



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

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



JANUARY 2016

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Saturday, January 30th

The League Takes on Money in Politics (Program Planning meeting)

10:00 a.m. till noon

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of AA

4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd.

Ann Arbor

See article in this issue with link to study materials.

Sunday, January 31st

Big Money Dominates Michigan Politics

7:00 p.m.

Pittsfield Township Administration Building

6201 W. Michigan Ave.

Ann Arbor, 48108

Wednesday, March 2nd

Women's Economic Security, a public forum

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Eastern Michigan University

Ypsilanti, 48197

Tuesday, March 8th

Primary Elections VOTE

At your local precinct.

Tuesday, May 3rd

Election Day

Local proposals TBA

Tuesday, May 24th

Annual Membership Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

Thursday, July 21st - Sunday, July 24th

LWV Booth at Ann Arbor Art Fairs

4th Tuesday of the month

Board Meetings

4:00 p.m.

Bank of Ann Arbor

801 W. Ellsworth Rd.

Ann Arbor

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



MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'd say LWVAAA had a great year in 2015, beginning with our two public information sessions on the May 5th State Ballot Proposal (aka the road tax proposal), moving through the summer Ann Arbor election reform efforts and ending with last fall's four educational forums on Redistricting in Michigan. And all of that in a quiet election year.

2016 promises to be much busier with a presidential election in store and who knows what proposals on the ballot. So hang on to your hat, mark your calendar, and get ready to play a role in the many League activities

ahead.

Happy 2016. Let's the games begin.

In League,
Nancy Schewe

MONEY IN POLITICS: A LEAGUE STUDY



Program Planning Consensus Meeting Reminder

Saturday, January 30th

10:00 a.m. till noon

First UU Church of AA

4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.

This is a three-part study covering the following topics:

1. Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns.
2. First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns.
3. Methods for Regulating campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process.

[Link to MIP Study Materials](#)



VOTE!

in the March 8th Primary

You will be voting on the
Presidential candidates

as well as:

Washtenaw County Proposal 1

Pittsfield Charter Township Proposal 1

Clinton Community Schools Proposal 1

[Click here for the wording of the proposals.](#)

INFORMATION ON CONSTITUENT MEETINGS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

We surveyed our LWV-AAA members last summer and found that meeting with our elected officials is seen as a priority for many members. We could ask our officials to meet with us, but let's begin by seeing how many LWV-

AAA members are available to attend coffee hours already being arranged by the officials themselves.



We have asked our elected officials to send us information on their constituent meeting schedules for 2016. Our area's four Michigan House Representatives have responded; all schedule their coffees on Saturday mornings; see details below. We will continue to include the schedules for these constituent meetings in upcoming issues of the LWV-AAA newsletter so you know when these opportunities arise.

Gretchen Driskell, Michigan House of Representatives, 52nd District

Rep. Driskell's 52nd House District covers the northern and western suburban Washtenaw County areas outside Ann Arbor. See the schedule below for dates and locations of coffees.

Jeff Irwin, Michigan House of Representatives, 53rd District

Rep. Irwin's 53rd House District covers much of central-east Washtenaw County on either bank of the Huron River, comprising of almost the entirety of the City of Ann Arbor, except for the northeastern part (between North Campus and Ann Arbor Township).

Unless there is a conflict, Rep. Irwin's coffee hours are always the 4th Saturday of the month from 10-12 at Espresso Royale in downtown Ann Arbor (214 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104).

David Rutledge, Michigan House of Representatives, 54th District

Rep. Rutledge's 54th House District covers the eastern portion of Washtenaw County, and includes Superior Township and Ypsilanti Township, as well as the City of Ypsilanti.

Adam Zemke, Michigan House of Representatives, 55th District

Rep. Zemke's 55th House District includes the northern part of the city of Ann Arbor, a portion of the city of Milan, and the townships of Ann Arbor, Augusta, Pittsfield and York.

Rep. Zemke always has coffee hours the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10 am. The 2nd Saturdays are always at Brewed Awakenings in Saline (7025 E. Michigan Ave), and the 4th Saturdays alternate between The Espresso Bar in Ann Arbor (204 S. Fourth Ave, above Literati) and The Morning Owl in Milan (9 W. Main Street). A link to Representative Zemke's coffee hour calendar is available at 055.housedems.com.

Below are the specific dates and locations we have so far received for 2016.

- 01/09 10:00 Rep. Zemke Brewed Awakenings, 7025 East Michigan Ave., Saline
- 01/23 10:00 Rep. Zemke The Morning Owl, 9 West Main Street, Milan
- 01/23 10-12 Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor
- 01/30 10:00 Rep. Rutledge Cultivate Coffee and Tap House, 307 North River Street, Ypsilanti (Depot Town)
- 02/13 10:00 Rep. Zemke Brewed Awakenings, 7025 East Michigan Ave., Saline
- 02/20 9:00 Rep. Driskell Dexter Bakery, 8101 Main St., Dexter
- 02/27 10:00 Rep. Zemke The Espresso Bar, 204 South Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor (above Literati)
- 02/27 10-12 Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor
- 03/26 10-12 Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor
- 04/16 9:00 Rep. Driskell Plaid Melon, 312 North Main St., Chelsea
- 04/23 10-12 Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor
- 05/28 10-12 Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor

THE MICHIGAN PARTNERS PROJECT (MPP)

Public Forum

March 2nd, 5:00 p.m.

