



# Oakland Voter

The League of Women Voters Oakland Area  
725 S. Adams Road, Suite 292, Birmingham MI 48009  
Phone: 248/594-6602 Fax: 248/594-6603 website: [www.lwvoa.org](http://www.lwvoa.org)  
President: Eva Packard e-mail: [Pres@lwvoa.org](mailto:Pres@lwvoa.org)

2008-2009 Issue 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

## League of Women Voters Oakland Area

# 2008 End-of-the-Year Fundraiser & Holiday Social

*for members and guests*

*Please join the LWVOA for wine tasting with  
light appetizers, fruit and dessert*

**Date:** Saturday, December 6  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30pm  
**Location:** Wine Creations  
33422 Woodward Ave  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
*(on the east side of Woodward,  
north of 14 Mile Road)*  
**Cost:** \$25/person  
*(tickets are limited)*  
**RSVP:** by December 2  
*(payment by check or PayPal)  
contact Bernadette Najor  
248-932-8499  
or order tickets at our website  
<http://www.lwvoa.org/>*

### **Congratulations to League Members elected to office on November 4, 2008:**

- Gail Haines** State Representative District 43 (Lake Angelus, Waterford, NW West Bloomfield)
- Larry Brown** West Bloomfield Township Trustee
- Ken Macon** West Bloomfield Library Board
- Geri Rinschler** Birmingham School Board (re-elected)

[Note: If we missed a member who won election in November, please let us know.]



The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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.

LWVOA Board of Directors,  
2008-2009

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Ann Edwards – Mailings  
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THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. It is published eight times a year by the LWVOA. Articles and Letters to the Editor, with writer's name, address and phone number may be sent to the LWVOA office.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Eva Packard**

It was a major Voter Service year! I would like to thank key individuals who made our voter service activities for the November election described on Pages 4-5 happen.

**Voter Guides:** Over 100 individual Voter Guides were posted on our website for Oakland County contests and **Debra Horner** was instrumental in their production. She sent questionnaires to all candidates, processed their responses, and created or oversaw the creation of each guide. I worked with our printer, Michigan WebPress, to take the response information that Deb collected and produce a 56-page Voter Guide that was distributed to every public library and city & township hall in Oakland County. **Ann Edwards** arranged volunteers for proofing it and handled the mailing to members, contributors and sponsors. Our 35,000 copies flew out of the various locations and we received many compliments and thanks. Webmaster **Tera Moon** posted the individual guides and also the 56-page printed Voter Guide online. We could point people to our online guide when the paper copies were gone.

**Candidate Forums:** We scheduled 24 forums for the November General Election and videotaped each one for .cable rebroadcast and, in some cases, for online viewing at PCs. Some forums had very high press coverage – by TV, radio, and newspapers – US Representative District 9 and County Executive especially. County Prosecutor also had very good coverage and others resulted in articles in local community papers.

**Linda DePoorter** arranged both of the forums for the countywide contests and District Judge 52-3 and persisted until she found dates and venues that worked. **Community Media Network (CMN)** provided excellent coverage of forums they taped (County Exec, US Rep 9, District Judge 52-3, State Rep 26, County Commissioners 18+24) – both online and on cable. **Ann Edwards** and **Sue Abrams** with the assistance of **Karen Linnell** worked with Oakland University, CMN and WXYZ to offer, despite a series of obstacles, an informative, standing-room only forum with 4 of the 5 candidates for US Rep 9 that could be viewed online at the WXYZ and CMN websites, as well as via cable organizations throughout the district.

Between them, Co-chairs **Judy Bateman** and **Jerry Burden** coordinated and often moderated forums for Oakland Community College, District Judge 45B, 6 School Districts, 2 Cities, 3 Township races, 1 State Rep and 2 County Commissioner districts. **John Magary**, the Screener for most of these forums, did an outstanding job. **Tera Moon** posted the many forums in the calendar and then rerun times as we learned them.

**Programs:** Now we have begun to turn our focus to programs about our positions or studies. See the articles on Pages 6-8 about our **Fall Luncheon on Prisons** and the **LWV event on Michigan Supreme Court**. I especially want to thank **Marge Polidori** who chaired the luncheon event single-handedly, underwrote the costs, and enabled members to better understand prison reform options and efforts. **Kris Zawisza** from the state office was a key player in the successful Michigan Supreme Court forum that other Southeast Michigan Leagues also contributed to with their suggestions and insights.

