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## **League of Women Voters of Michigan urges Legislature to pass gun safety measures without delay**

*Voters support universal background checks, safe storage requirements*

LANSING, Mich. – The **League of Women Voters of Michigan** today voiced support for firearms safety bills that have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature and called for their swift passage.

“The deadly mass shootings at Michigan State University, at Oxford High School and in dozens of communities across Michigan in the past two years alone remind us that gun violence can happen anywhere, anytime, in any community and the time for action is long past due,” said Christina Schlitt, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. “Michigan residents are channeling the pain, fear, grief and anger we experience when gun violence tears a community apart and turning them into action.”

The League called on legislators in the state House and Senate to approve a package of bills that would:

- Extend criminal background checks to all firearms sales, including online sales and sales at gun shows;
- Require gun owners to store their firearms in a secure location, with penalties for storing or leaving a firearm where a minor may access it;
- Offer sales and use-tax incentives for safety devices to encourage safe storage;
- Provide a pathway for Extreme Risk Protection Orders that temporarily prohibit a person from purchasing or possessing a firearm if law enforcement deems them a risk to themselves or to others; and
- Prohibit guns at election locations.

The bills are SB 78-86, HB 4138-4148 and HB 4127-4128.

“The League of Women Voters joins the overwhelming majority of Michigan residents who support common-sense, evidence-based gun safety measures that can help reduce the senseless shootings that have injured and killed too many people,” said Paula Bowman, co-president of the League. “Michigan legislators have an opportunity to pass bills that will protect the health and safety of citizens. By keeping firearms from falling into the wrong hands, Michigan can better prevent gun violence and protect families from the devastation and suffering of another senseless shooting.”

In 2021 and 2022, Michigan experienced [at least 51 mass shootings](#) where four or more people were shot. As of March 14, two mass shootings have been recorded in Michigan in [2023](#): The Feb. 13 shooting at MSU, which killed three students, and a Feb. 26 shooting in Detroit that killed two people and injured two others.

Meanwhile, a [March poll](#) found that 89% of Michigan voters support universal background checks, 88% support safe storage requirements, and 75% support laws temporarily blocking firearms from people at risk of harming themselves or others. Three in four Michiganders support the package of gun safety bills in the Michigan Legislature, including 71% of gun owners, 64% of independents and 54% of Republican voters.

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The League of Women Voters of Michigan is the state League for the U.S. League of Women Voters, which is a nonpartisan political organization that aims to encourage informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Learn more at [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org).