



League Links

August 2023

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Co-Presidents' Message: Fire Up for Fall
- Voter Service Updates
- Advocacy: Bills and Budget
- Exemption from Sales Tax
- League Work Through a DEI Lens
- What are Cookies?
- Give for Democracy!
- History Lesson: Women at Con-Con
- LWVMI Firearm Safety Network Meeting
- LWVMI Environmental Network Upcoming Event
- Spotlight on Local Leagues
- LWVMI Leadership
- Calendar

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

Fire Up for Fall

We hope you all have enjoyed some relaxation and adventure this summer. We know that many local Leagues, like the state League, have been working with new officers and board members to organize responsibilities, plan calendars, review finances and affirm commitment to our core policies of nonpartisanship and DEI.

During this relatively quiet election year, we can prepare ourselves well for 2024. What a historic year it will be! Not only will we have a contentious presidential election, but many of Michigan's new voting rights will go into effect. And let's not forget school board and township elections, voter guides and advocacy on legislation.

The League's work is more important than ever this fall. We must orient Michiganders to our new voting rights, inform voters about the candidates and issues on their ballot, and engage everyone in the democratic process. And all the while, we'll need to be alert to dis-information so we can

counter it with truth.

Please read below about LWVMI's many current efforts. Especially important is the August 24 training for those who will be holding townhalls/presentations about our new voting rights stemming from passage of PTV 2022 (Prop 2). Please plan to deliver this good news to multiple groups in all sorts of venues: a Rotary or Kiwanis Club meeting, church groups, PTA meetings, a book club, Chamber of Commerce meetings, or a senior center. Holding these townhalls is an opportunity for each League to secure grant funding. Learn more about this at the August 24th Voter Services Network Meeting.

Thank you for all your League work to empower voters and protect democracy, now and in preparation for 2024!

Denise Hartsough and Paula Bowman
LWVMI Co-Presidents

Voter Service Updates

LWV Town Hall-New Rights Under Proposal 2 of 2022

LWVMI is helping local Leagues "spread the word" about the many voting changes implemented by the passage of Proposal 2. Promote the Vote has designed a Power Point presentation, with script and handouts, for local Leagues to conduct town hall sessions within their communities. These materials will be available to all local Leagues, who will provide their own members as presenters.

A training session, via Zoom, will be held as part of the Voter Services Network meeting on August 24 at 7:00 p.m. We encourage those conducting the presentations to attend. If unable to attend, a recording will be available for viewing. It is imperative that presenters attend the virtual training or view the recording prior to making any presentations. The training sign-up information is below:

When: August 24, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Register in advance for this training:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqdOqtrzgqHNUiZ-alo3wD8NYzhPGFMpxc>

Registrants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. After the training, local Leagues will be sent a form to request the training materials.

LWVMI is pleased to provide funding to help offset some of the costs of these presentations. Each local League will receive \$300 for the first session, with \$100 for each subsequent session, not to exceed \$600 maximum. Costs could include the printing of handouts, videographer services, room rental, etc. As part of the funding requirements, local Leagues conducting these town halls will be asked to provide a final report of their activities. Once the report is received, payment will be sent to the local League.

We highly recommend the following:

- Conduct your town halls in the Fall
- Hold your town halls in-person if at all possible
- Record at least one of your town halls for viewing on your League's YouTube channel or website.
- Invite city/township clerks and their staff to attend.
- Seek out other venues/organizations for the town halls (i.e. libraries, schools, colleges, churches, Rotary clubs, etc.)
- Partner with other organizations (NAACP, ACLU, other local Leagues) for your town

Educating voters on Michigan's new election laws is critical to ensuring our citizens understand their new voting rights and exercise their right to vote. We hope you will agree by providing these town halls to your communities!

Presentation for Special Populations

As mentioned in previous League Links, one of our voter services goals for 2023-24 is to provide voting information to the following special populations: newly Naturalized citizens, citizens with disabilities, current and previously incarcerated citizens and citizens who are homeless. If your League serves any of these populations and would like a copy of the presentation and script, please let me know. Here are three more slides from the Power Point presentation.

Citizens in Jail Awaiting Trial Have the Right to Vote

- Only those in jail or prison who are CURRENTLY SERVING A SENTENCE are not eligible to register and vote.
- If you are in jail awaiting sentencing YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER AND VOTE.
- If it is difficult to get a Voter Registration Application, or to go online, you can write a letter to your city or township clerk's office for everything you need to register and vote.

When people know they **CAN** vote from jail, they **WILL** vote!




