



League Links - June 2022

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Can't see all the articles? Click on "Clipped Message" at the end of the page.



Above: members of LWV of Northern Michigan - our newest independent League (see the Local League Spotlight article) - worked with Miigwech, an

indigenous organization in northern MI on the Promote the Vote petition drive.

Co-Presidents' Messages

PTV2022 Update

Michigan League members out in the field gathering signatures are doing a fantastic job! Thank you to all of you and your efforts to empower voters and defend democracy.

The Day of Action is this weekend, June 24-25, with many opportunities to sign the petition if you have not had the opportunity to do so. The following link is a list of events going on through the signature campaign period which is wrapping up very soon:

<https://promotethevote2022.com/how-to-sign/>

We are in the final push to reach our goal of 425,059 valid signatures. If you have questions about the petition details, the FAQ from the Promote the Vote 2022 website link follows:

<https://promotethevote2022.com/frequently-asked-questions/>

For additional News and Updates-please go to this

<https://promotethevote2022.com/news-updates/>

The League is needed now more than ever!

-- Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President



LWVUS Biennial Convention June 23-26 in Denver, Colorado

LWVMI has a great set of delegates registered for convention representing 23 of our 32 Leagues. We have 56 registered delegates with 11 attending in person. The balance are participating virtually.

LWVUS is offering a hybrid platform this year. They report that 500 delegates will be attending in person and 600 are registered for virtual attendance.

A convention overview meeting was held recently with the 56 Michigan delegates to review highlights. The new national board, budget, bylaws and program for the next two years will be decided by the delegates attending. There will also be the opportunity to learn more about the League through numerous workshops and caucuses. This will be a fully packed agenda!

More to report when we return.

-- Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President

Action is a Click Away

LWVMI uses an Action Alert service called "*Soft Edge.*" It makes advocacy easy for all of our members because

- it provides you with a League-prepared emailed letter
- it can identify both your US and state representatives and senators after you put in your address
- a message is sent about 60 seconds after you type in your contact info and click "Submit"

How easy is that??

Action Alert issues are chosen because they are coming up for a vote or because the League wants to put pressure on our elected officials about a certain topic. Action on these issues has been recommended by the Advocacy Committee and approved by the state Board.

Do you think your participation doesn't matter? It does! Our elected officials keep track of every single email and phone call in support or opposition of a bill or an issue. Consider the impact if a state senator walked into a negotiating meeting and could say that she had 500 emails in support of a particular bill. It makes a difference!

Our most recent Action Alert was sent out to 2,932 members and League friends. The response rate was embarrassingly dismal. Please be an active League member and take the 60 seconds to make your voice heard. We and your community are counting on you.

It's Annual Meeting Time!

We hope all Leagues are enjoying getting together for their annual meetings this spring and summer. We salute all of the outgoing board members for their service and welcome all the new board members as they take on the new challenge of keeping democracy safe in Michigan. We request that the League president or League secretary please send the roster of their new board of directors to Co-Presidents Paula Bowman and Christina Schlitt. An

updated local League presidents list will be sent out as soon as we hear from all Leagues. Thank you!

In League,

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!
MICHIGANVOTING.ORG

IMPORTANT DATES: AUGUST 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION

- ✓ **NOW.** Request your absentee ballot online or submit a paper application
- ✓ **JUNE 23:** In-person absentee voting at your city or township clerk's office begins
- ✓ **JULY 18:** Last day to register to vote online or by mail (after July 18, you'll need to register in person with proof of residency)
- ✓ **JULY 19:** Last day to drop your ballot in the mail (after July 19, drop your ballot off at your city or township clerk's office or in a secure dropbox provided by your clerk)
- ✓ **AUG. 1:** If you're registered to vote where you live, you can vote absentee in person at your city or township clerk's office until 4 p.m. on August 1 (after that, you must vote at your polling location on Election Day)
- ✓ **AUG. 2:** Election Day! The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. local time; if you need to register, you can register and then vote at your city or township clerk's office until 8 p.m.

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFO? VISIT
MICHIGANVOTING.ORG OR CALL 866-OUR-VOTE.

Click on the image at the left to download a PDF of this Know Your Rights poster!

