



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



July – August 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.

## Meet your Board of Directors ...

### LWV – Dearborn / Dearborn Heights Board of Directors 2013-2014

|                       |                                |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>      | <b>Betsy Cushman</b>           | <b>Voter Service Chr., VOTE411 Adm.</b>   |
| <b>Vice President</b> | <b>Joseph Borrajo</b>          | <b>City of Dearborn Issues</b>  |
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| <b>Treasurer</b>      | <b>Barb Adams</b>              | <b>Youth Voter Registration<br/>Office Task Force Chr.</b>  |
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| <b>Director</b>       | <b>Mary Bugeia</b>             | <b>Program Chr.</b>   |
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| <b>Director</b>       | <b>Don Mack</b>                | <b>Website/IT/VOTE411 Asst. Adm.<br/>LWVUS Member Database</b>  |
| <b>Director</b>       | <b>Patti Mack</b>              | <b>Communications, Voter Editor<br/>Facebook Adm., Public Relations,<br/>Fundraising Acknowledgements</b> |
| <b>Director</b>       | <b>Chris Sullivan-Rathwell</b> | <b>Dearborn Heights Issues</b>  |

#### Nominating Committee:

|              |                                |                   |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Chair</b> | <b>Judy Patrick</b>            | <b>Off-board</b>  |
|              | <b>Sue Bennett</b>             | <b>Off-board</b>  |
|              | <b>Judy Carty</b>              | <b>Board rep.</b> |
|              | <b>Chris Sullivan-Rathwell</b> | <b>Board rep.</b> |
|              | <b>Toni Tront</b>              | <b>Off-board</b>  |



Past President Mary Bugeia passing the gavel to newly elected Betsy Cushman.



President Cushman and her first speech.



Busy work at the first Board Meeting of the newly elected.



**Dearborn Voters: Don't forget to vote on August 6!**

## MEMBERSHIP

Open to any U.S. citizen.  
Dues are \$60 per year payable  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 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

120 N. Military  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
313.278.6476  
Email: [info@lwvddh.org](mailto:info@lwvddh.org)  
Web: [www.lwvddh.org](http://www.lwvddh.org)

Betsy Cushman, President  
313.565.5972  
Judy Carty, Membership  
313.271.6889  
Patti Mack, Editor  
313.278.4376

## 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 citizens 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 [info@lwvddh.org](mailto:info@lwvddh.org) to request an email or printed subscription

## President's Message – Betsy Cushman



As I write this message, it's been exactly a month since you elected me to serve as your president for the next two years. Having spent most of my League years focused on Voter Service, I have been learning and researching the Program side of League. Studying the new role. Talking to members. Pretty much driving everyone around me crazy.

The big challenges leap out. How can we involve our members and our communities in the upcoming LWV-MI Education and LWV-US Ford Industry studies? How will we educate ourselves about Campaign Finance and Government Transparency (as they relate to our communities)? And Voter Service – do we have members with the computer skills to turn the data from **VOTE411.org** in to PDF documents that are both readable and succinct? Prepare voters for the upcoming elections? These are important organizational needs, but more, these are important community needs.

The dedicated, experienced and skilled Board of Directors has met twice in the past month. Each one is working on a board portfolio to strengthen our organization. Most recently, we are planning an exciting calendar which will accomplish the above priorities.

So look about this **Voter** for what's happening this fall. Look at the task force or committee choices. Think about the needs for citizen education and involvement. Come to a meeting (bring a friend), see what we're working on. Get involved as much or as little as you'd like. We know that breaking the tasks into small manageable pieces is the best way to accomplish a big task.

Tell your friends and family to join the League; the first year it's only \$30? Read the **Voter** and look at our website [www.lwvddh.org](http://www.lwvddh.org) If you have ideas to help us this year, please share. Email me at [betsy.cushman@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.cushman@gmail.com) or call me on the League phone, 313-278-6476.

We are fortunate to have a League in our two cities. We are a unique organization and provide services and a perspective that reflects the thoughtful and fair-minded people who preceded us. Please support us as you can.





## TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013

Before you vote, go to the online Voter Guide

How to find your races on

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

- Put in your address
- Click on the green bar “Get Personalized Information”
- Map of your home
- Click on blue “Find My Information” Bar
- Your races pop up
- Keep checking **VOTE411.org** for updates.



# Thank You

2012 - 2013



- |                         |                          |                        |                           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Steven Adelson        | • Judy Carty             | • E. W. Kaiser         | • Rotary Club of Dbn. Hts |
| • Loretta Anderson      | • Christus Victor Church | • Kiwanis Club of Dbn. | • Edwina Simpson          |
| • Ned Apigian Architect | • Betsy Cushman          | • Don & Patti Mack     | • C. Sullivan-Rathwell    |
| • Marilyn Beardsley     | • Dearborn Rotary Found. | • Jeanne Martens       | • Helena Thornton         |
| • Janice Berry          | • Agnes Dobronski        | • Pamela Meek          | • Emma Jean Woodyard      |
| • Carolyn Blackmore     | • Mary Jo Durivage       | • Henry Messer         | • Mary Ann Zawada         |
| • Elayne Boismier       | • Bonnie Gerrity         | • Clara Mousigian      |                           |
| • Majorie Bryer         | • Gail Hansen            | • Miyoko O’Neill       |                           |
| • Carolyn Buell         | • Patricia Healy         | • Judy Patrick         |                           |
| • Mary Bugeia           | • Frederick Hoffman      | • John J. Riley CTE    |                           |

### 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.



The following is a copy of the Certificate which Mary Bugeia and Betsy Cushman gave to Congressman John Dingell on the occasion of his attaining the longest tenure of any person in Congress on June 7, 2013. Additionally, attached is a copy of the personal note both Betsy and Mary received from Congressman Dingell.



League of Women Voters  
Dearborn / Dearborn Heights

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Dearborn – Dearborn Heights extends our congratulations to Congressman John D. Dingell, Jr.

on more than 57 years of service to our community and to the nation. You have been a leader and a worker for Civil Rights, Clean Water, Health Care, and many other legislative initiatives of great importance to the League of Women Voters.

We believe that running for public office and serving the people can and should be a noble cause, and we appreciate the many elected officials who work for good government.

While the League of Women Voters never supports or opposes a candidate or a political party, we do appreciate elected officials who serve the Common Good, and today we especially honor you for your many years of dedicated service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Bugeia, President

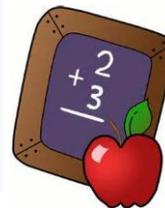
\_\_\_\_\_  
Betsy Cushman, President - Elect

June 6, 2013



JOHN D. DINGELL

Dear Betsy,  
The congratulations of the L.W.V. means much to me. Thank you!! Deborah joins in thanks & best wishes  
John



## What is Happening in Education in the State of Michigan?

Are you interested in issues such as charter schools, virtual (computer) education, and teacher certification? We need members and interested friends to help us plan our Education meetings this year. Can you help? Come see what it's about: **Monday evening, August 12, at 7 p.m.** at Christ Episcopal Church.

The LWV - Michigan will provide background information to enable the Local Leagues to present community programs this year. The purpose will be to update us on the changes since we last studied Education in Michigan and to prepare us to come to consensus on the new information. This will be the first meeting of a task force to research and present programs, following guidance from the State League. Consensus questions will be sent in November and the LWV-DDH consensus is due May 1.

Please contact Betsy Cushman at [betsy.cushman@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.cushman@gmail.com) or Mary Bugeia at [marybugeia@comcast.net](mailto:marybugeia@comcast.net) if you have an interest. If you can't attend the August 12 meeting but are interested, please let us know.



