

League Links

September 2023

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Election Promotion Grant

The League's Education Fund was fortunate to receive several grants in 2022 that were dedicated to League activities at the end of 2022 and in 2023. Because this has been a 'quiet' election year with no federal or statewide races, LWVMIEF has not used all of this funding. We know that local Leagues are doing a lot of work to promote local elections in November 2023, and we're offering an opportunity to Leagues to be reimbursed for up to \$2,000 for projects such as:

- Print media ads or billboards
- Social media ads, i.e., boosting of Facebook posts
- Printed Voter Guides
- Voter registration costs
- Videography, venue and other expenses for candidate forums
- Tabling or event sponsorship fees
- GOTV projects

If you have an activity you've been thinking about, but the cost has been the roadblock, this grant is for you! The catch is that it is only for **the November 7, 2023 election**. Here are the requirements for the local League, State MAL or GEO Unit:

- Plan and implement the grant activities using the DEI lens.

- Carry out the activities as proposed in the application, to the extent humanly possible.
- Track and report the information requested in the final report, to the extent applicable to the activities undertaken.
- Provide a final report **no later than December 1, 2023**.

And a request: please do your best to target your activity to underserved populations.

Local League presidents were informed about this grant opportunity on their recent President's Network call. All the information about this grant can be found on the LWV Only page of our website. Local Leagues must apply and we will confirm quickly whether your project is covered by the grant funds. Applications are due by November 7, 2023. The final report along with the Expense Voucher for us to reimburse you, will be due by December 1, 2023.

We believe in the grassroots energy of the local Leagues and have confidence that you will spend this money wisely to further democracy in your communities.

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough
Co-Presidents



Voter Service Updates

Update: LWV Town Hall-New Rights Under Proposal 2 of 2022

A total of 94 people attended the August 24th training on Prop 2, including a municipal clerk, county clerk, a municipal treasurer, many local League Presidents and Voter Services representatives. To date, 19 of our local Leagues have requested training materials for events to "spread the word" about the many voting changes implemented by the passage of Proposal 2. We encourage those who have not yet requested materials to do so. Below is a link to the request form. All trainers are required to review the recording of the training before making presentations.

[Training Materials Request Form](#)

As a reminder, LWVMI will 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 sincerely appreciate our local Leagues and their commitment to educate our communities on these new voting rights!

National Voter Registration Day-September 19

National Voter Registration Day is a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy. It has quickly gained momentum since it was first observed in 2012, with more than 5 million voters registered to vote on the holiday to date. Celebrated every September, National Voter Registration Day involves volunteers and organizations from all over the country hitting the streets in a single day of coordinated field, technology, and media efforts.

According to U.S. Census data from 2020, as many as 1 in 4 eligible Americans are not registered to vote. Every year, millions of Americans find themselves unable to vote because they miss a registration deadline, don't update their registration, or aren't sure how to register. National Voter Registration Day efforts are designed to ensure every eligible voter has the opportunity to vote, creating broad awareness of voter registration opportunities to reach tens of thousands of voters who may not register otherwise.

We are pleased to report that many of our local Leagues have planned events to recognize National Voter Registration Day. These events range from partnering with local libraries, food banks, community colleges, universities, high schools and art events. A special thanks to those Leagues who responded to our request for activities surrounding this National event. If you can provide us with data from these events, it will be extremely helpful. Please contact me and I'll be happy to send you the reporting form.

Student Voting Summit

LWVMI will serve as a sponsor for the annual Student Voting Summit on October 6 at Oakland University. This event is sponsored by the Campus Vote Project and All Voting is Local. We will have League members at an information table and also providing presentations to high school students on voter registration. We ask our local Leagues to help promote the Summit by putting this graphic on your Facebook page.



**2023
STUDENT
VOTING
SUMMIT**



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6
10 AM - 4 PM
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**

**REGISTER AT
bit.ly/cvpmisummit23**

- ✓ **NO REGISTRATION FEE**
- ✓ **FREE FOOD & SWAG**
- ✓ **TRAVEL FUNDING**
- ✓ **AMAZING SPEAKERS**



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.

What are the Ways to Register in Michigan?



ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

Go to www.michigan.gov/vote



AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

For those with MI ID/Driver's License



REGISTER BY PAPER FORM

Drop off Paper Application at your City or Township Clerk's Office, a Drop Box provided by your Clerk, or by Mail.



How Do I Register?

Through **15 days** before the Election, you can register in many ways

YOUR CHOICE

- 1) By Online Registration at www.michigan.gov/vote
- 2) By Mail
- 3) In Person at your City or Township Clerk's Office, a Secretary of State's branch office, or any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities.

