



League Links

February 2025

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SAVE Act and HJR B

Please be aware! The US House of Representatives and the Michigan State House have voter suppression measures before them. The federal SAVE (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility) Act and Michigan House Joint Resolution (HJR) B propose documentary proof of citizenship requirements for voter registration or re-registration after a move or name change. The SAVE Act applies to federal elections and HJR B applies to state elections.

It may seem intuitive that such proof be required—only citizens may vote. However, the specifics about what suffices as documentary proof are either not spelled out (HJR B) or contradictory and burdensome (SAVE Act).

And the documentary proof of citizenship must be presented in person. No more registering by mail or online. No more updating one's registration online. No more League voter registration.

Proponents claim these measures are needed because non-citizens are voting. Actually, non-citizen voting is very rare. A Heritage Foundation study found only 68 cases in the US in the past 40 years, and the majority of those

involved lawful permanent residents (green card holders) given bad advice by election workers. More details [here](#).

When Kansas had a law requiring documentary proof of citizenship, over 31,000 voters were disenfranchised—including [veterans](#)--before the law was declared unconstitutional. In Arizona, a tangle of [proof of citizenship laws](#) threatened to block 47,000 voters from voting in 2024.

The SAVE Act passed the US House in the 2023-24 session and is up for a vote again in the 2025-26 session. Read more [here](#).

HJR B is a proposal to put an amendment to the Michigan Constitution on the ballot. It would need to pass both the State House and Senate by a 2/3 majority to go on the ballot for a vote by Michigan citizens. Another way it could reach the ballot is by petition drive. Read the text of the resolution [here](#).

What can you do?

- Use the LWVUS [action alert](#) to make your voice heard at the federal level.
- Watch League Links for updates about HJR B.

And breathe, find joy, and take care of yourselves so we can continue to empower voters and defend democracy!

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough
LWVMI Co-Presidents

Voter Service Updates

Pre-Registration Flyer

Promote the Vote (PTV) has produced a flyer on Pre-Registration in Michigan. A pdf version of the flyer is shown below. Feel free to put this on your website or use at any upcoming voter registration events.
register.

Pre-Registration In Michigan



Eligible 16- and 17-year-olds can now pre-register to vote in Michigan. This one-pager answers common questions about pre-registration, including who can pre-register, how to pre-register, and why pre-registration is important.

What is pre-registration?

Pre-registration allows eligible Michiganders ages 16 - 17.5 to pre-register to vote by submitting their voter registration information to election officials. When pre-registrants turn 17.5, they automatically become registered voters and are eligible to vote in the next election that occurs on or after they turn 18.

Why is pre-registration important?

Pre-registration provides access to the registration process for eligible young people, meeting them where they are and providing convenient registration opportunities at places like high schools and state agencies. Importantly, 16- and 17-year-olds can now get pre-registered at the same time as they are issued their first driver's license! Pre-registration also engages eligible young voters in the civic process, creating voting habits and cultivating a sense of civic responsibility.

Can I pre-register?

You can pre-register if you are at least 16 years old, are a U.S. citizen, have been a resident of a city or township in Michigan for at least 30 days, and are not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison.

How can I pre-register to vote?

Eligible Michiganders can pre-register to vote using any of the available voter registration methods: online, in person, or by mail. To pre-register online, individuals will need a Michigan driver's license or Michigan state ID. For more details on how to pre-register (or register) to vote, visit MichiganVoting.org.

Questions? Need more information?

Please contact: questions@promotethevotemi.com



Election Calendars

The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) has released their election date calendars for August 5 and November 4 elections. You can access these calendars [here](#).

Voter Service Network Meeting

The next Voter Service Network Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Aimee Bedard, Kalamazoo Area League, who will present Government and Elections 101. With more local Leagues pursuing an interest to incorporate civics education during their high school event, this information should be very helpful. Please use this [link](#) to register for the meeting. Once registered, you will receive instructions on how to join the meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

In the meantime, if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Advocacy Update

The [Michigan House of Representatives](#) and the [Michigan Senate](#) have announced their committees and members. You can go to the websites for the details. The LWVMI Advocacy Committee will be monitoring committees and recommending action as appropriate.



LWVMI opposes passage of the state version of the federal SAVE Act, [HJR B](#), that has been introduced and assigned to the House Committee on Elections Integrity. The House Joint Resolution would require proof of citizenship to register to vote. The resolution would have to pass the House and Senate with a 2/3 vote and then be voted on by voters. No hearing has been scheduled yet.

The negotiations continue between the House and Senate on the implementation of the 2018 voter-initiated statutes to Raise the Minimum Wage and provide Earned Paid Sick Leave. The voter-initiated statutes will go into effect on February 21 unless changes are made by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

On January 29, the Senate passed [SB 1 and SB 2](#), a reintroduction of the Freedom of Information Act applying to the Governor's office and the Legislature. The vote was 33 yes, 2 no and 2 not voting. The bills went to the House and were assigned to the Government Operations Committee. LWVMI supports passage of these bills.

