



League Links - December 2022

In this issue

- Thank you!
- Proposal 3 Executive Order
- Last-Minute Recount
- Welcome Livingston County
- Voter Services News
- Advocacy Update
- End Gun Violence Rallies
- MICRC Updates
- Call for Nominations
- You're Invited
- Communications Committee
- Membership
- Local League Spotlights Marquette, Tecumseh/Lenawee
- Calendar

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

Thank you!

As 2022 is winding down, there is no way we can adequately thank League members for the monumental efforts you made this year to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy.

From signature gathering for Prop 2 and advocacy and education presentations for both Prop 2 and 3, to being election protectors at the polls, to VOTE411 directors and voter guide deliverers, to BOC observers and 11th hour recount challengers.....whew! And all this is in addition to the work you carried out within your local League agendas and goals. YOU are super people!!

--Paula Bowman and Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-Presidents



Please click [here](#) to watch the special holiday thank you message prepared by the LWVMI Board of Directors just for you.



Proposal 3 Executive Order Signed

On December 14, 2022, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive directive instructing State of Michigan departments and agencies to review aspects of reproductive rights that fall within their jurisdiction and identify ways they can protect and increase protections for the fundamental right to reproductive healthcare under the Michigan Constitution.

The governor took this action in advance of reproductive freedom being enshrined in the Michigan Constitution on December 24, following the passage of Proposal 3.



On December 14, Governor Whitmer assembled many of the groups in Michigan that supported the petition drive of Reproductive Rights for All Proposal (3) to thank them for their support. We are proud that Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President, and Judy Karandjeff, Advocacy Committee Chair and Past President, were able to represent the League of Women Voters! (In the photo above, Judy is on the left, then Gov. Whitmer, then Paula!)

Governor Whitmer's Executive Directive instructs all State of Michigan departments and agencies to review aspects of reproductive rights that fall within their jurisdiction and identify and assess their operations to both

ensure that they provide the maximum protection possible for reproductive freedom and that they identify opportunities to proactively increase protections for reproductive freedom. Departments and agencies must also identify any laws, regulations, or policies within their jurisdiction that conflict with the constitutional right to reproductive freedom, work with the Attorney General to address these conflicts, and ensure that their public-facing material is up-to-date and complies with the recent constitutional amendment.

A key provision of the directive is departments and agencies with enforcement responsibilities must continue to decline to cooperate or assist any authority in any investigation or proceeding against an individual for obtaining, providing, or assisting another to obtain or provide reproductive health care. The constitutional amendment that takes effect on December 24 also orders state government not to assist agencies or other states, some of which have enacted tougher abortion restrictions since the overturning of Roe, from cooperating in efforts to punish individuals who come to Michigan for abortion services.

Judy Karandjeff mentioned that she and some of the others in the room had been working on a woman's right to choose for over 40 years. What a milestone that this fight has finally been won for Michigan families!

-- Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President

Last-Minute Recount

Twenty minutes before the midnight deadline on November 30, recount petitions were filed for Proposals 2 and 3 covering 47 counties. Proposal committees, attorneys, and LWV scrambled to learn everything we could about recounts and what we needed to do to support our cause.

We all tuned in to the State Board of Canvassers meeting on December 5 expecting to learn all the answers, but to our dismay, we didn't learn much! The next day, however, information came flooding in from various sources at the last minute, and we scrambled to set up Sign-Up-Genius (thank you Sara Weertz for again being our rock star) and to all of our members, especially those in Calhoun, Jackson, Livingston, Midland, and Oakland who mobilized in about 12 hours to staff their respective county recount posts. And many other Leagues had to do the same thing in the days that followed.