Previously Incarcerated Citizens Are Eligible to Vote

- Only citizens who are currently serving a sentence in jail or prison are prohibited from voting.
- Citizens who are On Parole are eligible to vote.
- Citizens who have been convicted of a felony and have served their time CAN VOTE.
- You can register to vote in person at your city or township clerk's office by sending your clerk a letter requesting a voter registration application or go online to michigan.gov/vote.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE...
Even if you have a criminal record.




You Don't Need a Home Address to Register to Vote

- If you can't receive mail, you can register in person at your city or township clerk's office.
- You can use any of the following as your address: a local shelter, outreach center, street corner or park.
- You do **NOT** need an ID to register or to vote. However, if you are registering to vote within fourteen days of an election, you **DO** need proof of residency. Go to michigan.gov/vote for info about voting without a permanent address.
- If you don't have access to a computer, many libraries provide computers.

Being Homeless
Is not a Crime.



The next virtual Voter Services Network meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24, 7:00 p.m. (see training article above). If you are a member of the Voter Services Network, registration for this meeting is required at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91012920202?pwd=ZGZkd0p3dD8NYzhPGFMpxc>

Upon registration, you will automatically receive the link to the meeting.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me. Enjoy what's left of summer-it's going much too quickly!

Judy Florian
VP of Voter Services
jflo@comcast.net

Advocacy Update: Bills and Budget

The Legislature is scheduled to meet the week of August 22, and return to regular schedule September 5th. On Wednesday, August 30, at 11 a.m. Governor Whitmer will hold a press conference to announce her legislative priorities for the fall. You can watch it live on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

On July 11, 2023, Governor Whitmer issued a new executive order, EO 2023-6, [Executive Order 2023-6: Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential Executive Reorganization](#) to establish the MI Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP). The order moves some programs from education, labor, and other departments. On August 8, the State Board of Education asked the Attorney General for opinion to see if this reorganization violates the MI Constitution. New weapons detectors are being added to the doors for the House Office Building and the State Capitol this summer. Both will allow concealed weapons for members of the Legislature and sergeants.

ELECTIONS: These election bills were signed by the Governor on July 18, 2023. None of the bills have immediate effect. The bills will take effect 90 days after the end of the legislative session.

- PA 84 of 2023 - SB 339 - launch enhanced tracking system for absentee ballots and applications.

- PA 81 of 2023 - SB 367 - provide at least nine days of early voting and permit pre-processing and the early tabulation of absentee ballots eight days before election of 5000 people.
- PA 82 of 2023 - SB 370 - signature matching and curing process and prepaid postage for absentee ballots and applications.
- PA 87 of 2023 - SB 373 - expand the types of identification that can be used for voter identification purposes.
- PA 83 of 2023 - HB 4696 - establish penalties for disclosing early voting results.
- PA 85 of 2023 - HB 4697 - require drop boxes for every 15,000 voters, one accessible drop box and video monitoring for all.
- PA 86 of 2023 - HB 4699 - establish permanent mail ballot list, which allows voters to sign one application to receive an absentee ballot for every future election.
- PA 88 of 2023 - HB 4702 - allow for an increase in the size of Election Day precincts to 5,000 from 2,999 active registered voters.
- Already passed PA 25 of 2023 that allows 6 days after election to tabulate overseas ballots and electronic voting for military members. And PA 2 of 2023 moving the presidential primary to February 27, 2024.

In addition, the budget bill, HB 4437 that allocates money to help implement Promote the Vote 2022 was also signed by the Governor, PA 119 of 2023 with immediate effect.

The National Popular Vote bills, HB 4156, and HB 4440, are on second reading in the MI House of Representatives, and SB 126 and SB 295 are in the Senate Elections & Ethics Committee. LWVMI is advocating for their passage when they return in September.

Recently, the lawsuit *Babb v Nessel* was filed in Oakland Circuit Court challenging the constitutionality of the state's voter transportation prohibition. Disability and voting rights groups filed the case. LWVMI supports HB 4568 that will also remove this prohibition.

For a complete list of legislation for which the League has a position, go to www.lwvmi.org under Advocacy 2023. To see the bills, go to www.legislature.mi.gov.

Judy Karandjeff
Vice President Advocacy

Exemption from Sales Tax

Your local League is exempt from paying sales tax in Michigan. Local Leagues are under the umbrella of LWVMI's 501c4 federal tax exemption. As a 501c4 organization, LWVMI has filled out a certificate of exemption from Michigan sales tax. The purchases of local Leagues are covered by this certificate.

