Be Informed on Voter ID Laws

Arielle LaBrecque

As the campaigns continue to move towards November 6th, the outcome is even more anticipated with the divided dispute over new voter ID laws.

Disagreements between the parties have boiled down to voter suppression versus voter fraud. Certain groups have expressed feelings of disenfranchisement when it comes to voting, as obtaining picture identification is more difficult for the poor, the disabled, and racial minorities. Democrats make the case that the laws are designed to specifically disenfranchise these voters, since in-person voter fraud has historically had an occurrence rate of less than one percent. Other measures have been taken to narrow the ability to vote. In Florida and Ohio, Republican-dominated legislature shortened the window of time for early voting, which placed pressure on students at universities in those states to change voter registration.

Ignoring the inevitable party clashes—which have become more and more accusatory—most voters have expressed that voter ID fraud should and can be prevented. One of the main reasons the laws have been rejected is the time frame: the election date is too close for people to easily obtain the legal, necessary identification for voting. Early voting was also restored in Ohio and Florida.

Voter advocacy groups see the blocking of voter ID laws as a win, but are still concerned with the confusion the rhetoric surrounding the new laws may have created. The ruling could still encourage volunteers working at the polls on November 6th to ask for identification when a picture ID is not actually required.

These new ID laws have not been deemed unconstitutional. Many states, such as Pennsylvania, have ruled that picture identification cards must be more accessible for registered voters. As many voters have expressed that they support these new laws, courts are looking to implement them in the future. Politicians and judges alike from both parties say that voter ID laws could very well be successfully integrated over the course of the next four years.

On a local scale, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder surprised fellow Republicans when he rejected tough voter ID laws for the state earlier this summer. Snyder said that the new laws could create confusion for those who would need to obtain absentee ballots, which is often the case for college students. One of the bills Governor Snyder rejected stated that poll volunteers would have to undergo training for the new voter ID law, which he said would further perpetuate this confusion in

Attitude Is Everything—Lead With It!

The 10th annual MSU Women’s Leadership Conference is fast approaching—Sunday, November 18, 2012 to be exact! Ms. Carlotta Walls LaNier was the keynote speaker for the conference in 2006 and we are thrilled to have her serve as our keynote speaker once again! Ms. LaNier, a former Spartan, was the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine courageous African-American students who integrated Arkansas’ Little Rock Central High School in 1957. She was the first African-American female to graduate from Central High School. Inspired by Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger sparked the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott, as well as the desire to get the best education available, Walls enrolled in Central High School as a sophomore. Some white students called her names and sat on her, and armed guards had to escort her to classes, but she concentrated on her studies and protected herself throughout the school year. Walls and every other Little Rock student were barred from attending Central the next year, when all four Little Rock high schools were closed, but she returned to Central High and graduated in 1960.

Carlotta attended Michigan State University for two years before moving to Denver with her family where she continued her education at Colorado State University (now the University of Northern Colorado) where she graduated in 1968 and now serves on the Board of Trustees. After marrying Ike LaNier, Carlotta began her career with the YWCA as a program administrator and founded her own real estate brokerage firm in 1977—LaNier and Company. She has continued to work as a professional real estate broker since that time. In addition to many awards and recognitions, including her induction into the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame in 2004, Ms. LaNier and the other members who made up the Little Rock Nine, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal from President Bill Clinton in 1999.

In 2009, Ms. LaNier published her memoir, “A Mighty Long Way: My Journey To Justice At Little Rock Central High School” with the foreword by President Bill Clinton and rave reviews.

We are excited and honored to welcome her back to East Lansing and Spartan country, and we look forward to learning more from her!

For registration details, see page two of Wisdom, Words & Women or visit: http://wrc.msu.edu under the “Events” tab.

Source: http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=729
November is National American Indian Heritage Month

According to the Indian Health Services website, it took nearly a century of advocacy before National American Indian Heritage month was first recognized through joint resolution by Congress in 1990. Now recognized annually, November is a time to learn more about the history and heritage of Native American peoples.

For more information, visit: http://www.indians.org/
http://www.smithsonianianeducation.org/heritage_month/

Source: http://www.ihs.gov/publicaffairs/heritage/

Web Resources for Voting

Unfortunately, mainstream media does not always present adequate information about important issues that may be of special interest to women and young adults. Consequently, education about election issues becomes an individual responsibility. Here are a few resources you may find helpful.