The post-election season starts with a combination **Holiday Social and fundraiser on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** – Enjoy wines and a variety of appetizers and a relaxed evening. We get back to business again **planning for state program** in a comfortable atmosphere **with brunch on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>** at Vicki Lange's home. These events are featured on Pages 1 and 3.

Topics in the following months will include a discussion of the **National Popular Vote Compact** as part of a national study on the Electoral College, a Consensus meeting on **Prisons**, meetings on **Health Care** and **Climate Change** which are national issues of emphasis, and **Local Program Planning** leading to our **Annual Meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Finally, if you have not renewed for the 2008-09 League year, please rejoin us. We thank those who brought a friend to events. The Finance Letter asking for contributions to allow us to continue our services and programs will be going out soon. We need your support.

*Eva* [pres@lwvoa.org](mailto:pres@lwvoa.org)

*“As a League of Women Voters member, you are part of an organization where citizens like you are actively engaged in effecting change on the local, state and national level.”*



## **Brunch and State Program Planning Saturday, January 24, 10 am**

### **Home of Vicki Lange**

See your membership director for address  
OR  
call the office



LWV Oakland Area will enjoy a **potluck brunch** before the meeting, so bring a brunch dish, muffins or whatever to share in Vicki's beautiful western-lodge style living room.

Please **contact Patricia Finn** at (see membership directory or call the office) or [finn.patricia@gmail.com](mailto:finn.patricia@gmail.com) on what you can bring to the Potluck Brunch.

Because 2009 is a state convention year, we will review existing LWV of Michigan positions and recommend whether to retain, drop, update or restudy them. Current **LWVMI positions cover Government** areas of Election Laws, Intergovernmental Relations (update pending), Taxation and Budgeting; **Natural Resources** areas of the Great Lakes Ecosystem, Land Use, Pesticides, Solid Waste Management, and **Social Policy** areas of Children & Youth, Education (Structure, Finance & Goals, Teacher Certification, Charter Schools), Health Care, Social Services System, Public Libraries, and Prisons (under restudy). See [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org). Under 'Who We Are', click on 'Statements and Positions' to learn more about each position.

This is also your opportunity to suggest new topics for study at the state level. And we will prioritize items from the state's Democracy Agenda. More on this in the January VOTER.

Combining League business with a pleasant social event makes this a perfect time to **invite a friend!**

# Voter Service Activities

## What did LWVOA do to help Oakland County voters in the recent General Election?

- ⇒ Printed and distributed 35,000 copies of a 56-page consolidated Voter Guide covering all contests on the ballot – federal, state, county, township, judicial, school, community college, city, village and library board races, as well as the state, county and local proposals.
- ⇒ Posted Voter Guides for all individual contests as well as the 56-page guide on our website
- ⇒ Provided link to responses online of candidates for contested Oakland County judicial races to a 29-question questionnaire developed by LWVOA and Oakland County Bar Association.
- ⇒ Produced 23 Candidate Forums (1 US Rep, 2 State Rep, 2 County Officer, 4 County Commissioner, 1 OCC, 2 Judicial, 3 Township, 2 City, 6 School races) and rebroadcast them on cable TV stations.
- ⇒ Made 6 General Election forums and 6 judicial forums from Primary available online to view at PCs.
- ⇒ Drew significant media attention publicizing forums via newspaper articles, radio and television.
- ⇒ Spoke to 5 groups about ballot items and explained state and county ballot proposals.
- ⇒ Registered voters at Department of Human Services offices (6/30-10/3) and at OCC campuses.
- ⇒ Answered questions about the election from callers to our office and by email.
- ⇒ Linked our website to county and state websites with election results to allow people to see who won.



Our **THANKS** go to the many who helped make all this possible!

The major sponsor of our **Voter Guide** was **The Taubman Company** (which owns Twelve Oaks, Great Lakes Crossing, Fairlane Town Center and The Mall at Partridge Creek).

