



# League Links

## August 2024

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### BOC, Partisanship and Bad Info

**LOTS OF EYES AND EARS AT WORK:** Over 200 shift reports have been submitted from LWV members who have been observing their county Board of Canvassers (BOC). We have seen many new BOC members this election, and some have openly announced their intentions to protest results. Learning about this information is valuable to the League and to the legal team at Promote the Vote, who is also analyzing the shift reports. Many believe the post-August election disruptions are just a preview of what could happen after the November election. Thank you to all the LWV members who have so patiently observed their BOCs in the past 2 weeks. Your work is bringing awareness to many issues that we would not know about if you weren't there. There will be a BOC Observer DEBRIEF on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 7:00 pm. Anyone is invited, but especially those who observed after the August election. You can register for that meeting [here](#).

**LET'S BE CAREFUL:** Every week, LWVMI receives requests from candidates seeking our endorsement. We shut these down pretty quickly by reciting our non-partisanship policy. Many of us who are political geeks, will be faced with these same issues in the next 2-1/2 months. Have a LWV t-

shirt? By all means, wear it to LWV events, but leave it at home if you go to a candidate rally. Want to put a candidate's sign in your yard? Please re-read your non-partisan policy and remind yourselves of the limits of overt partisanship – most leaders, including visible voter service leaders, are prevented from posting signs. This is a delicate time for the League—we need to keep the trust of ALL candidates so we can educate the public about their choices.

**MIS-DIS INFORMATION GRANT:** Starting in September, we will be offering a Power Point presentation for local Leagues to offer in their communities from now through March 2025. Leagues can earn \$400 for the first presentation. Learn the details and attend the training on Monday, September 9 at 7:00 pm. All LWV members are invited. [Register here please.](#)

**YOU BRING THE GOODNESS:** We – on behalf of the public - will be saying thank you to our League members a lot in the next few months. We see how much work you're doing with VOTE411, voter guides, including distribution, candidate forums, speeches, Board of Canvasser observation, social media promotions and all things League. Without you, Michigan voters would be short-changed. Thank you for all you do.

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough  
LWVMI Co-Presidents

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## Voter Service Updates

### Text Banking Pilot Project

We currently have six local Leagues participating in this project RelA2ve, Inc. to provide GOTV text banking for the November General Election. Local Leagues will be asked to create their own messaging which focuses on the following topics: permanent mail ballot list, returning absentee ballots to drop boxes, early voting, vote on November 5 and links to Vote411 and Michigan.gov/vote.



The training is minimal-no personal phone numbers will be used; all phone numbers will be within the ReachOut platform. LWVMI will pay the costs for participating Leagues. If you are interested in participating, please contact me **no later October 1.**

## Local League Guides and Candidate Information

If your local League requires candidate information for a guide you print locally, please complete the survey at this [link](#).

## August Primary Election Workers/Challengers Survey

Just a reminder: if you haven't done so, please complete the election worker/challenger survey if you worked the August 6<sup>th</sup> Primary. You can complete the survey at this [link](#).

## Preparing For Your Candidate Forums

For those preparing for candidate forums in the Fall, don't forget our excellent resource: *Candidate Forum Guide*. This is a comprehensive guide on everything you need to know about candidate forums. A copy of the guide is available at this [link](#). We encourage local Leagues to schedule their forums before the release of absentee ballots on September 26, if possible. There are also sample questions available at this [link](#). LWVMI is putting together another session on moderator training. If you're interested in this training prior to the Fall candidate forums, please contact me. If we don't have sufficient interest for the Fall, we will conduct after the November election.



## Voter Service Network Meeting

The next Voter Service Network meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 7:00 p.m. A registration link is available [here](#).

Once registered, you will receive confirmation on how to join the meeting.

A special thanks to those who worked early voting and/or on Election Day. I appreciate all of you who are stepping up to defend our democracy during this election season. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact me. Thanks, as always, for the excellent work you do!!

