

League Links

October 2024

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LWVUS Visit to Michigan

We were honored that LWVUS CEO, Celina Stewart and Chief Communications Officer, Sarah Courtney came to visit us in Michigan in early October. At a hybrid event

held in Plymouth, members from 11 Leagues were there, and almost all other Leagues had members joining via Zoom. Celina gave [an inspiring address](#) to our Michigan Leagues, especially thanking all the members who had been working on voter guides, candidate forums, voter registration drives and all things voter service. We hosted a dinner for League leaders and members in the evening, and then Celina and Sarah joined us in Lansing for an in-person board meeting the next day. A lot was packed in to their 24-hour visit, and we were continually proud to talk about all of the work YOU are doing to

educate Michigan voters and protect our democracy.

We're only weeks away from the election, but we know that county certification is a critical piece of the League's work. Our Board of Canvassers observation program is recognized nationally by pro-democracy groups, and we've had numerous contacts from groups wishing to duplicate our program or to help in counties where there is no League. The BOC SignUp Genius link will be available on or before October 25th. Watch for a special League Links "In-Between" in a few days which will provide all the details you need to participate. We're counting on you!

We want to extend special thanks to two groups of LWV members: The statewide VOTE411/Voter Guide team did an amazing job with their work and met all the tight deadlines to publish/go live before the first absentee ballots went out. We are grateful to Carolyn Vertin and Jane Poczatek who handled VOTE411, and to Sara Weertz who produced the 40-page print voter guide. And thank you to Judy Florian who oversaw both projects with patience and commitment.

The team of observers who have watched every single meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission since their beginning in 2020 are: Sue Smith (Chair), Fran Wallace, Cathy Brockington, Denise Hartsough, Judy Karandjeff, Donna Hornberger, Margaret Leary and David Allen. No doubt, you have seen articles from Sue Smith in the majority of the newsletters from the past 4 years keeping us all informed about redistricting in Michigan. Thank you to this team for your consistent work!

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough
LWVMI Co-Presidents

Voter Service Updates

Local League Supplemental Guide Grant Funding

For those local Leagues who produce a supplemental guide for the November election, a maximum of \$1,000 is available to assist with your expenses. To receive reimbursement, you must do the following:

- Complete the Local League Supplemental Voter Guide Survey, available at this [link](#).
- Complete the LWVMI Expense Voucher, available at this [link](#)
- Submit receipt(s) with expense voucher to Judy Florian at jflo@comcast.net.

Please do not submit to the LWVMI office.

The deadline to submit the above forms is November 15, 2024.

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Postcard Reimbursements

For those local Leagues who participated in the GOTV postcard project, don't forget to submit your receipts and expense voucher to Judy Florian at jflo@comcast.net. **Please do not send to the LWVMI office.** The maximum reimbursement amount is \$1,000 for printing and postage. The

reimbursement form can be found on the LWVMI website at this [link](#). **The deadline for reimbursement is November 15, 2024.**

Secure and Accurate Elections

Promote the Vote (PTV) has created a Secure and Accurate Elections page on their website: [Michiganvoting.org](https://michiganvoting.org). This page highlights Michigan's election system, which has many checks and balances to ensure the results accurately reflect the will of the voters. However, most Michigan voters aren't fully aware of what goes on behind the scenes to ensure that only eligible voters are registered and cast a ballot—and that the votes on each ballot are recorded accurately.

The website includes the following information and goes into further detail on each topic:

- **Secure and accurate voter rolls.** Before a voter is registered, election officials verify their eligibility, their identity, and their residency. And election officials work year-round to ensure that Michigan's voter rolls remain accurate.
- **Secure and accurate voting.** Before a voter is issued a ballot, election officials verify their identity and ensure that they have not already voted. They also ensure that drop boxes are secure and that chain of custody for ballots returned via drop box is meticulously maintained. And before an absentee ballot is counted, election officials once again verify the voter's identity.
- **Secure and accurate counting.** Michigan's elections use paper ballots and secure, tested optical scan machines.
- **Secure and accurate results.** County and state boards of canvassers review records and certify the results. And post-election audits further confirm the accuracy of those results.

