



HELP NEEDED

You can be actively involved in Marquette County elections from the comfort of your home.

By Karen Schmitt

The VOTE411 team will be gearing up after the Aug 4 Primary and we could use your help. We need some researchers who can help us develop and write candidate questions. We will give you some guidance to do that. We also need callers to “adopt” a few candidates to help walk them through the process if they request help. We will train you, so you know how the VOTE411 process works for candidates.

We will be finished by Sept 19, when the on-line and printed voter guides are published. There may be other ways to help also. Contact Sandy Breitenbach sehurtubise@gmail.com or Karen Schmitt roborkaren@gmail.com if you are interested and we will be in touch!



REMEMBER: Vote in the August 4 Primary!

REMINDE: Family, friends, colleagues, and social media followers--all can vote absentee now.

DON'T FORGET: Fill out and mail or drop off your absentee ballot.

And before you vote...go to Vote411.org to find out

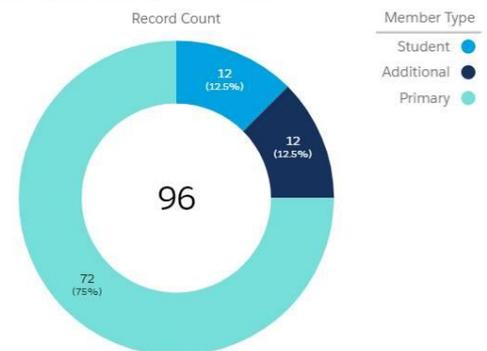
- what's on your ballot
- who is running for what office, and
- what the candidates' positions are on important issues.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE – USE IT

So Close! A Membership Update

By Kim Winokur

ACTIVE MEMBERS BY TYPE - CHART



Our goal by the end of 2020 is 100 members to help celebrate our centennial. If you know anyone who might be interested in membership, let me know and we will welcome them and get membership information to them.

kwinokur@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: The Membership Committee will be holding a **Zoom Orientation for new members**. We'll be in touch with anyone who might be interested in participating.



Sidelined for 4 months, volunteers are eager to get out and register voters

By Pri Burnham, Director of Voter Services

After being sidelined for the last 4 months by the Covid-19 pandemic, the 28 Voter Registration/Voter Education (VR/VE) volunteers trained by Judy Kitchen and Sue Wilson are eager to get out into the community and put their knowledge and skills to good use in the lead up to the August 4 Primary and the November 3 General Election.

They held a brainstorming session to generate suggestions, albeit a condensed list, of possible events and venues and ways to connect **safely** with the public. Judy will email the event list and sign-up sheets to anyone interested in doing voter registration or voter education activities—at each person’s own comfort level. Let Judy know if you would like to participate. jkitchenmqt@gmail.com

LWV of Marquette County is again hoping to partner with NMU to do on-campus voter registration and assist students with completing and submitting absentee ballot applications. Finding creative ways to engage with students while following safe practices, like wearing masks and social distancing, will be a challenge, but with planning and the support of several NMU student organizations, we should be able to reach new voters.

Speaking of safe practices, Judy Kitchen has put together a terrific “Safety Protocol for LWV VR/VE volunteers” that is chock full of practical ways to limit physical contact between volunteers and the public. But she has an equally important message for everyone: if you are not comfortable volunteering for public events, DON’T WORRY. No one should feel pressured into taking part in a LWV activity during these challenging times. So, know your comfort level and don’t apologize.

Sue Wilson exemplifies this message. Sue has worked tirelessly for the past two-plus years, setting up shop at the weekly Farmers’ Market in Marquette, training volunteers, toting VR/VE information trifolds and clipboards to every Town Hall and dormitory, or anywhere a group of potential new voters were congregating. She recently underwent treatment for cancer and recognizes that she needs to take some time off to heal. Sue is a warrior in the fight to educate and empower voters – and we hope to see her back at the Farmers’ Market in the future. But for now, we all just wish her strength, courage, and serenity. We’ll muddle through without you for now, Sue, and welcome you back whenever you feel up to it. Stay safe.



Your grandmother fought, marched, picketed and protested for **YOUR** right to vote. Honor her courage by exercising your right to vote on **AUGUST 4**

Econo Receipts: Keep Up the Good Work!

By Jane Pajot

I turned in \$39,280.79 worth of our collected Econo Receipts which gives our LWV \$392.80!

