



League Links - October 2022

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Board of Canvassers Work Starts Nov. 9

Though many will breathe a sigh of relief on November 8, when the mid-term election is behind us, the League knows that an important piece of the election process will just begin. Members of each county's Board of Canvassers (BOC) will begin the tedious but necessary process of reviewing vote totals and documents from each precinct.

Since the League's Board of Canvassers (BOC) observation program started in 2020, attention from state and national election protection leaders has skyrocketed. Observation reports from this program are being used to identify some possible certification challenges or irregularities and remedy them before it's too late. LWVMI is leading the effort to observe BOC boards in all of Michigan's 83 counties. We are working with a variety of groups to provide volunteers for some of the counties in which we have no League.

The core of our program is you – League volunteers who can be the eyes and ears on the BOC boards. We had a great turnout from League members at the August primary, but we need even more volunteers for this election. No experience is necessary for this work, but observers must attend a training session (either 10-26 at 7 pm or 11-3 at 7 pm), wear a LWV badge, adhere to the League guidelines, and submit a simple report after each shift.

Depending on the population of a county, the BOC may take 1-14 days to finish their work. We'll be asking volunteers to sign up for 2-3 hour shifts, but you can work more if you'd like. A signup form where you can choose the dates and times you want to work in a specific county will be available next week. Please consider being part of this important post-election work.

Paula Bowman, Co-President

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

Co- President's Message Mid-term Election Efforts to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy

The mid-term election is just over three weeks away. Mid-terms are important and this one especially so, with election deniers making more noise than ever.

You have been working hard to help make this election about honesty, factual information, and integrity. Your training on best practices to combat mis-,dis, and mal information has provided tools for you to continue your actions. You have worked hard through preparing *Vote411.org* and distributing the printed voter guide. You have worked hard in sharing accurate information through social media, press, and ballot proposal educational presentations. Please continue to share the ballot proposal presentation widely and if your League needs support there is a recorded presentation on the *lwvmi.org* website (Vote heading, drop down-first item, go to ballot proposal presentations) that you can use throughout your community.

The local League GOTV efforts, with state board resources, will bring more never-voted registered voters to the polls. You worked with community members, new partners to register voters in previously underserved communities. The student interaction has been elevated at high school and college campuses throughout Michigan. Sign-up to be a poll worker or poll challenger. You will be trained for these positions and note this: You will be among the people that actually run the election and protect the integrity to make sure each voter's ballot is counted as cast.

Advocacy support for all three ballot proposals has been directed by the campaigns of each. The Prop 2 speakers' bureau has been busy with TV, radio and press interviews, coupled with presentations, canvassing, phone

and text banking. (If you are or your League is interested in phone or text banking for Prop 2, email me at bcschlitt@aol.com) Additional and in-depth review of the ballot proposals can be found at the Citizens Research Council website <https://crcmich.org/>

You have been working hard and our hats are off to you!

But you aren't done yet!

Election protection continues for one day to two weeks (depending on the size of the county) following the election through our Board of Canvasser observer program. We have an ambitious goal to cover all 83 counties and report activities and certification to our EP partner and the Department of State (MDOS). If you are interested in participating in this project, you will be trained and you can select the shifts to observe that fit your schedule. Please see Co-President Paula Bowman's article. And if you have not had the opportunity to watch the BOC webinar, it is a must-see. Organize a watch party with fellow Leaguers and check out the informative presentation by the expert panel. (https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/oK9Ct2Hy9f-4BK4MLYJysqnIs7fp6QQWVkyNaYWPjqzW3f4uOndARvawUqRamRiacGH9g-KEtttN9-0.sN_rjLLtY6KWr-GA?continueMode=true)

We thank all of you for your above-and-beyond efforts to EMPOWER VOTERS AND DEFEND DEMOCRACY!

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



Introducing Sara Weertz

Please extend a warm welcome to Sara Weertz, our new voter services project manager. Sara is a Detroit LWV member and is the editor of their website. She will be working on a variety of projects for us through the end of 2024 including the Board of Canvassers observation project, election protection work, Get Out the Vote initiatives, and other voter service programs. Her skill set will be a great help to the League as we work to make sure every citizen has the right and the desire to vote as well as access to the polls and tools to make sound decisions. Welcome, Sara!

