



Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area
725 S. Adams Square, Suite 292, Birmingham, MI 48009
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Co-Presidents: Judy Bateman, Fran Fisher e-mail: Pres@lwvoa.org

2009-2010 Issue 2

October 2009

Annual Fall Luncheon Monday, October 19, 2009 at 12 noon

"Why We Need a Free Press"

at

**First Baptist Church
300 Willits**

Birmingham, MI 48009

(1 block North of Maple Rd, 1 block West of Old Woodward)

Parking (1st 2 hours free) at adjacent Garage. Enter at Bates and Willits.
Enter the Church via the BACK Door which leads into Fellowship Hall.

SPEAKERS:

Greg Kowalski, Editor of Birmingham Eccentric

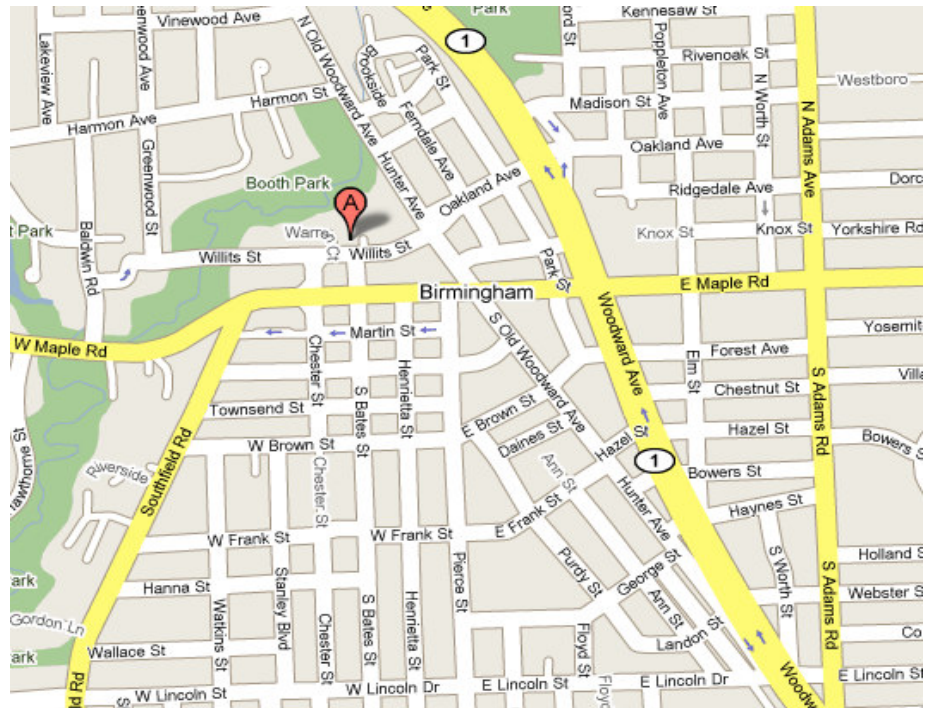
Garry Gilbert, Interim Director of Journalism Dept, Oakland University

Rana Elmir, Communications Director, ACLU of Michigan

Lunch will be served at 12 noon and we will hear from the Speakers at 1 p.m. There will be an opportunity for Questions and Answers.

Thank you to **Dorothy Conrad** and **Marge Polidori** who are again hosting the fall luncheon. Our customary lunch of pita sandwiches, veggies, dessert and beverages will be served. Indicate your choice of pita and send the reservation with a check to LWVOA for **\$20 per attendee for lunch** to Marge Polidori at the address on the **reservation form on Page 7**.

The meeting is open to the public so invite your friends, family or neighbors to hear about this important constitutional freedom. If you cannot make lunch, but would like to hear the speakers, the charge is \$5. Call our office at 248-594-6602 and leave a message if any questions.



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.

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2009-2010

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THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. It is published seven 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.

Editor: Eva Packard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Whether we agree with them or not, those running for office deserve our time and respect. I have been coordinating forums for 28 years and have observed that it is not an easy thing to stand up, face your peers, present your views, and many times even have to defend yourself.

