



League Links

March 2025

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2025 LWVMI Convention

There's a way to participate in the LWVMI's future: be present at our 2025 Convention. There, delegates will vote on 4 key items that affect our path forward:

- The 2026 and 2027 fiscal year budgets
- Nominees for the next term
- Bylaw changes
- Program (Will there be a new study? A concurrence?)

All of these items are now posted on the LWV Only page of our website except for the proposed Program – this will be up by the end of the month. Here are more convention details:

Registration: The registration fee of \$175, which covers everything except your hotel, is even lower than 2023. Please use [this form](#) to register before May 1 to avoid the late fee. A hotel reservation can be made at the [Grand Rapids Airport Sheraton](#). Call 616-957-1770 to book your room before April 16 but be sure to use the discount code of LWVMI.

Awards: Every local League has someone that should be honored by the entire state membership. This is your chance! Submit a nomination using the guidelines in the [Awards Packet](#) on the LWV Only page of the website.

Auction: Bidding on the variety of donations brought in by Leagues and members is a fun part of the weekend. The Auction Room, which will also accommodate items that a League may want to sell, is often a gathering spot for members too. Please use [this form](#) to 'register' your item with our coordinator, Paula Manley.

Advocacy Review: We kick off the weekend with an always-popular session on Friday, May 16th from 3:30-5:00 featuring news from our Advocacy Committee about current state issues. Start off the Convention with this great introduction to our advocacy work!

Dine Around: Members of the Greater Grand Rapids Area League are planning to escort LWV groups to their favorite restaurants on Friday night. Check the box on the registration form, and information will be sent to you with the choices.

Workshops: What a variety! You can choose 2 from these 6 workshops on the registration form:

1. Engaging Young Voters (Charles Thomas' famous "When You Vote, I Win" program)
2. Keep Your League Strong (Basic Requirements for every local League)
3. Basic Publications for Local Leagues (making things easy with templates)
4. Local League Advocacy (LWV positions give you a voice)
5. VOTE411 (User/Administrator discussion)
6. Finding Joy in Chapter Spot (Maybe we'll have all the answers by then!)

Speakers: Still being firmed up, our speaker list will be interesting and engaging.

Networking: The Convention offers multiple opportunities to talk to League members from all over the state who share your values. It sure beats Zoom calls!

Many people have been working on Convention preparation for several months to make this a great experience for all of us. Please consider joining us as we map out LWVMI's future, learn a lot and grow our mission. Contact Paula Bowman with any questions.

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough
LWVMI Co-Presidents



Voter Service Updates

May Special Elections

There are many jurisdictions conducting special elections on May 6, with an optional early voting period up to May 4. New voter registration in person for May elections is April 22-May 6. The last day to register to vote by mail or online is April 21. Absentee voter ballots will be available for voters on March 27. You can check with your local or county clerk on the specific elections in your communities.

Preregistration Mailer

The Bureau of Elections is sending the annual preregistration mailer informing Michiganders of their option to preregister to vote. The mailer is sent to Michigan residents who are between the ages of 16 and 17.5, have a Michigan driver's license or state ID, and are not currently preregistered to vote. Individuals will receive this form only if they appear to be eligible to preregister to vote. Individuals with a driver's license or state ID record indicating they are not a U.S. citizen will not be sent this mailer. This mailer is required by statute to be sent no later than April 1, 2025, under the [preregistration law](#) that was enacted in 2023.

Recipients are directed to return the form to the Department of State or to the online preregistration site if they choose to preregister. However, recipients also have the option to preregister with their clerk using this form. Approximately 100,000 mailers will be sent, so we may see some increase in preregistrations. When individuals preregister online, they will not have to do anything immediately, but will receive an email notification when the individual is 17.5 and is registered to vote.



Voter Resources

The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) has many excellent voter education resources on their website. Fact sheets are available on the following subjects:

- Drop boxes
- Early Voting
- Election Challengers/Poll Watchers
- Election Inspector Overview
- Election Misinformation
- How to Register to Vote
- How to Vote Absentee
- Myths vs. Facts Flyer
- U. S. Citizens
- Register to Vote on Election Day
- Returning Citizens: You Can Vote
- Voting in Person

In addition, there are educational posters, videos and translated voter information handouts. You can find them all at this [link](#).

Local Voter Guide Committee

We are forming a committee to review options for local Leagues who want to produce a local voter guide for 2026. Our goal is to develop a common template that all local Leagues can use. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me at jflo@comcast.net. We are looking for volunteers who have experience with producing a local guide and also those who want to provide input, but haven't produced a guide in the past. We welcome your service and ideas!

Voter Service Network Meeting

The next Voter Service Network Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. Please use this [link](#) to register for the meeting. Once registered, you will receive instructions on how to join the meeting. An agenda will be sent to the Network the week of March 24th. I look forward to seeing you there!

