



The Voter



A publication of
Dearborn and Dearborn Heights
League of Women Voters

120 N. Military Dearborn, MI 48124 313-278-6476 www.lwvddh.org

April 2013

After the right to vote was established for American women in 1920, the League of Women Voters worked to inform the influx of new voters. LWV has since become a resource for ALL voters. Men and women with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints rely on our non-partisan candidate guides and forums as well as our well-studied positions on local, state and national issues.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL MANAGER -

An Educational FORUM
Presented by the League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area
Saturday, April 20, 2013
10 am to 12 noon
Henry Ford Centennial Library
16301 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn



Public Invited / Welcome

- What is the law pertaining to Emergency Financial Managers?
- When was legislation first passed to establish State Management of municipalities or school districts?
- What was on the ballot in 2012?
- What is an Emergency Financial Manager and what authority does one have?
- What are the criteria for State intervention into local government entities?

In a Bridge Magazine article, Ted Roelofs reported that, "In five years, total Michigan property values plunged by more than \$260 billion, according to an analysis of state records." Values dropped from \$725 billion in 2011 to \$698 billion in 2012. There was a drop of \$36 billion in value for residential, industrial, commercial, timber, development and personal property. State and local governments levied \$1.3 billion less in property taxes in 2011 than in 2007 because of declining property values and exemptions from the tax, according to Treasury Department figures. That has caused layoffs and cutbacks in everything from police and fire protection to schools. Detroit's problems are echoed in several communities.

Come learn about this very important topic ...
An impressive list of speakers will compose the panel presentation:

Dr. Anthony A. Perry, Associate Dean, Social Science Division and Director of the Democracy Institute, Henry Ford Community College, will act as moderator.

Ms. Bettie Buss who's career includes work as Supervising Budget Analyst for the City of Detroit, Director of Policy and Research for Detroit Renaissance from 1994 to 2006 and presently, Senior Research Analyst at Citizen Research Council. (Founded in 1916, CRC provides factual, unbiased, independent information concerning significant issues of state and local government organization, policy, and finance.)

Mr. Fred Headen who was former Director of Bureau of Local Government Services and presently serves as legal advisor to the State Treasurer, Andy Dillon.

Dr. John Telford as a dedicated educator, began teaching at Detroit Southeastern, Finney, and Pershing High Schools, advanced to administrator at several suburban school districts including Walled Lake, Berkley, Plymouth/ Canton, Rochester, and Macomb Community College. He coached high school and college track champions, especially at Wayne State and Oakland Universities. He returned to Detroit Schools in 1999, subsequently served as Executive Director supervising principals, and until recently served as Superintendent of Detroit Public Schools sharing district leadership with an emergency financial manager.

10:00 am to 11:00 am - Panel Presentation
11:00 am to 12:00 noon - Question / Answer
12 to 12:30 pm Light Refreshments.

MEMBERSHIP

Open to any U.S. citizen.
Dues are \$60 per year payable
July 1st to: **LWVDDH.**

MEETINGS

The League Office and most local meetings are held at Christ Episcopal Church
120 N. Military at Cherry Hill,
Dearborn, MI.

The church is handicap accessible with elevator and an outdoor ramp.

LEAGUE OFFICE

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MISSION STATEMENT

The LWV, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of people in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

“**The Voter Newsletter**” is included in membership. Others can subscribe for \$10 per year. We are also transitioning to an email alert for those who opt out of the printed newsletter. Contact us at 313-278-6476 or lwvddh@gmail.com to request an email or printed subscription



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – MARY BUGEIA

Hello Members and Friends. Again, we can be proud of the accomplishments of our organization. We have a core of people who continue to be involved in projects. As you read about the list of activities, please think of ways that you may become involved also. Don't wait to be asked! Others may not know what skills or interests you have.

