



League Links

March 2026

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Co-Presidents' Message: 2025 In Review
 - Voter Service Updates: Know What You Sign Recap, Youth Engagement Grant Program, New LWVMI Project Manager
 - Unite and Rise 8.5
 - LWVMI Advocacy Committee Report
 - LWVUS National Convention 2026
 - All Our Gifts
 - Membership Network Notes
 - Action Alerts for Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC)
 - Local Resolutions Against DPOC
 - Wayne County Takes a Stand Against Voter Suppression Ballot Initiative
 - Local League Advocacy Network
 - Remembering Cathy McAdam
 - Local Leagues
 - LWVMI Leadership 2025-2026
 - Calendar
-

Co-Presidents' Message

We are so proud of our local and state Leagues! Below is the summary of the cumulative hard work of all of us from 2025. All but one of our Michigan Leagues submitted their annual survey, so the numbers truly reflect our work in Michigan. As volunteers, take a look at the hours you donated—54,000—then translate this into value, which is an astounding \$2 million! We registered 5,448 new voters and contacted 117,000 people with our Get Out The Vote efforts. Thank you all for your work and dedication to defending democracy and empowering voters.

Well done, all!

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



Voter Service Updates

Know What You Sign Recap

A special thanks to the 24 local Leagues who participated in the Know What You Sign (KWYS) project. Together, they delivered 57 presentations and earned a total of \$7,000 in grant funding. A total of 204 League volunteers and 32 partner organizations participated, helping deliver valuable information about the potential ballot proposals to communities across the state. Grant checks are currently being processed and are expected to be distributed to local Leagues later this week.

Youth Engagement Grant Program

Don't forget to submit your grant proposals!

LWVMI is offering local Leagues an opportunity to promote youth engagement in voter service activities during the 2026 election year. Grant funding is available to provide honoraria for youth ages 16–25 who are interested in supporting civic engagement and democracy efforts alongside local Leagues.

Details about the grant—including examples of eligible youth engagement activities and application criteria—are available at this [link](#).

Local Leagues are encouraged to submit a proposal outlining their plans to engage youth. Grants of up to \$1,500 are available. Proposals should include a description of planned activities, anticipated costs, and a timeline covering May through November 2026.

Please submit proposals to:

Judy Florian at voterservice@lwvmi.org or

Lynne Kochmanski at copresidentkochmanski@lwvmi.org

Deadline: April 30, 2026

Welcome Our New LWVMI Project Manager!

We are pleased to announce that Sarah Warner of the Berrien/Cass Counties League has accepted the role of LWVMI Project Manager. In this position, she will coordinate and oversee two key Voter Service efforts, the Post-Election Board of Canvassers Program and the printed voter guide.

Sarah brings a wealth of League experience, with a strong background in voter education, training, partnership collaboration, and technical expertise. Her contract will run from May 1 through December 31, 2026.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Sarah in her new role as the LWVMI Project Manager!

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Postcard Campaign

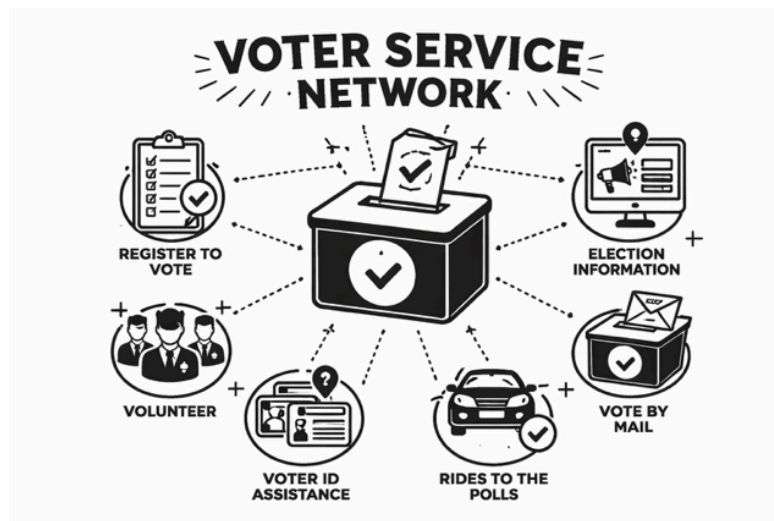
We're excited to share that the GOTV postcard campaign will once again be available to local Leagues in 2026—one of our most popular opportunities for member engagement! Local Leagues may choose to send postcards prior to the August Primary, the November General Election, or both. Grant funding of up to \$1,000 will be available to help offset printing and postage costs.

