

*Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, Michigan*

### Welcome New Members!

Lisa Brown  
Linda Fiscus  
Michelle Krebs  
Anne Kucher  
Jeannette Nadler  
Jena Rafferty

### LWVOA Board of Directors 2019-2020

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Debra Horner - Voter Guides  
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#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Patricia Finn - Chair  
Laura Gogola  
Susan Liebetreu

### Voting Laws, the 2020 Census and Elections Town Hall



The February 3, 2020 Town Hall at Seaholm High School moderated by Senator McMorrow

proved to be very informative. Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist (pictured above) gave the opening remarks. Attendees were encouraged to submit questions which were screened by Representative Manoogian (pictured below).



*Left to right: Rep. Manoogian, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, Mr. Hammoud, Mr. Singh and Senator McMorrow*



A presentation by Bilal Hammoud, Public Engagement Associate for the Michigan Secretary of State, which can be viewed [here](#), described the timeline and details for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.



## Save the Date for Our Annual Meeting

The LWVOA annual meeting will be Saturday June 13, 2020 at Bay Pointe Golf Club in West Bloomfield. More information to come. Mark your calendar!

Kelly Ebersole Singh, Michigan Statewide Census Director discussed the importance of the census. There is a huge need for census workers. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Dr. Debra Horner, LWVOA member and Director of [Vote411.org](#) (pictured above and to the right of the Senator) described updates to voter registration, absentee voting and election day activities as a result of changes to voting laws due to the approval of Proposals 2 and 3. Her presentation is [here](#).

Rochester Hills City Clerk, Tina Barton (pictured far right) discussed election security issues in an excellent [presentation](#).

Questions were answered by all panelists at the end of the presentations.

## Census 2020

Maybe you've seen the billboards along I-75. The census is coming beginning April 1st. The U.S. Census is required under the U.S. Constitution to occur every 10 years and is the process of counting every resident in the country. Participation in the census is mandatory; but for the first time ever, in 2020 the Census will be primarily digitally based. Read this [article](#) from the Detroit News that summarizes the information about the census.

Attorney General Nessel (pictured right) kicked off her statewide campaign for the 2020 census in Pontiac.

Nessel said billions in federal funding will be lost if people don't fill out the census.

Funding for police and fire departments, health care, education, and the roads is determined by the state's population. Nessel said the information collected will not be shared with law enforcement, that includes

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "I'm here as the top law enforcement official in Michigan. People who are not citizens: this information will not be used against you," Nessel said



The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill hundreds of thousands of temporary positions across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. If you are interested in being paid to count others, click [here](#). The League's Census work will occur in three phases: (1) Education; (2) Get Out to Count activities, (3) Watchdog reporting. In the months leading up to Census Day—April 1, 2020—Leagues around the country will be in communities sharing information and resources about how to participate and the importance of the U.S. Census.

## National and State League Spotlights

### LWVUS - ERA

LWVUS has supported and pushed for

### LWVMI - Voter Services

An excellent, new resource sponsored by

ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) since it was first passed by Congress in 1972. On February 13, the U.S. House voted on H.J. Res. 79, legislation removing the ratification deadline on the ERA. This legislation is needed to remove the ambiguity around the deadline and bring it closer to taking effect. There is no deadline on equality, and now we must pressure the Senate to follow suit and help the ERA cross the finish line. Continue to use the [ERA toolkit](#) to elevate the importance of ratifying the ERA in the U.S. Constitution.

the ACLU with contributions from the LWVMI, NAACP and many voting rights advocate organizations, went live this month! Visit [Michiganvoting.org](http://Michiganvoting.org) for voting rights and election protection information.



## March Elections

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The upcoming March 10th elections in Oakland County include the following, depending on where you live:

- Democratic candidate election for the Presidential Primary
- Detroit Institute of the Arts Proposal (Renewal of Oakland County Art Institute Authority Millage)
- Huntington Woods and Bloomfield Twp, community proposals
- Ten school district proposals:
  - Birmingham
  - Brandon
  - Clarkston
  - Farmington
  - Ferndale (2 proposals)
  - Pontiac (2 Proposals),
  - Southfield
  - Macomb Intermediate School District (which has part of its district in Addison Twp and Oakland Twp).

As Tina Barton, Rochester Hills City Clerk mentioned in the town hall (above), extra poll workers are needed for this election due to the expected number of absentee voter ballots that will need to be counted. Contact your local clerk to apply for jobs on election day.

## Access Personalized Voting Information on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

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To prepare for the upcoming election, you can access personalized information for all races in Michigan, including any candidate responses on [vote411.org](http://vote411.org).

You can receive a link to your personalized voting information via phone or email and also have the option to share it with friends and family via email or social media. You can also print pages from [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) if you'd like something to take to the polls.

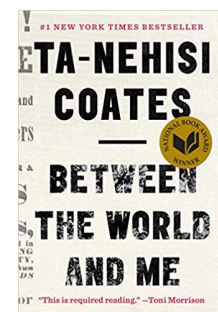
## Book Club 2020

Do you love to read and talk about books? Attend the LWVOA book club! This group reads books that connect to LWVOA's positions and other issues important to our organization. This is a great way to get to know your fellow League members.

### Next meeting:

*Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nahesi Coates Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

This book pivots from some of the biggest questions about American



history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis.

#### Upcoming meetings and books:

- *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild (Wednesday, May 27, 2020)
- *Educated, a Memoir* by Tara Westover (Tuesday, July 28, 2020)
- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (Wednesday, September 23, 2020)
- *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan (Thursday, December 3, 2020)

## Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Election day - VOTE!

### Thursday, March 12, 2020, 6 pm

Community Engagement Committee program covering Redistricting, Census 2020 and Changes to Voting Rights. Speakers include:

- Kurt Metzger, Mayor of Pleasant Ridge
- Debra Horner, League Member and Director of VOTE411

NEXT Birmingham, 2121 Midvale St, Birmingham, MI 48009

### Tuesday, March 24, 2020

LWVOA Book Club

Panera, 28681 Telegraph Rd, Southfield, MI 48034

### Saturday, April 24, 2020

2020 LWVMI Spring Workshop

Registration will be open on the LWVMI website in mid-March

Mt. Pleasant

### Saturday, June 13, 2020

LWVOA Annual Meeting

Bay Pointe Golf Club, 4001 Haggerty Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48323

**Thank you  
to our  
sponsors**



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Doug Hill  
Board Member, Region 7  
President, REA  
www.mea.org

Rochester Education Association  
200 East Silverbell  
Lake Orion, MI 48360  
Ofc: 248-874-1832 Fax: 248-377-0520  
Email: dhill@mea.org

 **Shelton**  
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855 South Rochester Rd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
248.651.5300  
www.shelton.com

League of Women Voters Oakland Area | [league@lwvoa.org](mailto:league@lwvoa.org)  
248-594-6602 | [www.lwvoa.org](http://www.lwvoa.org)

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