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League Links - October 2021

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Co-President's Messages

- **Best Election Tutorial Ever**
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Best Election Tutorial Ever

As tumultuous as this year is, it is only a preview of what's to come in the mid-term and general elections years of 2022 and 2024. We will be asking all League members to have an 'all hands on deck' approach as we work to educate voters and fight disinformation. Consider working at the polls on election day or an absentee counting board to gain an immersive experience in voter rights, election security and the 'how-tos' of reaching an election result. Any registered voter who is at least 18 can become a poll worker in any community (not just where you live). Training is required and

you get paid! Michigan needs dedicated people like League members to be part of our election process.

Though working the polls or at an absentee counting board is a satisfying experience, it is a long day. If you want to be part of the process but can't put in a 12-hour day, think about being a **poll challenger**. We are working with our voting rights partner, Promote the Vote/Michigan Voting, which is seeking non-partisan challengers to work the polls. Poll challengers can choose their own hours (most opt for a 2-3 hour shift) and will receive training. The goal is to train a number of challengers for the 11-2-21 election so they are ready to go for the 2022 and 2024 elections. If you can participate this year, [sign up here](#). You will be contacted with the training and assignment information.

Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

Directions to the Board Received at 2021 State Convention

The LWVMI board respects the direction to the board traditionally offered at the close of the convention. The board has reviewed the directions presented after the 3rd plenary and believe that all requests have been met. The directions will be listed first straight from the convention virtual chat unedited. Following will be the Board response and actions in italics. Thank you all for your very thoughtful and pointed directions.

From a Kalamazoo Area member: LWV KA and 15 other local Michigan Leagues are looking forward to learning more about how LWVMI will be getting involved with the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact efforts in Michigan. We understand that this is likely to be a long process. However, in accordance with the LWVUS position, we believe that until it is possible to change the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College, we need to be open to interim approaches that assure that the election of the president reflects the will of the people.

The LWVMI board has received a letter from 17 local Leagues. The request was reviewed by the advocacy committee, who, after discussion, made their recommendation to the Board to support the NPVC. The board listened to presentations by advocates of the compact as well as opposition comments. The board discussed this at the September 2021 meeting and voted to support the compact. The board replied to the local Leagues in a letter indicating support and respect for their efforts. In early October, a bipartisan ballot proposal supporting that Michigan sign on to the compact was filed and the advocacy committee reviewed the proposal. The committee recommended support to the board. After discussion at the October board meeting, the proposal was voted to be supported. Further action has not been addressed.

From a Lansing Area member: Will the LWVMI make the agenda and meeting dates for the State Board available in advance as well as include the minutes of Board meetings and reports submitted on the website?

The board has developed a very good calendar that we encourage all League members to review, available [on our website](#). There are several calendar items Leagues might find helpful in addition to the dates of all LWVMI board meetings. It has been determined that neither minutes nor board reports will be published. They are internal organizational documents that often contain confidential information. The Board is not a public organization and is therefore not subject to those regulations. If there is something of particular interest, you may make an appointment at the office for the opportunity to review or contact the co-presidents at president@lwvmi.org.

From a Leelanau County member: Tell locals how to help advocate against these 39 anti-voting bills.

LWVMI has been opposing the voter suppression bills since they were proposed on 24 March 2021. A board task force of experienced election members was immediately formed and has followed the progress through the legislature. The task force meets weekly. LWVMI has testified in person, virtually and always in writing to state legislature and committees most often in opposition based on League positions. Summaries of those bills and the LWVMI position have been on the LWVMI [website](#) and are updated regularly based on legislative action. The Make Democracy Work 2021 grant has been focused on combating these voter suppression bills through education.

From a Mt. Pleasant Area member: I do think a priority needs to be the creation of a proactive information campaign in conjunction with the SOS office is indicated regarding putting out messaging re: how absentee ballots are processed, how signatures are verified, why we really do not need to be concerned about non-citizens, deceased people, etc. voting. We have to acknowledge the depth of disinformation that has been disseminated and act to counteract with positive messaging as a (hopefully) trusted, neutral organization.

