



The Leelanau VOTER

August 2014

2014-2015

Board of Directors

**Vina Mikesell
CHAIR and EDITOR**

**Marian Kromkowski
VICE-CHAIR**

Jacquie Johnson, SECRETARY

Jo Walker, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

Christi Bardenhagen

Betty Bushey

BJ Christensen

Nancy Duck

Fran Eckerson

Judy Hoeffler

Suzanne Hoff

Ann McInnis

Martha Shaver

MISSION STATEMENT

**The League of Women Voters,
a non-partisan 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.**

From the President.....

And we're off and running! It's a new League year. Welcome back to our monthly meetings and much more. Please look at our Calendar of Events on page 2.

Our first meeting on September 3rd discusses "Money in Politics, Democracy in the Balance." This issue is at the core of what is wrong with our political system. Members Betty Bushey, BJ Christensen and Marian Kromkowski will discuss aspects of this problem after the showing of a short video featuring Ashley Sanders, a national spokesperson for Move to Amend.

Voters Service activities are in full swing as we move toward the general election in November. The League is manning a table at some of the Farmers Markets, offering help in registering to vote. We will also have a presence at the Laundry Project and Leelanau Uncaged. While we cannot actually register voters, we are able to help them fill in the applications, answer questions and send the forms to the appropriate County Clerk.

On September 23-25, we are joining efforts with the Grand Traverse Area League to register students at NMC, the Haggerty Center, M.Tec (at the airport) and the University Center as part of National Voters Registration Day. BJ is in charge of staffing our portion so please give her a call or let her know if you would like to help.

And finally, we have lots of candidate forums listed inside. Sign-up sheets will be available at our September meeting. See you then.

Vina

LEELANAU FALL CALENDAR

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3
Member Meeting at 12 noon

“Money in Politics, Democracy in the Balance”
LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 15

Early Childhood Development Committee Meeting
12 Noon in the MUNNECKE ROOM, LELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 22

LWVLC Board Meeting

9:00 am in CONFERENCE ROOM 2, LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, SEPTEMBER 23-25

National Voters Registration Day

NORTHERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN TRAVERSE CITY



Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 30

Farm Labor Task Force Committee Meeting

1 pm in Conference Room #1, LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Wednesday, October 1
Member Meeting at 12 noon

“Public Education: The Past and Present”
LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

The **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE** will meet on Wed. Sept. 3 at 10:00 AM in the government center, Conference Room #1. We will be learning more about the aging Enbridge pipeline #5 traversing the Mackinac Straits, the current status of fracking, important Leelanau water issues, potential outreach projects, current Leelanau projects addressing renewable energy, conservation and efficiency. We will also be generating questions to ask candidates running for office.

The committee will discuss information related to the February 2015 LWVLC general meeting presentation on the proposal for initiating carbon fee and dividend. This proposal is currently garnering increased support legislatively and offers possibly one of the best solutions to address climate change and the depletion of cheap fossil fuels...the ramifications of which are the defining issues of our time. We welcome anyone interested in these issues to attend our meeting.

"Seeing Migrants/Immigrants Through the Eyes of Faith" is the theme of Trinity Church's Tenth Anniversary Belko Peace Lecture this fall. The featured speaker will be Rev. Jose Lopez of Traverse City, addressing the theme of immigration on Saturday, September 13. His lecture will be preceded by a performance of three traditional Mexican dances. The event begins at 7:00 pm; a time for questions and discussion will follow.

The next weekend, on Sunday, September 21, a panel will be discussing ways that community groups are working with recent immigrants and migrant workers to help stabilize their situation. The panel includes: Margaret Harner, of Deportation First Aid in Ypsilanti; Alline Buetler of Justice for Our Neighbors in Traverse City; and Suzanne Hoff of the League of Women Voters of Leelanau County. Both events are free and open to the public. Trinity Church is at 103 N. Warren St. in Northport.



Annual Meeting of the Lake Michigan InterLeague October 3,4 and 5 in Traverse City

"Climate Change and Biodiversity for Lake Michigan" is the theme of this year's conference. If you are interested in learning more about the conference, go to <http://www.lwvlmr.org>. Our League will be sending one delegate for the entire conference and will pay for 3 additional people to attend at a reduced rate (without meals). Please contact Vina at mikeselv@wabash.edu if you would like to attend.