The MI Vote Matters HS Registration Challenge

The results are in! A total of 83 high schools participated in the first MI Vote Matters HS Registration Challenge. A total of 2,061 students registered, with 7 winning schools. The winners are as follows:

Gold Level (90% or more registered)

Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw

Silver Level (80% or more registered)

Summerfield Jr./Sr. High School, Petersburg

Bronze Level (50% or more registered)

Lakeview High School, Battle Creek

Onkama Consolidated Schools, Manistee

Charlevoix Middle High School, Charlevoix

Clara B. Ford Academy, Wayne

Merrill High School, Merrill

There were a number of high schools with over 100 registrations/pledges to vote. These include Fenton Area Public Schools, Fenton; Traverse City West Senior High School, Traverse City and L'Anse Creuse High School North, Macomb Township.

A very special thanks to all of the local Leagues who assisted high schools with registration events during the challenge project! It was a pleasure working with our partners: Michigan Department of State, Inspire2Vote,

Michigan Center for Civic Education, and When We All Vote, an initiative within Civic Nation. Awards will be presented to the schools by Secretary of State Benson in September.

Election Worker and Challenger Recruitment

Election workers and challengers are needed for both the August 2 Primary and November General Election. Our involvement with the Clerk Engagement Subcommittee has provided us with the opportunity to work with other nonpartisan organizations to recruit election workers and challengers for both election cycles.

Michigan has 83 counties, 280 cities, and 1,240 townships. During elections, each of these units of government requires a staff of paid workers to assist voters and process absentee voter ballots. Workers are trained by the local clerk. Election workers can be directly at the polls assisting voters or they can be at the absentee ballot counting boards handling the processing of these ballots. Their work is crucial to the election process.

Through our involvement with the Election Protection Program (EPP), we are aware of a movement to potentially infiltrate and disturb the election process. Our coalition partners are working together to recruit and train nonpartisan poll challengers. The purpose of these challengers is to preserve the integrity of our elections and guard against any abuse of the election process. The training is very comprehensive and all challengers must attend training before they can be placed at a polling location or absentee ballot counting board. Rather than intervene, if the challenger observes inappropriate or disturbing behavior, they are instructed to refer the issues to the Election Protection Hotline for resolution. Unlike poll workers, shifts for challengers are usually only 3-4 hours.

EPP will be finalizing the challenger recruitment/training process in the next few weeks.

A registered voter does not have to work in their own jurisdiction as an election worker or election challenger. If anyone is interested in serving as an election worker or election challenger, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The Voter Services Virtual Meeting for June is canceled due to the LWVUS Convention. The next Voter Services Virtual Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21 at 7 p.m. The agenda, with a Zoom link, will be sent out the day before the meeting.

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



MICRC Updates

MICRC Meeting Highlights

The Commission has reduced the number of times they meet from twice a month to just once, usually from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The next meeting will be on July 21 at 10 a.m. .All meetings are virtual.

Budget Shortfall

MICRC sent a request to the state Legislature for funds to cover litigation expenses incurred in defending their maps. The Constitution requires the Legislature to do so. In May, Commission Chair MC Rathorn and Executive Director Edward Woods, III met with the House Appropriations Subcommittee to explain the request. The Committee did not respond except to ask for more information - which was sent.

On June 1, Executive Director Woods submitted a request for \$2.2 million to the Appropriations Subcommittee reminding them the MICRC would run out of money in June and asking them to place the funds for the MICRC in the Supplemental Budget as soon as possible. There has been no response from the Committee.

On June 9, the MICRC authorized Executive Director Woods to take whatever action was necessary to obtain the necessary funds by June 30

“Dormancy” vs “Ending”

Several months ago, the MICRC started discussing the future of the 2020 MICRC. The question is: Should the current MICRC go “dormant” once the current lawsuits are resolved or should it end? If it were to end, the Secretary of State would select 13 new members using the process outlined in the Michigan Constitution. The Commission asked its legal team to recommend a course of action going forward.

On June 9 the MICRC discussed a memo from David Fink, a member of the MICRC’s Michigan legal firm. Apparently, the memo outlined several options for the MICRC to consider in the “Dormancy” issue. The memo has not been made public so we have limited knowledge of what it contained.

The two options outlined in the memo seem to be:

- Disband the current commissioners once the pending lawsuits have been settled. The SOS would choose a new set of commissioners if additional lawsuits were filed after the current commission was disbanded.
- Keep the current commissioners until the new commissioners are seated in fall 2030.