[Note: We also used funds we had from contributions to the Ed Fund to increase the guide from 48 to 56 pages to print more races. If we had received some more contributions, we could have printed more pages and included the local responses too (had some calls complaining that they were not in there) and with even more dollars, printed more copies as we ran out before the demand for copies stopped.]

Processing of candidate responses to create our voter guides was coordinated by **Debra Horner**. Deb handled emailed candidate responses while **Laura Gogola** handled those that came to the office by mail or Fax and candidate calls. Volunteer **Winnie Ho** prepared guides for our website from the responses. **Judy Culham** of the state office provided federal and statewide candidate guides to which we pointed our website, as well as input for our consolidated printed guide. **Anne Magoun** of LWVMI provided State Representative information for creating individual contest Voter Guides in a timely manner and for inclusion in the printed guide. LWVOA Webmaster **Tera Moon** again set up our Voter Guide Index page including district maps and converted and posted all of our Voter Guides, plus posted our Candidate Forums and their rebroadcast times in the online forum calendar.

Proofing our 56-page guide at Michigan Web Press in Davisburg was overseen by **Eva Packard** and handled by an efficient crew of League members **Mary Ann Barkach, Ann Edwards, Susan Julian, Grace Kachaturoff, Margaret Kanost, Lola Koch, Barb Rosalik, Betty Spehar, and Asma Tapert**. The printer arranged delivery of guides to every public library and city and township hall in Oakland County on October 6-8.

A mailing party at the League office to send Voter Guides to all our members, contributors and sponsors was organized by **Ann Edwards** who handled the mailing. Helping Ann were **Paula Creed, Karen DeGrendel, Betty Spehar, Mary Ellen Stroup, and Andrea Zalewski**. Deliveries were also made to various community centers by the members. Members also delivered guides to locations that ran out until we ourselves had no more guides.

Our Website had 96,400 hits for the 3-month period leading up to the General Election. Of those, 21,400 hits were for a copy of the printed guide which, added to the 35,000 distributed, means that at least 56,400 people (and probably more because guides are often shared in families) looked at LWVOA's guide in its entirety! Many websites linked to our site including Publius and LWVMI at the state level, Vote411 and LWV at the national level, the Michigan Non-Profit Association, and many local communities and libraries.

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## Voter Service Activities (cont'd.)

**Races covered by Candidate Forums held included:** US Rep 9, County Executive, County Prosecuting Attorney, Oakland Community College, State Reps 26 and 37, County Commissioners 14, 15, 18, & 24, District Judge 45B & 52-3, West Bloomfield Treasurer, Trustees, & Library Board, cities of Keego Harbor & Sylvan Lake, School Districts of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Huron Valley, Novi, Southfield & Waterford.

Coordinating our various Candidate Forums were **Judy Bateman, Jerry Burden, Linda DePoorter, Sue Abrams and Ann Edwards with Karen Linnell. Lisa Stadig-Elliott** of the Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) and her staff played a significant role in the judicial forums we did in partnership with **OCBA** and the **Detroit Free Press**. LWVOA co-sponsored 3 **Council of Homeowner Associations (COHA)** forums in Farmington Hills. LWV Troy co-sponsored the 2 County Officer forums + the OCC forum along with **OCC**. US09 co-sponsors were **AAUW of Michigan, LWV Troy and Oakland University. Bloomfield Twp Library, Royal Oak Library and Novi PTO** were co-sponsors of forums held in their areas.

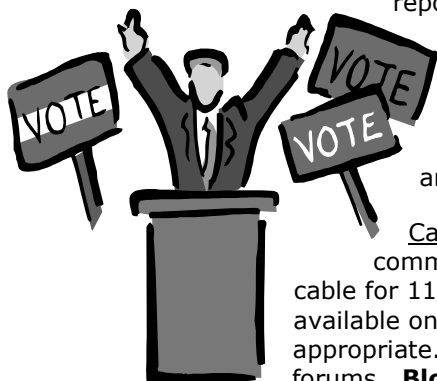
Moderating the forums were Jerry, Judy, Linda, **Carla Brisbois-Gribbs, Laura Gogola, Tera Moon, Neil Zechman, Karen Fabian** (LWV Troy), and Andy Nicholhoff (COHA). Other Leaguers who helped screen, time, collect questions, or host at forums included **Joan Black, Doug DePoorter, Carole Elder, Patricia Finn, Fran Fisher, Laura Gogola, Mary Howarth, Lola Koch, John Magary, Pat Meola** (LWV Troy), **Carla Patrick-Fagan, Barb Rosalik, Donna Sklar, Renate Soulen, Barb Suhay, Alissa Terrell, Sue Whalen, Andrea and Paul Zalewski** plus **Kathy Lindstrom, Ruth Goulding, & Pauline Navoy** (Civic Center TV15).