Why do people run for public office? There are many reasons that bring someone to seek election, some honorable, some more selfish. All have to face public scrutiny. It is at this time of year that the league steps up to do some of its best work, fulfilling our mission of an educated electorate. We are called upon, both in the voter guide and at forums, to present candidates to the public so that voters can make informed choices.

Many league members participated in the interviews of over 100 candidates for Detroit City Council and Detroit Charter Commission. These candidates came with a heartfelt desire to make their city better, some with minimal political experience. They overcame fear and insecurity to stand up to public scrutiny.

You should be proud to be part of an organization, entrusted by many, to present candidates to the public without bias. All who help at a forum or with the voter guide should feel especially proud.

Judy Bateman, Co-President

LWV:

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

See Page 3 for Candidate Forum information.

See Page 5 for Preview of 11/07 Health Care Reform meeting.

See Page 7 for 10/19 Fall Luncheon reservation.

THANK YOU to LWVOA members who helped with the interviews and taping in Detroit of the Detroit City Council and Detroit Charter Commission candidates for the Primary election and General Election: **Mary Ann Barkach, Judy Bateman, Jerry Burden, Karen DeGrendel, Ann Edwards, Patricia Finn, Fran Fisher, Shaniya Jarrett, Deb Macon, John Magary, Marge Polidori, Barbara Suhay, and Demetria Taylor.**

These videos were a co-operative project of the University of Michigan Dearborn's Institute for Local Government, ARISE Detroit, Detroit Public TV, WWJ Radio, and the League of Women Voters. They were coordinated by Susan Rowe of LWV Northwest Wayne and U of M Dearborn. The videos were available on the MiVote.org website and were aired on Detroit Public TV as a public service for voters.

CANDIDATE FORUM SCHEDULE for November 3rd Election

Forums are being taped and will be shown on local cable.

Check with your local cable organization for rerun schedules.

We will insert rerun information if we learn it in the Candidate Forum schedule table.

Check www.LWVOA.org for the most current CANDIDATE FORUM schedules

Tuesday, September 29, 2009	7 PM	Royal Oak High School Kimball Auditorium 1500 Lexington Blvd Royal Oak, MI 48073	City of Royal Oak: City Commission + Royal Oak School District: School Board. Coordinator: Jerry Burden Co-sponsor: Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce 7:00-8:00 pm - Royal Oak City Commission 8:15-9:00 pm - Royal Oak School Board
Wednesday, September 30, 2009	7 PM	Council Chambers 1827 N. Squirrel Road Auburn Hills, MI 48326	City of Auburn Hills: City Council. Coordinator: Ann Edwards
Monday, October 5, 2009	7 PM	Lewis Schulman Administrative Center 32500 Shiawassee Farmington, MI 48336	Farmington School District: School Board. Coordinator & Sponsor: Farmington Area PTA Council Forum will cablecast on channel 10.
Wednesday, October 7, 2009	7:30 PM	City Hall Auditorium 1000 Rochester Hills Drive Rochester Hills, MI 48309	City of Rochester Hills - General Election: City Council At-Large and Districts 1 & 4. Coordinator: Ann Edwards
Wednesday, October 7, 2009	7:30 - 9 PM	Berkley School District Administrative Offices 14700 W. Lincoln Oak Park, MI 48237	Berkley School District: School Board. Coordinator: Jerry Burden
Thursday, October 8, 2009	6:30 PM	Southfield Public Library 26300 Evergreen Rd. Southfield, MI 48076	City of Southfield - General Election: City Council, Mayor, Clerk & Treasurer. Coordinator: Jerry Burden Co-sponsors: Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce & NAACP
Monday, October 12, 2009	7 PM	Lathrup Village Municipal Building Community Room 27400 Southfield Rd. Lathrup Village, MI 48076	City of Lathrup Village: City Council. Coordinator: Judy Bateman
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	7 PM	Lakeland High School Large Group Instruction Room 1630 Bogie Lake Rd White Lake, MI 48383	Huron Valley School District: School Board. Coordinator: Jerry Burden
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	7 PM	Birmingham Schools Administration Bldg. 550 W. Merrill Birmingham, MI 48009	Birmingham School District: School Board. Coordinator: Judy Bateman
Wednesday, October 14, 2009	7 PM	Farmington Hills City Hall City Council Chambers 31555 11 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336 (Enter by south door facing court & fire station due to construction.)	City of Farmington Hills: City Council. Coordinator & Sponsor: Council of Homeowners Associations (COHA) Co-sponsor: LWV Oakland Area Forum will be cablecast on Channel 8.
Thursday, October 15, 2009	7 PM	BASCC Senior Center 2121 Midvale Ave. Birmingham, MI 48009	City of Birmingham: City Commission. Coordinator: Judy Bateman & Fran Fisher

