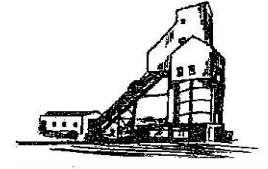


# Copper Country Voter



Published by the  
Copper Country League of Women Voters  
Houghton County, Michigan



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## Michigan Primary Special Edition

### LWV Copper Country Positions

The League of Women voters does not endorse parties or candidates, but through study, deliberation and consensus we will take positions on issues. For this August 2<sup>nd</sup> election the League has taken a position on two ballot issues:

#### **LWV Copper Country Opposes Chassell Withdrawal from District Library, Vote No**

LWVMI and your local league supports basic and stable funding for public libraries to insure basic services to all state residents. Currently, the Portage Lake District Library funding sources include local taxes from Chassell Township, Portage Township, and the City of Houghton. The August 2<sup>nd</sup> Chassell ballot proposal will terminate library funding from Chassell Township and negatively impact Chassell citizens as well as the Library's ability to insure basic services to all residents. Vote "NO" August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **LWV Copper Country Supports Renewal Proposition for Operation of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, Vote Yes.**

"TAX LIMITATION RENEWAL PROPOSITION FOR OPERATION OF THE HOUGHTON COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY" for a period of six years.

This proposal will be on the August 2<sup>nd</sup> election. LWVCC adopted a position in support of the facility in its very early days and we continue to maintain that position which calls for "Adequate financing of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility." Dorothy Love (deceased) lead the advocacy effort in support of the first millage election for HCMCF in 1966. That was the first call for a specific vote on a ballot issue for the young League. The HCMCF gets roughly 10 percent of its operational

budget from the millages raised in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. The millage is used partly to pay the maintenance of effort bill, which is based on the number of days billed to Medicaid each year, which averages about \$450,000 a year. The Medicaid/Medicare reimbursement rate from the federal government is higher for a publicly funded facility than it is for a privately run facility, resulting in about an extra \$400,000 in federal taxes being returned to the area.

The community benefits tremendously from having the HCMCF there for mainly elderly residents, roughly 80 percent of whom are on Medicare. "This is a segment of the population which has traditionally been underserved; according to Administrator Tammy Lehto. "We've taken residents when other facilities have turned them down. We do not require proof of ability to pay in order to receive services." The only reason patients are turned down at the HCMCF is,"if we are medically unable to provide for their care," according to Lehto.

The League of Women Voters of the Copper Country encourages voters to vote "YES" on this proposal.

### Summer Board Meeting

The League of Women Voters of the Copper Country's next board meeting will be August 17th, 4pm at Mary Marchaterre's house, 1216 E Lakeshore Dr, Houghton. This meeting typically is to plan our calendar of events for the next year. If you'd like to participate, feel free to join us! If you have suggestions but can't make it, email our President Rhianna Williams at [rlwillia@mtu.edu](mailto:rlwillia@mtu.edu).

## Vote in the Michigan Primaries August 2<sup>nd</sup>

While the presidential elections have captured national media attention, I ask you to think on the local level and the people we work with every day. Voting at the local level is an act of community. This August, the nominees we are voting on: for prosecutor, and clerk, and delegate are people we see at the grocery store and library. People who live where we live, people who work and volunteer with us. The August 2nd Michigan Primary, is our primary.

In addition to choosing party nominees for the November 2nd election a number of county and township millages are on the ballot, for schools, libraries, fire protections, and maintenance.

This August 2<sup>nd</sup> I urge you to think about the local women and men who have chosen to stay and work for their community through elected office. They are people, who like us, care about the Copper Country, show them you care too, by voting August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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### August 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot Issues

All of the ballot issues listed below were collected from the Michigan Secretary of State's website at: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/selectpublicballot.aspx>

For the purpose of nominating Democratic and Republican candidates for the following office:

**Congressional:** 1<sup>st</sup> District Representative in Congress

**110<sup>th</sup> District:** State Representative

### School Bonding Proposal

**Shall Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools, Houghton and Keweenaw Counties, Michigan,** borrow the sum of not to exceed Two Million Seven Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$2,770,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, equipping, and re-equipping and installing security measures for school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; purchasing school buses; and developing and improving athletic fields, a playground, and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only: The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2017 is 1.25 mills (\$1.25 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is fourteen (14) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.22 mills (\$2.22 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$4,635,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses).

### Houghton County and Township Voting Issues

For the purpose of nominating Democratic and Republican candidates for the following office:

**Houghton County:** Prosecuting Attorney: Sheriff, Clerk/Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Mine Inspector, Drain Commissioner, and Commissioner.

**Township Offices-** Supervisors, Clerks, Treasurers, Trustees, Constables if applicable, and Delegates to County Conventions.