The postcard template is expected to be ready by May 1, and, as in past years, Leagues will have the option to customize postcards with their local League logo. Leagues may also select the voter population they wish to target. Our Voter Access Network (VAN) Data Team, Susan Hannah and Cathy Marshall, will be available to assist with data requests.

Additional details on how to sign up and participate will be shared soon—stay tuned!

Voter Service Network Meeting

Mark your calendars! Our next Voter Service Network meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. You can register for the meeting at this [link](#). Only those actively involved in Voter Service work in their local League may attend. An agenda will be sent out the week of March 23.

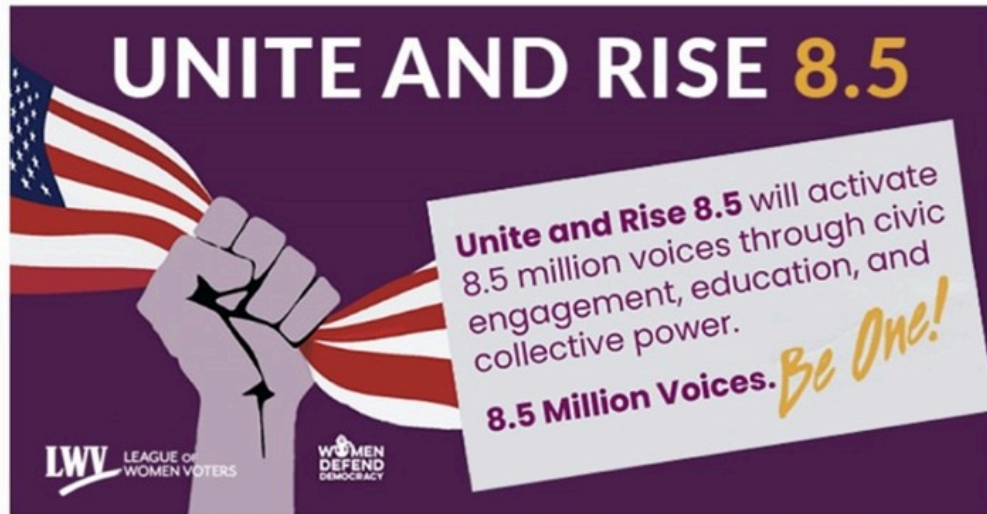


Judy Florian
VP for Voter Service
voterservice@lwvmi.org
313-402-6786

Unite and Rise 8.5

The Unite & Rise 8.5 Playbook 4 for February through April has been released and is filled with important information regarding mobilization efforts. Here is the link to [Playbook 4](#).

No Kings - LWVUS is joining [No Kings](#) as a national partner on **Saturday, March 28**. Leagues are welcome to lean in locally and participate in activations with partners on the ground in a nonpartisan manner. For Leagues who decide to mobilize for No Kings, please utilize our [Protest Safety Guidance](#) and [Guidance for Leagues About Nonpartisanship and Partnerships](#).



LWVMI Advocacy Committee Report

The League of Women Voters of Michigan took the following actions in March:

- **Oppose Repeal of Clean Energy Act.** Oppose HB 5710 and 5711 which would repeal Michigan's 2023 Clean and Renewable Energy law. Sent a card in opposition to the House Energy Committee for hearing on March 17, 2026.
- **Oppose Citizenship Documents to Register to Vote.** LWVMI opposes HB 4765, which would require citizenship documents in order to register to vote. A letter to the House Election Integrity Committee was sent on March 2, 2026. These required documents would be especially burdensome for people who have changed their name since birth. The League believes every citizen has a right to vote and these additional barriers only serve to disenfranchise eligible voters and depress voter turnout. Michigan voters are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering. It is already illegal for non-citizens to vote in elections! [Read the letter here.](#)
- **Support SB 771: Statewide Septic Code.**
 - SB 771 would authorize the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and local health departments to inspect onsite wastewater treatment systems and regulate their installation, repair, and replacement.