The ABC’s of Women’s Issues Voting Guide:
This voter guide provides updates on women’s issues and questions you need to ask candidates and political parties—and they need to answer.

League of Women Voters: www.lwv.org
This nonpartisan political organization has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

Vote, Run, Lead: www.voterunlead.org
A national nonpartisan mobilization initiative to activate young American women to engage in political participation—from voting to running for office.

Center for American Women & Politics: www.cawp.rutgers.edu
A university-based research, education, and public service center with the mission to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women’s participation in politics and government and to enhance women’s influence and leadership in public life.

Our Time: www.ourtime.org/vote
A national nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign initiated to energize and empower a new movement of young voters.

Rock The Vote: www.rockthevote.com
Rock the Vote is dedicated to protecting freedom of expression and empowering young people to change their world.

The White House Project: www.thewhitehouseproject.org
A national, nonpartisan not-for-profit organization that aims to advance women’s leadership in all communities and sectors, up to the U.S. presidency.

November 2012
Do You Know What’s on Your Ballot?

Evette Chavez Lockhart

Tuesday, November 6, 2012 is Election Day. It is a chance to make your voices heard on many important issues. Following is a list of significant proposals Michiganders will see on the ballot this November. As these proposals can be quite confusing in terms of not knowing if the “yes” or “no” vote is for or against the proposal, the WRC encourages personal in-depth research before voting.

Proposal 12-1—"Stand Up for Democracy"

This proposal seeks to repeal PA 4 of 2011, commonly known as the Emergency Financial Manager Law. The law as it was enacted grants broad and sweeping powers to Emergency Financial Managers who are appointed by the Governor to oversee cities or schools that are considered to be in a financial crisis. These powers include the ability to terminate contracts (collective bargaining) and reorganize government.

- Vote YES to affirm the law
- Vote NO to repeal the law

Proposal 12-2—"Protect our Jobs"

This proposed constitutional amendment would place the right to collectively bargain into the Michigan Constitution. It would invalidate current or future state or local laws that limit the ability to join unions and bargain collectively, and to negotiate and enforce collective bargaining agreements.

- Vote YES to adopt the proposal and make the change to the Michigan Constitution
- Vote NO to reject the proposal

Proposal 12-3—"Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs"

This proposal would require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass and hydropower by 2025. It would also require legislature to enact additional laws that encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment of Michigan residents.

- Vote YES will adopt the 25% by 2025 standard into the constitution
- Vote NO to reject the new standard

Proposal 12-4—"Citizens for Affordable Quality Home Care"

This proposal would allow in-home care workers to bargain collectively with the Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC). It would also require MQHCC to provide training for in-home care workers, create a registry of workers who pass background checks, and provide financial services to patients to manage the cost of in-home care while preserving the rights of patients to hire in-home care workers who are not referred from the MQHCC registry who are bargaining unit members.

- Vote YES to grant in-home care workers collective bargaining rights
- Vote NO to maintain the current law which disallows home health care workers collective bargaining rights

Proposal 12-5—"Michigan Alliance for Prosperity"

This proposal requires a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation.

- Vote YES to amend the Michigan constitution to require a 2/3 vote of the House and Senate to pass any tax increase or eliminate any tax exemption
- Vote NO to reject the proposal and maintain the current majority rule for tax legislation

Proposal 12-6—"The People Should Decide"

This constitutional amendment would require a majority vote of the citizens of Michigan before the state could construct a new international bridge or tunnel for motor vehicles.

- Vote YES to require that all future international bridge or tunnel projects must be approved by a statewide vote
- Vote NO to reject the proposal

Sources:

http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_41221---,00.html
http://leagueofresponsiblevoters.org/

REMEMBER!

To turn your clocks back!
Sunday, November 4th @ 2:00 AM

Engaging ALL in providing access to resources for the ADVANCEMENT of women –

Gender Matters!

Check back often for additional pages of Wisdom, Words & Women

- Breaking News
- Events
- Programs and more . . .

http://wrc.msu.edu

November 2012
Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for the many gifts you have in life. Our community has provided many of those things we are all grateful for. The MSU WRC urges all of our readers to thank their community this holiday season by volunteering, giving back, and helping those who may not be as fortunate.

