



## League Links - December 2021

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### **Co-Presidents' Messages**

Voter suppression efforts continue to plague Michigan. We are combatting these efforts with coalitions of many good government groups. We continue to bring the significance of these anti-voter bills and initiatives to our members and voters through our education and advocacy campaigns with the incredible help of local Leagues and Units. Now, we will be taking our message from Michigan to Washington DC the week of December 12.

At the invitation of Virginia Kase Solomon, LWVUS CEO, LWVMI will be participating in the [Poor People's rally/Moral Monday March](#) in DC. This will provide us with an opportunity to let Congress know they must pass federal voting right protections before the new year. We will let them know the impact on Michigan folks without the federal protections necessary.

Look for more information on Facebook and Twitter.

The League is needed now more than ever.

Wishing you Happy Holidays for you and those you choose to share them with.

Thank you for the privilege.

-- Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President

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As 2021 draws to a close, we repeat our gratitude to all of our members who have continued to fight with us for our fragile democracy. We're glad you're on our team because our shared voices make the impact that is so needed.

But we are also sad to report that we lost three members last month who had ties to LWVMI:

- Judy Culham was our LWVMI office manager for about 10 years in the 1990s and early 2000s. Her friendly smile and helpful demeanor will be remembered by all who worked with her. She was our first webmaster and shepherded many of us through the new world of email communication and online databases. After she left the LWVMI position, she continued as an active member in the Lansing Area League.
- Mary Brown was a member of the LWVMI Board of Directors in the 1970s. She followed that with an 18-year career as a Representative in the Michigan House, and was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2007. Among her many achievements, she is remembered for her tireless work for women's rights.
- Fran Schonenberg, a member of the Grosse Pointe League, served as our parliamentarian at several LWVMI conventions. She also was part of many state committees over the years and received LWVMI's Maryanne Mahaffey Award for Community Service in 2013.

All of these women will be missed, and we are grateful for the contributions that they made.

In the coming weeks, we wish you happy times with family and friends and peace.

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

## MICRC Proposes Redistricting Maps



### MICRC Discusses Differences Among Collaborative Maps

Earlier this month, four Commissioners discussed the differences among the 9 collaborative maps which were published on November 12.

On December 8, they discussed the differences among the three Congressional maps and among the three state Senate maps. On December 9, they explained the differences among the state House maps. On the [MICRC YouTube Channel](#), you can view the discussions of these maps, as well as the recordings from the MICRC meetings for the past several months. There is also a link on the [MICRC Facebook page](#) to these recordings, called "Candid Conversations."

### **MICRC Proposed Maps on MICRC Website**

The nine collaborative maps as well as the six maps drawn by individual commissioners can be viewed on the MICRC Website [www.michigan.gov/micrc](http://www.michigan.gov/micrc), under "Proposed Maps." They include legal descriptions, census data, etc.

The following published maps were drawn by individual Commissioners:

- Congressional maps: Rhonda Lange (R), Rebecca Szetela (I)
- Senate maps: Brittni Kellom (D), Rhonda Lange (R), Rebecca Szetela (I)
- House maps: Rebecca Szetela (I)

These individual Commissioner maps will not be voted upon unless the Commission is unable to reach agreement on the collaborative maps as described in #1 under December 28 vote on final maps.

### **45 Day Public Comment Period**

As required by the Constitutional Amendment, the 45-day public comment period started when the maps were published on November 12.

If the MICRC changes any of the maps' district boundaries during this 45-day public comment period, it will trigger another 45-day public comment period following the publication of the new map. The public is encouraged to comment on which of the published maps should be chosen or rejected by the MICRC on December 28.

### **December 28 Vote on Final Maps**

On December 28, 2021, Commissioners will choose final maps, using the process outlined in the Michigan Constitution, as follows:

1. The collaborative maps for each type of district, U.S. Congress, state Senate and state House, will be voted upon separately. A majority vote including at least 2 Republicans, 2 Democrats and 2 Independents is required to approve the maps.
2. If #1 is not successful, they will use a form of Ranked Choice Voting. Each Commissioner may submit one plan for each type of district from the 15 maps published on November 12.
3. If Ranked Choice Voting is not successful, the Secretary of State will use a random choice method to select the final map from maps submitted by Commissioners.

### **League Supports PTV Maps**

In October, the LWVMI Board voted to support the Promote the Vote (PTV) redistricting maps because they adhere to the Michigan Constitutional Criteria, end partisan gerrymandering and ensure fair maps for the next decade.

LWVMI has served on the Board of Directors of the PTV Coalition since 2018 when League members worked hard to pass Proposal Three, which added important voting rights to Michigan's Constitution.

This past year, PTV has been monitoring the implementation of both Proposal Three and Proposal Two, which created the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission (MICRC).

As a Coalition partner, LWVMI has monitored and reported on MICRC meetings. We have also served on several subcommittees of the Coalition. Susan Smith, VP for Advocacy represented LWVMI on the PTV Map Advisory Committee which met March through September 2021.

Under the guidance of this Committee, maps drawers prepared maps using the same data as that used by the MICRC. The maps were drawn to meet the Michigan Constitution's seven prioritized criteria.

