



February 2021

Local League Presidents:

At the start of every new legislative session (2-year terms), the Advocacy Committee and the LWVMI Board seek to benefit from input from local League interviews of the State Representative(s) and State Senator(s). These interviews help you establish a relationship with a legislator.

Enclosed in this email is this 1) cover letter, 2) the interview response sheet, 3) background information prepared for interview questions***, and 4) turf information. We are asking local Leagues to complete their legislative interviews by September 1, 2021 and return them to the state office.

Please note these interviews are for internal purposes only. They are NOT to be published in your local Voter, although you can note that the interview(s) took place and thank the volunteers and legislator for the interview.

This is NOT a lobbying visit, nor is it the time to argue for League positions. The purpose is to have a conversation to 1) help the local League build its relationship with its legislators and 2) provide feedback to the LWVMI Board and Advocacy Committee. Your goal is to listen to your legislator, not educate or advocate. To locate your State Senator go to [Michigan Senate Home](#) and to locate your State Representative go to [Michigan House of Representatives](#).

The interview questions are as follows:

1. **Environment:** What is the legislative role in protecting Michigan surface, ground and drinking waters? How would you support the staffing and funding needed to carry this out?
2. **Education:** Should every publicly funded school - traditional public, charter, and cyber schools - have the same testing, reporting, and renewal criteria? Why or why not?
3. **Revenue:** How should Michigan meet revenue needs to handle funding for the economic impact of COVID, funding for K-12 & higher education, roads & transportation, prisons, local government revenue sharing and other state expenses while recognizing the tax/fee burden on citizens?

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4. **Public Health & Safety:** The preliminary statistics for 2020 show that gun violence deaths for the U.S. exceed 43,000. Deaths by firearms in Michigan exceed 1,300. 62% of these gun deaths are suicides. What firearm legislation would you support to reduce death and injury by gun violence?
5. **Election Reform:** What state policies do you advocate regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights?
6. **Priorities:** What are your priorities for the current legislative session?

If COVID allows, there are a variety of formats to conduct the interviews. You may want to meet at the legislator's office, a local restaurant, a meeting room in your local library or in his/her Lansing office. We suggest you limit the visit to two people, so one person can be the designated note taker. If your legislator refuses to participate, you might consider going to one of his/her "coffees" or in-district meetings. If COVID doesn't allow, you might consider a conference call or a zoom meeting.

If your legislator's district covers more than one local League's area, please work the other League(s) to set up a mutually acceptable date, time, and place. If your League has a geographical unit, please decide how you will cover the expanded territory. Remember, one member of the interview team should always be a constituent. When arranging an appointment, please make sure you mention the constituents name and address.

Thank you in advance for your working on this project. Please contact Sue Smith, Vice President for Advocacy, or Judy Karandjeff, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, if you have any questions.

In League,



Christina Schlitt
President

*** Background Info, which was included in the original email to all local League presidents on January 29, 2021, is not posted on our website. If you need a copy of the background info, please contact the webmaster: paulabowman9000@gmail.com.

LWVMI INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Environment:** What is the legislative role in protecting Michigan surface, ground and drinking waters? How would you support the staffing and funding needed to carry this out?
2. **Education:** Should every publicly funded school - traditional public, charter, and cyber schools - have the same testing, reporting, and renewal criteria? Why or why not?
3. **Revenue:** How should Michigan meet revenue needs to handle funding for the economic impact of COVID, funding for K-12 & higher education, roads & transportation, prisons, local government revenue sharing and other state expenses while recognizing the tax/fee burden on citizens?
4. **Public Health & Safety:** The preliminary statistics for 2020 show that gun violence deaths for the U.S. exceed 43,000. Deaths by firearms in Michigan exceed 1,300. 62% of these gun deaths are suicides. What firearm legislation would you support to reduce death and injury by gun violence?
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6. **Priorities:** What are your priorities for the current legislative session?