Sunday, October 18, 2009	1 PM	Ferndale City Hall 310 E. Nine Mile Rd Ferndale, MI 48220	City of Ferndale: City Council. Coordinator: Judy Bateman
Monday, October 19, 2009	6:30 PM	Ridge Community Center 4 Ridge Road Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069	City of Pleasant Ridge: City Commission. Coordinator: Judy Bateman
Wednesday, October 21, 2009	7 PM	Berkley City Hall 3338 Coolidge Hwy Berkley, MI 48072	City of Berkley: Mayor. (Unopposed Candidates for City Council will make statements only.) Coordinator: Judy Bateman
Thursday, October 22, 2009	7 PM	Huntington Woods City Hall 26815 Scotia Huntington Woods, MI 48070	City of Huntington Woods: City Commission. Coordinator: Judy Bateman

Note: **LWV Troy Area** is handling Candidate Forums for the Troy School Board (Wed., 10/7, 7-8:30 pm) and the City of Troy City Council plus Ballot Proposals (Thurs., 10/15, 7-9 pm). See www.lwvtroyarea.org Calendar of Events for details.

VOTER GUIDES for the November 3rd election will be **posted on our website www.LWVOA.org**. The **cities of** Auburn Hills, Berkley, Clarkston, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Keego Harbor, Lathrup Village, Madison Heights, Novi, Oak Park, Orchard Lake, Pontiac, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield, Sylvan Lake and Wixom will be posted **by September 30th** as will the **School Districts** of Avondale, Berkley, Birmingham, Brandon, Farmington, Huron Valley, Madison, Northville, Novi, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Royal Oak, South Lyon, Southfield and West Bloomfield. The city of Bloomfield Hills and the Townships of Oxford and Royal Oak which only have proposals on the ballot will also be posted.

The **cities of** Birmingham, Clawson, Huntington Woods, Lake Angelus, Northville, Pleasant Ridge, South Lyon, and Walled Lake **which have September filing dates** will be posted **on various dates in the first half of October**. Click on **REFRESH** for the Voter Guide page to get the latest guide status.

THANKS to **Deb Horner** for preparing these voter guides, **Eva Packard** for typing replies not emailed, **Mary Ann Barkach** for proofing the guides, and webmaster **Tera Moon** for posting the guides on our website.

THANK YOU to those who helped with our Candidate Forums for the September 15th election: **Ann Edwards** coordinated the Rochester Hills Primary forum, County Commissioner **Sue Douglas** moderated it and **Karen DeGrendel, Mary Howarth,** and **Linda Brown** helped at the forum. The forum was streamed online as well as broadcast. **Jerry Burden** coordinated and moderated the Village of Milford forum, the Southfield Primary forum and the Village of Franklin forum. Also helping at the forums were **John Magary** who screened them, **Ruth and Ken Hathaway, Patricia Finn, Tera Moon, Sheryl Mitchell, Laura Perreault** and **Paul Zalewski**. We appreciate that the Franklin Community Association handled the rental fee for the Community Church for the Franklin forum before a packed crowd. The Southfield forum was held before an overflow crowd of 130.