### Proposals to be Voted on:

#### Houghton County:

**League of Women Voters of the Copper Country Supports this Proposal, Vote YES**

#### TAX LIMITATION RENEWAL PROPOSITION FOR OPERATION OF THE HOUGHTON COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the County of Houghton be increased 2.55310 mills (\$2.55310 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) which will provide tax revenue to an estimated \$2,176,537 for 2016 for a period of 6 years, 2016-2021 inclusive, for taxes so raised to be used exclusively for the operation of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility (this being a renewal of the 2.55310 mills which expired with the 2015 tax levy)?

**RENEWAL AND ALLOCATION OF OPERATING MILLAGE WITHIN THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON**

Shall a renewal of separate tax limitations be established for the period of 4 years (2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 inclusive) for the County of Houghton and the Townships and Intermediate School District within the County, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 8.0 mills, as follows:

	MILLS
County of Houghton	6.3
Townships	1.3
Intermediate School District	0.4
Total	8.0

**Townships:**

**Adams Township:**

**VOTED OPERATING**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.8943 mills (\$0.89 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.8943 mills for 4 years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for general township operating purposes, raising an estimated \$13,160 in the first year the millage is levied?

**VOTED FIRE**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 2 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 1.7889 mills (\$1.79 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 1.7889 mills and levied for 4 years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for the purpose of fire protection, purchasing and housing fire motor vehicles, apparatus, and equipment, and for the building, maintenance and operation of the same, raising an estimated \$26,324 in the first year the millage is levied?

**VOTED AMBULANCE**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.9432 mills (\$0.94 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.9432 mills and levied for years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for the operation of Sonco and Convington Ambulance Companies equally, raising an estimated \$13,879 in the first year the millage is levied?

**VOTED FIRE**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 0.5 mills (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.4715 mills (\$0.47 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.4715 mills (\$0.47 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for 4 years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for the purpose of fire protection, purchasing, housing and maintaining fire trucks apparatus and the fire hall construction, remodeling and operation, raising an estimated \$6,938 in the first year the millage is levied?

**Calumet Township:**

**CALUMET TOWNSHIP BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE MILLAGE**

Shall the limitation of the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the unincorporated areas in the Charter Township of Calumet be increased 1 1/2 mills (\$1.50 per thousand of taxable value) for eight (8) years (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023) and the taxes so raised be used for maintenance of Township owned buildings, parks, recreation, public areas and grounds within its jurisdiction raising in its first year an estimated \$87,000?

**Chassell Township:**

**League of Women Voters of the Copper Country Opposes this Proposal, Vote NO.**

**WITHDRAWAL OF CHASSELL TOWNSHIP FROM PORTAGE LAKE DISTRICT LIBRARY**

Shall Chassell Township, County of Houghton, State of Michigan, withdraw from membership in the Portage Lake District Library? If approved by a majority of electors, this withdrawal would take effect when the current seven (7) year term of participation expires on December 31, 2017. If the Township withdraws, the current 2 mil tax levy, as reduced to 1.9727 as a result of Headlee would no longer be collected after December 31, 2017, and residents of Chassell Township would be required to purchase a library card to access library services.

**Duncan Township, Precinct 1, 2:**

**VOTED OPERATING**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.8943 mills (\$0.89 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.8943 mills for 4 years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for general township operating purposes, raising an estimated \$13,160 in the first year the millage is levied?

**VOTED FIRE**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 2 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 1.7889 mills (\$1.79 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 1.7889 mills and levied for 4 years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for the purpose of fire protection, purchasing and housing fire motor vehicles, apparatus, and equipment, and for the building, maintenance and operation of the same, raising an estimated \$26,324 in the first year the millage is levied?

**VOTED AMBULANCE**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.9432 mills (\$0.94 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.9432 mills and levied for years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for the operation of Sonco and Convington Ambulance Companies equally, raising an estimated \$13,879 in the first year the millage is levied?

**VOTED FIRE**

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duncan Township, of 0.5 mills (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.4715 mills (\$0.47 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.4715 mills (\$0.47 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for 4 years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for the purpose of fire protection, purchasing, housing and maintaining fire trucks apparatus and the fire hall construction, remodeling and operation, raising an estimated \$6,938 in the first year the millage is levied?

**Elm River Township, Precinct 1:**

**RENEWAL OF GENERAL SERVICES MILLAGES**  
Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan

Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Elm River Township be renewed at .9794 mills (\$0.9794 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on taxable real and personal property within Elm River Township for the period of 4 (four) years (2016 through 2019, inclusive), for the purpose of maintaining the General Fund, and shall the Township levy such increase in millage for this purpose, thereby raising an estimated \$21,472 in the first year?

