



Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

Visit us at [www.lwvannarbor.org](http://www.lwvannarbor.org)

**LWV is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.**



## The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

September 2015

2015/2016 Officers and  
Directors

Nancy Schewe, President  
Miriam Borenstein, Vice President  
Harvey Somers, Secretary  
Judy Mich, Treasurer  
Betty Bishop, Ed. Fund Treas.  
Pat Zagorski, Program Director  
Zoe Behnke, Member Engagement  
Shirley Axon, Nat. Resources

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### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 22nd**  
**National Voter Registration Day**  
**League members register voters**  
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Ann Arbor District Library  
343 South Fifth  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

## Memo from the President



2015/2016 is going to be a busy year for the League at all levels-- local, state, and national.

Locally the League has raised the issue of reform for our AA city elections. Our primary concern is that city officials are essentially elected in the August primary when voter turnout is extremely low. While the AA city council voted against making any immediate changes, the concern about has been raised and will likely be on our radar for the foreseeable future. See the article below on election reform.

At the state level, there is a major effort underway to educate the public about the way we currently draw legislative districts in Michigan. The article below "Redistricting in Michigan" explains a little about that effort. Mark your calendars and be present at the October 29th town hall meeting at the library. Redistricting is a very important issue.

And nationally, LWVUS is working diligently to defend the Voting Rights Act, among many, many other things. What could be more important than that?

**Tuesday, September 29th**  
**Fall Membership Meet and Greet**

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Hathaway's Hideaway  
310 S. Ashley  
Ann Arbor, 48104

**Tuesday, October 6th**  
**City Council Ward 2 Candidate Forum**

7:00  
CTN  
2805 S. Industrial  
Ann Arbor, 48104

**Thursday, October 29th**  
**Town Hall Meeting**  
**Redistricting in Michigan: Should politicians choose their voters?**

7:00 p.m.  
Ann Arbor District Library  
343 South Fifth  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**Tuesday, November 3rd**  
**ELECTION DAY**

**Tuesday, December 8th**  
**December Potluck**

6:00 p.m.  
Shirley Axon's House  
2016 Seneca Ave.  
Ann Arbor, 48104

**Saturday, January 30th**  
**Program Planning Meeting**

Time and location: TBD

**Tuesday, May 24th**  
**Annual Membership Meeting**

7:00 p.m.  
Location: TBD

**Board Meetings**

4th Tuesday of the month  
4:00 p.m.  
Bank of Ann Arbor  
801 W. Ellsworth Rd.

Mark your calendars for our opening meeting on Tuesday, September 29th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Hathaway's Hideaway. The work of the League is important and your presence at our gatherings makes a difference.

Looking forward to a great year.  
Nancy Schewe



**National Voter  
Registration  
Day  
September  
22nd**

**We need YOU to help register voters.**

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#)

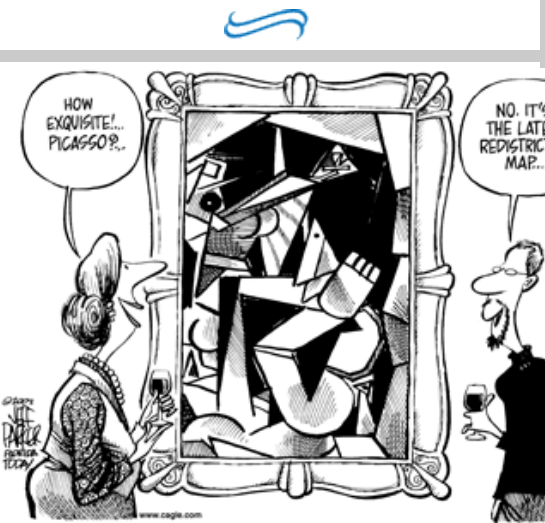
Two hour shifts  
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Ann Arbor District Library  
343 South Fifth Ave.

Leave a message of what time you would be available and we will get back to you with more instructions OR call Nancy Schewe at 663-2027.

**FREE ONSITE PARKING IS AVAILABLE.**



Ann Arbor



September  
29th  
Meet &  
Greet

5:30 - 7:00  
Hathaway's Hideaway  
310 S. Ashley

Parking is available in the Kline's lot directly across the street as well as on the street.

