



League Links - August 2022

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

PTV2022 and All Ballot Proposal Presentations

We are entering the second phase of the ballot proposal process as soon as the certification from the Bureau of Elections and then the Board of Canvassers is completed. That process will need to be finished in time for ballots to be printed by 9 September. LWVMI will be participating in two separate avenues of public outreach this fall. We have been talking about these opportunities once the signatures were submitted and now, they are just about here!

First, PTV2022 Campaign is asking for speakers to be part of a speaker's bureau to advocate for voting yes on the proposal for the General Election 8 November. The public relations firm for the campaign, ByrumFisk, will provide training and materials. Actually, the first training session is August 25. There will be one in the morning and one in the afternoon. There will be

subsequent training sessions in September, but those dates have not been set yet. If you have interest, please let me know as soon as possible.

Second, local Leagues and Units will be asked by LWVMI to conduct educational town hall meetings to explain the proposals, pros and cons of each and to list the organizations that support them and those that oppose. Included in these educational presentations will be election process information that will have information on the Board of Canvassing process. These events may be in-person or virtual. The expected proposals are *Reproductive Choice, Promote the Vote 2022 and Transparency and Term Limits for legislators*. Judy Karandjeff and Sue Smith will be preparing the presentation PowerPoints, scripts and materials for you to use. They will be introducing the presentations at an advocacy network meeting on the evening of Tuesday, September 13, at 7 p.m. This will be the education presentations and training sessions for those interested in participating in a speaker's bureau will be on Monday, September 12, at 7 p.m., and another session on Wednesday, September 14, at 3 p.m. If you are interested, please let me know and we will make sure a link is sent. Local League presidents/Unit leaders will receive the links and you can also check with them.

Those interested in being part of a speakers' bureau can help conduct town halls in your own League, other Leagues or organizations that request an educational presentation about the 3 proposals. If you'd like to take the training and be part of the speakers' bureau, please submit your name to president@lwvmi.org . If you'd like to be part of the speakers' bureau to advocate for the PTV2022 proposal, again contact president@lwvmi.org. Be sure to specify if you're interested in being a speaker for PTV2022 or the ballot proposals or both.

In League,
Christina Schlitt , LWVMI Co-President



Board of Canvassers Observation Engages Over 140 League Members

Over 140 League members joined the team that observed 36 county Board of Canvassers (BOC) do their work after Michigan's primary election. We are grateful to all of our volunteers, including the 23 regional leaders who did recruiting and schedule planning, for giving up parts of their summer days to be the eyes and ears of the League as we worked to monitor this piece of the election process that so few people are aware of.

Whether the observation was done in Kalamazoo or Baraga or Leelanau County, all of our observers were complimentary of the conscientiousness of

the BOC members, the staff, and election workers as they worked to double and triple check hundreds of stacks of numbers, tapes, ballots and the ever-important poll book. The struggle to track down one or two votes to make sure a precinct balanced was impressive. Anyone from the public who would watch the county canvassing would surely have to acknowledge that this post election process is confirmation that Michigan elections are safe, accurate and secure.

Because public interest in the post-election BOC process is growing (we had several radio interviews and an [Opinion Piece](#) published), we are conducting a virtual webinar/forum in early October that will be widely distributed once completed. We've invited experts who can share information about this process that is often ignored. Watch for details later.

There will be a BOC "debriefing" for all the volunteers who worked on the observation project. An email with the zoom has been sent out, but if you did not receive yours, contact me.

The good news for Michigan: all 83 counties certified their county's primary election, and on Friday, August 19, the Michigan State Board of Canvassers certified the election at the state level. On to November!!

Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President, paulabowman9000@gmail.com

LWV members Alicia Mazurek (Dearborn-Dearborn Heights), Charles Thomas (Detroit) and Judy Florian (Grosse Pointe) outside the Wayne County BOC office.

Position Available

Thanks to some grant funding that we recently received, LWVMI is hiring! We are seeking an LWV member who can assist the Co-Presidents and the Vice President of Voter Service with the myriad of election protection projects that are on the docket through the 2024 election. Our job advertisement reads:

Contract Position: League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) is currently seeking an Election Protection Program Project Manager. The position will be involved with various LWVMI voter service activities from August 2022 through December 31, 2024. This is a grant-funded position paying \$50,000/year, non-negotiable. The work may be performed off-site.

Applicants should be a League member, possess excellent communication and organizational skills and have the ability to navigate Microsoft Office. Experience with Mobilize (volunteer management platform) and Voter Activation Network (VAN) is a plus.