Voter Services News

Printed Voter Guides

The printed Voter Guides are on the streets, thanks to the incredible work of Betsy Cushman, Carolyn Vertin, Anna Scott, and Sue Lincoln (Stafford

Printing). Betsy, Carolyn, Paula Bowman, Christina Schlitt, and I also served as proofreaders.

A total of 119,145 voter guides were ordered, exceeding the total in 2020. Local Leagues have been busy distributing the guides in their communities and libraries. A link to the digital version has been shared with all local Leagues and is also on the LWVMI website. A very special thanks to all local Leagues who are distributing the voter guide to help educate our Michigan voters!

Poll Workers and Election Challengers Needed

Many communities in Michigan are still in need of poll workers and challengers for the November 8 General Election. The League fully supports both of these positions and urges members to sign up to help defend our democracy.

Poll Workers

To be a poll worker, members can sign up through their local clerks or by going to Michigan.gov/democracymvp. Training for poll workers is provided by local clerks. See this [link](#) for a chart listing jurisdictions that need poll workers.

Election Challengers

One of our coalition partners, Promote the Vote, is recruiting nonpartisan election challengers. Responsibilities include the following:

- Monitor the election process at polling locations, satellite offices, and absent voter counting boards
- May raise an official objection, called a “challenge,” if the challenger does not believe that the poll worker is following Michigan’s election law

All challengers must be registered to vote in Michigan. Challengers will receive comprehensive training on their rights and responsibilities and on Michigan election law. All challengers, after training, will receive credentials.

Challengers are needed throughout the state on Election Day, both at the polls and at absentee ballot counting boards. While challengers are encouraged to volunteer the entire day, if possible, shorter shifts are also available. Challengers may also be needed before Election Day and immediately after Election Day at larger absentee ballot counting boards.

Sign up [here](#) to volunteer as a nonpartisan election challenger for the November 8 General Election.

The next Voter Services Virtual Meeting is Thursday, October 27, at 7 p.m. The agenda, with Zoom link, will be sent the morning of the meeting.

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

Advocacy Updates

Election Law Update

The Michigan Legislature passed SB 8 and SB 311 and the Governor signed the bills into law, PA 196 and 297 of 2022. The new laws would require the Secretary of State to create a process to allow uniformed service active duty and merchant marine to cast their ballots electronically beginning January 1, 2024. The electronic ballot would be returned to the appropriate local city or township clerk. The U.S. Department of Defense would verify the electronic signature. The bills are tie-barred to HB 4491.

The Michigan Legislature also passed HB 4491 and the Governor signed the bill into law, PA 195 of 2022. Immediately, it allows local clerks to begin processing absentee ballots two days (Sunday & Monday) before the 2022 election if over 10,000 population. Notices of preprocessing would have to be posted on the SOS website by October 29, certain records have to be kept, and inspectors and challengers would be allowed. There are also new requirements for the security of absentee drop ballot boxes and chain of custody provisions.

The law also requires county clerks to update the qualified voter file at least monthly and to cancel the registration of deceased electors in their counties.

Beginning January 1, 2023, the Qualified Voter File is updated to cancel the registration of deceased (potential) voters each time the information is received. There are additional requirements for more frequent updates prior to the August primary and the November primary.

The Michigan Legislature passed HB 6071, and the Governor signed the bill into law, PA 219 of 2022. Beginning January 1, 2023, the new law expands the polling places to include, if others are not available, a polling place at any privately owned banquet or conference center or recreation clubhouse. It also allows the legislative body in each city or township to establish a central polling place or places.

Environment Update

The Advocacy Committee and the LWVMI Board agree to oppose HB 4575. HB 4575 has passed the MI House of Representatives and the bills have been assigned to the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee.

According to the House Fiscal Agency, "House Bill 4575 would amend the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act to prohibit a local unit of government, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, from adopting, maintaining, or enforcing an ordinance that prohibits the use of an appliance that uses gas in a new or existing residential or commercial building or structure."

