



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

P.O. Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832



October 2016

Message from the President

By the time you receive this newsletter, the deadline for voter registration will have passed and the election will be less than a month away. So what have we learned from this election so far?

- **Primetime presidential debate moderators should use timers and stop signs...**like the League does!!!
- **High school students are smart and capable!** Watch the debate team from Greenhills debate the merits of the AA Ballot Proposal to change terms from two to four years for the mayor and council members. See them in action at: <https://a2ctn.viebit.com/#CWFoAqyUsrva>
- **Vote411.org is an excellent source for non-partisan voter information.**
- **The candidate forums on CTN are worth watching.**



One more thing, read the article below on poll watching and click on the link to volunteer if you can help document conditions at a polling place.

VOTE on Tuesday, November 8th!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

All activities are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, October 26th

Poll Watcher Training

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Turner Senior Resource Center

2401 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Tuesday, November 8th

GENERAL ELECTION

POLL WATCHING

VOTE

Friday, November 18th

Lunch and Learn: Book Discussion

The End of White Christian America, by Robert P. Jones

Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse

411 Cedars Lane, Dexter, MI 48130

See article below for details.

Wednesday, December 7th

Community Conversation: Restoring Faith in Michigan's Government

Facilitated by the Center for Michigan & co-sponsored by the Ypsilanti District Library

7:00 p.m.

Ypsilanti District Library

5577 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Tuesday, December 13th

December Dinner

Join us for a casual evening with good food and friends.

6:00 p.m.

Knight's Restaurant

2324 Dexter Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Thursday, January 26th

"Taxes: is the State Legislature playing fair with local Governments?"

7:00 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown Branch

343 South Fifth, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Saturday, February 4th

Taxation and Budgeting: League Study MEMBERS ONLY

10:00 a.m.

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 49103

Watch for more information in January.

Tuesday, May 16th

Annual Membership Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

*Candidate forums scheduled for [CTN Television Studios](#) can accommodate only a small studio audience, but the forums can be viewed afterward on demand at <http://a2ctn.viebit.com>

[Click here for last minute developments.](#)

Get Involved!

Poll Watchers Document Voting Access

On November 8th, LWVMI will field a corps of poll watchers across the state, including in Ann Arbor. LWV Ann Arbor currently has volunteers to watch two polls, but we need your help to cover more!

What is the role of poll watchers?

Poll watchers are trained to observe, document and report what happens at the polls. This includes documenting poll accessibility, turning away of voters, problems with voter ID and wait times, and other issues that arise.



(Photo credit: Ann Arbor Votes)

How does LWV use information collected by poll watchers?

LWV shares reports with the City and County Clerks' Offices and the Michigan Election Coalition, a coalition of nonpartisan, non-profit organizations working to increase citizen engagement with democracy. Members of the coalition include the ACLU, Common Cause, ACCESS, Planned Parenthood, Michigan Muslim Community Council, Michigan Campaign Finance Network and more.

Does Ann Arbor need to worry about problems at polling places?

We can't predict where voters may encounter challenges in casting their ballots, but we know that challenges - from lengthy lines to failure of electronic voting machines - are not uncommon and can influence who is able to vote and who enters elected office.

Objectively documenting problems is therefore critical, particularly during a time when many states are tussling over voter ID and other laws that can limit voter access. In Michigan, documentation of voting challenges can also be key in expanding eligibility for absentee voting.

Help ensure fair elections by becoming a poll watcher!

Training will be held on **Wednesday, October 26th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** at [Turner Senior Resource Center](#). On Election Day, watchers will work in two-hour shifts (7-9 a.m., 4-6 p.m., 6-8 p.m) with those working the last shift staying until the final voter casts his/her ballot. If you would like to volunteer, but cannot attend the training, let us know and other arrangements can be made!

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

Engaging a Younger Generation
Greenhills Students Debate Prop 1

On September 27th, LWV and CTN hosted Greenhills School debate team members, Harry Bagenstos and Mubarak Hassan, to debate Ann Arbor ballot Proposal 1, which would extend both the mayor's and city council members' terms from two to four years. In favor of Prop 1, Hassan argued that timing local elections with state and national elections promotes higher voter turnout and prevents a "vibrant minority" (which is often white and non-minority) from having outside influence in elections occurring in odd-numbered years. In opposition, Bagenstos argued that deliberation is more important than high voter turnout, especially if many of the voters will be uninformed about local candidates and issues, which is more likely in years when local issues are overshadowed by state and national ones. CTN will periodically air the debate through November 8th. It can also be viewed online [here](#) .



