



# The Midland Voter

The League of Women Voters of the Midland Area  
September 2014 (Vol. 47, Number 1)

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

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631-4180

**Membership: Donna DeVinney**  
631-7543

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*You are invited!*

## **Midland LWV Calendar – 2014 – 2015**

**Tues. Sept. 23:** National Voter Registration Day. **Can you help?** We will be registering voters at Delta College Sept. 23 to 25 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sue McCollister, 631-4180.

**Wed. Oct. 1:** Board Meeting at 5 p.m., Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, Conference Room A. All LWV members welcome.

**Wed. Oct. 8:** Midland Public Schools School Board Candidates' Forum at 7 p.m. MPS Board Room, Administration Building, Carpenter Street, sponsored by Midland LWV and Midland AAUW.

**Thurs. Oct. 9:** 99<sup>th</sup> District State House Candidates' forum will be presented in Mt. Pleasant by the Mt. Pleasant League of Women Voters – a tape of this forum will be rebroadcasted before the election on MCTV since a significant part of Midland County is in the 99<sup>th</sup> district.

**Wed. Oct. 15:** Senior Expo at the Midland Mall. **Can you help?** We will have a booth on our League and information on the upcoming election. Donna DeVinney, 631-7543.

**Thurs. Oct. 16:** 36<sup>th</sup> District State Senate candidates' forum at 7 p.m. at the Midland City Hall Council Chambers, sponsored by Midland Area LWV and MCTV.

**Tues. Oct. 28:** Making Democracy Work program taping with Sue Smith, LWVMI President. 4 p.m., MCTV studio, Grace A. Dow Library.

**Tues. Nov. 4:** This is it! Election day. Grab a friend and head to the polls.

**Wed. Nov. 5:** Post-election debriefing lunch. Meet at M's Café at 12:30 p.m. 1503 Eastman Ave. (Enter from Eastman Rd. or the Northwest Plaza on North Saginaw Rd. There is an exit on the right of the Dollar Store.) **Plan to come!**

**Wed. Nov. 5:** Board Meeting at 5 p.m., Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, Conference Room A. All LWV members welcome.

**Wed. Dec. 3:** Annual Christmas Party at Rosemary Wilson's home. **Plan to come!** Details will follow.

**May 20, 2015:** Annual Meeting with Jon Lynch, City of Midland Manager, featured speaker.

**A few more important election dates:**

September 20: absentee ballots available

September 23: [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) is updated online with federal, state and local races.

October 6: last day to register to vote for November elections.

## Greetings from your President...

Our 2014-15 year has been busy so far with election activities. Primary season is wrapped up, with our League sponsoring two candidate forums covering three races and publishing candidate information on VOTE411. We're now gearing up for the general election. We again have two candidate forums scheduled, are updating VOTE411 with information on the candidates for the general election and preparing for our print Voter Guide. We're also working with Delta College on a voter registration drive. See the **Voter Service** report for details.

I'm proud to recognize our League members whose support for the primary candidate forums was important in pulling off these successful events: **Donna DeVinney, Dorothy Follette, Maureen Pillepich, Cathy Nelson Price, Carole Swinehart, Terry Townley and Rosemary Wilson**. Being a newbie to this process, I appreciated their experience and support. Also, **Ron Beacom**, director of MCTV, and his crew, gave us professional programs with their technical expertise and guidance. And they'll all have a chance to do it again in our October forums!

Although we don't have an official event to kick off the season, there have been and will continue to be a number of activities this fall that will interest League members as well as the community at large. Check the calendar to see what your options are! These activities also provide opportunities for your involvement with our voter service work – informing and educating our citizens and facilitating their ability to exercise their right to vote. To learn more about how you can contribute and learn more about the process at the same time, contact Carole Swinehart, Voter Service Chair, at 636-7239 or [cmswinehart@charter.net](mailto:cmswinehart@charter.net); or me at 631-4180 or [suedonmc@aol.com](mailto:suedonmc@aol.com).

**September is dues month!** You'll find the form to send with your check at the end of this VOTER. Your dues cover our obligations to the National and State Leagues, with just \$6.00 per individual member left over to add to our local league operating expenses. We are always so grateful for your sustaining memberships and donations to the Education Fund, which help fund our activities and programs.