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair Advocacy Committee

Gun Violence Webinar

Gun Violence Prevention Advocate Martha Couretas and Criminal Justice Advocate Carolyn Madden recommend a critical informational seminar that was recorded at the Ford School UMich on September 22, 2022, titled: *Policy-focused solutions to the firearm epidemic: What we know works*. As firearm prevention policies are discussed with the potential of becoming law, the research base provides evidence in strategies and policies that have actually reduced deaths and injuries from gun violence.

The speakers and their message:

- Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions
Dr. Webster is one of the nation's leading experts on the prevention of firearm violence policy, violence prevention, youth violence, suicide, and substance abuse.

- Sonali Rajan, Columbia University
With a focus on school violence prevention, Rajan studies child access to guns, school safety, and adverse childhood experiences

- Rod K. Brunson, University of Maryland
His research focus is police-community relations, youth violence, and evidence-based criminal justice policy. He calls for effective crime reduction strategies that do not result in racially disparate treatment of minority citizens.

- April Zeoli, University of Michigan
Interdisciplinary research brings together public health and criminal justice through the study of intimate partner violence and firearm homicide and suicide. Her research focuses on legal firearm arm restrictions for domestic abusers, extreme risk prevention orders, and the impact of firearm policies on childhood firearm injuries and deaths.

Here is the link for the seminar in its entirety:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOfz80elc44>

-- Marty Couretas, Advocacy Committee

Are These Links on your Local Websites?

Most Leagues have a page on their website that features their recorded candidate forums. Please also include the Michigan Supreme Court forum conducted by LWVMI on October 21. The link is: <https://youtu.be/gc1-1Sm5Ubw>

On October 5, the League hosted a 1-hour panel discussion with experts on Michigan's election certification program. The panelists defined the responsibilities of Board of Canvasser members as well as the limits of their authority. Help us spread the word about this informative program by linking to it on your site: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/oK9Ct2Hy9f-4BK4MLYJysqnIs7fp6QQWVkyNaYWPjqzW3f4uOndARvawUqRamRiacGH9g-KEtttN9-0.sN_rjLLtY6KW-r-GA?continueMode=true

Communications Committee

The LWVMI Communications Committee continues to work on ways to improve the internal communications between state and local Leagues and external communications between the LWV and the community. Printed communication guidelines for local Leagues/Units will be available soon.

In the meantime, we'd like to encourage you to contact us if you have questions or concerns about interacting with the public. We'll do our best to provide resources and answers to your questions. Feel free to email Kathy Poore at kpoore@wowway.com with your questions.

Action Alerts

An Action Alert is a notice from LWVMI Board to all LWV members that action is needed on state legislation. The notice is sent by email and acting is simple and quick. But many League members do not respond. To increase member participation, the Communications Committee has created a short video for you to learn about the importance of and how to respond to an Action Alert. Stay tuned!

Local League Websites

We've noticed that not all League websites make it clear about the geographical areas they serve. We encourage all local Leagues to list cities, towns, and counties on your webpage. This will make navigating the website clearer and easier for the public.

Narrators Bureau

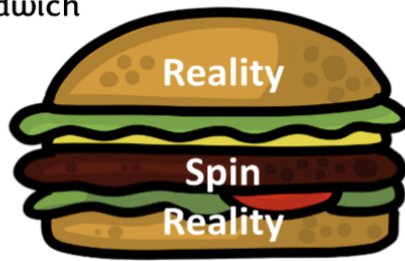
Has anyone ever told you that you have an exceptional speaking voice? If so, we need your help! We would like to have a few League members on standby when a need arises for someone to narrate a video, especially videos designed for the public. Please let us know if you're interested and if you have a sample recording of your voice by emailing kpoore@wowway.com

Truth Sandwich

We don't have to tell you that Mis- and Dis-Information are all around us. As League members, we want to do all we can to combat any misrepresentation of the facts, whether deliberate or not. Sometimes, it's best to say nothing. But when it's necessary to respond try this nifty tool: a truth sandwich. Instead of just repeating the dis-information do this:

1. Lay out common ground.
2. Debunk the cited source.
3. End with the truth and a proactive message.

Truth
Sandwich



Journalist Yamiche Alcindor provides an excellent example:

1. "It's been a few days since VP nominee Kamala Harris joined Joe Biden's ticket & the birtherism attacks have begun.
2. Jenna Ellis, a MAGA campaign advisor, is openly questioning whether Harris is eligible to be on the ticket.
3. Harris was born in the U.S. & is clearly eligible."

