



## League Links - September 2022

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## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

### Promote the Vote on the Ballot!

#### **Ballot Proposal 22-2**

The good news, which is common news now, is that the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the Michigan Board of Canvassers certify the PTV2022 ballot initiative to be on the ballot in November. Yes! The over 670,000 signatures League members helped to obtain were submitted which is thousands more than the 425,059 valid signatures required.

Now it goes to the voters to decide on November 8, 2022. The PTV 2022 campaign has developed a speaker's bureau to advocate for a yes vote.

Trained League members will be presenting educational information about all three ballot proposals now through October. Let us know if you have an organization that would like the pro/con information about:

- Prop 22-1 Transparency and Term Limits
- Prop 22-2 Promote the Vote 2022
- Prop 22-3 Reproductive Freedom for All

#### **Democracy Truth**

Michigan League members have been combatting mis-dis and mal truths for years now. We have addressed it through presentations, social media and workshops. We now have more tools in our toolkit to further address the

escalating bad information out there about the elections. LWVMI and all local Leagues and Units have had the opportunity to be part of a training presentation to learn more about tactics and techniques to share with members and the public to combat the mis-dis and mal truths.

Jeanette Senecal, LWVUS, and Cameron Hickey of ATI provided to many of us training to build resilience to the mis-dis and mal information.

“Misinformation about our democracy and our election system has now become pervasive and dangerous. While there is no one perfect solution to this problem we can improve our discourse and reduce the impact of mis and disinformation by recognizing that we all have an active role to play in building community-wide resilience.”

The training covered:

- Understanding the various forms of problematic content that spread in our communities
- The tactics, motivations, and impacts of misinformation
- Responsible ways to engage and respond
- Effective community-based social media monitoring and reporting
- How to teach these concepts in your own community
- How to effectively use the tools and resources provided

Thank you all for your hard work to empower voters and defend democracy.  
***THE LEAGUE IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!***

In League,  
-- Christina Schlitt , LWVMI Co-President

## Nothing Normal in 2022 Midterms

In 2022, there is nothing normal about the midterm elections. The amount of mis-and disinformation that circulates on a daily basis has created a whole new dimension of work for the League. But because we're determined to continue educating people about the truth, LWVMI and all of our local Leagues have a list of educational events in the next 2 months. We are proud that our members are so committed to spreading trustworthy information to Michigan voters.

### Some upcoming events

**Sept. 21, 7 pm** Join us to watch a candidate forum for the Michigan Supreme Court. All 5 candidates are participating. You can watch on Zoom by registering here and it will also be available live on LWVMI's Facebook page. The recording will be sent to local Leagues for posting on websites. Register at <https://bit.ly/LWVMI-MSC-Forum-Registration>

**Sept. 29, 5:30-7:30 pm** LWVMI is a co-sponsor of the “Spirit of Democracy” rally in downtown Detroit (at the Spirit of Detroit Plaza). LWV Detroit will be registering voters and sharing League information. In addition to some notable speakers, there will be music and free ice cream, so bring the

kids! The goal of the event is to get more people involved in the election process as poll workers and election day observers or challengers.

**Oct. 5:** LWVMI is hosting a panel discussion with election experts to explain the process of certifying elections in Michigan. The recording of this event will be available to all Leagues and to the public the following day. It is our hope that this event, to which members of the press are invited, will result in news articles about the importance of this piece of our democracy.

**Nov. 9:** LWVMI will begin the county Board of Canvasser observation program. It will be an "all hands on deck" effort as we are trying to cover as many of Michigan's 83 counties as possible. Our BOC program has gained notoriety since it began in 2020, and our election protection partners rely on the League to monitor the BOC as they complete their work. Watch for a sign-up notice in a few weeks and help us with this important work. No experience is necessary, but as before, all observers will be asked to attend a training session.