You will need to provide the certificate to the vendor from whom you are purchasing items for your local League. You can find this certificate at

www.lwvmi.org. Click on Members and then LWV Only. If you need the password, please contact your local League president.

Using a DEI Lens for Clerk Engagement

A couple of questions that incorporate DEI in an engagement with a county, city, or township clerk would include: Does your poll worker training include a virtual review of the setup of the Voter Access Terminal and a reminder to include an accessible and private location for persons with disabilities who want to vote paper ballots? When choosing new polling locations do the criteria include accessible parking and unobstructed pathways to the polling place, identifiable accessible entrances and entryways that can be opened with automatic openers or with the use of a single hand?

Detroit Disability Power (DDP) recently presented a webinar on the results of an audit of polling places in the Detroit Metropolitan Area on election day last year. Of the 261 polling locations surveyed, only 16% were found to be completely accessible for persons with disabilities based on the questions posed above. They noted that these items could be remedied through poll worker training and clerk considerations when choosing polling locations. The League's Clerk Engagement project could incorporate these topics by using our DEI lens.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey,
Vice President Membership
moburkey30@gmail.com

LWVMI Membership Leaders' Network

The LWVMI Membership Leaders' Network will resume on Wednesday September 13th at 7PM via Zoom. At the September meeting we will review the membership resources available on the LWVMI website. If there are any League members who would like to be included in the distribution list for this meeting and did not receive the "Save the Date" notice, please let me know (moburkey30@gmail.com).

What are Cookies?

Nope, we're not talking about your favorite Oatmeal-Raisin recipe. Cookies in the website world are little pieces of a visitor's data that can be stored on a web browser. Cookies cannot access your system or retrieve information that isn't already showing on your web browser. They cannot access your hard drive or send information about your computer system. Cookies are just simply a data storage system.



LWVMI now has a "Cookie Consent" form on our website. This consent notice not only alerts visitors that cookies are used, but it is a way for visitors to understand that our website keeps their information private per Europe's

“General Data Protection Regulations” (GDPR), which is becoming the standard in the world concerning web privacy. A new Privacy Policy in conformity with GDPR can now also be found at the bottom of our website.

More good news: LWVMI can offer this service for local Leagues to use on their websites at no charge. The only hitch is that it cannot be uploaded to websites that use the MyLO or Club Express platforms. If your League is interested in adding this option to your website, send an email to Barb at the state office: office@lwvmi.org, and let her know the name and email of your webmaster so Deb Drake, our web designer, can be in touch. Assistance is available!

-Paula Bowman

Give for Democracy!

Please consider a gift to empower voters and defend democracy! Your State League welcomes and needs your financial support to carry out its essential work of voter service and advocacy.

You may donate in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend. You may make tax deductible donations to the LWVMI Education Fund directly or through Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA. You may donate to LWVMI if tax deductions are not a consideration. You may arrange for a planned gift in your will or estate.

To donate online, visit <https://lwvmi.org/donate-support-the-league-and-our-mission/>

Checks may be sent to LWVMI, 600 W. Saint Joseph Street, Ste. 3G, Lansing, MI 48933-2288.

To make a gift through direct transfer of IRA or 401(k) assets or a transfer of stock, please contact LWVMI at 517-484-5383.

For information on planned giving, see <https://lwvmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BelleBrothertonPamphlet2015.pdf>

Thank you for your support!

History Lesson: Women at Con-Con

This inscription is on the Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) plaque at Constitution Hall in Lansing:

On October 3, 1961, 144 delegates from every walk of life assembled at the Lansing Civic Center to draft a new Constitution for Michigan.

The delegates' task was difficult. Michigan's existing Constitution, which had been amended 70 times, no longer suited the dynamic national industrial leader the state had become. For eight months, the delegates listened, proposed, debated, and compromised.

The document they produced greatly changed the workings of Michigan's executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Significant revisions were also made in the powers granted to local government, the administration of public education, and the terms of office for elected officials. The new Constitution revitalized the guarantee of civil rights to every Michigan citizen and established a civil rights commission to safeguard those rights.

The Constitution was approved by the voters in a close election on April 1, 1963. Despite their many differences, the delegates produced a charter that has stood the test of time and served the people of Michigan well.

Of the 144 delegates, 11 were women. Three of the women were League members: Vera Andrus (Port Huron), Katherine Cushman (Dearborn) and Dorothy Judd (Grand Rapids). Lynn Liberato, whose father was a Con-Con delegate, is a member of our Macomb League. She recently had an article published in the Michian Historical Society of Michigan's magazine, the *Chronicle*, about the female delegates at the Convention. Not all are mentioned in this article but we know that their contributions cannot be overstated. [Click here](#) to read Lynn's article which begins on page 14.

