



League Links - November 2022

In this issue

- Prop 2 Press conference
- This is What Democracy Looks Like
- Democracy in Action
- Voter Services: Record Number of Voters, Increased Use of Vote411
- Advocacy: New Legislative Leaders, Status of LWVMI Advocacy
- Michigan Redistricting Forum Will Discuss 2022 Election Lessons
- MICRC Update: Lessons Learned Video, Status of Lawsuits
- Call for Nominations for LWVMI Board
- Communications Committee: Here to Help Local Leagues
- Membership Leaders Study Implicit Bias
- Remembering Eva Packard
- Local League Spotlights
 - LWV Tecumseh/Lenawee MAL State Unit
 - LWV Greater Grand Rapids Area
 - LWV Northern Lower Michigan
- Calendar

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

Promoting Prop 2

A press conference for Proposal 2 in Traverse City, just before the November 8 election.

Photo at right:

LWVMI Co-President Christina Schlitt (second from left), along with the Traverse City Clerk Benjamin Marentette, Deputy Director of Voters Not Politicians Jamie Lyons-Eddy, and Margaret Goeman from LWV Grand Traverse Area.



Co-Presidents' Messages

This is What Democracy Looks Like...

- When a record number of voters make it to the polls for the midterm election.
- When LWVMI members from almost all of the 33 Leagues gather more than 23,000 signatures to get Promote the Vote 2022 on the November ballot as Prop 2.
- When LWVMI members hold presentations to explain all three-ballot proposals.
- When LWVMI members participate in presentations, media events that include press, TV and radio to promote Prop 2 and 1 and 3.
- When all three of those ballot proposals PASS overwhelming by Michigan voters showing that Michigan voters want good policy.
- When LWVMI members volunteer to be poll workers and poll challengers and observers to ensure the integrity of our elections.
- When LWVMI members produce an online voter guide for sound election information.
- When that online voter guide is printed and distributed to underserved communities.
- When more than 250 League and coalition partners volunteer to observe the County Board of Canvassers election certification process and witness no interference by bad actors.

- When Washtenaw, Lansing, and Kalamazoo Leagues send members to help with student registration and voting at U of M, MSU, and Western Universities at the prompt of a phone call on election night.
- When LWVMI members drive people in those lines to their correct polling locations.
- When those students wait, in some cases more than 5 hours, to register and vote so their voices can be heard.
- When the independent redistricting commission really puts an end to gerrymandering and voters' voices are actually heard.

Fellow Leaguers,

THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!

Thank you for the privilege.

Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President



Democracy in Action

There are 83 counties in Michigan, and a 4-person Board of Canvassers (BOC) in every one of them meets within 48 hours after each election to review the precinct paperwork and then certify the elections in their counties. League members from across the state have stepped up to help us accomplish the goal of our BOC Observer project: to

watch democracy in action as the Board members examine poll books, tapes, and sealed envelopes, and to identify anything peculiar or suspicious that might be a preview of trouble ahead for the final certification.

LWVMI's BOC Observer program has received statewide and national attention because of its thoroughness and revelations about what is happening at the county level following elections. The success of the program is owed to all of the observers who have put in 2, 4, 6 and sometimes 8-hour shifts to watch the often tedious process of making sure that every vote that was cast in the election is counted. At this writing, we have received over 300 shift reports from our observers, and 60 counties have certified. We thank Sara Weertz, our project manager for helping us stay organized during these past few weeks, but especially all of our observers who have done such a wonderful job of keeping us informed about what's going on in each county.

At this writing, we have received over 300 shift reports from our observers, and 63 counties have been certified. The deadline for certification is Tuesday, November 22. The State BOC's certification meeting is set for 10 a.m. on November 28 at Delta Township Hall. We expect there to be a zoom link available, but it has not been announced yet.

LWVMI invites all observers, and others who are interested, to attend a BOC Observer Debriefing call on Thursday, December 1, at 7 p.m. Anyone who turned in a shift or certification report will receive the link on Nov. 28. If you do not receive it, please contact me paulabowman9000@gmail.com

We can't repeat our gratitude to our BOC leaders and our observers enough for making this project a success. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

Voter Services News

November 8, 2022 has come and gone. What an incredible election it was! A large voter turnout, especially among young voters! Three very important ballot initiatives passed!

Michigan experienced a record number of voters (4,485,779) for the midterm election. Based on voting age population, the 2022 midterm was the highest voter turnout on record at 56.8%

See link below for the number of voters, by county.

https://mielections.us/election/results/2022GEN_CENR_TURNOUT.html

Over 2 million absentee ballots were requested, with 85% returned. This is a 52% increase from 2018, when just over a million ballots were requested. Half of those absentee ballots were from voters over age 65, with 5% from the 18-24 year old age group; 57% were from women.