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

## Voter Services News

### MI Vote Matters HS Registration Challenge

Secretary of State Benson will recognize the winners of the 2021-22 challenge at a virtual event on September 20. This is also the start of National Voter Registration Week. She will use this event to announce the kick-off of the 2022-23 Challenge. All schools that participated this year will be automatically signed up for the new year unless they opt out. MDOS is also working with Inspire2Vote on training their Team Captains. The Team Captain Program is a non-partisan student-led initiative, empowering students to plan and lead voter registration efforts at their high schools. Up to two students at each school will be selected to serve as a Team Captain for the 2022-2023 school year.

### Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Postcard Project

LWVMI is pleased to announce the completion of a postcard template for local Leagues to use for GOTV efforts in late September/early October. This effort will provide local Leagues the opportunity to engage their members in an easy and worthwhile project to help encourage people to vote.

Our focus is on newly registered and first-time voters. We will be using the Voter Activation Network (VAN), which directly interfaces with the Qualified Voter File (QVF) through the Secretary of State's Office. We will be happy to personalize the postcards to include the local League's name. Local Leagues will receive the postcard template, sample messaging and the mailing list (via Excel spreadsheet). Local Leagues will be responsible for developing mailing labels.

A very special thanks to Pat Buckner, Oakland Area League, for her excellent postcard design (see below). If your local League is interested in participating to help get out the vote, please contact me as soon as possible so we can get the postcard template and mailing list information to you.

### **Update on Print Voter Guide**

The print voter guide is on schedule, with expected delivery to local Leagues by the end of September. Thanks to all local Leagues who ordered the guide for distribution in their communities. A special thanks to Carolyn Vertin and Anna Scott, our LWVMI Vote411 Directors, for their outstanding work with Vote411. Their help getting information to local Leagues for their voter guides/information flyers, and their continued work inviting candidates and managing the Vote411 database has been extraordinary! It is through their efforts that our online and print voter guides will be available to educate voters before November 8th. In addition, thanks to our local League Vote411 coordinators, who have managed their local elections exceptionally well. All of this incredible work has been done with a new, redesigned Vote411 system. Kudos to our Vote411 team!!

### **19th Amendment Project**

WVMI was approached by Tom Hinken, Social Studies Consultant for the Muskegon Intermediate School District. They are conducting project-based learning with 4th grade students, which will focus on the 19th amendment as a way to understand how responding to inequalities can lead to positive social change. The students will be reading *The Hope Chest* by Karen Schwabach, a book about women's suffrage. Students will do research, read books, explore current inequalities and develop a plan to address an inequality in their community.

They want to introduce "experts in the field", which LWVMI has agreed to provide. The "experts" will meet with students and respond to questions about their projects. Specifically, questions about the background of the 19th Amendment, the purpose of the League and what issues the League is currently addressing. Since it's also an election year, voting issues may also be discussed. All sessions/interactions with students will be conducted via Zoom. They will start this unit of instruction in November. If you are interested in serving as an "expert," please let me know.

### **Campus Vote Project**

LWVMI will participate in the Campus Vote Project. A Michigan Student Voting Summit will be conducted on MSU's campus on September 30, in partnership with the Michigan Secretary of State and Michigan State University. This summit will be both in-person and virtual, with a target attendance of 150 students from 30 colleges across the state. Paula Bowman will serve on a panel titled *What's on the Ballot? Going Beyond the Candidates*. LWVMI will also have an information table.

**The next Voter Services Virtual Meeting** will be held on Thursday, September 22 at 7 pm. Shira Roza, Election Protection Director, Promote

the Vote, will present information on the challenger program for the November election. The agenda, with Zoom link, will be sent out the morning of the meeting.

-- Judy Florian, LWVMI VP of Voter Services, [jflo@comcast.net](mailto:jflo@comcast.net)

## Advocacy Updates on Ballot Proposals

The campaigns are in full swing for the three proposals that will be on the state ballot and were finally approved by the State Board of Canvassers. There are some interesting articles in Bridge Michigan Magazine and on the Citizen's Research Council's website if you want more information. The complete wording of the petitions is available on the Secretary of State's website as well as the sponsoring organization's websites.