Mr. Fink favors the first option based on his interpretation of the Constitution.

Commissioners Szetela and Lett, both attorneys, disagreed with Mr. Fink's interpretation and expressed support for the second option. Commissioners Lett and Clark are preparing a memo describing what they think would be the best way forward. Their memo will be posted on the website at a later date.

Both Mr. Fink and Commissioners Szetela and Lett agreed that it could take six months to two years before the two pending lawsuits in the federal courts are settled. (LWVMI redistricting lawsuit was filed in 2017 and settled in 2019.) It was agreed that the Commission has plenty of time to discuss the Dormancy issue before making a decision.

House Resolution HJR S

There has been no action on Resolution, HJR S which was introduced in the House last May. It is non-binding, but if it were to pass with a 2/3 vote in both the House and Senate, a proposal to abolish the MICRC from the Constitution would be on the November ballot.

Final MICRC Reports

The Constitution requires a final report on the work of the Commission, including why the maps were drawn as they were. Commissioners who voted against the final maps may submit a dissenting report to be included with the final report, if they wish.

The release of the final report has been delayed because the MICRC's lawyers were concerned that the content of one of the dissenting reports might have an adverse impact on pending or future lawsuits. The dissenting report will not be affected, but the MICRC report might need to provide context surrounding the issue. The MICRC requested that the final reports be placed on the July 21 meeting agenda.

The MICRC "Lessons Learned" video and written report will be released soon.

Lawsuits

Pending

1 Banerian v ICRC and Benson filed with the federal trial court. The case was heard by a 3-judge panel in the 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, and it also claimed Constitutional criterion re Communities of Interest was not followed correctly by the MICRC. In addition, the plaintiff asked for an injunction.

The Federal District Court has dismissed or denied the plaintiff's claims and has denied the request for an injunction.

The plaintiff has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. A decision on whether to take the case will not be made by the U.S. Supreme Court until at least October 2022.

2 Agee et al v. Benson filed in Western District Federal Court, claims MICRC violated VRA when it drew state House and Senate maps in SE Michigan. Briefs have been requested.

Dismissed or Settled Lawsuits

1 Detroit Caucus v MICRC re VRA in all 3 types of maps
Dismissed by Michigan Supreme Court, 4 to 3 on February 3, 2022.

2 LWVMI v MICRC was filed with the Michigan Supreme Court on January 28, 2022. The lawsuit challenged the partisan fairness of the state House map (Hickory).

- Dismissed by Michigan Supreme Court, 5 to 2 on March 25, 2022.

3 Wagner v MICRC filed by Commissioner Erin Wagner with Michigan Supreme Court alleging the MICRC had violated the Freedom of Information Act.

- Settled by a Consent Judgement.

-- Susan Smith, VP for Advocacy and Redistricting Director

Advocacy

The LWVMI Advocacy Committee met on June 8 and made the following recommendations to the LWVMI Board of Directors. The Board adopted our recommendations:

1. Marty Couretas recommended joining the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.
2. Sandra Sorini Elser talked about the first meeting of the Environmental Network. 12 people met. They plan to meet on the third Thursday of the month.
3. Maria Woloson mentioned that she is receiving recommendations from other Leagues on program proposals at the LWVUS

convention. Delegates will have an opportunity to discuss at their meeting.

4. Carolyn Madden and Connie Mitchell recommended supporting SB 634-636 and HB 5297-5299 to reduce school removals for students.
5. Chris Zilke noted that the LWV Great Lakes Region continues with Healing Our Waters and other Great Lakes coalition for clean water. There will be a quarterly meeting in July. There will be an annual meeting in October hosted by the Wisconsin LWV.
6. Betsy Cushman attended the House Elections & Ethics Committee and noted the committee reported HB 6124 with a substitute that would provide training for election challengers.
7. Connie Mitchell noted that the Senate Education and Career Preparedness Committee met and reported out HB 5097 banning the teaching of critical race theory.
8. Tricia Denton reported that the Judge in Bad River Band in Wisconsin ruled against Enbridge Energy, and ordered Enbridge to release confidential studies to Bad River Band. Documents reveal that Enbridge has known for at least 6 months that shutting down line 5 would only increase gas prices by .5 cents (½ a cent) in Michigan and Wisconsin and .4-.6 cents in Ontario.
9. Christina and Paula signed onto a letter addressed to Sen. Manchin, Chair of Energy and Natural Resources Committee on behalf of LWVMI, to correct the record regarding incorrect information provided by Individuals representing Canada and Enbridge at a May 12, 2022 hearing on Line 5.
10. Judy Karandjeff recommended support the Fair Lending Ballot Proposal.

