



# Oakland Voter

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: Mary Ann Barkach e-mail: [Pres@lwvoa.org](mailto:Pres@lwvoa.org)

2012-2013 Issue 2

Sept-Oct 2012

## Health Care Reform - Why? What? Can We Afford It?



**Date:** Saturday, September 29, 2012

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. - Noon.

**Place:** Bloomfield Township Public Library

1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

(The Library is at the south east corner of Telegraph & Lone Pine Roads.)

### **Speaker: Marianne Udow-Phillips, MHSA**

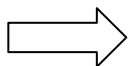
Director of the Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation

A non-profit partnership between University of Michigan & Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM)

Ms. Udow-Phillips, with more than 20 years experience in leadership roles in BCBSM, and 3 years as Director of the Michigan Department of Human Services before moving to her present role, is well versed in the problems and goals of improved health care from the perspectives of the insurance industry, business, government and the individual consumer.

Sorting through the media hyperbole, she will use up-to-date information to address the strengths, limitations, and possible problems with the Affordable Care Act and proposed alternatives. There will be ample time for questions.

Coffee and light refreshments will be served before the presentation.  
Bring your friends for this important meeting. The public is welcome.



***Our Fall Luncheon is coming up on October 22 with Speaker Gilda Jacobs.  
See details on page 3.***

*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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THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. It is published six 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: Randa Keener

**LWVOA ON FACEBOOK!**

If you are not already a member of Facebook, you can sign up at [www.FACEBOOK.com](http://www.FACEBOOK.com) and make "League of Women Voters Oakland Area" one of your Facebook friends.

Invite your friends to learn about League activities and upcoming programs.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The efforts of Sue Smith, our State President, and others paid off when Gov. Snyder surprised everyone and vetoed three bills affecting voters: (1) the bill that would have put new restrictions and training requirements for groups like the LWV who register voters, (2) expanded photo i.d. requirements, and (3) required affirmation of citizenship when applying for a ballot. Needless to say, LWVOA sent a thank-you note to Gov. Snyder.

However, when I voted in the primary on August 7, the little box to check for citizenship was still on the application for a ballot. In some areas, it was on the form because they were printed before the veto took place. The confusion was cleared up later in the day, when the Secretary of State's office declared that county and local clerks should not enforce the citizenship question. Citizens must affirm their citizenship when they first register to vote, so it definitely would be redundant to ask the question again when applying for a ballot.

This veto will make life much easier for Carole Elder and Judy Bateman who are now planning voter registration events for September, when Leagues all over the country will be registering voters.

Our advocacy efforts included writing letters to the editor supporting the SMART millage and the Waterford Library millage, both of which passed.

We contacted our legislators and thanked them for being co-sponsors of the DISCLOSE act which would require complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising in candidate elections. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow and Rep. Gary Peters were all co-sponsors, but Congress did not act on it before their August vacation.

Deb Horner and Tera Moon deserve our thanks for getting our Voter Guides on-line. We did hear from a few people who miss our printed guides, but they will be available for the November general election. Eva Packard was responsible for getting Leagues around the state to use Vote 411. And as always we thank Judy Bateman, Jerry Burden and our voter service team for their work bringing candidate forums to the public.

Now we are gearing up the November elections. So far, we have eight requests to fill for speakers on election related topics.

*Mary Ann Barkach, President*



# FALL LUNCHEON

**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012

**Time:** 12:00 noon

**Speaker:** 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** First Baptist Church of Birmingham

300 Willits, Birmingham, MI 48009 (North of Maple, West of Old Woodward)

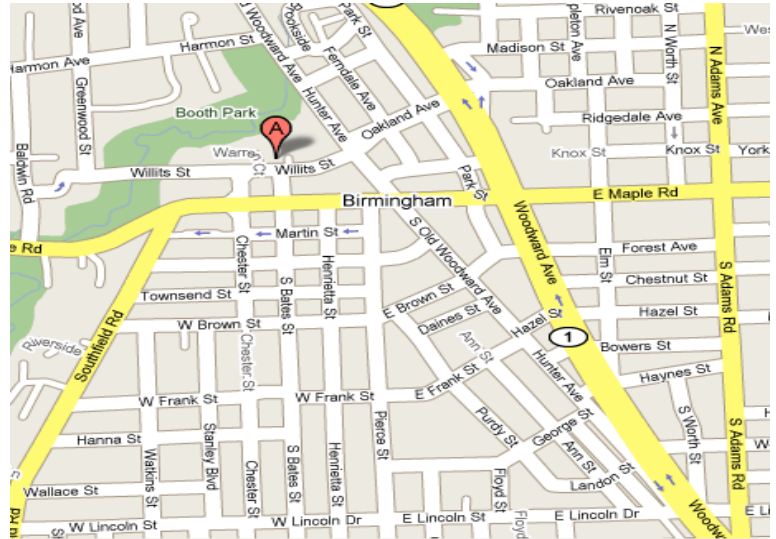
Enter the Church via the **BACK** Door, please.

