



July 2018

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## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR JULY

Sue Smith, President



### President's Message for July

Friends,

I am looking forward to being your President this coming year. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to work with you on the League's mission, "Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy".

Registering high school seniors and educating voters through **VOTE411.org** and Candidate Forums are all part of the important work we have been and will continue to do in this election year. Posters from the very successful student Poster Contest will be used as part of our **Get Out The Vote** effort.

Many of you helped gather over 4,000 signatures for the Voting Rights Ballot Proposal that will make voting more convenient and accessible for all Michigan voters. This fall, we will continue to educate voters on this ballot proposal and the **Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission** ballot proposal initiated by Voters Not Politicians.

I appreciate everyone's commitment to the important work that lies ahead.

Please remind your friends and neighbors to vote in the **August 7, Primary Election**.

Sue

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## The August 7, 2018 primary is coming!



### **Why are the 2018 elections important?**

Because almost all state and federal positions will be decided. We will be choosing ALL of Michigan's congressional Representatives, one of Michigan's Senators, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, ALL 38 seats in the Michigan Senate, ALL 110 seats in the Michigan House, two Michigan Supreme Court justices, and many county, city and township positions. Plus there may be a few proposals to decide.

### **Why is the August 7 primary so important?**

In many local districts there will be no opposing candidate from the other party, so you are effectively choosing the winner now. In the 2016 presidential primary election Washtenaw county turnout was 17.73%. In the 2014 mid-term election turnout was even lower at 16.53%. That means one voter decided the outcome for five people (really a little more, but can't have part of a person). If you don't vote, you are silencing your voice and letting some other person decide for you. You may not agree with that person - why let him/her cast your vote?

### **What To Do About The Low Turnout?**

We all, every one of us, can talk to our neighbors and friends about the importance of voting. Tell the checkout clerk at the grocery to be sure to vote, ask your neighbor if she needs a ride to the polls on election day. Alexis de Toqueville said "In a democracy, the people get the government they deserve." Let's take care of ours.

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### Listen in!

For our ninth bi-weekly interview, 89.1 WEMU's Lisa Barry was joined by League member Paige Nong to talk about raising awareness and participation in the upcoming primary election on August 7th. This year, the state has hotly contested primaries for the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor because incumbent Governor Snyder is term-limited. In several congressional districts, there are also contested primaries. There are also contested races at the county and municipal levels, as well as millage proposals for specific communities.

You can listen to this and previous podcasts at [WEMU](http://WEMU) .

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### VOTE411

[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. This innovative voter resource provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information. Register to vote, find candidate information, and much more at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).



### **Why it matters**

Election rules differ state by state, and sometimes change from year to year. Using [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), voters can confirm their polling location, check if ID is required, and see what their personal ballot will look like. Confirming this information before heading to the polls saves voters time and helps voters make more informed decisions.

### **What we're doing**

We have long been a trusted source of objective and nonpartisan election information. Since 2006, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) has served tens of millions of voters. By entering one's home address on [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), voters can see ballot questions they will be voting on, compare candidate responses to League questions and much more!

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## Our Youngest Voters!



### **The final tally is in!**

This spring our team led by LWV volunteer Roddy Ware, registered a total of 1125 new, high school voters! Individuals from the county clerk's office accompanied the teams so that these new voters will be eligible to vote either here at home or via absentee ballots if they are away at college. Thank you all for the dedication and drive that will help these young voters begin a lifetime of civic engagement!

## Registering more voters!

In June, Trudy Hughes, Jeff Bieszki, and Dee Dishon staffed a table at Sounds and Sights on Thursday nights in Chelsea. Trudy reports that, "The highlight of the evening for me was a visit by 102 year old **Sunny Morse**. Sunny is a lifetime member of the League of Women Voters and was celebrated by the LWV for her engagement for over 70 years in 2017. She was delighted to see our table of information outside The Garden Mill. In addition, one person from the Silver Maples Community reached out to arrange a group of registration volunteers attend an event she wants to plan at Silver Maples."



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**Poster Contest Winner!**

## High School Poster Contest Winners Announced

Students, teachers, and members of LWV-AAA celebrated the winners of its first-ever "Get Out the Vote 2018" poster contest for all students grades 9-12 in Washtenaw County.

Winners were announced at a ceremony Saturday, June 23, at the Ann Arbor Public Library's Pittsfield Branch.

Jack Weddell of Ann Arbor's Pioneer High School took first place, with his colorful, creative poster with the message, "Your Vote, Your Voice. Don't be Silenced."

Weddell's work, a 12" x 18" acrylic painting on canvas, earned the top \$500 prize and the honor of having his winning poster printed and distributed throughout Washtenaw County as the November 6 election approaches, including display in more than 100 AATA buses.

Second-place winner Morgan Knox, also from Pioneer, received \$250 for her efforts. "As a democracy, we have all types of people," Knox said. "I wanted to put them in my poster to represent what America is." The third-place poster (\$100) was created by Saline High School student Anna LeChard. Seven of the 104 students who submitted posters were awarded honorable mentions and a \$50 prize. You can read the press release and see images of all the winners [HERE](#). View [all entries HERE](#). CTN was filming at the awards ceremony; their video can be seen [HERE](#).

