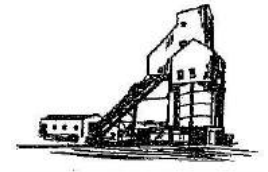


Copper Country Voter



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



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LWVCC Calendar

November 1 Monday, 7PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton	January 10 Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites
November 5	General election absentee ballot requests must be received by 2:00pm	January 23 Monday, 5pm	Annual Planning Meeting Kangas Cafe
NOVEMBER 8	ELECTION DAY	February 7 Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites
December 6	Board Meeting – canceled	May 19-21	LWVMI Convention Kellogg Center, East Lansing
December 8 Thursday, 6:30-8pm	National Popular Vote Portage Library, Houghton		

National Popular Vote Presentation

The recent presidential election was the fifth time in the nation's history that the popular vote winner was not the winner of the election. The National Popular Vote Compact, a "way around" the Electoral College, will be examined in a program by The League of Women Voters of the Copper Country held in the community room of the Portage Lake District Library at 6:30pm Thursday, December 8th.

The US League of Women Voters has had a position calling for abolishing the Electoral College since 1970. In 2008 the League conducted a study of the NPV Compact proposal. The 2010 Convention amended the national position to support the National Popular Vote compact as another method of selecting the President until such time as the Electoral College is abolished.

- States sign a compact with each other to give all their electoral votes to the candidate with the most votes across the entire nation (the popular vote winner). Is it legal?
- It goes into effect when states holding 270 electoral college votes have signed on. What if they back out?
- Already states holding 165 votes have signed the compact. What about Michigan?

Join us to learn more about this issue, the Electoral College and where it stands today. The program is free and open to the public.

January 2017 Annual Planning Meeting

Our January Planning Meeting will be a dinner meeting, to be held Monday, January 23rd at 5pm at the Kangas Cafe in the Jutila Center (the old Hospital) in room 311, Hancock. Please RSVP by Friday, January 20th to Mary Marchaterre, mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 483-2291 with your menu entree choice of: Stuffed Manicotti with Spinach and Cheese or Chicken Cordon Blue w/Homemade Mac & Cheese. The cost is \$13 for the meal, which includes: Salad, Roll, Dressings, Dessert, and Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, and Gratuity. Unfortunately, "No shows" will still be expected to pay for their dinner and will be billed by the LWVCC, as we will be committed to covering the number we have reserved. This year we will be looking at the Consensus questions for MI State Finance. Also, in preparation for our local Annual Meeting in April, any ideas for local programs or speakers should be brought up at this time.

Climate Change Lawsuit Breaks New Ground: League of Women Voters Joins in Historic Effort

Sarah Courtney from LWV.org website (11/18/2016)

Washington, DC and Eugene, Oregon – On Thursday, November 8th, a federal judge ruled that youth plaintiffs may proceed with their historic climate change lawsuit in the case of Juliana et al v. United States. The judge refused to dismiss their complaint asserting that, in causing climate change, the federal government has violated the youngest generation’s constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property and has failed to protect essential public trust resources.

In September, the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) joined the League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) to file an amicus brief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. The brief argued that the case should not be dismissed as a “political question” because, as in some voting rights cases, the youth plaintiffs assert a diminishment of their voices in representational government.

Other innovative legal issues include the argument that the Constitution protects a fundamental right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life, and that the “public trust doctrine” protects the climate for future generations.

The Leagues congratulate the 21 young people from across the United States who filed the landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government, via the Eugene, Oregon-based organization, Our Children's Trust.

The case addresses the dire threat of climate change in the face of persistent congressional and executive inaction and political gridlock. The court is being called upon to ensure our nation’s leaders fulfill their obligation to sustain and protect our nation’s natural resources for generations to come. The trial portion of the case is expected to follow.

Welcome to New Members

Jeanne and Craig Kurtz
Sherry Middlemis-Brown
Rita Rodeheffer
Tom and Babette Tikkanen

2017 Know your Government Officials Pamphlet – Coming Soon

The ever popular KYGO 2017 version will be available for distribution by the end of January 2017. The pamphlet will be updated with current contact information on most Houghton and Keweenaw local, state, and federal government officials.

Adams Township Candidate Forum

On Monday October 24th, the League sponsored a candidates' forum for the race for the two open positions as Adams Township School District trustee. The League moderator was Faith Morrison and the forum took place in the media room at Jeffers High School. The League provided voter information, which was available for a half hour before the start and after the forum.

Assisting Faith at the forum were Mary Marchaterre, Beth Flynn, Carol Kreher, and Barry Fink. The forum opened with one-minute opening statements from the four participating candidates: John Asiala, Jason Coffey, George Eakin, and Bruce Heltunen (Chad Snell was unable to attend.). The opening statements were followed by questions solicited from the audience and all those questions, plus some written by the League, were asked in the hour-long forum. Questions concerned the motivation and qualifications of the candidates and also some concerns about district funding. The forum ended after one-minute closing statements. The forum was well attended (approximately 30+people) and ran smoothly. The Daily Mining Gazette featured coverage of the forum on its front page on October 25.



Letter to the Daily Mining Gazette

Rhianna Williams, LWVCC President

The League would like to take a moment to recognize and thank the Daily Mining Gazette for all it's work. While the League particularly thanks the Gazette for assisting us in distribution of our Voter Guides; we also recognize the importance of having a local paper to report on local issues. A free press is critical for democracy in our republic.

This year, I was particularly impressed with the time and work the Gazette did in interviewing all the township, county, and city candidates running for office. During both the primaries and the general election. It takes dedication and hard work to find out who's running, contact those people, and interview them. No regional news organization at the state or national level is going to do that for us. I also know, from traveling the U.S., not every small town is lucky enough to have it's own newspaper.

In fact, many stories heard through national news outlets or reported by pundits start at small local news organization. Local, on the ground reporters, covering the area they live in and love are many times the first reporters to break news that eventually make it into national head lines. In between the national headlines though, they are always reporting on stories that locals like us need to know to participate in our communities.

If you don't have a subscription to the Gazette, I encourage you to. I bet you'll learn something new about our community when you read it.

Thank you again to the Daily Mining Gazette for your work in our community, we're glad we have you.

Baraga High School Civics class presentation

On November 7th, LWVCC Voter Services Chair Kathy Flagstadt presented to 10th grade students in Gregory Markkanen's Civics class at Baraga High School. Students learned about the importance of becoming involved in their community, advocacy, the election process, including how to register to vote, absentee voting, and the importance of voting.

U.P. Action Day at NMU

On Thursday, October 20th, LWVCC Voter Services Chair, Kathy Flagstadt presented "*Your Choice, Your Vote*". The presentation was a nonpartisan informational workshop that included handouts on voting awareness for people with or without disabilities. The information was made possible by Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc. U.P. Action Day is a community conference focused on access, advocacy, and action for individuals with and without disabilities.

LWVCC Board for 2016 - 2017

President/Resource Management Rhianna Williams	296-9539
1st Vice President Barry Fink	483-4632
2nd Vice President/Natural Resources Kristine Bradof	482-0446
Treasurer Mary Marchaterre	483-2291
Secretary Barry Fink	482-4632
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Leah Bectel Mich Tech Student	
Voter Service Kathy Flagstadt	399-0721
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Education Martha Sloan	369-4184
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Website Editor Shellie Crisman	523-6299



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

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are NOT tax deductible. Checks should be made out to: LWVCC.

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