

## League Links

### November 2025

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#### President's Message

Determined. Creative. Committed. Smart.  
Passionate. Joyous!

League members demonstrate these qualities every day. You observe Boards of County

Canvassers and meetings of local governmental bodies. You provide voters with accurate information about the voting process. You encourage candidates to share their views on key issues through VOTE411, Voter Guides and candidate forums. You promote voting through text banking. You inform voters about the array of petitions for ballot proposals. You rally and march. You respond to action alerts from LWVUS and LWVMI. You organize educational forums and advocate on local issues.

And you do the work of governance, membership, finance, fundraising, and communication to keep your local League strong and growing. You live out our foundational policies on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Nonpartisanship. And you take the time to share your tips and insights with other local Leagues

through LWVMI networks.

We recognize your immense efforts and the impact they have as we all strive to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. Even as we resolve to amplify our efforts to engage 8.5 million voters across the country, we pause to celebrate during the holiday season.

As we head into Thanksgiving, we're grateful for every League member in Michigan whose energy, dedication, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts keep our work strong. Thank you for all you do - wishing you a joyful, restorative holiday!

In League,  
Lynne Kochmanski and Denise Hartsough  
LWVMI Co-Presidents

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## Voter Service Updates

### November 4 Election Worker Survey

Thanks to all League members who worked during early voting and on Election Day! For grant reporting purposes, we'd like to know who served either as Election Inspectors/Poll Workers, Absentee Voter Ballot Counting Boards, Poll Challengers/Poll Watchers, or any other election-related role. Please complete the Election Worker Survey at this [link](#). Also, please share this link with other members in your Leagues who may have worked in any of these positions.



### Like Working with Data? We Need You!

We are seeking a volunteer to help our local Leagues prepare for 2026 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activities. The volunteer will use the Voter Access Network (VAN) system to gather voter data based on criteria provided by each League (for example: county, precinct, first-time voters, newly registered voters, and other targeted groups).

Familiarity with VAN is helpful but not required. Training will be provided by Michigan Voices, one of our democracy partners. Time commitment will vary, with most of the work before the August Primary and November Election. If you are organized, comfortable working with data, and interested in supporting effective

voter outreach, please contact me at [voterservice@lwvmi.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvmi.org).

### **Permanent Mail Ballot List Text Banking**

Thanks to the thirteen local Leagues that participated in the Permanent Mail Ballot List (PMBL) text banking project before Election Day. Over 32,000 messages were sent across Michigan. I'm happy to report that we will continue this project again in 2026, with the continued focus on encouraging voters to sign up for the PMBL list.

The following Leagues have signed up:

Copper Country, Crawford County, Dearborn/Dearborn Hts., Flint Area, Grand Traverse Area, Greater Grand Rapids Area, Grosse Pointe, Holland Area, Jackson County, Kalamazoo Area, Lansing Area, Leelanau County, Lenawee County, Livingston County, Marquette County, Mount Pleasant Area, Northeast Michigan, Northwest Wayne County, Oakland Area, Saginaw Area and Washtenaw County.

If you're not on the list but want to join in, please contact me at [voterservice@lwvmi.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvmi.org). Details on the 2026 start-up will be shared when available.

### **Board of Canvassers (BOC) Observation Program**

Observation of the Board of Canvassers is nearing an end, with all counties required to certify by Tuesday, November 18. A total of 69 counties conducted canvassing activities. We had a total of 97 observers file shift reports to summarize the canvassing meetings. This program is one of our signature events and reinforces our mission to defend democracy. Many local clerks were pleased to have a League presence. A very special thanks to all observers and Observer Leads who volunteered! We couldn't continue this program without your participation and support! **Don't forget our virtual BOC Debrief Meeting on Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m. You can register at this [link](#).**

### **Know What You Sign Campaign**

Seven local Leagues have conducted 11 presentations with 342 people attending for the Know What You Sign Campaign. Many Leagues have received positive feedback on the presentations. Don't forget, you can make presentations until February 28, 2026. Each local League will receive a grant of \$200 for the first presentation, and \$100 each for up to two subsequent presentations, with a maximum of grant funds per League or Unit of \$400. Payments will be made in March 2026. If you have questions about these presentations, please contact me.

### **Voter Service Network Meetings**

Just a reminder: The Voter Service Network meetings are on hiatus until January 22 at 7:00 p.m. All in the network will receive notification of the meeting, with agenda.