"The objective of the poster contest is to educate students about the value of voting and voter education as part of good citizenship," said League of Women Voters member and contest organizer Nan Elder. "We wanted to encourage students to use their creativity to persuade others to vote, and we are thrilled with the results. We received 104 entries from eight schools."

The League's poster contest team was Nancy Elder, Jim Schulz, Chris Samida, Linda Peck, Kathie Weinmann, and Frances Lyman. "My friends had no idea what they were getting into when they agreed to join the team," said Elder, "but neither did I! It took months of organizing and effort to make this happen, but the results were worth it."





## Fourth of July Parade!

Members and friends of our local League chapter braved the heat to share our message during the annual Jaycees' Fourth of July Parade. We hope you caught the vintage suffragist costumes as well as the daring cyclists!



## Have you ever considered being an election inspector?

The Washtenaw County Clerk/Register is looking for people to work the polls on election day this August and November. Want to know more? Click [“HERE”](#) for details about the job, and if you’re interested, send an email to [elections@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:elections@ewashtenaw.org) or 734-222-6730.

## Candidate Forums are Here!

The campaign season is upon us, with the primaries being held in August and the general election in November. The League has traditionally held Candidate Forums for a variety of offices and this year is no exception. Forums for Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti contests in

the August primary election have been completed and links to videos can be found on the [League website](#).

In October there will be another series of forums for the November General Election. Donna Crudder is spearheading the effort and would like to invite anyone interested in helping out to contact her via [email](#), or text or phone at (734) 663-5754.

The jobs are varied:

Pre forum we will gather to create substantive questions for the candidates to answer--a kind of 'kitchen cabinet' to identify, review and capture those issues that will most affect our voters in the coming years

At the event itself, we will need greeters for candidates and viewers as they get comfortable with the venue and set up, timers to see that we adhere to a strict timed structure of questions and answers, a moderator (or 2) who welcome the audience and candidates formally to a League sponsored event and someone who will ask the questions and keep track of the sequence of candidate participation.

The venues are varied: some that are focused on the Ann Arbor precincts will be held at the CTN studios while others will be in other cities and towns often with live audiences, like Ypsilanti.

We will cover city, county, state and even national races and will need a cohort of League members to help us have a successful and informative season.

Donna looks forward to hearing from all of you interested in seeing us fulfill our mission, once again, to keep the public informed and knowledgeable regarding candidates and issues facing them in 2018.



## UPCOMING CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**Monday, July 9,  
2018**

**Your County,  
City or Township  
Clerk's office**

**Last Day to register to vote in the August 7  
Primary Election.**

**Monday, July 9,  
2018  
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.**

**CTN Television  
Channel 19**

**Candidate Forums.** 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. County  
Commissioners Districts 2 and 9  
8:30 - 9:30 p.m. State Senator District 18  
Following the forum, view on YouTube at  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnannarbor>



**Thursday, July  
12, 2018  
6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Old Hartland  
High School/nov  
Education  
Services Center  
9525 Highland  
Rd., Howell, MI**

Brighton-Howell: Mid-term Primary Candidate Forum. Candidate forum for the upcoming 2018 Midterm August Primary Election sponsored by:

Voters Voice  
The League of Women Voters of Brighton/Howell  
Brighton Chamber of Commerce  
Hartland Chamber of Commerce  
Howell Chamber of Commerce  
The Livingston Post + Maria Stuart

All invited for elected offices with Primaries:  
8th Congressional District Republican Primary  
8th Congressional District Democrat Primary  
22nd District State Senate Republican Primary

**Wednesday, July  
18, 2018  
7:30 p.m.**

**Pointless  
Brewery &  
Theater  
3014 Packard Rd  
Ann Arbor**

**Voter Registration Work.**

This is a special opportunity to talk about voter registration in our community! We will have a short panel discussion with the coordinators of our voter registration work about what we have done so far and the lessons we have learned. We will then open the discussion to the group, hear about volunteer experiences and collaborate on the work we will do in the near future. We will use our successes and challenges together to plan our approach between now and the general election in November. This evening will be a chance for us to work together and support each other.

**Thursday, July  
19, 2018-Sunday,  
July 22, 2018**

**Non-Profit  
Section**

LWV-AAA  
Booth at the  
Art Fair.



**Downtown Ann Arbor**

Click [HERE](#) to sign up and help represent the League during the Fair!

**Tuesday, August 7, 2018**

**Your Polling Place**



**PRIMARY ELECTION.**

Go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to see what will be on your ballot and see candidate responses to questions posed by the League.

Also, check the HOME page of this website for a listing of videos of League candidate forums and links to MLive articles reporting on some of these forums.



