



PO Box 3832, Ann Arbor Michigan, 48102-3832

2022-2023 Annual Report



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**League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County
2022-2023 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee**

Officers

President	Lynne Kochmanski
Vice President	Catherine Murau
Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Secretary	Kristine Buffington

Directors

Advocacy	Sandra Sorini Elser
Communications	Shelley Schanfield
Education Fund	Betty Bishop
Voter Services	Jill Cohen
Observer Corps	Cheryl Depner
Student Leaders of Voter Services	Rose Reilly

2022 – 2023 Nominating Committee

Nancy Schewe, Chair
Marge Swan
Jill Cohen (Board appointed liaison)

League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County

May 23, 2023

Order of Business

Call to Order and Welcome Lynne Kochmanski

Appointment of Parliamentarian/Secretary Lynne Kochmanski

Standing Rules

1. Voting members must be signed in by 7:15 pm.
2. Members may speak to a motion for up to two minutes.
3. No member shall speak more than once to a motion until all members who wish to speak have been heard.
4. A majority of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for election of officers, directors and members of the nominating committee, and adoption of the budget.

Approval of Agenda and Standing Rules - Motion #1 Betty Bishop

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes, May 2022 – Motion #2 Kris Buffington

Treasurer's Report Betty Bishop

Approval of Proposed Budget, 2023-2024 – Motion #3 Betty Bishop

Approval of Proposed Program, 2023-2024 – Motion #4 Sandra Sorini Elser

Present Nominating Committee Slate Catherine Murau

Nominations from the floor and election Catherine Murau

Action Alerts LWVMI Lynne Kochmanski

Recognition Lynne Kochmanski
Catherine Murau

Suggestions to the Board Lynne Kochmanski

Adjournment Lynne Kochmanski

Keynote speaker introduction Joan Sampieri



Annual Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2022

Board Members Present: Joan Sampieri, President; Lynne Kochmanski, Vice President; Betty Bishop, Treasurer; Carolyn Madden, Advocacy Committee Chair; Cheryl Depner, Observer Corps, Catherine Murau, At-Large Board Member; Jill Cohen, Voter Services Chair; Susan Wooley, Communications Director.

Guests: Jessica Lowe-Minor, LWV-US Guest Speaker

Keynote Speech: Jessica Lowe-Minor, LWV-US Board member provided the keynote speech for our local league annual meeting. She shared concerns about the US Supreme Court decisions and developing direction of not supporting voting rights, civil rights, women's reproductive rights and the Supreme Court appointment process that led to a court that is failing to uphold the rights of citizens. She talked about the various acts of oppression against immigrants and other members of society, and how state legislators from 27 states promote the *Big Lie* and use that as a foundation for voter suppression. The LWV-US is working to develop a structure that enables them to increase membership and use the power of a strong membership to protect democracy in our country. The League wants to not only react to measures against voting and democracy but to be able to prevent such acts from happening by having more effective citizen education, advocacy, and litigation. One way they are attempting to do this is to make it easier nationally for people to join the LWV-US, which means changing the current membership registration process. She stated three basic strategies to make the LWV-US more effective, proactive, and impactful. 1. Their goal is to increase the membership to significantly surpass its 100,000-membership size. 2. Strengthen the State Level League organizations and increase their abilities to educate and advocate. 3. To develop a process where local leagues can reduce their administrative/membership management responsibilities and be able to put their resources into mission-focused league activities.

Board Business Meeting Called to order by Board President Joan Sampieri at 7:47 PM.

Appointment of the Parliamentarian: Joan Sampieri appointed Margaret Leary to be the parliamentarian for the meeting as Betty Bishop is out of the area and having internet difficulties. to back her up.

Motion #1: Approve Agenda and Standing Rules: Treasurer Betty Bishop asked for a motion. Robbi Duda made the motion. Lynne Kochmanski seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Motion #2: Approve meeting minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting: Susan Wooley made the motion to approve the annual meeting minutes and Susan Smereck seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

President's Welcoming Remarks: Joan Sampieri shared that we have a huge annual report because 2021 was a huge year. She stated that our annual report is "a celebration of our present and a voice for our future. It will serve as a history of how we responded at a time when there is so much going on to suppress voting rights. We learned how to continue our work in the virtual meeting world through Zoom. We learned to deal with the stress of the pandemic and the isolation that it did cause." Sampieri shared that she has been on her own personal journey fighting cancer and has undergone stem cell transplant procedure and chemotherapy. She expressed gratitude for being able to continue to fill the role of our local league president. "All of the accomplishments over the past year and more could not have been made without the dedicated Board and the members of LWV-WC." She shared that today is the time to pass on the gavel to the new LWV-WC Board President Lynne Kochmanski. Sampieri shared she will no longer be on the Board but that she will become chair of the Membership Committee. She stated that she feels so fortunate to be part of this League and that our League chapter will be in good hands with Lynne Kochmanski.

Treasurer's Report: Betty Bishop, Treasurer: Betty Bishop, along with assistance from Susan Wooley and Joan Sampieri presented the proposed budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. (Betty had intermittent internet connection issues.) Information was also provided with the year-to-date budget. It was also noted that all the budget information is contained in the LWV-WC 2021 Annual Report. Based on membership questions, Joan shared that the financial records of the LWV-WC are reviewed and not audited because of the small size of the annual budget. Another member asked if there needed to be adjustments to the technology line item in the budget because there have been requests for in-person live Ypsilanti candidate forums that might need to be filmed in person and then posted. Joan shared that there are line-items in a few budget categories that can cover minor increases in costs related to the forums.

Motion #3 Approve the 2022-2023 Budget: Nancy Schewe motioned to approve the budget. Cheryl Depner seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Nominating Committee Report: The Nominating Committee membership consisted of Margaret Leary, Nancy Schewe and Lynne Kochmanski* (*She represented the Board.) The slate of nominees for board positions was displayed on the screen for another review by members. Each nominee introduced themselves. **The slate of nominees included:** Catherine Murau for Vice-President, Betty Bishop for Treasurer, Sandra Sorini Elser for Director of Advocacy, Shelley Schanfield for Director of Communications; Cheryl Depner for Director of Observer Corps, Marge Swan and Nancy Schewe for Nominations Committee. No nominations were made from the floor. **Membership unanimously voted to approve the slate of nominees for board positions for 2022-2024.**

Celebrating and Honoring Volunteers: Joan Sampieri thanked retiring LWV-WC Board members Carolyn Madden, Director of Advocacy and Susan Wooley, Director of Communications for their outstanding work. A special thanks also went to Shelley Schanfield for her excellent work on social media and other communications work. Sampieri announced the Defenders of Democracy Award given to Trudy Hughes and Jeff Bieszki for their diligent and impactful work as Voter Services volunteers.