In the meantime, if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me. Please note the change in my email address below. Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. I am truly thankful for all of your hard work and dedication to Voter Services!

Judy Florian  
VP for Voter Service  
[voterservice@lwvmi.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvmi.org)  
313-402-6786

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## Unite and Rise 8.5 Mobilization Network Updates

This month marks the release of [Unite and Rise Power Playbook 3](#). Power Playbook 3 focuses on building strong, intentional partnerships to expand the League's reach and impact. At the center of this is the belief in women's power to transform democracy. Women-led organizations bring lived experience, resilience, and bold leadership that are essential to building durable movements. There is also a commitment to inclusivity as true power grows when diverse voices are welcomed to the table.

Local and State Leagues are encouraged to reach out to the three new national partners LWVUS is now working with: National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW), American Association of University Women (AAUW), and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). If you have these organizations in your local League area, please consider reaching out.

Important dates:

- On **Tuesday, November 18th**, at 3pm on Zoom there is the first of 3 trainings offered by LWVUS for Playbook 3 entitled: Laying the Groundwork: Building Sustainable Partnerships. Please consider attending to learn more about building partnerships.  
[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- On **Tuesday, December 16th**, at 3pm on Zoom there is the second of 3 trainings offered by LWVUS for Playbook 3 entitled: National Partnership for Local Engagement. Please consider attending to learn more about this topic.  
[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- [Playbook 2 Survey](#). Please fill it out and submit to LWVUS, with data collected from Playbook 2.

# Unite and Rise!

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## LWVMI Advocacy Committee Report

This past month the LWVMI Advocacy Committee recommended, and the Board approved the following legislative actions:

1. **Support Senate Bill 562** to increase the percentage of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) funds that must be used for home weatherization. LiHEAP is a federal program that supports payment of heating bills for low-income families, as well as weatherization costs. More weatherization would reduce future heating bills and reduce energy use.
2. **Oppose House Bills 4481, 4482 and 4483** which would require the Office of Attorney General (OAG) to create and continually maintain a data base listing the states that grant reciprocity for concealed pistol licenses and their rules, at a cost to the OAG of approximately \$200,000 per year.

The Advocacy Committee followed up with legislative committees this month by:

1. Submitting a card to the Senate Committee on Appropriations in support of **Senate Bill 593** which would provide for fair registration fees for electric vehicles.
2. Submitted a card to the House Judiciary Committee to oppose **House Bill 4284** which would reduce the fee for renewal of concealed pistol licenses.

You can see the full list of our legislative actions [here](#) in the chart on our website under Advocacy 2025.

If a League member would like to suggest a statewide legislative or non-legislative matter for the League to consider supporting or opposing, please contact [Advocacy@LWVMI.org](mailto:Advocacy@LWVMI.org) or fill out the Support/Oppose Form [here](#).

**Reports of Legislative Interviews** are rolling in from Local Leagues.

In January of 2025, at the start of the new 2-year legislative session, the Advocacy Committee and the LWVMI Board asked our local Leagues to interview their State Representatives and State Senators. These interviews help local Leagues establish a relationship with their legislators and help the LWVMI Advocacy Committee and Board understand the priorities of legislators.

If your League hasn't yet made contact with your legislator to arrange a date for an interview, please check out the members only section of our website <https://lwvmi.org/lwv-only/> and click on the topic Legislative Interviews.

Please contact [Advocacy@lwvmi.org](mailto:Advocacy@lwvmi.org) with any questions.

Sandra Sorini Elser  
LWVMI VP for Advocacy  
[advocacy@lwvmi.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvmi.org)

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## Observer Corps

The next meeting of the State Observer Corps Group will take place via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 3 pm EST**. Anyone interested in participating in Observer Corps should attend. Email Tina Pawlak at [directorpawlak@lwvmi.org](mailto:directorpawlak@lwvmi.org) for additional information.





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## Promote the Vote Action | Decline to Sign Trainings

As part of our advocacy coalition work with PTV Action, our members are being offered Decline to Sign training. PTV has contracted with Landslide Political, experts in the field of Ballot Initiatives, to administer this and future training to give partners the tools they need when they encounter circulators in the field. The goal is to make gathering signatures as difficult as possible. They offer this training to all partners who would like their members to be involved. Please read on for more information from PTV Action.