On February 5, Governor Whitmer introduced her budget for the coming fiscal year. The budget for FY 26 is available [here](#). The budget now goes to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

On February 10, the House Government Operations Committee reported two bills. One bill is [House Joint Resolution A](#), that amends the Michigan Constitution and requires bills to have 2/3rd vote to pass bills in the lame duck session. To pass a House Joint Resolution, 2/3rds of the House and Senate members would have to support it. It does not go to the Governor. Then the resolution would be voted on by voters in the next general election. LWVMI supports this bill. The House Government Committee also reported [House Resolution 19](#), that limits appropriations if a municipality of a university refuses to comply with federal immigration enforcement measures. The bill passed the House that same day. LWVMI opposes the resolution.

On February 12, the House Government Operations Committee met again on Thursday, February 12, and took up [HB 4062](#) through HB 4064. The bills would establish a two-year period from being a legislator, governor or

lieutenant governor, or head of principal executive branch departments. The committee passed the bills that now go to the full House. LWVMI supports these bills. Bills are available [here](#).

On February 13, “Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced more than 800 illegal guns have been taken off the streets as part of Operation Safe Neighborhoods. Since the operation began, law enforcement officials have conducted 7,706 check-ins with felony offenders, leading to over 800 illegal guns taken off the street. During sweeps, officers have also recovered illegal drugs and ammunition.” Governor Whitmer’s State of the State will be held on February 26.

For people wanting up to date information on Line 5 check out this new subscription, [Against the Current - by Jeffrey Insko - The Current](#).

For a complete list of bills the LWVMI is following, go to the [Advocacy 2025 page](#) of the LWVMI website.

Judy Karandjeff
LWVMI Vice President for Advocacy

Membership

Our local Leagues in Michigan have had an outstanding year of growth! On January 31, 2025, the membership total stands at 2920; that is an increase of 312 over the total on January 31, 2024.

Way to go, Membership Leaders and all of those who have supported them in their efforts to attract new members to our mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy!

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
LWVMI Membership VP

Membership Leaders Network

The Membership Leaders’ Network met on February 12th when the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team introduced the concept of Classism and its impact on Voting Rights. Thank you to Patty O’Donnell and Shirley Madden for this program. If you did not receive the recording and would like one, contact MerriKay at moburkey30@gmail.com.

Our next Membership Leaders’ Network meeting will be held on March 12th at 7PM via zoom.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
LWVMI Membership VP

Launching ChapterSpot, the LWV Member Portal, is

Ongoing

As ChapterSpot works to correct issues with the portal that have been reported by members, they have delayed sending portal invitations; however, any member can log in to the portal at portal.lwv.org — there is no need to wait for the invitation.

Administrative access to the system has been narrowed by leadership role. A list of the roles and the access each has is available near the top of the [ChapterSpot Resources page](#). If leaders at your League don't have the access they need, another leader in your League can grant access on the "Leadership" page in the portal. If no one has access to do this, please fill out the [support form](#).

The support form is also available to report any other issues you encounter with the portal. For only two weeks since launch the system is working reasonably well. ChapterSpot is working diligently to fix the glitches so be patient. We are all in this together and the portal issues will be resolved.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
LWVMI Membership VP

Word on the Membership Survey

We have been analyzing the data from the survey, and we found some responses on the open-ended questions that asked for responses from us. Since the survey was conducted anonymously, we were not able to identify who asked for responses. If you did ask for a response, please send me your question via [email](#) and I will work with other LWVMI board members to address your question. Thank you.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
LWVMI Membership VP

LWVMI Convention - Democracy Forever

Plans are percolating for our LWVMI 2025 Convention on May 16-18. Our LWV Only page on our website (check with your president if you need the password) is already full of convention materials. We hope many of you will join us in Grand Rapids and be part of the decision makers forming your state League's plans for the next two years.

Convention and hotel registration information will be available at the end of February. In the meantime, we hope you are thinking about who in your League may be deserving of a LWVMI award as well as a silent auction item you or your League can donate. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting biennial event!



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In case there is any doubt, DEI...is going strong! We've had questions/concerns about maintaining our DEI lens, and we want to assure you we're standing firm. Celina Stewart, CEO of LWVUS, will be hosting a blog, What is DEI? [Beyond the Buzzwords | League of Women Voters](#) Check it out!

SAVE THE DATE For the Next DEI Program

**“Energizing Young Voters in League Work”
(EnergizingYoungVoters.com)**

League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Presenter: Pat Supplee, LWV of Monmouth (NJ)

Cathy McAdam and Connie Ferguson
LWVMI DEI Team

Study the Federal Judiciary

Your League is invited to contribute to the crafting of a new LWVUS position by studying the federal judiciary, which includes the US Supreme Court, by April 14, 2025.



At the 2024 LWVUS Convention, delegates voted to study the federal judiciary in one year so that a position can be announced at LWVUS Council in June 2025.

