Making the Most of Websites and Social Media

Mary S. Pickett, LWV Oakland Area

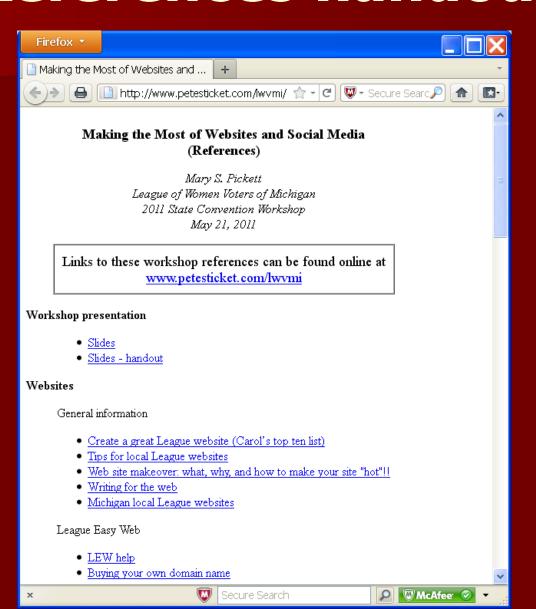
League of Women Voters of Michigan 2011 State Convention May 21, 2011

Outline

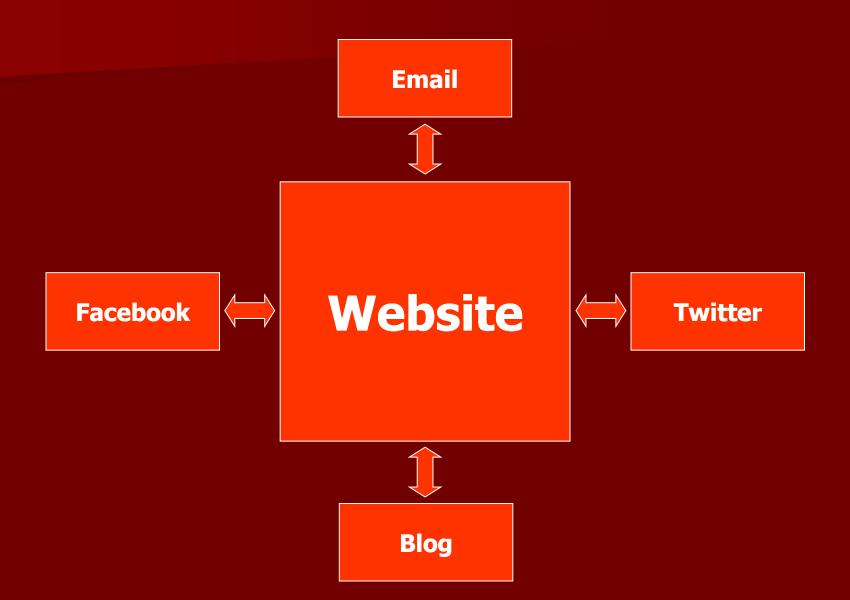
- Websites
- Social Media
 - Facebook
 - -Twitter
 - -Blogs

- Integrating your online presence
- Some useful tools
 - YouTube
 - Picasa
 - PayPal
- Questions

References handout



Your Internet presence



Making the Most of Your Website

Your audiences / goals

- Typical League audiences
 - Current active voters
 - People preparing to vote for the first time
 - Current League members
 - Prospective members
 - People with an interest in public policy
 - Office holders
 - Communities and school districts

— ...

Your audiences / goals

- Typical League goals
 - Voter education
 - Advocacy
 - Encourage voting
 - Inform current members of activities
 - Attract new members
 - Provide information to a wide audience

— ...

Each audience may have different goals

Content

- Based on audiences / goals
- Typical League website content
 - Voter Guides
 - Positions (local, state, national)
 - How to register and vote
 - Calendar
 - Contact information for elected officials
 - How to join the League / how to donate

— ...

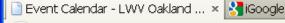
Study other League sites

- Study other League websites for ideas
 - Content
 - Organization
 - Design

Contact them for "how to" information



















LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OAKLAND AREA

http://www.lwvoa.org/calendar.html



HOME

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CONTEST

EVENT CALENDAR

Past Events

CANDIDATE **FORUMS**

VOTER GUIDES

OAKLAND VOTER

VOLUNTEER HERE

ELECTION RESULTS

THEY REPRESENT YOU

VOTING INFORMATION

WHAT IS LWV?

ABOUT LWV OAKLAND AREA

JOIN THE LEAGUE

CONTRIBUTE TO US

CONTACT US

USEFUL LINKS

MEMBERS_ONLY

Separate candidate forum calendar

ne Galendar changes frequency. To ensure you are viewing the most current version, click REFRESH on your browser.

For candidate & proposal forums, see the Candidate Forums calendar

Contact the office for further information abo

Event address with link

Click on an address below for a map of that location.

Date	Time	Place	Description	
Thursday, April 28, 2011	7 PM	LWVOA Office 725 S. Adams Rd., Rm 292 Birmingham, MI 48009	LWVOA Board Meeting.	Event details
Tuesday, May 3, 2011	7 AM - 8 PM	Your Polling Place	Election Day.	
Thursday, May 5, 2011	7 PM	Bloomfield Township Hall 4200 Telegraph Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303 (Please note: this is change of venue from what was previously posted.)	Discussion on Medical Marijuana. Speakers: Neil Rockind, attorney & member of Marijuana Patients Organization & Sensible Michigan, who has represented patients & caregivers Dan Christ, Attorney for the city of Ferndale Beth Hand, Head of Narcotics, Oakland County Marilyn Stephan, Mayor of Berkley, MI	
Friday, May 20, 2011-Sunday, May 22, 2011		Traverse City	LWVMI Convention. If you are interested in being a delegate to the convention, contact Judy Bateman <u>pres@lwvoa.org</u> or 248-399-2815.	

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http://www.lwv-midland.org/Program_resources.html





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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE MIDLAND AREA



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YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM RESOURCES

JOIN LWV

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CONTACT US

Program

Papers and links for re-

Reference material for an important current issue

The Future of Financing Public Education in Michigan

The LWVMI Position on Education Structure, Finance and Goals may be found here.

An excellent summary of education financing in Michigan published by the Citizens Research Council may be found here with links to more detailed reports.

The two local programs, 1/29/11 and 2/12/11, on Financing Education are available on MCTV's Video on Demand

Comments, suggestions, questions? Contact our <u>webmaster</u>. Last revised: March 21, 2011 11:32 PDT.