The LWVMI board has worked with MDOS throughout 2020 and has continued that relationship in 2021. Many aspects of voter service issues have been addressed by the board last term and continues into this term. The voter service vice president holds meetings monthly with local Leagues/Unit's voter service committees to highlight particular issues. LWVMI is a member of several voter service focused coalitions where issues are brought to light, discussed and work towards resolution. Please read League Links, the website and additional notifications. You are encouraged to go to [Michigan Secretary of State's election site](#) for the information available for all Michigan voters.

From a Kalamazoo Area member: One suggestion would be to provide opportunities for local League chairpersons/coordinators of DEI Committees to meet together to share ideas - successful and failed - so we can learn from each other. Having monitored league monthly The Voter there is very little to nothing provided in their newsletters.

The LWVMI board has addressed the DEI need for a couple of years and information is on the website. Our new vice president of membership has formed a subcommittee of the membership committee that is focused on the next generation of DEI concepts and actions. Membership networking Zoom meetings will be held monthly with information about DEI committees and how local Leagues can form their own action plan. Look for information in this issue of League Links. Reach out via the email address listed to be included in this effort.

From a Grosse Pointe member: Please consider using the word “disability” in the definition of your DEI statement for the state. I can provide additional information to clarify this request.

This issue has been elevated to the point where it is a dynamic component of the new DEI committee. By the way, Cathy McAdam, the author of this question, has graciously agreed to become part of this committee.

Thank you to all LWVMI members for your thoughtful input. Don't stop now. You can address us at president@lwvmi.org

And remember, the League is needed now more than ever-and that means you.

Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President

Public Hearings on MICRC Draft Maps

The Commission voted on 10 Collaborative Maps to be published for Public Comment at the Five October Public Hearings.

Those Collaborative Maps, plus maps drawn by individual Commissioners, can be viewed on the MICRC website, www.michigan.gov/micrc. Click on the “Draft Proposed Maps” button. An excel sheet will display the Collaborative maps: 3 Senate maps, 3 House maps and 4 Congressional maps. Each of the Collaborative maps is labeled with the name of a Michigan tree. Maps drawn by individual Commissioners are also listed.



The excel sheet displays the results of an analysis of each of the maps for Partisan Fairness, Population Deviation, Compactness and Voting Age Populations for Blacks, Asians and Hispanics.

October League Webinars on MICRC maps

LWVMI is holding six Regional Webinars to inform the public about the MICRC's draft maps and the MICRC Public Hearings.

Each Regional Webinar will include sample maps specific to counties in the Region as follows. (Click on a date to register)

- [October 18, 5 pm](#), Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties
- [October 18, 6 pm](#), Wayne County
- [October 19, 7 pm](#), Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe Counties
- [October 20, 5 pm](#), Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newago, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Van Buren
- [October 20, 7 pm](#), Bay, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Mecosta, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawasee, Tuscola
- [October 21, 7 pm](#), Upper Peninsula, Northern Michigan

October Public Hearings

Five Public Hearings on the draft maps have been scheduled as follows:

1. October 20, Detroit, TCF Center
2. October 21, Lansing, Lansing Center
3. October 22, Grand Rapids, DeVoss Place
4. October 25, Gaylord, Treetops Resort
5. October 26, Flint, The Dort Center

Hours for the Public Hearings

The doors open at noon. In-person public comment signup begins and the public portal station opens. Then:

- 1:00: MICRC meeting and Public Hearing begin
- 3:30: Afternoon Public Hearing ends and public portal station closed
- 4:30: Doors open, public portal station opens
- 5:00: Public Hearing begins
- 7:00: In-Person, Public Comment Sign Up Period Ends
- 8:00: Public portal station closed

Public Hearing ends after all who signed up by deadline have had an opportunity to speak.

Computers are available at Public Hearings where the public may enter their comments on the draft maps using the public comment portal. Volunteers will be available to assist.

Remote public comments will be accepted by phone or computer. Deadline to sign up for remote public comment is 3 pm on day of Public Hearing. Remote public comments will be taken after all in-person comments have been heard

MICRC Voting on Multiple Proposed Maps, November 5

Multiple maps for the U.S. Congress, state House and state Senate will be voted upon on November 5 and will be published November 14. After November 14, the 45 day comment period begins. During this period Commissioners cannot change the boundaries of any map.

