



League Links - April 2022

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Co-Presidents' Messages

PTV2022 Update

Thank you to all LWVMI Local Leagues and Units that have developed PTV2022 petition circulator organizations. Materials have been shared. Petitions have been delivered either in person or by mail. Let us know the events where you gather signatures and fun stories related!

The following is from the [PTV2022](#) Campaign Committee:

Supporters of Promote the Vote 2022 gathered virtually this week to launch signature gathering for the ballot initiative that will protect the fundamental right to vote. Two virtual events kicked off petitioning to place Promote the Vote 2022 on the November 2022 ballot and featured these organizations:

Promote the Vote;

- Voters Not Politicians
- League of Women Voters of Michigan
- NAACP-MI; Michigan Farmers Union
- Equality MI
- Engage Michigan
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters
- American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
- GR PROACTIVE

- Miigwech Inc.
- Fems for Democracy
- Detroit Disability Power

Recordings of the news conferences are available on [Promote the Vote 2022's Facebook page](#). Here is an [online form](#) to guide organizations organizing volunteers.

In League,

-- Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President



2022 National Convention is June 23-26

The 2022 national convention will be held in Denver June 23-26 and will be a fully hybrid experience. If you can possibly go in person, do so! National conventions are a wonderful opportunity to network with League members from all over the country, enjoy a new city, meet new League friends, and get to know other Michigan delegates. But we are lucky that a cheaper, hybrid option is also available this year. Some key convention points:

- Any League member can attend convention. Check with your local League president to see if you can be a voting delegate for your League. Check [here](#) to see how many voting delegates your League is entitled to send.
- Though the convention registration deadline is not until June 6, if you know you are attending in person and need hotel accommodations, make your hotel reservation as soon as possible since hotel rooms fill up fast! Visit the [convention website](#) to reserve your hotel room.
- Local League presidents should contact president@lwvmi.org and let us know the names of the voting delegates from your League. We also need to know whether they're attending in person or virtually, their emails and cell phones.
- Michigan wants as many voting delegates as possible. If you can't be a voting delegate for your home League, chances are you can be a voting delegate for another Michigan League. Let us know at president@lwvmi.org if you're going but can't represent your home League and we'll try to find a League for you to represent.
- There will be a virtual meeting on June 15 at 4 p.m. for the Michigan delegates attending the convention. We want you to be aware of the key votes you should expect at convention.
- League bylaws require that the proposed budget, nominating slate,

bylaw amendments and program be made available to state and local League presidents 6 weeks before the convention (May 12). Local League presidents will need to share this information with all their delegates when they receive it.

In League,

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration observed in many countries, to promote and show appreciation for volunteerism and volunteering.

From The American Presidency Project “We are living in a moment that calls for hope and light and love. Hope for our futures, light to see our way forward, and love for one another. Volunteers provide all three. Service — the act of looking out for one another—is part of who we are as a Nation. Our commitment to service reflects our understanding that we can best meet our challenges when we join together. This week, we recognize the enduring contributions of our Nation's volunteers and encourage more Americans to join their ranks.”

Our League members are volunteers in the many projects we engage in to empower voters and defend democracy.

Thank you.

-- Paula Bowman and Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-Presidents

Advocacy

Advocacy Zoom Call for All Members

The members of the LWVMI Advocacy Committee will host a legislative update by Zoom on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m. Members of the Committee will provide updates on the bills LWVMI is watching and discuss ways to take action. Any League member is welcome to attend; no registration is needed. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7747621807>

We urge you to join this call by Zoom!

Advocacy Committee Updates

The Advocacy Committee met on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, and made the following decisions and the LWVMI Board approved our recommendations on April 9.

- Marty Couretas recommended to oppose SBs 489-492 and HBs 5364-

- 67 that allow carrying of concealed weapons without a permit.
- Sandra Sorini Elser recommended we support HBs 4715-4716 that would provide solar energy credit for customers.
 - Carolyn Madden moved to support SBs 848-851 that would abolish life without parole (LWOP) sentences for juvenile offenders ages 17 and under in Michigan and to support HBs 4987-4991 to reduce the debt of juveniles involved in the justice system.
 - Judy Karandjeff recommended we support HBs 5945-52 that add many changes to MI Election Laws.
 - Betsy Cushman reported on Governor Whitmer's veto of two election bills we opposed, HBs HB 4127 and 4128. The bills would have allowed clerks to remove voters from the QVF if he/she has not provided birth date information or voted since 2000.
 - Tricia Denton provided an update on the status of the Line 5 opposition efforts. The Army Corps of Engineers is looking at the impact of the proposed tunnel. Electric energy resources are being considered for a more permanent option for the Upper Peninsula.
 - Sue Smith noted the two decisions made last week on redistricting cases regarding Grand Rapids and the MI House Hickory Map.

Since our meeting, a new citizen-initiated law petition has been introduced, *Revive MI Elections*. The petitions are circulating now. The individuals supporting the proposal decided not to get the 100-word summary or form approved by the State Board of Canvassers. The petition would make findings of fact and conclusions of law regarding the integrity of the 2020 general election and finding by a preponderance of the evidence that fraud changed the outcome. A complete list of petitions is available on our website, www.lwvmi.org.