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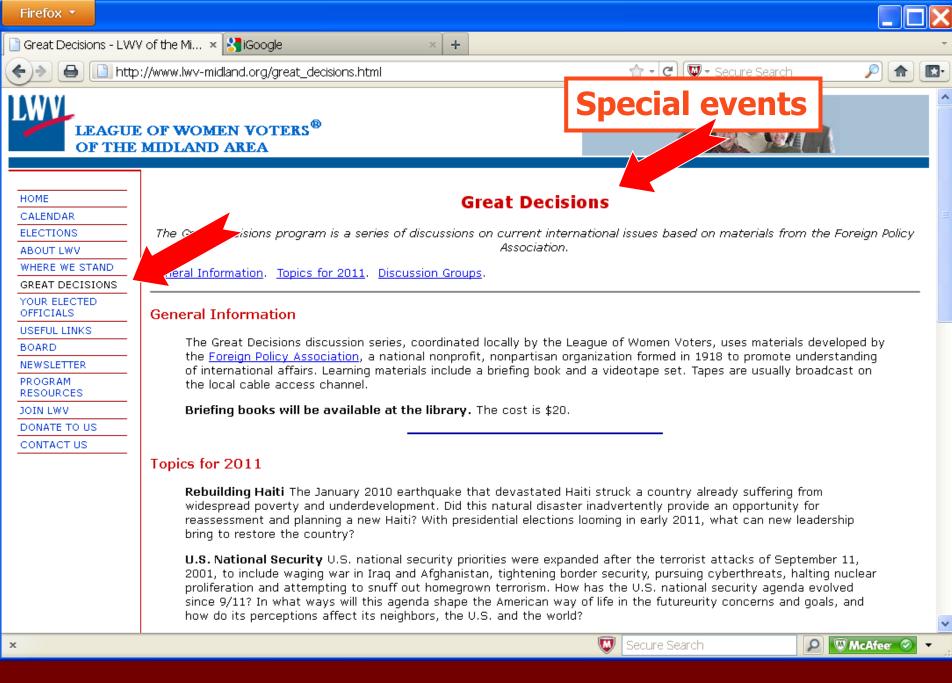


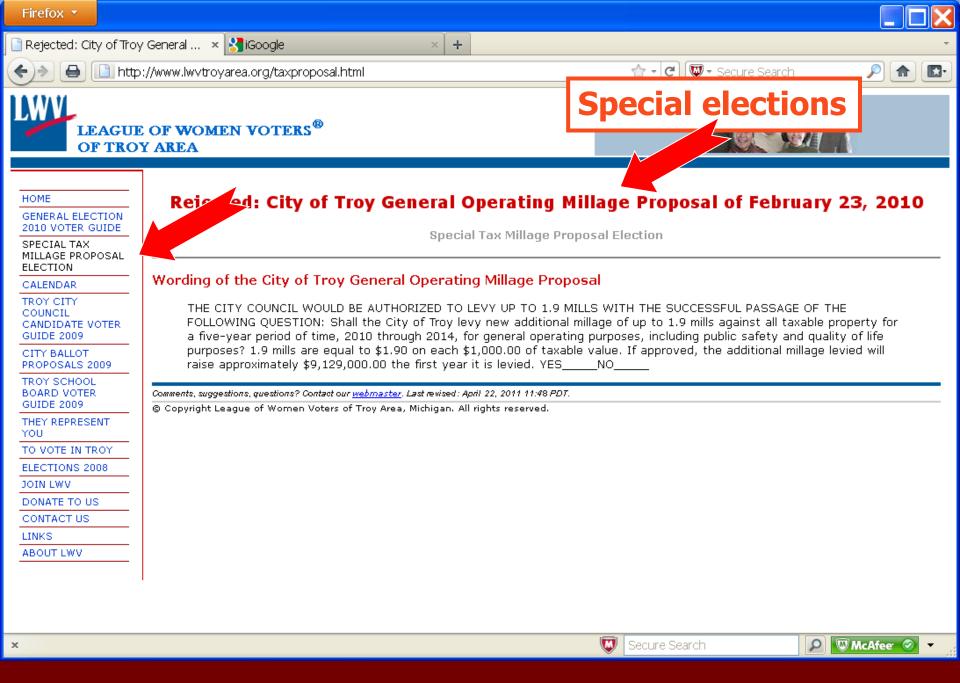
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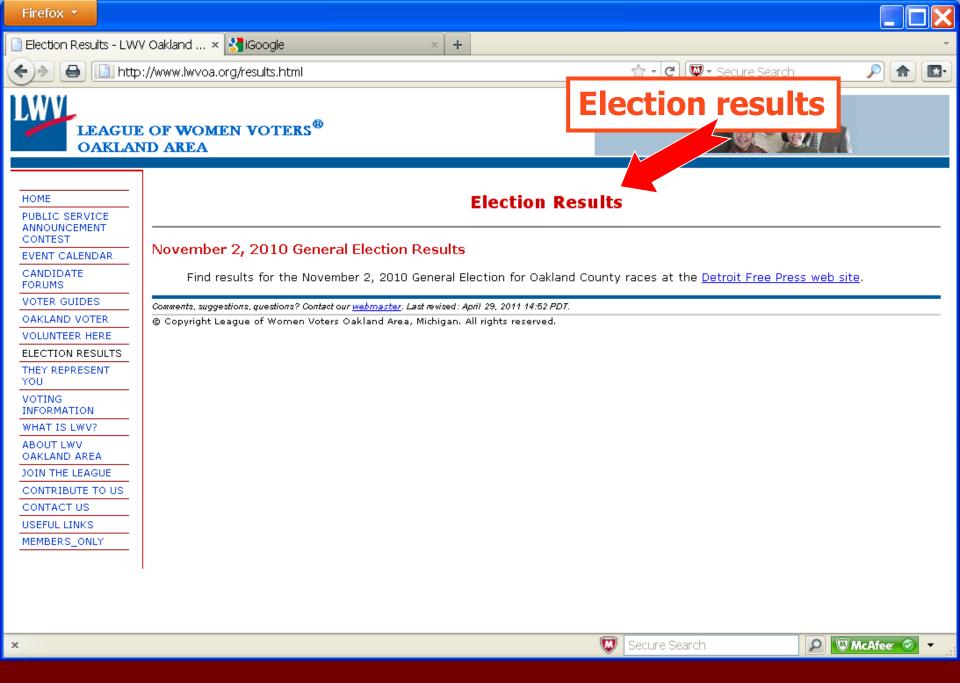
















LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE MIDLAND AREA



₩ - Secure Search

- Cª

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Acquisition of Gifts

Local Adult Corrections

Local Use of Federal Funds

Educational Service Agency (ESA)

Midland City Government

Midland County Government

Housing Needs

Midland Police Dept.

Midland Public Schools

Planning

Youth and Children Services

GREAT DECISIONS

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

USEFUL LINKS

BOARD

Local League Position Statements

League Positions

Local League positions adopted after study and consensus.

Local Positions. National and State Positions.

Local Positions

These position statements resulted from a 'grass roots' process which includes adoption of a topic for study at an annual meeting and subsequent thorough study by the membersh consensus, resulting in the position statement, which is approved **Local positions**

necessary, to concur with subsequent studies, and approved for

- Acquisition of Gifts by Governmental Bodies
- Local Adult Corrections
- · Local Use of Federal Funds
- · Midland City Government
- Midland County Government
- . Midland County Housing Needs and Low Income Housing
- Midland County Educational Service Agency (previously ISD)
- Midland Police Department
- Midland Public Schools
- Planning I and Planning II, Midland City and County
- Youth and Children Services for the Pre-delinquent and D

US and MI positions

National and State Positions

The Midland Area LWV may also act under positions of the LWVUS and LWVMI.