December 30, MICRC Votes on Final Maps

Final maps for the U.S. Congress, state House and state Senate will be voted upon on December 30. Commissioners must choose from the pool of

maps published on November 14. A majority vote including two Democrats, Two Republicans and Two Unaffiliated is required for approval.

If a majority vote is not obtained, the Commission will use Rank Choice Voting as outlined in the Michigan Constitution.

If Rank Choice Voting is not successful, each of the 13 Commissioners will submit a Congressional, state House and state Senate map. The Secretary of State will choose the final maps from the maps submitted by the Commissioners, using a random process.

Sue Smith, LWVMI VP Advocacy

LWVMI Supports PTV Maps

Organizations in the Promote the Vote (PTV) coalition, like LWVMI, share a rich history and deep investment in protecting the rights of voters and ensuring that Michiganders have fair, equitable maps. PTV is the only coalition of statewide civil rights organizations collaborating to produce fair, equitable maps at each level – U.S. House of Representatives, Michigan State Senate, and Michigan State House of Representatives. PTV is committed to ensuring that the Commission recognizes the rigor and detail that districting entails and understands the duties and responsibilities of their role as mapmakers. [Click here to see the PTV maps](#)

Anti-Voter Legislation & Advocacy Update

As you may remember, on October 3, the Governor vetoed four House bills that dealt with

- allowing certain places to be used for polling places
- training for election challengers
- blocking 3rd. parties from accessing the Qualified Voter File
- banning voting machines from being connected to internet on election day

She said these bills perpetuated the “big lie” about the 2020 election and were not needed. [The veto message is available here.](#)

This week the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate are sending more bills that amend the Election Law to the Governor. SB 277 and 280 that deal with removing dead voters and petitions were vetoed by the Governor on October 15. Two other bills, SB 303 and 304, should soon be sent to the Governor.

LWVMI is most concerned about the substitutes that were adopted for SB 303 and 304. The language is very similar to the so-called “Secure MI Vote” Initiative Petition.

- SB 303 – requires new identifying information to register to vote and to obtain an absentee ballot; eliminates the use of affidavit at the polling place; eliminates SOS or clerks from providing absentee ballots without an application
- SB 304 – specifies requirements for submitting a provisional ballot and verifying identity with clerk

The LWVMI Advocacy Committee met prior to the 10-9-21 LWVMI Board of Directors' meeting. The committee recommended supporting the National Popular Vote Initiative Petition that has been submitted to the State Board of Canvassers. The committee also supported passage of bills to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products (HB 4279 & HB 5267), the bill to repeal the abortion ban law that was passed in 1931 (HB 5289), and the bill to give "good time" credits for prisoners (SB 649). The LWVMI Board supported the committee recommendations.

Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Advocacy Chair

Membership Update

Membership Leaders Network Zoom Calls

LWVMI is reaching out to local League membership leaders with an opportunity to meet regularly on Zoom with other local League leaders. The goal is to provide support for local membership work by sharing information provided by League resources, including DEI, membership recruitment, and leadership development. Most importantly, it will offer the chance to share what is working and what is challenging with other membership leaders during the networking segment.

The first meeting of Membership Leaders' Network is scheduled to meet on Zoom on Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm. All local membership leaders are invited to attend, and local League presidents will be welcome, too. For more information contact [Camilla Davis](#), Membership VP or [Rebeka Islam](#), Membership Director.

Team to Support DEI Initiative

The LWVMI Membership and Leadership Development Committee now has a DEI Team. The team will work together to provide support for local Leagues for improving diversity, equity, and inclusion and advise the MLD Committee on services and programs to offer. Team members are Cathy McAdam, Grosse Pointe; Deb Macon, Oakland Area; and Connie Ferguson, Kalamazoo Area.

Local League Spotlight

Copper Country: On September 28, National Voter Registration Day, LWVCC partnered with Michigan Tech's Undergraduate Student Government, volunteers from the university, and local clerks to register thirty-nine voters during the five-hour event. Others picked up information on voting, and application forms for registration and absentee ballots.

Detroit: In partnership with the Detroit Public Library, LWV Detroit hosted a webinar on October 18 which featured Sue Smith and two of the Detroit LWV's MICRC team leaders who discussed the proposed Wayne County maps. This was the first in a series of regional webinars (see related article). An invitation was extended to all four of the Wayne County Leagues.