OCBA members **Judge David Lawson** and **Mike Schloff** helped screen audience questions at the two judicial forums. Panelists asking questions for the judicial forums were **Detroit Free Press** Deputy Editor **Stephen Henderson** & Columnist **Brian Dickerson** + OCBA members **Margaret Ali & Julie Fershtman**.

Panelists at the US Rep 9 forum were **Nolan Finley of the Detroit News, Stephen Henderson of the Detroit Free Press** and **Professor Roger Larocca of Oakland University**. Moderator was **Chuck Stokes of WXYZ TV**. At the County Executive forum, panelists were **Stephen Henderson** of the *Detroit Free Press*, **Pat Murphy of the Eccentric** and **Eva Packard of LWVOA**. Eva and **Spencer Brown of COHA** were panelists at the State Rep 37 and County Commissioner 14/15 forums. Eva and OCBA member **Matthew Leitman** screened for County Prosecutor.

**Media:** The US Rep 9 forum in front of a full room of 300 people was not only filmed by local cable, but also by WXYZ TV and by a Hollywood film producer producing a documentary on Dr. Jack Kevorkian. Many reporters were present and all the major papers had articles about the forum.



The County Executive forum was done in the CMN cable studio in a tiny room open only to the media and they came! Channel 4 and 7 filmed the forum and WJR radio recorded it. The *Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Oakland Press, Eccentric* and *C&G Newspaper chain* were all there and printed stories. Local press wrote up forum events relevant to their specific areas.

Cable organizations were key to getting the forums broadcast to the community. **Community Media Network (CMN)** which provides public access cable for 11 eastern Oakland communities videotaped 6 contests and also made all available online at [www.cmntv.org](http://www.cmntv.org) as well as providing copies to other cable orgs where appropriate. **Civic Center TV15** (West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake) taped 5 forums. **Bloomfield Community TV** taped County Prosecutor and **Brian Golden** (SWOCC public access) taped OCC and copies were sent to other county cable orgs for these countywide races. **SWOCC** handled the Farmington Hills forums. **Huntington Woods government channel** taped a judicial forum. **School districts** arranged taping of their forums on their school channels. **WXYZ TV** also streamed the US Rep 9 forum on [www.wxyz.com](http://www.wxyz.com).

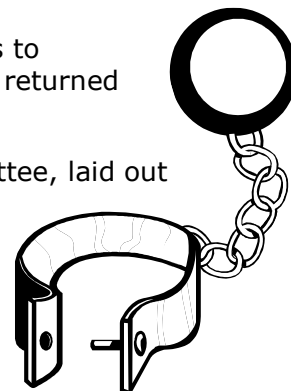
Explaining the ballot and proposals to the Fox Run senior community, Birmingham CECAC, Prentis Jewish Apts, Royal Oak Older Women League (OWL) and Dreams Unlimited were **Eva Packard** and **Fran Fisher**. The League received \$200 in appreciation. Our significant Voter Registration efforts led by **Carole Elder & Shelley Goldberg** are described in the October *VOTER*.

## **“Prisons and Jails: Time for Reform?”** by Mary Ann Barkach

A big **thank you to Marge Polidori** for once again **chairing the annual Fall Luncheon** and both arranging an excellent group of speakers as well as a location and the food and beverages. The event was held at the Farmington Community Library’s main branch on October 20th. The library café provided us with sandwich wraps and coffee while Marge Polidori and Christine Jurgensen provided fresh vegetables and fruits. Desserts were supplied by Fran Fisher, Lola Koch, and Asma Tapert. Andrea Zalewski called members and assisted at the event. Holly Atkins Child and Eva Packard provided valuable assistance in arranging speakers.