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

Advocacy Update



Federal:

As we all follow the national news, LWVUS is taking action. LWVUS developed information for Leagues to use to urge members of Congress who are home this week to stand up for democracy. The materials are available [here](#).

In addition, LWVUS continues its efforts to lobby against the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. The [SAVE Act, H.R. 22](#) is awaiting a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. The current federal voter registration form requires voters to swear, under penalty of perjury, that they are U.S. citizens. The SAVE Act requires voters to show specific citizenship documents, primarily a passport or a birth certificate, to register to vote in federal elections. LWVUS opposes the bill. Additional information and talking points provided by LWVUS can be found [here](#).

We urge you to speak out NOW on these important issues!

Michigan:

The House Election Integrity Committee took testimony on HJR B, the bill to require verification of citizenship for state elections on Tuesday, March 4. HJR B does not specify what documents would qualify as proof of citizenship. LWVMI, Promote the Vote, Common Cause, Voters Not Politicians, and others opposed the legislation. On March 11, the committee voted to recommend adoption of the joint resolution. The vote was 6 (R) yes, and 3 (D) no. 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 sent an action alert for members to send to the House of Representatives. It is available on LWVMI's website at the Take Action button.

The Michigan House and Senate have passed different versions of a supplemental appropriation bills to close last fiscal year's books. They are also holding hearings on next year's budget.

The Michigan House passed [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 before engaging in lobbying. The committee passed the bills that now go to the full House. LWVMI supports these bills. The bills are now in the Senate Oversight Committee. The Senate Oversight Committee reported [SB 99-101](#). The bills would establish new reporting requirements for public officials and candidates. LWVMI supports the bills.

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

What Can I Do? What Is The League Doing?

Many of us are alarmed about the harm being done at the federal level and wonder what we can do and what the League is doing.

What We Can Do

- Contact our federal elected officials as individuals to voice our concerns and opinions on the federal issues that matter to us. When we do this, we speak for ourselves, not in the name of the League. Elected officials of both parties need to hear from their constituents. Our voices matter!
- As individuals, participate in pro-democracy efforts in our communities.
- Use [“Take Action”](#) on the LWVUS website to tell our federal elected officials to 1) Urge Congress to Stand Up for Democracy, and 2) Oppose the SAVE Act.
- Urge people in your circles to speak to their federal elected officials. They may use the LWVUS’ “Take Action” button, too.
- As a local League, consider paid promotion of an LWVUS-approved message with a billboard or yard signs.
- Share stories of the impact of executive actions for possible use in advocacy. Here’s the [link](#) to the form.

What LWVUS is Doing

- LWVUS coordinated a letter to Congress from League leaders from all states, urging Congress to stand up for democracy. Read the press release with a link to the letter [here](#).
- LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart released a video statement on the State of Democracy 2025. Watch [here](#).
- Celina Stewart wrote a [blog post](#): What is DEI? Beyond the Buzzwords.
- LWVUS issued a release condemning [Weaponization of Government against Americans](#).
- LWVUS signed on to a letter [Urging Congress to Investigate Illegal Actions of Elon Musk and DOGE](#).

And just a reminder of action we and our friends and neighbors can take at the state level: use the [Action Alert](#) at [lwvmi.org](#) to oppose House Joint Resolution B, an effort to impose a documentary proof of citizenship requirement for state elections.

Stay engaged!

Membership Leaders' Network

The Membership Leaders' Network met on March 12th for a discussion about the kinds of League partnerships that are working well. They take various forms from planning and hosting events together, joining coalitions to advance a League goal like GOTV, to more informal attendance at the meetings of value-aligned organizations and invitations to visit and or speak at League membership meetings. If you did not receive the recording and would like one, contact MerriKay at moburkey30@gmail.com.

Note: The New Member Handbook has been updated with information about the new membership and dues system as well as the latest DEI policy. There are print and online versions of the Handbook on the LWVMI website under Members, Operations, and Membership.

Our next Membership Leaders' Network meeting will be held on April 9th at 7PM via zoom.

See more information about the program under Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
LWVMI Membership VP

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

“Energizing Young Voters in League Work” Wednesday, April 9th at 7PM

DEI includes many factors including age: We Need YOUth. For a program on April 9th we will hear from Pat Supplee, Ed.D. who is the Director of Energizing Young Voters, an initiative of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. Her presentation will tell us about:

- Energizing Young Voters: Youth focused; youth led; adult supported
- Their vision and mission: what it looks like on the ground
- Voter registration – student led with adult support (League and The Civics Center)
- Voter education – peer to peer and adult coached and/or led (Suite of learning modules)
- Ambassadors – leadership development – youth and adult led
- Transition to general league membership

Visit this [link](#) to learn more about the initiative. Dr. Supplee will share initiative resources following the program.