A Special Presentation By Dr. Gail Dines enlightened the audience to see its impact on our everyday lives. Professor Dines focused on “Sex (ism), Identity and Intimacy in a Pornographic Culture” making the argument that pornography is so common in our culture that we hardly recognize it for what it is along with its significant impact. Her presentation included media depicting the porn culture in which we live and in particular, she spoke to the consumption of porn by men. She discussed the dynamics in terms of men’s relationships with women and pointed out that “the result is not a more liberated, edgy sexuality, but a mass produced vision of sex that is profoundly sexist—a vision that limits our ability to create authentic, equal relationships that are free of violence and degradation.”

Nearly two hundred students, faculty, staff, and members of the greater Lansing community attended the event. Dine’s work was praised by most and the glimpse provided into our porn culture enlightened the audience to see its impact on our everyday lives.

The MSU Women’s Resource Center along with the Center for Gender in Global Context and other units from across the campus community recently hosted Dr. Gail Dines. Professor Dines focused on “Sex (ism), Identity and Intimacy in a Pornographic Culture” making the argument that pornography is so common in our culture that we hardly recognize it for what it is along with its significant impact. Her presentation included media depicting the porn culture in which we live and in particular, she spoke to the consumption of porn by men. She discussed the dynamics in terms of men’s relationships with women and pointed out that “the result is not a more liberated, edgy sexuality, but a mass produced vision of sex that is profoundly sexist—a vision that limits our ability to create authentic, equal relationships that are free of violence and degradation.”

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"The Wise Woman’s Stone"
Author Unknown

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.

"I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone."
Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 1, 2012: Community Cinema: “Solar Mamas”. 7:30PM, WKAR, Room 145—404 Wilson Road, East Lansing, MI. WKAR will host this Community Cinema screening and community discussion. Dr. Jayne Schulteman, interim director of the MSU Women’s Resource Center will moderate the discussion. FREE, however registration is required at: WKAR.org. For additional information, please see page 6—under “Announcements”.

Thursday, November 1, 2012: KEEP CALM and VOTE: Be An Informed Voter! 7:30PM—9:30PM, 471 College Law Building. Hosted by Successful Black Women of MSU. FREE and open to ALL. NO registration necessary.

Sunday, November 4, 2012: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—Remember to turn back clocks one hour @ 2:00AM!

Tuesday, November 6, 2012: ELECTION DAY! Please remember to VOTE! And, remember to take your picture identification!!

Wednesday, November 7, 2012: Post-Perfectionism: Some Steps Along The Path To Loving The Life You Have. 12:00N—1:00PM, Lake Superior Room, MSU Union Building (3rd Floor). This workshop is for those of us who live in the world of “not enough.” Not thin enough, not efficient enough, not organized enough, not spiritual enough. Not patient enough with our kids, not focused enough at work. Isn’t that inner voice exhausting? It’s time to give yourself a break. If you are ready to tame the dragon of perfectionism, this workshop is for you. Join us for some clever tricks, some interesting ideas and most importantly some wholehearted dialogue that will help you get on (or return to) the path of accepting yourself fully and loving the life you have. Folks who attend with mismatched socks will get extra brownie points, and perhaps even a small brownie! Presenter: Julica Hermann, Certified Martha Beck Life Coach. To reserve a space, e-mail wrc@msu.edu with “Perfectionism” in the subject line or call (517) 353-1635. Sponsored by the MSU Women’s Resource Center.


Sunday, November 11, 2012: Veterans Day. Veterans Day was originally established to honor Americans who had served in World War I. The national holiday is celebrated on November 11, the anniversary of the day World War I ended in 1918. Today Veterans Day honors veterans of all wars for their patriotism and willingness to serve in the military and sacrifice for our country.

Tuesday, November 13, 2012: “Budgeting 101”. 6:00PM—7:00PM, MSUFCU—Farm Lane Branch, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing. Presented by Green Path Debt Solutions. Learn budgeting basics and how to reach your desired financial goals without creating new debt. To RSVP, sign up at MSUFCU.org, e-mail: pday@msufcu.org or phone (517) 664.7725. Co-sponsored by MSUFCU and MSU Women’s Resource Center.

Wednesday, November 14, 2012: Michigan’s Infant Mortality Reduction Plan: Giving Families a Future. 7:00PM—8:30PM, Hannah Community Center—Executive Conference Room, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. No RSVP necessary. Co-sponsored by the Lansing League of Women Voters and the MSU Women’s Resource Center.