*NOTE:* LWVMI is not commenting on any of the proposed MICRC maps.

-- Sue Smith, LWVMI VP Advocacy

## **Advocacy Committee Following MI Bills**

The Michigan Legislature returned from its recess on November 30 and is expected to leave again on Tuesday, December 14. The Legislature will return for one day on Wednesday, January 12, and then return to start meeting regularly (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) on January 18.

November 30 was marked by the horrific school shooting at Oxford High School, and the legislators quickly voiced their positions – for taking up new gun regulation legislation, providing more money for security in schools, and sending thoughts and prayers. Nothing has changed. The House added money in a supplemental appropriation bill (HB 5522) for a \$50 million grant to school districts for school resource officers. Senator Rosemary Bayer is planning to re-introduce legislation that would create a process for law enforcement to seize firearms from individuals who may be a danger to themselves or others, also known as “Red Flag” laws. Senator Shirkey said he would promise a hearing. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have passed similar laws. LWVMI supported similar legislation last session.

The Senate Elections Committee met on December 8 and reported a substitute for SB 285 that would change the number of challengers allowed in a polling place. The vote was 3-1. The bill now moves to the Senate floor.

On December 9, the Michigan Senate passed SB 273 and SB 278 with a vote of 21 to 17 to regulate drop boxes and the collection of absentee ballots from drop boxes. Those bills are now assigned to the House Elections and Ethics Committee. LWVMI opposed these bills. For more information go to [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

The Michigan State Board of Canvassers approved the National Popular Vote petition that LWVMI supports. The Board also approved two petitions for Let MI Kids Learn that allows money for scholarships so that poor public-school children can go to a private school and those donating can get a tax credit. The Governor vetoed similar legislation, SB 687 & SB 688 and HB 5404 & HB 5405.

The LWVMI Advocacy Committee will meet in early January to discuss the status of current legislation and make recommendations to the LWVMI Board of Directors.

Just a reminder, the Michigan Legislature has a two-year session. The session started on January 1, 2021, and goes through December 31, 2022. Bills introduced in 2021 continue through 2022.

Because of major elections in August and November 2022, it is likely the Legislature will be breaking for campaigning in 2022. As you know, the 13-member Congressional delegation, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, 2 MI Supreme Court Justices, 38 MI Senators, and 110 MI Representatives will be up for election. Candidates for partisan and nonpartisan offices (other than judicial candidates) must file nominating petitions or pay applicable fees for the August primary by 4 p.m. on April 19, 2022.

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Advocacy Committee Chair

## Voter Services

### MI Vote Matters High School Registration Challenge Update

A joint letter from Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Michigan State Superintendent Michael Rice was sent to high school Superintendents, Principals, and Public School Academy Directors on December 2, encouraging them to participate in the MI Vote Matters High School Voter Registration Challenge, a competition among high schools in Michigan to register as many eligible students to vote as possible.

As a result of this letter, an additional 16 schools have signed up, with the majority in an area served by one of our local Leagues. Emails have been sent to the Voter Services contacts at these Leagues, with a request to reach out to the schools and assist them with their registration activities. Since this letter was released so close to the end of the school term, we anticipate the registration activities will pick up when students return to school after the holiday break, as well as into the spring.

As additional schools sign up to participate, Voter Services contacts will be notified. As always, we appreciate your support of this very important project and I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

The next Voter Services irtual meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27, at 7 p.m. Agenda items can be sent to me at [jflo@comcast.net](mailto:jflo@comcast.net). In the meantime, a special thanks to all the work our Voter Services members have done this year! Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season!

-- Judy Florian, LWVMI VP Voter Services

## LWVUS Program Planning for 2022-2024

We trust that all Leagues will flex their grassroots League muscles and participate in a program planning meeting in January or February. This is the time to make your voice heard in anticipation of the 2022 LWVUS convention where delegates will vote on possible new studies or concurrences. The LWVUS website has more information at this link - [Leaders Guide to LWVUS Program Planning 2022-2024](#), as well as the [report form](#) that should be submitted by March 1, 2022.

To help us understand the purpose and process behind LWV program planning, we have posted a handy powerpoint that was originally created by LWV Texas (thanks Texas!) on our LWVMI website under [Misc. Member Resources](#).

Please contact me if you have any questions about Program Planning and remember the March 1 response deadline!

-- Maria Woloson, LWVMI VP Program, (248)703-6236

## Membership Network Meets Regularly

### Membership Leaders' Network

The Membership Leaders' Network met on Zoom on December 8.

- The Flint League provided a PowerPoint designed to educate viewers about the history and purpose of the League.
- The Lansing Area League shared a Powerpoint used during new members' orientation, which includes information about League basics and the three levels of League membership: local, state, and national.

The second part of the Zoom featured an opportunity for local League leaders to ask questions about things such as dues collection and payment procedures.

Participants were also encouraged to share ideas that have been successful in connecting with members through involvement in League projects and social events. Membership leaders from 15 Leagues participated.