**Tuesday, August 7, 2018  
4:00 p.m.**

**Bank of Ann Arbor  
801 W. Ellsworth  
Ann Arbor**

**Board of Directors meeting.**

**Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

**Your County, City or Township  
Clerk's office**

**Last day to register to vote in the November 6 General Election.**

**Tuesday, November 6, 2018**  
**Your Polling place**

**GENERAL ELECTION.** Congressional, state and local races and ballot proposals.

Washtenaw County residents can check what will be on the ballot by going to



[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk\\_register/elections](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections) About a month before the election, the League website VOTE411.org will go live with candidate information and responses to League questions.

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## News on Line 5



Updates on Line 5,

**with note to the Michigan economy, Michigan politics, and talk of a tunnel.**

About 23 million gallons of oil a day arrives in Michigan from Canada through Enbridge's Line 5. It travels 645 miles through Michigan and returns to Canada for export. In addition to the environmental risks to over [700 miles of shoreline](#), there are economic risks. In fact, a new study said that if 10% of the daily flow spilled, about 2.5 million gallons, [Michigan could experience a blow of \\$6 billion or more](#). This could happen in less than 3 hours. While Enbridge says that they have improved their systems, as a point of reference, note that [it took Enbridge 17 hours to shut off the oil](#) in the spill that resulted in [35 mile closure of the Kalamazoo River for 2 years](#).

Also, you may have heard talk of a tunnel to solve all the problems posed by Line 5's current poor condition. [Many question if a tunnel is even necessary](#) since the vast majority of oil traveling through Line 5 returns to Canada. However, even if a tunnel were built, it would take years to complete - and all of the arguments about why we shouldn't allow oil through the Straits of Mackinac remain because ten times the flow of Niagra falls occurs daily there (and reverses direction every few days). It is still [the worst place in the Great Lakes for oil to travel](#). [Click here](#) to see a one page summary with amazing graphics to *show* you why. A physical test of this model was conducted and shown to be accurate.

However, there is an opportunity to eliminate the risk Line 5 poses completely. The League of Women Voters supports total decommissioning of Line 5. This could be done by revoking the easement that allows the failing, 65 year old pipeline to operate which either the Governor Snyder or Attorney General Bill Schuette could do with one signature. Since it is an election year, hopefully they are listening more than ever, so please call them to ask that they, "Stop the risk to our Great Lakes water and economy by shutting down Line 5 completely (no tunnel)". The Governor can be reached at (517) 373-3400 and the Attorney General at (517) 373-1110. They get weekly summaries as to why people are calling, so please make your voice heard.

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### **WHY I JOINED THE LWV! Susan Woodard**

My first experience with the League of Women Voters was way back in 1978. I was a young stay-at-home mother raising three kids and badly in need of adult interaction, especially since my husband's job was demanding and he wasn't around much. I felt cut off from the world and woefully uninformed. I was also concerned with raising my children to be responsible, citizens who would be engaged in their world and exercise their right to form and express their own opinions. All these years later, I can no longer remember how I came to discover the LWV, but it gave me an opportunity to not only get out of the house and meet new people, but also I found it to be an invaluable way of learning about issues and getting involved on a deeper level than if I'd simply sat at home gleaning what I could from the television or newspaper. I forged friendships, I served on committees, and most importantly I felt that I, personally, was making a difference in my world in some small way by being involved in the League. I've moved a lot. I've lived overseas. Wherever I have lived in the U.S., I always joined the local League. I've taken hiatuses, but I've always come back and I've never been let down.

Prior to the last election I'd laid low, busy with grandchildren, other interests, and a demanding job, and hadn't been a member for several years. The day after Election Day, 2016, I felt the need to get involved



once again. The League has changed a lot through the years, but the bottom line is that for me it's been a lifelong relationship that has always kept me well-informed and given me the opportunity to reap the satisfaction of being involved in our Democracy.

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## HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS TO THE LWV-AAA FACEBOOK PAGE

Did you know that we have an active Facebook page? Check it out by going to [www.lwvannarbor.org](http://www.lwvannarbor.org) website and clicking on the FB icon on the home page. It's neat and growing better every day. BUT, now that there are so many LWV-AAA activities, our editor Alina Dunlap can't attend them all. She needs some help from members and friends who are at these events and can snap a picture or two. Send your pictures (.jpg or .png) and write up a brief description (date, place, what's happening, who is in picture if possible). Send your submissions to [Facebook@lwvannarbor.org](mailto:Facebook@lwvannarbor.org) It's that easy to share the news about LWV in action.



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## LWVAAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

### OFFICERS

President: Sue Smith  
Vice President: Joan Sampieri  
Treasurer: Betty Bishop  
Secretary: Sue Smereck

### DIRECTORS

Barbara Billings, Program  
Sally Allen, Member at Large  
Donna Crudder, Voter Service  
Barbara Brown, Membership  
Carolyn Madden, Advocacy  
Susan Wooley, Communications  
Jan Salsberry, Representative, Tecumseh Area  
Ellen Lafferty, Representative, Brighton/Howell Area

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dee Dishon  
Gwynne Fisher

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## Not a member? Wish to join?

Click here to join [using Paypal](#)

[mail-in registration form.](#)

[www.lwvannarbor.org](http://www.lwvannarbor.org)

### Mission Statement

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



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area | P.O.Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

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