



League Links - July, 2022

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Leaders: We know you're out there!

Up for a new challenge that is short term and really not that hard? How about being the regional leader for the LWW's Board of Canvassers program for the August and November elections? Training is available for these responsibilities:

- recruit League members (and other volunteers who are willing to subscribe to the League's rules). Submit their names, email and cell phone numbers and local League/Unit if League member, or the organization they represent
- keep track of the volunteers and the schedules/shifts they agree to work
- track their reports and submit to P, Bowman daily (when the canvas board is meeting)
- contact the county clerks for canvassing times and locations and if in-person or virtual or combination. Ask for the participation rules.
- make sure volunteers attend training and can use the report platform

Here are the Counties (some are groups) for which we still need leaders:

- · Oakland County
- · Wayne County
- · Kent, Allegan, Muskegon Counties
- · Genesee, Lapeer, Tuscola, Saginaw Counties
- · Isabella, Midland and Manistee Counties
- · Grand Traverse, Benzie, Kalkaska, Crawford and Antrim Counties
- · Leelanau, Cheboygan, Emmet and Charlevoix Counties
- · Alpena, Alcona and other counties in NE Michigan
- · Upper Peninsula Counties

This has turned into an important League project that our election partners count on. If you can help out, please contact paulabowman9000@gmail.com. Thanks!

Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

Promote the Vote 2022 Campaign Update

Delivering the Petitions

Christina Schlitt represents LWVMI as a PTV 2022 partner in presenting almost 670,000 petitions to the Secretary of State on July 11, 2022.

Congratulations to LWVMI PTV 2022 Campaign signature organizers, team leaders and circulators for gathering just about 18,000 signatures to contribute to an overall successful effort! Thank you! Thank you for your hard work! And thank you to Pat Buckner, LWV Oakland Area, for her support in helping to organize and train League members. A press conference/rally was conducted on 11 July to celebrate delivery of the petitions, with a link to the Facebook event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/PromoteTheVote2022/videos/994106764608471>

More than 66 news articles in print, radio and TV have been released since the 11th and all positive about PTV 2022!

The following Leagues gathered 1000+ signatures: Washtenaw County, Flint Area, Grosse Pointe, Dearborn/Dearborn Heights, Kalamazoo Area, Calhoun County GEO Unit (of LWVKA), Leelanau County and our newest League - Northern Lower Michigan.

The PTV2022 campaign gathered over 850,000 signatures with 669,972 submitted to the Bureau of Elections (BOE) on Monday morning, 11 July. That is a buffer of over 200,000 signatures contributed by 27 volunteer organizations. Due to the quality control software, there were a number of signatures scrubbed between the total amount and the amount submitted, mostly due to duplicate signatures. If received by the BOE all duplicates would have been scratched, but QC kept one good signature. Volunteer

organizations accounted for 225,000 total signatures with a running 80% validity rate.

Next steps include waiting for the BOE to validate at least 425,059 signatures then recommend confirmation to the Board of Canvassers (BOC). Timelines for confirmation include the BOC meeting dates of 21 July and 19 August. But the drop-dead date is 9 September to be included on ballots for the 8 November election.

Confidence is high that PTV 2022 will be confirmed and SAY YES! Campaigns are in the planning process. Local Leagues and Units will be asked to help with presentations. More information will follow soon.

In the meantime, the VOTE YES! phase of the campaign could use your financial support. Please consider donating to Phase 2 as you did to Phase 1 through the [Promotethevote2022.com website](https://www.promotethevote2022.com) or [this link directly](#),

Thank you again for your hard work and congratulations for reaching the goal.

In League,
Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President

Michigan Voices Heard at LWVUS Biennial Convention

Michigan was well represented at the LWVUS convention in Denver at the end of June. Fifty-six Michigan members attended – 11 in person and 45 virtually. Though the in-person delegates may have had a little more fun in Denver (see picture above) than those sitting in front of their computers at home, all who attended felt the LWVUS team did a a good job of making the convention workshops and plenary sessions as accessible as possible under the circumstances, even for the virtual attendees. .

With respect to the controversial bylaw amendment -- it was an incredibly close vote, but the amendment that LWVMI had lobbied against before and during the convention passed by a narrow margin. The changes that will occur as a result of this amendment are radical. In simple terms, it will eventually mean that all membership dues will be paid to the LWVUS, who will then share the dues money with local and state Leagues. This will have far reaching effects on budgets, donations, dues renewals, fiscal years and dues amounts. LWVUS is candid about not knowing how this will all play out, indicating it will take at least 2 years to “unfold”.