Judy Florian  
VP for Voter Service  
[jflo@comcast.net](mailto:jflo@comcast.net)

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## Advocacy Update

The Michigan House and Senate left Lansing on June 27 after completing the appropriation bills. They were scheduled to return on July 31, August 13 -15, but session was called to order

and no roll call was taken. Campaigning for the 110 MI House of Representatives' seats continues.



On July 19, the Michigan Board of State Canvassers advanced a proposed rule change. The rule change would clarify the purpose of the recount. It would assure that any recount would result in election results. Legislation was recently signed by the Governor to do this (PA 74 of 2024), but it will not go into effect by the November election. The rule, if adopted by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, could take effect. The Republican National Committee is threatening to file another lawsuit if this rule is adopted. The proposed rule is available [here](#).

On July 31, 2024, the Michigan Supreme Court held in *Mothering Justice v Attorney General* that the Legislature cannot adopt and then amend voter-initiated laws in the same legislative session. The court ruled that the Legislature acted unconstitutionally when it adopted and amended two voter-initiated laws, PA 337 of 2018 and PA 338 of 2018. As a result, the laws as originally adopted will go into effect on February 21, 2025. LWVMI and others filed an amicus brief opposing the actions by the legislature. The laws call for raising the minimum wage and mandating paid sick leave for workers.

The minimum wage will increase to \$12 per hour from \$10.33, and phase out the minimum wage for tipped employees, which is less than the general minimum wage. The measure also requires overtime compensation. The paid sick leave initiative will require employers to provide employees with paid sick leave. Employees in businesses with fewer than 10 employees will accrue at least 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Employees of businesses with 10 or more employees will accrue at least 72 hours of paid sick time per year.

LWVMI will keep you posted if any action is taken on legislation. The Senate is adjourned until September 4 and the House is adjourned until September 11.

Judy Karandjeff  
LWVMI Vice President for Advocacy

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## **MICRC: Court Approves Senate Maps for 2026 Election**

### **Court Approves Senate Maps for 2026 Election**

On July 26, 2024, the Federal Trial Court approved the Senate remedial maps that had been submitted by the MICRC. Prior to the Court's decision, the Plaintiffs and the Court-appointed, Special Review Master had also supported the MICRC maps.

### **LWVMI Recognized by MICRC for Helping with MICRC Outreach in Remedial Phase of Drawing House and Senate Maps**

At the August 15, 2024, MICRC meeting, Executive Director Edward Woods, III recognized and thanked the important contributions of organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Michigan, to the MICRC's

successful outreach during the redrawing phase. Local League members assisted at MICRC public hearings held in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties. Also, Local Leagues in those counties publicized the hearings to their members.

### **Legislature Approves MICRC 2024 Supplemental Request**

The Legislature approved the MICRC's 2024 Supplemental Request, allowing the MICRC to pay its bills, including part of the Court approved settlement fees. (The settlement fees include Plaintiffs' attorney fees.) The remainder of the settlement fees will be paid out of the FY2025 MICRC budget.

### **MICRC Approves Two Depositories for MICRC Archives**

The MICRC approved two depositories for its archives: the State of Michigan's Archives and the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library. All MICRC materials, including each Commissioner's electronic and paper files, will be archived so that the materials can be preserved and easily accessed by the public.

### **MICRC House and Senate Remedial Commission Report**

Executive Director Edward Woods, III is currently preparing a draft of the MICRC's House and Senate Remedial Report which he will submit to the Commission for their approval at their December 19, 2024 meeting. It will also include any dissenting reports from individual Commissioners who did not vote for the selected House or Senate maps. Dissenting reports are optional and are not voted upon by the Commission for approval.

### **Department of State Preparing Process for MICRC Dormancy**

The Department of State is preparing the process which the MICRC will use when it goes into dormancy the end of December 2024.