Thursday, November 15, 2012: A Winter Driving Workshop. 12:00N—1:00 PM. Lake Superior Room, MSU Union Building. Learn basic winter driving tips to have a safe and wonderful winter driving experience. Presenter: Kathy Ross, Driving Instructor, Sears Driving School. To RSVP, e-mail wrc@msu.edu or call (517) 353-1635. Sponsored by the MSU Women’s Resource Center.

Sunday, November 18, 2012: 10th Annual Women’s Leadership Conference! 12:00N—6:30PM, MSU Union Building—2nd Floor. For additional information, see article on page 1 or ad on page 2. You may also visit the MSU Women’s Resource Center’s website at: http://wrc.msu.edu to register and pay online.

Thursday & Friday, November 22-23, 2012: Thanksgiving Holiday—University Closed.

Friday, November 23, 2012: Happy Thanksgiving.

Wednesday, November 28, 2012: Aromatherapy Session. 12:00N—1:00PM, Lake Superior Room, MSU Union Building (3rd Floor). Presenter: Susan Stuhr, Creative Wellness. Susan is also owner and founder of Earthwerkes Aromatherapy and is a graduate of the Ann Arbor Institute of Massage and is nationally certified in massage and aromatherapy. To RSVP, e-mail wrc@msu.edu or call (517) 353-1635. Sponsored by the MSU Women’s Resource Center.

Thursday, November 29, 2012: Understanding Your Credit Report and Score. 12:00N—1:00PM, MSU Federal Credit Union—Farm Lane Branch, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing, MI. Presenter: Laura Hosey, MSUFCU. Understand why your credit score is important and what factors may impact your score. To RSVP, sign up at MSUFCU.org, pday@msufcu.org, or phone (517) 664.7725. FREE and open to all! Co-sponsored by the MSU Federal Credit Union and the MSU Women’s Resource Center.

“Suffrage is the pivotal right”
Susan B. Anthony

Join us on Facebook:
Search: MSU Women’s Resource Center

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www.twitter.com/MSUWRC

WRC Staff: Jayne Schulteman, Interim Director; Associate Professor and Personal Safety Coordinator; Patricia M. Lowrie, Consultant; Vacant, Educational Program Coordinator; Audrey C. Smith, Office Manager; Evette Chavez Lockhart, Administrative Assistant; WRC Students: Arielle LaBrecque, Emily Nichols, and Bennetta Thomas, Department Aides.
Your Support is Appreciated!

Want to support young women leaders? Want to influence the future? Become a Friend of WILD!

The Women’s Initiative for Leadership Development (WILD) Committee is looking for supporters to provide scholarships for students to attend the MSU Women’s Leadership Conference. To become a Friend of WILD, supporters can sponsor the registration fee for a student. The cost is $20.00 per attendee and you can sponsor as many students as you like. All “Friend of WILD” sponsors will be recognized in the conference book and will know they’ve made a positive impact in the life of a young woman!

Checks should be made payable to MSU and can be sent to:

MSU Women’s Resource Center
49 Abbot Road, 332 MSU Union
East Lansing, MI 48824
ATTN: Friends of WILD

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact conference advisors Emily Nichols at nicho313@msu.edu or Jodi Roberto Hancock at hancockj@msu.edu. We thank you in advance for your support!

WACFO has Membership Openings

We are looking for new WACFO members. Are you the one? Are you a self-starter…? A doer, not a complainer, a leader.. or have the desire to be a leader? Do you feel a commitment to MSU and want to help other women succeed? If any or all of these things relate to you, you should apply to be on the Women’s Advisory Committee for Finance and Operations (WACFO). We are always looking for women that want to be part of a committee that gets things moving to make this university and your working conditions better. Please visit our website at www.wacfo.msu.edu

- Are there any hazards or dangers located near the outside of your building? Examples include poor lighting, sidewalks that may be tripping hazards, large potholes in the parking lot.
- Are there any hazards inside your building? Examples include stairwell treads that are sticking up, poor lighting, storage items located in stairwells or hallways.
- Please attach photos if possible of areas previously listed as safety concerns.
- Please provide your name, room number, building, & phone number.

