



League Links

September 2026

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Co-Presidents' Message

We are officially in the homestretch for the November election!

All our work prior to this point is about to pay off. We are as prepared as we have ever been for an election. And we hope voters head to the polls in record numbers with all the information they need.

- The statewide ballot proposals are set with only two for voters to weigh in on. As we are sure you are all aware, the documentary proof of citizenship proposal did not have adequate signatures to make it on this November's ballot.
- Our statewide Election Protection Program Coalition is in place. It is one of the most robust programs in the history of Michigan elections and the largest in the nation.

- Candidate forums are scheduled in every community. LWVMI currently has scheduled forums for Michigan Supreme Court and Secretary of State. We are hoping for Attorney General as well.
- Local Leagues are giving presentations about the Ballot Proposals and Election Information.
- The print voter guide is at the printer and VOTE411 is live.
- The County Board of Canvassers Observation program is in full swing.
- GOTV postcards, text banking, tabling events, and voter registration are all underway.

You, the League in Michigan, are showing up and helping voters. While it is time of great anxiety around elections, it is also a time for celebration and acknowledgement for all that you as League members do to help us continue with the mission of engaging votes and preserving democracy.

Thank you all!

In League,

Lynne Kochmanski and Denise Hartsough
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Michigan

Voter Service Updates

LWVMI Print Voter Guide Update

We are working diligently to finalize the content for the 2026 Print Voter Guide. A total of 35 local Leagues (including GEO units) have ordered guides. Our total order, including copies for democracy partners, is over 126,000 guides.

A special thank-you to the local Leagues that will be delivering guides to libraries in their communities. Our current print schedule is September 25, with guides expected to be distributed to local Leagues soon thereafter. I will provide an update once the final printing and delivery dates are confirmed.

Text Banking Update

Phase 3 of our text banking began this week-the Fall Absentee Voter Chase-and will encompass three phases:

- Message 1 — 40 days before the election — A ballot alert to all new Permanent Absentee Voter list enrollees. Their ballot is on its way — this message ensures they know it is coming and what to do when it arrives.
- Message 2 — 9 days out, when Early Voting opens — An action-forward message to remaining non-voters. Early Voting is open today — here is how to cast your ballot right now.
- Message 3 — Day before the election — A final, urgent push to every voter who has not yet cast a ballot. Short, direct, and impossible to ignore.

Bob Chunn has contacted participating local Leagues with the messaging. If you haven't been contacted, please reach out to Bob directly at bob@wavemichigan.com. Thanks to all who are participating! Happy Texting!

Local League Guides

If you are publishing a local voter guide and requested VOTE411 information for your guide, you should have received this information from Anne Jackson, our

LWVMI VOTE411 Director. If you haven't, please contact Anne at vote411@lwvmi.org.

A reminder: LWVMI will reimburse Leagues up to \$2,000 for their local guides. All Leagues need to complete the Local League Voter Guide Grant Application for 2026 at this [link](#). In addition, you need to complete the Reimbursement Request form at this [link](#). The reimbursement form, plus receipts, **must be submitted by November 13, 2026** and sent to Judy Florian at voterservice@lwvmi.org.

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Postcard Campaign

Reminder: For those local Leagues participating in the GOTV Postcard Campaign, receipts and expense reports are **due November 13**. Payments will be made to Leagues after that date. You can find the reimbursement request form at this [link](#) under 2026 Get Out the Vote Postcard Campaign, Reimbursement Form. Please send the receipts and reimbursement form to Judy Florian at voterservice@lwvmi.org.



Election Challengers and Poll Watchers

There are many ways to get involved in the election process on Election Day! In Michigan, two ways to participate are as an election challenger or poll watcher. Below is a brief explanation of the differences between the two roles.

Be a Nonpartisan Challenger

Promote the Vote (PTV) certifies election challengers. PTV Fund's [pro-voter challengers](#) helps ensure eligible voters can vote by monitoring polling places and early voting sites, working with election workers, and reporting issues to an attorney-led rapid response team. PTV sends challengers to communities with a history of voter disenfranchisement, so you'll be on the ground where Michigan voters need you most. To apply to be an election challenger, sign up [here](#). You can contact Bailey Rechler, PTV, at bailey@promotethevotemi.com.