### **LWVMI supports all three of the ballot proposals:**

- 22-1 Transparency & Term Limits
- 22-2 Promote the Vote 2022
- 22-3 Reproductive Freedom for All

### **Educational Presentations**

Sue Smith, Judy Karandjeff, and Kathy Poore are preparing the final documents for the educational presentations. About 60 people completed the training last week and will be available to provide presentations throughout the state. Contact Co-President Christina Schlitt if you need a speaker.

### **Advocacy Committee**

The committee met on September 6, and recommended to the LWVMI Board of Directors that it oppose the expansion of Camp Grayling and send a letter to the MI Natural Resources Department. The board approved the recommendation.

In addition, Chris Zilke highlighted that the annual conference for the LWV Lake MI Region Annual Meeting will be held October 21 and 22 in Cheboygan, WI. More information will be on its [website](#). In addition, the Environmental Network chaired by Sandra Sorini Elser continues to meet monthly.

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair Advocacy Committee

## 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](mailto:pdavidallen2@icloud.com)

## Membership News

### Membership Leaders' Network

The first Membership Leaders' Network, the monthly Zoom meeting for local League membership leaders, will be Wednesday, November 9, at 7 pm. This is the opportunity for local membership leaders to share successes and challenges in membership and leadership development, and to learn about resources available from LWVMI and LWVUS. The topic of the first meeting will be new member orientation, including what information to provide about League policies and procedures. As always, there will be the networking opportunity to share successes and challenges.

### DEI Opportunity

The Cross-Cultural Conversation Workshop provides an opportunity for local Leagues to be aware of and active in diversity awareness. It offers the opportunity to hear what other people have experienced and how they reacted to negative and/or offensive interactions. A workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, from 9 am to 1 pm. Find out more about the workshop on the Non-Profit Network website.

<https://nonprofnetwork.org/event-4913916>

### Network for Leagues in Michigan's Northern Lower, Upper Peninsulas

Leagues located in Michigan's northern lower and upper peninsulas met on Zoom on September 13 to share common challenges and share suggestions for how to meet them. Six Leagues were represented: Copper Country, Delta County, Eastern Lower Peninsula, Marquette, and Northern Lower Michigan. Following introductions during which participants introduced themselves, described their local Leagues, and shared a challenge their League faces, Darlene Allen (past president of LWV Marquette), led a discussion centering on shared challenges and a sharing of suggestions of how to address them. The meeting was recorded, and Membership VP Camilla Davis will send the link to the recording, along with a compilation of the challenges and suggestions, to participants. The plan is create a list of participants' emails to establish a contact list and for the group to meet quarterly on Zoom.

-- Camilla Davis, LWVMI VP Membership, [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com)

## Local League Spotlights

### Congratulations to the Livingston County Member-at-Large State Unit

LWVLC submitted its application to become an independent League to the LWVMI board, and at its September 10th meeting, the board voted to unanimously approve it. The application will be sent to LWVUS for final

approval of independent League status. LWVLC began as a Geographic Unit of the Washtenaw League and advanced to MAL State Unit status in September 2021 and moved on to applying for League independence in September 2022.

### **Author, Author!**

David Allen, member of the Marquette County League and LWVMI board member, has co-authored a book titled *Paper Valley: The Fight for the Fox River Cleanup*. He and journalist Susan Campbell write about the struggles and ultimate success of forcing the largest polychlorinated biphenyls cleanup in history, paid for by paper companies rather than taxpayers. The book will be available in April 2023. Read more about the book on the Wayne State University website.

<https://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/paper-valley>

## **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](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)  
 At-Large: Kathy Poore (Macomb MAL)

## Calendar



### September 2022

9-20 National Voter Registration Day  
 9-21 MI Supreme Court Candidate Forum 7 pm  
 9-22 Cross Cultural Conversation Workshop 9 am  
 9-22. Voter Services meeting 7 pm  
 9-28 Observer Corps Meeting 3 pm  
 9-29 Spirit of Democracy Rally in downtown Detroit

### October 2022

10-8 LWVMI Board Meeting  
 10-28 Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting

**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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