-Paula Bowman

LWVMI Firearm Safety Network Meeting

The LWVMI Firearm Safety Network has met twice thus far and will schedule all future meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

We are delighted to share that we have two guest speakers for our next **Firearm Safety Network meeting on Tuesday, August 29 from 7:00-8:15 pm via Zoom**. Susan Koceski with BeSmart (<https://besmartforkids.org/>) will present their secure gun storage program. BeSmart is a program that provides information to schools and communities to protect children by sharing ways to securely store firearms.

Ann Anderson from Moms Demand Action will address Michigan's newly passed Extreme Risk Protection Order laws (ERPO). She will refer to <https://onethingyoucando.org> which will soon add Michigan to the 20 other states that have passed ERPO laws.

We do not have permission to record this meeting, so please plan to attend. Please click the link below to register and the Zoom link will be sent to you.

Please click this link to register for the Tuesday August 29th 7-8:15 pm meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsf-uorjgjHdKKuaV4B4RcpR5PjTRCSrdX>

For any questions, please contact FirearmSafety@lwwashtenaw.org

BeSmart description from Susan Koceski, a BeSmart volunteer:
The Be SMART campaign was launched in 2015 to promote responsible gun

ownership to reduce child gun deaths. Whether you're a gun owner, or you know someone who owns a gun, there is a role for everyone in the conversation around secure gun storage. Be SMART is a framework that parents, caretakers, and community leaders can follow to help keep their communities safe.

Be SMART volunteers encourage parents and caretakers to “Be SMART” and take these five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children: **S**ecure all guns in homes & vehicles, **M**odel responsible behavior around guns, **A**sk about secure storage practices in other homes/vehicles where your kids are, **R**ecognize the role of guns in suicide, and **T**ell your friends & family to **Be SMART**.

Vicki Berger Paulissen, Ph.D. – LWV Washtenaw County

Christina Schlitt – LWV Grand Traverse Area, LWVMI Advocacy Committee

The League of Women Voters of Michigan Environmental Network

Is pleased to announce a public educational presentation on

Clean Up of the Fox River and Green Bay: Lessons for Michigan

P. David Allen II, Presenter

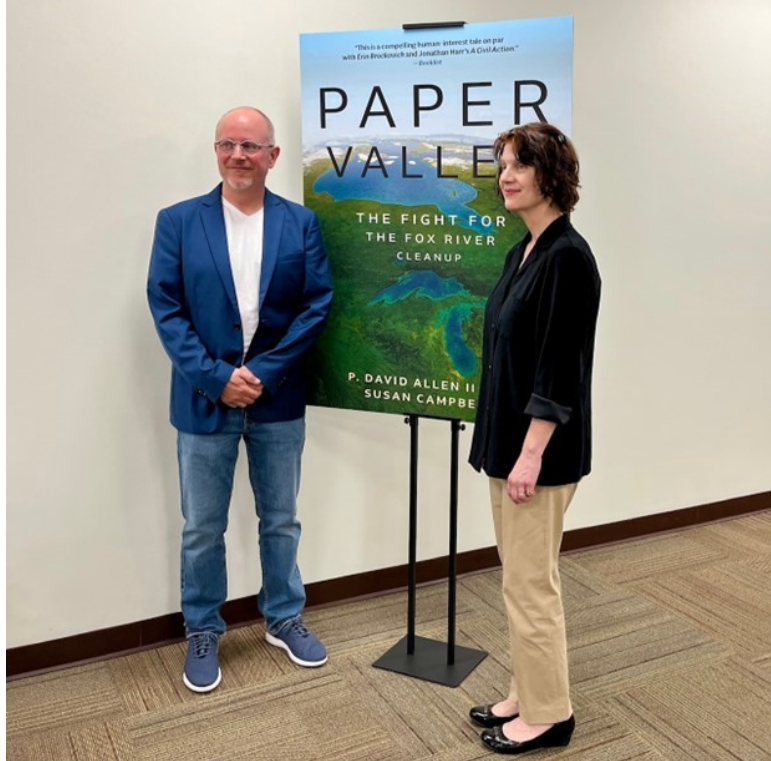
Thursday, September 21 | 6:00 pm

Please [register](#) to attend via Zoom or to get a recording later.