- Within three years of the bill's effective date, EGLE would have to establish a Statewide Sewage Code that included management requirements and performance standards for systems to provide baseline protection for public health and the environment.
 - SB 771 would establish evaluation requirements for onsite wastewater treatment systems that would generally require systems to be evaluated every 10 years with additional evaluation requirements based on system age, proximity to environmental features, changes in use, and other risk factors.
 - Individuals who conduct evaluations would have to be registered with EGLE and would have to meet certain training requirements.
 - SB 771 would create the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Administration Fund and the Public Education and Training Fund and require the bill's fees and fines to be deposited into the funds to be spent on appropriation for program management, grants to local health departments, data management, and public education and outreach, among other things.
- **Oppose HB 5364** House Bill 5364 would amend the Revised School Code to require the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate to pass a concurrent resolution approving any changes made by the Michigan State Board of Education to the current state model curriculum content standards before those changes could take effect.

Data Center Panel Discussion

On March 5, 2026, the LWVMI Environmental Network and the Michigan Climate Action Network hosted an excellent educational panel discussion exploring the environmental, climate and clean energy issues surrounding the 16+ data centers proposed in Michigan, each of which will consume city-level amounts of energy. Over 500 people registered and over 200 attended. [Click here to view.](#)

Panelists included: **Lee Shaver** Senior Energy Analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientist, **Prescott Balch**, retired Technology Executive, **Boratha Tan**, Senior Regulatory Manager for the Midwest at Vote Solar, and **Chris Gilmer-Hall**, Policy Associate at the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition.

Sandra Sorini Elser
LWVMI VP for Advocacy
advocacy@lwwmi.org

LWVUS National Convention 2026

Registration for [Convention 2026: Women Unite & Rise](#) is now open. Visit the event website to register, book your hotel accommodations, sign up for the wares market, access pre-Convention webinar recordings, and more! Early bird registration ends on March 31.

Registration of in-person delegates is \$575 before March 31.
Registration of virtual delegates is \$150, which includes only plenary sessions.

Please check with your local League leadership if you are interested in attending as a voting delegate. Each local League has a designated number of delegate spots allotted to them based on membership size. Every attempt will be made to accommodate those who wish to attend, though assistance with cost is limited, and at the discretion of local Leagues.

Once local Leagues have decided on who will be attending, please send your lists to communications@lwvmi.org, and cc copresidentkochmanski@lwvmi.org and copresidenthartsough@lwvmi.org.



All Our Gifts

In March, I have been getting the chance to get to know some of you better. I've been making thank-you calls to donors and doing a fun presentation on the history of women's swimwear for local Leagues. Having had the chance to meet you and hear the passion for the League firsthand, we are in good hands. The grassroots nature of our work and the crisis we are now in caused us to kick into high gear at a time when many of us thought we would be retired, ha! I want to acknowledge that you are giving all you can to our work, and it is appreciated. Together, we can do great things.



The spring donor campaign letter will be going out to our membership soon. We, of course, need funds to do the work at the state level and want you to consider donating, but I want you to know that your gifts of time and talents are just as important, if not more. Thank you for all your gifts.

Carrie Moon-Dupree
LWVMI Development Director

Membership Network Notes

Congratulations to North Central Michigan, our Newest State Unit!

On March 14 the state board approved the application for the new North Central Michigan State Unit. Previously known as the Crawford County Geo Unit of the Grand Traverse Area League, the Geo Unit members worked hard with new members from Crawford, Otsego, and Roscommon Counties to develop League activities in these rural counties. They've hosted workshops, presented on Know

What You Sign, created a “They Represent You” brochure, held voter registration events, and done many other things on the way to putting together their application to LWVMI to become a State Unit. Welcome North Central Michigan State Unit!

