

## League Links - January 2023

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- President Message
- Voter Services
- Advocacy Update
- National Popular Vote
- MICRC
- Membership/ Local League Spotlights
- Program Planning
- Observer Corps
- Communications
- New League Network
- Calendar

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### Strategic Planning

The state board has been involved in a *strategic planning* process for the past couple of months. We expect to have a plan together after the February board meeting. This plan will be our guide for the next two years and will be on our website. We have been guided through this process by Joan Sampeiri, past president of LWV Washtenaw. Some of you may groan at the mere thought of strategic planning, but Joan is making the process far less painful.



On that note, I am not advocating for local Leagues/Units to go through the involved strategic planning process, but to do a **SWOT analysis**. That is a self-analysis process to identify your **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats**. This is a wonderful opportunity to assess what you have accomplished; what you meant to do; what you would like to do and the problems that could occur if you do not do something or at least develop a committee to examine feasibility.

Once you have completed the **SWOT** exercise, planning your activities/calendars for the year will fall into place more readily. (Except when there is a state advocacy initiative or voter service program!). Being armed with that information also contributes to budget planning for your

annual meetings. Your nominations committee has more information to find the skills to help with your new goals.

The process is not painful and can even be fun. There are a multitude of ways to go about this. For example, the board can do a **SWOT analysis**, or each committee and engage members that are interested to go through the process. Then the activity planners should actually follow through on putting items on your League/Unit calendar. You will find out how your plans for the year develop around your voter service activities. This can be especially helpful in a year with an election cycle less active.

The following are sites to help you get started. January is a great time to reflect and plan.

[https://search.yahoo.com/search?](https://search.yahoo.com/search?fr=mcafee&type=E211US105G0&p=swot+analysis+template)

[fr=mcafee&type=E211US105G0&p=swot+analysis+template](https://www.clearpointstrategy.com/swot-analysis-examples/)

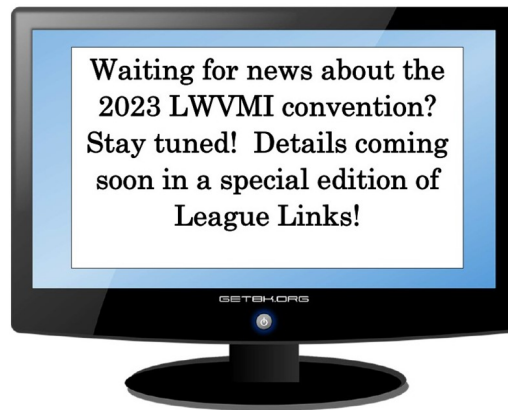
<https://www.clearpointstrategy.com/swot-analysis-examples/>

Good luck and have fun!

In League, Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President

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## 2023 Convention..... Grassroots Power!



## Voter Services

**19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Project** Work on this project began this month, with our 8 volunteers in contact with the Muskegon 4th grade teachers. Several volunteers have interacted with the teachers and students to provide their expertise on what and how the League is and provide them with our perspectives on the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and suffrage movement. The book assigned to the students, *The Hope Chest*, by Karen Schwabach, includes period photographs, historical notes about the suffrage movement, a "Voting in America" timeline and other activities. Even if you're not in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I highly recommend this book!

## MI Vote Matters High School Registration Challenge

The Spring 2023 MI Vote Matters High School Voter Registration Challenge is now open! School participants in the Spring 2022 challenge will be

automatically enrolled for the Fall challenge. In addition, there are currently 11 new schools signed up for 2023. If you know of new schools who want to sign up, they can use this link: [inspire2vote.org/MIVoteMatters](https://inspire2vote.org/MIVoteMatters).

This year, team captains will be selected at each school to assist with peer-to-peer voter registration efforts. Once again, we will be asking our Voter Services team members to work with the team captains at schools within our local League boundaries. Further details will be forthcoming.