## You are in League with...

Barbara Adams  
Cyrene Aksman  
Sally Allen  
Rosemary Austgen  
Shirley Axon  
Virginia Bachman  
Mary Banks  
Susan Baskettt  
Laura Bien  
Elizabeth Bishop  
Miriam Borenstein  
Laura Brodtkin  
Marina Brown  
Nancy Brucken  
Mary Burney  
Richard Burney  
Barbara Carr  
Margaret Carter  
John Chamberlin  
Barbara Clarke  
Wendy Cooper  
Ellie Davidson  
Jeanine DeLay  
Fran Dew  
Cheryl Farmer  
Lindsay Garinger  
Barbara Hall  
Craig Harvey  
Mary Hathaway  
Paula Hathaway

**See you at our fall opening gathering** where you can greet old friends, find out about League activities and sign up to participate.

Three speakers will be on hand to introduce us to opportunities for involvement.

- Judy Karandjeff, President of LWVMI, will update us on efforts for state redistricting reform.
- Carolyn Madden, LWVMI Advocacy Committee member, will update us on League advocacy efforts in Lansing.
- Mary Morgan, Executive Director of the CivCity Initiative, will introduce her exciting new effort "to inform, educate, and engage Ann Arborites of all ages about local government and civic affairs."

See you there!!



**"Redistricting in Michigan:  
Should Politicians Choose  
Their Voters?"**

Will Hathaway  
Lucia Heinold  
Margaret Hiss  
Roland Hiss  
Judy Judd  
Richard Kato  
Jean Kluge  
Mariana Kopacz  
Pat Kuessner  
Frances Lyman  
Marcia MacMullan  
Carolyn Madden  
Edith Maynard  
Norma Mau  
Marie McGonagle  
Lineve McKie  
Judith Mich  
Benjamin Miller  
Olga Moir  
Joan Overmire  
Frances Parker  
Courtney Piotrowski  
Barbara Robinson  
Nancy Schewe  
Stephen Schewe  
Molly Shanks  
Nancy Sitterley  
Chip Smith  
Susan Smith  
Harvey Somers  
Janya Somers  
Ann Staiger  
Gloria Stapp  
Ellen Teller  
Bette Thompson  
Mona Walz  
Rebekah Warren  
Robert Whitman  
Angela Williams  
Charles Williams  
Russell Woinowsk  
Galen Woods  
Susan Wooley  
John Zagorski  
Pat Zagorski

7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 29th  
Ann Arbor District Library  
343 South Fifth, Ann Arbor

The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area will host an educational Town Hall on redistricting on October 29th at the downtown Ann Arbor District Library at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will explore how legislative lines are drawn in Michigan, who draws them and why it is a critically important question for those concerned about fair representation. The speaker is Susan Smith, VP of Program Planning for the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

In Michigan, the district lines are drawn by elected officials in the legislature, effectively allowing politicians to choose their voters and giving the political party in power at the time a tremendous advantage. What are the ramifications of partisan drawn districts that favor one party over another? Is there a better and fairer way to do this? What are the alternatives?

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision on Arizona's Independent Restricting Commission said there is an alternative and that citizens, not just politicians, have the right to decide how Congressional district lines are drawn. The decision has grabbed the public's attention. Some have asked if Michigan, like Arizona, should use an independent commission to draw the lines, not only for the Congressional Districts, but for the State House and Senate, as well. This alternative and others will be presented at the Town Hall.

This fall, the League of Women Voters of Michigan will host 30 community based, redistricting education programs across the state of Michigan. All Town Halls are open to the public. Everyone is invited and welcome.

This event is co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library



## Ann Arbor Election Reform

**Below is an edited version of the remarks presented at an AA City Council work session on July 6th by Miriam Borenstein, LWVAAA Vice President and Nancy Schewe, LWVAAA President, laying out our concerns about Ann Arbor city elections. League Treasurer Judy Mich followed up with similar points two weeks later at a city council meeting. On July 20th, City Council voted against making any changes, but the topic will come up again and the League will be present to express our concerns.**

### Comments to AA City Council

The League of Women Voters applauds city council for giving serious thought and discussion to reforming the current method for electing our city officials.

Our current mayor won the August 2014 primary with a total of 7073 votes. There were 99,531 residents registered to vote in that election. Only 16.7% chose to vote and in effect made the decision as to who would be our mayor. There was no major party challenger to the winner of the primary.

City council members won primary races with 1100 - 3000 votes in that same election. All of these winners went on to essentially uncontested races in the general election.

What does the League look for in elections and what are our concerns about AA elections?

