



Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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September 2006

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President

Membership

Newsletter

CALENDAR 2006

- Sept 5 Board Meeting at Connie Lesiewicz's home: 212 Nakoma Dr., 1:00 p.m.
- Sept 21 General Meeting: Stop Over Spending (SOS) proposal, / "Michigan is Ours" Task Force Report, Kay Perry, Grace A. Dow Library Lounge, 7:00 p.m.**
- Oct 3 Board Meeting at Donna DeVinney's home: 14 Dartmoor Place, 1:00 p.m.
- Oct 16 General Meeting: "Affirmative Action Why Do We Need To Preserve It?," Anita Bowden, speaker: Grace A. Dow Library Lounge, 7:00 p.m.**
- Oct Candidate Forum General Election: City Council Chambers, MCTV live, 7:00 p.m.**
- Nov 7 ELECTION DAY: Vote and watch Election Returns Coverage, Live, MCTV**
- Nov 8 Morning After Election Breakfast: Shirlene's Restaurant, 9:00 a.m.**
- Nov 8 Board Meeting at Donna DeVinney's home: 14 Dartmoor Place, 1:00 p.m.
(Note Date Change)
- Nov Local Position Updates: City, County Low Income Housing needs**

Remember LWV meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend.

SPENDING CUTS IMPACT ON STATE SERVICES TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER

Kay Perry, Kalamazoo League member who participated in the "Michigan Is Ours" LWVMI Task Force which examined the impact of the reduction of tax rates and income on essential services, will speak on Thursday, September 21, 7:00 p.m. at Grace A. Dow Library Lounge. If the Stop Over Spending (SOS) proposal that would put rigid spending caps into the Michigan constitution makes the ballot in November (deadline for printing ballots is September 8) Perry will speak about this issue in relation to the findings from the "Michigan Is Ours" project. She is an expert on both. The Task Force focused on essential systems provided

by governments including roads, transportation, community health, and others and found many services suffering from tax cuts.

The League of Women Voters believes that taxes should be 'adequate, equitable and moderately progressive' and is opposed to the SOS proposal. For up-to-date information on which ballots will appear on the November ballot, visit the Michigan Secretary of State's website at:

www.michigan.gov/sos

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: WHY DO WE NEED TO PRESERVE IT?

Anita Bowden, Executive Director of the Bay City YWCA and Co-Chair of the Bay County Coalition working against the affirmative action proposal, will speak on October 16, at the Grace A. Dow library lounge at 7:00 p.m. Bowden will discuss this

proposal which has been dubbed the anti-affirmative action proposal and why so many groups including the League of Women Voters oppose it.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT,

With two very bad (in our view) potential proposals on the November ballot, we will have our work cut out for us this fall. The League is opposing the so-called Michigan Civil Rights Initiative and also the Stop Over Spending (SOS) proposal, so we will devote our first two meetings to learning more about them. On Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grace A. Dow Library Lounge Kay Perry from the Kalamazoo League will talk about the SOS proposal (what overspending?) and the need for basic government services. She headed a Michigan LWV Task Force to find out how local services were being affected by all the budget cuts that seem to be so necessary these days. Do you like good roads? adequate mental health services? affordable higher education? Don't miss this meeting. The speaker brooks no nonsense and we guarantee an evening well spent.

One of the perils of being one side of a triangle is that you are subject to the whims of the other two sides as happened to Carole Swinehart on July 31. With a little over an hour's notice she was called on to fill in for me as moderator of our Candidates Forum on MCTV. She did her usual fine job and I appreciate it. I had thrown myself on the floor of the City Council chambers that afternoon and cut my lip in a very bloody way and sprained my wrist. I was in no condition to question candidates for two hours. We are fortunate to have such a 'deep bench.'

I am looking forward to seeing you all in September!

Donna DeVinney

SEPTEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

A REMINDER TO MEMBERS AND AN INVITATION TO THOSE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE MIDLAND LEAGUE

September is membership renewal month and a good time as well for new members to come on board. Please use the membership form on the back of this VOTER to send in your renewal. An invitation to a non-member to come to a meeting or join the League would help to expand our numbers.

Voter Service in this election year. The health of our League depends on each one of us. Last year we had 97% renewal. If you know someone who might like a personal invitation to join, please contact Margaret Rockwell: 631-6459 or email at:marrock@sbcglobal.net.

If each one takes responsibility for renewal, we will be able to direct our membership contact costs to

TWO NEW MEMBERS

These two members joined our League last spring:

GIF JONES: Marian Jones was one of the founders of our League and was an active member for years. Now, her husband is joining to support our work and ideals. Always up on current affairs, he has hosted an evening discussion group of Great Decisions for the last few years. The Joneses have always supported the League. Welcome, Gif

CONNIE GLAVE: She is a Pharmaceutical buyer for Mid-Michigan Hospital. She has been there 26 years and for 12 years before that she worked in retailing. She loves to travel, camp, and canoe. She has seen the progress women have made and wishes to ensure progress in the future. This is her motivation for joining the League. Welcome, Connie



NEWS FROM LWVUS:

The League will be launching a new one-stop election Web site—**VOTE411** in September 2006. If local Leagues post their Voters' Guides and candidate forums on the LWVUS web site this information will be part of a state specific information base on the **VOTE411** web site.

“5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day” cards available for the 2006 elections will also be available. More information is coming soon.

Convention Judicial Panel Video

The judicial panel, **“Merit Selection? Elections? Appointments? Understanding the System to Defend the Courts,”** held at the League's 47th Biennial Convention is now available via video streaming on the LWVUS Web site. The panel was organized by the *Safeguarding U.S. Democracy*

program with funding from the Constitutional and Legal Policy Program of the Open Society Institute. Access this video at: www.lwv.org

LWV Issue Priorities

It is not unusual that the League continues to take on today's toughest issues as priorities. Currently they are:

Campaign Finance Reform

Civil Liberties

Election Reform

Lobby Reform and Ethics

Redistricting

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Clean Air

DC Voters Rights

Read more about any and all of them at:

www.lwv.org.

At the LWV national convention in June immigration was chosen to be the next study topic. More information will be coming in 2007.

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS TO HELP FINANCE ELECTION PROJECTS

Since this is an election year, the Midland Area League will be preparing the popular Voter's Guide in October and Your Elected Officials brochure after the election. These projects in addition to our regular programs will require us to actively solicit contributions from local businesses to help defray their costs.

We also receive contributions from our members every year for which we are most grateful. Last year members contributed a total of \$815. We are hopeful that we can increase this amount and want to remind everyone that while contributions made directly to the Midland Area League of Women Voters are most welcome, they are not tax-deductible.

Contributions are tax-deductible if the check is made out to the League of Women Voters Education Fund **LWVEF** which is a tax-deductible 501 (C) (3) organization. Our local League can use monies contributed to this fund for the Voter's Guides.

So if it's possible, when you are writing out that dues check please consider making an extra contribution for our local projects. If you want it to

be tax-deductible, write a separate check to **LWVEF** and mail it with the form on the back page or simply send a check to: LWV of the Midland Area, P.O. Box 1203, Midland, Mi 48641. It will be greatly appreciated.

**KNOWLEDGE WILL FOREVER GOVERN
IGNORANCE, AND A PEOPLE WHO MEAN
TO BE THEIR OWN GOVERNORS MUST
ARM THEMSELVES WITH THE POWER
WHICH KNOWLEDGE GIVES...**

James Madison

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