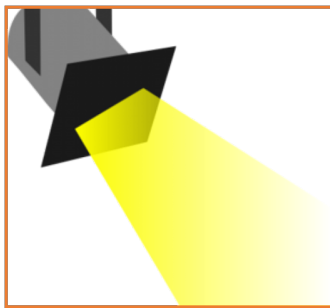
- Our speaker will be David Allen, former LWVMI director and wildlife biologist who lives in Marquette and has worked for federal, state, tribal and local governments in 25 states.
- He is the author of the book Paper Valley, about how the EPA Superfund law forced paper companies to spend billions to clean up toxic sediment in the Fox River and Green Bay.
- David will focus on how we can use these laws to help with clean-up of toxins in Michigan.

Hosted by the Washtenaw League of Women Voters

advocacy@lwwashtenaw.org



Local League Spotlights



LWV of Berrien & Cass Counties and the **LWV of Greater Grand Rapids Area** each held summer membership meetings on Microplastics, a water quality issue for the Great Lakes. Presenter, Art Hirsch who lives in Boulder, Colorado, and spends his summers in Pentwater, MI, is a former environmental consultant with expertise in the areas

of water quality, storm-water management, sustainability, and environmental impact assessment. He discussed the sources, impacts, legislation, and mitigation actions to address Microplastics.

LWV of Holland Area has posted the *Michigan Citizens' Guide to State Government 2023-2024* on its website. The Guide is an overview of state government, contact information for state departments, and state and federal lawmakers, information about how the lawmaking process works in Michigan, and guidance about how to ensure constituents' messages reach policy-makers in the most constructive way.



LWV Tecumseh/Lenawee County State Unit hosted Earth, Water & Sky event on Aug. 15. This free, family friendly event, took place at Hidden Lake Gardens in Lenawee County and highlighted natural resources. All 50+ people in attendance had the opportunity to take in an engaging presentation focused on the River Raisin Watershed and watch the award winning documentary Kiss the Ground.

Everyone could also explore Hidden Lake Garden's Reach for the Sky canopy walk. This 374-foot-long suspension bridge allows visitors to experience the tree canopy and connect with nature at a whole new level! In

addition, the gallery at Hidden Lake Gardens featured a collection of art created by local artists that featured items removed from the River Raisin during a community river cleanup event;

Local Leagues

Berrien/Cass Counties
Copper Country (with Gogebic County Geographic Unit)
Dearborn/Dearborn Heights
Delta County
Detroit
Eastern UP MAL State Unit
Flint Area
Grand Haven Area
Greater Grand Rapids Area
Grand Traverse Area (with Crawford County Geographic Unit)
Grosse Pointe
Holland Area
Jackson Area
Kalamazoo Area (with Calhoun County Geographic 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 2023-2024

Co-President: Paula Bowman (NW Wayne County)
Co-President: Denise Hartsough (Kalamazoo Area)
VP Voter Services: Judy Florian (Grosse Pointe)
VP Advocacy: Judy Karandjeff (Lansing Area)
VP Program: Maria Woloson (Oakland Area)
VP Membership: MerriKay Oleen-Burkey (Kalamazoo Area)
Secretary: Carla Barrows-Wiggins (Oakland Area)
Treasurer: Tom Wells (Grosse Pointe)

Directors

Voter Services: Carolyn Vertin (Tecumseh/Lenawee)

Advocacy: Connie Mitchell (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)
Membership/DEI: Shirley Madden (Manistee County)
Observer Corps: Lynne Kochmanski (Washtenaw County)
Membership/DEI: Cathy McAdam (Grosse Pointe)
League Links: Courtney Winell (Greater Grand Rapids Area)

Calendar



August 2023

August 23: [National Poll Worker Recruitment Day](#)
August 24: Voter Services Network Zoom Call (7:00 pm)
August 26 Women's Equality Day
August 29: Communications Network Zoom Call (2:00 pm)

September 2023

September 4: Labor Day (LWVMI Office Closed)
September 9: LWVMI Board Meeting
September 11-15: Disability Voting Rights Week
September 13: [Perils of Unregulated Money in Politics](#) Zoom Event (7:00 pm)
September 14: Local & LWVMI Presidents Call (7:00 pm)
September 15: International Democracy Day
September 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month Begins (Ends October 15)
September 17: Constitution Day/Citizenship Day
September 18: Recommended VOTE411 Publication Date
September 19: National Voter Registration Day
September 26: MI Clean Energy [Day of Action](#)
September 28: Voter Services Network Zoom Call (7:00 pm)
September 29: Absentee Ballots Available for General Election

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/>

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

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

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

[Unsubscribe](mailto:unsubscribe@lwvmi.org) president@lwvmi.org

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

Sent by president@lwvmi.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!