Celebrating and Honoring Volunteers (Continued): Joan Sampieri shared that it was an honor and privilege to work with these wonderful people. She also encouraged members to look at the list of volunteers in the annual report pages 37-39, and stated how we could have never persisted through this pandemic and accomplished so much without all of these volunteers. In her closing remarks, Sampieri encouraged members to communicate to the board any suggestions and/or ideas they have.

Lynne Kochmanski Remarks: (Current Vice-President/Incoming President) Lynne Kochmanski honored Joan Sampieri for her service to LWV-WC as president. She shared how Ms. Sampieri was key in helping this league through the overwhelming responsibilities and changes as it moved from a membership size of 50 to 400. She thanked Ms. Sampieri for shepherding us through a new name change, helping our league to become more professional, and initiating our league's work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She described Sampieri's work as instilling passion and high ethical standards. Ms. Sampieri was presented an engraved vase during this meeting to thank her for her service and leadership. Kochmanski also thanked Ms. Sampieri for the friendship they developed. She invited past presidents to share their experiences. Nancy Schewe stated that she still experiences great pride in being a past president. Zoe Behnke reminisced about being president of this League chapter when it had a membership of 15.

Lynne Kochmanski stated, "2021 was supposed to be a "quiet" year - no elections. It was instead extraordinary. Voting rights, women's rights, and our democracy itself came under attack, and remain so to this day. The work recorded in the 2021 annual report is remarkable, and I urge you all to take some time to read it through. While I assume the role of president, the committees, officers, and members are where the serious work will be done. I challenge each of you to continue to step forward and do what you can. We have been fighting this fight for over 100 years as a league, and we are needed now just as we have been in the past to preserve and defend our democracy. I look forward to working with all of you throughout this next year and beyond. Thank you for the privilege of serving."

Meeting Adjournment: Joan Sampieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl Depner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Kristine Buffington, Board Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

This report includes the approved current budget for 2022-23, the actual receipts and disbursements for the first nine months of 2022-2023, and the proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The budget committee (Joan Sampieri, Lynne Kochmanski, Catherine Murau, and Betty Bishop) met in March 2023. The budget for 2023-24 is considerably less than in 2022-23. This is due to 2023-24 being a year with no major elections during the fiscal year. We expect significantly more expenses and income in 2024-25 which is a major election year. We do expect that the Board will need to adjust the budget during the fiscal year as we see how the League can best function in these changing times.

LWV-WC Fund Activity for the Calendar Year 2022

	Checking	Ed Fund	Reserve/Savings	PayPal
Balance 1/1/22	\$20,171	\$61,024	\$91,047	\$ 347
Income	\$30,957	\$ 6,811	\$ 9	\$13,070
Outgoing	\$32,883	\$8,714	\$ 0	\$12,130
Balance 12/31/22	\$25, 841	\$59,121	\$91,056	\$ 848

Notes: Because we do cash-based accounting there were checks written in late December 2022 which were not deposited until January 2023; this is the reason for the unexpectedly large checking account balance as of 12/31/2022. PayPal is used for collecting dues and payments for events (parties, Lunch and Learn) and sales as well as donations. A balance is maintained in the PayPal account so refunds can be made if necessary (i.e., cancellation of an event). The Fund Activity report is done for the calendar year 2022 since the Ed Fund reports from LWVUS come out 4 times a year in March, June, September, and December and cover through the quarter which ended three months before.

