



# The Leelanau VOTER

## February 2017

2016-2017  
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### 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.....*

Let's restart 2017! Our first January forum cancelled due to icy roads is rescheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendars and come to *Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail*.

Many League members marched in the We Are Watching March in Traverse City on January 21<sup>st</sup>. There were 3,000 in attendance, a record crowd for a demonstration in this area. Several League members travelled to Washington, DC. I spoke on behalf of the League at the end of the gathering in Traverse City and offered the following encouragement. "It is time to renew our civic engagement. Start attending local government meetings. Write to your local, state and national elected officials. Write letters to the papers. Speak up when you agree and when you disagree with government action or policy. Get involved with a League committee and/or other community efforts."

A new contact list for government officials is on the LWVLeelanau.org website and in this newsletter. It is worth repeating: "This is what democracy looks like!"

In line with the spirit of the Women's March on Washington, our LWVLC ERA committee will host a book read of Equal Means Equal, Why the Time for an Equal Rights Amendment is NOW at 7pm on February 20. RSVP to [LWVLeelanau@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLeelanau@gmail.com) if you will be attending. Depending on the numbers it will either be at the Government Center or at Barb Abbott's house. The next meeting of the ERA committee is January 31 at 5:30 pm at Government Center.

Keep active. Stay informed. See you at a League event soon.

*Best regards,  
Marian*



## **Take the Mystery out of Taxation and Budgeting**

an overview of taxation and budgeting in Michigan along with a critique of the current model, its impact and shortcomings

presented by  
Former MI State Treasurer

**Robert Kleine**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017**

**at 12 noon**

**Lower Level  
Leelanau County Government Center**

Delegates at the LWVMI Convention in May 2015 voted to update our State League's Taxation and Budgeting Position. The Taxation and Budget Study Committee has prepared the documents linked at

[http://lwvmi.org/member/mem\\_studies.html](http://lwvmi.org/member/mem_studies.html)

for local Leagues to use in reaching Consensus on the Government Finance study questions. At noon on February 1, 2017 we host Robert Kleine, the former Treasurer of Michigan from April 2006 to January 1, 2011. He was formerly vice president and senior economist at Public Sector Consultants where he was was employed for 16 years.

**League Consensus Discussion  
to Follow the Presentation**

## Meeting Rescheduled

### **Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail**

**New innovative efforts offered by local courts to address adult and juvenile behaviors that previously would have meant jail time.**

**Hon. Michael Stepka  
86th District Court Judge**

**Hon. Michael Long  
Grand Traverse Band Associate Judge**

**John Boonstra and Candy Fisher  
Leelanau Family Court Staff**

**Sherise Shively  
Community Corrections Manager**

**Diane Speas  
Art Director, Leelanau County Jail**

**Wednesday,  
March 1, 2017  
at noon**

**LOWER LEVEL  
LEELANAU COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**Bring a Friend.**

### **LEELANAU CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY 1- Member Meeting at noon**  
**Taking the Mystery Out of Taxation and Budgeting**  
**GOVERNMENT CENTER - LOWER LEVEL**

**FEBRUARY 20 - Equal Rights BOOK Discussion at 7pm**  
**GOVERNMENT CENTER OR BARB ABBOTT'S HOME**

**FEBRUARY 27 - LWVLC Board Meeting at 9:30 am**  
**GOVERNMENT CENTER - CONFERENCE ROOM 2**

**MARCH 1 - Member Meeting at noon**  
**Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail**  
**GOVERNMENT CENTER - LOWER LEVEL**



## LIST OF ELECTED STATE AND NATIONAL OFFICIALS

Contact them often and regularly as individuals.

### President Trump

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Comments: 202-456-1111

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

### Sen. Gary Peters

818 Red Drive, Suite 40  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(231) 947-7773

and

724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-6221

[www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary](http://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary)

### Sen. Debbie Stabenow

3335 S. Airport Road West, Suite 6B  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: (231) 929-1031

and

731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-4822

[www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact](http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact)

### US Rep. Jack Bergman

1396 Douglas Drive, Suite 22B  
Traverse City, MI 49696  
and

414 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-4735

<https://bergman.house.gov/contact/>

### Governor Rick Snyder

P.O. Box 30013

Lansing, Michigan 48909

(517)-373-3400

(517)-335-7858 - Constituent Services

FAX: 517-335-6863

### Senator Darwin Boohar

P.O. Box 30036

Lansing, MI 48909-7536

(517) 373-1725

Fax (517) 373-0741

[SenDBoohar@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenDBoohar@senate.michigan.gov)

### Curt Vanderwall

S-1385 House Office Building

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-0825

[CurtVanderWall@house.mi.gov](mailto:CurtVanderWall@house.mi.gov)

**The new Member Directory  
was emailed to all members  
in December.**

**If your contact information is  
incorrect, please email  
mikeselv@wabash.edu  
with any changes.**

**A corrected/updated list will  
be sent out in early March.**

### LWVLC Committee meetings

- **AGE FRIENDLY LEELANAU**  
Wednesday, February 1 at 10 am  
Law Library, Government Center
- **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Wednesday, February 1 at 10 am  
Conf. Room #1, Government Center
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS AND SERVICES**  
Friday, February 17, 2017 at noon  
Munnecke Room, Leland Library
- **FARM LABOR TASK FORCE**  
Monday, February 13 at 9:30 am  
Law Library, Government Center

