



League Links - August 2021

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Co-President's Message:

It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of the summer. Even the “dog days” of summer have come and gone! (Officially, they were July 3 to August 11 and are so named because of the sun's nearness to Sirius, part of the Greater Dog constellation). This has been a tense summer in Michigan for a variety of reasons: COVID on the move again, heavy activity with the MICRC and especially because of the anti-voter bills hanging over our heads. The League is poised to react when legislative activity resumes.

Women's Equality Day is August 26. There are a lot of ways to celebrate the 101st anniversary of women getting the right to vote: attend a group celebration, watch and reflect on the Iron Jawed Angels movie again, give a shout-out to your s-hero on your social media account, make a donation to the LWV, or organize a road trip to Washington DC for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) rally starting at noon in front of the US Supreme Court. It is important to remember that the right to vote is the only constitutionally protected right that US women have. Though laws and ordinances protecting women's rights have come a long way, women will never have the same, guaranteed rights as men until the ERA passes. Learn more about the ERA movement and the upcoming rally at www.eracoalition.org.

Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

LWVMI SPONSORS a webinar featuring Legal experts who discussed Michigan's non-delegation doctrine, emergency order authority

LWVMI is proud to have sponsored legal experts across Michigan on August 18 that discussed Michigan's non-delegation doctrine during a virtual panel event.

The non-delegation doctrine covers the limiting of one branch of government's authority over another. Experts discussed the doctrine in the context of emergency orders put in place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussion on the non-delegation doctrine is important for the legal community because we remain in unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and legislation surrounding the doctrine could have a profound impact on how our state is affected. The League is proud to sponsor educational events like this panel in order to inform those who can affect change in our state. All voters should have the information they need to participate in our democracy.

Michael Sant'Ambrogio, professor of law and associate dean for research at the Michigan State University College of Law, moderated the panel. Expert panelists included former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly; John D. Pirich, retired partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn and current adjunct professor at the MSU College of Law; and Julian Davis Mortenson, professor of law and constitutional scholar at the University of Michigan.

Panelists discussed the origin and history of federal and state non-delegation doctrines, orders issued by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued during the COVID-19 pandemic, and why the non-delegation doctrine matters.

Support for this event and the press release following was by *Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications*. The link to view this event is on the LWVMI.org website and was distributed to local League presidents and unit leaders.

Voter Suppression Bills in Michigan

We have nothing new to report at this writing. The Michigan Legislature has been on summer recess. Rest assured, when action begins to happen, we will engage LWVMI Members.

Thank you for the privilege.

Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President

MICRC is Drawing Maps

**MICRC Drawing Draft Maps with 2020
Census Data**



Using 2020 Census Data, the MICRC has started drawing draft maps during their meetings. The public can observe the map drawing process and discussion on YouTube. The draft maps will be posted on the MICRC website,

www.michigan.gov/micrc for public comment. These draft maps will probably be changed as more information from the public and especially from Communities of Interest is received.

MICRC Meeting on 5 College Campuses in September

In September, the MICRC will meet on five college campuses to encourage public comments from students and members of the college community as well as local residents. All members of the public are welcome to attend and to give a public comment. Those wishing to speak in person must sign up at the venue before the meeting begins.

MICRC September College Meeting Schedule

All meetings are scheduled for 12:00-4:00 and 5:00-8:00 pm.

September 2, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Mapping State Senate Districts for Detroit Metro Region: (Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland Counties)

September 9, Ferris State University, Big Rapids
Mapping State House Districts, Western Michigan Region

September 16, Grand Valley State University, Allendale
Mapping U.S. Congressional Districts, Western and Southwestern Michigan

September 23, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant
MICRC Deliberations on Maps

September 30, Oakland University, Rochester Hills
MICRC Votes on Draft Proposed Maps for Public Comment at October Public Hearings

Additional MICRC September Meetings

The Commission has scheduled additional meetings in order to complete their draft maps before the October Public Hearings. Meetings are scheduled for Monday-Thursday. See the current meeting schedule on the MICRC website, www.michigan.gov/micrc.

October Public Hearings

Nine public hearings on the draft maps are currently scheduled as follows:

- October 11, Marquette, Northern Michigan University
- October 13, Gaylord, Tree Tops Resort
- October 14, Flint, The Dort Center

- October 18, Grand Rapids, DeVos Place
- October 20, Kalamazoo, Radisson Conference Plaza and Hotel
- October 21, Lansing, Lansing Center
- October 25, Warren, MRCC Banquet and Convention Center
- October 27, Novi, Suburban Collection Showplace
- October 28, Detroit, TCF Center

PBS NewsHour Weekend Filming

Producer of PBS NewsHour Weekend was in Lansing and Detroit on August 19 and 20 to film an 8-12 minutes segment for their NewsHour Weekend Program which will air on PBS on Saturday or Sunday evening in September. In addition to filming MICRC Commission meetings and interviews with Commissioners, PBS also filmed interviews with several Communities of Interest that had been identified and supported by our local League COI teams. In talking with the Producer ahead of time, he told me they wanted to work with the League because of its institutional reputation for being non-partisan.

