



The Leelanau VOTER

November 2017

From the President

It's been a busy and productive year! Since our September 13th forum on the need for septic inspection regulation in Leelanau County, LWVLC members have appeared and spoken up at every Board of Commissioner meeting, plus one Board of Health meeting. Our efforts alongside those of the county Lake Associations, Leelanau Clean Water and Leelanau Indivisible have paid off. We are pleased to announce that Leelanau County commissioners on November 21st in a 6-1 vote agreed to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting in January. The goal of this special meeting is to enable officials to continue reviewing issues stemming from the county's aging septic systems. The LWVLC shares Commissioner Wessell's hope, as expressed in today's Record Eagle, "to see plenty of local officials, health department leaders and scientists on the agenda, as well as officials from Benzie County and other entities that already have septic system regulations in place." I was so proud to see 18 LWVLC members at the November 21st meeting. You are encouraged to keep in contact with your commissioner, sharing your concern for the health of our water supply and land resources. I will send out a notice to all LWVLC members once the January date is set.

Other reminders..... Protect Our Voter Forum Wednesday, November 29 at noon. LWVMI President Judy Karandjeff will be one of the presenters. Don't forget to send in your RSVP for our Annual Lunch. Let's continue our call to shut down Line 5 by attending the public forum on December 13. Lots to do before the next set of holidays arrive!

*Good health to all,
Marian*

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2017

29 Protect Our Vote Forum
12 noon at Govt Center

DECEMBER 2017

6 LWVLC Holiday Potluck
12 noon at Govt Center
RSVP SharonGolm@gmail.com
by Dec 1

13 Pipeline 5 Public Comment
6pm West Bay Beach Holiday Inn
Resort, 615 E. Front St.

Note: Board meets on 4th Monday of the month at 9:30 AM in the lower level of the Government Center. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.



Find upcoming events, alerts and other announcements on **Facebook** or at LWVLeelanau.org

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.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

"Stand Up: Protect the Vote"

by Marian Kromkowski and Joan Hunault

Three forces now threaten our democracy. Each silences the voices of voters, causing them to doubt that their participation matters: 1) unlimited and unreported campaign contribution; 2) gerrymandering of legislative districts; and 3) voter suppression efforts that reduce voter turn-out. Voter suppression is the most pernicious. It should be a matter of concern for all citizens, regardless of political party affiliation.

Voting is what makes each of us equal to the other. In our democracy, it is the one exercise that is our ultimate expression of citizenship. Indeed, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the right to vote is preservative of all other rights. Without access to the ballot box, citizens are not able to protect other rights that matter to them.

Yet, our 'right to vote' has recently become our 'fight to vote'. Nationwide, efforts are underway to purge voter lists, eliminate polling places, increase wait times, require photo IDs, and demand documentary proof of citizenship. These efforts have already denied thousands their right to vote, and forced scores of lawsuits in state and federal courts. The eligible voters most often denied their rights have been Black, Native, Hispanic, and poor. The people defending their voting rights include the ACLU, the NAACP, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Native American Rights Fund, and in some cases, the League of Women Voters.

Most recently the Trump Administration established an Election Integrity Commission. It's current chair has led efforts to demand documentary proof of citizenship before voting in both Kansas and Arizona. The Brennan Center for Justice estimates that of the 200 million American voters, 5% or 10 million voters, do not have, and can never get, these documents. In recognition of this fact, current law requires, instead, that voters attest to their citizenship, both when they register, and when they vote. Further, the commission's controversial effort to access and compile all states' voter registration information threatens to invade voter privacy. We must oppose this bid for centralized power over the polls and additional requirements for proof of citizenship at the polls.

The League of Women Voters is determined to stand-up, to remain vigilant, and to fight to protect our right to vote. Michigan is part of a 16 -state Protect the Vote Project, made possible by the national League of Women Voters Education Fund. To that end, the LWV Leelanau County will host a forum entitled "Protect Our Vote" at noon on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 in the lower level of the Leelanau County Government Center. The public forum features an interactive presentation by LWV Michigan President Judy Karandjeff and Advocacy Vice President Joan Hunault focusing on how citizens obtained the right to vote, the importance of this right, the history of voter suppression, then and now, and ways voting can be protected and made more accessible.