Poll Watchers

Poll watchers monitor the voting process at polling places, early voting sites, or absentee voter counting boards. Unlike poll challengers, poll watchers do not need to be registered voters in Michigan, and they are not officially credentialed. You must follow instructions from election inspectors, remain in designated public areas, and you do **not** have the right to challenge a voter's eligibility.

Save the Date-Board of Canvassers Observer Meeting

To prepare for our post-election observation after the November 3 election, we will conduct a virtual meeting of all BOC observers on **Monday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.** We will review the modules, specifically updates to Module #4 related to the Mobilize signup platform. We will also provide updates based on your feedback at the August debrief meeting. You can register for the October 12 meeting at this [link](#).



Presentation: Ballot Proposals and Election Information: What You Need to Know

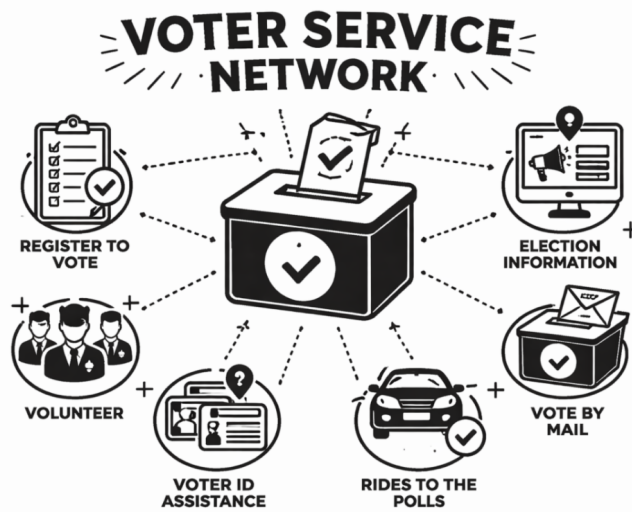
LWVMI has created a presentation covering the two ballot proposals, including information about the proposals, supporting and opposing organizations, and general election information. We encourage local Leagues to offer these presentations in their communities to help educate voters.

LWVMI is offering pass-through grants to local Leagues that give these presentations: \$300 for the first presentation and \$100 each for the second and third, for a total of up to \$500.

The presentation and accompanying materials—including the PowerPoint, script, handout, FAQs, and training video—are available on the LWVMI website at this [link](#). Also included here is a [link](#) to the September 9 training session. All presenters must review the training before taking this “show on the road”. Please direct any questions to me at voterservice@lwvmi.org.

Voter Service Network Meeting

Our next Voter Service Network meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24, at 7:00 p.m. You can register for the meeting at this [link](#). Once you register, you will receive instructions on how to join the meeting. Only those actively involved in Voter Service work in their local League can attend. An agenda will be sent out the week of September 21.



Judy Florian
VP for Voter Service
voterservice@lwvmi.org
313-402-6786

Unite and Rise 8.5

The *Unite & Rise 8.5 Playbook 6: Power Rising for Midterms* for August through October 2026 is now available. This is the final Playbook in the series.

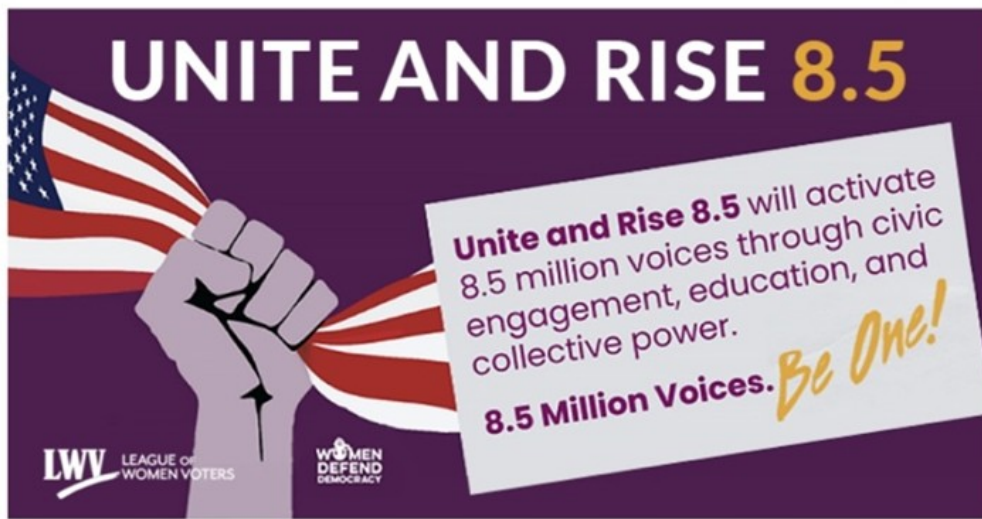
Link to the playbook: [Playbook 6](#)