We don't know, of course, which part of all the filming they did, will actually end up being in the PBS, TV segment. We do know that Michigan's new redistricting process is being watched by people across the country. We also are reminded of the League's reputation and the meaningful work being done by our League members across the state.

Sue Smith, LWVMI VP Advocacy

National Voter Registration Day: 9/28

Now that the August Primary is behind us, Voter Services will be gearing up for the November election. New Vote411 Directors, Carolyn Vertin and Anna Scott, will be working with local Leagues on all issues related to the online Voter Guide.

The following members will serve on the Voter Services Committee for LWVMI:

- Sandy Breitenbach-Marquette County
- Pat Buckner-Oakland Area
- Connie Ferguson-Kalamazoo Area
- Donna Mullins-Lansing Area
- Kathy Poore-Macomb County
- Anna Scott-Lansing Area. (LWVMI Board)
- Dibby Smith-Northern Lower Michigan
- Peg Townsend-Grand Traverse Area
- Carolyn Vertin-Tecumseh/Lenawee (LWVMI Board)

A special thanks to all for their willingness to serve.

Judy Florian, LWVMI VP Voter Services

Observer Corps Will Zoom in September 2021

In September 2021, David Allen will begin hosting Zoom meetings every other month for about an hour each to discuss Observer Corps. All local leagues in Michigan are invited to join the calls and discuss, informally, plans, problems, successes, etc. — or just check in to hear what others are planning. Observer Corps leaders and Observer Corps participants are welcome (and future observers!).

If you are interested in participating, please contact David Allen at pdavidallen2@icloud.com. If there are ideal times to hold these regular calls, suggest them.

Agendas will be flexible, including possibly inviting guest speakers from active observer corps, but we'll always start by "going around the room" to hear any hot topics from each person on the call. If you have specific issues you'd like to discuss, email them ahead of time or suggest them during the calls.

David Allen, LWVMI Director at Large

Election Day Instructions: Arabic and Urdu Resource

The LWVMI Membership Committee is making a limited supply of Election Day instruction cards in Arabic and Urdu available to local Leagues.

These cards are 3-1/2 x 5-1/2 and are the same ones that have been distributed in English to local Leagues in past years. One side lists "3 Ways to Make Voting a Breeze" and the other lists "5 Things you Need to Know on Election Day".

If you're interested, please contact Paula Bowman at president@lwvmi.org.

LWV Lake Michigan Region Annual Conference

The LWVLMR annual meeting and conference is scheduled to be held both in person and virtually Friday, October 15, and Saturday, October 16.

Indiana is host State this year, and the LaPorte County chapter has organized a dynamic program.

Billed as "The Commitment Endures," the in-person activities will take place at The Spa Speakeasy Banquet Hall at Spring House Inn, Porter, Indiana.

It will be hard to decide which field trip - Shirley Heinz Land Trust or Indiana Dunes National Park - to choose. Either will provide an adventure and many delightful new bits of knowledge. Field trips begin at 1:00.

Dinner guest speaker, Kim Swift, will discuss the "Bad Ass Women of the Dunes." You don't want to miss a minute of Kim's presentation.

Saturday's opening session speaker is Professor Erin Argyilan, Chair, Purdue NW Geosciences Department. Her topic: Shoreline Erosion and Solutions. This topic has been in the news throughout the Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan shorelines this entire year. Professor Argyilan's insights and knowledge will add greatly to our understanding of the ever-changing beaches, dunes, and more.

Saturday luncheon speaker: Natalie Johnson of Save the Dunes. She'll discuss Lake Michigan Pollution and Solutions.

A very special fundraiser tour honoring Jeanette Neague, member/activist extraordinaire completes the weekend at 2:15 Saturday.

Every LWV chapter within the four-state area that has paid its dues for fiscal year 2021-2022 is eligible to send one voting delegate. Any LWV member within the four-state area, regardless of paid standing, may attend but cannot vote on official business items.

Full In-Person fee: \$75. In-person one day: \$30. via Zoom \$15 for both days.

Full details at lwvlmr.org.

Christiana Zilke, LWVMI delegate to LMR Board

LWVMI: Now Tweeting!

