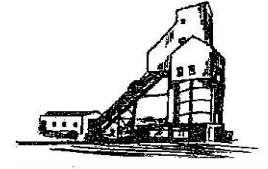


# Copper Country Voter



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



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## LWVCC Calendar

<b>October 3</b> Monday, 7PM	<b>Board Meeting</b> Marchaterre's house 1216 E. Lakeshore Dr., Houghton	<b>October 20</b>	UP Action Day Conference Don H. Bottum University Center NMU, Marquette
<b>October 4</b> Tuesday, 7PM	Ontonagon Candidate Forum hosted by Republican and Democratic Parties	<b>October 24</b> Monday, 6:30-8PM	Adams Township School District Trustee Forum Jeffers High School Media Room
<b>October 11</b>	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE	<b>October 29</b> Saturday, 7PM	Halloween Party Marchaterre's, 1216 E Lakeshore Dr, Houghton
<b>October 17</b> Monday, 1:30PM	Voter Education Baraga High School	<b>November 1</b> Monday, 7PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
<b>October 18</b> Tuesday, 6-8PM	LWV Taxation and Budgeting Position Educational Meeting Portage Library, Houghton	<b>November 5</b>	General election absentee ballot requests must be received by 2:00pm
<b>October 18</b>	Voter Guide Published in Daily Mining Gazette	<b>NOVEMBER 8</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>

### Update on LWVMI Position on Taxation

At 6 pm on Tuesday, October 18 in the Portage Library Martha Sloan will discuss a proposed update on the LWVMI position on taxation and budgeting. Martha is a member of a statewide committee that reviewed and proposed the revisions. The main parts of the new study of Michigan state financing are:

- understanding state revenue sources
- examining state expenditures, and
- looking at state and local fiscal relationships

Later this fall the League will look at questions and backgrounds on the proposed statement and will reach a consensus that will be sent to the League for coordination with those from others around the state. The state committee will then integrate the responses into a final draft revision which will be considered by the state conference this spring.

### 2016 LWVCC Voter Guide to be published on October 18

Thank YOU all for your hard work and dedication: Mary Marchaterre for typing the candidates' responses, sending out the questionnaires/letters, and fielding Candidates questions/emails; Nanno Rose and Barry Fink for proofing; Mary and Jill Burkland for writing letters to the editor regarding the Voter Guide lack of candidate response; and Kathy for coordinating the Voter Guide activities, PR, and proofing our 2016 LWVCC Voter Guide. Also, thank you to all other members that assisted in any way by helping proof letters, and support our efforts to produce the 2016 Voter Guide.

The 2016 Voter Guide will be published in the *Daily Mining Gazette* on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to purchase your copy of the paper on that day, to get your own copy of the Voter Guide and clip and take to the polls sheet.

## LWVCC Sponsors Transit Panel

What can be done to improve public transportation in the Keweenaw, especially for the elderly and people with low income or disabilities? State and regional planners and local providers presenting at an October 6 LWVCC program at Portage Lake District Library say that grassroots support and property tax millages have been key in other areas. Employer or university subsidies for their riders can also help support programs.

Jerry Wuorenmaa, executive director of the Western U.P. Planning and Development Region, and Chuck Lindstrom, MDOT's U.P. passenger transportation program manager, led a panel that included City of Houghton Transit Manager Jodi Reynolds, Hancock City Manager Glenn Anderson, and Baragaland Senior Citizens Director Pam Anderson. Other interested groups in the audience were the Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly. BHK Community Action Agency (CAA) staff had a schedule conflict.

Current funding is about 18% federal, 38% state, and 44% local. Most local funding is from general funds; very little comes from fares. Public transit needs subsidies, just as roads do. The Cities of Houghton and Hancock are the only public providers in the region. Their services are limited primarily to within their boundaries with on-demand service for \$5 each way during daylight hours (half-fare for seniors and disabled). Houghton has a scheduled flex route 10am to 2pm for \$2 and discontinued evening service in 2014 due to dwindling ridership. The nonprofit Baragaland Senior Citizens and BHK CAA have federal funding to offer on-demand service to seniors and persons with disabilities at lower cost but during limited days and hours. Details on these programs and for-profit providers are at [www.getaroundwup.org](http://www.getaroundwup.org). Gogebic and Ontonagon County transit fares are lower because of support from millages (0.5 to 1 mill), even though their populations are smaller than Houghton County. Marq-Tran in Marquette County has the best service and lowest fares in the U.P., supported by a larger population and millages.