-Betty Bishop, Treasurer

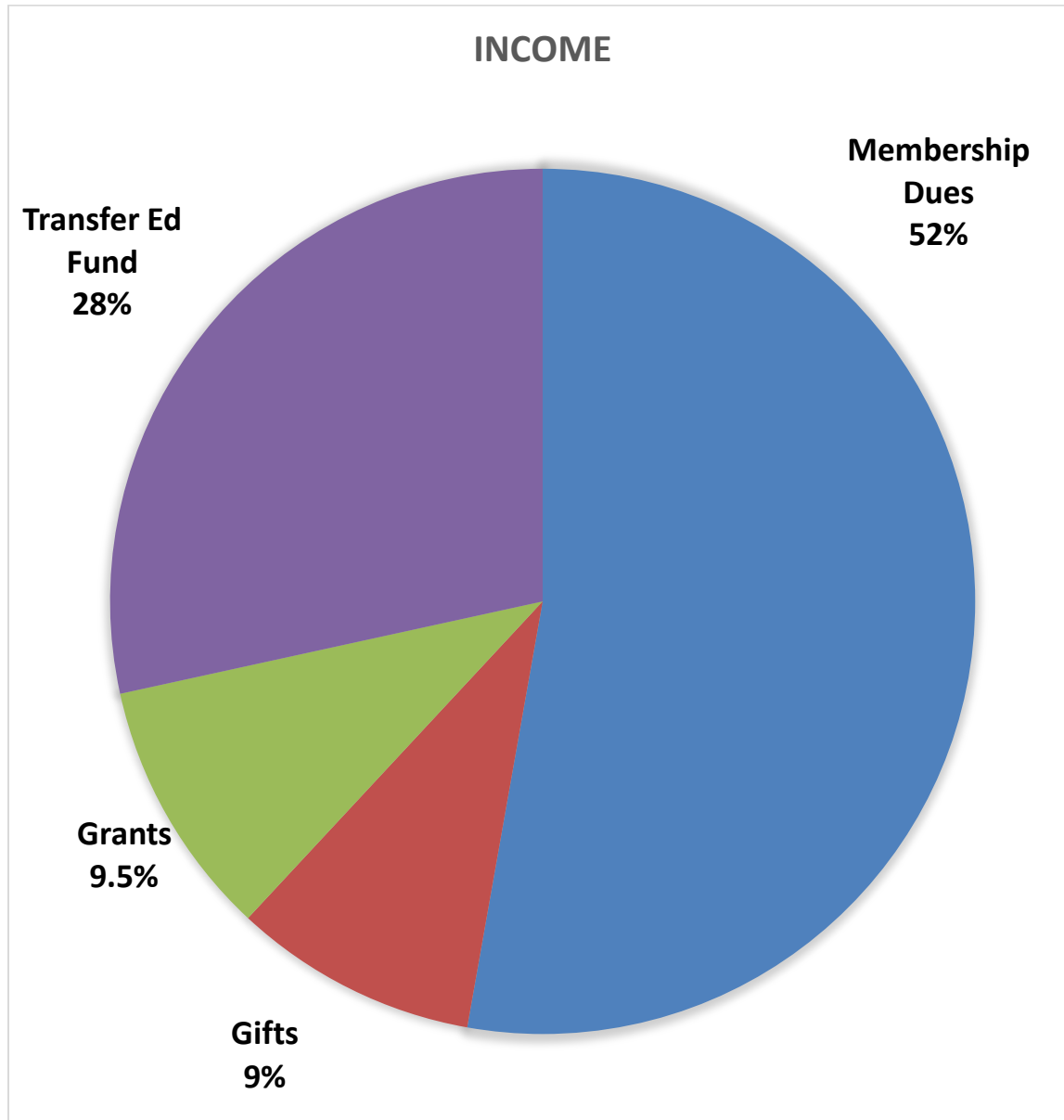
EDUCATION FUND REPORT 2022-23

The Education Fund allows donors to make tax-deductible donations to the LWV-WC if the checks are made out to the LWV-WC Education Fund. This fund is used for public education including voter registration and voter education. During the past year the Education Fund was used to help with voter registration, voter education, and public education programs in Washtenaw County. Withdrawals during the past year came to \$8,714. Contributions to the fund during the past year totaled \$6,811 which included a significant bequest through the Speyer Foundation which was set up by Judy and Tom Mich. Ed Fund activity was relatively busy during the year which is expected in an election year. It is likely to be less in 2023-24 which is a fiscal year with no major elections.

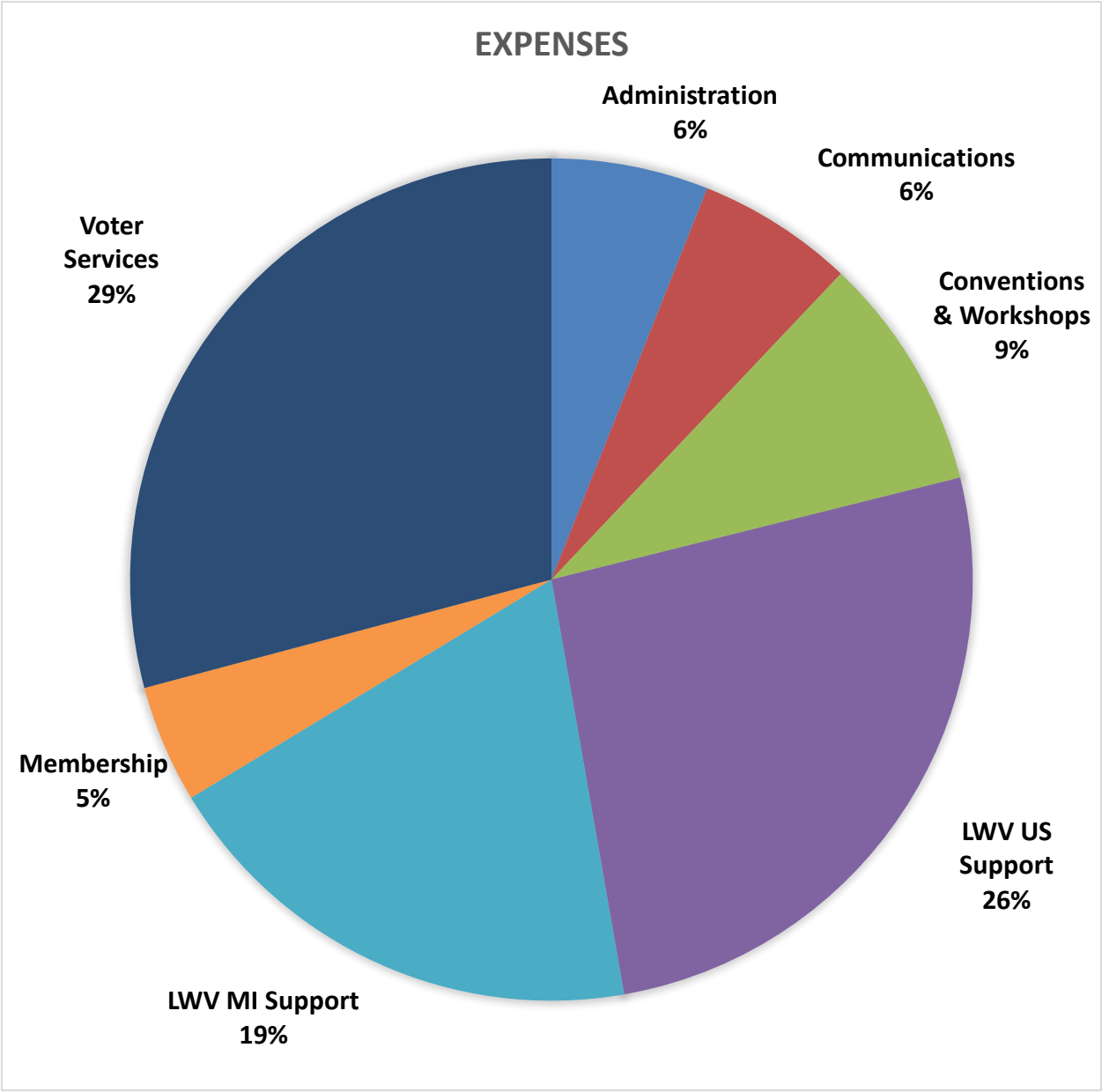
-Betty Bishop, Treasurer

LWV-WC FISCAL YEAR 2022 INCOME THROUGH MARCH 31, 2023

(Please note chart will not add up to 100% as amounts less than 1% were not included)



LWV-WC
EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2022 THRU MARCH 31, 2023



LWV-WC Proposed FY 2023 Budget
For the Period July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
With YTD July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