The topic of the day was Prisons and Jails – with emphasis on recent efforts to provide inmates with the tools they need in order to succeed once they are returned to the “real” world.

**Representative Paul Condino**, Chair of the State House Judiciary Committee, laid out the problem the Michigan prison system is facing. Twenty years ago, the prison population was 18,600: today, it is 54,000. It costs \$37,000 a year to house an inmate. One-third of state employees are employed by the prison system. Having so many people incarcerated is causing both a moral and a financial crisis.



The roots of the crisis are numerous: closing mental health facilities increased the number of inmates with mental health problems; getting tough on crime led to longer prison sentences; parole is offered 29 months later than in neighboring states.

Rep. Condino is **championing prison reform** to: 1) divert more criminals to tethers and mental health courts with weekly monitoring, 2) get the business community (including Chambers of Commerce) involved in support of reforms by promising Michigan Business Tax surcharge reductions when prison expenses are reduced, 3) re-establish commissions to first examine sentencing guidelines and secondly to examine parole guidelines.

**Donna Lassa**, a former public defender in California, described the **Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI)** which she coordinates in Oakland County. MPRI was established beginning with a few counties in 2005 because of concern about prisoner re-entry to society. State financial problems have given impetus to re-entry programs to reduce recidivism.

The **goal** is to promote public safety while providing fairness both to prisoners and to communities. Previously the attitude was to acclimate prisoners to being institutionalized. Now the plan is to prepare them for being out in the future. Steps for parolees include getting them ready by letting them see people from community while in prison and working with other groups when they go home so that they will stay home.

Parole officers have been retrained with less emphasis on punitive measures for parole violation and more emphasis on providing services and support such as recognizing mental health problems, assisting with job training, etc. To date more than 8,000 parolees have gone through the re-entry program and their collective **recidivism rates have dropped 26%**. Therefore, MPRI was expanded last year to every county.

Our final speakers were **Joseph Williams** and **Audrey Jenkins** of **New Creations Community Outreach**, a 15 year old ministry model for **servicing prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families**. New Creations is a non-residential program open 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. Williams has worked in the field for 26 years and has first hand knowledge of the prison system because he spent time there as a young man. He said these are tough times for people leaving prisons because many have had very long sentences; many were young offenders who were tried as adults and sentenced to long terms. Now they are leaving prison at the age of 45 or 50 and are basically starting from scratch. Social integration is extremely important for their reintegration into society. They have to be taught how to create a social support network to replace old criminal networks.

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## Prisons (cont'd)

Audrey Jenkins focused on **women's issues**. She said many women in prison have themselves been abused, have had unwanted pregnancies, have mothers or fathers who have been alcoholic or incestuous. They frequently have drug or alcohol abuse problems, are very passive and have no spiritual foundation. Workshops are held on topics such as "What is normal?", "What is a healthy relationship with a man or with a woman?", or "Flying solo".

In the **Q&A** part of the program, the question of half-way houses came up. Michigan has no half-way houses at this time. New Creations has some approved transitional living facilities which are semi-structured. The speakers were asked to define prison vs. jail. Jail is for those awaiting trial or who will be incarcerated for less than a year. Another question was about legal representation for the poor. Lassa said that MI has few public defender offices and ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in funding for indigent defense.

The event was videotaped by Brian Golden, a major SWOCC Public Access programming videographer, and will be made available to cable outlets throughout Oakland County.

## **MICHIGAN'S SUPREME COURT** by Mary Ann Barkach

**Judge Edward Thomas**, retired Circuit Court Judge; **Brian Dickerson**, Detroit Free Press columnist; and **Rich Robinson**, Executive Director of the MI Campaign Finance Network, discussed the Michigan Supreme Court at a **forum** put on by the **League of Women Voters** on "**A Fair & Impartial Michigan Supreme Court**" at Schoolcraft College on October 29, 2008. **State Representative Paul Condino**, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, moderated the meeting which was attended by 100 people.