The Legislature will return to regular sessions on April 26 through the end of June.

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair Advocacy Committee



LWVMI Spring Workshop Observe, Educate Advocate: Act Locally

Join League members from across Michigan on Saturday, April 30, from 1-3:15 p.m., for virtual learning and conversation at a spring workshop focused on local League ADVOCACY! You will pick up knowledge and tools to help your League advocate effectively at the local level. From being an informed petition signer to sharing what makes an Observer Corps such an important part of local advocacy, you'll get the chance to learn and share during breakout sessions and informative conversations.

This virtual workshop will be presented via Zoom at no charge to members of Leagues in Michigan. Please sign up by April 22. You'll be asked to choose topics for two conversations and one breakout session. The

conversations are small, informal groups sharing information (think of those great conversations you might have during meal breaks or in the hallway). The breakout session is a more formal learning session where experienced Leaguers share best practices.

[Registration link](#)

We look forward to seeing you virtually at this informative and fun event!

-- Denise Hartsough, Chair Spring Workshop Committee

MICRC Recognizes League of Women Voters with Certificate of Appreciation



Pictured at left:

LWVMI Board Members Rebeka Islam and Sue Smith - both active in the MICRC

On April 14, the MIRC presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the League of Women Voters of Michigan which said:

“Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding contributions and service to the people of Michigan and the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, League of Women Voters of Michigan.”

While I accepted the Certificate on behalf of the League, many League members across the state brought us to that moment. Local Leagues sponsored Town Halls publicizing the MICRC application process and the MICRC Public Hearings. In addition, many local League members acted as greeters at the 15 Spring Public Hearings and the 5 Fall Public Hearings.

A number of other organizations also received Certificates of Appreciation including ACCESS, APIA Vote, AARP, NAACP, Michigan League of Conservation Voters and Voters Not Politicians.

As many of you know, we began working for an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission following the Legislature’s adoption of their gerrymandered maps in 2011. We did a state study, held local League consensus meetings and adopted a state position supporting an

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Multiple presentations on Redistricting in Michigan and the need for reform were given at community Town Halls, service group meetings, etc. Over the years, LWVMI was part of numerous discussions with other groups re possible ballot proposals.

Finally, in 2018, a Constitutional Amendment, creating the Independent Citizens Redistricting made it on the ballot, thanks to many organizations including the League, Voters Not Politicians, NAACP, ACLU and Michigan League for Public Policy. The amendment passed with 61% of the vote.

Commissioners

On March 24, Commissioners voted to establish their salary at 35% of Governor's salary, thus negating a 7% COLA increase they had given themselves the previous month.

MICRC sent a request to the state Legislature for funds to cover litigation expenses incurred in defending their maps. The Michigan Constitution requires the Legislature to do so.

The Commission serves until the 2030 Commission is selected and seated. The MICRC has asked their legal team for a recommendation re procedures for suspending meetings of the 2020 MICRC and for reconvening the Commission at a later date, if necessary. One reason for reconvening the Commission would be to defend the maps if a lawsuit were filed before 2030.

Maps

Maps took effect on March 28, 2022. You can find your districts by entering your address into VOTE411.

Lawsuits

Pending

Banerian v ICRC and Benson filed with the federal trial court of Western District of Michigan. It challenged the U.S. House map (Chestnut) for violating the one person, one vote requirement of the U.S. Constitution. It also claimed Constitutional requirement re Communities of Interest was not followed correctly by the MICRC. Voters Not Politicians was granted permission to be an Intervenor in the lawsuit on the side of the MICRC.

On March 4, the Court dismissed the Communities of Interest claim.

On March 25, the Court denied plaintiff's request for an injunction.

The one person, one vote claim remains.

Agee et al vs Benson et al filed in Western District Federal Court on March 27. Lawsuit claims MICRC violated federal Voting rights Act when it drew state House and Senate maps in Southeastern Michigan.

Dismissed or Denied

Detroit Caucus v MICRC filed with Michigan Supreme Court. It challenged the VRA districts in all 3 types of maps approved by the MICRC: Congressional, state House and state Senate. Oral arguments were heard by the Supreme Court on January 26. The Court dismissed the case on February 3, 2022.

LWVMI v MICRC filed with the Michigan Supreme Court on January 28, 2022, oral arguments were requested. The lawsuit challenges the partisan fairness of the state House map (Hickory). On February 10, the Secretary of State filed an Amicus Brief requesting the Court to expedite the process and to adjust the Candidate filing deadlines, if necessary. The SOS did not support either side of the lawsuit.

On March 25 the Court denied LWVMI's request that new state House maps be drawn.

Wagner v MICRC filed by Commissioner Erin with Michigan Supreme Court alleging the MICRC had violated the Freedom of Information Act. The lawsuit was settled out of Court by a Consent Judgment.

-- Susan Smith, LWVMI VP for Advocacy and Redistricting Director

Voter Services

The MI Vote Matters HS Registration Challenge

The *Student Voting Virtual Prep Rally* on March 29 was a high energy and successful event. The purpose of the event was three-fold:

1. Educate the audience on the current state of voting rights and the youth vote in Michigan.
2. Inform the audience about the Michigan Department of State's Recognition Awards and how to join.
3. Motivate the audience to take action and build a voter registration campaign at their school.

