



# Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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Carole Swinehart, 989-636-7239  
Wilson, 989-631-4152  
President

Harriett Raymond, 989-835-7817  
Membership

Rosemary  
Newsletter

## CALENDAR

March 8: Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset, 7:00 p.m.

**March:15 General Meeting – Wise Growth, Conference Room D, MPS Administration,**

**600 E. Carpenter, Conf. Rm. D. See article below**

April 13: Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset, 7:00 p.m.

**April 24: Energy Expo Extravaganza: Chippewa Nature Center: 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.**

See details, page 3

**May 19: Annual Meeting – Pi's Restaurant; 6:00 p.m. Speaker: Ann Magoun,**

**President, League of Women Voters, Michigan**

Board meetings and *all LWV meetings* are open to Midland LWV members and friends.

### WISE GROWTH TOPIC IN MARCH FEATURES STATE SENATOR STAMAS

Tony Stamas, our State Senator, will speak at the March 15 meeting to be held in Room D of the Midland Public Schools Administration Building at 7:15 p.m. Senator Stamas will give us an update on land use legislation, particularly with regard to the recommendations of the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council which were published last summer.

The Council's report can be found on the web at [www.michiganlanduse.org](http://www.michiganlanduse.org). Chapter 6 dealing with Planning and Development Regulation is probably most relevant to our concerns. Although the report itself is long, the summary gives an excellent overview of the total report. This informal meeting will provide ample opportunity to ask questions, so hopefully we will be able to make the most of our time with Senator Stamas.  
Fran Hamburg

### PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION PROCESS

About a dozen members gathered on a cold Saturday morning in February to talk about a better way to select the U.S. President and whether or not to concur with the LWV national position (wording and other information in January/February National Voter or on the web at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)).

Many thanks to Ann Heard, Cathy Heng, Charlene Linderman and Phyllis Miller who researched and presented information on political parties, primaries, caucuses, the role of the media, technology and the electoral college. At the end of the meeting ballots were filled out and sent to the League's national office. Members who were not at the meeting are urged to complete the ballot in the National Voter and send it in

**RADIO DAYS, our annual fundraiser, is March 22-24 on station  
WMPX. Don't forget to listen and to listen and to patronize our  
sponsors. A list of their names will be published in the April Voter.**

**March Notes from Carole:**

1. This month information from the LWVUS **E-Voice Newsletter** in our local Voter. We do not know how many of you read this document online. Please let me or any board member know if you like the inclusion of national information locally and/or if you would like to have the **E-Voice Newsletter** sent directly to your e-mail address.

2. **Iron Jawed Angels**: This HBO film about women in the suffrage movement is being shown many times in March. Julie Schmidt has made a video tape to be shared with members and friends. Call her for a loan--plan a film party.

3. **March for Women's Lives** April 25, Washington D.C. The LWVUS is one of over 600 organizations sponsoring this march. Midland women can make reservations for charter buses (\$55) leaving Flint Friday, April 23 or Saturday, April 24. The Friday group will stay in a hotel (\$90) Saturday night. Both groups will return to Michigan early Monday morning. For reservations or more details, call Carol Arnosky: 832-8186. To contribute to a scholarship for the trip, contact Mary Currie at 631-3626 or [marcur@chartermi.net](mailto:marcur@chartermi.net).

**NEWS FROM E-VOICE NEWSLETTER**

**Election Data Services Study  
on 2004 voting systems**

Election Data Services has issued a study on the types of voting systems that will be used in 2004 elections. It finds that 32 million voters will cast votes on punch card systems, while 50 million voters will vote on electronic systems and 55 million on optical scan systems. Many jurisdictions are moving to optical scan systems rather than Direct Record Electronic (DRE) systems, due to the controversy over electronic voting security.

**LWV Georgia Position**

Meg Smothers of the LWV of Georgia wrote a recent op ed in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* opposing legislation to require that Direct Record Election voting machines generate a contemporaneous paper replica (CPR) of the electronic ballot. Smothers explains that a paper record is no guarantee that elections will be secure, since paper ballots are "notoriously susceptible to being lost, mangled or manipulated." She emphasized operating procedures as a more effective way of safeguarding electronic voting and that electronic touch screen voting systems promote the goal of full and equal voting, particularly for citizens with disabilities who may vote independently with such systems.