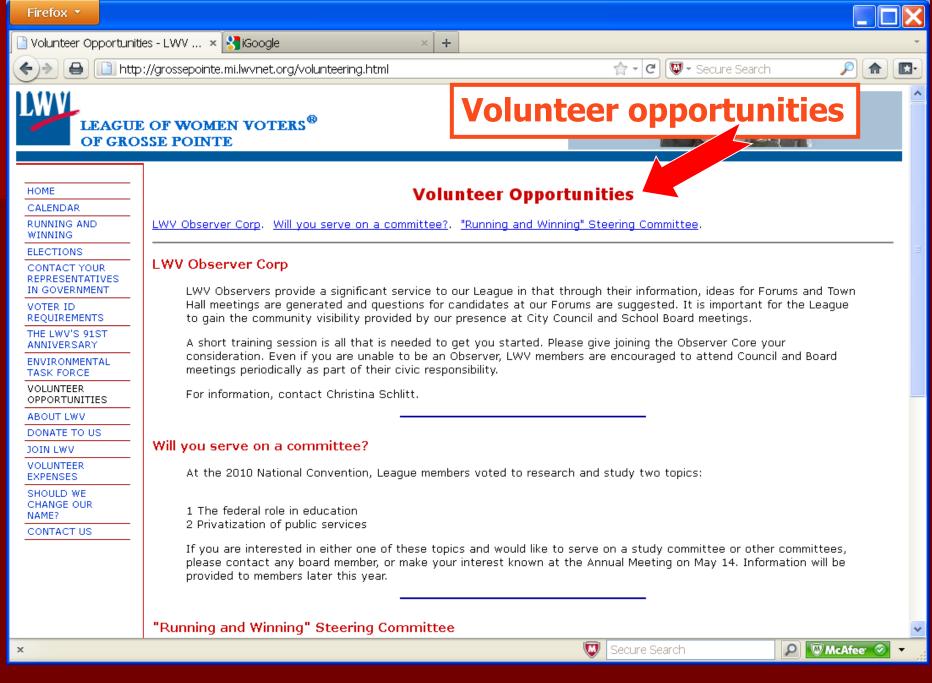
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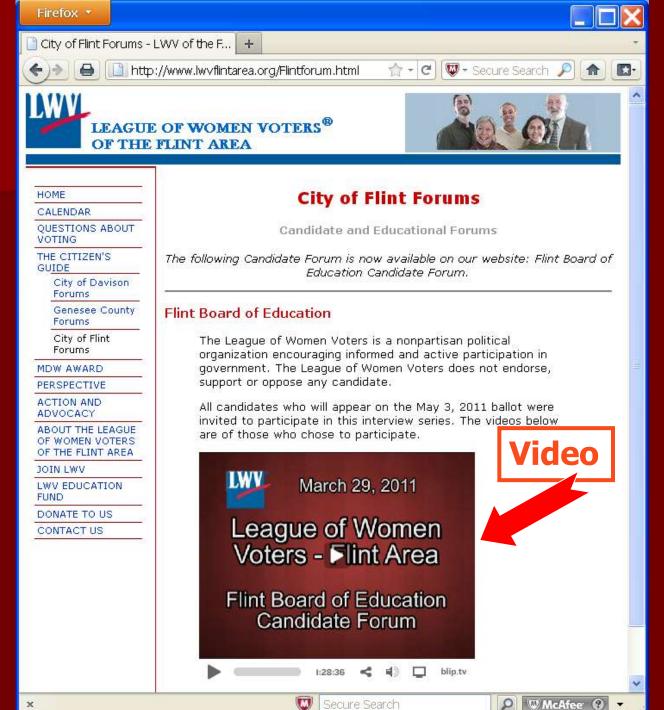
Conversations with the Candidates

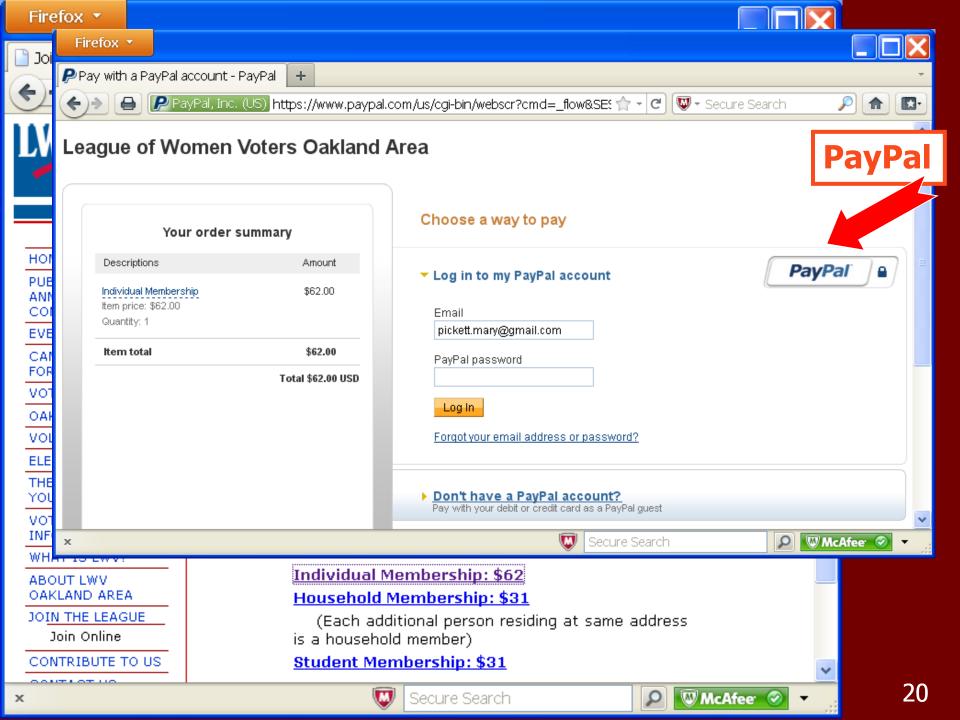
Interviews are available for all eight candidates in the March 24 Special Primary Election for State Senate District 26. Scroll down to select a candidate name.





www.podbean.com





Style: Vertical list of links



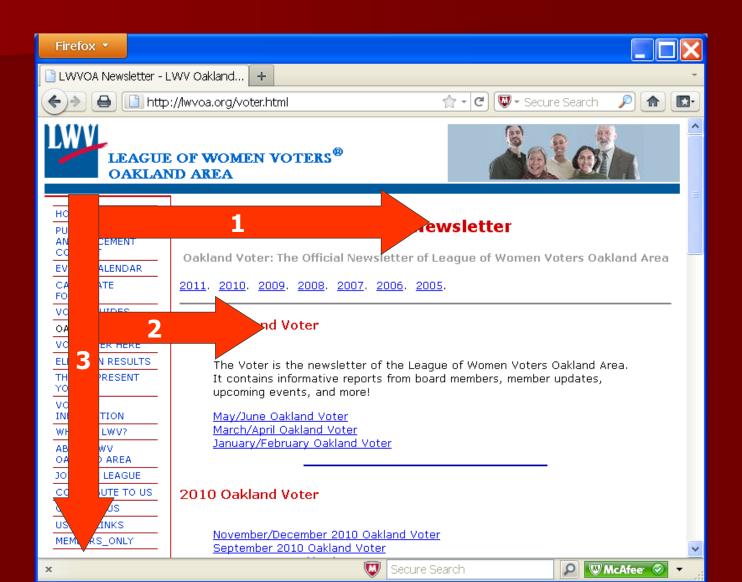
Style: Horizontal list of links



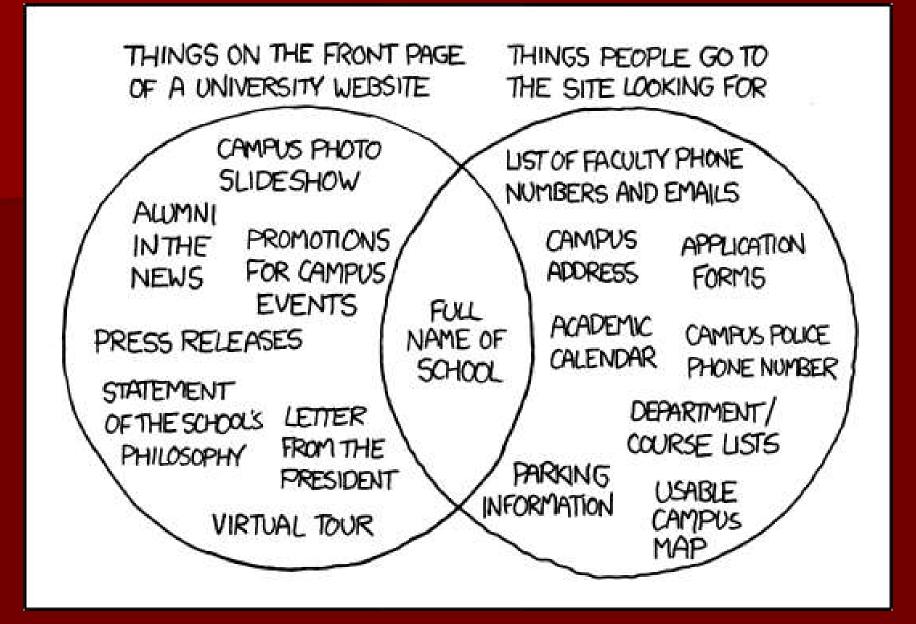
Style: Newspaper front page



Reading web pages: F pattern



What are your readers looking for?