The following facts and comments emerged from the panel:

The Supreme Court has awesome powers to make decisions that affect everyone. They supervise the lower courts. They monitor how lower courts manage their dockets. They choose what cases they want to hear. *Judge Thomas*



Michigan citizens have fewer rights to sue today because of MI Supreme Court decisions. Three examples follow. The MI Environmental Protection Act formerly allowed any citizen to file suit against polluters on the theory that land, air and water impacts all of us. But the Supreme Court ruled that only someone who has personally suffered damage can sue. In another ruling, the Court overturned two lower court decisions to rule that the Consumer Protection Act does not cover a residential builder's faulty construction. Lastly the decision in the case of *Rory v*

*Continental Insurance* limited the right to sue under take-it-or-leave-it contracts, the kind of contracts we all have for car insurance. *Brian Dickerson*

When large amounts of money are given to judicial candidates, it is not for altruistic reasons. The year 2000 was a game changer when the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Democratic Party weighed in with issue ads. Issue ads define a candidate in a negative way but do not say to vote for or against the candidate. Issue ad expenditures do not have to be reported; they are a form of lobbying, but we should not lobby judges. Since 2002, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce spent over \$6 million, more than any candidate, for issue ads all in support of Republican judicial candidates. *Rich Robinson*

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## **MICHIGAN'S SUPREME COURT (Cont'd)**

Tort Reform re civil suits for damages has by Supreme Court decisions tilted towards restrictions on suing – limiting who can sue and the length of time they have to sue. Governor Engler felt it important to elect judges who would make Michigan safe for business. By 2000, the Supreme Court became an economic development tool. *Brian Dickerson*

Endorsements, funds, and who provides funds shape how candidates get their message out. The court has seven judges who serve eight year terms; they are either elected or appointed by the governor to fill an unexpired term. Their salaries are approximately \$165,000 per year. They are supposed to be impartial, and a governor should not appoint according to his/her own agenda. Gov. Engler appointed the four Republicans currently on the Supreme Court who are known as textualists or federalists. They are listed as incumbents on the ballot. It is extremely difficult to defeat a sitting judge. The incumbent designation can also dissuade people from running. *Judge Thomas*. (Note: In the November 2008 election, incumbent Supreme Court Judge Clifford Taylor was defeated in a major upset.)

**What should be done?** 1) Demand disclosure of who is paying for issue ads. 2) Set definite standards for when a judge has to recuse himself from a case because of accepting campaign funds from one of the parties; in addition judges should disclose their personal finances so conflict of interests will be evident. 3) Use public funding for judicial campaigns so it is clear that judges are working for the public, not special interests. *Rich Robinson*

This forum was one of three (in Kalamazoo, Holland, Livonia) sponsored in October by the **League of Women Voters of Michigan** to draw attention to problems in the way we select Justices for the Michigan Supreme Court. The event raised awareness about problems with this part of our political system and asked attendees to work with the League to make changes. Twenty-six attendees signed a petition to the legislature urging reforms and more signatures have since been collected by attendees. Attendees gave the event very positive evaluations.

**LWV Oakland Area** lead the effort in Southeast Michigan and was joined by the Leagues of Ann Arbor, Dearborn-Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Northwest Wayne County and Troy.

Many thanks go to the **Planning Committee** for the event: Paula Creed, Jan Dolan, and Eva Packard of Oakland Area, Katherine Barnhart of Grosse Pointe, Sue Smith of Ann Arbor, Paul Stevenson of Detroit, Paula Bowman of Northwest Wayne, and Kris Zawicza from the State Office.

Thanks to the following **individuals who helped at the event** to register attendees, hand out materials and collect evaluations and petition signatures: Linda and Doug DePoorter, Jan Dolan, KaSaundra Hardwick (OCC student), Charlotte Mahrt, Tera Moon, Barb Moorhouse, Bernadette Najor, and Renate Soulen. Thank you, too, to our **photographers** for the event: Dick Soulen and Dorothy Warren.

**Other sponsors** were AAUW of Michigan, the National Council of Jewish Women – Greater Detroit Section, the Oakland County and Washtenaw County Bar Associations, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the National Lawyers Guild's Detroit & Michigan Chapter, the Chambers of Commerce of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Livonia and Plymouth, the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, and the Michigan Impartial Courts Coalition.

