



League Links

June 2026

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Co-Presidents' Message

Welcome to Election Season!

Across the state, members are hard at work supporting primary election efforts, helping voters access reliable information, and preparing communities for participation. This work is essential to ensuring every voter can make their voice heard.

We are also continuing our advocacy work, speaking up on issues that matter to voters and to the health of our democracy. Your engagement helps carry the League's mission forward in powerful ways.

Our upcoming National Convention will give us a chance to come together, reflect on what we have accomplished, prepare for the work ahead, and reaffirm our commitment to the League's mission.

Finally, we celebrate the tremendous voter education efforts of local Leagues. Through candidate forums, public information events, and direct community

outreach, local Leagues are making a real impact every day.

Thank you for your continued dedication, leadership, and service.

In League,
Lynne Kochmanski and Denise Hartsough
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Michigan

Voter Service Updates

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Postcard Campaign

Just a reminder: Our GOTV Postcard Campaign is underway!

A postcard template is available and may be customized with your local League's name. If you would like your League's name added, please contact Pat at patbuckner24@gmail.com.

The postcard size is 4 x 6 inches, and the current postage rate is \$0.61.

NOTE: The postcard postage rate will increase to \$.65 effective July 12. I encourage you to purchase the Forever postcard stamps now for \$.61, so you can use them after the postage rate increase.

To participate, each local League **must complete the following:**

2026 GOTV Postcard Campaign Application, available at this [link](#).

The target group for this campaign is newly registered, first-time voters (age 18-29). However, local Leagues can identify a different target population.

Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Voters who have not participated in an election during the past four years
- Women voters age 40 and over who didn't vote in 2022.
- Voters in a specific jurisdiction, precinct, or ZIP code (demographics decided by the local League).

Based on your target population, our Voter Access Network (VAN) Data Team will extract voter information from the database, which connects directly to the Michigan Department of State's Qualified Voter File (QVF). The data team includes Cathy Marshall of Washtenaw County and Susan Hannah of Northern Lower Michigan. Once an application is received, the request will be forwarded to the data team for processing.

LWVMI will reimburse local Leagues for printing and postage expenses up to a maximum of \$1,000. Local Leagues may exceed the \$1,000 limit but will be responsible for any costs above that amount. Expenses must be paid upfront by the local League, with receipts submitted for reimbursement. Requests for reimbursement are due no later than **November 13, 2026**. (Reimbursements will be sent to all participating Leagues **after** November 13)

To receive reimbursement, local Leagues must submit receipts along with the GOTV Expense Reimbursement Request, available on the LWVMI.org website. Questions can be directed to Judy Florian at voterservice@lwvmi.org.



Tabulator Testing

Did you know that Michigan's voting tabulators and Voter Assist Terminals (VATs) are tested before every election? State law requires that all tabulating machines undergo logic and accuracy testing at least five days before Election Day to ensure they are functioning properly and counting ballots accurately.

These tests are open to the public, and notice is typically provided through local newspapers, the jurisdiction's website and on social media. Yet, year after year, few people attend, and many voters don't realize these public demonstrations even take place. Most city and township clerks report that only they and their staff are present as blank and test ballots are fed through the tabulators and VATs to verify that both the software and equipment are working as intended.

It's one of the many behind-the-scenes safeguards designed to help ensure Michigan elections are accurate, secure, and transparent. I strongly encourage you to contact your clerk and attend the tabulator and VAT testing.

Save the Date (BOC)

Mark your calendars! The Board of Canvassers Orientation Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m. You can register at this [link](#).