A sincere thanks to all local League members who committed to election work, whether it was registering new voters, conducting candidate forums, providing information on candidates for Vote411, distributing paper voter guides to their communities, Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts (writing postcards, text banking, etc.), working the polls as either an election inspector, AVB counting board, challenger or observer, and also traveling to busy precincts (including college campuses) on Election Day to assist with last minute registrations and voting. All of your efforts paid off, resulting in a smooth election process with few incidents or problems.

Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, President, LWVUS, provided the following as it relates to the impact of the League on this year's election.

** Click on the graphic below to link to the full PDF.



2022 Election Report: At a Glance

The 2022 midterm elections demonstrated the power of women, young people, people of color, and all voters who care about democracy.

Across the country, the League of Women Voters powered the elections. 750+ state and local Leagues registered voters, trained volunteers, served as poll workers, and organized to get out the vote!

The following data represents a snapshot of our impact in the 2022 midterm elections as of November 10, 2022.

<p>Contacted 22+ million voters with election info</p>	<p>Protected 17.7+ million voters through legal action</p>
<p>Shared election info with 4.6+ million voters via VOTE411.org</p>	<p>Reached 3+ million voters with English and Spanish- language ads</p>
<p>Drove 225k+ visits to VOTE411's Spanish-language pages</p>	<p>Covered 52k+ candidates in voter guides</p>

At the November 17, 2022 Vote411 Admin Celebration, the following information was provided for the period January 1-November 8, 2022. We will receive the final data specific to Michigan soon and will share it with the membership.

- Total users 4,666,859
- Total sessions 5,955,120
- Page Views 21,185,594
- Number of candidates 52,397*
- Number of races 27,906*
- Number of admins 913
- Number of guides 304
- Number of states 43
- Younger engagement on Vote411 55% (ages 18-44)
- Women accessing Vote411 54%

*The number of candidates and races is a 100% increase over activity during the 2018 election cycle.

There will be no Voter Services Team meetings in November and December. A special thanks to all who participated this year and shared so many great ideas, suggestions, and challenges. I will send a schedule for 2023 after the first of the year.

In the meantime, enjoy your accomplishments during this election cycle -- you deserve it! Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season!

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

Advocacy Updates

The election has finished and now we see the impact of the proposals that were passed and the people who were elected.

The Michigan House of Representatives now has 56 Democrats and 54 Republicans, and the Michigan Senate has 20 Democrats and 18 Republicans. The Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General are also Democrats. This means the two branches should work together. This is the first time the Democrats have been in charge since the election of 1982. However, it was short-lived when two Democratic Senate members were recalled in 1983.

The new leadership in the Michigan Senate will be Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) and Senate Minority Leaders Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton).

The Michigan House leaders will be House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit) and House Minority Leader Matt Hall (R-Comstock Township).

There will be an increase in women serving. There will be 15 women (12D, 3R) in the MI Senate, and 45 women (33D, 12R) in the Michigan House.

There will be 14 Black members of the Michigan House of Representatives, the same as this session. There will be 3 Black members of the Michigan Senate, two less than this session.

The Governor will be announcing her priorities during the State of the State Speech in late January 2023. The Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate will be setting their agendas and making committee assignments. According to a story in the Detroit Free Press and USA Today Network, the agenda may include changes in Right to Work, abortion, gun laws, taxes and spending priorities, third-grade reading law, equality under the law, and ethics reform.

The three ballot proposals that passed go into effect 45 days after election day. There will be implementation issues for all three proposals.

- The House and Senate must pass legislation as required by Proposal 1, Transparency and Term Limits, to implement the transparency program for certain elected officials.
- On Proposal 2, Promote the Vote 2022, they will need to implement and fund some of the new initiatives, such as 9 days of early voting and state-funded absentee-ballot dropboxes and postage of absentee applications and ballots.
- On Proposal 3, Reproductive Freedom, they may want to change some of the current regulations such as the 24-hour waiting period,

etc. The LWVMI Advocacy Committee is prepared to follow any proposed legislation.

** [Click here](#) to see how the three proposals were supported/opposed in all of Michigan's 83 counties.

Currently, the Michigan Senate and House are scheduled to return on November 29. It is unclear what the agenda will be. All introduced legislation will die at the close of the two-year session on December 31, 2022.

We will also be watching for a report from the Secretary of State on the two initiative petitions, Secure MI Vote and Let MI Kids Learn. [Click here](#) to see the current list of bills that LWVMI has taken a position on.