The second half of the 2014-15 year will look quite different from our current voter service-focused period. As we approach the end of this election season, we'll do some planning in earnest around our goal to engage in community initiatives. Another Voter will be mailed after elections and meanwhile, check our monthly e-newsletters for more details as they develop.

Remember, all League meetings are open to all members!

*Sue McCollister, President*

## Voter Service

### Voter Registration Support

September 23 is National Voter Registration Day, and our League will recognize and celebrate this important activity by participating in a voter registration drive sponsored by the Democracy Commitment club at Delta College from September 23-25.

We still need volunteers as this goes to press, so here are the details:

WHEN: September 23-25, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Delta College

DUTIES: Collect and check registration forms at the table, help registrants fill out forms.

Volunteer shifts are 2 hours; two volunteers each shift. Instructions will be provided.

Contact Sue McCollister at 989-631-4180 or [suedonmc@aol.com](mailto:suedonmc@aol.com) to sign up, or with questions.

## Candidate Forums

### **Midland Public Schools Board of Education**

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.

MPS Board Room, Administration Building, Carpenter St.

Co-sponsored by Midland Area LWV and AAUW Midland Branch.

### **36<sup>th</sup> District State Senate Candidates**

Joe Lukaszewicz (Democrat) and Jim Stamas (Republican)

Thursday, October 16, 7:00 PM

Midland City Hall, Council Chambers

Co-Sponsored by Midland Area LWV and MCTV.

Both venues can accommodate live audiences, which are always appreciated. The forums will be broadcast live on MCTV and rebroadcast periodically before the election. Check the schedule at <http://www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/453/MCTV-MGTV> for broadcast times and channels.

**99<sup>th</sup> District State House candidates' forum** will be presented by the Mt. Pleasant LWV on October 9 in the evening (time to be determined), at the Mt. Pleasant City Commission Chambers, 320 W. Broadway. Candidates are Kevin Cotter (Republican) and Bryan Mielke (Democrat). A tape of the forum will be broadcast on MCTV periodically before the election. See the MCTV schedule for broadcast times. A significant area of Midland County is in the 99<sup>th</sup> District, and this will allow these voters to learn more about their candidates.

Candidates for the **98<sup>th</sup> District State House race** Joan Brausch (Democrat) and Gary Glenn (Republican) were featured in a forum before the primary election, along with Republican Karl Ieuter. This forum can still be viewed on-demand on MCTV by going to <http://www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/475/Watch-Programs-Online>; search for **LWV Candidate Forum**, and select Show ID 7215.

## See VOTE411.org for your Online Voter Guide

Our Midland Area League is again participating in VOTE411.org, an online one-stop source for election information that was developed through the LWVUS Education Fund. The State and National Leagues provide the information on state and federal races, while we publish ballot information on our local (county and city) candidates and proposals.

All races on the national, state and local levels were covered in VOTE411 for the primary election, with information on candidates and their responses to questions posed by LWV. User response in Midland County increased two-fold over the 2012 primary season, the first year of implementation. We will have the site updated with candidates and races for the November general election by the last week in September, at which time you'll be able to get complete, current information on all races on your ballot, from federal to local city contests.

## Voter Guide

The hard copy **VOTER GUIDE** will be published as an insert in the Midland Daily News around mid-October, as it has been for many years. The GUIDE will also be available at the Grace A. Dow Library and other public places in the county.

*Voter Service Team: Carole Swinchart, Donna D'Vinney, Sue McCollister, Rosemary Wilson*

Welcome to new member **Kim Steinke**, who has retired and moved back to Midland from Connecticut. Kim grew up in Midland and graduated from Dow High School in 1973. She attended Michigan State University and then Louisiana State University where she received her masters' degree in economics. She worked in Washington D.C. and then in California for Pacific Life Insurance before landing in Connecticut where she worked for Hartford Insurance from 1991 until her retirement this year. She returned to Midland to be close to her mother, brother, sister and cousins here. She joined the LWV in Connecticut but because of her working hours, she could not be very active. She plans to be an active member of our Midland League, helping get the word out, encouraging and educating everyone in our community to vote. We are delighted to have Kim as a member! Address: 1113 Glendale, Midland 48642; phone 860-921-1983; email [kimsteinke@mac.com](mailto:kimsteinke@mac.com).