# Welcome

Welcome New Members

Elayne Boismier

Carla O'Neill

Helena Thornton



**SEMCOG public meetings: Help improve bicycle and pedestrian paths and amenities**

Bicycle and pedestrian (non-motorized) travel is a vital part of Southeast Michigan’s transportation systems. For many communities, biking and pedestrian facilities improve quality of life for residents and make these communities more desirable. [SEMCOG](#) is currently working on a regional non-motorized plan. Goals of the non-motorized plan are:

- Create an inventory of existing facilities in the region,
- Develop guidelines for new facilities,
- Address the most critical gaps within the non-motorized corridors, and
- Create a planning resource for communities within the seven-county SEMCOG region to coordinate facilities across boundaries.

Public meetings will be held around the region to review existing paths/trails and identify locations for new projects. Here is the schedule of public meetings:

|                   |                     |        |  |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------|--|
| City of Detroit   | Tuesday, July 16    | 4-7 pm | SEMCOG Offices, Detroit  |
| Livingston County | Thursday, July 18   | 4-7 pm | Green Oak Township Offices   |
| Macomb County     | Tuesday, July 23    | 4-7 pm | Warren Community Center  |
| Monroe County     | Tuesday, August 20  | 4-7 pm | Monroe City Hall   |
| Oakland County    | Tuesday, August 13  | 4-7 pm | Holly Police Department  |
| St. Clair County  | Tuesday, July 9     | 4-7 pm | St. Clair County Administrative Offices,<br>Donald E. Dodge Auditorium |
| Washtenaw County  | Wednesday, July 31  | 4-7 pm | Saline Council Chambers  |
| Wayne County      | Wednesday, August 7 | 4-7 pm | Taylor Public Library  |

Contact: SEMCOG Information Center at [InfoCenter@semcog.org](mailto:InfoCenter@semcog.org)

SEMCOG is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to solve regional challenges and enhance the quality of life for the seven-county region's 4.7 million people.

*Through the Arsenal Gates* is a cable show produced by the Dearborn Historical Museum. Historical Commission member Glenn O’Kray interviews interesting people in the community who share their experiences of living in Dearborn.

Two of our members have recently interviewed.

Take a few minutes and watch our friends as they are interviewed for this program.

<http://cdtv.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=33320b07357a1b241d9aad7fdd98478b> – Joe Borrajo

<http://cdtv.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=0539eef1c1355695198fb62a88c843f1> - Betsy Cushman





**HELP WANTED:** Do subjects like GMOs, herbicides, water pollution, antibiotics fascinate or alarm you? Do you want to know more? If so, members and prospective members should come to a meeting on Tuesday, August 20 at 7:00 pm at the League Office.

**Job Description:** Attend 2-3 committee meetings. Read the LWVUS materials, report back, and discuss. Help present the information in November to educate our members and our communities.

**Background:** Study information and consensus questions will be provided by LWVUS to members for the purpose of scheduling a Consensus Meeting. Traditionally, the League has 2 meetings on a subject before they hold a final meeting to reach consensus. Background information will be included in *the Voter* as well as on our own website.

**Prior Experience:** None needed... just a passion and interest in the subject matter and a willingness to help.

**Focus is on:**

- Current technology issues in agriculture, including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock and accurate food labeling.
- Current agriculture finance issues, including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

*YOU ... yes I'm talking to YOU ...* Why not take a look at the calendar on *page 7* of this edition of *the Voter* and check out the studies that we will be involved in. If you have any interest at all please consider joining us through this process. A real advantage and what makes it an easy task is that the study is well defined – you are given direction on what you have to do, the time frame, the resources.

**Apply** by either calling one of the Board Members, the League at 313-278-6476, or email [info@lwvddh.org](mailto:info@lwvddh.org)

**DO IT TODAY ... YOU WON'T REGRET IT ... ALL TALENTS AND INTERESTS ACCEPTED.**

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**97th Annual Meeting  
Citizens Research Council of Michigan**

**Future of Health Care in Michigan  
Friday, September 13, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**The Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, Michigan  
Meeting details and invitations will be mailed in August.**