UPCOMING LWVOA EVENTS To Be Announced

A weekend evening in early **December**: – Holiday Social & Fundraiser to show “**Iron-Jawed Angels**”.

A Saturday brunch in **January** to do **National Program Planning** at Vicki Lange’s home.

Saturday **Annual Meeting** and Luncheon with speaker on **May 22** at Shenandoah Country Club.

MEETINGS are being planned on the following TOPICS with dates open:

Prison Reform to provide background for the study to update LWVMI’s position

Term Limits and Redistricting

Public Service Announcement (**PSA**) **Contest** for high school students with **Award Reception**

SAVE the DATE!

HEALTH CARE REFORM – Let’s Get Real

Saturday, November 7, 2009

10 a.m.

at

Southfield Library

26300 Evergreen Rd.

Southfield, MI 48076

Health Care As We Age

The **LWV Detroit Metropolitan Area** meeting of September 21 at the Community House in Birmingham on “Health Care As We Age” drew attendees – League and non-League -- from throughout the metropolitan area.

Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, Director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University spoke about “**Successful Aging**”. He stated that seniors can continue to be active, but are likely to focus on fewer items to enable them to carry on well with things that matter most to them. He noted that, as people age, they often tend to become more creative. The need for affection and confirmation of their contributions to society becomes more important to seniors than status. Aging successfully is aided by humor, music or dance or movement, nutrition to keep the brain healthy, volunteering and social connection. Relationships are key to success.



Karen Jackson-Holzauer, Nutrition Contract Manager for the Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B), spoke on “**Preserving Independence and Quality of Life for Seniors**”. She explained that the Older Americans Act led to the creation of the Area Agency on Aging to help older adults. AAA 1-B was created 30 years ago to serve Oakland County where 28% of Michigan’s seniors live. The organization provides resources and information on aging services. They can answer questions on Medicare (including Part B – medical services and Part D – prescriptions) and Medicaid and other programs. Care-giving assistance is a more recent addition designed to help seniors stay in their homes instead of nursing homes. Such help is available to local relatives who are looking after faraway seniors. She noted that volunteers (often other seniors) are important to programs such as home meals, transportation, etc.



State Senator John Pappageorge, 13th District, spoke on **Long-term Care**. He stated that government aid should focus on assisting people to live as normal lives as possible rather than simply supporting them in nursing homes. He noted that Assisted Living Centers are less costly (\$45/day vs. \$135/day) and are more effective to help seniors age successfully. Such help is available via a Section 8 Medicaid waiver and AAA 1-B can help people access it. He then moved on to talking about the state budget and discussed lithium-ion battery production and algae-growing facilities for fuel as ways to help Michigan move forward economically in today’s world.



Thanks go to Oakland Area member **Barbara Suhay** of the LWV DMA Board who organized the event. Thank you to Pam Brady of LWV Troy Area for the photographs from the event.

TAKE ACTION

*The League of Women Voters urges action on our priority issues: **Health Care Reform** and **Global Climate Change** which are before Congress. See www.lwv.org and click on TAKE ACTION to read about them and the **Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**. Contact your Representative & Senators.*

Public Advocacy for Voter Participation via VOTER REGISTRATION

What is PAVP? It stands for **Public Advocacy for Voter Participation** and deals with **making registration and voting easier for citizens.**

Carole Elder, Oakland Area Voter Registration Chair, and co-President **Fran Fisher** are working with LWV of Michigan on a PAVP pilot project funded by LWVUS to establish full compliance in Michigan with the **National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)**. Specifically, the **Department of Human Services (DHS)** will be asked to register voters just as **Secretary of State (SOS)** offices do. The NVRA authorized state driver's license offices, military recruitment centers, and government offices for such clients as are serviced by the DHS offices to register voters as at local Clerk's offices.

Those who register at SOS are all treated as having done so In-Person. Our experience in 2008 registering voters at DHS showed that some of the DHS registrations are treated as In-Person, but many are treated as Mail-In, depending on the Clerk that receives the registration. The difference is that, even if someone provided the necessary proof when they registered, those considered Mail-In registrants must appear in person the first time they vote and show that same proof and cannot use an absentee ballot. This makes their participation in voting more difficult, especially for those with limited resources for transportation to the polls.