Under the leadership of Barbara Adams we have been visiting area high schools to encourage students who will turn 18 by the November election to register to Vote. The team of members helping in this activity are: Michelle Audia, Joseph Borrajo, Mary Bugeia, Judy Carty, Betsy Cushman, Ghida Dagher, Kathy Gapa, and Toni Tront. It is a rewarding experience to engage with the youth. In some instances the students are eager to register and in some instances they need an explanation of what and why it is a good thing to do. This year we had a college student from Oakland University earning volunteer credit by helping us. So far we have visited 7 schools and registered 436 students. Because some of the schools have open enrollment, residents have been from 21 communities, which meant extra work for Barbara to make sure each application went to the correct city clerk.

Voter Service activities are humming along under the leadership of Betsy Cushman, see her report page 3 regarding legislative interviews. This important activity helps make the elected officials aware of whom we are and helps us understand them better.

Regrettably, the Detroit LWV dissolved last year and there is a void in providing voter service functions to such a large, important city. On April 4th, LWV State President Susan Smith convened a meeting of LWV members representing Dearborn/ Dearborn Heights, Grosse Pointe, and Northwest Wayne County to discuss options to address the situation. Long range hopes are to re-establish a Detroit League. In the meantime this group will become a Voter Service Committee to assist in delivering some level of voter service functions.

As noted in much of the news lately, many cities and schools are in a financial dilemma, facing bankruptcy or State imposed Emergency Financial Managers. We have scheduled an important **FORUM** to learn about the many implications of this process. An excellent panel of speakers will be on hand to explain the options or rationale for state intervention and to hear the opinion of one experiencing such intervention.

Mark your calendar, and bring a friend Saturday morning, April 20th at 10 am



A **transit-oriented development (TOD)** is a mixed-use residential and commercial area designed to maximize access to public transport, and often incorporates features to encourage transit ridership. A TOD neighborhood typically has a center with a transit station or stop (train station, metro station, tram stop or bus stop), surrounded by relatively high-density development with progressively lower-density development spreading outward from the center. TODs generally are located within a radius of one-quarter to one-half mile (400 to 800 m) from a transit stop, as this is considered to be an appropriate scale for pedestrians.

For our interest, the Next Place Plans/Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Meeting will be held on Monday April 8, 2013

The design team from Michigan State University (MSU), the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) will return to Dearborn to give the community the opportunity to view and hear about the transit oriented development project design recommendations in areas surrounding Dearborn’s intermodal passenger rail station and to provide feedback as input into the final design.

The event will take place at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center (<http://www.dearbornfordcenter.com/>) in Studio A from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Monday.

At this point, the project will include more detail, so the design team will carefully walk participants through the various depictions. A brief overview of the contents of the final report that support the design concepts as well as a summary of implementation considerations will also be provided.

The event is expected to last about 90 minutes and will include the next steps in the process and details about the Final Community Celebration.

Questions can be directed to: Liz Hendley, AICP, Planner for the City of Dearborn. 313.943.2171 or ehendley@ci.dearborn.mi.us

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR DONORS

LWVDDH is fortunate to have many generous donors. Our annual fundraising calendar actually began on July 1, 2012 and will conclude on June 30, 2013. We do plan to send annual fundraising letters soon. We are grateful and humbled by donations that have already been made prior to the letter writing campaign from loyal members and friends of LWVDDH.

We would like to publicly thank those who have already made generous donations.

Underwriting the 2013 Who's Who:

- Dearborn Federal Savings Bank
- Dearborn Rotary Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Dearborn, Inc.
- Rotary Club of Dearborn Heights

Other generous donations:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Henry Messer | Member |
| ▪ Miyoko O'Neill | Member |
| ▪ Jeanne Martens | Friend |
| ▪ Gail Hansen | Member |
| ▪ E. W. Kaiser | Friend |
| ▪ Clara Mousigian | Friend |
| ▪ Delores Duneski | Christus Victor Church |
| ▪ Agnes Dobronski | Member |
| ▪ Marjorie Bryer | Friend |
| ▪ Janice Berry | Member |
| ▪ Betsy Cushman | Member * |
| ▪ Judy Carty | Member * |