Text Banking Project

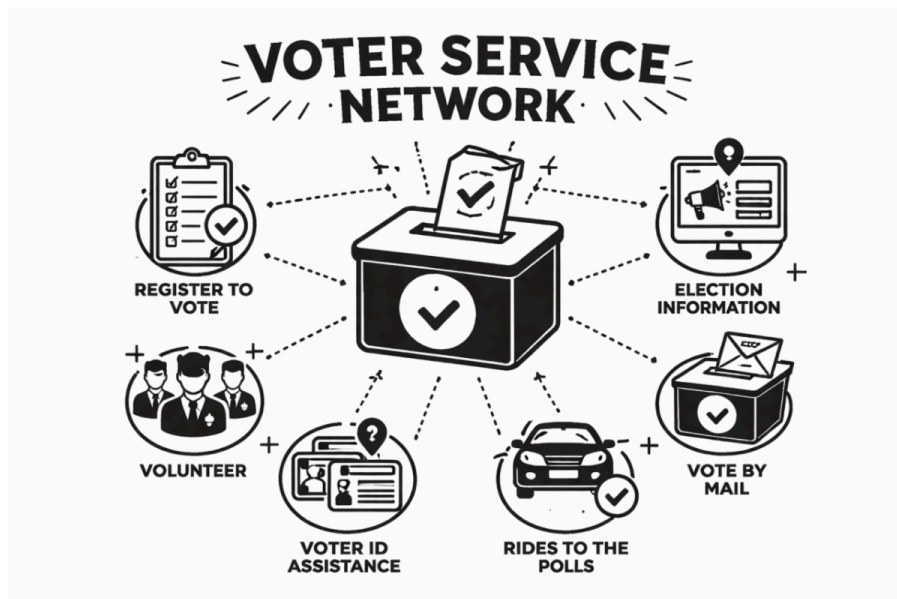
Phase 2 of our text banking project will start up this week. Here is the schedule:

- June 25: Launch all Leagues to promote signing up for the Permanent Mail Ballot List
- July 12: Change message to vote on August 4th!
- July 25: Change message to vote early!
- August 1: Change message to vote on Election Day

Bob Chunn will be in contact with all participating local Leagues this week.

Voter Service Network Meeting

There will be no Voter Service Network meeting in June due to the LWVUS Convention. Our next Voter Service Network meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23, 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 can attend. An agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.



Judy Florian
VP for Voter Service

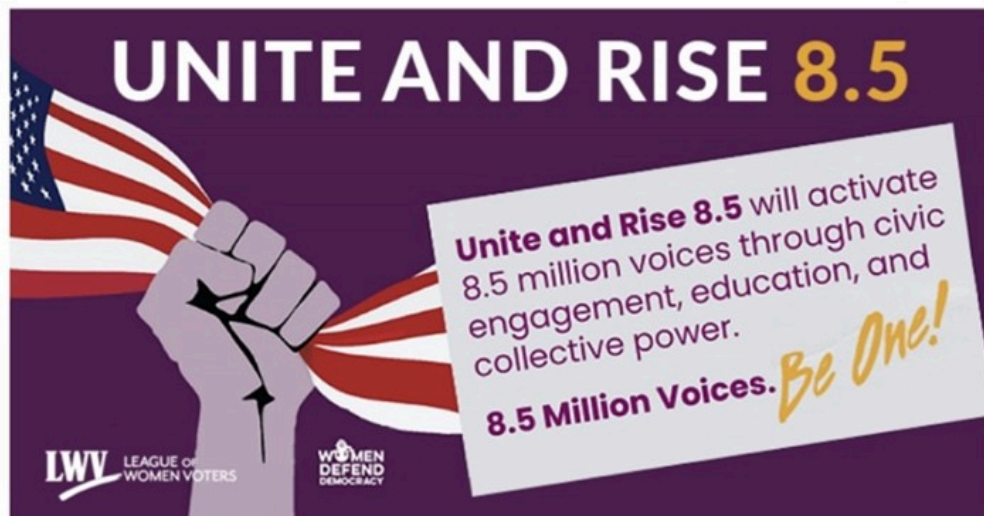
Unite and Rise 8.5

SAVE THE DATE: Day of Action - August 8th - Unite and Rise for Voting Rights

LWVMI will offer a livestream on YouTube of the documentary, *Three Marches, Two Sisters, One Bridge*, from 5-6pm on August 8, which all local Leagues and partners will be able to attend. This is part of the LWV National Day of Action for Voting Rights. August 6 is the 61st anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) is one of the most significant elections statutes ever enacted. The law prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or language-minority status in registration and voting nationwide. The VRA also provides protections for blind, disabled, or illiterate voters. We invite members to view the documentary and hear from the two sisters who star in the film. Look for a flyer soon with details on how to participate.

CIVIC HOLIDAYS: Start your planning now: <https://civicholidays.org/>

- National Voter Registration Day: Tuesday, September 15
- National Voter Education Week: October 5-9
- Election Hero Day: Thursday, October 20
- Vote Early Day: Tuesday, October 27



LWVMI Advocacy Committee Report

Below are the highlights from the LWVMI Advocacy Committee work in June 2026.

