



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Dearborn - Dearborn Heights

A nonpartisan political organization, dedicated to Making Democracy Work  
through voter education, issue advocacy, and citizen participation

120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124

313-278-6476

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

September 2014

*The Voter* newsletter for members and friends of the  
League of Women Voters of Dearborn – Dearborn Heights

## September 2014

### Elections 2014: Money, Politics and Your Vote

Michigan's foremost expert in campaign financing will be the featured speaker at the League's first fall meeting on Tuesday, September 23 at 7 p.m. at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. Co-sponsored by U/M-D and Henry Ford College, Rich Robinson, Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance network will present "Dark Money in Michigan Elections."

September 23 is National Voter Registration Day. Spread the word – tell young people and those who are not registered to come to this event. They can register to vote and learn what's on the ballot and why they should vote. Voter registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

The event is held in Kochoff Hall at the University Center. Parking is in the Parking Structure on the north end of campus. There are nearby spots for those with handicap stickers. Call the League phone 313-278-6476 for more information.



### Dearborn School Board Candidate Forum

On Thursday, September 30, at 7 p.m. the League of Women Voters of Dearborn – Dearborn Heights will hold a candidate forum for the eleven candidates for the Dearborn School Board. There are three positions. Those invited: Michelle Audia, Rodger Bartles, Mariam Bazzi, Nofila Haidar, Ahmed Harara, Mary Anne Hering, Kenneth Jannot Jr., Ghinwah Karkaba, Michael Meade, Christopher Robert Paulsen and Mary K. Petlichkoff.

**We appreciate the Dearborn Public Schools for hosting the event.**



### *President's Message*

I love elections! Many of you do too, and this is a great time to get involved. A new Voters Service Committee is getting started with Kim Ismail and Sue Hachem as co-chairs and other new committees are beginning too - Fund Development led by Chris Sullivan-Rathwell and Zaineb Hussein. Membership is lucky to have Secretary Mary Jo Durivage and Treasurer Carolyn Buell involved. If you can help, for instance to make phone calls, let us know.

Campaign financing is the most crucial issue *facing our democracy today*. On September 23, the League's first fall meeting will feature an excellent speaker on a timely subject: The 'Dark Money' in Michigan's fall election. Let's learn all we can before we make our voting decisions. What groups 'donate' vast sums to which candidates/ issues? We asked the best-known expert in the field, Rich Robinson of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network to update us. This year, he will speak on the campus of U/M-D, who are cosponsoring, as is the Democracy Institute of HFC.

Know anyone who is not registered to vote? Send them to the September 23 Program! It's National Voter Registration Day! The deadline for the November 4 election is October 6. This is a great way to learn what's on the ballot and how to obtain election information as well as register to vote. It will be motivating!

Live in the Dearborn School District? Get to know candidates for the Dearborn School Board Forum on September 30.

Please call me/ email me with suggestions and questions. The League of Women Voters is needed as much, perhaps even more, than ever before. The voting public wants nonpartisan information about candidates and issues, they want to know more about the issues in Congress, in our state, our county and locally. We really appreciate our Board members and others who have offered to help us respond to these needs. You indeed make a difference!

A note to those who have lost so much in the recent flooding: please know we are thinking of you and fervently hope for me more water inside our homes either from below or above.

*Betsy Cushman*

## Meet Your Board Members!

President: Betsy Cushman

Vice President: Christina Sullivan-Rathwell

Secretary: Mary Jo Durivage

Treasurer: Carolyn Buell

Directors:

Adeeje Chamas: Voter Editor

Sue Hachem: Voters Service Co-Chair

Zaineb Hussein: Fund Development Co-Chair

Kim Ismail: Voters Service Co-Chair

## Voters Service Committee

Invitations to a September 30 Forum were sent to the 11 candidates for the Dearborn School Board on August 30. We hope that they will all be able to attend.

Paula Bowman of the LWV-MI and LWV-Northwest Wayne County agreed to be moderator which is very much appreciated. We also thank the Dearborn Public Schools for their willingness to host and to tape the forum.

Unfortunately we were unable to arrange for the 19<sup>th</sup> District Court candidates due to scheduling problems.

We will hold a committee meeting to make arrangements for the Candidate Forum and will ask Mary Jo to send out a meeting notice as soon as we have the date. If you have suggested questions for the candidates please email them to me at [kim1030@hotmail.com](mailto:kim1030@hotmail.com)

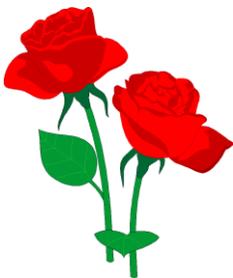
All the candidates were invited to participate in our online Voter Guide at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), whether or not they face opposition.