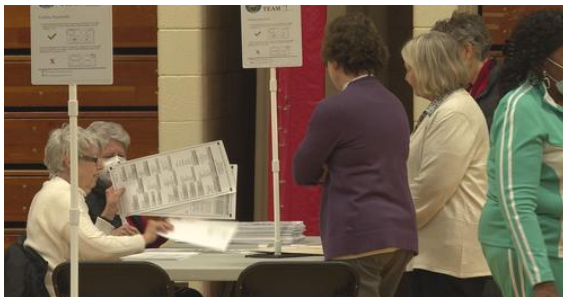
Challenging at a recount was a lot different than observing at a Board of Canvassers meeting, but also more interesting. The misnamed "Election Integrity Force" made desperate challenges, called the sheriff, and took endless photos in every county. We know that it will not change anything since even if every single vote was overturned in the challenged precincts, the outcome would still be the same.

We expect the state Board of Canvassers to meet on December 20 or 21—we'll share that information with you when we know for sure.

Another expectation- watch for changes in the election law in the next two years so that a recount of a proposal that does nothing but cost taxpayer money will no longer be permitted.

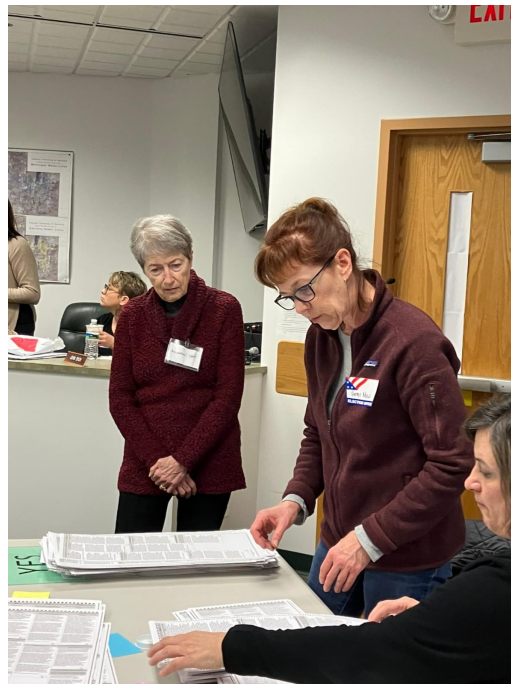
Though this recount had no merit, it could not be ignored. We thank you, our members, for stepping up with little notice and volunteering to be challengers in the counties where we needed you. We again extend our gratitude for your commitment to public service! See the photos below.

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President



***Empowering voters.
Defending democracy.***

League members around the state were present at various county recount sites. Here is a sampling of pictures of our members in action!



Top left: Kent County
Top right: Grand Traverse Area
Bottom right: Lansing



Our Newest Local League: Livingston County

Congratulations to LWV-Livingston County! The LWVUS Board has approved their application for independent League status. LWVUS approval is the last step in the process, following approval by the LWVMI Board in September.

LWV Livingston County began as a Geographic Unit of the Washtenaw County League, and advanced to MAL State Unit status in September 2021

then moved on to apply for League independence in September 2022.

Interest in forming a league began in January 2018. Ellen Lafferty has been the chair through the past four years, and she has a solid board of directors and a strong League of over 40 members.

We are so proud of you Livingston County! Congratulations.

Voter Services News

19th Amendment Project

LWVMI is working with the Muskegon Intermediate School District on project-based learning with 4th-grade students. This curriculum 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 textbooks, explore current inequalities, and develop a plan to address an inequality in their community.

We have 8 experts from our local Leagues who will work with the teachers and students on the background of the 19th Amendment, the purpose of the League, and what issues the League is currently addressing. Thanks to the following local League members who are participating in this project:

- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President
- Priscilla Burnham, Marquette County
- Judy Florian, Grosse Pointe
- Marge Freundl, Grosse Pointe
- Lauri Kingsbury, Grosse Pointe
- Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President
- Deb Simmons, Mount Pleasant Area
- Courtney Winell, Grands Rapids Area

As we approach the holiday season, I once again extend my sincere thanks to all local League members who stepped up in so many ways this year. Whether it was registering new voters, conducting candidate forums, providing information on candidates for Vote411, distributing paper voter guides to their communities, participating in Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts (writing postcards, text banking, etc.), working the polls as either an election inspector, AVB counting board, challenger/observer, traveling to busy precincts (including college campuses) on Election Day to assist with last minute registrations and voting, Board of Canvassers observers and recount challengers, you all stepped up! You truly demonstrated a total commitment to the tasks at hand to protect and defend our democracy. For that, we are eternally grateful.

