



# Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area  
725 S. Adams Road, Suite L-144, Birmingham, MI 48009  
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2015-2016 Issue 3

March-April 2016



## League of Women Voters Oakland Area ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, May 21, 2016**

@ Plum Hollow Golf Club, 21631 Lahser Rd, Southfield 48033  
(Between 8 and 9 Mile Roads)

Registration 10 am, Business Meeting 10:30 am, Luncheon 12 noon

**Speaker at 1 pm: Jocelyn Benson**

**Topic: Making Democracy Work**

Jocelyn Benson is Dean of Wayne State University Law School, a graduate of Harvard Law School, and an expert in civil rights law, education law, and election law. She is widely quoted on those subjects in local, regional, national and international media. Her book, *State Secretaries of State: Guardians of the Democratic Process*, is the first major book on the role of secretary of state in enforcing election and campaign finance laws.

Benson is founder and executive director of the nonpartisan Michigan Center for Election Law, which hosts projects that support transparency and integrity in elections, including redistricting. A former member of the American Bar Association’s Committee on Election Law, Benson has developed and supervised three statewide nonpartisan election protection efforts in Michigan. She serves on the Southern Poverty Law Center Board of Directors and is founder and president of Military Spouses of Michigan.

**MENU - Choice of Plated Salad:**

**Michigan Harvest Salad** (Assorted Greens with Red Onions, Dried Cherries, Mandarin Oranges, Goat Cheese, Walnuts & Raspberry Vinaigrette) OR

**Traditional Caesar Salad** (Romaine Lettuce, Parmesan Cheese, Herb Croutons tossed w. Homemade Caesar Dressing)

**Choose Protein Topping on salad:** Grilled **Chicken** or Pesto-rubbed **Salmon**

**Lunch includes Soup, Rolls, Dessert (Mini Eclairs), Tea and Coffee**

**Please RSVP by MAY 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Registration Form for 5/21/16 LWVOA Annual Meeting**

(Cut off & Mail)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Select Salad:  Michigan Harvest Salad  Traditional Caesar Salad

AND

Select Protein Topping:  Grilled Chicken  Pesto-rubbed Salmon  None

Indicate Number of reservations: (Questions: Call 248/594-6602 and leave a message.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I will attend 5/21/2016 Annual Meeting, Luncheon, Speaker** **Cost: \$35.00\***

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will attend Speaker portion of Meeting, but not Luncheon** **\$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No, I cannot attend but would like Annual Meeting Workbook sent to me.** **\$ 7.00**

**Check payable to LWVOA. Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail to LWVOA, 725 S. Adams Rd., Ste. L-144, Birmingham, MI 48009**

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THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters Oakland Area. 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.

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*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.*

## President's Message

March 27, 2016

**Good afternoon,**

As I sit with family and enjoy Easter I look to all that is before us in the coming year. We see a world in turmoil, and election cycle that has been turned upside down. We are looking forward to educate and inform our citizens on the issues that face us. The past year we studied Redistricting, Campaign Finance, Voter Rights and many local issues. We have used advocacy in the Flint water crisis, transportation and school issues.

We look forward with our partners OCBA, Free Press, Detroit News, and Detroit Public TV as we plan judicial forums for contested races at Circuit, Probate and District Courts and the Michigan Appeals and Supreme Courts. We will also have many local candidate forums at the federal, state, county, township, village, and school district level this year. All of these forums will require helpers. If you can give a couple hours to volunteer at any upcoming forum, please contact Judy Bateman, our Voter Service Vice President.

Our finance drive has begun. If you have not yet contributed, take this time to think about a tax-free contribution to the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Mark (**Ed Fund**) on your donation. Membership campaign is also in full swing; bring your friends to a League event and let them become a part of learning all the good things going on in League.

Our national convention this year is June 16-19 in Washington DC. Our delegates are getting ready to learn and be ready to inform our members on **Making Democracy Work**, which will be the theme for the 2016–2018 biennium.

Our annual meeting will be held on **May 21, 2016**. We have **Professor Jocelyn Benson, Dean of Wayne State University Law School**, who will speak on **“MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK”**. This will be a wonderful time for all to be informed and enjoy meeting new friends and seeing old ones. Bring your neighbors for an informative presentation. Please join us for this event which will be held at **PLUM HOLLOW GOLF CLUB** in Southfield. See the registration form on Page 1. Also consider attending the **April 30** advocacy workshop – see information on Page 3. We will car pool.

Now is the time I recognize a few members, but this year we have been so busy and involved with so many projects I would like to thank the entire board and all the volunteers who have freely given of their time to make all those things happen. Without them none of this would have been possible.  
**THANK YOU ALL.**

Jerry Burden  
President

***DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT***

## 2016 LWVMI SPRING WORKSHOPS

### Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work

**Saturday, April 30, 2016, 9:30am-2:30pm** Register by 4/25.

St. Paul Episcopal Church, 218 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI, 48933

**This event is open to all League members.** It will focus on the League's advocacy work on voter rights, voter protection, money in politics and redistricting. Former Michigan Senator Gretchen Whitmer will be one of the speakers.

### **VOTE411 Training** - For local League VOTE411 Coordinators

**Saturday, April 16, 2016, 10:00am-2:00pm** Register by 4/11

LWVMI Board office: 600 W. St. Joseph St., #3G, Lansing, MI, 48933

Participants may bring a laptop computer, but not required.

\$17 Registration Fee for **each** Workshop (Covers early refreshments, lunch, and materials)

NOTE: If you have specific dietary needs, please contact Christina Schlitt at bcschlitt@aol.com.

### Registration Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local League \_\_\_\_\_ Office or Position \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend: (Choose one or both)

**April 16** @LWVMI office (**VOTE411**)  **April 30** @St. Paul's Episcopal Church (**Defending Democracy**)

Questions or Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: LWVMI, 600 W.St. Joseph St, #3G, Lansing, MI 48933 with check for \$17 to LWVMI per workshop or go to [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org) and register electronically to pay with Credit Card or PayPal account.**



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A Voice for Citizens,  
A Voice for Change

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Calendar of Events**

Thursday, April 7, 7 pm LWVOA Board Meeting,  
25800 Northwestern, Real Estate One Building, Southfield, MI  
8<sup>th</sup> floor, Globe Midwest office

**See Page 3** or go to **lwwmi.org** for reservation. \$17 fee per workshop includes lunch, materials.

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00am-2pm VOTE411 Training Workshop** for Local League coordinators  
@LWVMI, 600 W. St. Joseph St, #3G; Lansing, MI 48933

**Saturday, April 30, 9:30am-2:30pm Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work**  
For ALL members @St.Paul Episcopal Church, 218 W.Ottawa St, Lansing 48933

**Saturday, May 21 10:30 am LWVOA Annual Meeting** – Please RSVP by May 13th  
**12 noon Luncheon – See Page 1 for Menu, Reservation Form.**  
**1 pm Speaker: Jocelyn Benson, Dean of Wayne State Law School**  
@ Plum Hollow Golf Course, 21631 Lahser Rd, Southfield 48033

Tuesday, May 3, 7am-8pm May election in a few school districts with proposals

Thursday-Sunday, June 16-19 LWVUS National Convention in Washington, D.C.