INCOME	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET 2022-23	PROPOSED 2023-24
Membership Dues	\$ 15,275	\$18,000	\$16,500
Gifts	\$ 2,669	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Grants	\$ 2,817	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
Development	\$ 0	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,000
Earned Income	\$ 250	\$ 0	\$ 700
Program: Lunch & Learn	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Miscellaneous	\$ 246	\$ 0	\$ 250
Sales	\$ 0	\$ 250	\$ 100
Voter Services: YEO	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 300
Transfer: Ed Fund	\$ 8,371	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000
Transfer: Reserves	\$ 0	\$ 9,643	\$ 2,491
TOTAL INCOME:	\$29,628	\$43,393	\$33,341
EXPENSES	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET 2022-23	PROPOSED 2023-24
Administration: Board	\$ 735	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Administration: Insurance	\$ 207	\$ 350	\$ 350
Administration: P.O. Box	\$ 156	\$ 130	\$ 175
Administration: PayPal Charges	\$ 408	\$ 600	\$ 600
Administration: Postage	\$ 75	\$ 60	\$ 75
Administration: Quicken	\$ 63	\$ 100	\$ 75
Advocacy:			
Publicity/Refreshments	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 250
Advocacy: Room Rental	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 200
Advocacy:			
Speakers/Transportation	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 100
Advocacy: Sponsorships	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 200
Communications: Constant Contact	\$ 526	\$ 600	\$ 600
Communications: Domain Name	\$ 0	\$ 43	\$ 86
Communications: G Suite	\$ 216	\$ 300	\$ 300
Communications: Signup Genius	\$ 108	\$ 100	\$ 110
Communications Technology	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 200
Communications Website	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400
Communications Zoom (storage)	\$ 360	\$ 660	\$ 660

Conventions and Workshops: National	\$ 300	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Conventions and Workshops: State	\$ 1,933	\$ 4,500	\$ 0
Conventions and Workshops: Other	\$ 33	\$ 100	\$ 350
Development: Events	\$ 0	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,150
Development: Printing/Postage	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 50
LWV Support: PMP-US	\$ 6,656	\$ 7,360	\$ 7,104
LWV Support: PMP-MI	\$ 4,784	\$ 5,290	\$ 5,106
LWV Support: Lake Michigan LWV	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Membership: Annual Meeting	\$ 350	\$ 200	\$ 500
Membership: Annual Report	\$ 0	\$ 150	\$ 50
Membership: DEI	\$ 188	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500
Membership Meetings	\$ 20	\$ 500	\$ 400
Membership: Printing and Postage	\$ 0	\$ 500	\$ 500
Membership: Tabling Events and Displays	\$ 600	\$ 650	\$ 500
Membership: Training	\$ 0	\$ 500	\$ 150
Membership: T-Shirts	\$ 0	\$ 500	\$ 500
Observer Corps	\$ 46	\$ 150	\$ 150
Program: Program Planning Meeting	\$ 0	\$ 650	\$ 100
Program: Partnerships & Honoraria	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100
Program: Printing	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100
Voter Services: Advertising	\$ 643	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500
Voter Services: Art Fair	\$ 37	\$ 350	\$ 200
Voter Services: Candidate Forums	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 500
Voter Services: H.S. Leaders Group	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 200
Voter Services: Miscellaneous	\$ 1,216	\$ 500	\$ 200
Voter Services: Printing	\$ 851	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Voter Services: Special Events	\$ 568	\$ 800	\$ 200
Voter Services: YEO	\$ 417	\$ 500	\$ 500
Voter Services: Voter Guides	\$ 3,720	\$ 6,000	\$ 0
Voter Services Vote411	\$ 110	\$ 500	\$ 300
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 25,776	\$ 45,893	\$ 33,341

PROPOSED PROGRAM – LWV-WC 2023-2024

League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. Local Leagues are invited to review state positions prior to convention time, which was May 19-21 this year. LWV-WC has been busy with program planning in both January and February. We have delivered our recommendations to the state regarding LWVMI positions and have solidified our local positions and program goals as well. State program goals were voted on at the state convention. LWV-WC will send a delegation to represent our local interests.

Our local program goals are listed below. These will be voted on at our annual meeting.

Current **LWVMI program** includes:

Government

Redistricting: State Legislature and U.S. Representatives

Election Laws

Intergovernmental Relations within Michigan

Government Finance

Natural Resources

Great Lakes Ecosystem

Land Use

Pesticides

Solid Waste Management

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's)

Social Policy

Children and Youth Public Education (pre-K-12) in Michigan

Health Care

Social Services System Structure and Function of Michigan Public Libraries

Agricultural Migrant/Seasonal Workers

Prisons in Michigan

Criminal Justice

Our **LWV-WC program** includes all LWVMI program, plus:

Healthcare

Gun Safety

Criminal Justice (including Juvenile Justice)

Voting Rights

Money in Politics

Environmental/climate

Voter Education

Youth voter engagement

-Lynne Kochmanski, President

**SLATE OF NOMINEES – LWV-WC
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

2023-2025

Officers:

President: Lynne Kochmanski 2023 - 2025

Secretary: Kristine Buffington 2023 - 2025

***Directors:**

Director of Voter Services: Rebecca Shiemke 2023 - 2025

Nominating Committee:

Marge Swan 2023 - 2024

Joan Kellenberg 2023 - 2024

-Submitted by 2022-2023 Nominating Committee

Nancy Schewe, Chair

Marge Swan

Jill Cohen, Board liaison

*Please note, there are two board of director positions currently open which are not on the ballot for this year: Program Director and Membership Chair. If any member is interested in either of these positions, please contact the 2023-2024 nominating committee for more information.

BIOGRAPHIES

LWV-WC SLATE OF NOMINEES



Lynne Kochmanski: I have been a member of the League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County since 2017 and am currently the president of LWV-WC. I am also a member-at-large elect for the LWVMI state board for 2023-25. Before becoming president, I served as vice president for two years, and continue to serve as Vote411 coordinator for Washtenaw County. Other leadership roles have included: new member orientation, moderating candidate forums and local town halls, high school voter registration and other table events, regional lead for the Proposal 2 signature drive, observing the Board of County Canvassers, as well as serving as a local election inspector, and conducting county-wide clerk engagement outreach. I am passionate about the League's mission of defending democracy and empowering voters.

Beyond my league role, I am a retired middle school math teacher. In my 36-year career with Milan Area Schools, I was a grade-level team lead, coach, and union negotiating team member. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in anthropology and zoology from the University of Michigan, as well as a Master of Arts degree from Michigan's School of Education. I am on the board of the Washtenaw Association of Retired School Personnel, and volunteer at the Saline District Library in the Corner Book Shop. My husband Chris and I live in Saline. We have two married sons, a grandson, and another grandson on the way.