The next Voter Services virtual team meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 7:00 p.m. We will review our goals for the year and also hear from guest speaker, Lindsay Maas, Director of Field Strategies and Data, Michigan Voices. She will discuss the Voter Access Network (VAN), what it is, how it works and how local Leagues can benefit. She will also provide data from the 2022 election. The Zoom link will be sent to team members the day before the meeting. As always, the meeting will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

Mark your calendars for the following virtual meetings in 2023, all of which will start at 7:00 p.m.: Thursday, February 23, Thursday, March 23, Thursday, April 27, Thursday, May 25, Thursday, June 22

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

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## Advocacy

The 101st legislative session came to an end. In the 2021-22 Legislative session, 3,733 bills were introduced in the House and Senate, 407 were signed into law and 61 were vetoed by the Governor. About 11% of the bills became laws with a divided government. In the 2017-18 legislative session, 3,879 bills were introduced in the House and Senate, 957 were signed into law and 63 vetoed by the Governor. About 25% of the bills became laws with a Republican Legislature and Governor.



The three ballot proposals went into effect the end of December. In addition, Secure MI Vote, Let MI Kids Learn and Raise the Wage turned in signatures on their petitions for initiatives. On December 28, Secure MI Vote and Let MI Kids Learn withdrew their petitions for consideration. The Michigan Election Bureau is currently reviewing the signatures gathered for the Raise the Wage initiative petition. The Raise the Wage initiative to amend Michigan's law would raise the state minimum wage to \$15/hour, and end subminimum wages for tipped workers, workers with disabilities, and youth. If approved by the Bureau of Elections and the State Board of Canvassers, it would go to the Legislature for adoption. If not adopted by the Legislature it goes on the 2024 ballot for the voters to decide.

The new session, the 102<sup>nd</sup>, was called to order on Wednesday, January 11, when members were sworn in, leaders were elected and rules were adopted. Senate Majority Leader is Senator Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids)

and the minority leader is Senator Aric Nesbitt (R- Porter Township). The House of Representatives Speaker is Joe Tate (D-Detroit) and the Minority Leader is Representative Matt Hall (R-Kalamazoo). The House and Senate have assigned members to committees. For information about the legislative session, please go to [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

The Governor has scheduled the State of the State for January 25, at 7 p.m. Two top priorities are passage of the earned income tax and the repeal of the income tax on pensions.

On January 17, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and a group of House and Senate members announced their intention to work on legislation that would protect election workers. [Benson and state lawmakers announce plans to protect the people who protect democracy \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4570,7517_7518_7519_7520_7521_7522_7523_7524_7525_7526_7527_7528_7529_7530_7531_7532_7533_7534_7535_7536_7537_7538_7539_7540_7541_7542_7543_7544_7545_7546_7547_7548_7549_7550_7551_7552_7553_7554_7555_7556_7557_7558_7559_7560_7561_7562_7563_7564_7565_7566_7567_7568_7569_7570_7571_7572_7573_7574_7575_7576_7577_7578_7579_7580_7581_7582_7583_7584_7585_7586_7587_7588_7589_7590_7591_7592_7593_7594_7595_7596_7597_7598_7599_7600_7601_7602_7603_7604_7605_7606_7607_7608_7609_7610_7611_7612_7613_7614_7615_7616_7617_7618_7619_7620_7621_7622_7623_7624_7625_7626_7627_7628_7629_7630_7631_7632_7633_7634_7635_7636_7637_7638_7639_7640_7641_7642_7643_7644_7645_7646_7647_7648_7649_7650_7651_7652_7653_7654_7655_7656_7657_7658_7659_7660_7661_7662_7663_7664_7665_7666_7667_7668_7669_7670_7671_7672_7673_7674_7675_7676_7677_7678_7679_7680_7681_7682_7683_7684_7685_7686_7687_7688_7689_7690_7691_7692_7693_7694_7695_7696_7697_7698_7699_7700_7701_7702_7703_7704_7705_7706_7707_7708_7709_7710_7711_7712_7713_7714_7715_7716_7717_7718_7719_7720_7721_7722_7723_7724_7725_7726_7727_7728_7729_7730_7731_7732_7733_7734_7735_7736_7737_7738_7739_7740_7741_7742_7743_7744_7745_7746_7747_7748_7749_7750_7751_7752_7753_7754_7755_7756_7757_7758_7759_7760_7761_7762_7763_7764_7765_7766_7767_7768_7769_7770_7771_7772_7773_7774_7775_7776_7777_7778_7779_7780_7781_7782_7783_7784_7785_7786_7787_7788_7789_7790_7791_7792_7793_7794_7795_7796_7797_7798_7799_7800_7801_7802_7803_7804_7805_7806_7807_7808_7809_7810_7811_7812_7813_7814_7815_7816_7817_7818_7819_7820_7821_7822_7823_7824_7825_7826_7827_7828_7829_7830_7831_7832_7833_7834_7835_7836_7837_7838_7839_7840_7841_7842_7843_7844_7845_7846_7847_7848_7849_7850_7851_7852_7853_7854_7855_7856_7857_7858_7859_7860_7861_7862_7863_7864_7865_7866_7867_7868_7869_7870_7871_7872_7873_7874_7875_7876_7877_7878_7879_7880_7881_7882_7883_7884_7885_7886_7887_7888_7889_7890_7891_7892_7893_7894_7895_7896_7897_7898_7899_7900_7901_7902_7903_7904_7905_7906_7907_7908_7909_7910_7911_7912_7913_7914_7915_7916_7917_7918_7919_7920_7921_7922_7923_7924_7925_7926_7927_7928_7929_7930_7931_7932_7933_7934_7935_7936_7937_7938_7939_7940_7941_7942_7943_7944_7945_7946_7947_7948_7949_7950_7951_7952_7953_7954_7955_7956_7957_7958_7959_7960_7961_7962_7963_7964_7965_7966_7967_7968_7969_7970_7971_7972_7973_7974_7975_7976_7977_7978_7979_7980_7981_7982_7983_7984_7985_7986_7987_7988_7989_7990_7991_7992_7993_7994_7995_7996_7997_7998_7999_8000) No bills have been introduced yet. SOS Benson also announced the formation of an elections policy working group to suggest, review, and provide feedback on election policies on a rolling basis. The group will be comprised of nonpartisan pro-democracy organizations; Republican, Democratic and nonpartisan clerks; the chairs of both legislative elections committees; and representatives from the Executive Office of the Governor.