LWV Community Field Call recording: [Zoom Recording](#) Passcode: *km56S@E

Highlights for local Leagues include the upcoming mobilization activities:

- Begin planning now for Civic Holidays in the fall by signing your local League up for:
 - National Voter Education Week: October 5-9
 - Election Hero Day: Thursday, October 20
 - Vote Early Day: Tuesday, October 27

Sign up information and partnership opportunities may be found at:
<https://civicholidays.org/>. Election Hero Day is sponsored by LWVUS.



LWVMI Advocacy Committee Report

September 2026 LWVMI Advocacy Actions

This month the LWVMI Board approved the following Advocacy Actions recommended by the LWVMI Advocacy Committee:

- LWVMI officially joins the Michiganders for Money Out of Politics coalition. Current coalition members: Clean Water Action, Detroit Action, Hip Hop Caucus Action Fund, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Michigan United Action, MOSES Action, and Voters Not Politicians.
- LWVMI supports HB 6274 and SB 1152 the Michigan Medicaid Buy In Program which would allow Michiganders earning between 133%-200% of the poverty level to access health benefits at a lower premium through the Affordable Care Act Insurance Marketplace.
- LWVMI supports HB6318 which would prohibit discrimination in voting on the basis of sex. This bill would help protect transgender people.
- LWVMI approves sending a letter to Governor Whitmer and Quentin Messer, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the president and chair of the Strategic Fund opposing the Strategic Fund \$50 million dollar funding of the Copperwood Mine.

Advocacy on Statewide Ballot Proposals

There will be two Ballot Proposals on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, General Election.

- LWVMI opposes Proposal 2026-1, a proposal to convene a constitutional convention. The Ballot Question Committee working to oppose Proposal 2026-1 is Protect MI Constitution from Special Interests
- LWVMI supports Proposal 2026-2, a proposal to prohibit campaign contributions from regulated utilities and certain government contractors. The Ballot Question Committee working to support Proposal 2026-2 is Michiganders for Money Out of Politics.

Earlier this month the Advocacy Committee hosted two meetings about the Ballot Proposals so League members as individuals would know how they can work with the ballot question committees to oppose Proposal 2026-1 and support Proposal 2026-2.

September 10 - Proposal 1: Should Michigan Convene a Constitutional Convention?

- You can view the recording [here](#).
- Our speaker was Jeff Timmer, Senior Advisor with the Ballot Question Committee Protect MI Constitution from Special Interests.
- For individual League Members, to help with opposing Proposal 1 please contact Jeff Timmer at jeff@tworiverspublicaffairs.com.

September 14, 2026 - Proposal 2: Michigan Utility and Government Contractor Campaign Finance Regulations Initiative.

- Our speaker was Courtney Otto, Campaign Manager with the Michiganders for Money Out of Politics Ballot Question Committee.
- You can view the recording [here](#).
- For individual League Members, to help support MMOP please contact Courtney Otto: courtney@mopupmichigan.org
- Resources from MMOP:
 - [General Election Volunteer Toolkit](#): An overview of campaign resources, upcoming opportunities, digital materials, and ways volunteers can get involved.
 - [Proposal 2 Messaging 101](#): An overview of Proposal 2, including the campaign's core messaging and talking points.
 - [House Party Toolkit](#): Resources for anyone interested in bringing together friends, neighbors, or community members for a conversation about Proposal 2.

Ballot Question Committees

Since LWVMI has not formed its own ballot question committee, all advocacy presentations or work with the public must be through the Protect MI Constitution or Michiganders for Money Out of Politics ballot questions committees.

In-kind expenses and contributions such as copies (but not volunteer work) must be reported to these groups. Forms for reporting in-kind expenses and the disclaimer to put on all printed material and social media posts are available from your local League President.