* in remembrance of Gloria Rottman

If you made a donation since July 1, 2012 and are not listed here, we apologize. Please contact Judy Patrick so we can correct any errors.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Make check payable to:

LWVDDH Education Fund
120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124



**** Tax-deductible donations** are designated for educational publications and programs such as non-partisan voter guides, candidate forums and the annual publication of local, state and national elected officials (Who’s Who). These non-partisan resources are essential to our community and appreciated by our voting population. These contributions are managed by the LWVDDH Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization.



Have Your Say on the Region's Long-Term Transportation Plan

In June 2013, SEMCOG's General Assembly will adopt a long-range transportation vision defining how the region's transportation system can support continued economic recovery, environmental health, community revitalization, and quality of life. The short-term funding priorities identified in that plan will be spelled out in the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Together, these documents will guide planning actions and funding decisions for the region.

SEMCOG has posted videos and surveys on congestion: <http://www.semco.org/2040RegionalTransportationPlan.aspx>— check them out and tell them what you think!

You can email them directly at infocenter@semcog.org with your comments, questions, and concerns.

Also, SEMCOG wants to speak to your business, civic, faith-based, or governmental group to spread the word on the importance of our regional transportation system and how everyone can participate in the planning process.

Want to learn more about how the transportation system impacts your everyday life? Contact Sue Stetler at 313-324-3428 or stetler@semcog.org.

DEARBORN PARKING COMMISSION

Interested in what's happening in Dearborn with Paid Parking, Parking Structures, maintenance of parking lots?

The Dearborn Parking Commission meets bimonthly in the Chamber of Commerce Community Room in the basement of Bryant Library.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 3 PM.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16th at 3 PM. Meetings are of course open to the public.



What is ARC, Dearborn?

The ARC is an organization of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, parents and family members, friends, and professionals who work with them. Their mission is to provide a wide range of supportive services, information and advocacy to improve the quality of life for children and adults with these disabilities. In Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, they promote opportunities to live, learn, and work.

If you are able or interested in helping in their mission, here are a few events coming up. Monday, April 29 come to bd's Mongolian Grill between 5 to 9 pm and proceeds will go to ARC. On Friday, May 10, a Spring Gala and auction will be held at the Dearborn Inn at 7 pm. Tickets cost: \$45 per person, \$80 couple or \$35 for person with disability. For further information call 313-562-1787 or email info@thearcdearborn.org



... Get them Drunk and they will come

(excerpt from *Anything for a Vote*
by Joseph Cummins)

These days, presidential candidates go on television and urge citizens, in the most sober of tones, to do their civic duty and vote. In 1792 candidates had a different idea – get voters hammered on your tab and naturally they'd vote for you. The Gazette of the United States reported that “a bystander, observing the particular situation of a great number of electors, who had been regaled at the expenses of one of the candidates, remarked ... that the *Voice of the People was the Voice of Grog.*”



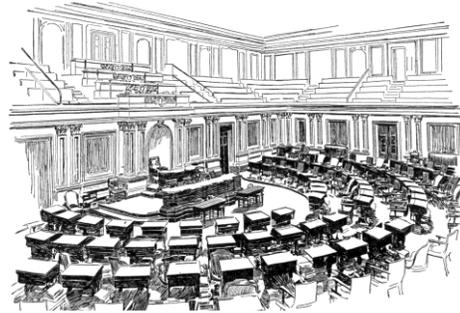
Legislative Interviews

Our Local League includes parts of 6 State Legislative Districts: In the Michigan Senate, we are represented by:

- **Morris Hood** 3rd District
- **Tupac A. Hunter** 5th District

In the Michigan House of Representatives, the names are:

- **Harvey Santana** 9th District
- **David Knezek** 11th District
- **Andrew Kandrevas** 13th District
- **George T. Darany** 15th District



We conducted 5 interviews (all our legislators except Senator Hunter) during the month of March asking them questions which will help the State League determine their legislative priorities for the coming year. For the Local Leagues, this in-depth visit with our legislators helps build our relationships so that when we advocate on behalf of League positions, the legislators will know who we are. The time spent is fascinating and important. Every one of these busy people spent more than one hour with us, and most of them came to our League office to do so.