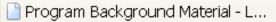


Source: www.xkcd.com/773
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- What are your readers looking for?
- Make important things highly visible















http://www.lwv-midland.org/Program_resources.html





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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE MIDLAND AREA



Financing Public Education

ackground Material

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PROGRAM RESOURCES

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DONATE TO US

CONTACT US

Papers and links for resources related to current progra

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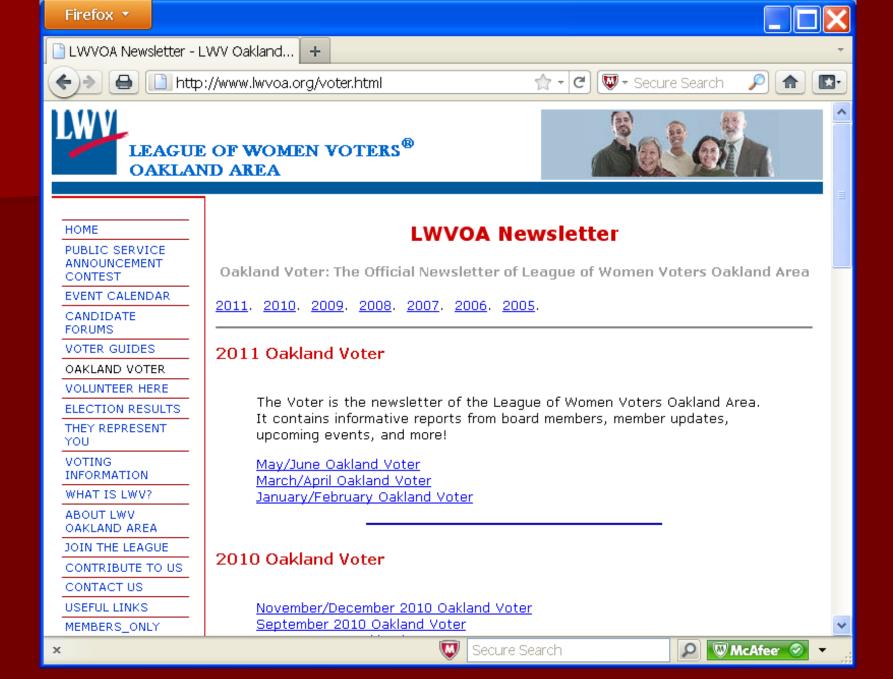
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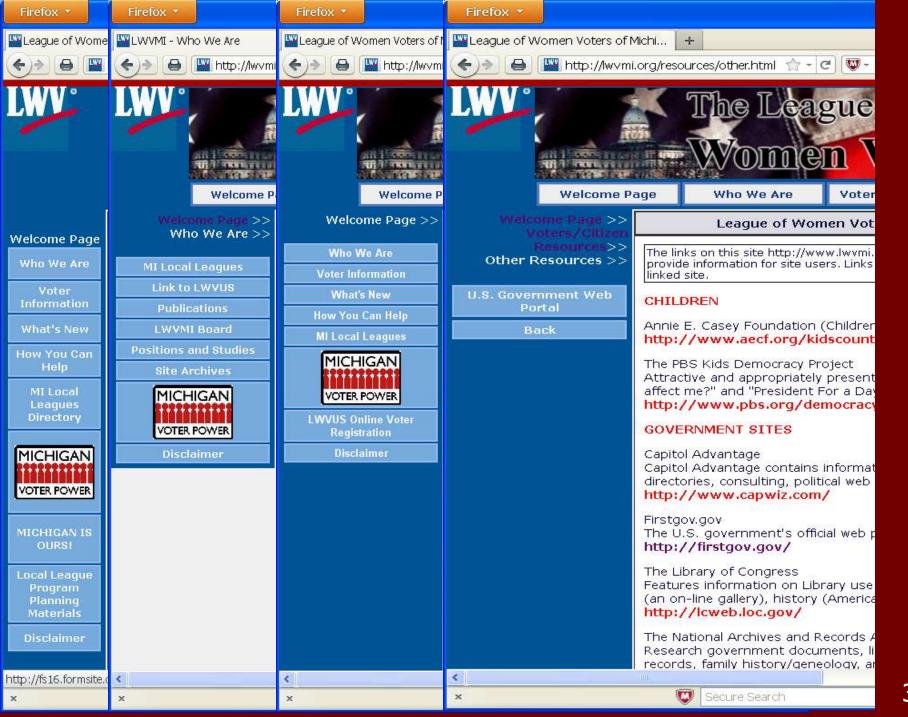




- What are your readers looking for?
- Make important things highly visible
- Balance "number of links" against "number of clicks"



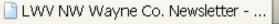
- What are your readers looking for?
- Make important things highly visible
- Balance "number of links" against "number of clicks"
- Consistent set of links on every page



- What are your readers looking for?
- Make important things highly visible
- Balance "number of links" against "number of clicks"
- Consistent set of links on every page
- Reverse chronological order for newsletters























LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY



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THEY REPRESENT YOU

NEWSLETTER

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

ABOUT LWV

JOIN LWV

FORM:

DONATE TO US

CONTACT US

LWV NW Wayne Co. Newsletter

The official newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County.

The Voter is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County. It contains information about upcoming every, member updates and current advocacy issues.

April, 2011 Voter

March, 2011 Voter

January, 2011 Voter

November, 2010 Voter

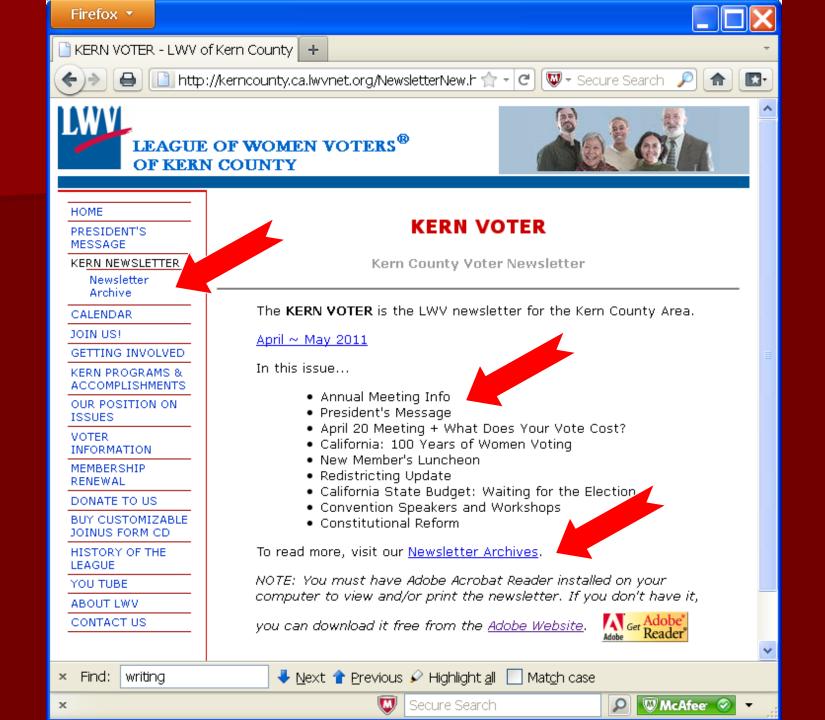
August, 2010 Voter

Comments, suggestions, questions? Contact our <u>webmaster</u>. Last revised: April 24, 2011 15:03 PDT.