Immigration Action Steps.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has approved the Michigan League's request to take appropriate action to oppose ICE facilities in Michigan. LWVMI contacted ACLU of Michigan and the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center to learn more about their work and how League members can partner to:

- Oppose the inhumane and illegal detention of people at the existing ICE facility in Baldwin, Michigan, and

- Oppose converting a warehouse in Romulus Michigan into a detention facility.

As a result the LWVMI Board approved the following action steps League members can take:

- **Action Alerts.** Respond to and lift up the Action Alerts available from ACLU-MI and MIRC. Here are the links: [Take Action with ACLU of Michigan](#); [MIRC's Action Alerts](#)
- **Know Your Rights Trainings.** Encourage your local League to:
 - Host “Know Your Rights” trainings through organizations such as ACLU of Michigan, the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, **or** the Immigration Law and Justice Center of Michigan, Marcelo Betti, director. [Request Know Your Rights Presentation](#)
 - Sign up to receive ACLU notices of Immigrants Rights issues: <https://www.aclumich.org/actions/>

Links shared by ACLU of Michigan:

- [Preparing Your Family Guide](#)
- [Guidance for Schools](#)
- [Guidance for Law Enforcement](#)
- [Guidance for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Sign Up for Michigan Habeas & Bond Pro Bono Network \(Attorneys Only\)](#)
- [Request Know Your Rights Presentation](#)
- [Take Action with ACLU of Michigan](#)
- [MIRC's Action Alerts](#)

National Popular Vote Compact

LWVMI will once again be working with the National Popular Vote Compact in 2026 and 2027. The goal is to pass a Michigan law to require Michigan’s Presidential electors to vote for the Presidential candidate that wins the popular vote nationally. The National Popular Vote Compact is an agreement among states that the candidate who wins the popular vote will also win the electoral college vote. So far states with 222 electoral votes have agreed to the Compact, with Virginia being the most recent state added. A total of only 270 electoral votes is needed, and the hope is Michigan’s 15 votes along with the votes of 4 or 5 other states can be added in 2027. Here is a [link](#) to a 2-minute video from Ari Berman, voting rights correspondent at Mother Jones with a brief explanation.

Support for Michigan Voting Rights Act

LWVMI wholeheartedly supports the Michigan Voting Rights Act, Senate Bills 961-964. These bills passed the Michigan Senate on June 16, 2026 and have been sent to the House where their future is uncertain. The bills would update Michigan’s election law to ensure the right to vote of all citizens, regardless race or ethnicity, and regardless of any decisions by the US Supreme Court weakening the National Voting Rights Act.

Other Legislative Action in June

This month LWVMI took the following additional actions on Michigan bills:

- **Oppose prohibiting and punishing gender transition treatment and procedures. House Bills 4466-4468.** These bills prohibiting and punishing gender transition treatments are contrary to the League’s DEI principles that healthcare should not exacerbate DEI disparities.
- **Support for requiring any large-scale Data Center to be a contested case at the Michigan Public Service Commission HB 5982.** This bill is driven by concerns that energy intensive facilities like data centers will raise electric bills for consumers. A contested case is a formal, trial like proceeding

where independent parties can review evidence, cross examine witnesses, and challenge utility proposals before regulators make a decision.

- **Support a one-year moratorium on any approvals of Data Centers. House Bills 5594-5596 and Senate Bills 1018-1020.** These bills will pause any action on data centers in order for the state to determine the best location for the facilities and how the state will meet the massive power demands.
- **Oppose School Aid Funding Cuts. House Bills 5872-5874, 5878 and 5880.** These bills would eliminate all property taxes used to fund local school districts. A possible replacement excise tax would not make up the difference.

For questions please contact Sandy Sorini Elser at advocacy@LWVMI.org.

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

LWVUS National Convention 2026

It's almost here! Later this week we will have 87 delegates attending the National Convention in Columbus, OH either in-person or virtually. For those who are delegates, here are a few reminders:

- Read the email from LWVUS on June 17 which contains a link to the mobile app, Cvent. Sign up.
- If you have not viewed the LWVMI Delegate/Observer Training held on June 10, here is the link and passcode.:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Ml60S9t0FWf5vNOA_uA5Daugn_trUD500JNqA-66oIjIMbbEwy6U0-psKccRnA83.D8Qrps8tWSS2zpbW

Passcode: 0H!@CUck

- All delegates should watch the pre-Convention webinars on bylaws, budget, Nominating Committee's slate of candidates, Program Committee's recommended items, Resolutions, parliamentary procedure/rules of Convention, and mechanics of how to vote during Convention (virtual or in-person). These are all posted on the [Convention website](#), click on the Pre-Convention Webinars tab.
- Please plan ahead for breakout sessions with your local League to get the most out of convention.
- All delegates are expected to attend plenary sessions on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- Take the opportunity to get to know your fellow League members from across the country. There is much to learn from other state and local Leagues.