Example Source:

<https://www.pbs.org/standards/blogs/standards-articles/what-is-a-truth-sandwich/>

-- Kathy Poore, LWVMI Communications Committee Chair

Membership News: Exploring Implicit Bias

The next Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion focus will be on implicit bias. Implicit bias is defined as a negative association that people unknowingly hold that is expressed automatically, without conscious awareness.

Studies have shown that implicit bias affects individuals' attitudes and actions, creating real-world effects, even though individuals may not even be aware that implicit bias exists within themselves. Implicit bias has been shown to influence individuals' stated commitments to equality and fairness, causing behavior that conflicts with the stated attitudes that many people affirm. (Source: LWVUS DEI Definitions)

The DEI Team of Cheryl Birks (Detroit), Connie Ferguson (Kalamazoo Area), and Cathy McAdam (Grosse Pointe), plus Camilla Davis, LWVMI Membership VP, are planning a series of sessions for the Membership Leaders' Network monthly Zoom meetings. The sessions will include an information segment, a list of resources to support local League education initiatives, and time to share membership and leadership development successes and challenges.

The first Membership Leaders' Network Zoom meeting, Implicit Bias 101, will be on Wednesday, November 9, at 7 pm. Meeting details, including the Zoom link for the meeting, will be sent to membership leaders closer to the meeting date.

Members who would like to be added to the Membership Leaders' Network contact list should contact me.

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

Local League Spotlights

LWV Manistee hosted Voter Jeopardy on October 10 at the Manistee Senior Center. The event was promoted as an opportunity for those who have been voting for most of their adult lives to test their knowledge of voting. Roz Jaffe, representing the League, and Pam Tompke, representing the Senior Center, vied for the title of Voter Champion in a friendly game based on the TV show *Jeopardy*. All answers were on the topic of voting and the contestants had to respond with the right questions. Members were encouraged to come and support their favorite "brainiac."

LWV Marquette Area promoted getting "hooked on voting" at a fishing-themed event at the Peter White Public Library in Marquette. Children had the opportunity to vote in their own elections, selecting what they think Michigan's state fish should be, and what projects they would like to see in their community. Elections results were sent to Governor Whitmer and Marquette's mayor. Students also put their names and schools on a fish, with the opportunity to be picked to get a letter sent to their school saying the student took part in the Hooked on Voting project. Their school also won a book.

LWV Lansing Area will once again participate in the City of Lansing's "Trunk or Treat, Souls to the Polls" event on October 29 from 1-4 pm. LWVLA will have a booth to give out treats and encourage families to go into the Lansing City Clerk's South Washington Annex and vote. Inside the facility, there will be a children's ballot, too, so they can vote alongside their parents.

Be sure to read our 2021-2022 LWVMI Annual Report!

Just click on the picture at left.

This document is also on the LWVMI website under [Members](#), [Miscellaneous League Resources](#).

Local Leagues

Berrien/Cass Counties

Copper Country ([with Geobic Geographical Unit](#))

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



October 2022

- 10-24 United Nations Day
- 10-25 Communications Committee, 2 pm
- 10-27 Voter Services Virtual Meeting, 7 pm
- 10-28 Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting

November 2022

- Initiate plans for Sunshine Week and Women's History Month for March 2023
 - Archive VOT411 responses after the general election
 - Request Vote411 accounts for 2023 elections
- 11-5 Daylight Savings Time ends
11-8 General Election
11-9 Membership Leaders' Network Meeting, 7 pm
11-12 LWVMI Board Meeting, League Links to follow
11-15 IRS 990 Ecards due
11-17 Local Presidents Call, 7 pm

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>

League of Women Voters of Michigan | 600 W. St. Joseph Street 3G, Lansing, MI 48933

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