Plans based on studies incorporating stakeholder surveys include the 2011 BHK Public Transit Plan and Accessibility Study ([www.wupdr.com/pdf/BHKtransitWEB.pdf](http://www.wupdr.com/pdf/BHKtransitWEB.pdf)) and 2016 Coordinated Mobility Plan ([www.kfhgroup.com/michigan/region1.html](http://www.kfhgroup.com/michigan/region1.html)). Identified needs are increased coordination among providers (preferably a tri-county system), more frequent fixed routes with affordable fares, evening and Saturday service, local millage support, reliable capital funding, and better marketing and outreach.

WUPPDR can provide assistance but has no authority. The panel's recommendations are for (1) grassroots

advocacy, specifically communicating to local and state leaders that transit is a priority and getting real buy-in to implement the existing plan, and (2) consideration of a property tax millage. Should the LWVCC help establish a public transit task force with the regional stakeholders, based on our newly adopted public transportation position?



## Houghton County Candidate Forum

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the LWVCC and Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Houghton County Candidate Forum at the Lakeview Manor from 6:00 – 8:00. The ten candidates included 3 segments: Prosecuting Attorney from 6:05 – 6:30 pm, Sheriff 6:35 – 7:00 pm, and County Commissioner District 1, 2, and 5 7:05 -7:50 pm. Candidates had an opportunity for a 1 minute opening remark, 1 minute response time to answer audience questions, and 1 minute closing remarks.

The Prosecuting Attorney candidates answered 12 questions, sheriff candidates answered 8 questions, and the County Commissioner Candidates answered 8 questions. There were many more questions, but time did not allow for all questions to be asked or answered. There were approximately 80 audience members in attendance!

Special Thank YOU to our LWVCC members and Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce: Jill Burkland, moderator; screeners, Kathy Flagstadt LWV and Cheryl Fahrner Keweenaw Chamber; Timers, Barry Fink and Joan Chadde; Page, Mary Marchaterre; and to LWVCC members who attended the forum. There was excellent media coverage of the forum by the Daily Mining Gazette, TV6, ABC 10, and Keweenaw NOW.



## Board Changes

President Rhianna Williams will be staying involved in LWVCC from afar at her new position at UCLA. The board will continue to handle daily business using the shared governance model that has been our structure for a few years now. We also want to thank Mary Jane Hatton for her years of service on the board and as Acting President. Mary Jane has resigned her position for health issues. We welcome newly appointed board member Leah Bectel as our liaison to the Mich. Tech. student body. Leah has been a regular presence at board meetings, starting last year, and helped with the successful Equal Pay Day event on campus last Spring.

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## U.P. Action Day

Kathy Flagstadt from our LWVCC will present a nonpartisan voting information program entitled My Choice – My Vote, a voting awareness program at the U.P. Action Day event held at NMU on 10-20-16. U.P. Action Day is a community conference focused on access, advocacy, and action for individuals with and without disabilities. This years' theme is "It's all Possible".

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## Baraga Civics Class

Kathy Flagstadt from our LWVCC will present a nonpartisan voting information program entitled My Choice – My Vote, a voting awareness program in Greg Markkanen's 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Baraga High School Civics class on 10-17-18.

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## Ontonagon's U.S. Representative and 110<sup>th</sup> State Representative Candidate Forum

Kathy Flagstadt will attend Ontonagon's Democrat and Republican Party sponsored candidate forum for our U.S. District 1 Representative Candidates and 110<sup>th</sup> State Representative candidates, held in Ontonagon on 10-4-16 at 7:00 pm in the Ontonagon High School.

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## In Memoriam

We are sad to note the passing of Vi Brown. Vi shared her concern for environmental causes on the Natural Resources committee from early on in the LWVCC's existence. She had lived in Duluth for the past several years.

*America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.*

**Harry Truman**  
33<sup>rd</sup> President

## LWVCC Board for 2016 - 2017

<b>President/Resource Management</b> <b>Rhianna Williams</b>	<b>296-9539</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> <b>Barry Fink</b>	<b>483-4632</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Natural Resources</b> <b>Kristine Bradof</b>	<b>482-0446</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Mary Marchaterre</b>	<b>483-2291</b>
<b>Secretary</b> <b>Barry Fink</b>	<b>482-4632</b>
<b>Electoral Process</b> <b>Faith Morrison</b>	<b>487-9703</b>
<b>Leah Bectel</b> <b>Mich Tech Student</b>	
<b>Voter Service</b> <b>Kathy Flagstadt</b>	<b>399-0721</b>
<b><u>Off Board</u></b>	
<b>Children and Youth</b> <b>Carol Kreher</b>	<b>523-4048</b>
<b>Education</b> <b>Martha Sloan</b>	<b>369-4184</b>
<b>Voter Editor</b> <b>Linda Ott</b>	<b>487-2315</b>
<b>Website Editor</b> <b>Shellie Crisman</b>	<b>523-6299</b>



The League of Women Voters  
of the Copper Country  
PO Box 815  
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