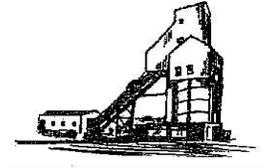


Copper Country Voter



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



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LWVCC Calendar

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| October 3 Tuesday, 7:00pm | Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton | November 7 Tuesday, 7:00pm | Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton |
| October 18 Wed. | Verna Grahek Mize inducted into MI Women's Hall of Fame, Kellogg Hotel & Conf. Center, East Lansing, MI | November TBD | Redistricting in Michigan Portage Lake District Library |

Staying Abreast of ReDistricting/Gerrymandering

Submitted by Barry Fink

LWVCC has been represented at state League LWVMI meetings about ReDistricting/Gerrymandering by Martha Sloan. In 2012, LWVMI adopted a position in favor of a non-partisan commission to do re-districting in MI <http://lwvmi.org/documents/RedistPosit.pdf>. Education about the current picture regarding gerrymandering is a focus for the current program year and Sloan will share a power point presentation at the public meeting in November at the Portage Lake District Library. This is timely topic. Gerrymandering, the process of giving the power to draw district lines to the party in control of the legislature and thereby allowing partisan politicians to manipulate elections to keep themselves and their party in power, currently exists in Michigan and many other states. An important case about Wisconsin gerrymandering, *Gill v. Whitford*, is currently before the Supreme Court.

What's Up With the Ballot Petition?

Regarding the ballot petition for an independent redistricting commission in MI currently circulating in the community, LWVMI has not yet taken a position in support nor opposed. The state board intends to determine a response if the measure is certified for the Nov. 2018 ballot. That decision should be available in February, 2018. Individuals on their own, not using the League name, are encouraged to be engaged in the political process in any way they choose.

Vote "YES" on the 2017 Library Millage Renewal

As the Copper Country League of Women Voters, we believe that education is important for all and that we should support our local libraries. If this millage does not pass, then the Portage Lake District Library will close. So vote 'YES' on this renewal millage on November 7th!

With Portage Lake District Library's (PLDL) permission, below is important information for you.

On November 7th, 2017 City of Houghton and Portage Township voters will be asked whether or not to continue supporting their library. The proposal would provide for a 7-year renewal of the 1.96 mill property tax that generates the majority of the library's revenue. The proposal will not ask for any additional new millage. It merely continues a levy that has been in place for over 20 years.

What does the tax do?

This tax has created a dynamic library at the very center of the community. For the past 20 years, this tax has provided the stable funding necessary for the Portage Lake District Library to deliver the services that the people of our community need and heavily use. Your investment has paid off, permitting us to build and maintain highly used collections, services, and programs. It's time to renew this investment.

(continued on page 2)

Vote “YES”

(continued from Page 1)

How important is the tax election to the Library?

The dedicated property tax supplies the revenue for everything the Portage Lake District Library accomplishes. It provides the funding for salaries, books and all materials in the collection, utilities, maintenance, and all operating costs. Without passage of the tax, there is not a library. There is no substitute funding.

What happens if the tax fails?

The Portage Lake District Library is almost entirely funded by the revenues of our 7-year dedicated property tax. The tax generates funding for over 85% of all expenses including our operating costs, materials, technology, and staffing as well as maintenance and repairs. Without a dedicated property tax to support the library, operations would have to be paid for out of savings, depleting all reserve funds. Eventually, if a millage can't be set, there would be nothing left and the library would have to close.

How much will it cost?

1.96 mills for a period of 7 years will produce an estimated \$460,000 per year to maintain the library's services, programs, and operations. The rate of 1.96 mills will cost \$1.96 per \$1,000 of taxable property. The average cost per household in Portage Township is \$64 a year, or \$5.33 a month. The average cost per household in the City of Houghton is \$97 per year, or \$8.08 per month.

Line 5 Pipelines: An Avoidable Environmental Risk

From LWVMI

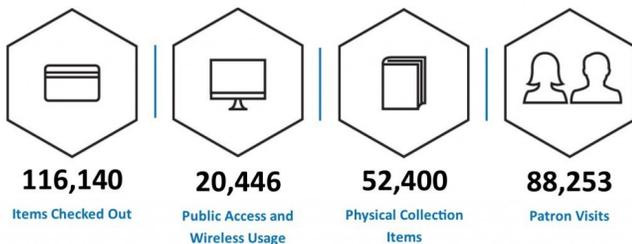
The League of Women Voters of Michigan is one of 21 members of the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition that sent a letter to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") and the US Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") on June 29, 2017 regarding Enbridge Oil Company's joint application to the MDEQ and the Corps (No. 2RD-DFDK-Y35G) to install 22 anchor supports on the Line 5 pipelines in the Mackinac Straits. The Coalition members are Michigan organizations dedicated to the protection of Michigan's water, natural resources, public trust in those resources, the environment, communities, and the health, safety and general welfare of citizens.

The Coalition organizations are requesting that MDEQ and the Corps take the following actions with regard to Enbridge's joint application:

1. Reject as incomplete due to its overly narrow scope of review;
2. Require a comprehensive review of Line 5 in the Straits that includes an assessment of adverse environmental impacts, risks, and feasible and prudent alternatives;
3. Temporarily terminate the transport of crude oil in the Line 5 pipelines during this comprehensive review; and
4. Hold a formal public hearing given that Enbridge Line 5 occupies publicly owned waters and bottomlands and the threat of a catastrophic oil pipeline rupture to the Great Lakes are of tremendous controversy and have generated an extraordinary level of public engagement.

The full letter and a 3 minute video of the inspection of the line can be seen at www.lwvmi.org

PLDL ANNUAL STATISTICS



It's remarkable how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit.

-- Harry S. Truman

Constitution Day Observance

As part of Constitution Day observances at Michigan Technological University, Catherine Fisk, professor in the Boalt Hall Law School of the University of California, Berkeley presented "Free Speech on Campus" Wednesday, Sept. 13, speaking to approximately 25 attendees. Her focus was on the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, which is short and sweet: *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”* The first amendment constrains Congress, and thus the government. It does not prevent individuals or employers from abridging speech, she pointed out.

Going over case by case Professor Fisk cited the record to demonstrate how freedom of speech is interpreted in the US. On campuses, there has been recent history of outlawing hate speech, which Prof. Fisk indicated usually did not turn out the way that its advocates expected. She noted that more often the hate speech provisions are used against those seeking to prevent certain types of discrimination rather than against the individuals who advocate discrimination.

At the end of the talk, there was a lively question and answer session. One question from the audience included the topic of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which holds that political spending is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment. The close vote indicates that the topic is controversial within the Court and it is possible that it will be revisited as its implications become clear.

Voter Registration on MTU Campus

Voter Registration on the MTU campus attracted many students. At the table staffed by LWVCC and students from Richelle Winkler’s social science class, over 60 were registered. Mary Marchaterre was deputized by the County Clerk for the event to be able to collect the Michigan applications. This is a great benefit to students because first time registering must be done “in person” to be eligible to receive an absentee ballot. The Houghton City Clerk was on campus at another location to do the same thing.



LWVCC Board for 2017 - 2018

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

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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)

Suggested Donation of \$10

Finance Drive (\$____)

Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$____)

Education Fund {\$____)