## SPEAKER:

**Gilda Z. Jacobs**

Director, Michigan League for Public Policy (formerly: Michigan League for Human Services)

Formerly State Senator for 14<sup>th</sup> District and State Representative; served as an Oakland County Commissioner from 1995 to 1998. She also is distinguished as the first woman elected to the Huntington Woods City Commission, serving from 1981 to 1994.



## TOPIC:

**Prosperity and Public Policy**

**Open to the public.**

Please come and bring your friends and support our programs and fundraising activities.

**\$25 Lunch & Speakers**

- delicious lunch, beverages & dessert  
provided by Dorothy Conrad & Marge Polidori

**\$7 for Speakers only**

**→The reservation form is on page 7. ←**

**Parking :** (1<sup>st</sup> 2 hours free) at adjacent garage.

Enter lot at Bates and Willits

Handicapped Parking is in the lot directly behind the church.

### **Special Primary Election on September 5<sup>th</sup> for the 'old' US 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

On **Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a special Primary election for the 'old' US House 11<sup>th</sup> District to select nominees to run for the balance of the term of Congressman Thaddeus McCotter who resigned in early July. He resigned too late for the election to be held at the regular August 7<sup>th</sup> Primary.

In Oakland County, only voters who live in the cities of Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, or Wixom or the Townships of Commerce, Highland, Lyon, Milford, Novi, White Lake or the northwest corner of Waterford can vote in the 9/5 election for the partial term. Wayne County voters in the cities of Belleville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Wayne and Westland and the Townships of Canton, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, and Van Buren also can vote in the 9/5 election.

**Vote411.org** will contain information on the 5 Republicans and 1 Democrat running. This will be the only election on the ballot in Michigan on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and is required because there is more than one Republican candidate, necessitating a primary. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, voters in the 'old' 11<sup>th</sup> District will fill the vacancy for less than a two-month period, while voters in the 'new' 11<sup>th</sup> District will vote to elect a Congressman for a full 2-year term. The 'new' 11<sup>th</sup> includes additional areas of Oakland County and fewer communities in Wayne County.

# VOTER SERVICE for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 ELECTION



**VOTER GUIDES for races\* in Oakland County will be posted on our website, [www.LWVOA.org](http://www.LWVOA.org).** Target date for printed VOTER GUIDES is Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>.

The U.S. President, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, State Representative, State Board of Education, 3 University Boards and Supreme Court races and all statewide ballot proposals with Pro/Con info will also be available on [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org), along with a wealth of general information on absentee voting, photo i.d. requirements, election dates, etc. **VOTE411.org** is a national website that displays races applicable to the voting address entered by the viewer.

\*In addition to federal, state, county and judicial races, the November ballot for Oakland County voters will also contain races in its 21 townships, 4 cities, 5 villages, 22 school districts, and Oakland Community College as well as local proposals.

Another good source of information is the Michigan Votes website: [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) which provides information on sample ballots, statewide proposals, locations for local clerks and even the status of your individual Absentee Ballot.

Below is information about the judicial candidate forums scheduled with our co-sponsors – the Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) and the *Detroit Free Press*. The OCBA's website, [www.ocba.org](http://www.ocba.org), also contains candidate responses to a more-detailed questionnaire. Forums were held before the August Primary for the Non-Incumbent seat on the 6th Circuit Court and seats on the 48<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> District Courts. Candidate questionnaires and forum videos for those forums are also available on the OCBA.org website.

Check the **CANDIDATE FORUMS** calendar on [www.lwvoa.org](http://www.lwvoa.org) regularly for other forums that may be scheduled.

## JUDICIAL FORUMS

**Sixth Circuit Court Incumbent**, Wednesday, September 5th, 2012, 7:00 p.m., County Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. Five incumbents and 2 challengers, 6-year term, vote for up to 5.

**Candidates:**

Leo Bowman, Incumbent	Deborah Carley	
Phyllis C. McMillin, Incumbent	Denise Langford Morris, Incumbent	Wendy Potts, Incumbent
William Rollstin	Michael Warren, Incumbent	

**District Court 50**, Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Pontiac City Hall, 115 W. Howard, Pontiac. 1 incumbent, 1 challenger, 6-year term.