March Meeting:

At the March 11 meeting Christina Schlitt presented League materials for “Simple Steps for Developing Leaders within the League”. Included were interactive sessions where attendees suggested attributes of leaders and training that would help leaders. Training suggestions included:

- using social media
- organizing events
- website information design
- establishing relationships with media
- communication skills

The meeting concluded with updates and highlights from local Leagues.

Local League Highlights from around the State:

- Leelanau County League’s March Public Forum on Sustainable Solutions was presented by representatives of Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities and included information on locally grown food, transportation, and clean energy. The recording can be viewed at the following link. <https://lwvleelanau.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a63f0e333e9d07495a1a1750&id=ad9e82bb55&e=8e57d8dcf3>
- Detroit League hosted a March Dinner & Dialogue celebrating Women’s Leadership in Detroit and featuring a multi-generational panel of women leaders.
- Copper Country League plans to highlight the call for Equal Pay for Women on March 24 by distributing cookies, oranges, and information on the Michigan Tech campus. They also table at various functions and follow the jail issues in their area.
- Lansing Area League is hosting Anne Kuhnen from the Michigan League for Public Policy, who will speak about Kids Count, which uses data to measure the well-being of children and uses that information to help shape policy.
- Berrien & Cass Counties League has announced a partnership with the NAACP formed around their shared commitment to equal access to the ballot, constitutional protections, transparent and accountable government, and inclusion in democratic decision-making.
- Dearborn-Dearborn Heights League is participating in No Kings events on March 28, is doing youth voter registration, and has recently started using the email function in the Member Portal and likes it.
- Livingston County League has recently started an Observer Corps and is participating in No Kings events.
- Mount Pleasant Area League’s Observer Corps distributes summaries via the Chamber of Commerce and is sending people to a marketing class at Central Michigan University to learn how to make tabling more effective.
- Jackson Area League is planning a symposium, in cooperation with a local bank & the AARP, titled “Fraud in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”, and taking “My Democracy My Vote” into schools.

Finishing Up:

The April 8th meeting will include a general Q&A session and sharing of ideas among Leagues. More information and the Zoom link will be sent in the meeting announcement to the Membership Leaders Network. Please contact me if you would like to be added to the list.

To contribute your League’s highlights or to get additional information on items in this article, please contact me at:

Action Alerts for Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC)

FEDERAL: SAVE Act/MEGA Act/Save America Act

LWVUS Action Alert. Do and share! <https://www.lwv.org/save-act> Our US Senators need to hear from constituents that we oppose the needless, burdensome requirement of DPOC!

STATE: House Bill 4765 Proof of Citizenship When Registering to Vote

LWVMI Action Alert. Let your State Representative know that you oppose the Proof of Citizenship legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives, <https://lwvmi.org/take-action/#/>



Local Resolutions Against DPOC

Americans for Citizen Voting has turned in signatures on its petition to include in the Michigan Constitution a requirement of documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) for registering or re-registering to vote. This requirement would create new, unnecessary barriers to voting for millions of eligible Michigan voters, including married women, rural residents, older voters, service members and their families, and working class Michiganders.



County commissions and city councils are speaking out against DPOC! Local governmental bodies are adopting a resolution against DPOC. Most recently, the Wayne County Board of Commissioners voted 12-1 to adopt a resolution against this voter suppression tactic. (See details below.)

If you would like to promote adoption of such a resolution in your community, let Denise and Lynne know. We will connect you with All Voting is Local, which is coordinating this effort.

Voter Suppression Ballot Initiative

Local Leagues across Wayne County worked together to advance a resolution before the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, opposing a ballot proposal that would require Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC)—such as a birth certificate or passport—to register to vote. If approved, the measure would also require voters to present additional documentation when casting a ballot, whether in person or by absentee vote. These mandates not only particularly harm voters with low incomes. They also disproportionately harm military and overseas voters, married women who changed their name, adopted voters, and voters with disabilities.

Lauri Kingsbury, Grosse Pointe League, served as Project Coordinator, leading a countywide effort to organize and support the resolution. She partnered with democracy partner, Ben Gardner, All Voting is Local, who helped build a coalition of 36 nonprofit organizations backing the measure and worked across 15 Wayne County commissioner districts to generate support.

