



Letter to the Editor: RENEW LIBRARY MILLAGE

"The League of Women Voters develops its positions after extensive study and a membership consensus process. We base our policy advocacy and educational activities on these positions. The Grand Traverse Area League has had a position on public libraries for decades and believes that libraries are of critical importance to our communities. The League unreservedly supports the request from the Traverse Area District Library for a renewal of its opening millage. TADL provides access to six highly-functioning libraries, each reflective of and responsive to individual community needs."

"Please vote YES for TADL's millage renewal on Tuesday, August 2, 2016."

Sincerely,
Jan Warren, President of the LWVGTA



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®**

**The League of Women
Voters of the Grand
Traverse Area**

www.lwvgta.org

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Watch the 104th State House Primary Candidate Forum

Recorded Thursday, July 14, 7 - 8:30pm

by [UpNorthTV](#), cable channel 189

"[Meet the candidates](#) running for the 104th District of the Michigan State House: Betsy Coffia, Jason Gillman, and Larry Inman. This informative panel is hosted by The League of Women Voters of the Grand Traverse Area."



[Enter your address to view a personalized ballot.](#)

Learn where candidates running for office in your community stand on the issues. You can print or email the information to use as a reference when you actually vote.

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Important Dates

August 2, 2016

7am-8pm

**PRIMARY
ELECTION**

October 11, 2016

**Voter Registration
Deadline for the
November Election**

November 8, 2016

7am-8pm

**GENERAL
ELECTION**



Recently Adopted LWVUS Positions:

[Considerations for Evaluating
Constitutional Amendment
Proposals](#) (Jan. 2016)

Report on the LWVUS Convention 2016

"Making Democracy Work for All"

June 16-19, Washington, D.C.

Prepared by Jan Warren, President LWVGTA

Visit the [Michigan Voter Information Center](#) for more information about upcoming elections.

"Donna Hornberger and I had the honor of attending the national convention in Washington, D.C. as delegates representing our local League. It was an inspiring, exhilarating, and exhausting experience. Training and informational sessions were held at 7 am-noon and from 7-9:30 pm. Plenary sessions (business meetings, keynote speakers) took place from 8:30-noon and from 1:30-5pm. There were 784 registered delegates from 762 local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations, with 32 members attending from Michigan."

"The business of the convention was conducted following strict parliamentary procedures. I went to a training session for first time delegates, and the presenter (the Parliamentarian for the convention) was so excited about her topic that she was positively gleeful when she began discussing the specifics of Robert's Rules of Order."

"The convention voting process was interesting and complicated. Some items required a simple majority vote; others a 2/3 majority vote. At first, a voice vote would be taken. If the results were not apparent, then hands were raised. If the result still could not be determined, cards, included in the delegate packet (green for yes, red for no), were passed to the aisle and collected. Doors to the meeting room were closed, and no one was allowed to leave. Ballots were counted, and about 20 minutes later the results of the vote announced. This 3-tiered approach was utilized several times, especially when amendments were offered on by-law changes and national positions."

"A 2-year budget was passed, and happily the Per Member Payment remained the same at \$32.00. New LWVUS Officers and Directors were elected, with Sue Smith, LWVMI Past-President, elected to the Nominating Committee. The national League's by-laws were amended. Voting membership is now open to non-citizens and persons at least 16 years of age and older. (We will be revising our local by-laws to reflect these changes.)"

LWVUS by-laws, principles, and positions; address a single, topical issue; not circumvent the program planning process; require time-sensitive federal governmental action, and can be implemented using current League resources. Resolutions were passed related to: responding to gun violence; funding the CDC to do research on the effects of gun violence; supporting statehood for the District of Columbia; signing on to an Amicus brief for Our Children's Trust, a federal climate change lawsuit; supporting US ratification of the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement; and working for full implementation of the EPA clean power plan, especially in the states."

"The LWVUS Board recommended retaining all current positions (Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy) and continuing the campaign began in 2014 of Making Democracy Work : voter protection and mobilization; election reform; money in politics, amending the Constitution and redistricting. A [position on redistricting](#) was proposed for concurrence, so state Leagues without a position could advocate for that effort in their states, as was [a position on Behavioral Health](#) proposed by the LWV Colorado. All positions recommended by the Board passed."

"New President, Chris Carson from Glendale CA, mentioned in her speech to the convention that she was recruited to join the League to participate in study of the California Initiative process. As a college professor of American History, she thought it would be important topic on which to work and was happy to become a part of such a "prestigious organization." Shortly after joining she received a letter containing the agenda for the next League Board meeting. When she called to indicate that a mistake had been made, she was told to her immense surprise, that as the Chair of the Initiative Study Committee, she was now on the League Board. She then added that the League is "a unique organization which empowers its members to participate and to lead no matter how new or nervous they are." The room erupted in laughter and many identified with Chris' experience of being new to the League and suddenly finding themselves cast into a leadership position - always, however, with a great deal of support and encouragement along the way."

"She noted that the League was born out of massive political and social upheaval, fighting for women's right to vote and that once that was achieved, focusing our efforts toward ensuring voters had the information they needed to

"Both Ms. Carson and Wylecia Wiggs-Harris, the new CEO of LWVUS, challenged local Leagues to become more flexible and nimble – to redefine our futures in the context of the real world. They encouraged us to recruit younger members but not expect them to attend meetings as they have been organized in the past or to expect them to take on multi-project responsibilities. We need to meet them in places where they are accustomed to socializing and encourage them to take on smaller, time-limited roles. Both also urged us to embrace new technology, adopt new ways of communicating and become comfortable using social media."

"We were privileged to hear a cadre of excellent, nationally recognized speakers:

- Christine Chen, Founder and Executive Director of APIAVote, focused on reaching and mobilizing Asian and Pacific Islander voters;
- Kristen Clarke, President and Executive Director of the national Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under the Law;
- Keesha Gaskins, Director for the Democratic Practice-United States program at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund;
- Joe Goldman, President of the Democracy Fund – a private foundation started by the founder of eBay;
- Celinda Lake, President of Lake Research Partners, one of the most respected polling firms in the country;
- Jennifer Lawless, PhD, Director of Women & Politics Institute;
- Peter Overby, *NPR's* Power, Money and Influence Correspondent;
- Amanda Taub, reporter for the *New York Times* focusing on political and national identity around the world, the nature and functioning of authoritarian regimes and women's rights;
- Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of NALECO Education Fund, a national nonprofit organization that strengthens American democracy by promoting the full participation of Latinos in civic life."

[Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America](#), was mesmerizing as he sounded the warning that voting rights in American are in grave jeopardy. He discussed voter suppression efforts that began with the Burger Supreme Court, continued through the Rehnquist Court, and outlined the role that current Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. has played for decades in eroding voting rights. These facts were presented, along with specific local tactics such as closing places and limiting polling hours without advance notice and restrictive voter ID laws that are blatantly discriminatory. (In one community in Texas, a gun license qualified as a valid voter ID but a student ID did not.) Mr. Berman's presentation was sobering and frightening and a siren call for League action. [Give Us the Ballot](#) was named one of the best books of 2015 by the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *NPR*, *The Boston Globe* and *Kirkus Reviews*."

["Here is the link to the convention speeches](#) on YouTube.

If you have time, I would recommend listening particularly to Chris Carson, Ari Berman, Celinda Lake, and Wylecia Wiggs Harris' remarks."



Our mailing address is:

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