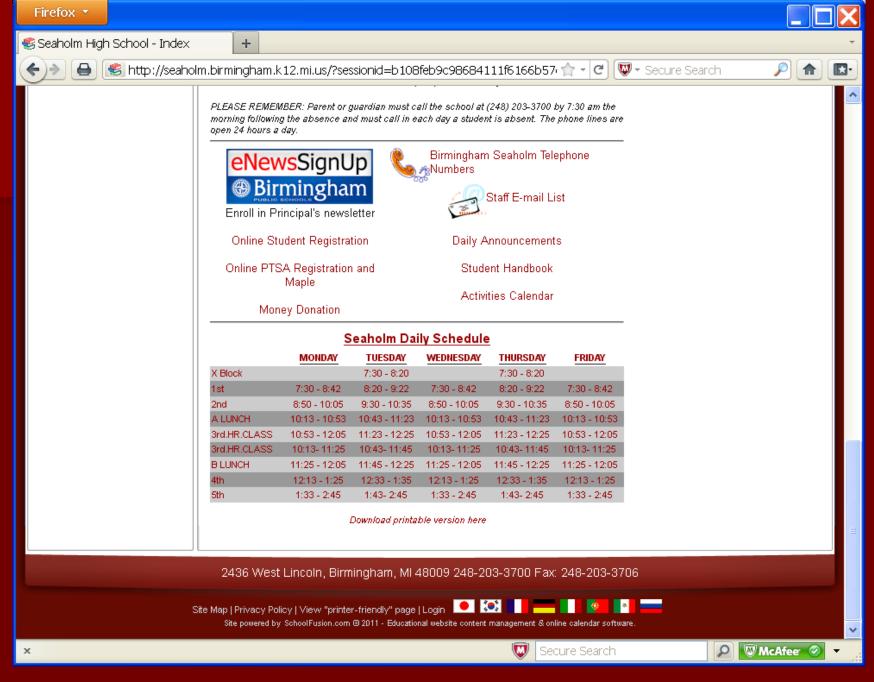
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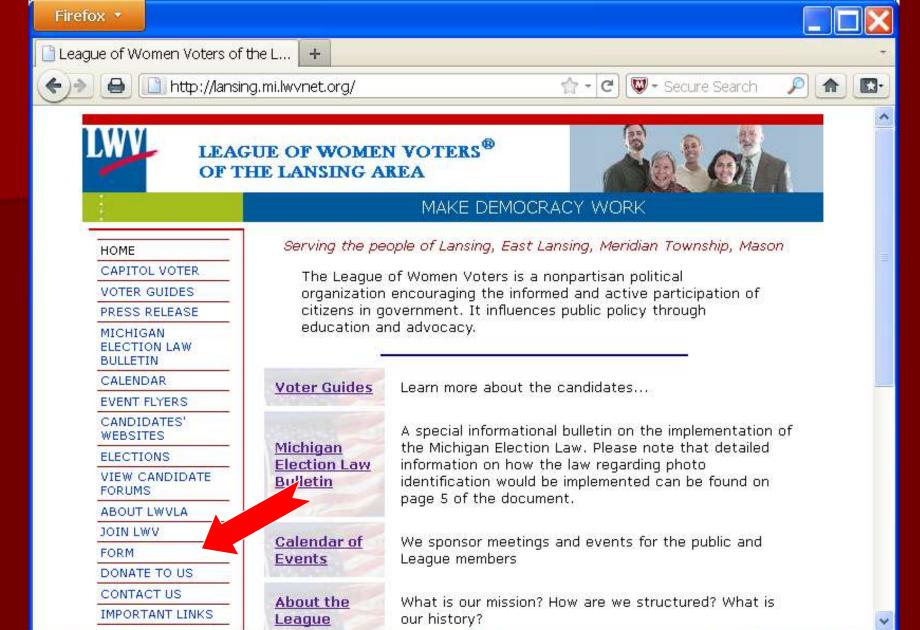


- What are your readers looking for?
- Make important things highly visible
- Balance "number of links" against "number of clicks"
- Consistent set of links on every page
- Reverse chronological order
- Don't put it all on the home page



Organization / navigation

- What are your readers looking for?
- Make important things highly visible
- Balance "number of links" against "number of clicks"
- Consistent set of links on every page
- Reverse chronological order
- Don't put it all on the home page
- "Join" & "Donate" on home page, but not a major focus



Secure Search





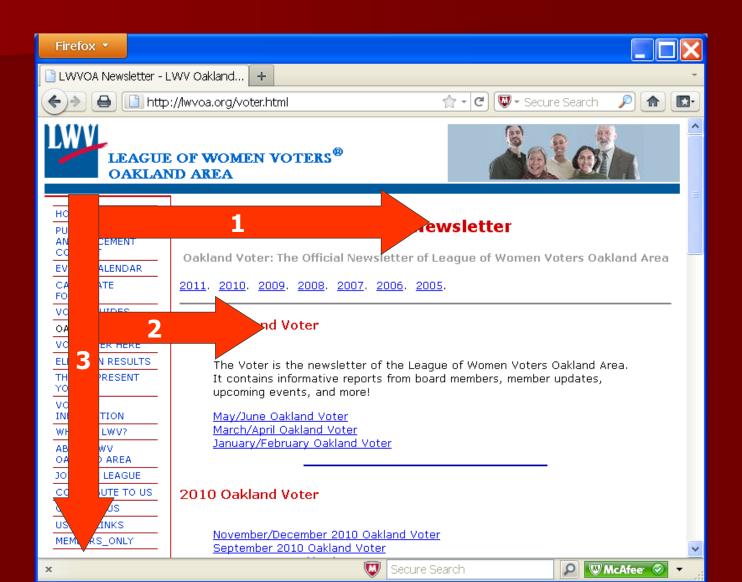


How users read on the web

They don't!

- They **scan** the page.
 - They pick out individual words and phrases.
 - Higher-literacy readers do more scanning and less reading.
 - Only 16% of readers actually read web pages word-by-word.

Scanning web pages: F pattern



- Short simple sentences, paragraphs, pages
- Key words at start of sentence
 - Sentence fragments OK in lists
- One idea per paragraph
- Inverted pyramid
 - 1. Conclusion
 - 2. Most important supporting information
 - 3. Background

- Very concise introductory paragraph
 - What is on the page
 - Why should the reader care
- Lots of meaningful sub-headings
 - Not "clever" ones
 - Use color, bold, or different font
- Bulleted lists, especially for links
- Highlight keywords in text with care

- Most people come to your website via a search – looking for something very specific – often in a hurry
- Each page should stand alone
 - Short, descriptive page title
 - Name, address, phone for League
 - Copyright or "last updated" date

- Keep it visually simple
 - Not too many different fonts or graphics
 - Not too much use of bold or italics or color
 - Lots of empty space improves appeal
- Use photos
- Spelling and grammar matter!
- Don't underline for emphasis implies a link
- Avoid League jargon

For search engines (Google, etc.)