Lansing Area: The Environmental Advocacy Group hosted a webinar Plugging Into the Future: Making Wise Energy Sources on Tuesday, October 18. Speaker John Sarver discussed options for electric/renewable energy products, cost comparisons for consumers, the latest public policies and trends, and information on Michigan climate issues.

Camilla Davis, LWVMI VP Membership

HS Voter Registration

The MI Vote Matters High School Voter Registration Project was launched on September 28th with a press release from the Secretary of State's Office. We are waiting for high schools to sign up to participate and will forward names to local Leagues when the names become available and implementation details have been finalized.

LWVMI has a Power Point presentation plus script for Local Leagues to use for these high school presentations. If you haven't requested your copy, please contact me as soon as possible. We anticipate things picking up with this project next month. Remember, this will go through June 30, 2022.

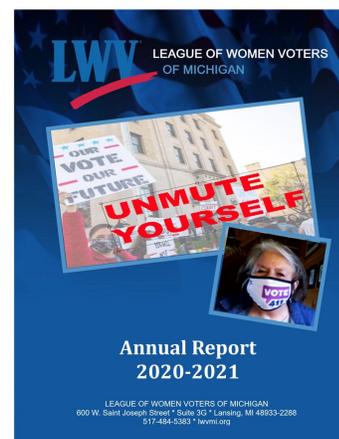
The next Voter Services Zoom call will be on Thursday, October 28, 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link, with agenda, will be sent the morning of the meeting.

Judy Florian, LWVMI VP Voter Services

Bits 'n Pieces

2020-21 Annual Report

LWVMI's annual report that highlights the achievements of the past year is now available on our website. You can click on the picture to the right to see a copy. The report is a permanent record of accomplishments, statistics and our supportive donors. It also serves as a tool for new donors to understand more about our mission and governance. We thank the Annual Report Committee for their work, especially Vicki Granger (Grosse Pointe) for the



report construction and Pat Buckner (Oakland Area) for the front page artwork.

New Michigan Voter Election Hot Line: 855 I VOTE MI

Please enter this new election information in your phone contacts, your bulletin board or wherever you can find it quickly when needed. It is the new call center with Michigan election lawyers ready to answer Michigan specific election questions concerning voting rights or election issues. It is on the LWVMI website and we hope it will be on local League sites too through the November election.

Soft Edge – New Legislative Action Tool

Most of you received an action alert last week asking you to send an email to Gov. Whitmer urging her to veto the latest anti-voting bills. LWVMI has contracted with a new communication provider to send out alerts to members when your voice is needed to persuade an elected official to take appropriate action. We are still tweaking the details of this new tool, but the process of indicating your contact information and submitting your message is similar to our old system. When elected officials receive hundreds of emails about an issue, they can't help but notice. This is an easy, 3-minute way that **YOU** can advocate for issues important to the League.

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Local Leagues

[Berrien/Cass Counties](#)
[Copper Country](#)
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[Kalamazoo Area \(with Calhoun County Geographical Unit\)](#)
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Midland Area (with Bay County Geographical Unit)
 Mt. Pleasant
 Northern Lower Michigan MAL State Unit
 Northeast Michigan (formerly Alpena County)
 Northwest Wayne County
 Oakland Area
 Saginaw County
 Tecumseh/Lenawee County MAL State Unit
 Troy
 Washtenaw County (formerly Ann Arbor Area)
 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)
 Communications: Vicki Granger (Grosse Pointe)
 At-Large: David Allen (Marquette County)

Calendar

October, 2021

24 United Nations Day
 28 Voter Services Zoom Meeting, 7:00pm

November, 2021

2 General Election
 7 Daylight Savings Time ends
 10 Membership Leaders Zoom Meeting, 7:00pm
 11 Veterans' Day
 13 LWVMI Board meeting (League Links to follow)
 15 IRS 990 Ecards due



- 17 Observer Corps Zoom Meeting, 2:00
- 17 Voter Services Zoom Meeting, 7:00pm
- 18 Local & LWVMI Presidents call, 7:00pm
- 25-26 Thanksgiving (office closed – MI & US)

Connect with us! League of Women Voters of Michigan

Phone: 517-484-5383

Email: office@lwvmi.org

Website: lwvmi.org

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