**Michigan Internet Voting**

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, more than 46,000 took advantage of internet voting at the February 7 Democratic caucus. While election officials expected internet voting to be a way of reaching out to young voters, the average age of online voters was 50-60. Internet voting is quite distinct from voting on Direct Record Electronic machines. Internet voting requires a computer and internet connection while DRE voting is done at the polling place using stand-alone units not hooked up to the internet.

**Do Your Part – Check the Box for Democracy**

A majority of taxpayers skip over the first question on their federal tax forms, the one asking you to check the box designating three dollars to the Presidential Election fund. Checking the box allows Americans to own the presidency. Check [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) for the full story.

**LWVUS helping with Global Democracy**

Partnering with the National Council of Women of Kenya, LWVUS has begun work on a training project in **Malawi** to teach election-monitoring for the May 2004 elections there. Proposals for activities in Afghanistan, Kenya, and Chile have been submitted to federal agencies.

## Energy Bill Still Equals Dirty Air

The League's Lobby Corps is lobbying against the "new" energy bill. The Senate leadership is expected to force a final vote on a revised energy bill, without consideration by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The "new" energy bill (S. 2095) undermines existing environmental protections, makes global warming worse, and fails to provide for needed energy conservation measures. See [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) for action possibilities.

## League to Launch "Tu Voto, Tu Voz" (Your Vote, Your Voice)

In partnership with Telemundo, the League has produced two Spanish language public service announcements (PSA) targeting the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Airing in 2004, the PSAs urge the audience to become citizens, register to vote and vote on Election Day.

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## THE GOOD AND VALUE OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The Midland Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice has designated "The Good and Value of Political Participation" as their theme for 2004. The Council's purpose is to increase awareness of peace and justice issues and to encourage actions that will lead to a more peaceful world for the sake of the children. This is the fourth year in a ten-year program. Previous themes were family and individual nonviolence as a way of life, slowing down--a culture of peace, and meaningful work as a source of dignity and nonviolence. A number of League members are assisting with materials on this theme to be published in the Midland Daily News starting in late March.

League of Women Voters  
of the Midland Area

P.O. Box 1203, Midland, MI 48641

The Midland Voter is published nine times a year, not in  
November, July or August.

## LEAGUE TO PARTICIPATE IN APRIL ENERGY EXPO EXTRAVAGANZA

Our April program with the Chippewa Nature Center will be held Saturday, April 24, at the Chippewa Nature Center where we will join the **Environmental Education Alliance of Midland County (EEA)** to support their **Energy Expo Extravaganza**. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a presentation by Dr. Eugene Beckham from Northwood University on "Why is it Important to Conserve Energy?" and conclude at 5:00 p.m.

Our Midland League is responsible for the Community Forum from noon to 1:00 p.m. to be held in the auditorium concerning the "Bottle Bill Expansion" and the "Surcharge on Landfill Use." Ester Seaver, director of Midland Volunteers for Recycling, and Matt Fletcher, Recycling and Compost Coordinator for Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, will be the presenters. More details will be given in the April Voter.

## What is the Environmental Education Alliance of Midland County?

The purpose of the EEA, begun in 1996, is to contribute to positive environmental change for the residents of Midland County through environmental education leadership. It promotes, sponsors and coordinates countywide programs to increase awareness of environmental issues and fosters positive ecological lifestyle choices. It began by developing a community centered "Earthday" celebration. The **Earth Expo** is held every April, the month designated nationally as Earth Month. The members of the board represent the following supporters: Dow Corning Corporation, Dow Chemical Company, Chippewa Nature Center, Midland Volunteers for Recycling, The Midland Daily News, City of Midland, Hall of Ideas, Midland Rotary Club, Little Forks Conservatory, Midland Conservation District, Unitarian Universalist Church, and The League of Women Voters of the Midland Area. The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.