Nonpartisan Activism

League of Women Voters engages in “nonpartisan activism.” The word activism means action is being taken. In order for that action to be put in motion, we need engaged members, a plan to implement that action, and funds to make it happen. It is because of members like you that LWVMI is able to support the work of the local Leagues. Whether it is offering grants for supporting your work in the community, providing liability insurance for local Leagues, or funding VOTE411, LWVMI is helping to make the work that we all do locally possible. If you have already given to the Spring Campaign, thank you. If you haven't, it is not too late to show your support for the work that the League of Women Voters of Michigan has done and will continue to do. To donate, simply click on the DONATE button above. Together we can make a difference.



Carrie Moon-Dupree
LWVMI Development Director
directordupree@lwvmi.org

Membership Network Notes

Summertime!

Everyone have a great summer! Our next Membership Network meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2026, at 7:00pm. We normally have no July meeting and this year we also did not have a June meeting.

Members that get transferred to your League & Dues Handling

Members can be transferred to your League for a few reasons that range from they relocated, they joined the wrong League in error, or they joined LWVMI instead of a local League. If they get transferred from another local League to your League and you have a question about handling their dues, it's best to contact the local League from which they came using the contact email that the transfer notification provides.

In the last situation where a new member joins at the state level, people frequently have questions about the dues handling; I've provided the basics here.

Two things happen:

1. We transfer them to a local League when they join.
2. On a quarterly basis, we send out payments to the local Leagues owed money for the new member dues.

So far this quarter we have 7 new members transferred from LWVMI to a local League and last quarter we had 17.

Transfer to a Local League

1. Determine the best local League: If the member lives in the service area of local League, which I verify using their address from the Member Portal, Google Maps, and *Find a Local League* on LWVMI.org, the assignment is straightforward. In other cases, I contact them using their contact information from the Member Portal and describe the local League choices near them.
2. Transfer: I use the transfer function in the Member Portal under the Roster function to request the transfer to the local League. The transfer usually happens immediately, though occasionally it takes a few days.
3. Notification: Once the transfer is complete, an automatic message is generated by the Member Portal which notifies the receiving League of their new member.

Then you, the local League, welcome them as you would any new member.

Dues Payment

1. When the member initially joined, both the local and state portion of their dues were paid to LWVMI since a local League was not chosen.
2. At the next quarter end, we send out payments to the affected local Leagues for these dues.
 - a. I enter the transferred members and dues paid in a spreadsheet and add a calculation of how much of the dues should be sent to the local League.
 - b. I send this to Barb DeLeeuw and Judy Karandjeff in the LWVMI office in Lansing, where Barb DeLeeuw writes checks and sends them to the local Leagues.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 7:00pm and can be joined using this [Zoom link](#).

We'll be sharing updates from each of the Leagues and sharing information on different ways of engaging youth in our activities. In April, Ann Constance shared Marquette's experiences forming a student League at Northern Michigan University and Christina Schlitt talked briefly about Grand Traverse's less formal partnership with a local community college student government. There are many great ways to involve younger people in League activities, and we'd like to hear about yours.

Carla Barrows-Wiggins
VP for Membership

Action Alerts from LWVMI and LWVUS

Click on the links below to take action:

[Oppose Proposed Mail-In and Absentee Ballot Regulations](#)

[Tell Congress to Stop Interfering in DC](#)



Constitutional Convention Ballot Proposal

Proposal 2026-01

Shall a convention of elected delegates be called for the purpose of a general revision of the Michigan Constitution, any such revision to be submitted to the voters for ratification?

The Michigan Constitution Article XII Section 3 requires this question be put before the voters every 16 years. According to [Ballotpedia](#), 14 states have a similar provision. To date, a majority of Michigan voters have opposed calling for a constitutional convention since the constitution was last adopted in 1963.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan Board of Directors voted to oppose this ballot proposal. LWVMI is concerned that groups with special interests may advocate for a constitutional convention to undo some of the amendments LWVMI has supported such as the adoption of the redistricting commission (Article IV, Section 6), the two Promote the Vote amendments, (Article 2, Section 4) and the right to reproductive freedom amendment (Article I Section 28).