For the foreseeable future, this means *no changes in the way we collect dues or pay PMP bills*. Independent Leagues just received a PMP bill from LWVMI this month and LWVUS will be sending out their PMP bills soon. As usual, these should be paid. LWVMI is hoping to have a 'seat at

the table' as LWVUS works to make the changes a reality. We will keep you informed of any changes to PMP or your dues payments in the coming years.

Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

Program and Policy Decisions at Convention

At the 2022 LWVUS Convention delegates approved a few additions to the existing program and policy positions.

Program refers to the agenda of advocacy action that LWVUS will pursue for the next 2 years.

- Delegates renewed commitment to the **Campaign for Making Democracy Work**, which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting.
- Delegates added “**election of the president by popular vote**,” meaning both the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and the Abolishment of the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment. This addition fit with the announcement by LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner that the League's next long-term goal is abolition of the Electoral College.
- Delegates added the **Equal Rights Amendment** to the LWVUS program so that resources and focus will help accomplish its passage.

Policy Positions are the League statements of position on issues on which we base our advocacy. LWVUS positions are detailed in *Impact on Issues*, a new edition of which is forthcoming for 2022-24.

- Delegates voted to **retain all current positions**.
- Delegates adopted a new position on **Criminal Justice** by concurrence. Michigan League members will recall that LWVMI adopted this position from California by concurrence for Michigan in 2021.
- Delegates updated the **Health Care** position by concurrence, a position from New York adopted by concurrence in Michigan in 2021.
- Delegates adopted a new position on **Digital Equity** by concurrence. This position from Connecticut calls for making high-speed internet available to all residents of the United States, without charge, from such places as schools, libraries and other secure public buildings, and affordable internet available to everyone in their homes and workplaces. The position posits that internet access is a necessity for assuring equal access to local and state government, maintaining openness and transparency in government activities, communicating with legislative leaders, engaging in political discourse, competing in the global marketplace, and assuring that voters receive the information they need to participate in our democracy.

Denise Hartsough, LWVMI Treasurer and Convention Delegate

Voter Service News

Vote Smart is now MI Vote Counts!

MI Vote Counts is a non-partisan, weekly web-series hosted by the Michigan Department of State. Sessions feature helpful voter how-to's, a deep-dive into how Michigan elections are run and tips for preparing your community for August and November. Voters can sign up for the sessions and email updates.

Sign-up for more sessions or for email updates [at this link](#)

I have attended the first two sessions and they provide excellent information to voters. You are encouraged to share this information on your local League's Facebook page and website to inform voters to sign up.

Voting Absentee: Dos and Don'ts

Another great resource to make available to voters is the Do's and Don'ts of voting absentee. [This link provides this information.](#)

Voters can access their personal voting information at Michigan.gov/Vote.

Next Meeting: July 21

The next Voter Services Virtual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 21** at 7:00 p.m. The agenda, with Zoom link, will be sent out the day before the meeting.

July Florian, Vice President, Voter Service

Advocacy Updates

Reproductive Freedom for All Michigan

On July 11, the Reproductive Freedom for All (RFFA) turned in its signatures to place the Constitutional Amendment on the ballot in November. LWVMI supports this proposal and is a member of this coalition headed by ACLU of MI, MI Voices and Planned Parenthood Advocates of MI.

As noted on the [website](#), this proposal will affirm that every person has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which involves the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, prenatal care, and childbirth.

Michigan has a 1931 law that bans all abortions except to save the life of the mother. On May 17, MI Court of Claims Judge Elizabeth Gleicher issued a preliminary injunction blocking the implementation of the 1931 law. Therefore, access to abortions in Michigan is still allowed. A [Timeline: Abortion Laws in Michigan is available on the LWVMI website.](#) Please sign up as a volunteer on the [RFFA website](#) and get involved in supporting its passage in November.

Status of Election Legislation

The Michigan House and Senate have been busy holding hearings and passing legislation on Michigan election law. LWVMI has monitored this legislation and taken action as needed. A new update on the status of the legislation is available on [LWVMI's website.](#)

Over 60 bills were introduced, 28 bills were reported from at least one committee, 13 bills were sent to the Governor, 12 bills were vetoed by the Governor and 1 bill became law. Bills dealing with the Qualified Voter File, election challengers, and polling place locations were vetoed by Governor Whitmer. PA 94 of 2022 (HB 5258) that regulates the procedure for “proofing” ballots became law.