The LWVMI Advocacy Committee will develop the questions for legislative interviews at its February meeting and after board approval local Leagues will be getting packets. This is an opportunity to meet with your elected officials to hear about their priorities and discuss issues.

– Judy Karandjeff

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## LWVMI Supports National Popular Vote Compact

### Election of the President

The League of Women Voters has supported direct election of the President of the United States since 1970.

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for the election of the President until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished”. *Impact on Issues, 2020-2022*.

### National Popular Vote (NPV)

If Michigan joins the National Popular Vote Compact, Michigan’s presidential Electors would cast all their votes for the candidate who won the most popular votes for President in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The Compact will go into effect when the number of states in the Compact possesses 270 electoral votes, which is the number required to elect the President. The NPV bill has passed in 16 states. The Compact currently possesses 195 electoral votes; 75 more are needed for the Compact to go into effect. Michigan has 15 electoral votes.

### LWVMI Board Action

On December 10, 2022, the LWVMI Board took the following action:

1. Approved signing on to a letter to state legislators indicating LWVMI

support of the National Popular Vote

2. Approved joining the Coalition in support of the NPV legislative campaign.

Susan Smith, Advocacy VP, will represent LWVMI in the Coalition.

### **Opportunities for Local League Action**

LWVMI encourages local Leagues and state Units to educate their membership and their communities about the NPV Compact. LWVMI will provide NPV materials for use in Town Halls and/or zoom webinars.

Training will be provided for local League and Unit Presenters. Educational events should be scheduled for February, March or April since the NPV bill will be introduced in the Michigan Legislature this Spring. Contact your local League or state Unit for more information.

-Susan Smith, VP for Advocacy

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## **MICRC Update**

### **Meetings**

The MICRC meets virtually the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be February 16 at 9 am. Members of our League Monitoring Team continue to observe and report on the meetings.



### **MICRC Funding**

The MICRC filed a Summary Complaint against the Michigan House and Senate in the Michigan Court of Claims on December 13, 2022 seeking full funding of the MICRC (\$3.17 million) as required by the Michigan Constitution.

On January 17, 2023, Senate Democrats passed \$1.5 million for the MICRC in a supplemental bill which now has to go to the House and be signed by the Governor. The MICRC has \$431,994 in outstanding expenses for the current fiscal year which began October 1, 2022.