- Most people come to your website via a search
- Descriptive title and sub-headers on pages
- Talk about the content of the page in several ways both League jargon and common terms (Voter Guides, candidate information, etc.)

Copyrights

- Process to assure we honor them
- Applies to
 - Text
 - Graphics (photos, drawings, cartoons, etc.)
 - Audio
 - Video

Education Fund

- Separate Education Fund pages from the other pages (especially action).
- Do not put action items on a page about voters service.
- Do not link to an action page from a voters service page.

Acquire domain name

- Purchase domain name
 - www.aitdomains.com: \$11/year
 - May want to purchase both .org and .com
 - Give many different people as contacts
 - Remember to pay for it again next year!
- Use the domain name for League email
 - Yes: president@lwvoa.org
 - No: SallySmith@yahoo.com

Advertise website

- Include domain name everywhere you put your address or phone number
 - Newsletters, stationary, business cards
 - Newspaper ads, signs
 - Voter guides

– ...

■ Include a short "Did you know that our website ..." in every newsletter

Maintain the site!

- This is the hardest part of the job!!
- Development is fun –maintenance is boring.
- But this is where the payoff lies!

May 10, 2011 ...

Current Initiatives

Our 2010 *Program Planning* day is around the corner. This is where members are able to shape and prioritize the <u>organization's work</u> for the prospective year.

Learn more about the many different ways you can get involved in 2009. Opportunities

To serve the information needs of our community we operate a voter information hotline before every election. Some common questions and easy sources of answers

Maintain the site!

- One section of the website being out of date impacts the credibility of the rest of the site.
- Better a small up-to-date website than an ambitious out-of-date website.
- Start small and expand as you have more resources.

Determine updating process

- What is updated ...
 - Weekly (hopefully very little!)
 - Monthly
 - Seasonally
 - Annually
- Transferring info from "content owners" to "web page editors"
- What will be archived and what deleted?

Maintain the site!

- Put volatile information in one place
 - Link to it from elsewhere on the site
 - Then only need to update it on one page when it changes
- Link to information instead of duplicating it on your website

Maintain the site!

- Update home page often most visible
- Complete check of all pages
 - August: fall programs
 - January: spring programs & copyright date
 - May: summer programs
- Tickler file
 - Before posting page, add it to tickler file

Tickler file

2011

- 5/7 asked Bev for newsletter
- 5/8 asked Kalena for meeting dates
- 5/25 special/readrod.htm
- -6/15 weekday/arbon.htm
- 8/15 verify site up-to-date for fall programs

2013

-1/15 pay for domain name

Website & social media policies

- Advertising on web pages, online newsletter, online Voter Guides, ...
- Personal information phone, email, address, ...
- Approving content of website
- Responding to social media comments
- ...

The role of the Board

- The website belongs to the whole Board
- Review the website at a Board meeting
 - Have everyone study website before meeting
 - What is missing?
 - What needs updating?
 - Who is the content owner for each section?
 - How to get info to webmaster in a timely way
 - Set website and social media policies

That's overwhelming!



How do we start?

First things first

- Bring website up to date
 - Out-of-date information:
 Update it, archive it, or remove it!
 - Fix any broken links
 - Fix copyright date once page is up-to-date
- Update home page
 - Your most important page!
 - Include only most important links and text
 - Be sure it is compelling add photos

Next

- Improve navigation links (table of contents)
 - Logical for non-League reader
 - Not too many links, and not too few
- Develop schedule for updating website
- Purchase domain name

Longer-term

- Rewrite pages for reading on the web
- Add missing content to website
- Develop website and social media policies





- Using Facebook is no more dangerous than using email, online shopping, or online banking
- There are precautions you should take if you ever go online

Set up your computer to protect you...

- Keep your Windows software up-to-date
- Keep your anti-virus software up-to-date
- Run a complete virus scan at least weekly
- Keep your firewall turned on

Passwords...

- Use strong passwords
 - Iaat2011Lc
 - "I am attending the 2011 League convention"
- Use a different password for each account

Be vigilant for scams...

- Watch for "phishing" (fishing) emails
 - Look at my photos
 - Log in to bank account to update information

Never give id, password, or other private information in response to an email.

Use web browser instead to go to the correct website.

Social Media

Social media — what is it?

The use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue.

Social media — why?

- That's where your audience is today!
- In 2009, users spent nearly 3 times as long on social networks as email each day.
- Fastest growing group using social media is people over 45.
- 1 in 4 people over age 65 are now part of a social networking site.

Social media — why?

- People feel a stronger connection to groups they interact with via social media.
- More info about these later
 - Fast dissemination of information
 - -Sharing information with friends
 - Push vs. pull of information
 - Potential for dialogue