Kristine Buffington: I joined the LWV-WC in 2020 as part of my effort to find a way to save and participate in our democracy. I had felt overwhelmed with the barrage of events and movements that seemed to be working against our democracy and the efforts to challenge people's belief and confidence in our democracy. I feel grateful to be a part of the LWVWC as it keeps me hopeful, determined, and helps me to find ways to make positive contributions to the well-being and future of our country. I appreciate the opportunity to serve our mission as our board secretary.

I have been a clinical social worker for 38 years and specialize in treatment, advocacy, training and consultation to help people who have experienced traumatic stress. I am also a proud mom and grandmother. I lost my husband in late 2022. He was an avid cheerleader and supporter of our LWV. I continue to feel his kind spirit and energy as I continue my work with our LWV.



Rebecca Shiemke: I joined the League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County in January 2023 and became involved with the Voter Services Committee and the Gun Safety group of the Advocacy Committee.

Until I retired in August 2022, I practiced law in Washtenaw County for nearly 25 years where I worked at the local legal aid program with a focus on family law and domestic violence. I managed a program with three attorneys and student volunteers that provided free legal assistance on family law matters to low-income residents and I provided statewide advocacy and training. In September 2022 I was appointed to the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, which advises the legislature and the governor on issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. My husband and I enjoy traveling, visiting our three children and one grandchild and look forward to meeting our second grandchild in July.



Marge Swan: Like so many others, the 2016 election moved me to action, and the League of Women Voters has been an excellent vehicle. I assisted with planning an event for the 100th anniversary which, unfortunately, was canceled due to Covid. The Voter Services Committee appealed to me because the work seemed fundamental to the mission of the League. I coordinated the 2022 Art Fair voter registration booth, co-coordinated voter registration at WCC and am a member of the Vote 411 team.

In retirement, after 30 years in finance in higher education and as a CPA, I've enjoyed volunteering with Kiwanis, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Chelsea, Community Resource Center Manchester, Manchester Garden Club, International Association for Organ Donation and others. My husband and I enjoy time with our grandchildren and traveling.



Joan Kellenberg: I joined the LWV-WC in 2022 to support Voter Services registration efforts. I enjoyed educating and registering voters at the Ann Arbor Art Fair, Washtenaw Community College, Ypsilanti Public Library, several high schools, senior housing facilities, the University of Michigan and at a food pantry serving Washtenaw County residents. I also volunteered with the Observer Corps to observe the Washtenaw County election certification process.

Professionally, I have worked in public health and academic medical research for over 30 years in Chicago, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York and Boston. I have lived in Mexico City, Santiago - Chile, and London and these international experiences continue to inform my views on voting rights and election transparency in the United States.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Science from the University of Illinois-Chicago and a Master of Public Health from Boston University.

ANNUAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Shortly before I assumed the presidency of the LWV of Washtenaw County in July 2022, the US Supreme Court rendered its decision and overturned Roe v. Wade, essentially ripping away 50 years of reproductive freedom for the immediate future for women in our country. The states now had the power to dictate what reproductive freedom, or lack thereof, would look like for women living in their states. To say that voters were galvanized by this is an understatement. Across the country leagues and other organizations got to work in response.

In Michigan, there was already a signature drive happening to put 3 different constitutional amendment ballot proposals on the November ballot, one of which was reproductive freedom for all. The other two proposals were about term limits and transparency, plus expanding election access for voters. The LWVMI partnered with Promote the Vote on language for the latter of these. We saw historic numbers of people signing all 3 petitions. Our local league spent countless hours gathering signatures at events, farmers markets, street corners, meetings, family gatherings, college campuses, you name it, we were there. We educated voters about the proposals and advocated for all three of them. In November all three proposals were on the ballot and overwhelmingly passed by voters.

When election deniers raised their voices following the fall election, the league was there to support the local clerks. We showed up for public accuracy tests of ballots, and at boards of canvassers to observe certification of the vote. When a recount was demanded, we observed the recount as nonpartisan participants. It was truly the summer and fall for voters to prevail. They spoke loudly and clearly about where they stood on these three important issues in our state.

1. Elected officials need to be financially transparent and term limited.
2. Elections need to be fair, easy, and accessible for voters.
3. There needs to be reproductive freedom for all, including pregnancy and abortion decisions.

In addition to the proposals, November 2022 was the first election since the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission of Michigan redrew the lines after the 2020 census. This initiative began back in 2018 when voters approved, overwhelmingly, the formation of the commission and charged it to draw fair election maps. The result again demonstrated the power of voters. The new districts showed an equitable and representative balance of the citizens who live in them. The election result was a near 50-50 partisan split in both the state House of Representatives and the Senate, thus allowing for a state government more closely aligned with the wishes of a majority of voters in the state. This redistricting effort had been a prime focus of league's work for years, and we continue to monitor the commission and legislature as part of our observer corps efforts.

Also, during the November election, the youth voter turnout was unprecedented. Statewide youth coalitions have since formed to build on that momentum. The league is part of this effort. Our local league created a Student Leaders of Voter Services director position on our board to be sure we remain knowledgeable of youth voter concerns.

Every even numbered year is election-centric, so our Voter Services committee shifted into overdrive from July through November. As you will read in that report, our members stepped up and got to work holding candidate forums, creating our local Vote411 online and print voter guides, registering students and the public to vote, providing voter education materials, and more. We were all over the county, even participating in parades.



Once the new year started, and elections were temporarily behind us, our Advocacy Committee and Observer Corps took the reins. With so much legislation coming forward due to redistricting and a change in the make-up of our state government, there was much to follow, advocate for, and educate voters about. Two new statewide league networks have formed for environmental issues and money in politics. Both were

created and are led by LWV Washtenaw County members. Our juvenile justice working group also put together several programs for members and the public, and our gun safety study group has formed.

It was a busy year for our league to say the least. Many members stepped forward to engage in our work. All these efforts show our commitment to democracy. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness should be available equally to all of us.

-Lynne Kochmanski, President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following the annual meeting last year and my nomination as Vice-President, work continued in June with two ongoing projects: Promote the Vote (PTV) petition drive and candidate forums. As a Team Leader for PTV, I prepared supplies for and collected petitions from my team, attended leadership calls, and gathered signatures at various locations, including my driveway. The successful petition drive was celebrated by a potluck dinner at the home of Margaret Leary.

