LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

For Immediate Release
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The League of Women Voters Announces 30-plus Redistricting Educational Town Halls

"Redistricting in Michigan: Should Politicians Choose Their Voters, or Voters their Politicians?"

LANSING – The League of Women Voters of Michigan announced today that it would host over 30 Town Halls throughout the fall to educate the public on the importance of redistricting. The presentation will explore how legislative lines are drawn in Michigan, who draws them and why it is a critically important question for those concerned about fair representation.

"In Michigan the district lines are drawn by elected officials in the legislature, effectively allowing politicians to choose their voters, rather than voters their elected leaders," said Judy Karandjeff, President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. "This system gives the political party in power at the time a tremendous advantage but is this the best system for voters? Our Town Halls will explore central questions, such as: What are the consequences of partisan drawn districts that favor one party over another? Is there a better and fairer way to do this? What are the alternatives?"

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision on Arizona's Independent Restricting Commission said there is an alternative and that citizens, not just politicians, have the right to decide how Congressional district lines are drawn. The decision has grabbed the public's attention. Some have asked if Michigan, like Arizona, should use an independent commission to draw the lines, not only for the Congressional Districts, but for the State House and Senate, as well. This alternative and others will be explored in-depth at the town hall.

"Government is supposed to of, by and for the people, but more and more it seems to ordinary voters that their voices are not being heard and that our elected leaders are becoming more extreme, less compromising and more disconnected from a public they are supposed to serve," said President Karandjeff. "Instead, special interests and lobbyists seem to get the attention of our elected leaders. We need to ask fundamental questions about why this is happening and whether allowing politicians to draw their own districts contributes to the problem."

A complete list of Town Halls by date and location can be found on the League of Women Voters website at: www.lwvmi.org. The events are free and open to the public. All are invited to attend.