I strongly encourage you to share this information with those in your communities and put the link on your websites. Getting the word out about our secure and fair elections is critical, especially during these times of disinformation. You can access the page at this [link](#).

Important Election Information

Monday, October 21 is the last day to register to vote, or to update your registration, [online](#) or [by mail](#) for the November 5 General Election. Starting Tuesday, October 22 (through 8 p.m. on Election Day), you can only register to vote by visiting your city or township clerk's office, completing a registration application, and providing proof of residency.

Proof of residency is a document with both your name and the address where you currently live. You can use any of the following:

- A Michigan driver's license or state ID card
- A utility bill
- A bank statement
- A paycheck
- A government check
- Any other government document

For most voters, Tuesday, October 22 is the last day your absentee ballot should be mailed. Starting Wednesday, October 23, it is recommended you return your ballot in person to your [city or township clerk's office](#) or satellite

office, or to a secure drop box in your city or township to ensure your clerk receives your ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day (November 5). You can find the drop box(es) in your city or township by going to mi.gov/vote and clicking on "Your Voter Information."

Remember: the absentee ballot deadlines are different for voters who are serving in the military or living overseas—their ballots must be postmarked by Election Day (November 5) and received within 6 days of Election Day (November 12th–November 11th is a holiday) in order to be counted.

November 2024 Presidential Election

Last Day To Register To Vote Online Or By Mail

Monday, October 21, 2024

From October 22 through 8pm on Election Day, November 5, you must register to vote at your city or township clerk's office or satellite office with proof of residency.

Learn more at MichiganVoting.org

November 5 General Election

Reminder!

Mail your absentee ballot by Tuesday, October 22!*

Starting October 23, drop your ballot off at your local clerk's office, satellite office, or in a drop box provided by your clerk.

*Military and Overseas Voters: your ballot must be postmarked by November 5 and received by November 11 in order to count.

MichiganVoting.org

WHAT IS PROOF OF RESIDENCY?

Proof of residency is a document with your name and current address. You can use any of the following:

- a Michigan driver's license or state ID card
- a utility bill
- a bank statement
- a paycheck
- a government check
- any other government document

Learn more at MichiganVoting.org

Early Voting Begins Soon

The Michigan Constitution now allows at least 9 days of early voting in Michigan. For most jurisdictions, this period begins on Saturday, October 26 and ends on Sunday, November 3. In Detroit, early voting began Saturday October 19. There are also other areas that offer early voting beyond the 9 days. Early voting is an excellent way for voters to cast their ballots before Election Day. We encourage voters to use this flexible option to vote based on what works with their schedules. We hope you will promote early voting in your communities. The location of early voting sites is available on Michigan.gov/vote or from local clerks.

November 5th General Election Worker Survey

Don't forget to complete our Election Worker Survey if you plan to serve as a poll worker/election inspector, poll watcher or poll challenger. This provides valuable data for our grant reporting. You can access the survey at this [link](#).

Voter Service Network Meeting

The next scheduled meeting for the Voter Service Network is Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. The registration link is [here](#). After registering, you will receive confirmation on how to join the meeting.

We're entering the home stretch to Election Day. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for all you do!!

Judy Florian
VP for Voter Service
jflo@comcast.net

Advocacy Update

STATEWIDE ADVOCACY ZOOM: The Advocacy Committee will host a statewide advocacy committee Zoom meeting to highlight

the legislation that LWVMI hopes to move during the lame duck session. All members are invited to attend the meeting on **Wednesday, November 13, at 7 p.m.** Click [HERE](#) to sign up. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



LEGISLATION: The committee voted to recommend support for House Bills 5957 and 5958, a bipartisan plan proposing to amend Michigan's Clean Slate expungement process to simplify the petition process and eliminate unnecessary delays. The bills are assigned to the House Committee on Criminal Justice. The committee also supported House Bills 5450 & 5451 that require schools to distribute information on gun safety assigned to the House Education Committee; and SB 857 that establishes in statute a gun ban in certain state buildings assigned to the House Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety.

