

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

Welcome New Members!

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Sheryl Mitchell
Judith Wurges

LWVOA Board of Directors 2019-2020

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Engagement
Eva Packard - They Represent
You

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Ann Edwards - Mailings
Susan Liebetreu - Vote 411
Debra Horner - Voter Guides
Kim Brown/Tera Moon -
Webmaster
Kathy Henry - Education

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Patricia Finn - Chair
Jerry Burden
Laura Gogola
Susan Liebetreu
Susan Learman

LWVOA Urges Voters to Prepare for Elections Using [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org)

The website, which the national League of Women Voters launched in 2006, serves as a one-stop-shop for nonpartisan election related information and responses to relevant questions for federal and state races and ballot proposals. Candidate information for some local races and proposals are also included. [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) also assists voters in finding their polling places, hours and learning about candidate forums. Additional resources for how to navigate elections during the COVID-19 pandemic is also included.

[VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) is also available in Spanish. Like the League, [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), is nonpartisan in so far as it offers information on candidates in races for all political parties. The site aims to safeguard democracy by driving voter engagement. The League will also issue a print voter guide in September for the November election.



Vote from Home

All Michigan voters have the right to vote by mail for the August and November elections by applying to receive an absentee ballot. The Secretary of State is mailing all registered voters absentee voter ballot applications which allow you to apply for both elections in 2020. If you do not receive your application via the mail, you can apply online at [Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.michigan.gov/vote). As before, you can also sign up for the permanent absentee voter list to receive an absentee ballot application before every election.

Remember for the primary, you must choose a party; in other words, you cannot split your ticket.

A notice was mailed in May, stating that the 2020 LWVOA Annual Meeting had been cancelled in response to COVID-19. However, we are still conducting the business required by our bylaws virtually as other Leagues are doing, using on-line voting survey and a paper survey. Informational materials were mailed and may be referenced through links in the survey.

You are able to vote on 2020-2021 budgets as well as officers, directors, and off-board nominating committee members. We also asked for annual approval of our local program positions and sought directives to the board from our membership. We are looking for responses by June 25-30.

Candidate Forum Update

Candidate forums are underway. These forums are being conducted on the Zoom platform, recorded and made available on the [LWVOA website](#) and shared with any local government or TV that have the ability to share the forum.

Even with the new venue, the League is able to maintain previous standards for forums including the following:

- The League of Women Voters invites all qualified candidates through U.S. Mail and email to participate in a forum the League is sponsoring. Write-ins who have qualified before the date of the forum are also included.
- If a candidate cannot attend the forum, the candidate must notify the League of Women Voters Oakland Area representative at least 24 hours prior to the start of the forum. If a candidate is unable to attend, a written, brief statement may be submitted to the League of Women Voters to be read by the moderator. Its length cannot exceed the time allotted for a candidate's opening statement.

The following forum recordings are currently available:

- [State Representative District 37](#)
- [State Representative District 38](#)
- [Oakland County Commissioner District 17](#)
- [Oakland County Commissioner District 18](#)
- [State Representative District 45](#)
- [Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff](#)
- [Oakland County Clerk and Treasurer](#)

The following forum recordings are upcoming:

- Oakland County Executive
- Township of Royal Oak: Supervisor, Treasurer and Trustee
- State Representative District 27

We All Want to Be Accepted



June is pride month. Most of us have some or a lot of pride in who we are. Can you wholeheartedly accept others for who they are? Why or why not? It's never too late to change.

Upcoming PBS Program on Women Gaining the Right to Vote

On **July 6**, PBS is scheduled to air **The Vote** as part of the American Experience series. One hundred years after the passage of the 19th Amendment, **The Vote** tells the dramatic culmination story of the hard-fought campaign waged by American women for the right to vote. This transformative cultural and political movement resulted in the largest expansion

of voting rights in U.S. history. Visit PBS.org to find your local station or other options for viewing.

Support Your Local Front Line Workers

Message of Gratitude

On behalf of the LWVOA, we are asking you to thank all of your family and friends who are on the front lines during this pandemic. While many of us are not on the front lines during this pandemic, we all know someone who is. Please send these workers your heartfelt gratitude, respect and appreciation for all that they are doing to keep us healthy and safe.

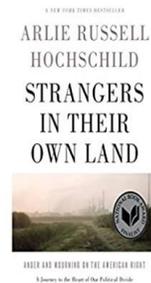
As we weather this storm, our healthcare workers, police and fire, teachers, grocery store employees, food processors, restaurant staff, hair salon / barbers and others deserve to be recognized. A word of thanks or a generous tip can make all the difference in the world!

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 book:

Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right by Arlie Russell Hochschild (July 28, time and location TBD)



In this book, the renowned sociologist Arlie Hochschild embarks on a thought-provoking journey from her liberal hometown of Berkeley, California, deep into Louisiana bayou country - a stronghold of the conservative right. As she gets to know people who strongly oppose many of the ideas she famously champions, Hochschild nevertheless finds common ground and quickly warms to the people she meets, among them a Tea Party activist whose town has been swallowed by a sinkhole caused by a drilling accident - people whose concerns are actually ones that all Americans share: the desire for community, the embrace of family, and hopes for their children.

Upcoming meetings and books:

- *Educated, a Memoir* by Tara Westover (TBD)
- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (TBD)
- *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan (TBD)

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