Our printed Voter Guides will be distributed to public libraries, city halls and other locations in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights at the end of September. State Voter Guides will be distributed in early October. If you can help with this, please let me know.

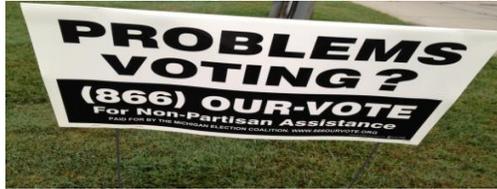
Kim Ismail  
Co-chair

Welcome New  
Member!

*Jan Tjernlund*



## Poll Watching In Dearborn Heights



by Betsy Cushman

The day before the primary election, the LWV-DDH was asked by Rachid Elabed of ACCESS (our partner in the Youth Voter Registration Program) to recruit volunteers to attend a training session conducted by Sharon Dolente, Director of the Michigan Election Coalition, that night and poll watch in selected precincts in Dearborn Heights the next day, and after checking with the LWV-MI, we agreed to help. Judy Carty, Elayne Boismier and I attended the training and Chris Sullivan-Rathwell & Don Rathwell also participated.

Apparently some voters, primarily Arab-Americans, were concerned about several issues related to voting access, and the Michigan Bureau of Elections was sending support to the City Clerk's office. The five of us poll watched in 4 locations. We were asked to be friendly and helpful, observe and document, call for assistance if needed. The training was fascinating.

Election Day dawned. The low voter turnout resulted in no waiting. Voters' needs seemed to have been met. Election workers were helpful. There were a few language issues in my precinct but two of the poll workers spoke Arabic and helped.

Outside, the Michigan Election Coalition lawn signs (see photo) which I had been asked to place outside the buildings were quickly removed by officials. One of the campaign workers for a candidate told me, "Betsy, they took your signs away as soon as you left, and they were angry! They took other signs down too. Election predators, that's what I call them."

If we helped in some way by poll watching, I'm glad. But what about the low turnout? I am aghast at the sit-on-your-hands behavior of most voters not just in Dearborn Heights and Dearborn but across Wayne County and beyond. People didn't vote - less than 18% turnout. A tiny number of voters determined important elections.

My take-away is that we need to redouble our efforts to educate voters about what's on the ballot ahead of time and to get-out-the-vote! We need to help newer or episodic voters to better understand the mechanics of voting in person and how to vote absentee. I am proud of what we do... there is so much more to be done.



## Steps to Access Vote411.org

- Go to [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)
- Enter your address and click enter
- Click "Get Personalized Information on Candidates and Issues" (Green Bar)
- Just above the map, click on "Find my information" (Blue Bar)
- Click on "Go to my races" (Blue Bar)
- Click "All my races"
- New information is added weekly so keep checking right up until you vote

## Dues Due

To members who have not yet renewed their dues, please renew! You are needed.

- \$60 dues member
- \$90 for two members in the same household
- \$30 for students

Please make dues payable to  
LWVDDH

Send to LWVDDH  
120 N. Military  
Dearborn, MI 48124

## Women's Equality Day!

The Best Way to Celebrate  
Women's Equality Day?



August 23 marked Women's Equality Day and was celebrated in Livonia with a luncheon sponsored by AAUW/Michigan, Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies, and Michigan ERAmerica. It was cosponsored by many other organizations including the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

The speakers included Laura Callow of Michigan ERAmerica, Rana Elmir of the ACLU and Joan McGlincy acting as *Abigail Adams*.

Members Kathy Gapa, Betsy Cushman and Mary Jo Durivage attended.



Members Kathy Gapa and Betsy Cushman

## Upcoming Events

**September 23:** Dark Money in Michigan's Elections with Rich Robinson, an explanation of the Ballot Proposals and a chance to register to vote.  
Time and Place: 7 pm at Kochoff Hall, University Center at University of Michigan- Dearborn

**September 30:** Dearborn School Board Candidate Forum  
Time and Place: 7 pm at Administrative Services Center 18700 Audette, Dearborn



Adam Chamas, Adeje Chamas and Elayne Boismier at the Dearborn Farmer's Market on Civic Org. Day

**The League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. **Membership is open** to men and women citizens of voting age. For information, go to [lwvddh.org](http://lwvddh.org) or call 313-278-6476. We never support or oppose a political candidate or party.



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

Meetings are held at Christ  
Episcopal Church  
120 N. Military  
at Cherry Hill Dearborn  
(unless otherwise noted)  
Handicap accessible with  
elevator and an outdoor ramp.

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Ideas for future Voters are welcome.

The Voter is included in membership.  
Others can subscribe for \$10 annually.



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Dearborn Dearborn Heights. Click  
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