LWVMI also voted to join [Protect MI Constitution](#), a coalition of groups that is working to oppose this ballot proposal. Members include ACLU of Michigan, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Progress Michigan and others.

We urge you to educate yourself about this proposal and to share information with your family and friends. We will also keep you updated on this issue through election day. We must protect Michigan's Constitution.

LWVMI Environmental Network June 2026 Report

The LWVMI Environmental Network met on June 18, 2026 at 11am.

We had a recap of the well-attended MICAN Climate Summit on June 12 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. LWVMI was a sponsor of the Summit and many League members attended. The keynote speaker was Dana Nessell who spoke of the many lawsuits she has filed to protect Michigan's environment, including challenging continued operations of the Campbell Coal Plant, continued operation of Line 5, and lack of transparency in Data Center decisions.

We highlighted recent State League support of bills including:

- Support for requiring any large-scale Data Center to be a contested case at the Michigan Public Service Commission HB 5982, and Support a one-year moratorium on any approvals of Data Centers. House Bills 5594-5596 and Senate Bills 1018-1020.
- Support for statewide regulation of septic systems. Senate Bill 771 passed out of committee and has recommended for approval in the Senate.

We had an inspiring round robin discussion of what local Leagues are doing to protect our environment and fight climate change.

Our next meeting will be **August 20, 2026, at 11:00 am**. There will be no meeting in July.

All League members are welcome to join the Environmental Network.

Please contact Sandy at advocacy@LWVMI.org for more information.

Three Marches. Two Sisters. One Bridge.

LWVMI served as a sponsor for the June 18 premiere of the documentary *Three Marches – Two Sisters – One Bridge*. This is the personal story of two sisters (Alice Moore and Denise Jarnigan-Holt) who took part in three marches for voting rights. LWVMI board member and film maker Charles Thomas used photos, news stories, and interviews to illustrate his family's history of fighting for voting rights. The two sisters are Charles' aunts, who are taking their story across the country.



Pictured at the event are, L to R:
Paula Bowman, Sandy Sorini Elser, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Alice Moore, Denise Jarnigan-Holt,
Lynne Kochmanski, Judy Florian and Charles Thomas
Front row: Sonya M. Pouncy with her mother Deborah J. Pouncy

Local League Advocacy Network

The next LWVMI Local League Advocacy Network meeting will be on **June 23, 2026 at 3pm** via Zoom.

All League members are welcome.

Here is the [Zoom link](#) to join the meeting.

We have an exciting agenda planned:

- Chris Pearson of the **National Popular Vote Compact** will discuss why Michigan matters for getting the National Popular Vote Compact over the finish line in 2027, and how we can help. In April, Virginia became the 18 State to join the compact. [Here](#) is a link to a 2 minute video from Ari Berman, voting rights correspondent at Mother Jones with a brief explanation.
- A discussion of the LWVMI **Immigration Action Steps** all League members and local Leagues are urged to participate in.
- A round robin discussion of what is happening in Advocacy in your local Leagues

For questions, please contact Sandra Sorini Elser at advocacy@LWVMI.org or Christina Schlitt at bc Schlitt@gmail.com.

We hope you will join us.

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

2026 I Voted Sticker Contest

Public voting is now open for the I Voted Sticker Contest-Michigan Secretary of State's Office. Select your favorites for elementary/middle school, high school and general (up to 3 in each category).



You can read more about the contest [here](#).

The voting deadline is June 30. Happy voting!

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
or check out Facebook pages for state and local Leagues

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



June 2026

Pride Month

June 22: Fourth Anniversary of the [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Decision](#)

June 23: 54th Anniversary of Title IX

June 23: [Local League Advocacy Network Meeting](#) | 3:00 pm

June 26-28: [57th Biennial LWV National Convention](#) in Columbus, Ohio.

July 2026

[Disability Pride Month](#)

July 1: Anniversary of 26th Amendment Lowering the Voting Age to 18

July 4: US Independence Day

July 7: Advocacy Committee Meeting | 2:00 pm

July 15: [Board of Canvassers Orientation](#) | 7:00 pm

July 19-20: Anniversary of [Seneca Falls Convention](#) of 1848

July 23: [Voter Service Network Meeting](#) | 7:00 pm

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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