Wishing you and yours a very safe, healthy, and happy holiday season! See you next year!

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

Advocacy Updates

The current legislative session will end at the end of this year. Attached is a list of the bills that the League of Women Voters of Michigan supported or opposed during the last two years and their final status. Of course, our greatest achievements were the passage of Proposal 2, Promote the Vote 2022, and Proposal 3, Reproductive Freedom for All.

The new legislative session for 2022-23 will start January 1. Governor Whitmer expressed her intention to push a working families' tax credit and a repeal of the retirement tax first thing in 2023.

The League will be also be interested in knowing what the priorities are for the new leadership in the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives, as well. In January, we will learn what committees are established and where members are assigned.

The LWVMI Advocacy Committee will meet in January and make recommendations to the LWVMI Board of Directors regarding our priorities for the new legislative sessions.

Status of current legislation - [click here](#). (The **yellow highlights** on the chart indicate completed activity in this session.)

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair of Advocacy Committee



A message from MCPGV affiliate, End Gun Violence Michigan

With our new legislature, we have a new opportunity to change our gun laws in Michigan. The new majorities in Lansing actually campaigned on gun violence legislation.

But change isn't going to happen by itself. We're going to have to fight for it.

Please join us at one of our January 18 2023 launch events throughout the state.

We have press conferences planned in Detroit, Oxford, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Saginaw, and Marquette. [Click here to sign up](#) and show your support!

Educators, clergy, students, physicians, elected officials, and community leaders are all coming together to call for change. We're calling for the passage of red flag laws, universal background checks, prohibiting domestic abusers from accessing guns, and extreme risk protection orders (red flag laws) to prevent mass shootings and suicides.

Please join us at one of our press conferences across the state January 18 to announce our priorities and encourage the legislature to act

immediately.

- Lansing, Capitol Steps, 11:30 AM (clergy focus)
 - Detroit, Church of the Messiah, 231 E. Grand Boulevard, 12:00 PM
 - Grand Rapids, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 250 Commerce Ave SW, 11:00 AM
 - Oxford, 3:30 PM (Location TBD) (student & teacher focus)
 - Kalamazoo, 1st United Methodist Church, 212 S Park St, Kalamazoo, 12:30 PM (physicians)
 - Marquette (time and location pending)
 - Saginaw (time and location pending)
-

MICRC Update

Meetings

The MICRC will meet virtually at 10 am, the third Thursday of each month in 2023. The next meeting will be January 19. Members of our League Monitoring Team continue to observe and report on the meetings.

MICRC Sues the Michigan Legislature

The MICRC filed a Summary Complaint against the Michigan House and Senate in the Michigan Court of Claims on December 13, 2022.

In spite of several meetings with House and Senate Appropriation Committees and Chairs, the MICRC was unsuccessful in its efforts to get the constitutionally required funding in either the 2023 state budget or the supplemental appropriations bill.

Since the state fiscal year ended September 30, the MICRC has not been able to pay its bills for any debts incurred after September 30. They were required by the Michigan Constitution to return to the Legislature any money they had not spent by September 30.

While the Senate Appropriations Committee agreed to include \$2.5 million in a Supplemental Appropriation bill to pay legal fees for defending the maps, the Legislature left town without acting on the bill.

Dormancy and Reactivation Plan

Commissioners Clark, Lett and Szetela, and Sara Rinehart from the Secretary of State's office worked on the plan which has been posted on the MICRC website along with other December 15, 2022 meeting materials. It will be voted on at the January MICRC meeting.