Edward Woods, III, MICRC Executive Director, continues to meet with Michigan legislators and the administration to secure the additional funds as required by the Michigan Constitution. He and the Commission are hopeful that an agreement can be reached out of Court.

### **Dormancy and Reactivation Plan**

On January 19, 2023 Commissioners approved the Dormancy and Reactivation plan that Commissioners Clark, Lett and Szetela have worked on for the past 8 months. The plan is posted on the MICRC website along with other December 15, 2022 meeting materials.

In addition to providing a process for the handling of computers, cell phones and documents, the plan includes the following:

- Commission will move to dormancy status when all litigation against the MICRC is completed. (Only one lawsuit, Agee v Benson) remains.) Commission members will not be paid during dormancy.
- If litigation is filed when the Commission is dormant, the Secretary of State will reconvene the Commission. Members will receive salaries as provided by the Michigan Constitution.

- Terms of the current Commissioners end upon appointment of succeeding MICRC in 2030.

### **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.

Depositions are being taken. Commissioners as well as current and former staff will meet with MICRC attorneys the first week in February 2023.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision on 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 court as non-judiciable under "Rucho", March 4, 2022,
- Request for preliminary injunction denied, March 4, 2022.
- One person one vote claim denied March 25, 2022

Plaintiff appealed denial of preliminary injunction to 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. On January 14, 2023, the case was dismissed at the request of the Plaintiffs.

### **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.

- Susan Smith, VP Advocacy

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## **Membership and Leadership Development**

### **MEMBERSHIP LEADERS' NETWORK**

The Membership Leaders' Network met on Wednesday, January 11 at 7 pm on Zoom. The topic was *Keeping Your League Visible in 2023*. The information section focused on suggestions from the LWV Membership and Leadership Development Handbook, including setting up a local League

event calendar, creating “media hooks” to keep LWV in the news, and organizing events around calendar items. Twenty-three local Leagues were represented, and participants shared ideas from their own local League calendars.

The next Network meeting on February 8 will include information about creating annual local League events that draw attention to the work of the League. Participants are encouraged to share details about events that draw the attention of both members and potential members, and also media.

All League members are welcome to attend Network meetings. If you’d like to be added to the list, contact Camilla. [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com)

### **A SUGGESTION ABOUT DEI AWARENESS**

When Leagues are planning for the year, consider consulting a calendar of cultural, religious and government holidays and observances. This will help Leagues avoid scheduling conflicting programs and other events. It also provides a list of things that the League might be interested in noting or turning into a program. These calendars are available on the internet. An example of this type of calendar can be found on the *Time and Date* website. <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/2023>

### **SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL LEAGUES**

The **Detroit League** is partnering with the Detroit Public Library to present talks promoting voter education and tools for action. The first forum of 2023 will be held on Tuesday, February 21. It’s entitled *Erasing the Voting Rights Act*. The forum is free and available on Zoom, but participants must register. Find more information of the LWVD website. <https://lwvdetroit.org/dpl-lwvd-collaborative-series-erasing-the-voting-rights-act/>



**The LWV-Manistee County** held its Beginnings Party on Friday, January 20. at Camp Tosebo. This annual event celebrates the New Year and invites members to put on their party clothes, a happy fresh spirit, and be ready to have some fun. Members are encouraged to bring a friend who might be interested in League membership.

**LWV-Lansing Area’s** Environmental Action Group sponsored a program, available both in-person and on Zoom, titled *The How and Why of Green Burials* on Tuesday, January 24. The program included information about the types and benefits of green (natural) burials and how and where it is

possible. Options in various locations were discussed and the environmental consequences of burial and cremation were compared. For information about the program contact Elaine Fischhoff ([elainedifi@gmail.com](mailto:elainedifi@gmail.com)) or Ellen Link ([elink767@gmail.com](mailto:elink767@gmail.com)).

-Camilla Davis, Membership VP

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## Program Planning Meeting 2023 for All Local Leagues

During January or February, via zoom or in-person, local Leagues should meet to discuss LWVMI existing positions as well as whether there is a need for additional topics to be studied. Existing positions for LWVUS are available in *Impact on Issues* at <https://www.lvv.org/impact-issues>. LWVMI positions may be found at <https://lwvmi.org/lwvmi-positions/>

All local league presidents and unit leaders were sent via email, materials for the Program Planning Meeting in December 2022. Materials contain forms to be completed by each local League and sent to me on or before **March 1, 2023**. The same materials can also be found on our website in the Members section.