Special thanks go to **Schoolcraft College** which provided a beautiful facility for the event as well as cookies and beverages for attendees. They also filmed the event and made copies available for Leagues to distribute to the various cable organizations in Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties.

The forum was made possible with funding from The Joyce Foundation and the League of Women Voters Education Fund with a grant from the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.





The LWVOA received a number of thank you notes, calls and emails expressing appreciation for our services during the last election period. Here are a few excerpts:

"I want to thank you for your voter's guide. I use it at every election and recommend it to my friends. It is the only complete and impartial voter's guide I have ever seen, and I rely on it to get the facts for every upcoming election. Many thanks for your valuable service to the community."

"As a recent newcomer to Fox Run, I very much appreciated your Voter Guide for Oakland County in yesterday's election. Enclosed is my contribution."

"Thanks again for all the great work you folks do. I really should join the LWV, what does that involve?" [We told him how to use our website to JOIN.]

League member and former State Rep Pan Godchaux is now in the Peace Corps in Moldavia. She wrote a letter to the Birmingham Eccentric Editor about her voting experience. Her absentee ballot, which had been mailed to her many weeks before the election, had not arrived though volunteers from other states had received their ballots. She found another way to determine what was on her personal ballot and fill it in to vote for candidates. Pan wrote:

".... This week I gave up waiting. I went online and downloaded the Federal Ballot. I spent over an hour on the League of Women Voters Oakland Area website filling out my ballot. With the exception of the federal part of the ballot, you write in the office and the name or party of the candidate you vote for. Thanks to the League of Women Voters, I completed my ballot right down to the non-partisan races and ballot proposals. ...."

## Membership Activities

Love to talk on the phone? Have a flair for event planning? You'd be perfect for one of our Membership Activities. Contact Sue Abrams at [membership@lwvoa.org](mailto:membership@lwvoa.org) to find out how you can be involved.

- Mailing - Assist with preparing materials for mailings.
- Phone Calling - Be part of a phone tree to contact members about events, help needed, membership, etc. as needed.
- New Member Contact - Call new members to welcome & assess interests. Keep track of new members. Invite them to activities. Arrange a ride to first meeting. Pair them up with a seasoned member as a mentor. Make sure that they are involved in an area of interest.
- Discussion Units - Plan topics for discussion units. Coordinate meetings.
- Membership Recruitment - Plan how & where we will recruit.
- Meeting & Event Planning

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## Development & Fundraising Activities

Are you great at raising money or promotions? Contact P. J. Royale at [development@lwvoa.org](mailto:development@lwvoa.org) to volunteer for any of these exciting opportunities.

- Fundraising
- Grant Writers
- PR
- Public Service Announcement Script Writers

# League of Women Voters Oakland Area Membership Form

For new and returning members

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary member:**

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

**Household member:** (each additional person residing at same address is a household member)

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell phone** (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a **NEW** member - \$60.00
- Please **renew** my membership - \$60.00
- Household membership (renew or new) - \$30.00  
Each additional person residing at same address is a household member
- Student membership - \$30.00
- I want to make an additional contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to contribute to the LWV Education Fund (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

School District Name: (to assist us in mailing information) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to LWVOA and send to:**

**LWVOA  
725 S. Adams Rd., Suite 292  
Birmingham, MI 48009**

for office use only: date rec'd _____ ck date _____ ck # _____ db _____ ty _____
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Questions? Call 248-594-6602

Membership year is from July 1 through June 30 and is open to all citizens (both female and male). Membership includes subscription to the Oakland Voter, the Michigan Voter, and the National Voter Magazine.

Dues and contributions to LWVOA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to LWV Education Fund ARE tax deductible.

## Other Ways to Join

- Contact Us at 248-594-6602 or via our web site ([www.lwvoa.org](http://www.lwvoa.org)) and ask for a membership packet to be mailed to you.
- Join online at [www.lwvoa.org](http://www.lwvoa.org) using a credit card or PayPal account.