Facebook

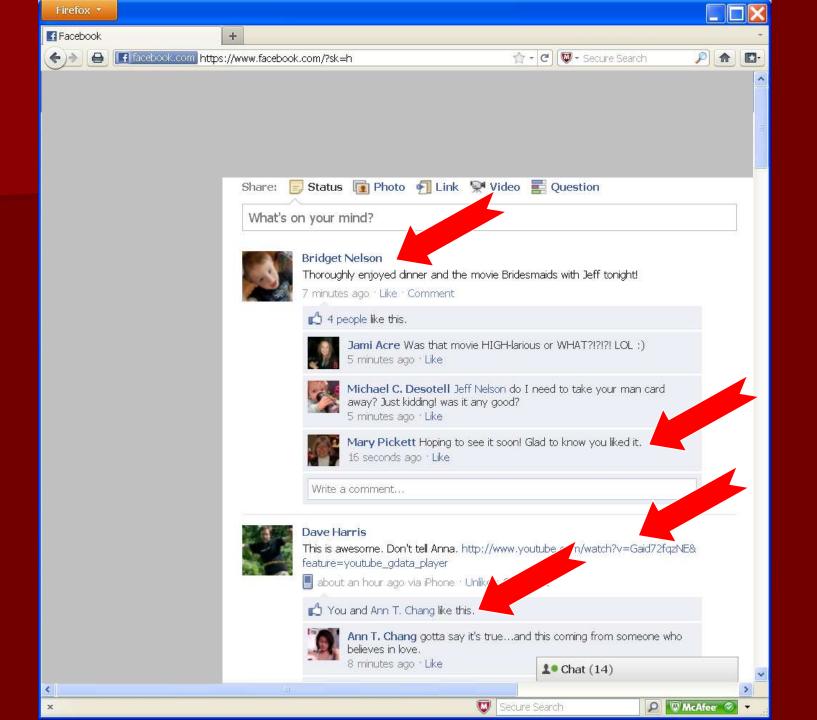
Individuals on Facebook

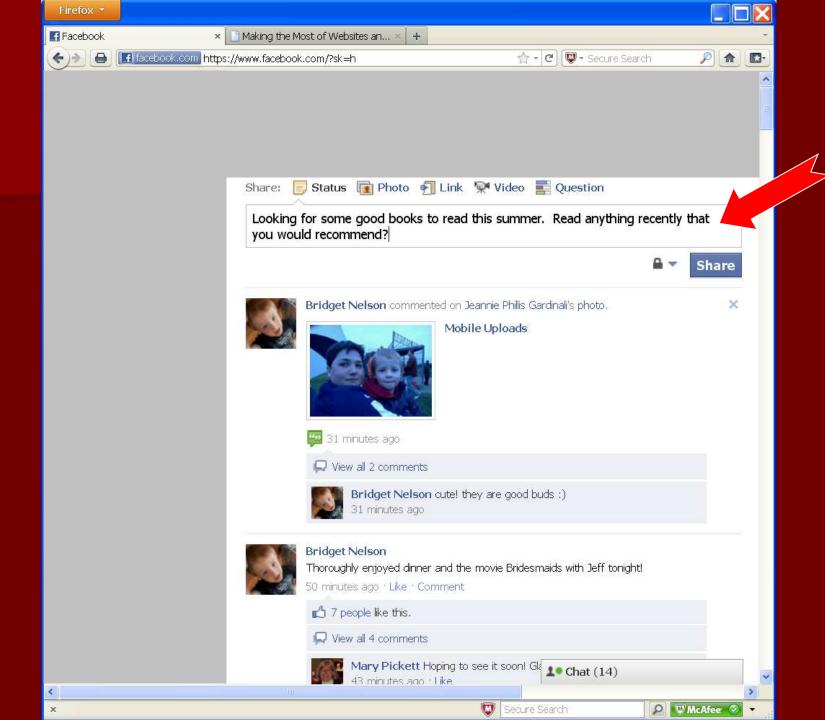
- Create an account a "profile"
- Establish Facebook relationships "friends"
 - Being a "friend" is a mutual relationship
- Post message a "status"
- All friends see the status
 - Friends can post short response "comment"
 - Everyone who saw the status sees the comments and can then comment in turn
 - Friends can "share" the status with their friends

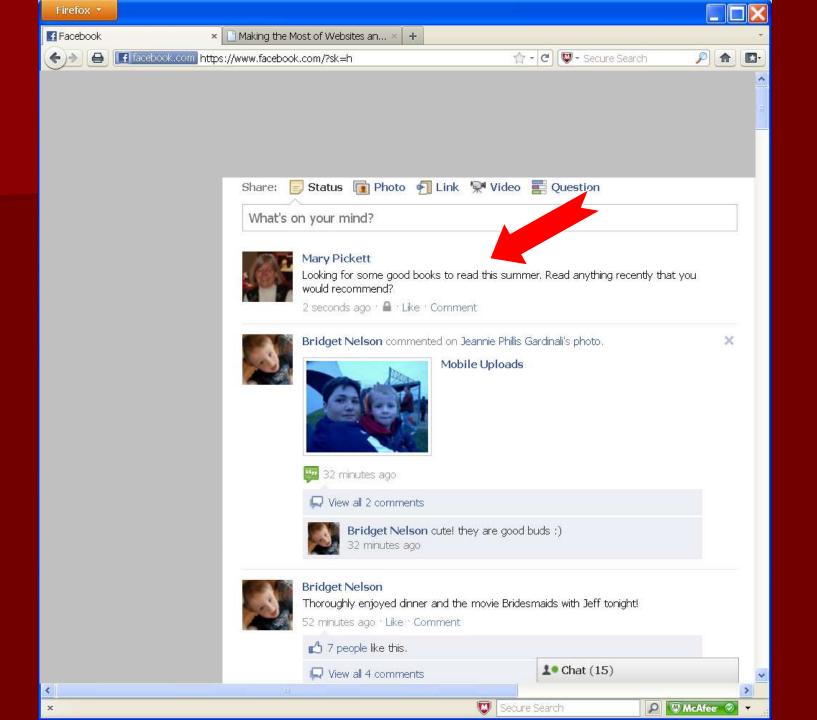
Posting a status

Status may contain

- Text
- Photo
- Video
- Link to any web page (article, blog post, recipe, ...)









Organizations on Facebook

- Create an account a "page"
- Establish Facebook relationships "fans"
 - Being a "fan" is not a mutual relationship
- Post message a "status"
- All fans see the status
 - Fans can post short response "comment"
 - Everyone who saw the status sees the comments and can then comment in turn
 - Fans can "share" the status with their friends

Interacting with fans

- Organization or fans can initiate discussion
 - Page owner can delete comments or entire discussions
- Post 1-2 times each week
- Important to respond quickly to comments by fans





Website vs. Facebook

Website

- One-way communication
- User must go to website to get new information
- Information remains on website long-term

Facebook

- Encourages discussion
- Fans automatically get new information as soon as it's posted
- Information is ephemeral once pushed off first page, fans rarely go back to see it

Email vs. Facebook

- Young people don't do much email.
- Takes less commitment to become a Facebook fan than it does to give the organization your email address.

Getting started

- Start with individual account
- Experiment with finding friends, posting status, commenting on friends' posts
- Set privacy for personal account to "friends only" – then only "friends" can see your information, posts, etc.

Getting started

- Then create page for your local League
- Choose id carefully
 - US Department of Education US Ed Gov became "usedgov"
- Use LWV logo
 - Critical for fans identifying your message in the mass of messages

Getting started

- Let the world see and comment on organization's page
- Set option to get email when anyone posts a status or comments on your status
- Post 1-2 times each week

Getting noticed

- Ask people to become fans of League page
- Ask fans to share your posts with their friends
- Ask fans to post on League page or comment on your posts
- Post links, photos, and videos
- Link from website to Facebook page

What to post on Facebook?

- Upcoming events and news
 - Elections
 - Candidate forums
- Link to new posts on website or blog
 - Voter Guides
 - Candidate forum videos
 - Newsletters

What to post on Facebook?

- Snippets of information about current issues
- Links to thoughtful articles about current issues
- Requests for action volunteer, contact elected official
- Encourage dialogue ask questions

Twitter

Who tweets?

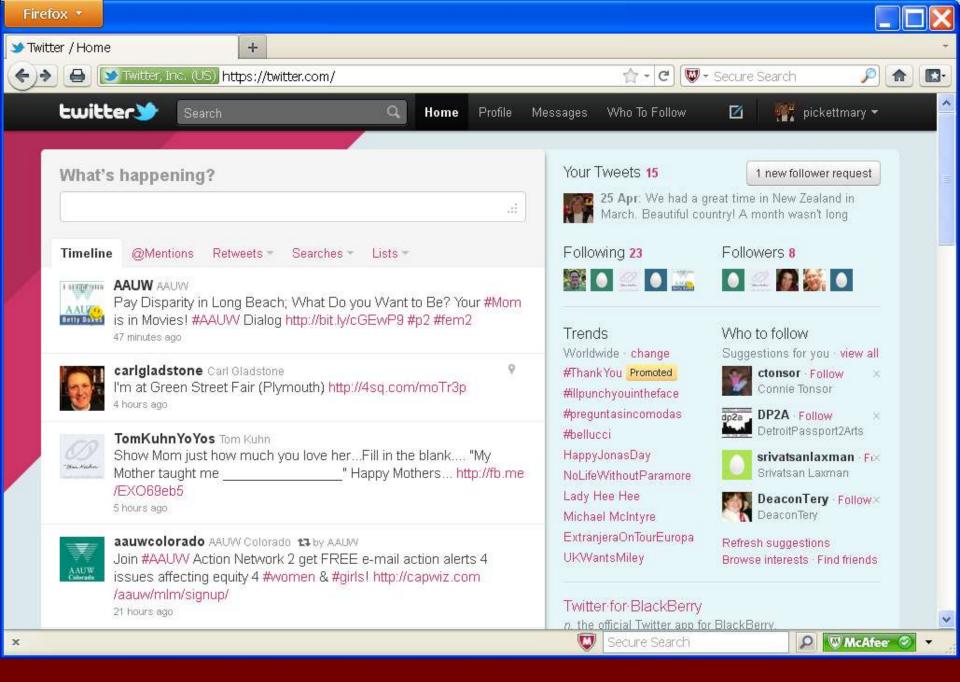
- Smaller number of users than Facebook
- Higher than average usage by
 - Adults aged 18-29
 - African-Americans and Latinos
 - Urbanites
 - Women
 - College-educated