Good job everyone especially since we aren't having in-person meetings and all of you have been making the effort to mail or drop off receipts to me. Now we'll start collecting receipts to turn in in January 2021.



Sadly, at this point, it looks unlikely that we will be able to have our bagging event, which brings in the most money and receipts for us, so it is more important than ever to continue collecting receipts now. Thanks, and keep up the good work.

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.



Lessons Learned on a Walk with Our VOTE411 Yard Signs

By Jane Pajot

Karen Schmitt and I walked for a couple of hours through Marquette neighborhoods, down Washington Street and along the bike path by Mattson Park with our VOTE411 yard signs. I carried mine and Karen had hers rigged to a backpack. Although we saw only a few people in the neighborhoods, we did have one driver stop to ask us about our signs and thanked us for the information.

We explained that VOTE411.ORG is a good source for non-partisan information about candidates and issues. They liked the idea that each candidate was asked the same questions making it easy to compare answers. We got a "thumbs up" from most people and had no negative encounters.

Because there are fewer people in town to see us and our signs due to the pandemic, our effect was more limited than under normal conditions. We concluded that if we could coordinate with any community events that are still going to happen, that would greatly help with visibility.



Karen & Rob Schmitt

Also, we are going to try some new simplified handmade signs that are super easy for drivers and walkers to read quickly.

And speaking of VOTE411 yard signs...

By Pri Burnham and Janet Joswiak

The sign re-order is in! Of 50 we have only about 25 left to offer. **Once they are gone that is it!**

Help us spread the word about VOTE411.ORG. Signs are \$10 which includes metal stand. Checks can be made payable to LWVMC. The signs will be available for pickup at the Law Office of Pri Burnham and Kim Winokur, 375 N. McClellan Avenue, Marquette

- Wednesday morning 10-12
- Thursday afternoon 2-4
- Friday afternoon 1-3
- Other times "by appointment"

Email Pri Burnham (priburnham@gmail.com) or Janet Joswiak (janetjoswiak@charter.net) to schedule a pick-up time.





ACTION ALERT

Urge Our Senators to Move Forward with \$3.6 Billion in Elections Funding

By Joanna Mitchell

On July 16, The League of Women Voters U.S. sent a [letter](#) urging U.S. Senators to include \$3.6 billion in funding for elections in the next stimulus package. This push for elections funding continues as the LWVUS Lobby Corps visits Senate offices during final negotiations for the next COVID stimulus bill. As LWVUS members, we can help: please use this LWVUS action alert to [contact our Senators](#).

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Imagining a Democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Enduring All to Secure One's Rights

"You know, I gave a little blood for the right to vote, almost died on that bridge in Selma. I'm not going to stand by and see the people take the vote from us. We have to use it. If we fail to use it, we will lose it."

The speaker is the late Representative John Lewis, speaking of the march across the Pettus Bridge, but the words could have been spoken by Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, or any of the other suffragists who endured beatings, arrest, and torture simply for trying to secure the right of all women to vote in the United States of America.



*Would you
like the League
to take a stand
on an important
public issue?*

Advocacy Requests

By Joanna Mitchell

To welcome your insights and invite your input, we have drafted an Advocacy Request Form so you can bring an issue of particular interest to you forward to the LWVUS Board.

It is hoped that the form will help guide us in the process of gathering background information, figuring out whether the recommendation is consistent with the League's established positions, and how it fits within the LWVUS priorities for the year.

As the Director of Advocacy, I am happy to work with you to pull together useful information, talk through what type of advocacy you envision, and make connections to other League members who might be able to help. For the form or more information, email jmitchel@nmu.edu.



THE 2020 MOCK CANDIDATE FORUM

Looking for a way to get involved?

In August, the LWVMC will conduct a virtual mock Candidate Forum via Zoom. It will help prepare us for our actual virtual Candidate Forums leading up to the general election in November.

Just for fun, we will be holding our mock candidate forum for the “election” of the fabricated position of President of a new non-profit in town, “**The Defenders of Democracy**,” a volunteer organization that provides voter services to the community and protects and defends the right to vote.

We need members:

- to play the role of the candidates (6),
- develop the questions for the candidates and
- handle a few other tasks as we determine the best way to conduct a virtual forum.

If you are interested in:

- participating or
- observing/critiquing or
- if you have a “question” you’d like to ask the “candidates” running to lead “The Defenders of Democracy”

Please contact Darlene Allen (dthomsona@gmail.com).

We plan to establish the team early in August
and will hold the mock forum the second or third week of August.