The next Membership Leaders' Network is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, at 7 p.m. Membership leaders will receive emails with more information, including the link to the Zoom meeting.

If you are interested in joining the network and have not been receiving emailed information, contact Camilla Davis at [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com).

## DEI Team Developing Support Plan

Local League Presidents: The DEI Team Needs Your Help

In November, local League presidents received an email from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team asking for their input on the status of DEI implementation in their local League. Many thanks to these Leagues who responded promptly: Berrien/Cass, Copper Country, Detroit, Grand Traverse, Holland, Jackson, Lansing Area, Marquette, and Northern Lower Michigan.

The DEI Team needs input from local Leagues to develop a plan to support the implementation of DEI. It's not too late to send responses. The six questions developed by the team are in this [PDF](#). Please print, complete answers, and [email to Camilla Davis](#) as an attachment.

## Local League Spotlights

**Northern Lower Michigan** held a forum in November at Crooked Tree Art Center featuring the Kindred exhibit of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawas. Members were encouraged to bring a guest resulting in a total of forty in attendance.

**Berrien/Cass** sponsored a talk by Dr. Betsy Lozoff founder of the Berrien Immigrant Solidarity Network (BISN), on immigration and the challenges Berrien County immigrants face.

**Grosse Pointe** plans a backyard cookie exchange in President Sue Acton's yard, by the fire pit. In November, the LWVGP Observer Corps Committee trained five new observers.

**Dearborn/Dearborn Heights** hosted a debriefing meeting following the November 2 election. Local City Clerks and election staff were invited to participate. Guests were asked how Election Day went in their respective cities and League members shared their experiences.

## GIFT DEMOCRACY: DONATE NOW

Please consider a year-end gift to empower voters and defend democracy! Your State League welcomes and needs your financial support to carry out its essential work of voter service and advocacy.

- You may donate in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend.
- You may donate to the LWVMI Education Fund (tax-deductible as a charitable contribution) or to LWVMI.
- You may arrange for a planned gift in your will or estate.

### To donate

- online visit <https://lwvmi.org/donate-support-the-league-and-our-mission/>
- send checks to LWVMI, 600 W. Saint Joseph Street, Ste. 3G, Lansing, MI 48933-2288.

**To make a gift through transfer of stock** or direct transfer of IRA or 401(k) assets, please contact LWVMI at 517-484-5383.

**For information on planned giving**, see <https://lwvmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BelleBrothertonPamphlet2015.pdf>

Thank you for your support!

-- The Development Committee

## Local Leagues

Berrien/Cass Counties  
 Copper Country  
 Dearborn/Dearborn Heights  
 Delta County  
 Detroit  
 Eastern UP 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  
 Livingston County MAL State Unit  
 Macomb County MAL State Unit

Manistee County  
 Marquette County  
 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](http://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 (Washtenaw County)  
 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

### December 2021

Dec. 16: Local Leagues/Units Presidents' Call

### January 2022

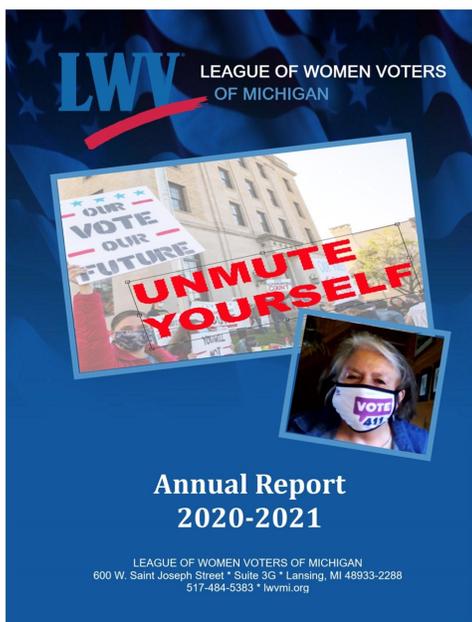
- Local League Program Planning meeting this month or February
- Appoint budget committee
- Begin planning annual meeting
- Update membership roster on LWVUS by January 31

Jan. 1: 3rd quarter PMP due to LWVMI, LWVUS



- Jan. 8: LWVMI Board meeting
- Jan. 12: Membership Development Meeting 7 p.m.
- Jan. 13: Local League/Units Presidents' Call
- Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 26: Observer Corps Meeting 3 p.m.
- Jan. 27: Voter Services Meeting 7 p.m.
- Jan. 31: Deadline to update membership database on LWVUS

View the [calendar](#) on the LWVMI website



**Be sure to check our LWVMI 2020-2021 Annual Report, linked at left.**

You may want to start thinking about YOUR own local League's Annual Report. The report is a great way to highlight the programs and projects of your League, as well as a way to acknowledge the contributions of donors. The Annual Report can also be a recruitment tool as potential members see how active League is in promoting our mission!

This report is also on the LWVMI website, under [Miscellaneous Member Resources](#).

**Connect with us!** League of Women Voters of Michigan

**Phone:** 517-484-5383

**Email:** [office@lwvmi.org](mailto:office@lwvmi.org)

**Website:** [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/lwvmichigan/>

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

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

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