## School Board Election and School Millage Renewal on the November Ballot

There will be local school board elections and a Midland Public School millage renewal on the November ballot. Attend the **School Board Forum** to learn more about the candidates. The forum will be held at the Midland Public Schools Administration building in the board-room on **Wednesday, October 8, at 7 p.m.** The forum will be filmed for the Midland Public Schools cable TV site and broadcast at later dates.

There are five candidates on the ballot. Incumbent Lynn Baker is unopposed for election to a two-year term. Incumbents Angela Branstadt and Pam Singer and challengers Mark Marinan and Patrick Frazee are vying for three four-year terms.

There will be a **millage renewal** question on the November ballot for the 18 mill non-homestead (industrial) property owners and the Hold Harmless Millage. The ballot language will say "increased" because it is replacing millages that expire after 2014. The Hold Harmless Millage, levied against principal residences, qualified agricultural & forest properties, supporting housing property, property occupied by a public school academy & industrial personal property, will be 5.6523 mills. This will be sufficient to replace the extra-voted millage in place when Proposal A was signed into law and can only be enough to raise the amount of money the district would have received if we didn't have Proposal A. These millages would be authorized for 10 years, 2015 to 2024.

**This millage authorization must be passed in order for the district to receive its full state per-pupil funding.**

*Terry Townley, Education Director*

## Help Needed Now for Successful Radio Days

The League's new fiscal year began July 1; our new program year really begins with September. Of course it costs money to keep the League's ideals out front.

Most of the \$60 we collect in dues goes to the LWVUS and LWVMI to pay national and state dues. The primary fund-raiser for our local activities is Radio Days. This year we have budgeted \$2,000 of income from Radio Days ad buys from merchants. Last year we sold ads totaling \$1,695. We need to do about \$305 better than that this year.

Radio Days ads do not broadcast on WMPX/WMRX until mid-March during Sunshine Week, BUT sales are before that AND planning comes before sales! Here's what we need you to do as a League member from now until December: Consider local businesses you patronize for your needs. Then get those business names, phone numbers, and contacts to Karen Sherwood ([karsherwood@att.net](mailto:karsherwood@att.net) or 989-832-3533). A single ad costs only \$35 and ads may be bundled for a lower rate, so we do not solicit businesses for large sums of money. Who is your hairdresser, your landscape planner, your plumber, your doctor, your dentist, your banker, your credit union, your corner grocer, your pharmacist, your attorney, etc.? You do not need to solicit them now; we are just gathering a list of potential ad buyers.

In December, we will be asking for ad sales people. More volunteer sales people mean fewer contacts for each person to make! Contacts are made during January and February. We will need a few persons to actually read ads in early March for broadcasting, and then we're DONE! well...until next year!

Please give this request serious thought. Helping us compile a list of potential buyers is a very important part of making this League fund raiser a success!

*Karen Sherwood, Treasurer*

### September is Membership Renewal Time

#### A Reminder to Members and an Invitation to all Those Interested in Joining the Midland Area League of Women Voters

September is time to renew and a good time as well for new members to come on board. Please use the membership form on the last page of this VOTER to send in your renewal. If you know someone who might like a personal invitation to join, call Donna DeVinney at 631-7543 or email: [devmath@aol.com](mailto:devmath@aol.com).

Please renew your membership **this month**. The health of our League depends on each of us!

*Donna DeVinney, Membership Chairman*

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Enclosed is my check (made payable to LWV of the Midland Area) for:**

- Individual Membership (\$60)  
 Household Membership (\$90)  
 Student Membership (\$30)  
 Sustaining Membership (\_\_\_\$100\_\_\_\$150\_\_\_\$200\_\_\_other-specify \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 **CHECK TOTAL**  
(Membership contributions are not tax deductible)

**Separate check made payable to LWVUS Education Fund**  
(This contribution is tax-deductible)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

To save mailing and paper costs communications are frequently sent via e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, please check here \_\_\_\_.

**Mail check(s) with this form to:  
LWV of the Midland Area,  
P. O. Box 1203,  
Midland MI 48641-1203**

Please note below your special Interests, skills, and suggestions for LWV programs.