A more detailed list of responsibilities is linked [here](#). Interested applicants should complete the [application](#) and return it to Judy Florian (email on the form) as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact president@lwvwm.org

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President



Women's Equality Day

August 26 is Women's Equality Day, a day to commemorate the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, solidifying the right to vote for *some* American women.

Every year, we celebrate the accomplishments women have made and signal hope that we are moving towards full equality. Once women were enfranchised, candidates paid more attention to issues that had often been dismissed as unimportant. Women took advantage of this influence and advocated for legislation that improved child labor laws, changed divorce, inheritance and property laws that would no longer treat women as chattel, improved public education and escalated family planning choices.

With the stagnation of the ERA amendment in our legislature and the recent Supreme Court decision to overturn a woman's right to make her own choices regarding her reproductive health, it often seems as if we are going backwards.

But we have the power of the vote guaranteed to us in 1920. With that vote, we can restore reproductive freedom – at least in Michigan by voting to support the Reproductive Freedom For All proposal that we expect to be on the November ballot. We can continue to elect representatives who believe in the ERA and will fight to bring this full ratified amendment out of legislative limbo. Women must also continually use their power at the polls to improve voting rights. It is women and voters of color who are far too often the target of voter suppression.

“The vote is a power, a weapon of offense and defense, a prayer.”
Carrie Chapman Catt

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

MICRC Updates

MICRC Meeting Highlights

The Commission is meeting once a month, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Next scheduled meeting is September 29. Members of our League Monitoring Team continue to observe and report on the meetings.

MICRC Budget

- **Fiscal Year 2022:** \$5,308,900 was appropriated by the Legislature. It includes money to cover current litigations costs. The state fiscal year ends September 30.
- **Fiscal Year 2023:** A draft budget is being considered by the MICRC. The recently approved 2023 state Budget does not include any money for the MICRC. Any funding of the Commission would have to be included in a Supplemental Budget bill. The funding issue is complicated by the unresolved “Dormancy” Issue.

“Dormancy” Issue

Commissioners Lett, Clark and Szetela have submitted an “MICRC Dormancy and Reactivation Plan” to the rest of the Commission. These three Commissioners have a different interpretation of the Michigan Constitutional language regarding the “Dormancy” issue than that of the MICRC legal team. A copy of their plan is available on the MICRC website under meeting materials for July 21, 2022.

At issue is whether the current Commission goes dormant after the pending litigation is resolved and then is reactivated if there are additional lawsuits before the new Commission is seated in 2030; or should the current Commission members be terminated after the pending law suits are resolved and new Commissioners be chosen if there are new lawsuits.

According to the Michigan Constitution, the current Commission must remain active while there is pending litigation, in case the Court requires them to redraw any of the maps. There are two pending cases in the federal courts, one of which has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. See description of pending lawsuits at the end of this article.

Reports

Required final reports, including why the MICRC drew the maps the way they did, plus dissenting Commissioners’ reports are available on the MICRC website under meeting materials for the July 21, 2022 meeting.

The “Lessons Learned” video and an accompanying written document were scheduled to be on the MICRC’s August 18 meeting agenda for review and approval. The League and other organizations were interviewed for the written document.

Maps

Executive Director Woods will create a map booklet that includes all congressional and state legislative maps in a simpler format than is

currently available on the MICRC website.

North Carolina Redistricting Case

The US Supreme Court decision re the North Carolina redistricting case will not affect Michigan because the MICRC is embedded in the Michigan Constitution.

Pending Lawsuits

- Agee et al v. Benson et al 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.
- Banerian v ICRC and Benson, filed in Federal Court of Western District: Claims MICRC's U.S House map (Chestnut) violates U.S. Constitutional requirement of one person, one vote plus claims of Community of Interest violations. Requests injunction.
- Community of Interest claims dismissed by court as non-judicial under "Rucho", March 4, 2022, Request for injunction denied, March 4, 2022.
- One person one vote claim denied March 25, 2022. Plaintiff appealed to U.S. Supreme Court. No action will be taken by the Court until at least October.

-- Sue Smith, LWVMI VP Advocacy

Observer Corps

The next Observer Corps Zoom meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 3 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Christina Schlitt, Co-President of LWVMI. David Allen will send the Zoom link a few days before the meeting.

-- David Allen, Director LWVMI Observer Corps pdavidallen2@icloud.com

Voter Services News

LWVMI Partners with Michigan Department of State

As of August 10, we have a new partnership with MDOS. The Secretary of State's office receives a lot of requests to host voter registration drives. These requests come from schools, government and private organizations. On the MDOS website, they currently have information on Do it Yourself (DIY) drives. They'd like to add an option to complete a form to request assistance with a voter registration event. Because of their respect for the League and our excellent reputation with voter registration activities, they want to partner with us on this project. We are pleased they approached us

and look forward to working with them to provide this service. I will coordinate this effort with our local Leagues and MDOS.