During the last **14 days** before the Election and on Election Day, you must register **In Person** at your **Clerk's Office with Proof of Residency**



PROOF OF RESIDENCY

Driver's License, State ID Card, or any of the following: **Utility Bill, Bank Statement, Paycheck Stub, Government Check or Government Document.** This must be current with your name and address on it.

***The Weekend Before the Election:** Clerk Offices will be open at least 8 hours to register and vote.

Go to your Clerk's Website for specific hours. Find your local Clerk at www.mi.gov/vote.



State of Michigan Voter Registration Application

You can Download this Application at www.michigan.gov/vote - These are for instruction purposes only

The image shows two pages of the State of Michigan Voter Registration Application form. The left page is the cover sheet with instructions, and the right page is the application form itself. A large red 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid across the center. The form includes sections for 'Instructions', 'Qualifications', 'Michigan-issued driver's license/Michigan state ID card number', 'Personal information', and 'Signature'. The 'Instructions' section lists steps 1 through 8, including filling out the form, providing identification, and mailing the application. The 'Qualifications' section lists requirements such as being a U.S. citizen, at least 17 years old, and a resident of Michigan. The 'Michigan-issued driver's license/Michigan state ID card number' section has a grid for entering the number. The 'Personal information' section includes fields for name, date of birth, sex, race, and ethnicity. The 'Signature' section has a line for the applicant's signature and a date field.

You Can Follow Along on Your Paper or Online Copy. See Next Slide

The next virtual Voter Services Network meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. I will provide a few updates for this meeting, but the agenda will be networking, sharing ideas and asking any questions you may have. Please come prepared to have your questions ready and also any great events/ideas you want to share. Pre-registration is required for this meeting. See link below.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

In the meantime, best wishes to those local Leagues who are providing candidate forums in their communities!

Judy Florian
VP for Voter Services
jflo@comcast.net

Advocacy Update

On Wednesday, October 4, at 7 p.m. the LWVMI Advocacy Committee will host an update on legislative issues. Any league member is welcome to attend. The link for the to sign up is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqf-qtpj4qHd3rS3hLjCnQ_TRQI-geODmr

On August 29, Governor Whitmer announced her priorities for the fall legislative session. The press release link is [Gov. Whitmer Delivers What's Next Address, Proposing 100% Clean Energy Standard, Paid Family & Medical Leave, Lower Health Care & Prescription Drug Costs, Protections for Reproductive Health, and Election Security Measures \(michigan.gov\)](#) The priorities are:

1. **Protecting Reproductive Health by passing the Reproductive Health Act.** LWVMI supports the Reproductive Health Act that repeals medically unnecessary laws that limit access to comprehensive reproductive health care. (HB 4949-HB 4959, SB 474-479)
2. **Lowering the Cost of Health Care by codifying the cost-saving measures of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act in Michigan law.** LWVMI supports the legislation to add that health insurance policies cover preexisting conditions, include coverage for those under 26 years of age and other ACA provisions in state law. (HB 4619-4623)
3. **Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs.** LWVMI has not reviewed this legislation yet.
4. **Enacting a 100% Clean Energy Standard, Improve Energy Efficiency, Empower the MI Public Service Commission and Streamlining Permitting.** LWVMI is working with MI Energy Council and MI Energy and MI Jobs as bills go through the legislative process.
5. **Establishing Paid Family and Medical Leave.** LWVMI supports this legislation. (HB 4574, SB 332 & SB 333)
6. **Shoring Up Election Security.** LWVMI supports this legislation. Numerous bills have been introduced. Hearings were just held on HB 4129 and 4130 that LWVMI supports..

On September 5, the Michigan Legislature returned to its regular meeting schedule. There have been hearings on the Reproductive Health Act, codifying the Affordable Health Care Act, and protection of election workers that LWVMI is following.

LWVMI joined the Michigan Health Is Health Coalition to require health insurers in Michigan to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of a mental health or substance abuse disorder. (HB 4707)

LWVMI supports legislation to establish the Fair Chance Access to Housing Act to ensure access to housing for those with convictions (HB 4878) and signed on to a letter with many others to support its passage. No legislative hearing has taken place yet.

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 continues to advocate for

their passage.

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

Nominations are Open

LWVUS has announced that applications for the LWVUS board and nominating committee are now open. If you're interested, you are urged to join members of the 2022-24 LWVUS Nominating Committee and LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner to learn about national leadership opportunities at a webinar on September 19. [Register here.](#) They will talk about the role of the national board and nominating committee as well as discuss the application process. **You can find position descriptions, applications, and the nomination suggestion form [on the League Management Site](#).** Applications are due by October 27.