Update on two lawsuits, both in the federal courts

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. Oral arguments will be heard July 12, 2023. Whether or not the case will go to trial will be determined by the Court after the oral arguments are heard. Justice Maloney, who is handling the current process, has asked the Secretary of State for deadlines related to the 2024 election.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Alabama Redistricting Case, which

claims that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional, could impact the Agee lawsuit. That decision is expected after the first of the year. 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 the court as non-judicial under "Rucho", March 4, 2022,
- Request for preliminary injunction denied, March 4, 2022.
- One person one vote claim denied on March 25, 2022

Plaintiff appealed denial of the preliminary injunction to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On November 7, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the request for a preliminary injunction as moot. No other issue was before the Court. The case is still alive. It's up to the plaintiffs to decide if they want to pursue it further.

Moore v Harper, North Carolina Redistricting Case

This case, which is before the U.S. Supreme Court, is based on the "Independent State Legislature Theory," which states only state legislatures have the authority to draw up rules regarding federal elections, including drawing the lines for Congressional Districts. State courts and Governors have no role in the process. Oral arguments were heard on December 7, 2022. A decision by SCOTUS is expected in June 2023.

LWVMI joined the LWVUS Amicus Brief in opposition to the Independent State Legislature Theory.

-- Sue Smith, LWVMI VP Advocacy

Call for Nominations

Your help is needed! The LWVMI Nominating Committee is beginning its work to prepare a slate of Officers and Directors for the State Board for the 2023-2025 term. We need suggestions to add to a list of dedicated and diverse League leaders for that board, people who enjoy working with and for the LWV, and who keep their commitments.

We need people with skills in a variety of areas including administration, development, finance, program, advocacy, voter service, technology, and outreach (public relations, membership).

The Nominating Committee seeks diversity in age, gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, physical abilities and challenges, and geographic location, as reflected in the current LWVUS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative.

Please complete a nomination form for each member you're recommending, including yourself. Consider nominating yourself. Self-nominations are welcome. You know best how you can contribute to the work of the League.

If nominating someone other than yourself, please confirm that the individual is willing to consider serving. [Click here for the nomination form](#)

Send nomination(s) to betsy.cushman@gmail.com or mail by 01-05-23 to
LWVMI Nominating Committee
c/o Betsy Cushman
21945 Wildwood
Dearborn MI 48128

2023 – 2025 Nominating Committee

Off-board members

- Betsy Cushman (Dearborn-Dearborn Heights), Chair
- Megan Chenoweth (Northwest Wayne County)
- Regena Nelson (Kalamazoo)

Board members:

- Camilla Davis (Lansing Area),
- Kathy Poore (Macomb)

You're Invited

Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 7 p.m. Virtual presentation

Understanding Censorship Issues: A Panel discussion with experts

Presented by LWV Dearborn-Dearborn Heights

[Pre-register at this link](#)

The event will be recorded.

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 11 a.m., Virtual presentation

Climate Change 2023: Challenges and Solutions

presented by Peter Sinclair of the Yale Climate Project, based in Midland, MI. Peter is a renowned videographer and speaker specializing in environmental and energy issues. He is recognized by the National Center for Science Education as a "Friend of the Planet."

[Register here.](#)

Attendees will receive a link to a recording of the presentation.

Sponsored by

- League of Women Voters of Michigan
- League of Women voters of Michigan Environmental Network
- League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County

For more information or to join the Environmental Network, contact
advocacy@lwvwashtenaw.org

Communications Committee

Calling All Local League Communicators

The LWVMI Communications Committee needs your help to keep League members informed, engaged, and in contact with each other. We are asking each Local League to identify a member or two to function as a

communications liaison to the LWVMI Communications Committee.

Having a contact person within each local League will help us share your information and highlight your activities. And it will help us answer any communication or media questions you may have. If you already have a communications team in your League, that is great! We would love to hear from them and learn what they are up to. And if you are a member who would be interested in becoming a communications contact, please let your local League Board know. Please contact Kathy Poore with your suggestions or questions. We are here to help, and we want to hear from you,

-- Kathy Poore, LWVMI Communications Committee Chair,
kpoore@wowway.com

Membership and Leadership Development Updates

Membership Leaders' Network December 2022

The Membership Leaders' Network, met via Zoom on December 14. This month's meeting included information on how to apply the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lens to League partnerships and programs. Networking time included was devoted to sharing and discussing communication issues and strategies to collect membership renewals.