Maria Abrahamsen and I, Candidate Forums Co-Chairs, planned and ran forums for the Primary election from June 6 - June 30, 2022. Thirty-five candidates participated in 15 forums: 14 on Zoom and one in-person. Due to the short time frame between the Primary and General elections, we almost immediately began planning forums for the November election. For this election, 21 forums were conducted, and 44 candidates participated, between September 13 and October 5, 2022. Covering both elections, we collaborated with the Ypsilanti District Library, the Dispute Resolution Center and Washtenaw Bar Association, and with the Brighton Area LWV. Our goal of conducting more forums outside the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area was partially met, as we hosted forums for the Lincoln Consolidated School Board, Scio Township Board of Trustees, and the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees.

In June of 2022, I virtually attended my first LWV National Convention as a delegate. Also during the summer, I spoke at two events and also helped promote LWV and register voters at Washtenaw Community College

Following the November election, I helped observe the County Board of Canvassers certify the election, and also observed the Proposal 3 Reproductive Rights ballot challenge for Washtenaw County. As part of the Observer Corps, I continued following the Ann Arbor School Board until the end of 2022, and starting in January of 2023, began following the Saline City Council, in addition to attending monthly meetings hosted by Cheryl Depner.

To assist with New Member Orientation, I worked with President Lynne Kochmanski and Nancy Swierz to host our first session of 2023 and worked on updating and streamlining the process.

Lynne Kochmanski, the Communications Team, and I created a monthly calendar for the website. The calendar will reflect the activities and vibrancy of LWV-WC. We developed the inaugural Book Club meeting, which I will host. This is a way to connect both new and longtime members and to continue learning about the history of women's suffrage and the fight for the right to vote for all Americans.

-Catherine Murau, Vice President

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE



The general goals of the Advocacy Committee are to educate our members and the public, and advocate in support of issues, consistent with the League's state, national and local positions. Our work includes:

- Educating and providing information to league members and the public about our national, state, and local positions and action needed.
- Building public opinion to support our positions.
- Raising awareness of the scope of our advocacy.
- Building connections and collaborating with community organizations.

LWV WASHTENAW ADVOCACY GROUPS

The Advocacy Committee is excited to be continuing our education and advocacy work in 7 areas. They are:

- Environmental Protection and Climate Change
- Criminal Justice Reform for Juveniles and Adults
- Money in Politics
- Voting Rights
- Health Care Reform
- Gun Safety

Each of our advocacy groups meets monthly to discuss issues and potential educational and advocacy presentations. Please contact advocacy@lwvwashtenaw.org to join or learn more.

STATEWIDE ADVOCACY NETWORKS

Two of our advocacy groups have started Statewide Networks throughout Michigan with support from the State Board and the State Advocacy Committee. They are:

- Money in Politics, and Environmental Protection/Climate Change
- Health Care Reform and Gun Safety hope to start statewide networks later this year.

ADVOCACY WEB PAGES

Our work in developing our new LWV Washtenaw Advocacy web page and advocacy group subpages has paid off. We currently have 20-25 members on our Advocacy Committee, and additional members in our advocacy groups. We update our webpages monthly to keep the information current. Click below to view the Advocacy web page and subpages:

<https://my.lwv.org/michigan/washtenaw-county/advocacy>

ADVOCACY GROUPS AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY GROUP AND STATEWIDE NETWORK

At the May 2022 Statewide Convention members of the Washtenaw and Marquette Environmental advocacy groups presented a workshop on the importance of local governments and local Leagues adopting Climate Action Plans and Climate Emergency Resolutions targeting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions before 2035.

League members who attended the workshop enthusiastically pitched in to start the Statewide Environmental Network with the support of the State Board and State Advocacy Committee. The Network has about 41 League members who meet monthly via zoom to share ideas about how to fight climate change and protect our natural resources and environment.

So far in 2023 we have had 3 statewide presentations focusing on education and advocacy:

Peter Sinclair – *Climate Change 2023: The Problem and Solutions*

Professor Fay Hansen – Oakland University - *Student Organic Garden*

Jennifer McKay – Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council- *Protecting our Waters: Regulating Michigan's Failing Septic Systems.*

Remember, there is no Planet B!

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM ADVOCACY GROUP

The Justice Reform advocacy group has been very active over the last several years and has accomplished great things in 2022-2023. We are proud of the results from our many speakers on Zoom and most recently a hybrid event where numbers reached approximately 135-140 participants. We are looking forward to May 10, when Washtenaw County Prosecutor Mr. Eli Savit will present to the group. All are welcome. Below is a summary of the Justice Interest Group's presentations over the last year.

Criminal Justice Reform Advocacy Group: Presentations by Key Experts

- March 2023, MCYJ Jason Smith, Exec. Director, [Governor Whitmer's Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform](#)
- January 2023, [Toward Racial Equity in Washtenaw County](#) with Racial Equity Officer Alize Asberry Payne
- October 12 2022, [New Initiatives at the Washtenaw Youth Center](#) with Terrence Williams
- August 3, 2022, [Paths to Success, Formula 734 uses music to work with young men of color](#) with Jamall Bufford
- July 6 2022, [Juvenile Justice Diversion Programs in the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office](#) with Victoria Burton-Harris and Alyson Robbins
- July 2022, [Speaking for Kids, the Podcast from Michigan's Children](#), Episode 13, Change is Coming: Youth and Michigan's Justice System 7/27/2022
- June 8, 2022, [Protecting the Rights of Students Excluded from School](#) with Peri Stone-Palmquist.

MONEY IN POLITICS ADVOCACY GROUP AND STATEWIDE NETWORK

The Money in Politics advocacy group has been meeting monthly and became a Statewide Network as of February 2023. Our goals are to educate the public on the effects of the massive amount of “dark money” in politics and ways to combat it. We plan a Statewide Webinar in the Fall to highlight the problems of the amount of dark money in our state politics, and solutions. We believe Campaign Finance Reform is the Gateway issue to EVERY other Issue the League supports.

