



# The Voter Newsletter

published by LWV Dearborn-Dearborn Hts

120 N Military Dearborn, MI 48124 313-278-6476

December 2011

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

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.



## You are invited to our Annual Holiday Luncheon

**Sunday Afternoon  
December 11<sup>th</sup>  
beginning at 1 pm**



**The Hammoud family has again offered  
their home for our December gathering.**

13847 Lanson, Dearborn, MI 48126  
(traveling east on Michigan Avenue to Maple Street near City Hall, turn  
right (south) on Maple, turn right on Lanson - one way westbound)

If you have attended in the past, you know that the home of Mona and Abed Hammoud is a beautiful and comfortable setting for our year end get togethers. You may also recall that we are privileged to hear from Abed Hammoud, who shares from his expertise in local issues and a bit on the political scene. After years of working in the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, specializing in mortgage fraud, Abed now serves as Assistant US Attorney in the White Collar Crime Unit of the Eastern District of Michigan's US Attorney's Office.

**It is customary for many of us to bring a dish to share, but don't worry, there is always more than enough.** Help us plan by calling 313-278-6476 with your RSVP and please consider what you'd like to bring.



**MEMBERSHIP**

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

Print and mail membership  
form as well as online payment  
is available on our website,

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

**MEETINGS**

Many of our meetings are held  
at Christ Episcopal Church,  
host to the local league office:

120 N. Military at Cherry  
Hill, Dearborn, MI.

**Handicap Accessible.**

Check our online calendar to  
confirm location and details  
for upcoming events,  
or contact our office  
by phone/email.

**LWVDDH OFFICE**

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

[lwvddh@mailcity.com](mailto:lwvddh@mailcity.com)

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

**Mary Bugeia, President**

313-562-7524

Mary Jo Durivage, Secretary  
Barbara Adams, Treasurer  
Carolyn Buell, Membership,  
313-274-4811

LWV Michigan  
(517) 484-5383

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

LWV-US 1-202-429-1965

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

**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@mailcity.com](mailto:lwvddh@mailcity.com).

**At the HFCC Political Issues Convention, area  
students practice the democratic process.**

**The League and Henry Ford Community College, under the direction  
of Dr. Tony Perry, collaborated to sponsor the eighth annual Student  
Political Issues Convention November 11, 2011 at the HFCC. Dr. Perry  
is an HFCC professor of Political Science. Find out about previous  
conventions here: <http://users.hfcc.edu/~adperry1/Conventions.html>**

Former US Congressman Bart Stupak was the keynote speaker on  
student leadership and involvement. Over 600 students were registered.  
They led workshop discussions on major topics of interest to students.  
Unemployment, Education, Gay Marriage, Healthcare, World Hunger and  
National Debt were some of the major issues in these student-led  
workshops. Congressman John Dingell opened the afternoon session, along  
with Michigan legislators and other elected officials: Senators Hopgood and  
Hood, Representatives Tliab, Constan, Darany, Cavanagh and Heise,  
Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman and Circuit Court Judge Chris Dingell.  
Retired Representative George Cushingberry concluded by singing a rap  
song with the students.

Three League members, Judy Carty, Betsy Cushman, and Chris Sullivan  
sponsored a special membership drawing. The winners of an annual  
membership were students Carrie Davis, Hoda Bazzi and Cherry Smith.  
These students are invited as special guests at our December luncheon.

Dr. Henry Bowers, a participating HFCC professor, donated 15 Kindles  
which were given away as well as gift cards from Cengage book publisher,  
which offers e-textbooks and other services.

Mary Bugeia, Betsy Cushman, Judy Carty and Chris Sullivan were  
presented awards from Dr. Tony Perry of HFCC for our continued support  
of this very successful League and Henry Ford Community College Student  
Government project.

*Submitted by Chris Sullivan.*

**LWV-US has a newly designed website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)**

(please not the web address is simply LWV, not lwvus, a common mistake.)

It offers at-a-glance links to issue resources, “OUR WORK”,  
and up-to-date articles on the “BLOG.” A more detailed list  
of links can be found along the bottom of each web page.  
Following a link to “League Essentials” led to some new  
discoveries. For example, an online publication called  
“Citizens Building Communities: The ABCs of Public Dialogue.”  
(downloaded here: [http://www.lwv.org/files/LWV\\_Dialouge\\_web.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/LWV_Dialouge_web.pdf). note: the  
'typo' is the actual link at this point, and the spaces are underscore \_ .)

Another interesting find, from the “Visibility and Social  
Media” link, is that *December 15<sup>th</sup> is Bill of Rights Day.*  
“As we reflect back on 2011 and witnessing democratic  
movements take hold around the world, there is  
much to celebrate. But, it is also a reminder  
that we cannot take our liberties for granted.”

**Tell us how you are exercising your civil rights.**





## League of Women Voters Dearborn-Dearborn Heights has offered to coordinate voter drives at local high schools with a small team of volunteers.