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair Advocacy Committee

Status of November Ballot Proposals

On June 1, only one petition that amended legislation submitted signatures to the MI Secretary of State, Fair Lending, Unlock MI, Secure MI Vote, Michigan United, Let MI Kids Learn (A) & (B), Audit MI, Raise the Wage, Community Healing, Revive MI Elections did NOT turn in signatures.

Secure MI Vote and Let MI Kids Learn are continuing to gather signatures, but if they do submit the signatures the proposal CANNOT be placed on the November ballot. However, if signatures are certified by the State Board of Canvassers the Legislature can vote to pass those proposals and the Governor cannot sign or veto them. The League will monitor this carefully.

On July 11, proposals that amend the MI Constitution and be voted on in the November election, have to submit their signatures. We know Promote the Vote 2022, Reproductive Freedom for All, and MI Right to Vote (A) & (B) are gathering signatures to submit.

The Michigan Legislature voted to place the Transparency and Term Limit Constitutional Amendment on the ballot, so that is the only known ballot

proposal that for sure will be on the ballot in November.

LWVMI supports the Fair Lending, Promote the Vote 2022, Reproductive Freedom for All, and the Transparency & Term Limits proposals.

A complete list of these proposals with more information is available on our [website](#).

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair Advocacy Committee

Two Special ZOOM Meetings Planned

For MAL State Units

MAL State Unit leaders are being invited to take part in a Zoom meeting focusing on state unit finances and frequently asked questions about membership. LWVMI Treasurer Denise Hartsough, Assistant Treasurer Judy Karandjeff, and Membership VP Camilla Davis worked together to prepare documents and resources to support MAL State Units and answer their questions about financial procedures.

The first step will be to survey invitees to find a date that works for maximum participation. Following date selection, a Zoom link will be sent to participants. For more information, contact Camilla at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com.

For Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula Leagues

Leagues located in Michigan's Upper and Northern Lower Peninsulas are being invited to participate in a Zoom meeting to discuss shared challenges and strategies. Hopefully, this network will meet approximately four times a year. The first meeting will be scheduled sometime in mid-August, depending on the availability of participants. Invitees will be surveyed to find a day and time that works for all. The plan is to have a basic agenda with topics suggested by participants before the meeting. Invited Leagues will have at least one representative (not necessarily the president) who will share what their League is doing successfully and what challenges they face. For more information, contact Camilla

Membership Leaders' Network

Planning is beginning for fall Membership Leaders' Network meetings. If you have suggestions of topics for the Zoom meetings, please contact Camilla.

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

Local League Spotlights

LWV – Northern Lower Michigan was officially recognized as an independent League by the LWVUS board at its June meeting. NLM serves residents of Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties. Organized as a Unit of LWV Leelanau County, in March 2019, it advanced to MAL State Unit Status in June of 2021. The League currently has 80 members.

Four members of LWV – Grand Traverse Area joined the group of Senior Center Network members for the monthly Senior Citizen Center rally on May 26 to support efforts to put a county-wide millage proposal on the ballot to fund a new Senior Citizen Center building at the site of the current building. League members have been encouraged to join the next rally on June 23. (See the photo above right.)

LWV – Lansing Area’s Environmental Action Group supplies an article for the League’s *Capitol Voter* each month. The May article had timely information about gardening, with a focus on protecting nature. Also included monthly is *One Thing* which informs members about a single, simple thing we can all do to protect the environment. Read examples of EAG *Capitol Voter* contributions on the LWVLA website.

<https://www.lwvlansing.org/capital-voter>



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
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

June 2022

June 23-26: LWVUS [Convention](#)
June 24-25: Day of. Action for PTV2022 Petition Signing



July 2022

July 11 all PTV 2022 Signatures deadline
July 21 Voter Services Meeting, 7 p.m.

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/>

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

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