encouraged America to remember the hope and change infused into his campaign. He also pointed out that the most important job in a Democracy is CITIZEN. We as citizens and Leaguers, must heed the League's call to Make Democracy Work for all Americans. As our League grows, we will take action, fulfilling that most important job of citizen.**

### Send your Community Events to the Voter!

With the transition to an e-news format, the Voter will be published more frequently. This allows more community events to be highlighted. As groups in our community, state, and nation work diligently to protect the founding principles of League, we as Leaguers and individuals can stand with them to increase the impact of direct action, effecting greater change.

Events related to the programs and mission of LWV will be included. Please contact [Lara Raisanen](#) with details of your event for publication.

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## Words and Wine

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Our book club, [Words and Wine](#), is branching out into community action. In February, the group will screen Robert Reich's documentary, [Inequality for All](#) in preparation for their upcoming economic study. Held at The Coffee Room, this event is open to the public. [Watch the Trailer!](#) and join us for this important film, delicious coffee, and insightful conversation. The Coffee Room will be extending its hours, providing hot and cold beverages, and food.

Also in February the group will hold a day-long conference discussing [Give Us the Ballot](#), Ari Berman's seminal work on the current status of the Voting Rights Act, in tandem with Henry Louis Gates's stirring mini-series, [Black History Since MLK: And Still I Rise](#). With the League's programmatic focus on Making Democracy Work, the deep impact reading Berman's book had on book club members, and the flurry of Election and Voting related bills flying between committees and dancing on the legislature floor last month, Words and Wine believes that now is the time to have a discussion about *concrete* ways in which our community can protect the right to vote for everyone in Mount Pleasant. You can learn more [about the movie](#) and [the book](#) in preparation for the conference. Stay tuned for more information!

Words and Wine always welcomes newcomers. Feel free to contact [Lara Raisanen](#), club organizer, if you are interested in joining, or even reading along at home.

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### *The Women's March on Washington*

*paraphrased from Chris Carson, LWVUS President*

The LWVUS Board of Directors, in a special meeting, unanimously decided the League should officially participate in the Women's March on Washington, held January 21, 2017.

For League members planning to travel to Washington, this means LWVUS will coordinate a meeting location in DC, with plans for Leaguers to march as one unit with signs, shirts, buttons and banners. LWVUS will send more information to those interested in marching in Washington, DC.

It is up to State Leagues to confer with local march organizers to make the decision to participate. Your State League will send more information about that decision.

**"We are excited to participate in this historic day, which will bring Americans together in the spirit of democracy."**

### *Other Ways to Be Active:*

#### *In League...*

##### **LWVMI Action Alerts:**

Your state league sends action alerts when legislation affecting a League position is active in the legislature. Contact your representative and make your voice heard. [This is an official, League-sanctioned action.](#)

##### **LWVMI Advocacy Committee:**

The committee welcomes information about legislation on which the League may wish to act.

#### *As a Citizen...*

##### **Local Activist Groups:**

Stay tuned to upcoming editions of the Voter for a community calendar of exciting ways to act!

##### **Rogan's List:**

A retired librarian puts together a daily action alert list. (Click the link to see her blog.)