### Decline to Sign Training Dates:

- On **Thursday, November 20th at 7PM**, PTV will host its first Decline to Sign training as a part of a broader strategy to combat the DPOC ballot initiative leading up to Black Friday when signature gatherers will be out in force. [Nov 20th PTV Decline to Sign Training](#)
- On **Tuesday, December 2nd at 7PM** PTV will host the big kickoff training. [Dec 2nd PTV Decline to Sign Training](#)

Through the training, participants will learn how to:

- Approach circulators from a distance.
- Deflect voters from signing the petitions.
- Recognize potential legal challenges if the circulators aren't doing what they are supposed to.
- Request that circulators be removed from private property.

We encourage all interested League members to sign up for one of these two events, or both, if you are so inclined.



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## Membership Network Notes

### Membership Leaders November 12 Meeting:

We went around the room a few times, first talking about local League activities (see highlights below), followed by youth engagement activities, and then, of course, ChapterSpot questions. I provided information on how members who join at the state level are transferred to and their dues subsequently paid to a local League.

### Upcoming Meetings:

Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm Eastern time. The meetings are recorded so you can check them out (at double speed if you want!) for helpful information (see the lower right corner of the video for “Speed” settings). Topics in upcoming meetings will include immigration issues and leadership with schedule TBD.

The next Meeting will be **January 14, 7:00pm via Zoom** (*Please note, there will be no December meeting.*)

### Local League Highlights:

There’s always a lot going on around the state.

- Many local Leagues held or attended No Kings rallies with record crowds being noted by Mary Marchatterre of Copper Country and Debbie Salatin in Howell for Livingston County.
- Maggie Murray reported that Macomb County created three 3-minute videos on mis & dis-information, which you can find on their League Facebook page. (Go to LWVMI.org > Find a Local League > click on Macomb.)
- Most of our local Leagues hosted candidate forums in the last few months. Terri McDonald noted that Kalamazoo held successful & well-attended forums in Kalamazoo & Portage.
- Val Schable reported Berrien/Cass’s public Town Hall, “Federal Funding Cuts at the Local Level” was well-received.
- Livingston County hosted Hank Mayers, President of Michiganders for Fair and Transparent Elections, presenting “Money in Politics”. View the recording on their [YouTube Channel](#).
- Debbie Fish reported Flint Area staffed a booth at the Applewood Estate Festival. In addition to providing information about the League, they held an election for children to vote on fun things, providing a booth, ballots, and ballot box. Seeing parents engage with their children and explain the steps to voting was an especially rewarding part of the

- day.
- Christina Schlitt reported that Crawford County Unit (CCU) partnered with the Kirtland Community College and WCMU to preview the Ken Burns “American Revolution” series. CCU provided information on the League to attendees, which included the general public and local students.

### Finishing Up:

Please join us at the January meeting and if you have questions or would like more information, please contact me at:

Carla Barrows-Wiggins  
VP for Membership  
[Membership@lwvmi.org](mailto:Membership@lwvmi.org)

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## Consider a Holiday Gift Donation to LWVMI

“Making a list and checking it twice .....”  
-Santa Claus is Coming to Town



The holiday season is time where we try to give the perfect gift and others scratch their heads trying to figure out what to give us. Here is a “holiday hack” that will make it easier to give and/or receive the perfect gift. For my daughters and adult granddaughter, I am making a donation to the League in their names. It is important to me that their rights continue to be there for them long after I am gone. Donating to the League helps that happen. When asked by my family, I will be asking that they make a donation to LWVMI in my name.

Soon you will receive LWVMI’s semi-annual appeal letter. Heed the call and half your gifting will be done. We all will thank you.

Carrie Moon-Dupree  
LWVMI Development Director

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## LWVMI Local League Advocacy Network November 25, 2025 at 3 pm

We are excited to announce that **Jessica Jones Capparell, Director of Government Affairs** at the League of Women Voters of the United States, will be our featured speaker at the next Local League Advocacy Network meeting on **Tuesday, November 25 at 3pm via Zoom.**

**Register Here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/GcVj0KkVQ5mYmslShDnvwk>

All League members are welcome and encouraged to attend.  
Jessica is an engaging speaker who has graciously agreed to spend an hour with



us discussing important topics such as:

- What is Advocacy at the League?
- Advocacy vs. Lobbying
- Legislative Priorities
- Federal Action Requests
- Using Positions at the State and Local Levels
- Applying a DEI Lens
- LWVUS Advocacy Resources

We hope you will take an hour out of your pre-Thanksgiving preparations to hear Jessica's presentation. It promises to be both informative and engaging.