**RENEWAL OF GENERAL FUND MILLAGE**

Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Elm River Township be renewed at 1.9589 mills (\$1.9589 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on taxable real and personal property within Elm River Township for the period of 4 (four) years (2016 through 2019, inclusive), for the purpose of maintaining the General Fund, and shall the Township levy such increase in millage for this purpose, thereby raising an estimated \$42,946 in the first year?

**Franklin Township**

**[Precinct 1 & 2]:**

**MILLAGE PROPOSAL FOR FIRE APPARATUS**

Shall Franklin Township impose an increase of .25 mills (\$0.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levy it for four (4) years namely: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 inclusive, for Purchase of Fire Truck and Other Firefighting Apparatus for the Township, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$8,521?

**[Precinct 1 & 2]:**

**MILLAGE PROPOSAL FOR ROADS**

Shall Franklin Township impose an increase of 2.00 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), which has been in effect previously, and levy it for four (4) years namely: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 inclusive, for Improvements to Public Roads within the Township, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$68,171?

**PRECINCT 1 FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND**

Shall the tax increase of one and a quarter (1.25) mills, (\$1.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) which has been in effect previously in Franklin Township Precinct No. 1 (one) Quincy/Franklin/Boston, and designated as "Quincy/Franklin Fire Department Fund" be continued for the ensuing four (4) years, namely: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 inclusive, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$24,777?

**PRECINCT 2 FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND**

Shall the increase of one and a quarter (1.25) mills, \$1.25 per \$1000 of taxable value) which has been in effect previously, in Franklin Township Precinct No. 2

(two) Ripley, and designated as "Ripley Fire Department Fund" be continued for the ensuing four (4) years, namely: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 inclusive, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$10,766?

**PRECINCT 2 WATER DEPARTMENT FUND**  
Shall the tax increase of two (2) mills, \$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) which has been in effect previously, in Franklin Township Precinct No. 2 (two) Ripley, and designated as "Ripley Water Department Fund" be continued for the ensuing four (4) years, namely: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 inclusive, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$17,226?

**Hancock City:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages (see above).

**Hancock Township:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages (see above).

**Houghton City:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages (see above).

**Laird Township:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages (see above).

**Osceola Township:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages (see above).

**Portage Township:** [Precinct 1 & 2]:  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages (see above).

[Precinct 4] OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL  
This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2016 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other exempted by law, in Baraga Area Schools, Baraga and Houghton Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 4 years, 2017 to 2020, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the

estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2017 is approximately \$690,000 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2016 tax levy)?

**Quincy Township:**  
**RENEWAL QUINCY TOWNSHIP OPERATING**  
Shall the previously voted increase in the 15 mill tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Quincy Township be renewed at 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2017 through 2020 inclusive, for general township operating and shall the township levy such renewal in millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$7,375.78?

**RENEWAL QUINCY TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION**  
Shall the previously voted increase in the 15 mill tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Quincy Township be renewed at 1.25 mills (\$1.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2017 through 2020 inclusive and designated "Quincy Township Fire Fund" and shall the township levy such renewal in millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$9,219,72?

**Schoolcraft Township:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages, and Local School District Bonding Proposal (see above).

**Stanton Township:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages (see above).

**Torch Lake Township:**  
No millage vote in addition to Houghton County millages, and Local School District Bonding Proposal (see above).

#### **Keweenaw County and Township Voting Issues**

.5 mil increase for 2016 - 2019 for Courthouse/Jail building and grounds improvements which would raise an est. \$68,932 the 1st year.

**Allouez Township:**  
No township millage vote in addition to Keweenaw County millage vote.



**Eagle Harbor Township:**

Shall the expired previous voted increases in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Eagle Harbor Township, of 3 mills (\$3 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 2.9940 mills (\$2.9940 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at and increased up to the original voted 3 mills (\$3 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for 4 years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, for general township operating purposes, raising an estimated \$122,814 in the first year the millage is levied.

**Grant Township:**

**OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Township of Grant, County of Keweenaw, Michigan, be increased by 4.00 mills (\$4.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of four (4) years, 2017 to 2020, inclusive, as a renewal of the 3.5031 mills previously authorized by the electors which expires with the 2016 levy plus new additional millage in the amount of 0.4969 mill, for the purpose of providing funds for township operating purposes? It is estimated that 4.00 mills would raise approximately \$168,550 when first levied in 2017.

**FIRE PROTECTION MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

As a renewal of previously authorized millage which expires with the 2016 levy, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Township of Grant, County of Keweenaw, Michigan, be increased by 2.00 mills (\$2.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of four (4) years, 2017 to 2020, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for fire protection services? It is estimated that 2.00 mills would raise approximately \$84,275 when first levied in 2017.