**PROTECT OUR VOTE
FORUM**

 **WED. NOVEMBER 29**
12 Noon
**Leelanau County
Government Center**
with LWV of Michigan 
**President Judy Karandjeff and
Vice President Joan Hunault**
ALL WELCOME
SOME BRING A SACK LUNCH

Every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. There is no reason which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right.

Lyndon B. Johnson

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LEELANAU COUNTY
LWVLeelanau.org

**Join Us for Our
Annual Holiday Luncheon**
for County Officials,
League Members and Guests.
Wednesday, December 6
12 noon in the Community Room
at the Government Center

**Service Provided.
Bring a hot or cold dish to pass.**

After lunch, Marshall Collins, Jr.
and Dave Taghon will present
"African-American History and
Experience in Leelanau: A
Perspective"

RSVP
by December 1st to
sharongolm@gmail




The date for this year's holiday lunch will be at noon **Wednesday, December 6** in the lower level of the Government Center. We have already hand-delivered invites to our Leelanau County elected officials and the Tribal Council of the Grand Traverse Band. It is a potluck. Bring a hot or cold dish to pass. Table service and drinks will be provided.

The holiday lunch is a members' event; however, you are encouraged to bring a guest. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Sharon Golm at sharongolm@gmail.com by December 1st. Please provide the name of your guest to Sharon.

This year we will host Marshall Collins, Jr. and Dave Taghon who will speak on "**African-American History and Experience in Leelanau: A Perspective.**" David Taghon will also have several historical photos on display.

A bit about our lunch speakers:



Marshall Collins, Jr. – Instructional Services Specialist for School Health at TBAISD and soccer coach with TBAYS, will speak about his parents’ journey to the Leelanau Peninsula in the late 1960s and his family’s work in the farms and fields of Leelanau. Marshall, Jr. is one of nine children of the Reverend Collins, Sr. who, along with Collins Jr.’s mother, Mary, a gifted singer, inspired the Northport community. He was honored in 2013 by the History Center in Traverse City.



Dave Taghon -- Director of the Empire Museum, has been dubbed a “history guru” by the Glen Arbor Sun. Taghon has photos of African-American residents and families as well as individuals who worked in the mills or were lumberjacks in the Empire area. Empire at one time had the biggest lumber mill on the northwest coast of Michigan and at lot of good, strong men were needed to do the work which paid a dollar a day, good wages at the time.



LINE 5 ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS
FINAL REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
1 OF 3 PUBLIC HEARINGS IN TRAVERSE CITY
Wednesday, Dec. 13, in Traverse City, beginning at 6 pm
West Bay Beach Holiday Inn Resort, 615 E. Front St.



On November 20, the State of Michigan released for public comment the final study analyzing alternatives to Line 5, the aging 64-year-old set of twin pipelines under the Straits of Mackinac. A 30-day public comment period on the report developed by contractor Dynamic Risk Assessment Systems, Inc. is now open. Comments can be submitted online at the Michigan Petroleum Pipelines website, <https://mipetroleumpipelines.com/open-question/alternatives-analysis-final-report-comments>, by email through the website <https://mipetroleumpipelines.com/contact-us> or by mail sent to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Attn: Line 5 Alternatives Analysis, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909-7973.

One of three public comment sessions will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13, in Traverse City, beginning at 6 p.m., West Bay Beach Holiday Inn Resort, 615 E. Front St. BE THERE! No formal presentation will be made at the sessions but representatives from the State will be present to hear comments: Speakers will be allowed three minutes to make comments on a first-come, first-served basis. Yielding time to another speaker will not be allowed. Speakers are asked to make comments at only one public session, to give everyone a chance to offer their thoughts. No weapons, noisemakers or signs will be allowed at the sessions. Large bags will be subject to search by security officers.

The position of Oil and Water Don't Mix -- a broad coalition of residents, organizations, and businesses -- including the League of Women Voters Michigan, remains unchanged: the State must terminate the easement allowing Enbridge to use the lakebed for Line 5.

"The Straits are known to be the worst possible location for an oil spill. We know the risks -- if Line 5 fails it will be an utter disaster for our environment, economy, and way of life," said Sean McBrearty, coordinator of Oil & Water Don't Mix. "We have more than enough information to know this pipeline does not belong in the Great Lakes. It's time to move beyond studies, now is the time for Governor Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette to take action."

In mid-November, Coast Guard Adm. Paul Zukunft testified to a US Senate Com. that the Coast Guard cannot clean up an Enbridge Line 5 pipeline spill in the Great Lakes. Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette have the authority and responsibility to terminate the easement to prevent a catastrophic oil spill.