Wayne County includes 43 municipalities, with local Leagues serving 23 communities:

- Detroit (3)
- Dearborn/Dearborn Heights (3)
- Grosse Pointe (6)
- Northwest Wayne (11)

Participating Leagues and Members:

- Dearborn/Dearborn Heights: Connie Mitchell
- Detroit: Rhonda Craig, Roberta Deering, Debra Henning, Mame Jackson, Sheryl Theriot
- Grosse Pointe: Lauri Kingsbury, Lynne Pierce
- Northwest Wayne: Carrie Moon-Dupree

Lynne Pierce represented all four Leagues at the Commission meeting on March 19, 2026, speaking in support of the resolution introduced by Commissioner Killeen.

The Board passed the resolution by a 12–1 vote, affirming support for Michigan’s current election laws. With this action, Wayne County joins a growing number of communities opposing the proposed ‘Michigan SAVE Act’.



Local League members attending the Wayne County Commission meeting: left to right: Connie Mitchell, (Dearborn/Dearborn Hts.), Lynne Pierce (Grosse Pointe), Lauri Kingsbury (Grosse Pointe), Ben Gardner, (All Voting is Local), Judy Florian (Grosse Pointe), and Paula Bowman (Northwest Wayne). Not pictured, Mary Jo

Local League Advocacy Network March 24, 2026, at 3pm via Zoom

The next LWVMI Local League Advocacy Network meeting will be on March 24, 2026, at 3pm via Zoom.

All League members are welcome. You can access the meeting link [here](#).

The meeting agenda is:

- Review of work of the LWVMI Advocacy Committee last month
- Status of proposed laws and petitions requiring documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) to register and/or vote.
- Local League reports on requests for resolutions opposing DPOC by County Boards, City Councils or Township Boards.
- How Local Leagues can raise up the issue of DPOC. Example: Detroit Action Alerts.
- Q&A from Network members
- Round Robin – Network Members

For questions contact Sandy at advocacy@LWVMI.org

Hope you will join us.

Sandra Sorini Elser, LWVMI VP of Advocacy
Christina Schlitt, LWV North Central Michigan

Remembering Cathy McAdam

Cathy McAdam, a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities, passed away on February 23, 2026. She joined the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe in 2019 and quickly became a dedicated leader, serving in a variety of roles, including as Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. She also provided leadership at the state level, serving on the LWVMI Board of Directors and contributing to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work within the Membership Committee.

Born prematurely in 1946 and blind since the age of 18, Cathy demonstrated remarkable determination throughout her life. She earned a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University and devoted her career to supporting individuals with newly acquired disabilities, helping them achieve independence. Her work included 20 years at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. Cathy was a tireless champion for disability rights. She chaired disability advocacy commissions and served as Board Chair of the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Her compassion, strength, and unwavering commitment to service left a lasting mark on her community. She will be deeply missed by her fellow League members.

In lieu of flowers, Cathy requested that donations be made to the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind, 26777 Central Park Blvd., Suite 150, Southfield, MI 48076, a



Cathy is pictured with her leader dog, Betty, alongside fellow convention attendees Marge Freundl and Judy Florian at the 2023 League of Women Voters of Michigan Convention.

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

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

North Central Michigan State Unit

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

LWVMI Leadership 2025-2027

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)

Calendar



March 2026

Women's History Month
Deaf History Month
National Foreign Language Month
March 24: [Local League Advocacy Network](#) | 3:00 pm
March 25: [Communications Network Meeting](#) | 2:30 pm
March 26: Anniversary of SCOTUS [Rucho](#) Arguments
March 26: [Voter Service Network Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm
March 28: [No Kings Rally](#)
March 31: [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

April 2026

Arab American Heritage Month
National Volunteer Month
April 8: Membership Leaders Network | 7:00 pm
April 11: LWVMI Board Meeting | 9:30 am
April 16: [DC Emancipation Day](#)
April 16: Presidents/Leaders Meeting | 7:00 pm
April 19-25: National Volunteer Week
April 22: Earth Day

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/>

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