**GRANT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of 5.2 mills on all property except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Shall the currently authorized millage limitation of 5.2000 mills (\$5.20 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Grant Township School District No. 2, Keweenaw County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 4 years,

2017 through 2020, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes (the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2017 is approximately \$172,585)?

**Houghton Township:**

No township millage in addition to the Keweenaw County Operating Millage.

**Sherman Township:**

Lake Linden-Hubbell Public School bonding proposal (see above).

**TOWNSHIP GENERAL OPERATIONS**

This proposal requests authorization to consolidate previously voter-approved 5 mills from "Proposal A" and "Proposal B" into a single new millage for the purpose of providing general operation services in Sherman Township from 2017 to 2023 inclusive. This millage would be disbursed to Sherman Township for providing services including, but not limited to, election-polling place, property assessment, building/grounds/park maintenance, and oversight of Gay's water and sewer systems. If authorized by voters, levy of this millage would generate approximately \$27,132 the first year.

Shall a new millage for general township operation services be levied in an amount not to exceed 5 mills (\$5.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for seven years?

**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

This proposal requests authorization to levy a new millage for the purpose of providing fire protection services in Sherman Township from 2016 to 2021 inclusive. This millage would be disbursed to Sherman Township Fire Department for purchase and maintenance of fire-suppression equipment and apparatus. If authorized by voters, levy of this millage would generate approximately \$10,853 the first year.

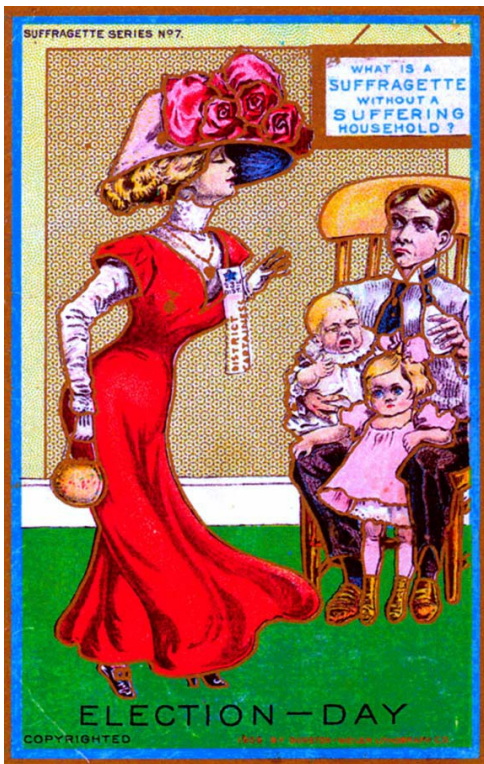
Shall a special millage for fire protection services be levied in an amount not to exceed 2 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for six years?

## What Can You Do?

1. Make sure you're registered to vote, and print a sample ballot at [michigan.gov/vote](http://michigan.gov/vote)
2. Bring a friend and VOTE AUGUST 2nd! (It's okay we don't agree on everything, the most important thing in a democracy is that we participate.)
3. Post a picture of yourself outside your polling place after you vote to our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/coppercountrylwv/](http://www.facebook.com/coppercountrylwv/) or email it Rhianna at [rlwillia@mtu.edu](mailto:rlwillia@mtu.edu). Show people you voted!

## What's wrong with this image?

- A) The suffragette's dress is the wrong color for August
- B) The man needs a mustache
- C) They should be going to the polls together.



[http://bluebook.state.or.us/images/facts/scenic/suffrage/Election-Day\\_OHS\\_MSS1534.jpg](http://bluebook.state.or.us/images/facts/scenic/suffrage/Election-Day_OHS_MSS1534.jpg)

The ANSWER is C! Bring a friend or family member with to vote, children are allowed in the voting booth with their parent, make it an outing with breakfast beforehand or lunch or dinner afterward. Polls are open from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm.

## LWVCC Board for 2016 - 2017

<b>President/Resource Management</b> <b>Rhianna Williams</b>	<b>296-9539</b>
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<b>Website Editor</b> <b>Shellie Crisman</b>	<b>523-6299</b>



The League of Women Voters  
of the Copper Country  
PO Box 815  
Houghton, MI 49931

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**Join or make a donation to the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country!**

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Check here if you would like to receive your LWVCC  
Voter by e-mail.

Contributions to the annual finance drive and Kay LaRue Scholarship  
are NOT tax deductible. Checks should be made out to: LWVCC.

Contributions to the Educational Fund are tax deductible.  
Checks should be made out to: LWV Educational Fund

**Membership**

Individual Dues (\$55)

Household Dues (\$80)

Student Dues (\$30)

**Donation**

Finance Drive (\$\_\_\_\_)

Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$\_\_\_\_)

Education Fund {\$\_\_\_\_)