Calling All Election Inspectors, Challengers and Watchers!

LWVMI is compiling a list of all members who serve as election inspectors, election challengers and poll watchers. Many times, we receive inquiries from the media and for grant deliverables on the number of members who serve in these election-related roles. To date, we do not have a good idea of how many of our members work in these important positions.

If you have not done so, please send me (jflo@comcast.net) information on your role, the jurisdiction where you served and your email address. I would appreciate this information even if you did not work the August Primary but plan to work in the November election, or vice versa. This will also allow us to send you election-related updates as we get closer to November 8th. Thanks in advance for your help!

Election workers are the most valuable players of our democracy, ensuring free and fair elections for everyone. Election workers are paid for their service and trained before election day. If you want to serve as an Election Inspector for the November 8 election, you can contact your local clerk or sign up at Michigan.gov/democracymvp. You do not need to serve as an election inspector in the city in which you live. You can serve in any city or township.

Print Voter Guide Update

Betsy Cushman indicates the Voter Guide is in process. Sue Lincoln, Stafford Printing, is adapting the basic formatting from 4 years ago to set up the pages for 2022. The number of questions in some races have changed, as well as the races themselves. The official nominating conventions for the Democrats (August 21) and Republicans (August 27) may cause a delay but we're working within these constraints.

All local Leagues have ordered their guides. If you are aware of other organizations that need a supply, please contact me no later than August 29.

VoteRiders

Paula Bowman and I met with representatives from VoteRiders, an American non-partisan, non-profit 501C3 organization, whose mission is to ensure that all US citizens over 18 years old are able to exercise their right to vote. They provide, free of charge, Voter ID information cards, in English and Spanish, that can be provided to voters in our state. Local Leagues can order a supply of Voter ID Information Cards, at no cost. Simply click "Order Cards Now" [on this page](#) to get started and get cards shipped to you in 2-3 weeks. Cards are available in English and Spanish and will be great to hand out for any events you have scheduled prior to Election Day.

VoteRiders also has a [social media toolkit](#) that includes specific [Michigan graphics](#). Many partners (including the Vote411 site) link to their Voter ID Helpline (844-338-8743) where voters can call/text with ID questions or to start the process of getting free ID help from VoteRiders.

I've also included their [partner toolkit](#), which is a comprehensive document listing all of their free ID-focused tools and services. This is a great resource for local Leagues and voters in Michigan.

The next Voter Services Virtual Meeting is Thursday, August 25 at 7 p.m. The agenda, with Zoom link, will be sent out the day before the meeting.

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

Advocacy Updates on Ballot Proposals

Promote the Vote 2022

The signature sample has been pulled, and the State Board of Canvassers will determine if it is certified and the ballot wording at its hearing on August 31. **LWVMI supports this proposal.**

Defend Your Vote filed a challenge claiming that PTV22 failed to include sections of the constitution that were abrogated by the proposal.

Secure MI Vote and Let MI Kids Learn

Signatures were turned in to the Bureau of Elections by Secure MI Vote and Let MI Kids Learn in August. Neither can be placed on the November ballot, but if they are approved by the State Board of Canvassers, the MI Legislature can enact them into law.

The timeline for the review by the Bureau of Elections, approval by the State Board of Canvassers and transmission to the Legislature is unknown. **LWVMI opposes both legislative initiatives.**

Reproductive Freedom for All

The signature sample has been pulled by the Bureau of Elections for Reproductive Freedom for All. The State Board of Canvassers will decide whether or not they are certified and ballot wording from the Bureau of Elections at its hearing on August 31. The wording for the statewide ballot must be determined by September 9. **LWVMI supports this proposal.**

Citizens Supporting Women and Children filed a challenge on wording problems in the Reproductive Freedom for All's petitions.

The Oakland County Circuit Court had a hearing on August 17 and August 18 about continuing the temporary injunction for the 1931 abortion law (*Whitmer v Linderman*). On August 19, Oakland County Circuit Judge Jacob

Cunningham granted a preliminary injunction blocking the 1931 law. The court set a pretrial conference for November 21, 2022. The decision may be appealed.

Transparency and Term Limits

On August 19, the State Board of Canvassers certified the primary election and agreed to the wording for Proposition 22-1. **LWVMI supports this proposal.**

Proposal 22-1: A proposal to amend the state constitution to require annual public financial disclosure reports by legislators and other state officers and change state legislator term limit to 12 total years in legislature

This proposed constitutional amendment would

- Require members of legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general file annual public financial disclosure reports after 2023, including assets, liabilities, income sources, future employment agreements, gifts, travel reimbursements, and positions held in organizations except religious, social, and political organizations.*
- Require legislature implement but not limit or restrict reporting requirements.*
- Replace current term limits for state representatives and state senators with a 12-year total limit in any combination between house and senate, except a person elected to senate in 2022 may be elected the number of times allowed when that person became a candidate.*

Should this proposal be adopted?

