



*Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.*

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## Special LWVMI Event on Feb. 13, 7:00 pm



The League of Women Voters of Michigan is hosting a special meeting for members on February 13 at 7:00pm to present a topic that is critical to voting rights both at the state and federal level. The SAVE Act (US) and a similar measure being proposed in the Michigan House of Representatives would require burdensome proof of citizenship to vote. Though the Michigan House Resolution will probably fail, there is talk to make this a ballot proposal in 2026. The LWV opposes both the State House Resolution and the US' SAVE Act.

The Thursday's meeting will feature Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie to explain both the federal and state proposals, and former Co-President of the LWV of Kansas, Lucille King who will describe the Kansas' League's fight to have this law ruled unconstitutional. The meeting will be open to all Michigan League members who can join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83610754715> This event will be recorded so those who miss the live event can watch it later.

Remember that this link, and other LWV meeting links can be found on the LWV Only page of the LWVMI website. If you need the password, check with your local League President/Leader.

In League,

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough, LWVMI Co-Presidents

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## *Messages from LWVUS.....*

The new administration in Washington DC has been in office for a mere 2 weeks, and has already rocked the principles of our democracy. Our national League of Women Voters has heard from many members asking for a response to some of the actions taken by the new administration. Both CEO Celina Stewart and LWVUS President Dianna Wynn have made statements.

**From LWVUS President, Dianna Wynn:** *I sympathize with your feelings about what we're seeing on the Federal level—President Trump's EOs, an unelected billionaire raiding our agencies, and the inaction of Congress—all of which has impacts on states. I am also alarmed. Celina and I are in close communication, and our staff are on it! Staff have been meeting with members of Congress and demanding that they act to fulfill their constitutional duties. We are in the process of drafting a letter to Congress that we will ask all state League leaders to sign on to in the coming days*

*We knew that this administration would begin with a barrage of action—intended to overwhelm. This is why we began strategizing immediately after the election to set clear priorities for what we would respond to and how. We need to be strategic and coordinated in our approach in order to be effective. Also, keep in mind that you have a grassroots membership within each of your states, all of whom you can encourage to take action as private citizens—which could be very powerful.*

*In League, Dianna*

**And this statement from CEO Celina Stewart:** *Just wanted to weigh in with some relevant info on this front. We understand that President Trump's actions are affecting communities around the country. LWVUS is making strategic decisions daily about how we engage with the administration's actions and is already considering the next steps which will be presented next week.*

*The tactic of shock and awe is a military wartime strategy. It is critical that as an organization that we leverage focus and discipline. I look forward to sharing more about this next week. I know this moment is hard and frustrating. In the meantime, stay safe and I look forward to sharing more about ACTION we can take to defend and protect democracy.*

*In League, CWS*

This [latest press statement](#) titled, *LWV Condemns Trump Administration's Weaponization of Government Against Americans* was just released on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

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## **LWVMI Leadership 2025**

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!**

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