The Zoom link to register for this program will be available on the members' calendar on the LWVMI website.

Cathy McAdam and Connie Ferguson
LWVMI DEI Team

May 6 Election

Though this election is 'small' compared to the 2024 events, the League still hopes to continue our Board of Canvassers Observation program. Over 60 Michigan counties have elections, but we expect most BOCs to only meet for 1 day or less because of the small number of races. We will not be activating our Sign-Up Genius form, but we will ask for reports from the Observers. Stay tuned for more news on this!

Reduce Mis and Disinformation

Obtain grant funding while helping your community reduce the spread of disinformation! Local Leagues are invited to make presentations to community groups using an LWVMI PowerPoint and script.

Information includes why people spread disinformation, how disinformation works, why it sticks, and when and how to respond. Choose from the full 23-slide version or the core 10-slide version of the PowerPoint.

League presenters must have viewed the training on 9/9/24 or the recording. The recording and other materials are available on the LWV only page of lwvmi.org. There you will also find the LWVUS handout, The Do's and Don'ts of Election Misinformation.

Local Leagues may submit reports for up to two presentations made between July 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025. Leagues will receive \$400 for the first event and \$100 for a second. Reports are due by May 5, 2025 with checks to follow. To report your presentations, please complete this form.

Questions? Please contact Denise at denise.hartsough@gmail.com.

Impact of Executive Actions

League members, our loved ones and our communities are experiencing traumatic and dangerous cuts to needed federal services and programs. LWVMI is gathering stories of the impact of federal actions. Please share the stories you know personally!

LWVMI will make your stories available to LWVUS in support of its lobbying at the federal level. LWVMI, if asked by LWVUS, may lobby and share your stories, as well. With your permission, the League may also share your story with reporters.

The reporting form is on the LWV Only page of the LWVMI website. Here's the [link](#) to the form.



Keep Our League Network Strong!

Thanks to all who donate to support the capacity of LWVMI, the backbone of our network of local Leagues and Units!

When you give to LWVMI, a 501c4 nonprofit organization, you build capacity for our grassroots network of Leagues in Michigan. Donations are not deductible for the donor, which makes no difference if you take the standard deduction on your taxes.

Please continue to increase the strength of our state's Leagues! Voter empowerment and defense of democracy are crucial. You can [give directly at lwvmi.org](https://lwvmi.org) or indirectly [through the LWV membership/donation portal](#). If you would like to set up a recurring donation, you can set it and forget it at [this link](#) by checking the box for "Make this a monthly donation."

Join or Die

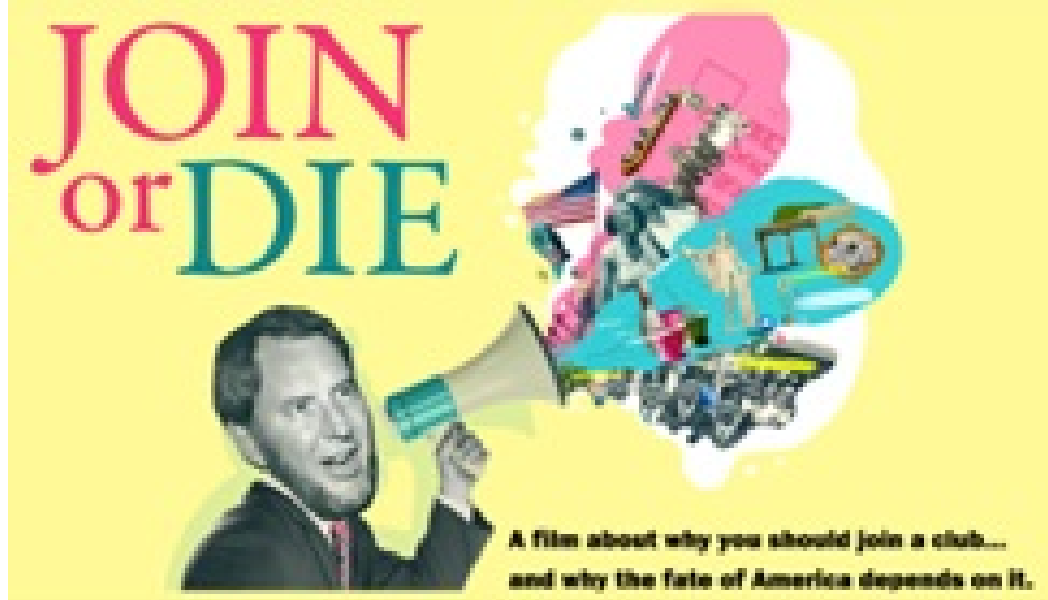
Join or Die is a film about why you should join a club — and why the fate of America depends on it.