**District Court 51**, Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 7:00, Waterford Township Hall, 5200 Civic Center Drive, Waterford, 1 incumbent, 1 challenger, 6-year term.

**ALL Forums are being recorded and rebroadcast on local cable with some also available online** on-demand including earlier forums not listed. Check with your local cable organization for rerun information.

A partnership of Mivote (at UM-Dearborn), DPTV, Center for Michigan, and LWV has interviewed candidates for State Representative on video and posted the videos on [www.Mivote.org](http://www.Mivote.org).

### **DUES DUE**

Our new League year began July 1<sup>st</sup>, which means DUES are due for the 2012-2013 League year. **Dues remain at \$60.** If you have not yet paid your dues for this League year, go to [www.LWVOA.org](http://www.LWVOA.org) and click on JOIN THE LEAGUE to print a membership form to use for mailing a check payable to LWVOA to our office or to utilize PayPal to pay your dues online.

# Capture the Election

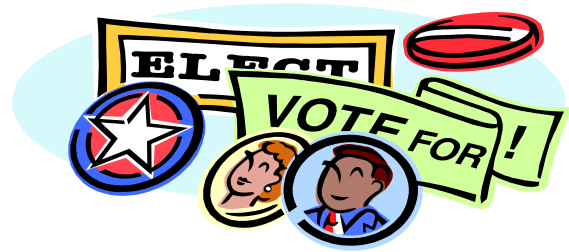
(article adapted from LWV Northwest Wayne County Voter)

All of us receive campaign literature in the mail. Sometimes interesting or educational, it can also be negative and even slanderous. At our last Board meeting, LWVOA decided to participate in a LWVMI initiative that we hope will draw media attention to loopholes in campaign finance laws that allow special interests to sponsor election ads without having to disclose their financial supporters. **State plans to concentrate on monitoring and assessing advertising for the Supreme Court races, but local Leagues can choose to monitor additional races.**

How do League members participate? Easy! For every piece of **campaign literature** you get in the mail after the August 7th primary, please throw it in a box (or bag) and save it. We'd also like you to **observe campaign ads** on TV with a new awareness and hopefully keep a journal with the date and time of the ad.

## Recording the following information would be helpful:

- ♣ Who is the candidate being promoted?
- ♣ What is the tenor of the message.... positive or negative?
- ♣ Who is the sponsor?
- ♣ How often is the ad running (i.e. do you see it every night when you watch the news?)



Long before the emergence of SuperPacs, Michigan had experienced an explosion of election spending that is not addressed by campaign finance laws. The Michigan Campaign Finance Network estimates that, from 2000 to 2010, \$70 million was spent that was “completely outside the state’s campaign finance reporting system.” Undisclosed spending is typically in the form of candidate-focused television ads (i.e., “issue” ads) but also includes literature and robo-calls. In most of the statewide races in 2010, less than half of the funds spent were subject to reporting requirements. Television and print advertising by special interest groups is expected to reach an all-time high during this year’s election cycle.

So find a shoebox and throw in all of the campaign mailings you receive. We hope for an interesting discussion. **If you would like to participate in this effort, contact Mary Ann Barkach at 248/474-2353 or email at [mbarkach@yahoo.com](mailto:mbarkach@yahoo.com).** Probably we can do this via e-mail.



33400 Woodward  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
(248) 645-1118  
[www.newyousalon.com](http://www.newyousalon.com)

## Sponsors



14611 West 11 Mile Road  
Oak Park, MI 48237

Phone 248-545-0500  
Fax 248-545-6859

[info@CurtsService.com](mailto:info@CurtsService.com) • [www.CurtsService.com](http://www.CurtsService.com)



# Voter Registration Activities Planned

LWVOA members Carole Elder and Judy Bateman are starting to plan voter registration events at OCC and various high schools. Their work has been made easier now that Governor Snyder has vetoed the voter registration bill which would have imposed training and certification requirements on organizations like the League.

LWV of the United States and other organizations are concentrating on September as registration month. If you would like to participate in registering voters, contact Judy at or [judybatement@comcast.net](mailto:judybatement@comcast.net) or Carole at [eee24@comcast.net](mailto:eee24@comcast.net).



**Buy "Vote Today" Signs  
– On Sale Now**

We have a few 'Vote Today' signs left that we are selling at a reduced price for the upcoming Presidential election. The weather-resistant signs are great to display on your lawn on election day. To order a sign at our reduced price of \$5 just e-mail - [edwards@wowway.com](mailto:edwards@wowway.com) or call Ann Edwards at (248) 656-9771.