As the project progresses, Carole will be calling on LWVOA members to help register voters under the auspices of the DHS because, as Judy Bateman pointed out in her President's message, we are a trusted nonpartisan organization.

DUES are DUE for 2009-2010 League Year

Our new League year began July 1, 2009 and runs through June 30, 2010. Thank you to the many members who have paid their dues thus far. Our Bylaws require that member dues are payable no later than 9/30/09. Second letters were sent for those who have not yet paid their dues. We value your membership at whatever level of activity you choose to participate, even if you wish to remain inactive and just pay dues. It all helps. You may also use the form below to send in your dues.

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 _____

____ Please renew my membership - \$60.00 ____ I am a **NEW** member - \$60.00

____ Household membership (renew or new) - \$30.00 (Each additional person at same address)

____ Student membership - \$30.00

____ Additional Contribution (____ for LWVOA or [separate check] to ____ LWV Ed Fund)

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to LWVOA and send to:

LWVOA 725 S. Adams Rd., Rm 292 Birmingham, MI 48009

To pay online via PayPal, go to www.LWVOA.org and click on JOIN THE LEAGUE.

For office use only: date rec'd _____ ck date _____ ck# _____ db _____ ty _____

RESERVATION FORM for FALL LUNCHEON, Monday, October 19th

First Baptist Church, 300 Willits, Birmingham, MI 48009

\$20 Lunch & Speakers (lunch, beverages & dessert); **\$5 Speakers only**

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LWVOA

Please RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 15th

Mail to: Marge Polidori, 30525 Timberbrook Ln., Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4660
248-540-4031

NAME(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ No. for Lunch _____ for Speaker Only _____ \$ _____ **Enclosed**

CHOICE OF PITA SANDWICH: (Indicate number of each if reserving for more than 1)

Beef _____ Turkey _____ Vegetarian _____

FUNDRAISER

'VOTE TODAY' Signs

With the current lack of local newspapers, let's all work to raise awareness of election days. We are selling weather-resistant 'Vote Today' signs to members and their friends & relatives to be displayed in front yards and at shops around town on election days. Our supply is almost gone and there is an election on November 3. Order your Sign NOW!

- **INFORM**
- **ENCOURAGE**
- **GET INVOLVED**

\$10/each To order: e-mail edwards@wowway.com
Or call (248) 656-9771



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 A Voice for Change

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Time Dated Material Enclosed

Calendar of Events

See Page 3-4 for details of scheduled Candidate Forums for:

- Tues. 9/29 City of Royal Oak and Royal Oak Schools
- Wed. 9/30 City of Auburn Hills
- Mon. 10/5 Farmington Schools
- Wed. 10/7 City of Rochester Hills
- Wed. 10/7 Berkley Schools
- Thur. 10/8 City of Southfield
- Mon. 10/12 City of Lathrup Village
- Tues. 10/13 Huron Valley Schools
- Tues. 10/13 Birmingham Schools
- Wed. 10/14 City of Farmington Hills
- Thur. 10/15 City of Birmingham
- Sun. 10/18 City of Ferndale
- Mon. 10/19 City of Pleasant Ridge
- Wed. 10/21 City of Berkley
- Thur. 10/22 City of Huntington Woods

Mon. Oct. 5 7 pm LWVOA Board meeting at 725 S. Adams Rd, Birmingham 48009

Mon. Oct. 19 12 noon Annual Fall Luncheon – “Why We Need a Free Press”
 First Baptist Church, 300 Willits, Birmingham, MI 48009
 Reservation Form on Page 7. \$20 for lunch, \$5 for speakers only.

Tues. Nov. 3 7am-8pm General Election for Oakland County cities and 16 school districts

Sat., Nov. 7 10am Health Care Reform – Let’s Get Real
 Southfield Library, 26300 Evergreen Rd., Southfield, MI 48076

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