I want to thank the League members who participated in this process: Mary Bugeia, Barb Adams, Judy Carty, Kathy Gapa, Joseph Borrajo, Patti and Don Mack. I volunteered to chair the project this year, and am so glad I did!

The results of the interviews conducted by Local Leagues across Michigan will be analyzed by the State League, and we look forward to seeing them put into action in the next legislative session.

Betsy Cushman



August or November? School Board Seeks Opinion on Election Date



The Dearborn Board of Education is seeking community input in regards to placing a \$76 million bond proposal on either the August 6, 2013 Primary Ballot or the November 5, 2013 General Election Ballot. Anyone interested in sharing their opinion can take part in a quick and easy survey by visiting the district website, www.dearbornschools.org, and clicking on the link located on the home page. No personal information will be collected by the survey.

“Although this is a non-scientific poll it will provide the Board with one more way of gathering input from the community about the two election dates,” said Dearborn schools spokesman David Mustonen. At the March 11, 2013 Board of Education meeting the administration presented a proposal for a \$76 million bond that would provide funding for Security, Modifications, Additions, Remodeling, Technology, and Transportation. The bond is being called the S.M.A.R.T. Bond, an acronym for the projects included in the proposal.

The district has 19,100 students with more than 6,200 of them added during the last 26 consecutive years of enrollment gains. A need to provide additional security, increased student numbers, an aging inventory of buildings (35 total with 23 ranging from 50 to 90 years old), state required on-line testing, an aging fleet of buses, and an 8.1 percent decline in funding from the state over the last five years have all contributed to the need for the district to seek a voter approved bond.

Community members can find out more information, leave comments, ask questions, and engage in a constructive dialogue at a special website dedicated to providing information only on the 2013 S.M.A.R.T. Bond, by going to the Dearborn schools website.



Regional Transportation Authority

Regional Transit Authority Progress

The new Regional Transit Authority is coming together, slowly but surely. Here's a quick update of what's been done and what's next.

All of the RTA Board members have been appointed:

- **Representing Detroit:**
 - Lisa Franklin, president of Warriors on Wheels and champion of people with disabilities
- **Representing Macomb County:**
 - Julie Gatti, President-Elect of the Macomb Bar Association and independent family lawyer
 - Roy C. Rose, President of an engineering consulting firm, on the Boards of Leadership Macomb and Focus Macomb
- **Representing Washtenaw County:**
 - Richard Murphy, who works with the Ypsilanti Planning Commission and the Michigan Suburbs Alliance
 - Elizabeth Gerbere, Public Policy Professor at University of Michigan, focused on regionalism
- **Representing Wayne County:**
 - Dr. Curtis Ivery, Chancellor of Wayne County Community College District
 - Mark Gaffney, former president of the Michigan AFL-CIO
- **Representing Oakland County:**
 - **Steven M. Potter**, Rochester Hills resident, trial attorney, and former law partner of Brooks Patterson
 - **Matthew M. Wirgau**, Bloomfield Hills resident, former SMART board chair, and president of Midwest Financial Service
- **Non-Voting Chair, representing the State:**
 - Paul Hillemonds, DTE Vice-President and former Speaker of the Michigan House

Next steps: This full Board will meet April 10 at the SEMCOG Office for the first time and get started developing bylaws, hiring a CEO, selecting a Citizen's Advisory Committee, setting up a website, and much more.