Organizations on Twitter

- Create an account
- Establish Twitter relationships "followers"
 - Being a "follower" is not a mutual relationship
- Post message "tweet"
 - Maximum of 140 characters
- All followers see the tweet
 - Followers can reply
 - Followers can "retweet" to share it

Tweets

- Abbreviations
 - C U soon.
 - <3 means "love"</p>
 - LOL means "laugh out loud"
- Shortened website links
- Hashtag: #lwv
- Mention: @lwv

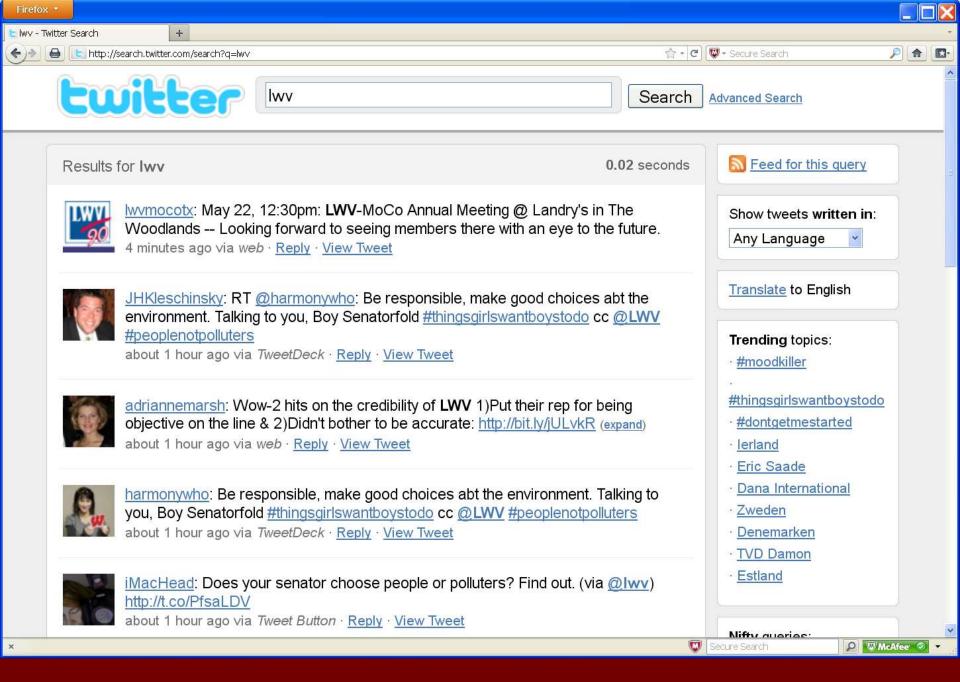




What are they saying about LWV?



search.twitter.com



Mobility: Twitter on a iPhone



Why also Twitter?

- Hit people who aren't on Facebook
- Disseminate information very quickly
- May be less useful for LWV than Facebook
 - But hits good demographics for LWV

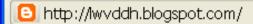
What to post on Twitter

- Things you would post on Facebook
- Fast-breaking news

Blogs









Q

Share Report Abuse Next Blog»

Create Blog Sign In



LWV of Dearborn and Dearborn Hts

120 N Military Dearborn, MI 48124

Phone: (313) 278-6476 www.lwvddh.org

Navigate

LWVDDH Home Page
Donate to LWVDDH
Become a Member
LWVDDH Facebook
Calendar of Events
LWVDDH Newsletter

Labels

voters (23)
lwvddh action (19)
environment (15)
dearborn (14)
green (14)
dearborn heights (10)
climate change (6)
election (5)

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

Clean Air in Jeopardy by Kathy Gapa

Even though the LWVUS started supporting all laws concerning the environment in the 1920's-the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act. Through the years assaults have occurred to undermine these laws.

In April 2011, an assault was attempted to gut the Environmental Protection Agency, including the Clean Air Act. Local and state Leagues and the national LWV honored Earth Day (April 22) as a day of action, engaging our communities to help safeguard the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to establish the urgently needed protections called for by the Clean Air Act.

In a recent statement, League President Elizabeth MacNamara strongly voiced the League's concern about protecting Clean Air. Earlier, the League and







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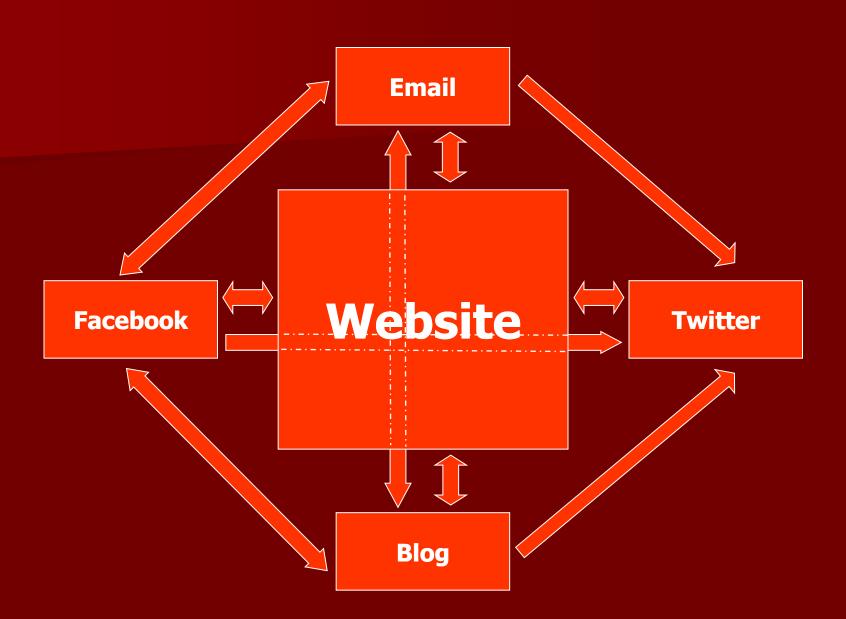


Why also a blog?

- Easier than website to create and update
- Provide content for Facebook and Twitter
- Best opportunity for thoughtful dialogue

- Types of posts
 - How to …
 - Thoughtful analysis
 - Light-hearted note
 - Start a fire

Integrating Your Online Presence



Websites

- Audience: general public people looking for information but not joining a group
- Privacy: information anyone can see
- Permanence: until explicitly removed
- Organization: by subject
- Communication: 1 way

Facebook

- Audience: general public people willing to sign up for updates
- Privacy: information anyone can see
- Permanence: short-term
- Organization: reverse chronological order
- Communication: 2 way short comments

Twitter

- Audience: general public people willing to sign up for updates
- Privacy: information anyone can see
- Permanence: short-term
- Organization: reverse chronological order
- Communication: 2 way fast short comments

Blog

- Audience: general public people looking for information but not joining a group
- Privacy: information anyone can see
- Permanence: until explicitly removed
- Organization: reverse chronological order and keywords
- Communication: 2 way longer comments

Email

- Audience: people willing to give you their email address
- Privacy: information anyone can see
- Permanence: until recipient deletes it
- Organization: recipient decides (date, subject, sender, etc)
- Communication: 2 way longer comments

References handout

- "How to" information
- Other useful tools
 - YouTube
 - Picasa
 - PayPal

— ...

Thanks!

- LWV of Michigan 2011 Convention
- Carol Watts and League Easy Web
- LWV
- AAUW
- Pew Internet & American Life Project
- Jacob Nielsen
- Mickey Mellon
- Dan Zarrella and Rick Burnes

Questions?

Today

In the future

pickett.mary@gmail.com