VOTING RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP

The voting rights advocacy group held monthly meetings throughout most of 2022 and early 2023. Our work included supporting educational and advocacy presentations and written materials on all three proposals on the 2022 election ballot. A number of our group members also participated in gathering signatures for proposal two (voting rights and voting access) and proposal three (reproductive rights). We kept our group members updated on the progress on the proposals prior to the election. We provided two presentations on Truth in Democracy: Responding to Disinformation and Misinformation based on the presentation by the LWV-US.

HEALTHCARE REFORM ADVOCACY GROUP

From May 2022 right up to the election in November, members of the Healthcare Reform advocacy group were engaged in gathering signatures for the 3 ballot proposals LWVMI supported, and then advocating for their passage (with special focus on the health-centered Proposal 3, Reproductive Freedom for All). Starting in 2023 our group has been meeting monthly via Zoom to plan for further advocacy concerning reproductive health and more accessible health care in general. So far we have heard from a new state Representative about prospects for legislation assuring access to all reproductive services across the state; and from an expert on Community Health Centers, which are a small component of federal Public Health initiatives. They operate in a uniquely democratic way, with patients being a majority of decision-makers on each Center's board.

GUN SAFETY ADVOCACY GROUP

The Gun Safety advocacy group held its first meeting on Feb. 16, 2023. It currently has eight members and meets every third Thursday. We are currently focused on organizing a Gun Safety workshop for the LWVMI annual meeting in May 2023. Laura Seewald, MD from the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention at the University of Michigan has agreed to be the speaker and moderator for the workshop. (<https://firearminjury.umich.edu/>) Additionally, Dr. Seewald is helping us explore ways in which the League can participate in this public-health crisis. The group's ongoing work includes monitoring Michigan's Gun Safety Bills and organizing a Gun Safety statewide network.

DEI OUTREACH TO PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER YPSILANTI

One of our long-time Advocacy members, Jackie Wolf, regularly attends the weekly Parkridge Community Center meetings to inform the group what the League is doing and hear what is going on with other community members. Attendance at the meetings is informal, voluntary and varies between 25 - 35 representatives. The focus community is YPSI with special attention to communities of lower income and people of color. Information is exchanged on upcoming events from YPSI schools, YPSI libraries, civic organizations, non-profits, medical centers, elected officials, the Sheriff's Office, and so forth. Jackie keeps the Advocacy Committee informed about the community's interests and activities.

- Sandra Sorini Elser, Advocacy Director

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee keeps our LWV-WC members and friends as well as the general community up to date about local, state, and national League positions and policies. We also publicize LWV-WC events that range from candidate forums to presentations featuring prominent speakers on important issues. In addition, we use a variety of media to provide members and friends with information from credible sources about issues critical to voters. We support this mission through various channels:

CONSTANT CONTACT

Last year we sent out over 100 newsletters, action alerts, and general announcements via this platform. Our typical open rate of 58% for these emails exceeds industry rates by 20%, which shows significant success in getting our message out to our 1000 subscribers.

WEBSITE: www.lvwwashtenaw.org

The website is a great landing place for members and newbies who want to learn more about LWVWC and the state and national Leagues. We continue to add to over a dozen pages filled with useful links. In a typical quarter, our website sees over 900 users and 1400 sessions. Over 70% use a desktop to access it. At present approximately 76% land on the website on a laptop, 22% on phones, and the rest on tablets, and we are committed to making the site useful to all visitors.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVWashtenaw>

Over the past year, our followers have grown from 1070, to 1182 and our posts are liked and shared widely. In a typical quarter, our followers will find over 100 posts with a reach of over 5500, covering both local Washtenaw and state and national events, and newsworthy articles on voting issues from reliable sources and from partner organizations.

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/lvwwashtenaw>

Twitter has increased its followers 48% every year since 2021. There are currently 540 followers and is continuing to grow. Followers consist of members, non-members, and other chapters from LWVMI & LWVUS. State legislatures, county prosecutors, commissioners, city council members, county clerks and local clerks and most of the coalition groups the LWV is a member of round out the list of followers. Our average daily engagement is 3% of our followers, above average engagement for tweets. Twitter posts approximately 1,400 tweets per year, including LWV of Washtenaw County, Michigan or national events, information on voting, candidate forum videos, press conference livestreams, and more.

YOUTUBE: <https://bit.ly/2PSyp7r>

Our YouTube channel is an essential piece of our communication infrastructure. It has grown from 26 followers in 2020 to 302 today. The content has also grown.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

In 2022, an election year, we held 16 candidate forums for the primary election and 20 for the November election on Zoom. All forums were recorded and posted on YouTube, and announced via our communications platforms (Constant Contact, Facebook, and Twitter). In addition to the candidate forums, over the past year we posted another 45 recordings of meetings and presentations for special interest groups such as Juvenile Justice and Money in Politics, in addition to special presentations such as a talk by Peter Sinclair, a noted climate change activist. We continue to post audio from many of these recordings as podcasts on Simplecast <https://lwwashtenawcounty.simplecast.com/> to take advantage of this fast-growing communication tool.

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/lwwashtenaw/>

We hope to have an Instagram content manager in the future to grow our 527 followers and expand our reach on this important platform.

We are continually looking at ways to expand our reach. To that end, we are working with LWV Michigan to develop a state-wide communications network and means of sharing our events, experience, and insights with 31 other local leagues.

-Shelley Schanfield, Communications Director

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Our policy – The LWV of Washtenaw County is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

Last year we continued our outreach and inclusion with all communities in Washtenaw County. We became more embedded throughout the county by our clerk engagement work, special event participation, and the creation of our new Student Leaders of Voter Services subcommittee focusing on youth voters. We continued our partnerships and collaborations with community organizations like the NAACP, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, Ypsi Can I Share?, Voting Access for All, and the Dispute Resolution Center, to name a few. We also shared resources and event information at the Parkridge Monday Community Meetings.

You will see in the Advocacy, Voter Services, and Program reports more about our work with a wide range of community organizations about the issues that affect them and about enfolded those issues into our efforts. We continued our support of the NAACP's Juneteenth event at Wheeler Park and sponsorship of the NAACP freedom fund dinner. We also broadened our HS voter registration efforts to include immigrant populations who are eligible to vote, as well as continuing our efforts among minority community schools. Our voter education outreach focused on youth voters, voters of color, previously incarcerated citizens, and low voter turnout senior populations.

This is a work in progress, and one to which we are fully committed. It is important to our league's mission of empowering voters that our league be wholly representational of the communities we serve.