Sponsors



855 S. Rochester Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307



**Rochester  
Regional  
Chamber  
of Commerce**

Rochester • Rochester Hills  
Oakland Township

[www.rrc-mi.com](http://www.rrc-mi.com)

**MEA**

**Michigan Education Association**

Avondale/Rochester Education Association  
43252 Woodward Ave., Suite 200  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Ofc: 248-874-1832  
Fax: 248-874-1855

E-mail: [ecrain@mea.org](mailto:ecrain@mea.org)

**Eduarda Crain**  
Executive Director

[www.mea.org](http://www.mea.org)

## RESERVATION FORM for FALL LUNCHEON

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 17** Make check payable to: **LWVOA**

**Mail to:** LWVOA Office, 725 N. Adams Rd., Rm. 292, Birmingham, MI 48009

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**No. for Lunch (@\$25)** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. for Speaker Only (@\$7)** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclosed**

**Choice of Panera Bread Sandwich:** (Please indicate number of each if reserving for more than 1)

Mediterranean Veggie \_\_\_\_\_ Smoked Ham & Swiss \_\_\_\_\_ Sierra Turkey \_\_\_\_\_

Roast Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Tuna Salad \_\_\_\_\_

See <http://www.panerabread.com/menu/cafe/sandwiches.php> for details on sandwiches.

## Be a Participant in This Election: Stand by Your Ad

At our 2012 National Convention, Professor of Communications Kathleen Jamieson of the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, spoke to us about third party ads. She said that although, with few exceptions, broadcast stations have to air ads sponsored by candidates seeking such federal offices as the presidency, they are under no obligation to accept outside groups' ads and can insist that any of them they transmit to our living rooms stick to the facts.



**FlackCheck.org**, a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, has launched a site designed to help citizens email local stations to let them know that you hope they will refuse to air deceptive third party ads.

Just go to **FlackCheck.org** and click on Stand by Your Ad. Follow their simple directions and you can choose the local stations to whom you want to send the following message, and they will do the rest.

“As a viewer of your station, I would be grateful if, during the election season, you would insist on the accuracy of any third-party ads you air and make fact checking to prevent political deception a regular feature of your news programming. Thank you.”

When a group called “Building a Better Ohio” offered Ohio TV stations a deceptive ad last October, a number of stations exercised their prerogative to insist on the accuracy of so-called third party ads by refusing to air it. Maybe we can influence our stations.



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 32  
BIRMINGHAM, MI

**League of Women Voters® Oakland Area**  
725 S. Adams Road, Suite 292  
Birmingham, MI 48009

A Voice for Citizens,  
A Voice for Change

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Time Dated Material Enclosed

### Calendar of Events

*For elections, see [Voter Guides and Candidate Forums on www.LWVOA.org](http://www.LWVOA.org), [www.OCBA.org](http://www.OCBA.org) (additional judicial race info), and [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) (federal and state races).*

- Sat. Aug. 25 11:30 am Women's Equality Day Luncheon:** Cost: \$25. Reservation required.  
One-Under Restaurant, 35780 Five Mile Rd. Livonia. 248-355-5233  
Speaker: Carolyn Cook, founder of United for Equality
- Wed. Sep. 5 10:00 am Voter Registration at OCC** (with AAUW)  
**7:00 pm Judicial Candidate Forum:** 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, County Commissioners Auditorium,  
1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac 48328 (See Page 4)  
**7 am – 8 pm Special Primary Election – US Dist. 11, partial term** (See Page 3)
- Tues. Sep. 11 7:00 pm Judicial Candidate Forum:** District Court 50, 115 W. Howard, Pontiac 48342  
(See Page 4)
- Wed. Sep. 12 7:00 pm Judicial Candidate Forum:** District Court 51, 5200 Civic Center Drive,  
Waterford 48329 (See Page 4)
- Sat. Sep. 29 10:00 am Program: Health Care Reform – What is it? Why? & Can We Afford It?**  
**Speaker: Marianne Udow-Phillips.**  
Bloomfield Twp Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd, Bloomfield Hills 48302 (See Page 1)
- Mon. Oct. 22 noon LWVOA Fall Luncheon, Speaker: Gilda Z. Jacobs.** Reservations required.  
**Topic: Prosperity and Public Policy** (See Pages 3 and 7)  
First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits, Birmingham 48009
- Tues. Nov. 6 7am-8 pm General Election Day**