



# League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area Jackson Unit

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

EMAIL US AT: [LeagueWVJackson@gmail.com](mailto:LeagueWVJackson@gmail.com)

## Calendar March



### 22 Redistricting Town Hall

6:30 pm  
Carnegie Library Auditorium  
Sponsor: Count MI Votes

### Throughout March

Issue Groups meet independently

### 31 League Meeting

2:00pm  
Carnegie Library Auditorium  
Update on Issue Groups  
Guest Speaker from Lifeways

## April

### 5 & 18 Community Conversation

6:00-8:30pm  
A conversation among community members about what is happening and what the future holds for Jackson. If interested, RSVP which day to [youngma@myjdl.com](mailto:youngma@myjdl.com)

### 19 Book Club

2:00 – 3:00pm  
East Side Bigby Coffee

### 21 JXN Community Forum World War I and America's Place in the World

6:30 - 8:30pm  
Continuing impact of Woodrow Wilson's policies

### Throughout April

Issue Groups meet independently; if ready, may present report & any recommendations for action to League.

### 29 Climate March

Washington, DC

## May

### Throughout May

Issue Groups continue to report

### 2 Election Day

19-21 LWV State Convention  
MSU Campus, East Lansing

### 24 Lansing League Annual Meeting

5:30-8:30pm  
Kary Moss, Exec. Director, ACLU,  
Speaker - The U.S. Constitution  
in the Current Environment

## March 31 Friday League Meeting Carnegie Library Auditorium Progress Updates from Issue Groups Speaker from Lifeways Community Mental Health

Five Issue Groups have formed. The topics were broad and each group is narrowing theirs to an area of most interest to the group. Each group will be exploring what the League can do to take action on a number of League Positions including:

- **VOTER RIGHTS AND PROTECTION:** Redistricting
- **PRISON REFORM:** Challenges for Parolees
- **ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION:** Water (to be narrowed)
- **PUBLIC EDUCATION:** to be narrowed
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** County Government Structures; how to contact your elected officials

If we are to make a difference we need to be informed. Come and learn. Become a part of one of the groups if it works for you. If you have a particular passion for an issue not listed and find a couple other members to join you (and the League has a position on it), we will add your concern as an additional Issue Group. That is how Prison Reform was added.

Lifeways Community Mental Health has a new millage request on the May ballot. Karen Cascaddan, Governance Director will speak to us on their challenges. Be an educated voter on May 5.

## Drop in members are welcome at our Book Club

### April 19 2 – 3pm Wednesday



East Side Bigby Coffee has a cozy Conference room in back and bagels and beverage to bring if you so choose. All League members are welcome, whether or not you signed up.

### The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance and the

### Minimum Wage by [Kirstin Downey](#)

Most of us did not finish our March book but love the content so we are continuing it into April. It has so many parallels with today – society changing from agricultural to industrial vs now industrial to service/tech, a huge influx of immigrants, business leaders fiercely fighting against workplace reform. Read about the person behind FDR's many social policies and what life was like before these policies existed!!

## LWVUS 2017 Legislative Priorities



**Campaign for Making Democracy Work** with special emphasis on protecting voting rights

**Watchdog:** Respond strategically on issues – such as Affordable Care Act, climate change and immigration.

## Welcome 2017 New Members

Rosemary Edgar  
Janette Mraz  
George Mohring  
Laura Dwyer Schlecte  
Irene Sonnett

**Remember**— Even if you don't have time for active participation, your membership and donations strengthen our ability to serve our community!



## THIS IS DEMOCRACY

*After the Civil War, women felt betrayed when abolition laws did not give black women (and by extension all women) the right to vote. They felt their efforts were minimalized. The feminist movement in the east became fragmented and ineffective. But the movement stayed strong particularly out west. In 1869 Wyoming gave women the right to vote followed by Utah. The movement was now going west to east. Third parties in the Prairie states welcomed many women while the two established parties in the east no longer had rational grounds for depriving women of the vote. Instead, they pushed ideas like: politics was "modified warfare" unsuitable for women whose holy mission was to shape men's character. 50+ more years of effort after the war before women got the vote nationally.*

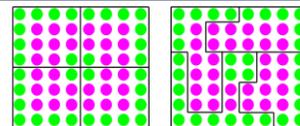
Our Calendar of Events includes several in Lansing. That is because we were formed under the auspices of the Lansing League. Until we become an independent league, we are welcome to all Lansing events. Please note the Executive Director of the ACLU Michigan is speaking May 24 at the Lansing League's Annual Meeting.



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

**Questions:** Email Mary Lee at [LeaguewvJackson@gmail.com](mailto:LeaguewvJackson@gmail.com) or Call 517-782-0964

# REDISTRICTING



## From the President of League of Women Voters of Michigan

*"The League supports an independent commission as a solution to the problems with Michigan's current redistricting process. LWVMI is aware that other groups are thinking about a ballot proposal campaign. At this time, the League has not endorsed a ballot proposal or joined a coalition to do so. The LWVMI Board will evaluate the possibility of joining a ballot campaign based on the proposal and the probability of the campaign's success."*

Judy Karandjeff

The League of Women Voters continues to educate the public on this critical issue. Last month Ms. Karandjeff spoke at a forum in Lansing that drew 600 people. In prior years our forums on this topic generally drew around 40-60 people.

The League's Michigan Education Fund has worked – and continues to work – with a variety of organizations to study the Redistricting issue and reach consensus on redistricting policy. The League hopes to develop a clear policy consensus across a broad and diverse set of interest groups in order to improve the chances for success of a referendum effort.

## Michigan's Secretary of State Ruth Johnson offers recommendations for federal government to strengthen elections system

### 5-point plan seeks to eliminate voter fraud vulnerabilities in states

1. **Make Social Security Administration data available**
2. **Remove those registered in more than one state**
3. **Share noncitizen info**
4. **Create an election crime database**
5. **Require a voting paper trail**

**For more details on her recommendations follow the link below.**

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127--404680--,00.html>

## LWV MI State Convention

This year's Convention at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing promises to be informative, productive and fun. State Convention provides an opportunity to conduct important business of the state League as well as an opportunity to participate in workshops, learn more about the League and what others are doing, make and renew friendships with League members across the state. Each league is apportioned voting delegates based on the league size. However, any league member may attend as a non-voting member.

Delegates will:

- Adopt the 2017 - 2019 state program, including any state studies
- Adopt the LWVMI budgets for the next two years, including the per-member-payment
- Elect LWVMI Officers and members of the Board of Directors
- Consider Amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws, if proposed

Detailed schedule of events, a registration packet and other Convention documents will be sent to all Leagues via future e-mailings and will be available on the website: [lwwmi.org](http://lwwmi.org)