If you prefer to donate to us without joining our organization, we would appreciate your support.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** by Eva Packard

- **They Represent You (TRY) Coordinator** for our eight brochures listing elected officials at all government levels and **Volunteers to update each of the 8 TRYs** for election changes and verify that the revised brochure is fully current. Brochures cover the following areas: West Oakland, North Oakland, Rochester, Royal Oak, Southfield, Birmingham/Bloomfield, Farmington/West Bloomfield and Pontiac/Clarkston/Orion/Waterford/White Lake.
- **Cable Coordinator** to interface with Oakland County's many cable organizations for our candidate forums and other programs. We want to assure that our events are seen in each relevant community and rerun times are provided so that they can be posted on our website. We have tapes of our Prisons forum and our Fair & Impartial Michigan Supreme Court forum ready to distribute.
- **Issue Studies:** Volunteers to learn about following topics and help explain them to our membership:
  - **National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact** – If you are Internet literate and want to learn about and help us evaluate a method to use the Electoral College to achieve the election of the President by popular vote without changing the Constitution, this is the study for you. A study of NPV was approved at the LWVUS convention. It is being fast-tracked for Consensus by May 1 with a Listserv for discussion and background information posted online at [www.lwv.org/npv](http://www.lwv.org/npv).
  - **Prisons** – Looking for team members interested in this topic to take the Consensus Questions with Pros and Cons we receive from LWVMI in January for the Prisons re-study and help with the member discussion of them. Our October forum on prisons was taped for showing on cable and provides information on some prisoner issues.
- **Advocacy Chair** to help us respond to Calls for Action by our membership on issues at all levels. **Health Care** and **Climate Change** are two areas of emphasis approved at the national convention.
- **Dream Cruise Booth** – Committee to plan our booth and sales for August 2009 event.
- **PSA Contest** – Committee to plan the rollout this Fall to Oakland County School Districts of the Public Service Announcement contest and award banquet to be held in Spring 2010 for students.

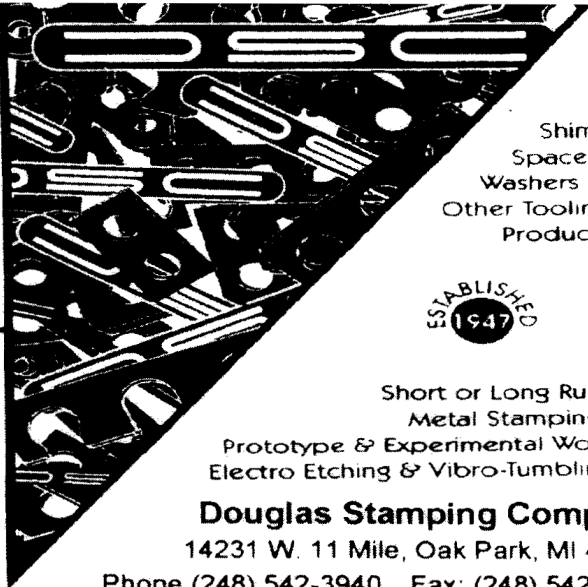
*Contact me if you would like to help with any of the above.*

### **DONATIONS**

Do you want to help LWV Oakland Area continue to provide election information?

Send a tax-deductible contribution payable to LWV Education Fund to:  
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725 S. Adams Rd., Suite 292  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Or contributions can be made payable to LWVOA to support the League's action priorities



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## Time Dated Material Enclosed

### Calendar of Events:

- Sat., Dec. 6 6:30 pm **Wine Tasting Holiday Social & Fundraiser** \$25/person.  
Wine Creations, 33422 Woodward, Birmingham 48009  
Members & Guests welcome. RSVP to Bernadette Najor.
- Mon., Jan. 12 7:00 pm LWVOA Board Meeting  
725 S. Adams Square, Conference Room A, Birmingham 48009
- Sat., Jan. 24 10:00 am **Brunch and State Program Planning** at Vicki Lange's house.  
Pot Luck Brunch. RSVP to Patricia Finn.
- Sat. Feb. 14 10:00 am **LWV 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday.** Topic TBA.  
West Bloomfield Township Library, 4600 Walnut Lake Rd, 48323
- Tue. May 5 7am-8pm Election Day for some school districts
- Fri-Sun May 15-17 LWVMI State Convention, Lansing, MI
- Sat. May 30 10:00 am LWVOA Annual Meeting

*The community needs everyone to participate in order  
to be a strong, safe, fair and vibrant place to live.  
LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*