In this feature documentary, follow the half-century story of America's civic unraveling through the journey of legendary social scientist Robert Putnam, whose groundbreaking "Bowling Alone" research into America's decades-long decline in community connections could hold the answers to our democracy's present crisis.

Flanked by influential fans and scholars — from Hillary Clinton, Pete Buttigieg, and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to Eddie Glaude Jr., Raj Chetty, and Priya Parker — as well as inspiring groups building community in neighborhoods across the country, join Bob as he explores three urgent civic questions: What makes democracy work? Why is American democracy in crisis? And, most importantly... What can we do about it?

You are invited to a free showing of this documentary hosted by the LWV
Macomb and friends of the Shelby Township Library
52610 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Township
Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 2:00 PM
No registration is necessary. Bring a friend!

Kathy Poore
LWV Macomb



Remembering Beth Moore

The League lost one of its champions on February 14. Beth Moore, who joined the League of Women Voters in 1968, was always passionate about her love and support for the League. She will be sorely missed.

Some of Beth's earliest memories were watching her family living and dining rooms turned into a local voting precinct. A summer scholarship in 1960 to Northwestern's Journalism School put her in Chicago during the Democratic Convention and this cemented a passion for both journalism and politics. She was a mother and a student at MSU when Dr. King came to speak at MSU in 1965, and she said it was a life-changing moment for her.



She went on to serve on the LWVMI State Board from 1975-77 as Nomination and Election Process and Voting Rights Director, and in 1977 chaired the LWVMI Election Law Study. I met her in 1977, when she welcomed a new transfer member to Lansing. Beth then served as the Lansing League president 1978-79.

One of her major accomplishments was writing and updating the 1995 LWVMI publication, "State We're In." She also served on the LWVMI Advocacy Committee for 8 years, 2012-2020, and was a member of the LWVMI Taxation and Budget Study Committee and the LWVMI Lame-Duck Study Committee.

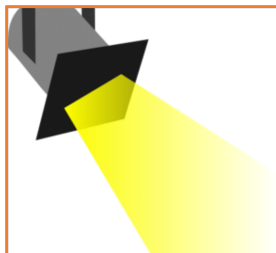
Beth was co-president of the LWVLA from 2016-2019. She spearheaded VOTE411 initiatives, wrote most of the Capitol Voter, and organized study groups, just to highlight a few of her accomplishments. Beth knew the importance for the League to maintain a nonpartisan stance regarding political candidates. As the go-to person whenever this often-misinterpreted position arose, Beth could provide clarity with passion and deep knowledge of the issues.

Through her career in MSU's Extension Services and in the League, Beth

always worked to provide educational information so we could better understand the role of government and participate in voter service and advocacy efforts. Her knowledge of these issues was immense.

Her friendship and ability to mentor others will be part of her legacy. And we are so grateful that she passed along her passion to her daughters Lisa, who serves on the LWVLA Board, and Sara, who teaches in Portland, OR.

Judy Karandjeff
LWVMI Vice President for Advocacy



Local League Spotlights

The LWV of Leelanau County and LWV of Grand Traverse Area held a joint member meeting on February 21st, “Immigration and Community Support for Migrants.” The program featured a panel of attorneys from Immigration Law and Justice Michigan and Pillar

Immigration Services as well as members of the staff of Northwest Education Services. Attendees learned about immigration policy, legal challenges, and how local schools support migrants in the community.

The **LWV of Detroit** partnered with the Detroit Public Library for a program on March 11th, “Allocation of Seats in Congress.” Dr. Jeffrey Grynoviski of Wayne State University discussed the history of the United States House of Representatives and how the Census determines the number of seats for each state.

The **LWV of Northern Lower Michigan** held a public zoom forum on March 12th, “Protecting Civil Rights in Michigan” presented by Faith Saenz of the ACLU of Michigan. She talked about the civil and human rights at risk in Michigan and what the ACLU is doing to protect them.

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
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

VOTE411: Carolyn Vertin (Lenawee County)
Advocacy: Connie Mitchell (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)
Observer Corps: Lynne Kochmanski (Washtenaw County)
League Links: Courtney Winell (Greater Grand Rapids Area)
Director at Large: Charles Thomas Jr. (Detroit)

Calendar



March 2025

Women's History Month
Deaf History Month
National Foreign Language Month
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

April 2025

[Arab American Heritage Month](#)
National Volunteer Month
April 12: LWVMI Monthly Board Meeting | 9:00 am
April 14: Consensus Reports Due: [LWVUS Judicial Study](#)

April 16: [DC Emancipation Day](#)

April 16: Last Day to [Register](#) for Discounted Hotel Rooms

April 20-26: National Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 22: Earth Day

April 30: Last Day to [Register](#) for Convention Without Penalty

Future Important Dates:

- 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
US

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