YES

NO

LWVMI will keep you informed as these proposals continue through the process.

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair Advocacy Committee

New Statewide Environmental Network

The League of Women Voters of Michigan has started a Statewide Environmental Network. It's for League members from all over the State who are interested in raising awareness of our Climate Emergency and the many environmental issues facing Michigan, the United States, and the world. We meet monthly by Zoom to share ideas, resources, and solutions about environmental issues.

The idea for the network began this April with the suggestion of Elaine Fischhoff and Ellen Link of the Lansing League. They asked the State Advocacy Committee to add Environmental Networking as a conversation topic at the 2022 State Spring Advocacy Workshop. Over 30 League

members attended the conversations and were enthusiastic about starting an Environmental Network.

The Environmental Network has had three meetings so far. Our group includes about 25 members, and we are pleased to add additional participants.

About 12-15 participants have joined each of our monthly Zoom meetings. We share news and events about environmental issues, resources, and connections with other environmental groups. At our June meeting Elaine Fischhoff provided tips on how to advocate with local governments to adopt a Climate Action Plan. A sample of other discussion topics include PFAS, flooding in Southeast Michigan, solid waste and recycling, the recent oil spill in the Eastern UP, and an upcoming raingarden tour and solar tour in the Emmet/Charlevoix County area.

If you're interested in joining the Statewide Environmental Network please contact me. We meet the third Thursday of every month from 11 a.m. - noon.

-- Sandy Sorini Elser, Chair Statewide Environmental Network
sandrasorinielser@gmail.com

Communications Committee

This newly formed committee held its first meeting in March 2022. It has been assembled to improve the internal communications between state and local Leagues and external communications between the LWV and government entities, media, and the community.

The committee is in the process of creating guidelines for the creation and distribution of League materials is a priority for this committee's purpose. These guidelines will help League members throughout Michigan feel confident in the design of appropriate materials for the public. They will address correspondence, social media use, educational materials, and poster/ flyer development.

Another area of interest is Action Alerts. This is a notice from LWVMI board to all LWV members that action is needed on state legislation. An educational video is in development with the goal of guiding members on how to complete the Action Alert request. It requires a few simple clicks to make legislators aware of your stance on an issue. It may seem that your single email might not be effective but imagine if all 2500 Michigan League members acted in unison.

Stay tuned for updates.

-- Kathy Poore, LWVMI Communications Director

Membership News

The Membership Leaders' Network Zoom meetings, designed to support local League membership efforts, will resume this fall. As always, programs will include a segment of information about the meeting's topic followed by many opportunities for participants to share successes and challenges.

Suggestions of topics are welcome. On the list so far are the importance of social media presence, effective use of newsletters, and what information should be provided immediately for new members. If you have suggestions, please send them to Camilla Davis, Membership VP.

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

Local League Spotlights

LWV – Holland Area

sponsored “Meet and

Greet” events for Allegan and Ottawa County candidates before the August 2 Primary Election. More opportunities for voters to interact with candidates prior to the General Election.

The photo at left shows some of the action at one of these events.

LWV – Grand Traverse Area has added a section to its newsletter titled *Get to Know Our LWVGTA Members*. Individuals will be contacted and asked to write a paragraph or two about their interests, why they became a member of the League, and anything else about themselves or their family that they would like to share. A photo may be added at the member's discretion.

LWV – Grand Rapids Area observed the public logic and accuracy testing of many jurisdictions throughout Kent County ahead of the last few election cycles. Ahead of the August 2 Primary Election, they had had volunteer observers at nineteen of the twenty-five jurisdictions. (Due to last minute changes in testing schedules and/or no posting the date/time of the testing, six locations could not be covered.)

The local Fox affiliate covered the testing and LWV was highlighted as having members observing the process. [View the video.](#)

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



August 2022

- 8-25 BOC Observer Project Debrief 2:00
- 8-25 Voter Services Meeting 7:00
- 8-26 Women's Equality Day

September 2022

- 9-11 LWVMI Board Meeting
- 9-12 Speaker Training/Ballot Proposals 7:00
- 9-13 Advocacy Network Meeting 7:00
- 9-14 Speaker Training/Ballot Proposals 3:00
- 9-20 National Voter Registration Day
- 9-28 Observer Corps Meeting 2:00

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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