



April President's Newsletter Letter

Please mark your calendars for a special presentation on Friday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m. dedicated to learning more about our Constitution as it relates to the appointment of U.S. Supreme Court justices. This is the first event we've sponsored this year and it will be lively and enlightening. See below for details.

Last month I stated that it was definitely time to listen to what the candidates are saying and to hold them accountable for those statements. Since then, many of their statements have been disturbing and it is hard to take them seriously. The lack of substance during some of the so-called debates is particularly disconcerting. The citizenry of this country deserves better.

The photo below is of three more of our board members: Barbara Lackner our Voter Services chair, John Ripley, Treasurer and all-important video recorder expert; and Melissa Clapper, at-large board member wearing lots of hats for us.

Articles that follow cover a range of topics from a workshop in Lansing open to ALL LWV members, voter registration and voter participation information; Michigan environment issues; and the aforementioned presentation on Friday, April 29, by a Univ. of Chicago constitutional law professor.

Chris



LWVBCC 2016 ELECTION CORNER

The League of Women Voters believes that "voting is the most powerful way to have your voice heard and is the core of our democracy. It's your chance to stand up for what matters most to you and have an impact on the

LWVBCC: Contact Us

Our new mailing address!

**P.O. Box 1032
Niles, MI 49120**

lwbcc.org



Calendar

April 11, (Mon) 10am.

Book Club meeting at Lorraine Stepaneks home. 16695 White Oak Lane, New Buffalo.

April 12, (Tue) at 1:00 pm. Board Meeting at Lakewood Club House 800 Warren Woods Road.

LWVBCC Board of Directors

Chris Zilke President
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Barb Lackner Voter Service
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Liz Ennis Education
Melissa Clapper At Large
Karen Ristau At Large
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Webmaster Mike McCaffrey

Board Meeting/Minutes

Board Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of most months.

Members are encouraged to attend. The next meeting is April, 12 (Tue) at 1:00 pm at the Lakewood Estates Community

issues that affect you, your community and your future". In order to participate in this democratic process the first thing you have to do is Register.

A voter must be registered 30 days prior to the election date. April 4, 2016 is the last day to register for the May 3rd Special Election. July 5, 2016 is the last day to register for the August 2nd Primary. October 11, 2016 is the last day to register for the November 8th General Election.

You can register to vote at your county, city or township clerk's office, at any Secretary of State branch office or you may register to vote by mail. You can download the application form from the Secretary of State website.

Registration in Michigan is permanent. However, if you move from one community to another in this state you must re-register. Address changes within a community as well as any name change due to marriage or legal action should be reported to the clerk by mail, in person or at the Secretary of State branch office.

The Michigan Secretary of State website - www.michigan.gov/vote provides information and answers to many of the questions you might have regarding voting and elections.

In addition, VOTE411.org provides a wealth of information about candidates and much more. Be sure to visit this website.

OUR SUPREME COURT

When U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died in February, public discussion of the makeup and responsibilities of that court escalated. To address that interest, LWVBCC is hosting a public forum at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, in the Upton Middle School Auditorium at 800 Maiden Lane in St. Joseph.

The forum speaker will be John Rappaport, a former clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Mr. Rappaport is on the faculty at the University of Chicago Law School. His teaching and research interests include Constitutional law and criminal law and procedure.

Judges of the state court system in Michigan are elected by voters to specified terms. Federal judges, including the nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, are not elected but are nominated and appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, to serve "during good behavior" - in effect, until death or resignation.

In March, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to fill the vacant position on the Supreme Court. Unless the pending nomination is approved by the current Senate, responsibility for filling that vacancy will rest with the President and Senators holding office next year. Consequently, the composition, duties, and role of the U.S. Supreme Court remain major issues in this election cycle.

Please join us April 29, and be part of the discussion.

Center, 8000 Warren Woods Rd,
Three Oaks.

Minutes are posted after they are approved by the Board.

[January, 15, 2016](#)

[November, 17, 2015](#)

[October 20, 2015](#)

[September 15, 2015](#)

[August 18, 2015](#)

[July 21, 2015](#)

[May 20, 2015](#)

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A Woman's World?

Approximately 34% more women than men are

Support the League

Nothing could be easier than giving a small (or large :)) donation to your League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties. Go to our website, www.lwvbcc.org , and click on "Support the League" on the left.

You'll then see a ready-made form to use in making a donation via PayPal ... and NO, you do NOT need to go through the PayPal Rigamarole or payment arrangements. Just click on the large DONATE button. No need to have a PayPal account.

Enter your donation amount in the box that appears, click on "Continue", then fill in your information and Click "Review Your Donation", then Continue.

It's that simple - and we THANK YOU !!! Your contribution will be well-utilized to support our many important activities.

LWVBCC Book Club

Check last month's newsletter for the list of books chosen to be read.

Lorraine Stepanek has graciously agreed to host the book club meeting on April 11, 2016, at 10 a.m. Her address is 16695 White Oak Lane, New Buffalo. A call to let her know you plan to attend will help her to plan refreshments.

Other Reminders !!!

Book Club, Monday, April 11, at 10 a.m. at the home of Lorraine Stepanek, 16695 White Oak Lane, TimberlaneEstates, New Buffalo
Challenging reading, lively discussions guaranteed!!

Welcome New League BCC member Kimberly Uriata
Thanks for joining!

And Welcome Back: Ginny Washburn
Glad you've re-upped, Ginny

Please note: LWVBCC Board Meeting will be held the 2nd Tuesday this month: April 12, 1:00, Lakewood Club House at 800 Warren Woods Road. All members are welcome!

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Be sure to like us!

League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region

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in LWVBCC!

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