Several MDOT and SEMCOG staff are supporting the RTA as it gets up and running, including:

- Shanelle Jackson, a former Detroit state representative, to facilitate community outreach
- Mario Marrow, to support communications
- Joe Pavona, to coordinate public-private partnerships



Why not share your welcome and suggestions with the RTA? You can learn more and have the ability to email the new RTA Board members and interim staff at <http://www.detroittransit.org> with your message of welcome and some suggestions of how to make the RTA as open and successful as possible. Our suggestions for them:

- Develop open and welcoming processes that encourage maximum public involvement.
- Hold a nationwide search for a strong CEO with proven experience developing a successful regional transit system.
- Hold the earliest possible public vote on funding transit to quickly fund major transit improvements.

You can also add your own suggestions and ideas. Let's get open communications with the RTA started right away!!



On Sunday, March 3, 2013, women from across the nation and around the world will gather in Washington, DC to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Suffrage March of 1913. This historic event is designed to pay homage to the fearless female leaders and participants, who despite humiliation, mockery, and threats, were determined to protest inequality and audacious enough to demand their right to vote.

As the organizer of the Centennial Celebration of the March, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. understands the significant role women have played throughout history. It is our desire to celebrate their achievement and involvement in this and countless other campaigns for justice and equality. In a desire to "follow in the footsteps of our predecessors," the Sorority desires to maintain the symbolic parade route: by gathering on the steps of the Capitol; proceeding down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, and then assembling on the National Mall for closing remarks.

To view a minute and ½ video of this event, go to:

<http://www.pbs.org/to-the-contrary/watch/503>



LWVMI's 2013 Convention "Powering Our Voices" will be held in downtown Lansing just blocks from the Capitol at the Radisson Hotel, May 17 through 19. In addition to important LWVMI business, the Convention promises to be interesting and stimulating. Highlights include optional Friday Pre-Convention Workshops, a reception at the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, a selection of workshops on advocacy, voter service, fundraising, communications and membership, and a chance to network with League members from throughout the state.

Convention speakers will include former U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Rivers (Saturday Banquet), Phil Powers from Center for Michigan (Saturday lunch), and Rich Robinson from the Michigan Campaign Finance Network (Sunday breakfast).

Remember that the Convention isn't just for delegates. All members are welcome. You may access the Convention schedule and registration information on the LWVMI website. Important dates are:

April 1 - Convention Award Nominations Deadline

April 17 - Convention Registrations Deadline

April 17 - Convention Hotel Registration Deadline



EQUAL PAY DAY

What is Equal Pay Day?

Equal Pay Day was originated in Michigan by the Pay Equity Network and adopted by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages.

Equal Pay Day symbolizes how far into 2013 women must work to earn what men earned in 2012. Tuesday is the day of the week on which women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week. It is a national day of recognition that demonstrates there is still a pay gap between women's and men's wages.

People wear red on Equal Pay Day to symbolize that women and minorities are "in the red" with regard to their pay. Equal Pay Day is a national day of recognition established by the National Committee on Pay Equity.

This year's event was scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the Rotunda in the State Capitol Building in Lansing from noon to 1:00 p.m. There was also optional lobbying training, held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.





League of Women Voters
Dearborn & Dearborn Heights
120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124

Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 4 – 7 pm

LWVDDH Board Meeting

Thursday, April 4 – 12:30 pm

L.A. Bistro

How to Address Voter Service to Detroit

Tuesday, April 8 – 7:00 pm

Fundraising Meeting

Wednesday, April 10 – Lunch Hour

Fordson High Voter Registration

Friday, April 12 – 10:30 am to Noon

Dearborn High Voter Registration

Saturday, April 20 – 10 am

Metro Area LWV – Implications of EM

Centennial Library

Tuesday, April 23 – 1:00 pm

Voter Service Meeting

Tuesday, May 7 – 7:00 pm

Technical Training

Friday – Sunday, May 17 – 19

Michigan League Convention

Saturday, June 8 –

Habib Restaurant – Annual Meeting