At this time, neither the Michigan House of Representatives nor the Senate are considering any legislation that LWVMI is following.

Judy Karandjeff
LWVMI Vice President for Advocacy

Membership Leaders Network

Our Membership Leaders' Network meeting on **October 9th** focused on membership resources available on the LWVMI website. Additionally, we looked at the resources that are present on the LWV Only section of the website. In open discussion League members shared the frequency and methods for holding League membership meetings. If you did not receive a copy of the Network recording and would like one, contact MerriKay at moburkey30@gmail.com.

ChapterSpot Trainings will begin on November 11. Your League ChapterSpot contact has received a message about the trainings that will be offered to show how to implement and use ChapterSpot, the new membership platform that LWVUS will launch in the new year. You can access the training schedule and register for sessions at the [ChapterSpot Resources](#) page at lwv.org. Scroll down to League Leader Training. Read the descriptions of the training topics for each of five groups: Membership Chairs; Treasurers; Roster Managers; Webmasters; and Presidents. Not all Leagues use these "role" titles, but the training descriptors will let you know which session will offer information you want and need to know. There will be five training session for each group spread across two weeks in November and three weeks in December. Times of day and days of the week for the training sessions vary. Registration for a session of choice can be done by clicking on the group name. If none of the live training session can work, there will be recordings of a session from each group. The recordings will be available at the same ChapterSpot Resources location.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

Hotline is Active



[\(866\)-OUR-VOTE](tel:866-OUR-VOTE) is once again available for anyone in Michigan with a voting question. This phone line is staffed by volunteer election attorneys to answer questions about everything from early voting to the hours that polling places are open. They are also available to take calls from election protection workers who need to report issues at precincts, mis-information or illegal activity by bad actors. The hotline is also available in multiple languages:

English	866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
Spanish/English	888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)
Asian Languages/English	888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)
Arabic/English	844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)

Looking for Leaders

We need you and I know you're out there!

The Nominating Committee is looking for League members to help lead the state League for 2025-27. We need LWVMI Board members and members of the state Nominating Committee.

The Committee has asked local League Presidents and Leaders for names of possible nominees and now we are asking you.

This is an opportunity for you to suggest potential nominees to the Committee, including yourself.

Please complete the [2025-27 LWVMI Nomination Form](#), and email it to me, susanprakkensmith@comcast.net by Friday, January 17, 2025.

Thanks for your help!

Susan Smith
Chair, LWVMI Nominating Committee

League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting and Conference

Michigan is hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference which will be held in Manistee, Michigan, October 25-27, 2024.

Activities include educational sessions, catered lunch and annual meeting at West Shore Community College Riverfront Learning Center (Downtown Manistee and just a short walk or drive from the hotel), Private dinner at [The](#)

[Blue Fish Kitchen + Bar | Manistee MI](#) with guest speaker J. Carl Ganter, award winning photographer and co-founder of [Circle of Blue | Water Reporting, Data & Convening](#).

Optional fieldtrips: Friday afternoon guided Arcadia Marsh tour (3/4 mile fully accessible boardwalk) and Sunday Manistee Riverwalk.

Conference registration \$115, virtual option available, plus educational presentations will be recorded for rebroadcast. All Leagues that have paid dues for the **2024-25** fiscal year are eligible for one voting delegate to our annual meeting. For more information go to [League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region](#) website.

Annual dues are:

- **\$25 for Leagues with fewer than 50 members**
- **\$40 for Leagues with 50-100 members**
- **\$50 for Leagues with over 100 members, including state Leagues**

A block of rooms have been reserved for October 25 and 26, 2024, at the Hampton Inn, on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan, in Manistee, Michigan. To reserve a room at the discounted rate of \$180/night, plus tax, call the hotel directly at 231.299.1096, and press 0, letting them know that you are with the League of Women Voters (Code CHH-LWV) or use this link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mblmahx-hampton-suites-manistee-waterfront>, and enter Code CHH-LWV.



Know a Voter Who Needs a Ride?