Status of Ballot Proposals

At this time Michigan could have 4 statewide ballot proposals. Term Limits and Transparency has been placed on the ballot by the Michigan Legislature. Fair Lending, Reproductive Freedom of All and Promote the Vote 2022 turned in signatures to the Secretary of State.

On July 15, the Election Bureau staff report recommended not certifying the Fair Lending proposal because there were not enough valid signatures. The recommendation will go to the State Board of Canvassers. The other two, Promote the Vote 2022 and Reproductive Freedom for All, are being reviewed by the Election Bureau.

LWVMI supports all 4 of these proposals. A complete list of the status of all the proposals is available on [the League's website.](#)

Judy Karandjeff, Advocacy Committee Chair

Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy Update

The League of Women Voters Michigan has approved a partnership with the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence (MCPGV), a 501c3, issue oriented, non-partisan and non-profit organization. Our shared commitment to voter education will increase opportunities to spread useful information about gun violence issues and research-informed approaches to addressing these issues. There is widespread bipartisan support across the political spectrum for reasonable gun safety measures that might move past the partisan blockade in the Michigan legislature that has prevented consideration of any new gun laws in recent years. Our joint efforts, including formulating questions for candidate forums and surveying

candidates about their issue positions, can help increase voters' knowledge as they clarify their own views and select their preferred candidates in the upcoming election. LWVMI will benefit from access to evidence-based data and reliable research-based solutions to confront the current gun violence epidemic.

In order to educate voters, we must build our own knowledge about the nature of gun violence issues, including the prevalence of firearm suicides as well as accidental shootings by children who gain access to unsecured guns in homes. While building this base of knowledge, we can incorporate examinations of evidence concerning the effects of gun laws and violence reduction programs in other states. Ultimately, by sharing this knowledge, we can point voters and policy makers to options for reducing deaths, injuries, and survivor trauma from firearm violence.

MCPGV Board President Christopher Smith, J.D., Ph.D., who is also a Professor of Criminal Justice at MSU, will contribute by sharing his exemplary work in this field, his knowledge base, and communication skills. We will provide links to articles and sites that inform. According to Dr. Smith, a good starting point for beginning to understand important aspects of gun violence in Michigan would be to examine a [short report on our state produced by the Center for American Progress](#) which highlights notable problems and recommends suggested approaches for reform.

In addition, people concerned about gun safety in Michigan can look to the example of other states that have enacted laws that go beyond the limited measures recently signed into federal law by President Biden. By examining other states' laws, we can consider what approaches might address our state's problems most effectively. Recent examples are [Virginia](#) and [Washington](#).

Martha Couretas, LWVMI Gun Violence Prevention Advocate

Membership News

An Opportunity to Evaluate Attitudes and Beliefs

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are a focus of LWV's membership initiatives, with the goal of creating a welcoming organization that is attractive to all individuals. With that in mind, here's an opportunity to check your attitudes or beliefs about a variety of topics and learn some things about how you perceive others.

Project Implicit was created by a team of scientists whose research investigates new ways of understanding attitudes, stereotypes, and other hidden biases that influence feelings, judgment, and action. Learn more about Project Implicit on the [project's website](#).

Project Implicit offers the opportunity to select Implicit Association Tests (IATs) from a list of fifteen topics. Topics include age, race, gender-career,

weight, skin-tone, disability, and religion.

Tests take about ten minutes each and you'll get an analysis of your responses immediately following completion.

Camilla Davis, LWVMI VP Membership

Local League Spotlights

On June 19, **LWV Dearborn/Dearborn**

Heights members participated in a Juneteenth event sponsored by the Dearborn Heights Community and Cultural Relations Commission. Commission and LWV members Latanya Gater and Leslie Windless participated in the planning of the event. Members Larry and Geri Biggs, Christina Sullivan-Rathwell, Laura Dudgeon, Mary Jo Durivage and Jen Oliver staffed a LWV table where they gave out LWV information and gathered PTV and RFFA petition signatures.

LWV Berrien and Cass Counties had a record turnout at its Annual Meeting on June 21. The featured speaker was Chris Thomas, retired Michigan Director of Elections. He spoke on the security of the electoral process and how it is designed to provide secure and fair elections.

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

Northeast Michigan (formerly Alpena County)
 Northern Lower Michigan
 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

July 2022

July 18 Meeting for MAL Leagues
 July 21 Voter Services Meeting, 7 pm
 July 26 Local League Treasurers Meeting, 7 pm



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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