"We urge the Administration to move swiftly to shut down Line 5 and protect our Great Lakes, coastal economies, and continued way of life in Michigan," said Anne Woiwode, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. "It is not Michigan's job to protect a Canadian oil company's profits for oil that mostly goes back into Canada - our leaders' job is to protect the Great Lakes, Michigan citizens, and businesses."

Line 5 is owned by Enbridge, a Canadian oil pipeline company, which has put our Great Lakes at an unacceptable risk. For three years Enbridge has repeatedly denied and failed to disclose problems with the pipeline's protective coating. Just last month the company claimed that the gaps had been repaired; however according to the company's latest report, the number of coating gaps have multiplied and increased in size from band aid size to 13 foot strips of exposed bare steel.

The State of Lake Michigan (SOLM) Conference was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin November 8-10 in conjunction with the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) Board Meeting and Annual Dinner

By Jane Packard, LWVLC Member and LWVLMR Board Member

The State of Lake Michigan (SOLM) Conference was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin November 8-10 in conjunction with the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) Board Meeting and Annual Dinner. Attending with me were the two other Michigan's LWVLMR Board members Chris Zilke and Ruth Caputo.

Some highlights: I attended the SOLM session entitled "One Lake, Many Partners. How do we bring everyone together to develop an effective Lakewide Management Plan (LAMP)?" Presenters at the SOLM conference included, among others, the Illinois DNR, The Nature Conservancy, Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition and the University of Wisconsin. LAMP partners include the EPA, NOAA and the USGS. LAMPs are a blueprint for long term vision and action for each of the Great Lakes with goals including safe drinking water, continued tourism and recreation, controlling invasive species and keeping our Lakes free from nutrient impacts. The LAMPs are on a five year rotating schedule for each of the Great Lakes. Michigan's next LAMP is due in 2019 and will bring together interested parties next spring to study the health of and the problems facing Lake Michigan and to set priorities based on the findings. The ultimate goal of the LAMP is protection of our Great Lakes.

At lunch we were treated to a plenary featuring Dan Egan, a reporter with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and author of the book Death and Life of the Great Lakes. Dan has done a great deal of research on the Great Lakes and is a wealth of information. He was recently a guest on The Daily Show.

The afternoon SOLM program was entitled GLRI Project Highlights. This session included detailed presentations of various GLRI funded projects. Of particular interest were two presentations. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of the Odawa Indians presented an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program in the Traverse Bay area that addresses runoff from farmland and orchards, dam removals and water and fishery monitoring. Another presentation was the study of the effect of invasive quagga mussels in the Sleeping Bear area to determine their effect on oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in Lake Michigan.

The LWVLMR Annual Dinner was a great opportunity to interact with other League members and to discuss issues pertinent to the health of Lake Michigan. Our guest speaker was Nancy Utesch, a dairy farmer from Wisconsin. She lives in an area where runoff from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) is causing ground water pollution, runoff into lakes and streams and poisoning the well water. At the time of the presentation, her husband was in Washington testifying about this issue. Nancy's message was the importance of "doing something" when you see a problem.

Protecting our Great Lakes presents many challenges. The League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region will continue to educate and advocate for the Great Lakes. The SOLM Conference addressed the importance of bringing many groups and ideas to the table, gathering information, addressing problems and working on solutions. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by all this wonderful fresh water and we need to value and protect this precious resource.



The League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) is an Inter-League Organization made up of 63 local Leagues of Women Voters within the Lake Michigan watershed and regional planning areas, along with the four state Leagues. It is an integral part of and operates under the Natural Resources position of the League of Women Voters of the United States. LWVLMR.org

WE STRONGLY URGE THE DEFEAT OF BOTH SB 584, 585 AND SB 586

Sent to Rep. Curt VanderWall on November 27, 2017

The Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee of the League of Women Voters Leelanau County asks your attention to this letter and its supporting evidence as it relates to SB 584, 585 and 586 which will soon be sent to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. On November 8, the Michigan Senate passed these bills allowing guns in K-12 schools, college and university buildings, childcare centers, sports arenas, bars, churches and more. The League of Women Voters Michigan has voiced opposition to these bills. While there are many discussion points in these bills, this letter will address their impact on young children and their childcare centers and schools.