Mark your calendar for the next Membership Leaders' Network meeting on Wednesday, January 11, at 7 pm. More information will be sent closer to the event.

If you'd like to be added to the Network contact list, contact Camilla at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com

Gift a League Membership

For a last-minute gift that's easy to get and doesn't require shopping, give a League membership. Contact your local League for more information.

Important Information for Membership Leaders

January 31, 2023, is the date for local Leagues to report their membership totals. This total affects both payments and LWVMI convention delegate allocation.

LWVUS is offering support sessions for League Roster Managers to prepare for their roster updates due on January 31. Sessions for local League Roster management are on January 12 at 10 a.m., and January 13 at 2 pm. Roster managers who did not receive registration information should email LWVUS Roster Support at rostersupport@lwv.org

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



Local League Spotlights

LWV Marquette The Marquette League participated in the Peter White Public Library's Winter Wonderland Community Trees. Various community groups and non-profits were invited to decorate a tree to be displayed at the library. Their theme was *Celebrating Democracy: A Season of Hope*. The tree honored historical figures who fought for voting rights for women, Blacks, and Indigenous peoples – the “Suffrage Stars, the Bright Lights of Voting Rights”: their faces were framed in gold and purple stars. They also recognized local clerks, poll workers, and political leaders who have advanced women's access to power or who have worked to promote and protect our fragile democracy. They inscribed their names on little purple figures with sashes and strung the tree with multi-colored lights to reflect diversity.

Photo ID: Jane Pajot, Johanna Worley, Sue Holliday, Jo Foley, Jeanne Sekely, Madalyn Koval, and Pri Burnham.

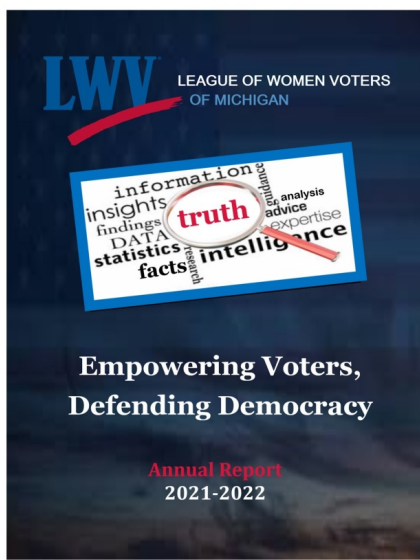
LWV Tecumseh/Lenawee County is preparing meals and taking them to the homeless shelter in Adrian. They find it is a good avenue to talk about registering to vote and issues that affect them.

Also, in Tecumseh/Lenawee: Member Marie Bonkowski and colleagues at Jackson Community College have developed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion online seminar that is being used by corporations around the country. Several LWV – T/L members have taken part in the seminars.

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 Gogebic 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
Macomb County MAL State Unit
Manistee County
Marquette County
Midland Area
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

For more information go to www.lwvmi.org
or check out Facebook pages for state and local LWVs

LWVMI Leadership 2021-2023

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)
Communications Chair: Kathy Poore (Macomb MAL)

Calendar

December 2022

24-31 Christmas Holiday, LWVMI and LWVUS offices closed



January 2023

- Update your membership roster on the LWVUS website
- Appoint Budget Committee
- Begin Planning Annual Meeting

1 3rd quarter PMP due to LWVMI, LWVUS

2 New Year's Holiday observed, office closed

11 Membership Leaders' Network mtg 7 p.m.

14 LWVMI Board meeting, League links to follow

16 MLK Day, office closed

19 LWVMI Presidents Call, 7 p.m.

25 LWVMI Observer Corps Zoom Conference, 3 p.m.

31 LWVMI Communications Committee, 2 p.m.

31 Membership count deadlines

February 2023

- Local budget committee should be meeting

8 Membership Leaders' Network mtg, 7 p.m.

11 LWVMI Board mtg

14 LWVMI's 103rd birthday

16 Local presidents' call

20 President's Day

28 Communications Committee, 2 p.m.

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>