LWVMI Membership Resources

On September 13th, the Membership Leaders' Network visited the membership resources available on the LWVMI website. To find these resources go to lwvmi.org - members menu - operations menu - membership resources:

- Membership Policies -- Includes Guidelines for Geographic Units, Member-at-Large (MAL) Units and Independent Leagues.
- Leaders' Handbook – Covers the New Leaders' Bootcamp Workshop from the 2023 LWVMI convention last May. It includes information for all Leaders as well as Presidents, Treasurers, and leaders of Communication, Advocacy, Voter Service, Membership, and suggestions for newly developing Leagues.
- New Member Handbook 2023 – Includes the information a new member would need to know, perfect for a New Member Orientation.
- MLD Event / Activity Planning Worksheet -- Includes "to-dos" before, during and following events with League members, partners, and media. Also includes Leadership Development suggestions at each stage of an event.
- League Lingo – Includes definitions for the terms we use frequently, from "Action" to "Voting Member."
- League Basics – A LWVUS booklet covering policies and methods of operation for local Leagues.
- 50-year Member Certificates – Instructions for requesting a personalized certificate for a 50-year member from LWVUS.

The next Membership Leaders' Network Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11th at 7PM. If you are not receiving the meeting notice and link and would like to be included on the distribution list, let the Membership VP know (moburkey30@gmail.com).

Environmental Network Presentation by Senator Sam Singh Proposed Environmental Legislation

**Friday, September 22 at 1:00 pm
via Zoom**

The League of Women Voters of Michigan Environmental Advocacy Network is pleased to announce a public educational presentation by Michigan Senator Sam Singh on Friday September 22, 2023 at 1pm via Zoom.

The presentation will be an overview of environmental legislation currently being considered by the Michigan legislature, with a focus on bills designed to promote clean energy in Michigan.

Senator Singh has long been concerned with protecting Michigan's natural resources, and finding solutions to the climate crisis. See flyer below for more information.

The public and all League members are invited to this timely and important presentation. Please register using the link below to receive a link to the presentation and the recording that will be made.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7uicNhZxQ0aisLyQ_sIQZw

For more information please email advocacy@lwvashtenaw.org

Michigan Environmental Update
with
Senator Sam Singh

Friday September 22, 1 P.M.

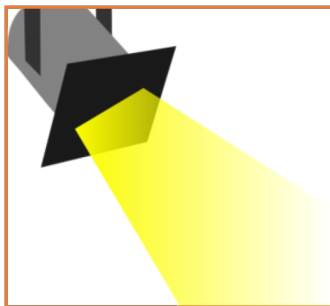


The Environmental Advocacy Network of the Michigan League of Women Voters is pleased to invite you to hear Senator Sam Singh present an overview of environmental legislation currently being considered by our legislature, particularly that pertaining to promoting clean energy in Michigan. Senator Singh has long been concerned with protecting Michigan's bountiful natural resources.

[Register for this event](#) to receive a link to the presentation and the recording that will be made.



Local League Spotlights



LWV of Detroit partnered with the Detroit Public Library for a Forum, "Democratic Elections and the Independent State Legislature Theory" on September 12th. The presenter was Dr. Evan Caminker, Dean Emeritus and Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of

Michigan Law School. He addressed the original questions about the controversial legal independent state legislature theory and the implications of the recent action by the US Supreme Court to decide the issue.

LWV of Kalamazoo Area celebrated the 33rd Anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act by participating in the Southwest Michigan Disability Network's ADA Signing Commemoration where they offered voter

registration and shared information on Proposal 2 Voting Rights changes. For Women's Equality Day, they participated in the Black Wall Street Expo by offering to register new voters and educate on changes to voting rights and access in Michigan.

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



September 2023

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 28: Absentee Ballots Available for General Election

October 2023

October is Voter Education Month
October 2-6: [National Voter Education Week](#) & [High School Voter Registration Week](#)
October 4: Legislative Update (7:00 pm)
October 6: Student Voting Summit at Oakland University
October 9: Indigenous People's Day
October 11: Membership Network Zoom Call (7:00 pm)
October 14: LWVMI Board Meeting
October 19: Local & LWVMI Presidents Call (7:00 pm)
October 24: United Nations Day
October 25: Observer Corps Network (3:00 pm)
October 26: [Vote Early Day](#)
October 26: Voter Services Network Zoom Call (7:00 pm)
October 27: VOTE411's 17th Birthday

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>



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