If you are interested in helping, or want us to include your favorite high school or class room, please email [lwvddh@mailcity.com](mailto:lwvddh@mailcity.com) or call 313-278-6476. We are planning to visit locations during March 2012 to introduce students to voting rights and stress the importance of voting in all elections.

“Overall, Americans under the age of 30 remain severely underrepresented in the electorate. Voter registration is the key, but most youth registration drives target college students, completely missing the 43 percent of Americans with no college experience.”

## Recommend Reading (and an author interview):



Lawrence Lessig is a Professor of Law at Harvard and has served as a clerk under Antonin Scalia. Prior work focused on copyright issues, but he has recently transitioned to focus on institutional corruption. A recently published book, *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress – And a Plan to Stop it*, outlines his concerns and suggestions to deal with the the influence of money corrupting our democracy.

Watch Charlie Rose interview Lawrence Lessig online at: <http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/11992>. An explanation of the heart of his book starts around 12:00, but the entire 20 minute interview is recommended.

**To say that the Federal government should have no role in local governance is a stretch that defies the limitations of state governments to undertake large projects. The importance of leadership and material resources beyond what local governments can muster is exemplified by the following:**

Despite strong opposition, Congress passed legislation in 1817 to build the Eire Canal that linked New York state to Lake Eire and the Great Lakes system. The effort created jobs and spurred early western migration and development. Names like Tenyck, Pardee and Nowlin made their journey to Dearborn on this man made water way.

Incentivized by the Federal government, the inter-continental railroad that connected coastal America promoted rail standardization, and stimulated development and job producing commerce.

The Hoover Dam was a central government initiative that powered the development of the southwest, creating jobs and development.

The inter-state highway system that fueled mass transportation, commerce and development needed in a growing nation was a job stimulating enterprise initiated by the Federal government.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, another Federal government program, was designed to control flood waters, and like the Hoover Dam, provided an energy source that spurred jobs, development and growth.

Research development in the sciences, including husbandry, agriculture and medicine, is driven by the central government to feed a growing nation and ease the medical needs of our aging population.

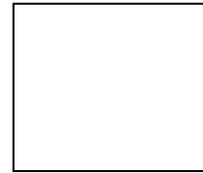
Without the Federal government these projects would've been impossible to undertake; the failure of which would've left America to an undeveloped, insignificant, provincial backwater existence. The nation's current broken infrastructure requires another such massive undertaking. And jobs will follow.

*Editorial by Joseph Borrajo*

On a related topic, we had a lively "Privatization" roundtable on November 17<sup>th</sup> about the role of government and the private sector. A brief summary is posted on our blog, <http://lwvddh.blogspot.com>. Links to additional resources are posted on our facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/lwvddh.org>. Latest headlines from our blog and facebook posts are always shown on our home page, [www.lwvddh.org](http://www.lwvddh.org). Your comments and suggested links are welcomed.



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



**Upcoming Events**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1pm**

Holiday Potluck Luncheon

**Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

LWVDDH Board Meeting

**Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am**

Who's Who 2012 Planning Mtg

**Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2pm**

Voter Service/Vote 411

**2012 will be an exciting year in this country, including in our cities of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. The Voter Service/Voter Education committee will be planning many activities.** Could you check your 2012 calendars please, and let me know if you can attend either or both of these meetings? Do you know any other members who might want to help? This should be fun! It will be more so if we have your involvement.

**Who's Who 2012 - Friday, January 6, 10 am, League office**

Discussion & Assignments – formats and content of 1) printed and 2) website editions, assignments – watch for reminders and background information in your emails beforehand

**Voter Service/411.org - Tuesday, January 10, 2 pm, League office BRING YOUR CALENDAR**

Discussion of Big Picture – 2012 Voter Service Vote 411

- Vote 411
- presidential primary – Feb. 28 (Jan. 30 registration deadline)
- voter guides? May 8 school board elections cancelled? Aug. 7 primary, Nov. 6 General Election
- candidate forums?
- voter registration drive (beyond the youth)?
- redistricting education project?
- Get-out-the-Vote project?
- speaker's bureau?

Thanks so much for your interest, help and support, Betsy

Student Environmental Association (SEA) at The University of Michigan-Dearborn has been an inspiration to many local residents to get informed and get involved with environmental issues. This group and LWVDDH joined forces as a part of the Dearborn Sustainability Coalition last year. Although the 'Coalition' has dwindled, the SEA carries on with independent and focused activities and we still have mutual interests that warrant continued support and coordinated efforts.

This college group has been an important part of our active civic community. For example, their Science Cafés feature local speakers offering local solutions, such as the panel presentation on native landscaping and the lesser-known topic of bird-friendly coffee ([www.coffeehabitat.com](http://www.coffeehabitat.com)). They recently held a public forum, "Alberta Tar Sands and Keystone Pipeline Overview" and an "Earth, Ethics, and Religion" roundtable discussion, which were both well-attended. Keep informed about their activities by visiting their website, [sustainableum-d.blogspot.com](http://sustainableum-d.blogspot.com).