Aspects to consider include judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics.

The LWVUS Study Committee has prepared policy briefs on:

- [Financial Disclosure](#)
- [Judge Shopping](#)
- [Judicial Ethics and Enforcement](#)
- [Legitimacy and the US Supreme Court](#)
- [Key Terms for the Federal Judiciary Study](#)
- [Recusal](#)
- [Representation](#)
- [Shadow Docket](#)
- [Stare Decisis and Binding Precedent](#)
- [Structural reforms for the US Supreme Court](#)

Other resources include a study guide, discussion prompts, a copy of the online consensus form, as well as an overview of the federal judiciary and judicial ethics, and a recording of an in-depth town hall with three judicial experts. You can access the materials [here](#).

For guidance and tips about conducting a study and consensus process in your League, check out the January 28th session with experienced League members from Michigan. The link to the recording and passcode are on the LWVMI website under LWV Only, LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study.

Feel free to reach out to [Denise](#) or [Paula](#), if you have questions.



Introducing **THE GREEN AMENDMENT**

Meet Anneke van Rossum on Zoom. She will discuss the proposed Green Amendment as a means to guarantee Americans the right to clean air, water, land and climate.

19 March
2025
7 - 8pm

ON ZOOM

EMAIL
LWVGGR@GMAIL.COM
TO REGISTER

VOICES ON VITAL TOPICS

a winter virtual speaker series



Get to know a community partner.

Find out how you can help!

Join The League of Women Voters of the Greater Grand Rapids Area for third event in their annual winter speaker series, Voices on Vital Topics. The presentation on March 19th at 7pm on Zoom will feature environmental activist Anneke van Rossum. Anneke will discuss a Green Amendment being proposed at the state level across our country as a means to guarantee Americans the right to clean air, water, land and climate. Click

Lifetime LWV Member Clara Mosenfelder

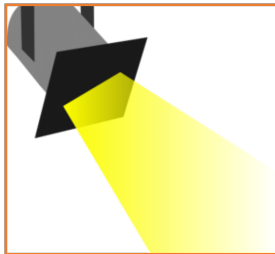
Lifetime member, Clara Mosenfelder, passed away on January 21, 2025 at the age of 98. Our dear Clara was the first president of the Delta County LWV (originally named the Escanaba LWV) when formed in 1951.



Clara was one of 30 women who met to consider the possibility of a League in Escanaba, in the fall of 1951. Taking advantage of the enthusiasm, officers were elected. At 25 years old, a young mother named Clara Mosenfelder was elected president. Clara remained a member of the Delta County League until her death. Our biggest cheerleader, she encouraged and supported the efforts of the local League.

Clara had a long history of community service. In addition to the League, she was a past president of the Escanaba School Board and the Delta County Historical Society. An artist at heart, she taught art to kindergarteners through high school and at Bay de Noc Community College.

Sue Scheeneman
President, LWV Delta County



Local League Spotlights

The **LWV of the Lansing Area** held its first Membership Luncheon of the new year on January 31st to learn about “MSUvote and Engaging Students in the Electoral Process.” The guest speakers from MSU for this program were Renee Brown and Suchitra Webster.

The **LWV of the Kalamazoo Area** celebrated its Founders’ Day on February 15th with guest speaker, Professor Regena Nelson from Western Michigan University, speaking about Community Engagement. Founders’ Day is LWVKA’s annual member recruitment event. Community members are invited to join League members for brunch, the speaker, and an opportunity to learn about the work of the League.

The **LWV of Dearborn – Dearborn Heights** is sponsoring a community meeting on February 19th with guest speakers, Former Detroit Police Dept. Chief Dr. Isaiah "Ike" McKinnon and Inkster Chief of Police Tamika Jenkins. They are addressing how to create safer communication through mutual understanding, building positive police-community relationships, and modern approaches to public safety.

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
or check out Facebook pages for state and local Leagues

LWVMI Leadership 2024-2025

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)

Calendar



February 2025

[Black History Month](#)

February 27: Anniversary of SCOTUS Upholding the 19th Amendment

February 27: [Voter Service Network Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm

March 2025

Women's History Month

Deaf History Month

National Foreign Language Month

March 1: Due Date for [Bylaws Recommendations and Program Planning Reports](#)

March 7: Anniversary of [Bloody Sunday](#)

March 8: International Women's Day

March 8: LWVMI Board Meeting | 9:00 am

March 13: LWVMI Leaders and Presidents Meeting | 7:00 pm

March 26: Anniversary of SCOTUS [Rucho](#) Arguments

March 26: [Observer Network Meeting](#) | 3:00 pm

March 27: [Voter Service Network Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm

March 31: International Transgender Day of Visibility

Future Important Dates:

- **April 14:** Consensus Reports Due: [LWVUS Judicial Study](#)
- **May 16-18:** LWVMI Convention in Grand Rapids

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

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
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