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Chair of Advocacy Committee

POLICY TALKS @ THE FORD SCHOOL

PRESENTERS:
Moon Duchin
MGGG Redistricting Lab
Zach Gorchow
Executive Editor and Publisher,
Gongwer News Service Michigan
Nancy Wang
Executive Director,
Voters Not Politicians

MODERATOR:
Matt Grossmann
Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
and Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University

CLOSUP LECTURE SERIES

Michigan Redistricting
Approved, and now voted on: What we've
learned after the first election under
Michigan's new redistricting process

Wednesday, November 30, 2022
7:00-8:30 pm | Virtual event

@FordSchool #PolicyTalks

Register Now for this Virtual Forum:

Approved, and Now Voted On - What We've Learned After the First Election Under Michigan's New Redistricting Process

LWVMI is a co-sponsor of this virtual forum on November 30, 2022, from 7-8:30 p.m., conducted by the Ford School at the University of Michigan as part of its CLOSUP Lecture Series.

Michigan's new approach to redistricting by an independent citizens commission has now come full circle, from signature gathering for the statewide ballot initiative in 2018, to strong statewide support in that fall's election, creation of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, their work drawing new districts with extraordinary input from Michigan citizens, and now the new districts being used for the first time in the 2022 elections.

[Click on this link](#) for more information and to register for the event. The viewing link will be emailed one day before the event.

MICRC Update

MICRC Meeting Highlights

The Commission's next scheduled meeting is December 15, 2022, from 10 a.m. - noon. The MICRC will determine its 2023 meeting schedule at the December meeting. Members of our League Monitoring Team continue to observe and report on the meetings.

MICRC Budget

Note: State fiscal year ended September 30.

FY 2023: MICRC approved budget: \$3,169, 825, (25% of Sec. of State budget as required by the Michigan Constitution), includes salaries for 13 commissioners at 25% of Governor's salary, also required by the Michigan Constitution.

MICRC budget was not included in the recently approved state budget, nor in the Supplemental Budget. Executive Director Woods' meeting with Legislative Services was unsuccessful in persuading Legislature to provide the required funding.

Next week, Executive Director Woods and MICRC attorney David Fink will meet with each of the current House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs to discuss the possibility of funding the MICRC in a 2022 Supplemental Budget appropriation bill.

If those meetings are not successful, the MICRC has authorized Executive Director Woods to take all steps necessary to resolve the issue including litigation. Attorney David Fink has stated he believes the impasse is the result of legislative misunderstanding, and that once this is cleared up, the Legislature will do the right thing and appropriate the funds. Of course, if they don't, then litigation will be pursued.

Reports

The "Lessons Learned" video was approved by the Commission. I recommend League members watch it. The video is posted on the Michigan.gov/MICRC website, along with other meeting materials for October 27, 2022.

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 in late summer/early fall of 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,
- The request for preliminary injunction denied March 4, 2022.
- One person one vote claim denied March 25, 2022

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

November 7, 2022, U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the request for 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.

-- 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)

Communications Committee

The LWVMI Communications Committee has been busy looking for ways to keep League members informed, engaged, and in contact with each other. If you have communication or media questions, we are here to help. Please contact committee chair Kathy Poore at kpoores@wowway.com. We'll do our best to get you the information you need.

So far, five League members from across the state have agreed to be a part of the LWVMI Narrators' Bureau. These members will be on standby to help us with messaging when a need for an educational video arises. They are

- Denise Hartsough, Kalamazoo
- Debbie Griffith, Macomb
- Mary Seelhorst, Washtenaw
- Rose Riley, Washtenaw
- Sue Acton, Grosse Pointe

If you've ever been told that you have an exceptional speaking voice and are interested in being a part of this group, please get in touch with us. There's always room for one more!

Watch for some exciting new programs coming in the new year. Happy Thanksgiving from your Communications Team!

-- Kathy Poore, LWVMI Communications Committee Chair

Recording... You are viewing Freda Sampson's screen View Options

Biases are shortcuts our brain forms based on:

HOW BIASES ARE FORMED

- our own lived experiences
- things other people tell us
- media portrayals
- institutional influences
- other external influences



Freda Sampson

Zoom interface: Unmute, Stop Video, Security, Participants, Polls, Chat, Share Screen, Pause/Stop Recording, Closed Caption, Breakout Rooms, Reactions, Apps, Whiteboards, More, End

Membership News

The Membership Leaders' Network met via Zoom on November 9, with 28 membership leaders participating in the Implicit Bias 101 program presented by Freda Sampson, a diversity, equity, and inclusion strategist. Her focus was on how bias is formed, recognizing personal bias, and how to begin the process of overcoming implicit bias. The graphic above is a screenshot of the program.

