



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

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



September 2016

Message from the President

This is it. The election season is here. What can you do?

- Encourage folks to register to vote by **October 11th**
- Encourage those who qualify to apply for an absentee ballot
- Encourage voters to go to VOTE411.org for non-partisan voter information
- Encourage folks to attend a candidate forum or watch one on CTN. See calendar below
- Encourage your friends, neighbors, and family to



**VOTE on
Tuesday, November 8th!**

- Take a friend to vote!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

All activities are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Friday, September 2

Voter Registration

Brookhaven Manor
401 West Oakbrook Drive, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103

Saturday, September 10th

Voter Registration

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Chelsea Farmers' Market
222 S. Main St.
Chelsea, MI 48118

Monday, September 12

Fall Meet & Greet

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

Voter Registration Training

7:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Hathaway's Hideaway

Tuesday, September 13

Voter Registration

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Ypsilanti Farmers' Market
16 S. Washington St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Wednesday, September 21

Candidate Forum

Co-sponsored by Chelsea Retirement Center

U.S. House District 7

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Chelsea Retirement Community
805 West Middle Street
Chelsea, MI 48118

Saturday, September 24

Voter Registration

7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor Farmers' Market
315 Detroit St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tuesday, September 27

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Voter Registration

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library
343 South Fifth
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Candidate Forums

7:00 - 7:45 p.m. **Ann Arbor School Board (Group 1)**
8:00 - 8:45 p.m. **Ann Arbor School Board (Group 2)**
9:00 - 9:30 p.m. **Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 5**
9:30 - 10:15 p.m. **Ann Arbor Proposal A** (Change to 4 yr. terms)
*CTN Television Studios, 2805 S. Industrial, AA, 48104

Wednesday, September 28

Informational Meeting: Regional Transit Authority of SE Michgian Proposal

7:00 p.m.
Ypsilanti Freighthouse
100 Market Place
Ypsilanti, MI 48108

Thursday, September 29

Participatory Budgeting Program

Co-sponsored by A2Ethics and CivCity
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown
343 South Fifth Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tuesday, October 4

Candidate Forums

7:00 - 9:15 **Washtenaw Community College Trustees**
9:30 - 10:00 **Washtenaw County Commissioner, District 2**
*CTN Television Studios, 2805 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor, 48104

Wednesday, October 5

Voter Registration

Co-sponsored by the Ypsilanti District Library
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Candidate Forum

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. **State House Rep, District 54**
Both events at Ypsilanti District Library
5577 Whittaker Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Monday, October 10

Candidate Forums

7:00 - 7:45 p.m. **Ann Arbor District Library Board (Group 1)**
8:00 - 8:45 p.m. **Ann Arbor District Library Board (Group 2)**
9:00 - 9:45 p.m. **Washtenaw County Sheriff**
10:00 - 10:30 p.m. **Washtenaw County Commission, District 9**
*CTN Television Studios, 2805 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tuesday, October 11

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER ELECTION

Candidate Forums

7:00 - 7:45 p.m. **State House Rep, District 52**

8:00 - 8:45 p.m. **State House Rep, District 53**

9:00 - 9:30 p.m. **State House Rep, District 54**

9:45 - 10:15 p.m. **Washtenaw County Prosecutor**

*CTN Television Studios, 2805 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Thursday, October 11

Candidate Forum

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. **U.S. House District 12**

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main St

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

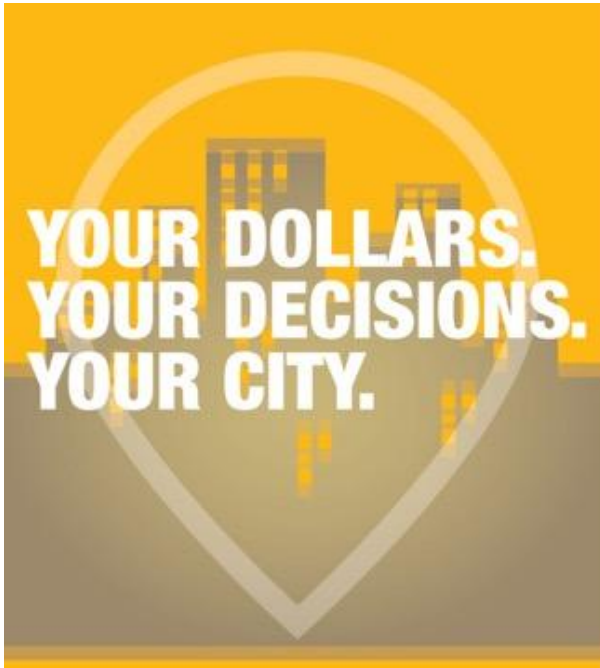
Tuesday, November 8th

GENERAL ELECTION

VOTE

*Candidate forums scheduled for [CTN Television Studios](http://a2ctn.viebit.com) 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.](#)



**Participatory Budgeting:
Giving City Residents a
Real Voice in City Spending**

A presentation by Jeana Franconi and
Michelle Monsegur, directors of the
PB initiative in Cambridge, Massachusetts

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

7:00-8:30pm

Ann Arbor District Library Downtown, 343 S. 5th Ave.