### **MICRC's Next Meeting, September 19, 2024, 10:00 am**

The Commission's next meeting will be on Thursday, September 19, at 10:00 am. The MICRC will elect a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Susan Smith  
LWVMI Redistricting Chair

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## **Membership Leaders Network**

Continuing to share some highlights from the June presentation Nora Pullen from LWVUS made to us about ChapterSpot, the new centralized membership platform for all Leagues across the country, and the unified dues process that will launch in January 2025, the following are noteworthy:

1. When individuals join the League with the new membership system, there will be two member types: Individual members and Lifetime members. There will no longer be student memberships or household memberships. However, with the pay-what-you-can dues model, a student member could pay the minimum of \$20 and local League scholarships could supplement those dues in whole or in part. For household members they can divide what they currently pay in dues when they join as individual members.



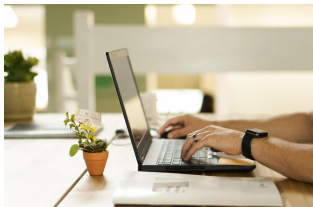
2. The new dues process will allow for making donations to local and state Leagues separate from the dues rate individual members choose, and these donations will not be divided into local, state and national payments. They will go directly to the designated League.
3. A reminder: **Each League member in the roster needs to have an expiration date since membership will be on a rolling basis with the new dues process.**
4. Local Leagues will learn about new members instantaneously regardless of the League level where they join, be it national, state or local.

For more specific information about the dues process under the new system and answers to many excellent questions raised at this meeting, check out the recording [here](#). If you further questions, LWVUS holds office hours on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 4PM. ChapterSpot Resources on the LWVUS management site includes FAQs and recordings from previous office hours.

Our next Membership Leaders' Network meeting will be held on **September 11<sup>th</sup>**; a reminder and a zoom link will be sent later this month. If your membership leader has changed with the new League year, send a message ([moburkey30@gmail.com](mailto:moburkey30@gmail.com)) to update the meeting notices.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey  
LWVMI Membership VP

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## Membership Survey Coming Soon

On September 1st, you will receive a Special Edition *League Links* with the 2024 membership survey. This will look very similar to the 2020 survey focusing on demographic data and should take only 3-4 minutes of your time. The board of the LWVMI is gathering this information about its members to look at statewide representation of those who are doing outreach to voters and how well they represent their communities. We appreciate your participation.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey, LWVMI Membership VP

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## Fran Parker

Fran (Frances) Parker, member of the League of Women Voters of Jackson County (now LWV of the Jackson Area) for more than 50 years, died Aug.8, 2024. Fran devoted much of her adult life and much of her considerable energy to the League of Women Voters.

She joined the Jackson LWV in 1968, and the

Board in 1973 as chair of the Representative Government Committee, a LWVUS position. One of its action items was the direct election of the president and vice-president of the US; Fran was very much in favor of this. In 1980, as Chair of the Local Schools Study Committee, she testified before the Jackson Public Schools Board based on a study the committee had made. She went on to become president of her local League in 1981.



From there, she went to the LWVMI board in 1983 and was vice-president variously for Legislative Affairs, Advocacy and Program Support before becoming its president from 1989-1993. After that she became a lobbyist for the LWVMI in the state legislature. She was particularly interested in environmental, government and social policy issues and was very good at explaining in the nicest possible way what the correct position on any issue was. During her tenure as president, she visited some local Leagues, going as far as Escanaba.

She had a great brain and a cheerful and compassionate spirit. And she made the very best pies.

Fran Parker was a woman who knew how to live; we are grateful that she invested so much of her life in the League of Women Voters.

Marge Duane  
LWV Jackson Area

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## Climate Interest Group Workshop at the 2024 LWVUS Convention

Climate Change is a top League priority because our warming planet, rising sea levels, and increasingly intense weather events are, and will become, a threat to our democracy.

The Climate Interest Group Workshop was held in person and virtually on Saturday, June 29 at the LWVUS convention in Washington D.C. The workshop described the important work this group is doing to educate and advocate for changes needed to address the threats of climate change.

