



*Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.*

# League Links In-Betweener

## October 25, 2024



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### Dear League Members:

Y'know that part of the mission statement that says, "defending democracy"? Well this is your opportunity to work the mission.

Observing the county Boards of Canvassers (BOC) has become a signature piece of the League of Women Voters in Michigan. Our democracy partners depend on the eyes and ears of League members to report on the BOC's work and/or the areas of concern at these public meetings. We are determined to make sure that every county is covered after this election for several reasons:

- We can alert our partners to any warning signs of possible certification issues. The legal teams of our partners evaluate the threat and may elevate it to the Bureau of Elections.
- Our presence demonstrates to the County Clerk, the staff, the BOC

members and observers from other groups that the LWV supports good governance.

- We can keep track of county certifications from sources we trust (you!).

We need your help this election. Some counties will take only 1 or 2 days, others will work for 14 days, including weekends and Veteran's Day. The more populous the county, the longer the canvassing will take. There are a lot of 2-hour shifts to fill!

Please join us and be part of this important work.

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough  
LWVMI Co-Presidents



## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BE A BOC OBSERVER

- [BOC Election memo](#) with links and guidelines that you can print off and keep.
- [SignUp Genius](#) - Find your county and choose shift(s).
- [Shift Report](#) - Keep this link on your phone so you can file your report no more than 2 hours after your shift.
- [Questions on Shift Report](#) - read these questions in advance before you file a shift report.
- [Observer Training Video](#) . Joining the League on this July, 2024 training is election attorney Mark Brewer. If you didn't watch this for the previous election, please do so now.
- BOC Observer [Program FAQs](#), Will provide a deeper dive into some questions you may have.
- [County Canvass Checklists](#) . Most BOCs use these checklists to go through the data provided in the poll books and tabulator tapes. Print one off and follow along!
- Kathy Poore's helpful [cheat sheet](#) about what to watch for.
- Check out this [calendar of important post-election dates](#). Lists dates and deadlines from election day through Inauguration Day on Jan. 20,
- What is a Board of Canvassers? [\(1-minute video\)](#)
- Make your own [temporary LWV name badge](#). We still have adhesive-backed name tags. If you want a few, send an email to [Paula](#) with your address
- Sara Weertz is our Project Manager. Her EM: saraweertz.lwvmi@gmail.com. Her phone: 325-374-8210





## LWVMI BOC OBSERVER GUIDELINES

1. Volunteers must watch Observer Training. Election attorney Mark Brewer.
2. All observers must adopt the League's Observation Guidelines discussed during training:
3. Wear your League badge or an **LWV nametag**. The League's presence must be visible.
4. If asked about your reason for attending the canvass, say you are there on behalf of the League of Women Voters to observe the certification of county voting records.
5. Observe the Board of Canvasser's processes and decisions.
6. Complete a Google Form shift report *within **two hours** of concluding your shift*.
7. If you observe any disruptions or attempts to slow the canvass, call Paula Bowman at 734-277-2243. NOTE: Any action out of the ordinary ministerial duties should be reported.
8. Refrain from *speaking publicly* during your shift, though you may ask the canvassers questions for clarification.
9. Do not make any partisan statements, engage in partisan discussions, or participate in partisan activities while serving as a League observer during the canvass.

## NEW THIS ELECTION

A number of our LWV members have agreed to be "COUNTY LEADS". When you have a scheduling issue or need more information, please contact your LEAD first. If s/he's unavailable, then try Sara Weertz at 325-374-8210. The Lead will be noted on the home page of the county (in Sign Up Genius)



## OTHER BITS OF INFO

Because we have volunteers joining us from many of our pro-democracy coalition, please log in your shift choice as soon as possible. We will release the Sign Up Genius on Oct 28 to our democracy partners.

AVOID CONFUSION: Do you know the difference between "completion of the canvass" and "certification?" How about what a "MOVE" ballot is? [Read the FAQs here](#) and be an expert!

All of the links noted above are on the [LWV Only page](#) of our Website. Ask your LWV president for the password!

Join us at the BOC **Observer Debrief** on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7:00 pm.  
[Register here!](#)

## 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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### Connect with us!

**League of Women Voters of Michigan**

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**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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