For questions please contact: [Advocacy@lwvmi.org](mailto:Advocacy@lwvmi.org)

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## **LWV Macomb Proudly Delivers Dis-Information Videos**

You never know where your outreach efforts will take you. When the Macomb League presented the LWVMI's "*Resisting Disinformation*" presentation in January of this year, members of the audience gave us a ton of feedback. A young man, who belongs to a union, shared that many of his colleagues and friends rely on social media for their news and that much of that news was full of disinformation.

It just so happened that the Clinton Township supervisor was in the audience that night too, and he gave us permission to meet with Clinton Township cable TV (CTTV) to see if we could work together to produce short videos aimed at helping users of social media stop the spread of disinformation. Because CTTV was providing this service as a public benefit, we needed to be patient with their schedule. We wrote (& re-wrote) the scripts, provided suggestions for graphics, but gave CTTV free rein with putting it together. Our narrators, a League member and a friend of the League, recorded the videos at the CTTV studio. With the expert advice of Sue Ellen Christian of Western Michigan University, input from the LWVMI co-presidents, and the blessings of the LWVUS, three powerful PSAs were born nine (ok, it was ten) months later! We would love for you to share the news of their arrival with the world!

What is Disinformation?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_I7mpkyfVG8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_I7mpkyfVG8)

How Modern Technology Affects the Spread of Disinformation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOsReP43yO0>

How to Recognize & Stop the Spread of Disinformation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdvd5UkchaE>

Terry Gibb  
Kathy Poore  
LWV Macomb



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## LWV Grosse Pointe Engaged with Clerks

A favorite fall activity for the Grosse Pointe League was assisting local clerks with Absentee Voter Ballot preparation for the November election. With the large number of absentee ballots due to the Permanent Mail Ballot List, the clerks in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms have consistently called upon the League to help get those ballots prepared for mailing. It was clearly a win-win situation for both sides-clerk engagement at its finest!



Lauri Kingsbury and Martha Hutting



Sue Acton and Cindy Safran

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## 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 2025-2026

Co-President: [Denise Hartsough](#) (Kalamazoo Area)  
Co-President: [Lynne Kochmanski](#) (Washtenaw County)  
VP Voter Service: [Judy Florian](#) (Grosse Pointe)  
VP Advocacy: [Sandra Sorini Elser](#) (Washtenaw County)  
VP Program: [Ellen Lafferty](#) (Livingston County)  
VP Membership: [Carla Barrows-Wiggins](#) (Oakland Area)  
Secretary: [Maria McCarville](#) (Saginaw County)  
Treasurer: [Tom Wells](#) (Grosse Pointe)

### Directors

VOTE411: [Anne Jackson](#) (Washtenaw County)  
Advocacy: [Connie Mitchell](#) (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)  
Observer Corps: [Tina Pawlak](#) (Holland Area)  
League Links: [Courtney Winell](#) (Greater Grand Rapids Area)  
DEI Team: [Sheryl Theriot](#) (Detroit)  
Development: [Carrie Moon-Dupree](#) (Northwest Wayne County)  
Director at Large: [Charles Thomas Jr.](#) (Detroit)

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## Calendar

### November 2025

#### Native American Heritage Month

November 18: [Unite & Rise Playbook 3 Training](#) | 3:00 pm

November 20: [Board of Canvassers Debrief](#) | 7:00 pm

November 20: [Promote the Vote Decline to Sign Training](#) | 7:00 pm



November 25: [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)

November 25: [Local League Advocacy Network Meeting](#) | 3:00 pm

November 27: Thanksgiving

November 28: Native American Heritage Day

## **December 2025**

December 2: [Giving Tuesday](#) | [Consider a Donation to LWVMI](#)

December 2: [Promote the Vote Decline to Sign Training](#) | 7:00 pm

December 15: Bill of Rights Day

December 16: [Unite and Rise Playbook 3 Training](#) | 3:00 pm

December 31: New Year's Eve

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>**

League of Women Voters of Michigan | 600 W. St. Joseph Street 3G | Lansing, MI 48933  
US

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