Send this information to Nilda Rodea, Chair of the WACFO Health and Safety/Benefits Subcommittee at rodeon@msu.edu.

Men's Health, Wellness, & Fitness EXPO!

**Thursday, November 8, 2012**

11:30 AM—1:30 PM

MSU Union—Main Lounge

( Check out the newly renovated Union Building!)

What Women Want to Know—What Men Need to Know

For Women & Men who care about the Men in their lives.

- Information
- Presentations
- Demonstrations
- Prizes
- Giveaways
- And more . . .

Stay tuned for more information . . .

@ http://wrc.msu.edu

WKAR Community Cinema Features

"Solar Mamas"

**Thursday, November 1, 2012**

7:30PM

WKAR—Room 145, 404 Wilson Road, CAMPUS

The “Independence Lens” documentary, “Solar Mamas”, will be featured with a follow-up discussion by Solar Circle’s Judy Martin, Kirabo Fair Trade Store’s Gail Catron and Tashmica Torok from the Nayaka AIDS Orphan Project. Dr. Jayne Schuiteman, interim director of the MSU Women’s Resource Center will moderate the discussion.

India’s Barefoot College offers rural, poor and often illiterate women from around the world the rare opportunity to receive an education that teaches them how to make their communities self-reliant and sustainable. The film follows the experience of Rafea, a strong-willed 32-year-old Jordanian mother of four, who is traveling outside of her village for the first time ever to attend Barefoot’s solar engineering program.

WKAR Community Cinema is an ongoing film and discussion program affiliated with the television series “Independent Lens”. For additional information on “Solar Mamas”, visit: WKAR.org.

This event is FREE and open to ALL, however registration is required at: WKAR.org.
L’Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science

November 5, 2012 is the commencement of the L’Oréal USA Fellowships For Women In Science 2013 Fellowship Program. The applications are available online at www.orealusa.com under the “For Women In Science/US Fellowship tab”. The program is entering its tenth year and since its launch in 2003, L’Oréal USA’s Fellowship program has recognized and rewarded 45 extraordinarily talented young women scientists engaged in breakthrough research projects at leading universities and research institutions across the country.

The L’Oréal USA Fellowships For Women In Science awards five post-doctoral women scientists with grants of up to $60,000. Applicants are welcome from a variety of fields, including the life and physical/material sciences, technology (including computer science), engineering and mathematics.

The application and more information on the Fellowships can be found on the L’Oréal website at, http://www.orealusa.com as of November 5, 2012. Information will also be communicated via the L’Oréal Facebook page: L’Oréal USA For Women In Science http://www.facebook.com/pages/LOr%C3%A9al-USA-For-Women-in-Science/169912350366. For questions or additional information, please e-mail Virginia J. Niz at: vniz@us.oreal.com.

Peace Education Center
Alternative Holiday Sale!!

Saturday, November 17, 2012
9:00 AM—4:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church (Peace Education Center) 855 Grove Street East Lansing, MI 48823

http://www.peaceedcenter.org/

SMART WOMEN VOTE!
REMEMBER to VOTE: Tuesday, November 6th

Global Fest 2012
Sunday, November 11, 2012
12:00N—5:00PM, MSU Union Building

Travel the world in one day at Global Festival! Exhibits prepared by students about their homelands. Performances of cultural dances, songs and ceremonies. Global gift shop to purchase items from all over the world. Visit the Global Café in the Heritage Lounge from 12:00N to 4:00PM for the best in international cuisine!

Student Intern Position
Healthy Relationships and Sexuality (HRS): An Online Resource for Chinese International Students

HRS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Healthy Relationships and Sexuality: An Online Resource for Chinese International Students involves a website intended primarily for Chinese international MSU students whose first language is Chinese. On the HRS website site, anyone will be able to anonymously ask questions about healthy sexuality and relationships.

Because these types of topics are often difficult to discuss, students will be able to ask these questions in Chinese without having to worry about translational issues. Answers will be provided in English by professionals on campus. Interns will be hired to help with translation and outreach efforts.

For additional information, including an application, visit: http://wrc.msu.edu under the “Announcements” tab.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, November 9, 2012

Interested in receiving monthly e-mails about upcoming programs and events? To join the WRC Listserv, send an e-mail with the subject line “WRC Listserv” to wrc@msu.edu. Be sure to indicate your name and e-mail address.