The **CHALLENGES OF LEELANAU COMMITTEE**

meets Wed. Sept. 3, at 10:30 am in Conference Room 2 of the Government Center. The meeting will be a general discussion to set an agenda for issues of study for the group's second year.

The committee, which provided a wrap-up of its first year of study at the June meeting of the Leelanau League, welcomes additional members.

Contact Judy Hoeffler to learn more about the committee.

**SIGN UP AT THE SEPTEMBER LEAGUE MEETING
TO HELP AT THE OCTOBER CANDIDATE FORUMS**

If all the candidates have not confirmed, the date is preceded by an asterisk.

*Tuesday, October 7

MI State House and Senate Candidates

Ray Franz (R) - Tom Stobie (D)

Darwin Booher (R) - Glen Lottie (D)

7-9 pm Suttons Bay High School Auditorium

*Tuesday, October 21

U.S. House of Representatives

Dan Benishek (R) - Jerry Cannon (D)

7-9pm Suttons Bay High School Auditorium

Wednesday, October 22

Leelanau County Commissioners Districts 4 & 5

Tom Van Pelt (R) - Ty Wessell (D)

Karen Zemaitis (R) - Patricia Soutas-Little (D)

7-9 pm Leelanau County Government Center

*Thursday, October 23

Leelanau County Commissioners Districts 2, 6 & 7

Debra Rushton (R) - Dave Barrons (D)

Peachy Rentenbach (D) - Robert Hawley (R)

Melinda Lautner (R) - John O'Neill (D)

7-9 pm Leelanau County Government Center

Sunday, October 26

Northport Village President and Trustees

2-4 pm Leelanau Township Fire Hall



BJ Christensen

"The League of Women Voters is dedicated to ensuring that all eligible voters--particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, minorities, the elderly and low-income Americans--have the opportunity and the information to exercise their right to vote." www.lwvus.org

Please check with all your children and grandchildren who will be 18 by Nov. 4, friends and neighbors and ask if they are registered to vote.

If not, help them get to their township or county clerk or any Secretary of State office so they may register to vote.

The next step is to gather information. Tell them about Vote411.org and candidate forums. The issues that will be decided by the winning candidates this year may include the following:

Education

Will K-12 schools remain public where all students are accepted or will they be funded by taxpayers with curriculum and faculty controlled by for-profit companies? Will college be affordable and accessible to all?

Health Care

Will the Affordable Care Act be overturned where millions of people will lose their health insurance and be returned to the old system where the insurance companies decide what health care you will receive if any? Should we have universal health care for everyone?

Environment

Will regulations be overturned which protect our clean air, clean water, and safe food supply? Will hydro-fracking companies be able to drill on any property if they own the mineral rights without regard for landowners and their quality of life? Most of us do not own mineral rights of the land we live on. Do you know? Recent court rulings have favored big business.

Safety Net Programs

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid have been under attack for decades. Meals on Wheels, Head Start and Food Stamps have been cut dramatically under austerity budgeting. Should these be funded by taxpayers or should individuals have to fund their own or suffer the consequences? What is our responsibility to the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and our veterans?

Financial

Should there be a Consumer Financial Protection Agency or should the big banks have free rein in the marketplace and buyer beware? Taxes have been decreasing for 3 decades even though prices have skyrocketed. When will an increase in taxes be justified and who should pay more? Before the 2014 primary Michigan businesses contributed 9% of Michigan's overall revenue (according the Center for Michigan forum sponsored by LWV Leelanau). Since passage of Prop 1 that percentage will be less. What responsibilities should businesses have in Michigan?

Voting Rights

According to the Brennan Center for Justice* since 2011, 41 states introduced 180 voter restriction laws; 34 states introduced photo ID laws; 17 states introduced proof of citizenship requirements; 16 states introduced laws to restrict registration; and 9 states introduced laws to reduce early voting. Since the Supreme Court overturned Sec. 4 of the Voting Rights Act, even more restrictions have been imposed.

In Michigan since the financial managers have been given complete control over 10 cities and school districts, 49% of Blacks in Michigan have no control over their local government. Is this back-door voter suppression? Was there a better way?