The following speakers were present:

- Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Tufts University Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning (CIRCLE), provided statistical data on youth voter turnout and civic engagement. Michigan youth turnout in the 2020 election was 54%, ranking 3rd in the Midwest and higher than 50% Nationally.
- Jeremiah, a freshman at Renaissance High School, gave an inspiring speech on the importance of the youth vote and the voting challenge to register voters.
- Meg Karol, Inspire2Vote, provided the logistics for participating in the challenge.
- I provided a brief background on the League, our long-standing history of educating and inspiring voters, our expertise in planning and conducting high school voter registration activities, knowledge of Michigan election law and the Vote411 Voter Guide.

Here is a link to the recording of the event. [youtube.com/watch?v=YATg09J1nP8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YATg09J1nP8)

There are currently 74 schools participating in the Challenge. Many of our local Leagues have been working diligently with schools to conduct and/or support their voter registration events. To date, a total of 459 have registered. We anticipate the registrations will pick up significantly in the next few weeks. To qualify for the recognition awards, the students must submit their registration pledge cards by May 27, 2022.

Vote411 Voter Guide Question Committee

The Vote411 Voter Guide Question Committee met on March 30 to finalize the questions for the 2022 Guide. These questions will be used for both the August and November elections. The Board of Directors approved the questions at the April 9, 2022 meeting. A very special thanks to the following Committee members: Paula Bowman, Co-President; Connie Ferguson, Kalamazoo Area; Beth Moore, Lansing Area; Anna Scott, Lansing Area; Carolyn Vertin, Tecumseh/Lenawee and Lynne Kochmanski, Washtenaw County; Board members Denise Hartsough and Sue Smith and Advocacy Committee Chair Judy Karandjeff.

Voter Services Virtual Meeting

The next Voter Services Virtual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m. This is a one-time change to our regular meeting schedule. The agenda, with Zoom link, will be sent out the day before the meeting.

-- Judy Florian, LWVMI VP Voter Services. Jflo@comcast.net

Membership Updates

The April Membership Leaders' Network met on Zoom on April 13. Attended by members of 18 local Leagues, the topic was College Students in LWV: How to Organize a Campus Unit.

Donna Mullins, Lansing Area President and Camilla Davis, LWVLA Membership Director and LWVMI Membership VP, with the support of the LWVMI Co-Presidents and the LWVMI Membership Committee, partnered with Michigan State University students to establish a Campus Unit of LWVLA. Donna and Camilla shared the steps they followed and what they learned during the process. The three MSU students instrumental in forming the Unit joined the meeting to talk about their experiences.

Mark your calendar for the May 11 Membership Leaders' Network. The topic will be How to Promote DEI in Your Local League.

In the meantime, if you have questions, contact Camilla Davis, LWVMI Membership VP. If you would like to be added to the Membership Leaders' Network email list to receive information about meetings and resources, contact Camilla.

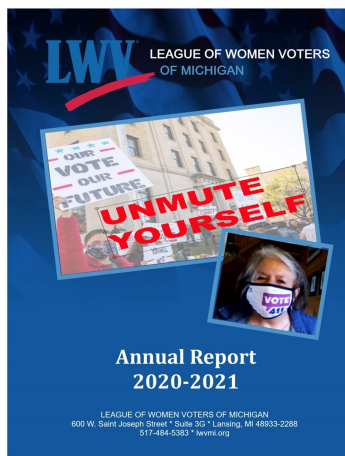
-- Camilla Davis, LWVMI VP Membership cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com

Local League Spotlights

Marquette County is the recipient of the Marquette Regional History Center Peter White Award for their 2020 presentation titled *A Brief but Spectacular History of Women's Suffrage*. This award honors foundations, organizations, companies, and institutions for exceptional effort in the enhancement, restoration, conservation, or interpretation of the history of the Marquette area.



Grosse Pointe member Cathy McAdam (pictured above with her service dog Lucy) served on the March 8, 2022, panel sponsored by the Detroit League of Women Voters titled *Voting Access: The Disability Story*. Items discussed included challenges disabled voters face at the polls, including bringing a friend to assist with voting and disrespect/lack of empathy by some poll workers. The presentation is available on [YouTube](#).



Be sure to check out the most recent [LWVMI Annual Report!](#)

Does YOUR local League put together an annual report of your league's accomplishments?

These reports are a great way to highlight all your league has accomplished, and a way for new members to learn what LWV is all about.

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
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)
At-Large: Kathy Poore (Macomb MAL)

Calendar

April 2022

Begin to plan 2022-2023 meetings

Plan a "Go See" tour

April 17-23: National Volunteer Week

April 20: Voter Services Virtual Meeting, 7 p.m.

April 21: Advocacy Virtual Meeting, 7 p.m.

April 30: LWVMI Spring Workshops 1 - 3:15 p.m.



May 2022

May 14: LVMI Board Meeting

June 2022

June 23-26: LWVUS [Convention](#)

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

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/>

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