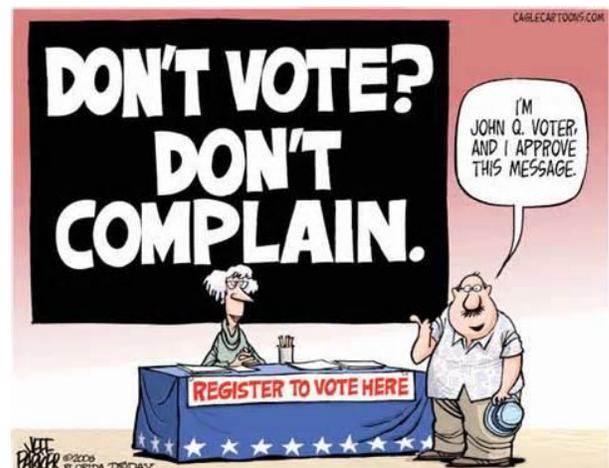
So why would “Lady Gaga” be in *The Voter* for League of Women Voters you are asking yourself?

Well, want to see something enjoyable and extremely well done ... a League member was talking about the Equal Rights Amendment and mentioned Lady Gaga. All ears turned to her ... and below, if you want some entertainment, check out these *youtube* videos that she was talking about ...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-xgx00Uq3g> (Same music from video below but with historical footage)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYQhRCs9IHM> (Parody of Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance”)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=Kvk1NZDFvZU&NR=1> Sister Suffragette - Walt Disney's Mary Poppins





**Women's Equality Day**

Want to Join Us?

***Women's Equality Day Luncheon***

Saturday, August 24, 2013

11:30 am to 2:30 pm

One-Under Restaurant and Banquet Hall

35780 Five Mile Rd., Livonia

Cost: \$27.00

What the “heck” is going on in Michigan?

State Rep Rashida Tlaib

Mary Pollock, Legislative VP, Michigan NOW

The luncheon described in link below is being co-sponsored by Michigan LWV, along with several other groups supporting ERA.

<http://www.lwvmi.org/documents/WEDFlyer2013.pf.pdf>

Several members of our League will be attending. You may wish to indicate you would like to sit with other D/DH League members on your reservation. Two good speakers!



**Meet the Candidates**

**Tuesday, July 30**

**5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

The Dearborn Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Dearborn – Dearborn Heights presents a Meet the Candidates event from 5:30 – 7:00 on July 30 at Joe Vicari’s Steak House (was Andiamo’s). All the candidates for both Dearborn and Dearborn Heights have been invited to this informal gathering. RSVP to the Chamber at the link below. It says “Register” at the bottom.

<http://www.dearbornchamber.org/event/meet-the-candidate/>

**LOOKING AHEAD ...**

**SAVE SPACE ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE INTERESTING MEETINGS ...**

**SEPTEMBER**

Thursday, September 26

**Program Meeting - Education in Michigan**

**7:00 pm**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Education and the Big Changes in the State of Michigan

**OCTOBER**

Thursday, October 24

**Program Meeting –Campaign Finance**

**7:00 pm**

Educate our members and communities

**NOVEMBER**

November 5- **ELECTION DAY**

**Program Meeting  
Agriculture Study - Food Industry  
Tentative date: November 21**

Review & update to study genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer’s right to accurate & comprehensive food labeling.

**DECEMBER**

Possible dinner / luncheon / bring food to share

**Dates: TBD**

**Program Meeting -- Education in Michigan  
Update & consolidate “Education: Structure, Financing & Goals,” “Public School Academies,” and “Teacher Certification” positions.**

Speaker from Education Trust



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

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, July 30

Meet the Candidates of Dearborn / Dearborn Hts.  
Dearborn Area Chamber of Commerce  
5:30 – 7 pm in partnership with LWV

Thursday, August 1 – 7 pm

Board Meeting

Thursday, August 8 – 7 pm

Voter Service Meeting

Monday, August 12 – 7 pm

Education Study Committee

Tuesday, August 20 – 7 pm

Food Industry Study Committee

Thursday, August 22 – 1 pm

Fundraising Meeting

Saturday, August 24 – 11:30 am

Women's Equality Day Luncheon