Spotlight on **Participatory Budgeting**

In an effort to empower Ann Arbor residents with direct involvement in municipal spending, LWV is working with A2Ethics and CivCity to introduce participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting (PB) has been used in over 60 cities in the U.S. and Canada and has the potential to increase citizen engagement and transparency in local government, while allowing residents to better meet their community's needs.

How does PB work?

As described by A2Ethics, through PB, a portion of the city budget is designated annually for expenditures chosen by residents. Residents organize forums to propose, discuss and decide on ideas for capital improvement projects. They then work with city experts and staff to turn these ideas into practical budget proposals which are voted on citywide. At the end of the cycle, the city commits to implement and publicly review the projects after they are completed.

What types of projects are funded through PB?

Budget allocations for PB vary across participating cities, from as little as \$100k to \$1mil annually. Likewise, projects funded through PB vary from small to large and have included:

- Infrastructure improvements to schools, libraries, parks and public housing structures
- Laptops for a community learning center
- Brighter street lighting and more public toilets
- Heated bus shelters

- Freezer van for food rescue

What are the benefits of using PB vs. traditional budgeting processes?

Proponents of PB contend that it offers an opportunity for educating residents about and directly engaging them in their local government and budget processes. By giving residents a voice, PB empowers communities to meet needs that can improve their quality of life and can also promote greater transparency and accountability in local government budgeting.

Want to learn more? Join us at the **Intro to Participatory Budgeting Forum** on September 29th @ 7pm at the Ann Arbor District Library. More information at:

<http://a2ethics.org/events/participatory-budgeting>

Sources: A2Ethics <http://a2ethics.org/events/participatory-budgeting>; Participatory Budgeting Project www.participatorybudgeting.org



Are you registered to vote?

If not, go to Vote411.org or the [Michigan Voter Information Center](#). It is easy to register! You can register by mail or register in-person at the City Clerk's Office, Secretary of State Branch Office, the Washtenaw County Clerk's Office, and other designated state agencies. If you're a first-time Michigan voter and do not have a Michigan driver's license or personal ID number, you can register with another form of valid photo ID or a copy of a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement, or a government document which lists your name and Michigan address.

Find your voter registration form [here](#) before the October 11th deadline and make your voice heard!

Upcoming Event: Candidate Forum, Sept 21st **U.S. House District 7**

LWV will be holding a candidate forum on September 21st at 6:30pm at the Chelsea Retirement Community. Candidates will each give a one-minute opening statement, followed by a Q&A session during which audience members may submit questions through a forum moderator, and ending with a two-minute closing statement. For more information on U.S. House District 7 candidates, click on their names below to link to their profiles at Project Vote Smart.

U.S. House District 7

Tim Walberg (incumbent)
Republican

Gretchen Driskell

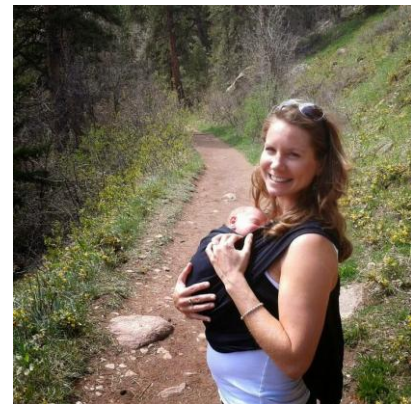
Democrat
Current Office: MI State House - District 52

Kenneth Proctor

Libertarian

Why I joined the League...

This month we welcome new member and new writer for the LWV newsletter, Michelle Wallon. This past June, Michelle relocated to Ann Arbor with her partner, Nick, and two-year old daughter, Isabella from Lusaka, Zambia, where Michelle worked in public health. Although a Michigan native, Michelle had been away from the state for 15 years. "There were several reasons my partner and I decided to return to the U.S., but a primary factor for me was a desire for civic engagement. Although I worked with rural communities in Zambia for more than eight years, it's not the same as being a citizen and having a personal stake in your country and community. It was time to stop watching events in the U.S. 'from the sidelines'. I also wanted to model a strong sense of civic responsibility for my daughter. So, when a good friend on the board of LWV in San Francisco suggested I join the League, it seemed like a great fit."



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

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.

Watch for details in next month's newsletter.

The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

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Not a member? Wish to join?

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

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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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