These issues and more deserve your attention. It's your right and your responsibility. Register to vote, study the issues, take a friend or a car pool to the polls and **be sure you vote.**

Sources:

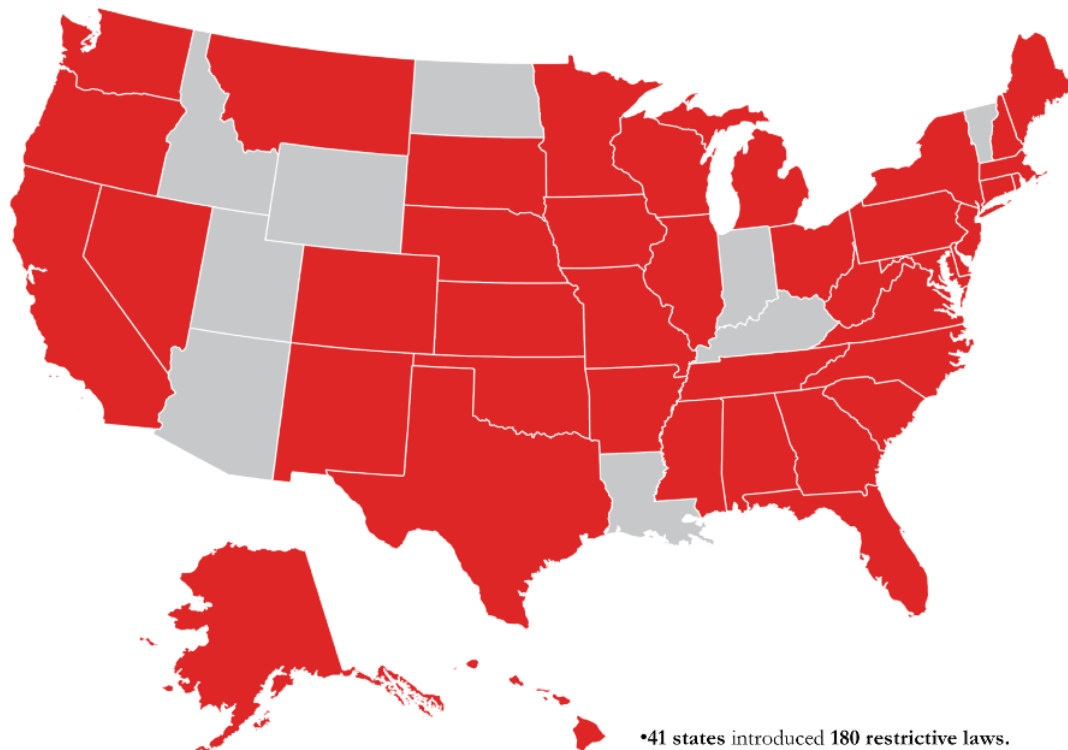
www.michigan.org

www.lwvus.org

www.centerformichigan.org

www.brennencenter.org

States with restrictive voting legislation introduced since 2011



**BRENNAN CENTER
FOR JUSTICE**

- 41 states introduced 180 restrictive laws.
- 34 states introduced photo ID laws.
- 17 states introduced proof of citizenship requirements.
- 16 states introduced bills to limit registration.
- 9 states introduced bills to reduce early voting periods.

**October 1st League Meeting
"Public Education: the Past and
Present"**

**November 5th League Meeting
"Public Education: the Future"**

*featuring noted speakers
from the field of
education*

BOOK GROUP

Is there a book you would like to recommend for the League's Book Group?

We will meet on April 8th to discuss the selected book. At the October meeting, we hope to make a decision. Please let Vina know if you have a suggestion.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Kathy Turner who is moving to California very soon to be closer to her daughters. Kathy and her husband Bob moved permanently to Leelanau County in around 1990. She was the driving force behind the Leelanau County Issues Discussion Group (CIDG), the forerunner of the Leelanau League. Kathy and the other women worked tirelessly for the passage of a Farm Preservation millage at the county level. They also were responsible for the first Farmers Market.

Kathy was the first chair of the Leelanau Unit of the League of Women Voters of the Grand Traverse Area. We will miss her and wish her well in her new home.

*The Big Picture Society
a monthly event*

**Monday, October 13
at 4 pm**

**the Old Art Building
in Leland**

**No charge but donations are appreciated.
Open to the public.**