Eastern Michigan University

On March 2nd, LWVAAA and Eastern Michigan University will be co-sponsoring a speaker from MPP on the campus of EMU. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about the economic well-being of low-income women of color in Michigan and of efforts around the state to improve their lot.

In 2013, the Ford Foundation generously provided \$380,000 to the Center for the Education of Women to develop and implement The Michigan Partners Project. This three-year project is a collaboration involving faculty and researchers from all three U-M campuses, as well as from other Michigan colleges, along with representatives of nonprofit organizations, advocates, and low-income women themselves. The primary role of CEW is that of convener of a joint effort by these partners to 1) identify policy and system barriers and supports to increasing the economic mobility of Michigan's low-income women of color, 2) to share what is learned, and 3) to sustain and support positive outcomes for the long term.

In order to accomplish the goals of the project, CEW brought a wide range of stakeholders together during the first year to develop the ongoing network and determine the agenda for the next two years. In conjunction with the project, and as part of CEW's 50th anniversary, the Center hosted a May 2014 conference on economic security and mobility for women. This conference, funded as a "Michigan Meeting" by the Rackham Graduate School, included not only partners in the Michigan Partners Project but other state and national experts who contributed to the discussion.

Because the urban centers of Detroit and Flint include high percentages of single women heading households, women of color, and women in poverty, the Michigan Partners Project is focusing its attention primarily on those two areas. The MPP grant also supports graduate student research on policy topics of relevance to our coalition partners. MPP has convened organizations and individuals concerned about women's economic security and identified four key areas for collaborative effort. Coalition members work to increase access to:

- Earned paid sick days
- College education
- Affordable, quality child care
- Safety net programs for which women and families are eligible

Between now and the end of this grant-funded initiative in June 2016, MPP will focus on publicizing these key issues through it's MPP Spokeswomen Project. It will also conduct an assessment of advocacy training needs in Michigan organizations that work on these issues and sponsor training opportunities based on expressed need.

The importance of MPP to our state cannot be overemphasized. The challenges that Michigan women and their families face when trying to become self-sufficient are as multifaceted as they are difficult. For example, almost 10% of Michigan women are unemployed and many more are underemployed. Although women in general are well-represented in Michigan's institutions of higher education, low-income women struggle to complete their degrees due to work and family obligations. The Michigan economy was among the hardest hit in the recession of recent years; our aim is to ensure that low-income women can participate in and benefit from the current recovery.

Watch your email for more details about the exact location of the event.

REDISTRICTING IN MICHIGAN UPDATE

Members,

I am sharing the letter that I received from the President and Vice President of LWVMI on the results of last fall's redistricting forums.

Nancy

LWV Local Presidents:

Sue and I want to thank you for all of your work to help educate Michigan citizens about redistricting. We are still assembling our reports, but we reached over 2400 people and have about 500 sign up sheets, and a few more speeches are scheduled.

The organizations that have been working on the education plan have agreed that we should not try to put a proposal on the 2016 ballot. Polling has demonstrated there is not enough public understanding about redistricting and why it matters.

While this is disappointing, it is also another opportunity for the LWV and other organizations to continue to educate on the issue and raise public awareness. We plan to continue our efforts and as soon as we know more from the work we are doing with our coalition partners, we will share that information with you.

Again, thank you for your work and support. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Judy Karandjeff
President

Sue Smith
Program Vice President

BOARD NOMINATIONS



Tis the season

It is not just the season for Oscar Nominations...it is the season for League 2016 Board and Committee Nominations!

Please send a FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION note to nominating committee members: Jeanine DeLay, Nancy Brucken, or Lineve McKie if you are interested in joining this year's League Board or one of our standing committees.

We look forward to hearing from you.



BORN TO SERVE

I think I was born to be a League member. My father served on a Planning Commission before I was 10 and I still remember details he shared with us at the dinner table.

Through the League I've learned what goes on at City Hall, the County Commission meetings, and how the Legislature works. It's a way to become an informed and effective citizen. I consider LWV to be my first graduate school. It's a place to practice civility! Where else might one discuss serious issues with others with differing points of view and then go out to lunch together?

My first 20 years as a League member were in Washington State. I'm delighted to be 'back' as a member of LWV-now in Ann Arbor.

Fran Dew

Membership Renewals

Have you renewed your membership for 2016?

If not, [click here to renew](#) 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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OUR EMAILS**



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EMAIL**