The rideshare service Lyft is offering 50% discount up to \$10 on a ride to the polls on election day. The voter should use the code VOTE24. Additionally, LWVMI has been given 50 codes for **free** rides to the polls on election day. There are restrictions of course: the value of the free ride can't exceed \$25, and only one code can be used per voter. Disabled voters can use 2 codes. If you want any of the **free** codes, please contact [Paula Bowman](#).

Support LWVMI

LWVMI seeks your financial support to keep League operations strong in Michigan!

Just as local Leagues must fundraise to round out their budgets, so, too must LWVMI.

Donors readily support the LWVMI Education Fund, because gifts to 501c3 organizations are tax deductible to the donor. LWVMI, the operational organization of your State League, is a 501c4 nonprofit.

LWVMI nurtures the capacity of the extensive network of local Leagues and Units in our state. LWVMI assists with advocacy, membership recruitment and

retention, leadership development, finances, fundraising, insurance, nonprofit status, organizational development, and relations with LWVUS.

We work to keep local Leagues and Units strong so that you can carry out the League's mission to **Empower Voters and Defend Democracy**.

Please consider a gift to LWVMI this year! It's easy to make a one-time or recurring gift: <https://lwwmi.org/donate-support-the-league-and-our-mission/>

Thank you!
Denise Hartsough
LWVMI Co-President

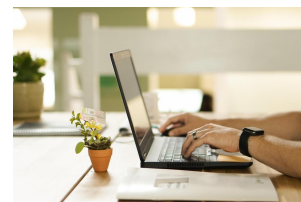
Flint Area Holds Mock Vote

At the Ruth Mott Foundation Applewood Fall Festival, the LWVFA conducted a mock election to help young people learn about the voting process. Visitors were issued a ballot and were asked to vote for their favorite fruit! The choices were apple, banana, cherry & strawberry. The ballots had a circle to fill in, the name of the fruit, and a picture for those little ones not yet able to read. The voters were then sent to a table where privacy booths were set up. After they marked their ballot (that indicated vote for only 1), they placed it in a ballot box and received an "I Voted Today" sticker. 600 total votes were received, and strawberry won the vote with 196 votes. There were 38 overvotes and 1 write in (mango)! The activity was well received by families and all the League volunteers had a great day!

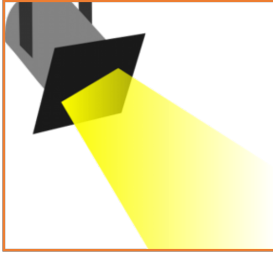


Last Chance to Respond to LWVMI Membership Survey

The LWVMI Membership Survey will close on October 31st. If you have not had an opportunity to complete it, please take 3-4 minutes to do it soon. Click [here](#) to complete the survey. Each of you is very important to this survey project!



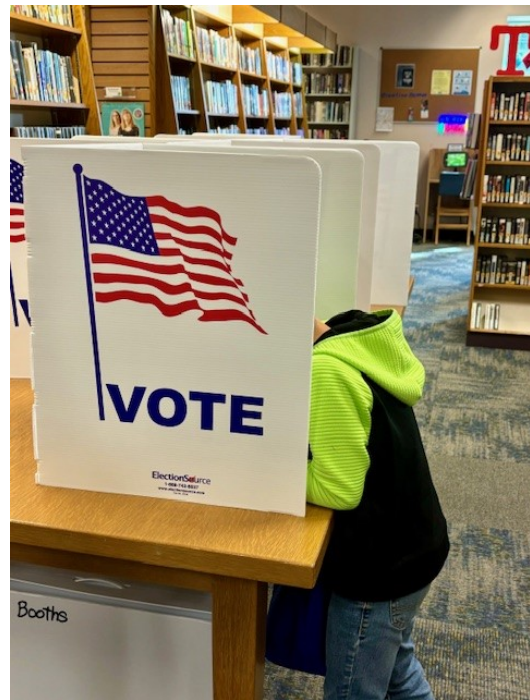
Local League Spotlights



LWV of Detroit partnered with the Detroit Public Library for a webinar on Michigan Environmental Policy on October 8th. The presenter was Ellen Vial of the Michigan Environmental Council who talked about how the November election results could shape environmental policy in Michigan for the next few years.