- Each and every vote matters. Making our voices heard through voting is an essential part of the democratic process. With our current partisan system, where the only election that matters is the party primary election, the votes in the multi-party general election don't really matter.
- We believe that broad-based participation in elections is essential to healthy government. If citizens across the community, representing a wide spectrum of ages, interest groups, political views, geographic distribution, and economic situations, participate in elections, the results will provide us with elected officials who represent that diversity and will work to serve the entire community. The way things stand now in Ann Arbor it is a small group of dedicated voters who are not on vacation and are paying attention to local politics who vote in the primaries. The broadest popular representation at the polls is in November. However, the decision has likely already been made in an essentially one-party city by those who voted in the partisan primary.
- We want strong candidates and good choices in every election, not just in the primary. Because of the current lack of balance between the two major parties in our city, there are often no real contests in November. Serious candidates won't put themselves forward if they are sure to lose. That brings out less likely candidates who are certainly entitled to run but who have been known to make a mockery or charade out of "politics" and the office

## Please Join Us

If you have not yet joined the League but would like to do so, please ["Click Here for Membership Form"](#)

We would love to have you join us.

Member dues are currently

\$70 for an individual

\$100 for a household, two or more members at the same address.

\$20 for a student

in the public eye.

- We want strong voter turnout. If there are strong candidates on the ballot and a real contest, voters will be motivated to show up and vote. A high voter turnout makes candidates and elected officials more responsive to the citizenry. There is evidence that the frequency of elections has a strongly negative influence on turnout. (See link below.) Voters are willing to "gear up" for an election only so often. November is when those numbers are the highest due to other contests-local, state, federal-as well as ballot and millage proposals.

Thank you for taking the time this evening to consider this important issue.

**Note: The turnout for the August 4, 2015 City Primary Election was 10.46%. That election essentially decided the winners of four out of five city council wards.**



Candidate information available beginning October 1st.

#### Quick Links

[League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area](#)

[The League of Women Voters of Michigan](#)

[VOTE411](#)

## Wylecia Wiggs Harris to Lead League of Women Voters as Executive Director

09/01/2015 | by Kelly Ceballos |

Tags:

[LWVUS](#), [#WVat95](#), [League of Women Voters staff](#), [League of Women Voters leadership](#)



**Dr. Harris Brings Extensive Executive Experience from American Nurses Association, American Heart Association Washington, D.C.** - The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) announced today that Wylecia Wiggs Harris has been named as its new executive director. Dr. Harris brings to the League many years of seasoned leadership experience, a passion for organizational development and a commitment to excellence. As executive director, Dr. Harris will be building on strategies and relationships that advance some of the most foundational political principles of our nation.

Dr. Harris comes to the League after 11 years at the American Nurses Association Enterprise serving as chief operating officer for the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the American Nurses Foundation (ANF), and previously as chief of staff/special projects officer for the ANA. Among her most significant achievements at the ANA were the transformation of the association's Race for Relevance, the launch of the Leadership Institute and the reorganization of the American Nurses Foundation. With more than 25 years of diverse association experience, Dr. Harris brings strong relationship management skills and a proven track record in successfully building and establishing organizations by providing leadership and vision for staff, volunteers and members.

"I am thrilled that Wylecia will be bringing her talents and leadership acumen to the League of Women Voters," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. "Her considerable skills in guiding organizations and setting a strategic vision and roadmap for the future will be incredible assets to the League. Wylecia comes to the League at this exciting and important time as we celebrate 95 years and look toward our 2020 centennial. I am confident that with Wylecia at the helm, we will reach new heights."

"This position with the League of Women Voters means a great deal to me. It provides me with an opportunity to devote my leadership experiences to an organization whose mission closely aligns with my personal convictions. The League's efforts to engage all voters has always been professionally inspiring to my work," said Dr. Harris.

Dr. Harris's many executive achievements include serving as the executive director for both the Center for American Nurses and Sister to Sister - Everyone Has a Heart Foundation, a national organization supporting women's health issues and heart disease education. She also served for 17 years with the American Heart Association in positions at the local, regional and national levels. In these roles, Dr. Harris used technology, communication and innovative approaches as the backbone for building or rebuilding

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successful educational and outreach programs.

Dr. Harris is an active member of many professional organizations and boards, including the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the advisory committee of Capella University's School of Public Health. Dr. Harris has authored columns for national publications, including *American Nurse Today*, *ASAE Journal* and *The Nonprofit Quarterly*.

Dr. Harris holds a PhD in organizational development from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota; a master of management degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

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