Healthy children are by nature very curious about the world and everything in it. Infants learn about objects by putting them in their mouths. Toddlers and young children learn about objects by handling them and playing with them. Young children learning about the world have not yet developed the good judgment needed to keep themselves safe. That is why we adults protect them through use of such things as outlet covers, car seats and bike helmets and prevent them from having access to matches, lighters, smoking materials, alcohol and vehicles. Guns fall into this category of objects that children do not have sufficient judgment to use. Children need adults to protect them from guns.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, 66,000 members strong, including more than 1300 in Michigan; the American Academy of Family Physicians with over 129,000 members with more than 4200 in the Michigan Academy; the American Psychological Association, with more than 115,700 members; and the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists with over 9000 members, all professionals who care for the physical and mental health of children, have issued policy statements or resolutions regarding gun violence prevention as it impacts children. These organizations all recommend that children not be exposed to guns, at home or where they play.

Any child exposed to violence is at risk of subsequent health problems. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), "Anyone can develop PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) at any age. In very young children (less than 6 years of age), these symptoms may include: wetting the bed after having learned to use the toilet, forgetting how to or being unable to talk, acting out the scary event during playtime, being unusually clingy with a parent or other adult." According to "Child Trends", a large national non-profit research organization focused exclusively on improving the lives and prospects of children, youth, and their families, "Children who are exposed to violence are more likely to suffer from attachment problems, regressive behavior, anxiety, and depression, and to have aggressive and conduct problems. Other health-related problems, as well as academic and cognitive problems, delinquency, and involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, are also associated with experiences of violence."

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation." To a young child who understands what guns do, an adult with a gun is a person of power and presents a threat to the child. To a child too young to understand that a gun can cause bodily harm, a gun carried by even a law-abiding adult may be an object of curiosity, something to be handled and played with. Thus, whether or not a child is able to understand about guns, the presence of a gun in a child care center or school is a threat to psychological harm, injury or death. Therefore, the presence of a gun in a childcare center or a preschool does not make good sense. SB 584, by increasing concealed pistol exemptions for gun-free zones, should be opposed.

SB 586 should also be opposed. School districts need to be able to maintain gun-free zones if the residents so choose. Since many school districts have preschools attached to their schools, passage of SB 586 would again allow exposure of young children to guns. Parents, who can opt out of sex education for their children in schools, should be able to choose to prevent their children's exposure to guns in schools.

Should these bills become law and any act of gun violence occur in a Michigan school or child care center, we fear the State would be vulnerable to litigation as a proponent of and perhaps accomplice to violence. We do not want our tax dollars to be needed for the defense of the State in such a case. For the above stated reasons, we strongly urge the defeat of SB 584, 585 and SB 586.

Sincerely,
Sue Miller,
LWVLC Chair, Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee
Pat Seiler, Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee
Marian Kromkowski, LWVLC President

**HAVE A CONCERN? WANT TO SAY THANKS?
WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION?
CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**

President Trump

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

Senator Gary Peter

724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-6221
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

Senator Debbie Stabenow

731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4822
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact>

US Representative Jack Bergman

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

State Senator Darwin Booher

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-1725
Fax (517) 373-0741
SenDBooher@senate.michigan.gov

State Representative Curt Vanderwall

S-1385 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI
48909
Phone: (517) 373-0825
CurtVanderWall@house.mi.gov

Attorney General Bill Schuette

G. Mennen Williams Building
525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212 Lansing, MI
48909
Phone (517)-373-1110
miag@michigan.gov

Contacts for All Elected County Officials at
www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp

Upcoming Committee Meeting

Energy and Natural Resources

December 6 at 10 am, Conf. room 1
Government Center.

Farm Labor Task Force

January 15 at 9:30 am, at Sam
Getsinger's.

Early Childhood Needs and Services

January 19 at noon, Munnecke Room at
Leland Library.

JOIN THE LWVLC

Membership Form at

LWVLEELANAU.org/join_form.html

Send checks to

Nancy Duck, Treasurer

P.O. Box 992 Leland, MI 49654

Single Membership is \$60.

Household Membership is \$90.

Make your check out to LWVLC.

Scholarships are available for dues from
the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund.

Contact Barb Marsh for an application

blmarsh@hotmail.com

LWVLC BOARD 2017-2018

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



Leelanau County

P.O. Box 519
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

LWVLeelanau@gmail.com

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!