LWV of Greater Grand Rapids Area co-sponsored a program with The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum titled, "*Grand Rapids Champions Women's Rights: LWV, Betty Ford & the ERA.*" Dr. Liette Gidlow of Wayne State University explored the development of the LWV in Grand Rapids and First Lady Betty Ford's historic membership during the fight for the ERA.

LWV of Delta County partnered with the Friends of the Escanaba Public Library to add a voting component to the Friends' Annual Back-to-School Open House. Children under 12 years old voted on two items and those older than 12 voted on three items. The item from each age group with the most votes will be purchased by the Friends and added to the Children's Room and Teen Area at the library. League members assisted with the voting. The Delta City Clerk loaned the privacy voting partitions and application to vote forms.



Local Leagues

Berrien/Cass Counties

Copper Country (with Gogebic County Geographic Unit)

Dearborn/Dearborn Heights

Delta County

Detroit

Eastern UP MAL State Unit

Flint Area

Grand Haven Area

Greater Grand Rapids Area
Grand Traverse Area (with Crawford County Geographic Unit)
Grosse Pointe
Holland Area
Jackson Area
Kalamazoo Area (with Calhoun County Geographic Unit)
Lansing Area
Leelanau County
Lenawee County
Livingston County
Macomb County MAL State Unit
Manistee County
Marquette County
Midland Area
Mt. Pleasant
Northeast Michigan (formerly Alpena County)
Northern Lower Michigan
Northwest Wayne County
Oakland Area
Saginaw County
Troy
Washtenaw County

For more information go to www.lwvmi.org
or check out Facebook pages for state and local Leagues

LWVMI Leadership 2023-2024

Co-President: Paula Bowman (NW Wayne County)
Co-President: Denise Hartsough (Kalamazoo Area)
VP Voter Services: Judy Florian (Grosse Pointe)
VP Advocacy: Judy Karandjeff (Lansing Area)
VP Program: Maria Woloson (Oakland Area)
VP Membership: MerriKay Oleen-Burkey (Kalamazoo Area)
Secretary: Carla Barrows-Wiggins (Oakland Area)
Treasurer: Tom Wells (Grosse Pointe)

Directors

Voter Services: Carolyn Vertin (Lenawee County)
Advocacy: Connie Mitchell (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)
Membership/DEI: Shirley Madden (Manistee County)
Observer Corps: Lynne Kochmanski (Washtenaw County)
League Links: Courtney Winell (Greater Grand Rapids Area)
Director at Large: Charles Thomas Jr. (Detroit)

Calendar

October 2024

Voter Education Month

October 21: [Environmental Network Presentation](#) | 7:00 pm

October 22: [BOC Observer Leads Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm



October 24: United Nations Day

October 24: [Voter Services Network](#) | 7:00 pm

October 25-26: [LWV Lake Michigan Annual Meeting and Conference](#)

October 27: VOTE411's 18th Birthday

October 29: [Vote Early Day](#)

November 2024

November 5: Election Day!

November 6-19: Board of Canvassers Observation

November 9: LWVMI Board Meeting | 9:30 am

November 13: LWVMI Advocacy Update | 7:00 pm

November 14: Local and State Presidents Meeting | 7:00 pm

November 15: Grant Reimbursement Forms Due

November 20: [Observer Corps Network](#) | 3:00 pm

November 21: [BOC Observer Debrief](#) | 7:00 pm

All LWVMI meetings are posted on [LWV Only page](#) of our website with links added when available.

Connect with us!

League of Women Voters of Michigan

Phone: 517-484-5383

Email: office@lwvmi.org

Website: lwvmi.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvmichigan/>

Instagram: [#lwvmich](https://www.instagram.com/lwvmich)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LWVMichigan>

League of Women Voters of Michigan | 600 W. St. Joseph Street 3G | Lansing, MI 48933
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