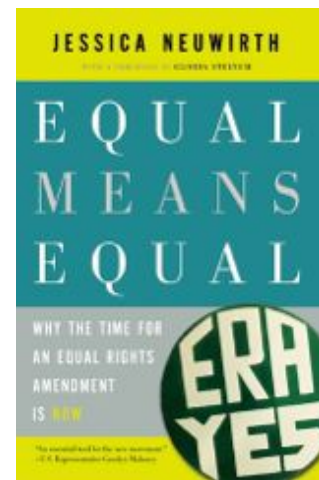
### THE LWVLC EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS and SERVICES COMMITTEE

met in January to discuss following up on the November Forum which featured a discussion about the connection between early childhood experiences and long-term health outcomes. We were joined by counselors from the Suttons Bay Schools who are interested in sharing this information with staff and parents. The Committee may be able to facilitate partnerships to assist with this educational effort. The Committee is also suggesting some minor revisions to the LWVMI position statement on Children and Youth. Our long-term goal is to promote more LWVMI advocacy around early childhood issues.

### ERA BOOK AND MEETING

In line with the spirit of the Women's March on Washington, our LWVLC ERA committee will host a book discussion of [Equal Means Equal, Why the Time for an Equal Rights Amendment is NOW](#) by Jessica Neuwirth.

at 7pm on February 20.



**RSVP** by February 1st with ERA Book Read in the heading to [LWVLeelanau@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLeelanau@gmail.com) if you will be attending.

Depending on the numbers it will either be at the Government Center or at Barb Abbott's house.

Next meeting of the ERA committee is on January 31 at 5:30 PM in the Lower Level of the Government Center.



**Betsy Wilson and Suzanne Landes holding our banner at the January 21<sup>st</sup> March**

## **TRAVERSE CITY MARCHERS**

**Barbara Abbott \* Lois Bahle \* Christi and Gary Bardenhagen \* Patty Barrons  
Jan Bauer \* Jennie Berkson \* Betty and Dennis Bushey \* Tricia and Cecelia Denton  
Roberta Dow \* David Edelstein \* Janis Frazee \* Phil Garrison \* Jo Harmson  
Larry Hauser \* Alison Heins \* Joan Hunault \* Jay Johnson \* Marian Kromkowski  
Suzanne Landes \* Barbara Marsh \* Kathryn May \* Patricia McGee \* Vina Mikesell  
Sue Miller \* Stephanie Mills \* Karen Mulvahill \* Dan Malski \* Chris Palmer  
Nancy Petersen \* Matt Posner \* Jan Rygwelski \* Barbara Schneider  
Martha Shaver \* Mike Sinclair \* Patricia Soutas-Little \* Kathy Wessell  
Betty Wilson \* Peter Wolcott**

## **WASHINGTON D.C. MARCHERS**

**Paula Kemler \* Brenda Knaack \* Katherine Purcell \* Robbin Stott**

## **SAN FRANCISCO MARCHER**

**Sam Getsinger**

## **PHOENIX MARCHER**

**Celeste Crouch**

*If your name is not on this list and you participated in a march anywhere,  
please email [mikeselv@wabash.edu](mailto:mikeselv@wabash.edu).*

## The Energy and Natural Resources Committee asks:

### Did you know?

In a recent World Wildlife Fund (WWF) report it was revealed that “global populations of vertebrates – mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish – have already declined by 58 percent between 1970 and 2012. Animals living in the world’s lakes, rivers and freshwater systems have experienced the most dramatic population declines, at 81 percent. Because of human activity, the report states that without immediate intervention, global wildlife populations could drop two-thirds by 2020.” <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/living-planet-report-2016>

### What are some of the reasons for this?

**1. Animal Agriculture.** In the U.S. alone, millions of acres of land are used for animal agriculture which then seriously and negatively impacts the critical habitats needed by non-humans. **What to do?** Attempt to cut back your consumption of meat....and learn about the health benefits of a plant based diet.

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/world-hunger-population-growth-ditching-meat/>

**2. Palm Oil Productions.** Palm oil is used in 50% of US products but its popularity is resulting in devastating habitat destruction contributing to a precipitous decline in the populations and diversity of species. **What to do?** Attempt to avoid all products containing palm oil. Check labels.

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/innocent-animals-suffering-at-the-hands-of-the-palm-oil-industry/>

**3. Plastic Pollution.** More than 32 million tons of plastic waste is generated in the U.S. every year – and only a tiny fraction of that waste is recycled. Where does most of it end up? In water (oceans, lakes, Great Lakes, etc.) and land and often as micro plastics in those same places. It then becomes an indigestible and potentially toxic part of the food chain ...causing slow death to many land and marine organisms.

**What to do?** Refuse single-use and disposable plastic items. Begin to choose products not made of plastic. Learn to live waste free.

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/marine-species-extinction-and-plastic-pollution/>

**If you missed any of our fall meetings, see them at  
Video Links on our website LWVLeelanau.org.**