Any LWV member who would like to receive the link to the recording of the Zoom and the resources may contact Camilla at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com. Also contact Camilla if you'd like to be added to the Membership Leaders' Network contact list.

The next Membership Leaders' Network meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The meeting will cover a number of topics: DEI implicit bias awareness implementation, strategies to promote dues renewal, and strategies to engage members in 2023.

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

Remembering Eva Packard

We are sad to report that Eva Packard passed away on September 29, 2022. Eva was a long-time LWV member, first with Detroit and then with the Oakland Area League, and had served on the state board for more than 10 years. Serving as Voter Services Director starting in 2009, she was LWVMI's first coordinator of VOTE411. Those were challenging years for all



Leagues as we worked to embrace the new technology in the voter services realm, but Eva's career experience in computer operating systems made her the perfect person to guide not only LWVMI but also local Leagues through this new VOTE411 platform. Eva eventually wrote a "how-to" manual for VOTE411 that was even used at the LWVUS level. For several elections, Eva managed both VOTE411 and the printed voter guide herself, a huge responsibility.

Besides her technology skills, Eva paid attention to details like no one else. She reviewed every board report with keen eyes and asked questions that were on no one else's radar. During the years that I was *Voter* Editor, she was among those who would receive an advance copy to proofread. I'd brace myself when I'd get her review because she would always find things that needed correcting. Embarrassing as it often was, I convinced myself that her proofreading made me a better writer and made the state *Voter* a better publication.

Eva lived near me, and we would often drive to the monthly board meetings in Lansing. We learned a lot about each other during these trips, and I treasured her friendship. Eva was born in Budapest and emigrated to the US with her family when she was very young. During her work life at GM, her talent for detail led her to be hand-picked by GM's leadership to be one of the first women in their computer technology training program. Eva was also politically astute and understood the fine line between non-partisanship and advocating for the progressive policies of LWV. We are a better League because of her service; she will be missed.

--Paula Bowman

Local League Spotlights

LWV Tecumseh/Lenawee MAL State Unit

Some [Tecumseh/Lenawee MAL State Unit](#) Members found a fun way to advocate on a beautiful fall day and received many supportive honks from passersby. - *Photo at right*

LWV Greater Grand Rapids Area

[LWVGGR](#) volunteers attended testing in all jurisdictions throughout Kent County. In many cases, there were two volunteers in attendance. [Read the article.](#) **In the video are **Nancy Mroczkowski** (mask) and **Audrey Craft** (blue cardigan and glasses).



LWV Northern Lower Michigan

Three members of [LWVNLM](#) received Tribute Awards from the [Women's Resource Center](#) for their work in the community.

- **Pat Fralick** received the Pinnacle Award for her work advocating for vulnerable populations, especially pregnant women and infants. While working for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, she directed countless programs that have supported area women, children, and families.
- **Robin Jordan** received the Pinnacle Award for applying her skills and knowledge as a Certified Nurse Midwife to start the first nurse-midwifery service in Northern Michigan. She has been a nursing educator and textbook author before becoming a founding member of our local League of Women Voters.
- **Scott Smith** received the Man of Action award. Scott had dedicated himself to the issues of local food access, public transportation, and affordable housing. He is working with other area organizations to affect the lives of area women and families.

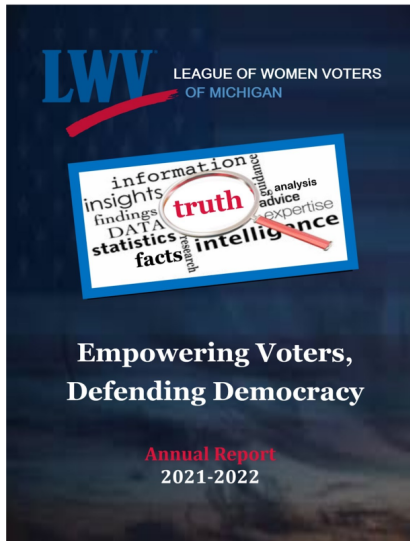
Congratulations Pat, Robin, and Scott!



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

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)
At-Large: Kathy Poore (Macomb MAL)

Calendar

November 2022

24-25 LWVMI, LWVUS offices closed
29 Communications Committee, 2 p.m.
30 Webinar: What We've Learned After the First Election
Under Michigan's New Redistricting Process



December 2022

1 BOC Observer Program De-briefing Zoom Call
10 LWVMI Board meeting
14 Membership Leaders' Network meeting, 7 p.m.
14 Bill of Rights Day
24-31 Christmas Holiday, LWVMI and LWVUS offices closed

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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by president@lwvmi.org powered by