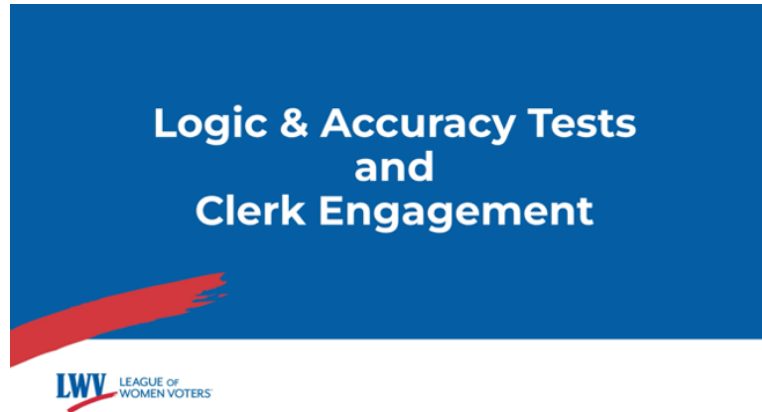
For more information, please contact LWVMI Advocacy at advocacy@LWVMI.org.

Sandra Sorini Elser
LWVMI VP for Advocacy
advocacy@lwvmi.org

Public Logic and Accuracy Tests

Has your League been considering engaging in observing public logic and accuracy tests ahead of the November election? Every clerk in Michigan is required to do a public test of election equipment before every election. This test, while open to the public, is rarely attended. It is a great opportunity to engage in a positive way with clerks as both League members and a member of the public. We

encourage you to continue with this engagement, expand it as you can, or begin observing if you haven't in the past. We have new training materials posted in our LWV Only section of our lwvmi.org website. Scroll down to Public Accuracy Tests of Voting Equipment for resources.



Observer Corps Fall 2026

I would like to address the fact that there are two types of observers working in the Michigan League at the moment. Many local leagues have an Observer Corps that records what happens at local civic meetings (such as the meetings of school, library, township, and county boards) all year. These observers are part of a state-wide group that meets quarterly to discuss the issues they face and to share best practices. The next meeting of that group will be held on December 16, 2026, at 3 pm via Zoom. Anyone wishing to attend that meeting should email me at directorpawlak@lwvmi.org and I will send you the link a few days in advance of the meeting.

The second type of observers that are working now are people who will observe the board of canvassers at their local county clerk's office when they meet after the November 3 general election to certify their county election results. Those observers only work after an election has been held. That group of observers is a sub-group of Voter Service and is run by a project manager, Sarah Warner (lwvbccpresident@gmail.com). Sarah has specific training for those observers that will take place shortly. We could still use more observers for the upcoming general election. Anyone wanting more information should contact Sarah at the email listed above.

Tina Pawlak
LWVMI Observer Corps Chair
directorpawlak@lwvmi.org

Call for LWVMI Board Nominations

Your help is needed! The LWVMI Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of Officers and Directors for the State Board for the 2027-2029 term. We welcome suggestions for dedicated, diverse leaders to serve on the board. Candidates should possess skills in areas such as leadership, development, finance, program, advocacy, communications, voter services, and

membership. The committee values diversity in age, gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, physical abilities and challenges, and geographic location. Self-nominations are encouraged because you know best how you can contribute to the League's work. Please submit your nominations by completing the form at this [link](#) by November 10, 2026.

Regena Nelson
LWVMI Nominating Committee Chair

Knock, Knock

Knock, Knock, who's there? Money. Money who? Money who works for you and your local league doing the work that makes a difference to democracy.



LWVMI has a great history and reputation in our state and on a national scale. We are a visible presence in the active pushing back to the assaults on our voting rights. The number one resource we have is the passion of our members, but the number two resource we have are the funds we use to do our work. Knock, Knock who's there? You! We need you to continue to support our work. To those who have already made a donation, thank you. To those who haven't answered the "knock," we invite you to donate to LWVMI to help us to continue to do our work. Please click the donate button above, or on the LWVMI website and answer the door.

Carrie Moon-Dupree
LWVMI Development Director
directordupree@lwwmi.org

Action Alerts from LWVMI and LWWUS

Click on the links below to take action:

- [Oppose the Voter ID Act](#)
- [Tell Congress to Stop Interfering in DC](#)
- [Oppose the SAVE Act Suite of Bills](#)
- [Tell Congress the Census Must Count All People](#)
- [Tell Your Representatives to Protect Equal Voting Rights](#)
- [Demand Equal Rights \(ERA\)](#)
- [Support the Expansion of Voting Rights](#)
- [Tell Governor to Shut Down Line 5 Pipeline](#)
- [Co-Sponsor National Popular Vote Compact](#)



Grant Opportunities

Currently we have several pass through grant opportunities for local Leagues. All information is listed in LWV Only in the voter service section. Click on GRANTS to see the page dedicated just to GRANT opportunities.