From Left: Nancy Schewe, Mubarak Hassan, Jeanine DeLay, Harry Bagenstos, John Chamberlain (moderator)

The End of White Christian America

Robert P. Jones
CEO, Public Religion Research Institute

Join us for a Lunch & Learn Book Discussion

Friday, November 18th

Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Cedars of Dexter
411 Cedars Lane
Dexter, MI 48130

Soups, sandwiches, and salads are available at the Cedars for \$5 - \$10. Please bring cash.

The End of White Christian America **Robert P. Jones**

"The founder and CEO of Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and columnist for *The Atlantic* describes how white Protestant Christians have declined in influence and power since the 1990s and explores the effect this has had on America,"--NoveList.

"A combination of demographic change and the abandonment of churches by younger generations may be bringing this era to an end, creating theological challenges for churches and political and cultural challenges for the nation."--KIRKUS REVIEW

Whether you support Jones' hypothesis or not, join us as we explore the ideas in this thought-provoking book.

Sunny Morse at 100

**"Get involved. Get knowledgeable. Get active.
Join the League!"**

Sunny Morse was born on May 12, 1916 and women got the right to vote on August 18, 1920. Sunny was just four years old, but this young girl grew into a feisty woman who took full advantage of all the opportunities that opened to her that day and worked diligently throughout her life to make our democracy meaningful to all.

While still busy raising young children, Sunny joined the League in her early thirties and immediately found herself on the board as membership chair. Not long thereafter, she got involved with the League's effort to collect signatures for the petition drive calling for the 1961-1962 Constitutional Convention (Con Con).

"We were so naive. We had no idea what we were getting ourselves into, " recalls Sunny.



Sunny Morse, with her daughter
Suzy Morse (left) and
Nancy Schewe (right)

However, it turned out to be a worthwhile effort.



Sunny (left) dressed as a clown to collect signatures for the 1961 Con Con Campaign.

The resulting Michigan Constitutional Convention mandated equal rights protections for blacks, established the first Civil Rights Commission in the nation, created an auditor general post with stronger oversight powers and streamlined state government departments. Work to be proud of.

Another project that brings a smile to Sunny's face was her work helping Huron High School students register to vote. "I can still see the kids sitting at their desks filling out the registration forms. They were so proud" recalls Sunny. There is little doubt that her efforts made a difference in the lives of more than a few of those students.

Suzy Morse, Sunny's daughter, recalls, "We used to go to vote with our parents. You knew that something very important was going on in there. It was at the school, so it had to be important."

On the League of Women Voters: "The League educates its members. If we were studying a topic, say education, I would take a class at the University to learn about the it. When I was a juvenile court observer for the League, I attended Law classes."

When asked what she thought about a woman being on the ballot for President of the United States, she said, "It's about time."

Sunny served on the board of the League of Women Voters of Michigan for more than six years, attending meetings and traveling all across the state to help set up new Leagues. At the present time, she is an honorary member of our League. As a League, we are fortunate to have her as a member. As individuals, we are inspired.

Here's to Sunny!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH VOTER REGISTRATION

jacqueline antonovich, zoe behnke, anne brown, marina brown, roxane chan, kathy edgren, linda goldberg, sharon guyton, haley heaton, beth hay, arleen huff, kristina johnson, ann kraft, fran lyman, kathy macdonald, jean mackee, lineve mckie, maria mora, mary morgan, peggy mouzon, parvenu ramaswami, cindi spencer, nancy schewe, joan sempieri, cheryl valentine

And a special thanks to **The Potting Shed** at 112 W. Middle St., Chelsea, MI for lending us their tent to use at farmers' markets. Stop by to thank them and maybe pick up a little something for your garden.

The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

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To leave a message for the board, go to:

lwv.ann.arbor.area@gmail.com

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Not a member? Wish to join?

Click here to join [using Paypal](#) or click here for a [mail-in registration form](#).

[Visit Our Facebook Page](#)

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.



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