LWVMI has a new Twitter account. Like Facebook, Twitter is a great way to engage with the public and our members. But it is also a good way to interact with the media, key opinion leaders and our organizational partners.



If you're a Twitter user, follow us at [@LWVMichigan](https://twitter.com/LWVMichigan)

Like other social media, care must be taken by LWV account holders to deliver messages that are in line with the League's goals. Local Leagues with Twitter accounts should follow the LWV Twitter guidelines. [Read more](#)

Local League Spotlights

Congratulations to Ellen Lafferty!

The Brighton/Howell Unit of the Washtenaw League chair, Ellen Lafferty, has been added to the



Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor. Her leadership accomplishments include being active in the Brighton Education Association and establishing a Girl Scouts of America troop at St. Patrick's School.

In addition, since 2018, Ellen has been instrumental in creating and chairing the Brighton/Howell Unit.

Current League activities that Ellen has led include registering high school students, hosting public candidate and informational forums, publishing both online and printed voter guides, and working with the Livingston County

Complete Count Committee to emphasize the importance of completing the census. The [Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor](#) website has more information about the Roll of Honor and Ellen's accomplishments.)

Congratulations to Ellen!

Local League Highlights

- The Detroit League held four candidate forums. Paula Bowman and Judy Florian served as moderators.
- The Jackson League is forming an Observer Corps.
- The Calhoun County Unit of LWV – Kalamazoo Area had an information table at the Calhoun County Fair.
- The Crawford County Unit of LWV – Grand Traverse Area is reaching out to schools to offer voter education information.

Camilla Davis, LWVMI VP Membership

Take Photos!

Local Leagues are encouraged to take photos whenever possible - even stage a group photo outdoors while the weather is nice. Use photos on your website, Facebook page, Twitter account, promotional materials for membership, etc.

And of course, submit photos to Membership VP Camilla Davis for use as part of our Local League Spotlights section in this League Links newsletter each month.

Annual Report Thanks to all those local Leagues who submitted photos for potential use in the LWVMI 2020-2021 Annual Report. Because the donor list was quite long - a good problem to have, we weren't able to use a lot of photos.

The report is being finalized for printing and mailing to donors; a link to a PDF of the report will be available on the lwvmi.org website.

Vicki Granger, LWVMI Director Communications

DONATE NOW

Local Leagues

[Ann Arbor Area, with the Brighton Howell Geographical Unit](#)

NOTE: The Ann Arbor Area league is now the LWV Washtenaw County

Berrien/Cass Counties

Copper Country

Dearborn/Dearborn Heights

Delta County

Detroit

Eastern UP State MAL State Unit

Flint Area

Grand Haven Area

[Greater Grand Rapids Area](#) MAL State Unit

Grand Traverse Area (with Crawford County Geographical Unit)

Grosse Pointe

Holland Area

Jackson Area

Kalamazoo Area (with Calhoun County Geographical Unit)

Lansing Area

Leelanau County (with Emmet/Charlevoix County Geographical Unit)

Macomb State (MAL) Unit

Manistee County

Marquette County

Midland Area (with Bay County Geographical Unit)

Mt. Pleasant

Northern Lower Michigan (MAL Unit)

Northeast Michigan (formerly Alpena County)

Northwest Wayne County

Oakland Area

Saginaw County

Tecumseh/Lenawee County MAL State Unit

Troy

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

League Leadership 2021-2023

Officers

Co-President: Christina Schlitt (Grand Traverse Area)
Co-President: Paula Bowman (NW Wayne County)
VP Voter Services: Judy Florian (Grosse Pointe)
VP Advocacy: Sue Smith (Ann Arbor Area)
VP Membership: Camilla Davis (Lansing Area)
VP Program: Maria Woloson (Oakland Area)
Secretary: Carla Barrows-Wiggins (Oakland Area)
Treasurer: Denise Hartsough (Kalamazoo Area)

Directors

Voter Services: Carolyn Vertin (Tecumseh/Lenawee)
Voter Services: Anna Scott (Lansing Area)
Membership: Connie Mitchell (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)
Membership: Rebeka Islam (Detroit)
Development: Rebekah Fennell (Kalamazoo Area)
Communications: Vicki Granger (Grosse Pointe)
At-Large: David Allen (Marquette County)

Calendar

September 2021

- Voter Registration Month
- Active Nominating Committee
- Re-Affirm Non-Partisan Policy
- Submit 990EZ Postcard



September 6 Labor Day, State office closed
September 11 Patriot Day
September 11 LWVMI Board Meeting
September 17 Constitution Day
September 28 National Voter Registration Day

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/>

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

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