- GOTV Postcards (up to \$1000)
- Ballot Proposal and Election Information Presentation (up to \$500)
- Local Print Voter Guide (up to \$2000)
- Youth Engagement Honoraria

LWVMI Environmental Network September 2026 Report

The LWVMI Environmental Network met on September 17, 2026. We discussed a number of topics including:

Environmental News from LWVMI Advocacy:

- LWVMI Board Voted to send a letter to Governor Whitmer and Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Michigan Strategic Fund chair objecting to \$50 million dollar funding of infrastructure for the proposed Copperwood Mine. The mine would threaten the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Area, the Presque Isle River and Lake Superior.
- [Federal Court of Appeals orders Campell Coal Plant shut down](#)
- Line 5 win for Michigan. Last week Governor Gretchen Whitmer and EGLE Director Phil Roos took bold action, announcing they are halting a key Line 5 tunnel permit and reopening the review. This follows the Michigan Supreme Court's July 31, 2026, ruling restoring the Michigan Environmental Protection Act and the public trust as the measure of what the state may permit. Now, the state will take a meaningful look at this proposed, unprecedented tunnel through the Straits of Mackinac. All are encouraged to [send a message](#) thanking the Governor and Director Roos for taking a strong stance on the

proposed tunnel, and let them know the work is not done. Now it's time to finish the job and shut down Line 5 for good.

We followed with an interesting round robin discussion of what's happening on the environment in our Local Leagues.

Our next meeting will be **October 15, 2026, at 11:00 am.**

Please contact Sandra Sorini Elser at Advocacy@LWVMI.org if you would like to join us.

Justice Speaks Out

Call for Poetry Submissions
by **November 15, 2026**

Earlier this year, we published our first poetry anthology, *Democracy's Urgent Call*, which has over 1100 copies in circulation. Our 2027 volume, *Justice Speaks Out*, is again inspired by artist/activist Niki Johnson's four-part series, *Pillars of Democracy* ([click here to view](#)).

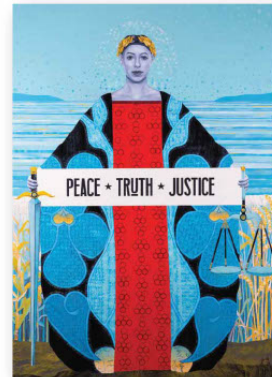
As poets and members of the League of Women Voters, we recognize the power of language to connect people, to stir hearts and minds, and to reaffirm the enduring promise of this nation. Together, we lift our voices in solidarity for due process, truth, fair treatment, and justice for all.

We invite original, unpublished poems. There is no submission fee nor is monetary payment possible. Selected contributors will receive a complimentary print copy and join a notable group of LWV poets.

Christy Schwan
Co-President LWV Ozaukee & Washington Counties, WI

Eloisa Gómez
Comité por el Voto Latino, LWV Milwaukee County, WI

Democracy's Urgent Call is available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other booksellers.



Click this link for details about the *Justice Speaks Out* anthology and to submit your poem: <https://forms.gle/8MwrqE2UaN8RqigcA>



Scan me

Questions? Contact: Christy@swancynet.com

Local League Advocacy Network

The LWVMI Local League Advocacy Network will meet on **Tuesday, September 22 at 3:00 pm.** League members please contact Advocacy@LWVMI.org if you would like to join us.

As you may know there will be two Ballot Proposals on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot:

- **Proposal 2026-1:** Proposal to convene a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the State Constitution.
- **Proposal 2026-2:** A proposal to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors (a voter-initiated law). This proposal is commonly referred to as the Michiganders for Money Out of Politics Ballot Proposal.

LWVMI opposes Proposal 2026-1. The Ballot Question Committee working to oppose Proposal 2026-1 is **Protect MI Constitution from Special Interests.**

LWVMI supports Proposal 2026-2. The Ballot Question Committee working to support Proposal 2026-2 is **Michiganders for Money Out of Politics.**

At our meeting we will be talking about how League members as individuals can work with these ballot question committees to oppose Proposal 2026-1 and support Proposal 2026-2.