The Climate Interest Group has 6 Issue Teams:

- Climate Action Plan
- Food, Soils and Agriculture
- Water
- Renewable Energy
- Oceans
- Forests and Wildfires

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these teams.

At the workshop we heard from a panel of team members describing:

How we can educate our local governments to adopt climate action plans that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by installing solar panels on municipal buildings, investing in electric buses and other city vehicles, and adopting building codes that require electric-ready homes and businesses.

How composting and reducing food waste can reduce methane produced in landfills, a significant source of greenhouse gas.

Why warming oceans affect the weather and ecosystem of the entire planet.

Why it's so important to protect our fresh water, including our Great Lakes.

How we can transition to renewable energy and stop using fossil fuels.

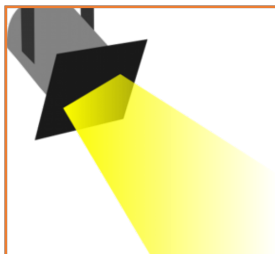
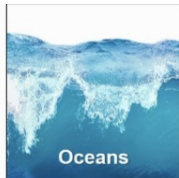
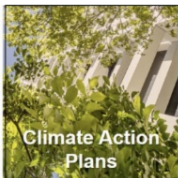
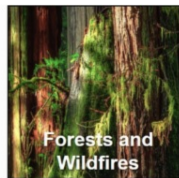
The devastation caused by wildfires and how to prevent them.

The workshop emphasized that state and local Leagues, and individual League members, have a critical role to play in helping to limit future climate change and protect the planet.

The League has robust positions on the importance of addressing Climate Change. Learn more [HERE](#).

Sandra Sorini Elser

Director of Advocacy LWV-WC and Liaison to LWVMI Environmental Network



## Local League Spotlights

At the annual meeting of the **LWV of Leelanau County** recognized two of its members with awards: President Tricia Denton received the Vina Mikesell Outstanding Member Award and Trudy Galla was awarded the LWVLC Outstanding Community Award. Congratulations!

The **LWV of the Greater Grand Rapids Area** shared a Community Spotlight in their August Voter so members could learn more about Le Tran, an art teacher at East Kentwood High School. She had encouraged her students to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> GoVote Poster contest sponsored by the LWVGGRA. At the reception for poster winners, Le Tran spoke about the contest and the importance of the League's mission from her perspective as an immigrant from Viet Nam. Le Tran talks with her art students about the importance of voting and a time when women and non-caucasians did not have the right to vote. From there she leads them to find out the WHY.

## 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  
Lenawee 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  
Troy  
Washtenaw County

For more information go to [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org)  
or check out Facebook pages for state and local Leagues

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## 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 (Lenawee County)  
Advocacy: Connie Mitchell (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)  
Membership/DEI: Shirley Madden (Manistee County)  
Observer Corps: Lynne Kochmanski (Washtenaw County)  
League Links: Courtney Winell (Greater Grand Rapids Area)  
Director at Large: Charles Thomas Jr. (Detroit)

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# Calendar



## August 2024

### [Civic Health Month](#)

August 22: [Voter Services Network Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm

August 24: [Women's Equality Day Luncheon in SE Michigan](#) | 12:00 pm

August 26: Women's Equality Day

August 28: [Observer Corps Network Meeting](#) | 3:00 pm

August 28: [Debrief for BOC Observers](#) | 7:00 pm

## September 2024

September 2: Labor Day

September 9: [Training for Mis/Dis Information Event](#) | 7:00 pm

September 9-13: [Disability Voting Rights Week](#)

September 14: LWVMI Board Meeting | 9:00 am

September 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month Begins

September 15: International Democracy Day

September 17: Constitution Day

September 17: National Voter Registration Day

September 19: Local and State Presidents Meeting | 7:00 pm

September 26: Voter Services Network Meeting | 7:00 pm

All LWVMI meetings are posted on [LWV Only page](#) of our website with links added when available.

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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>**

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