Please call/text me at (248)703-6236 or email me at [mywoleson@gmail.com](mailto:mywoleson@gmail.com) with any questions. Looking forward to hearing from all of you.

- Maria Woloson LWVMI Program Planning

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## Observer Corps

The next statewide Zoom meeting for Observer Corps will be **March 29, 2023** at 3:00 pm. David Allen will send the link a few days in advance of the meeting. The guest speaker will be ... David Allen! He will discuss next steps for the statewide Zoom meetings. As usual, local Leagues will have an opportunity to provide updates to the whole group.

-David Allen

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## LWVMI Communications Committee

Your Communications Committee is hard at work organizing methods for strengthening communications within the League in Michigan. Written guidelines will be available soon.



LWVMI Communications Committee

Thank you to those League members who have identified a communications contact person within their local League. We still want to hear from the rest of you! If you are a member who would be interested in becoming a communications contact, please let your Local League Board know.



Please contact committee chair, Kathy Poore at [kpoore@wowway.com](mailto:kpoore@wowway.com) with your communication suggestions or questions. We are here to help, and we want to hear from you.

Watch for emails asking you to contact your legislators through Action Alerts. The **Action Alert video**, which shows you how to respond, has been made available to Local Leagues. Your Local League president will be sharing it with you soon. But if you just can't wait to see it, you can find it on the LWVMI website: under Members click on Advocacy Tools and then on Action! All about LWVMI Action Alerts.

- Kathy Poore, LWVMI Communications Chair

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## Money in Politics a New LWV Network

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is starting a statewide Money in Politics network. It's for League members from all over our state who are concerned about Money in Politics, and what we can do to limit run-away spending and implement long lasting solutions. Here is a link to LWVUS current position on Money in Politics: **LWVUS Money in Politics position** The meeting will be hosted by Robbi Duda, Money in Politics working group chair, from LWV of Washtenaw County, whose group has been studying this issue for over a year. The agenda for the inaugural meeting includes:

- Sharing ideas, information, and resources about MiP
- Hearing about what other local Leagues are doing or planning
- Educating ourselves and investigating policies and legislation relating to MiP
- Deciding on how often to meet and what the guidelines will be
- Looking at the LWVUS position on MiP and how it relates to state and local work.
- Consider workshop ideas about MiP for the state convention.

If you are passionate about getting money out of politics and interested in joining this network, please register for this important meeting, or email [mip@LWVWashtenaw.org](mailto:mip@LWVWashtenaw.org) for more information.

To register please click this link: **REGISTER**

-Lynne Kochmanski, President, LWV of Washtenaw County

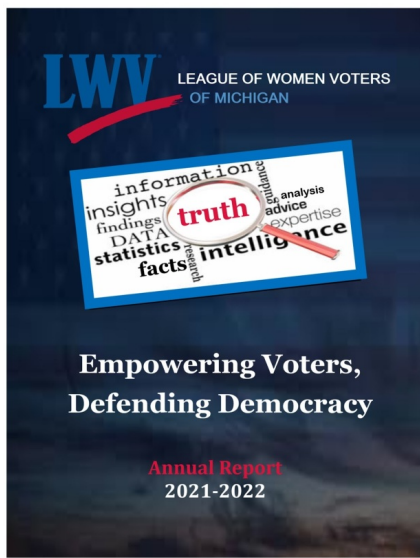
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**Be sure to read our 2021-2022 LWVMI Annual Report!**

**Just click on the picture at left.**

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



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## 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](http://www.lwvmi.org)  
or check out Facebook pages for state and local LWVs

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## 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)

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## **Calendar**



### **January**

26 Voter Services Call, 7:00 pm  
31 Communications Team 2:00  
31 Membership count deadline

### **February**

-Local budget committee should be meeting

8 Membership Leaders Network Call 7:00  
11 LWVMI Board Meeting 9:30  
14 LWVMI's 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
15 Local League Treasurer's Call 7:00  
16 Local League Presidents/Unit Leaders Call 7:00

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**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/>

**Instagram:** [#lwvmich](https://www.instagram.com/lwvmich)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/LWVMichigan>