At the meeting we'll also talk about how and when Local Leagues can and should use the Local League Support Oppose Form to help decide whether the Local League will advocate for or against a local issue.

We'll end with a Round Robin discussion of what's happening in your Local Leagues on Advocacy.

All League members are welcome.

Sandra Sorini Elser, LWVMI VP of Advocacy
Christina Schlitt, LWV North Central Michigan

Election Protection Hotline

866-OUR-VOTE

As you work elections either as an election inspector, poll monitor, challenger, observer, or as a voter, if there is a question about anything election related, or you observe something you are not sure about, or there is something out of the ordinary, call the HOTLINE!

During Early Voting and on Election Day there will be a Michigan-based team of experts and attorneys (a.k.a "The Boiler Room"), ready to respond to any call. For the August Primary, there were close to 300 hotline calls which came in and were resolved. The HOTLINE team relies on information and questions from those of us who are "on the ground" on Election Day and for Early Voting.

Please uplift this number at all your voter education and tabling events leading up to the election.

Remember: **866-OUR-VOTE!**

Do you have questions about voting
or need to report a problem?

Call or text the *nonpartisan*

Election Protection Hotline

(866) OUR-VOTE
(866) 687-8683

Help is available in English, Spanish, Arabic,
Bangla, and several other languages.



Election Night Stringer—Paid Opportunity

USA Today seeks people willing to be at a county clerk's office on the night of November 3 to relay election results to USA Today.

Requirements: Short training before election day, smartphone, transportation, ability to record results quickly and accurately for reporting.

Duration: 7:15-11:15pm or later, when no more results are forthcoming or coordinator releases the stringer.

Pay: \$125

Interested? Email cgantpetersen@usatodayco.com with your name, phone number, and zip code.

LWVMI Convention 2027- Save the Date!

Delegates from local Leagues in Michigan will gather from Friday, May 21 to Sunday, May 23, 2027, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing for our next State Convention. Please mark your calendar!



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
Grosse Pointe
Holland Area
Jackson Area
Kalamazoo Area (with Calhoun County Geographic Unit)
Lansing Area
Leelanau County
Lenawee County
Livingston County
Macomb County
Manistee County
Marquette County
Midland Area
Mt. Pleasant
North Central Michigan State Unit
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 2025-2027

Co-President: [Denise Hartsough](#) (Kalamazoo Area)
Co-President: [Lynne Kochmanski](#) (Washtenaw County)
VP Voter Service: [Judy Florian](#) (Grosse Pointe)
VP Advocacy: [Sandra Sorini Elser](#) (Washtenaw County)
VP Program: [Ellen Lafferty](#) (Livingston County)
VP Membership: [Carla Barrows-Wiggins](#) (Oakland Area)
Secretary: [Maria McCarville](#) (Saginaw County)
Treasurer: [Tom Wells](#) (Grosse Pointe)

Directors

VOTE411: [Anne Jackson](#) (Washtenaw County)
Director at Large: [Connie Mitchell](#) (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)
Observer Corps: [Tina Pawlak](#) (Holland Area)
League Links: [Courtney Winell](#) (Greater Grand Rapids Area)
DEI Team: [Sheryl Theriot](#) (Detroit)
Development: [Carrie Moon-Dupree](#) (Northwest Wayne County)
Director at Large: [Charles Thomas Jr.](#) (Detroit)

September 2026

September 22: LWVMI Michigan Supreme Court Forum | 2:00 pm

September 22: Local League Advocacy Network Meeting | 3:00 pm

September 23: [Communications Network Meeting](#) | 2:00 pm

September 24: [Voter Service Network Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm

September 29: Secretary of State Candidate Forum | 7:30 pm



October 2026

Voter Education Month

October 5-9: [National Voter Education Week](#)

October 6: Advocacy Committee Meeting | 2:00 pm

October 10: LWVMI Board Meeting | 9:30 am

October 11: [International Day of the Girl](#)

October 12: Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 14: Membership Leaders Network Meeting | 7:00 pm

October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month Ends

October 17: Presidents & Leaders Meeting | 7:00 pm

October 20: [Communications Network Meeting](#) | 2:00 pm

October 20: [Election Hero Day](#)

October 22: [Voter Service Network Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm

October 24: [United Nations Day](#)

October 27: [VOTE411's 20th Birthday](#)

October 27: [Vote Early Day](#)

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/>

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

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