-Lynne Kochmanski, President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership committee offered Orientation sessions quarterly for the past year. We continued to use Zoom as it allowed for greater participation from new members. The presentations were in video and PowerPoint forms giving background about the League and showcasing our current committee work. We also developed an efficient system of communicating with new members and getting them connected with committees of interest where they could engage with the work being done by the league.

For this past year, we had an interim Membership chair who focused on building up the membership committee, new league member training, volunteer coordination, and leadership development. As the pandemic was still a factor for part of the year, much of this work was done via Zoom. We began to do more in person membership events in 2023, as evidenced by our in person annual meeting in May. Our membership has held steady, and we anticipate more activity as next year's presidential election season heats up.

The LWVMI continues to have regular meetings with Membership chairs from local chapters across the state where networking and sharing of best practices occurs. We look forward to continued growth in our Membership committee, membership recruitment, and membership engagement throughout the remainder of 2023 into early 2024.

	May 2021	May 2022	May 2023
Primary Members	281	231	221
Additional Members	59	36	37
Life Members	4	4	7
Student	4	3	3
Total	348	274	268

-Lynne Kochmanski, President

Table information -- Rosemary Austgen, Roster Manager

OBSERVER CORPS COMMITTEE

In May of 2021, at the Annual Conference of the Michigan League of Women Voters, P. David Allen introduced a more structured approach for local leagues to follow when establishing their Observer Corps. A few months after the state convention a state level committee was established, led by P. David Allen, to assist in the development of all Observer Corps.

The Michigan League of Women Voters and state committee, which League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County has representation, continue to shape and redefine the role of the Observer Corps by adding this past year the guidelines for [Observer-Corps-Policy-Final.pdf \(lwvmi.org\)](#), templates and report forms to provide consistency in their approach and development for each State chapter's Observer Corps.

The main purpose of the Observer Corps is for members to learn about the operations of government while becoming cognizant of national, state, and local issues that are at the center of the values and policies of their communities and the League of Women Voters. Observers are additionally guided by the League's policies and positions at the state and national level. [Government-Positions.pdf \(lwvmi.org\)](#) [LWV-Legislation-Status-2023-24.pdf \(lwvmi.org\)](#) , [Impact On Issues 2022 – 2024 | League of Women Voters \(lwv.org\)](#) All meetings are observed to see if they comply with the Open Meeting Act, the organization bylaws or charters that govern the structure and requirements of that organization and if they are serving their purpose in the community.

Observation of our local government entities makes these government bodies aware that citizens care and are watching local activities. A better understanding of our local government also enables the league to construct candidate forum questions that are relevant and reflective of current issues and concerns.

The Observer Corps members attend the following meetings.

Ann Arbor School Board: There were eight meetings observed with a total of 23 hours invested in observation, research and reporting in total. The observation of the AAPS, as well as tracking news from other districts in the county, generated questions for candidate forums for both AAPS and the Lincoln Consolidated Schools for 2022 midterm elections.

Saline City Council: Starting in 2023 seven Saline City Council meetings have been observed, research on issues and reports recorded for a total of 20 hours as of this report.

Ann Arbor Independent Community Police Oversight Commission: There were nine meetings attended in 2022 with a total of 23 hours committed to observing, investigating, and reporting. Candidate forum questions were generated for judicial candidate in the midterm election.

Superior Township Trustee Meetings: One meeting has been attended in 2023. Four hours total have been committed to observing, investigating, and reporting.

Washtenaw County Working Sessions: In 2022, fourteen meetings were attended plus four additional meetings in 2023. A total of 40 hours of observing, investigating, additional monitoring and reporting. Candidate forum questions were generated for the county commissioner candidate forums in 2022 midterm elections.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Twenty-three meetings have been attended from 2022 to 2023 with a total of sixty-nine hours invested in attending, investigating, monitoring, and reporting. Additional questions were generated from these meetings for the candidate forums in 2022 midterm elections.

In addition to the government meetings, Observer Corps members organized, observed, and reported to the League of Women Voters of Michigan the proceedings of the Washtenaw County Board of Canvassers' canvas of elections for both the 2022 Midterm August and November elections. Several team members also organized and supported canvass observation and reporting for the Monroe County Board of Canvassers' canvas of the 2022 Midterm November elections. The Observer Corps was also given the unique opportunity to contribute to the observation and support of Ann Arbor's 2022 Midterm November Recount, on proposal 3-Reproductive Freedom for All, in December.

All members require training before attending government meetings to ensure they are aware and follow the rules and procedures established by the Michigan League of Women Voters for Observer Corps. Observer Corps Members, who have been trained and been introduced by letter by the Director of the Observer Corps Chair, to the chair of the government meeting they will attend are considered official nonspeaking representatives of the League Women Voters of Washtenaw County. Additional training was provided for those attending the County Board of Canvassers' canvas of election, separate training for each election, and specialized training for the Recount in November.

-Cheryl Depner, Observer Corps Director

PROGRAMS

Our programs are currently integrated with our Advocacy and Voter Services committees. For this past year much of our programming centered on educating our members and the public about the three state constitutional amendment proposals which appeared on the November ballot. The LWVMI supported all three proposals, so we presented both educational forums and advocacy forums. All three proposals passed overwhelmingly.

Proposal 22-1: A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE ANNUAL PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS BY LEGISLATORS AND OTHER STATE OFFICERS AND LIMIT SERVICE AS A LEGISLATOR TO 12 YEARS

Proposal 22-2: A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ADD PROVISIONS REGARDING ELECTIONS.

Proposal 22-3: A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH NEW INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM, INCLUDING RIGHT TO MAKE ALL DECISIONS ABOUT PREGNANCY AND ABORTION; ALLOW STATE TO REGULATE ABORTION IN SOME CASES; AND FORBID PROSECUTION OF INDIVIDUALS EXERCISING ESTABLISHED RIGHT.

In addition to this work, our Advocacy committee worked on programming related to juvenile justice, the environment, voting rights, money in politics, and gun safety. Voter Services developed programming on the history of women's suffrage, high school voter registration, voter registration training, the power of voting, LWV History, and voting from jail while awaiting trial, in addition to a new student leadership presentation.

In February of 2023, the LWVMI disseminated information about the National Popular Vote Compact (NPVC), which was introduced as a bill and supported by the league at all levels, LWVUS, LWVMI, and LWV-WC. We held a town hall in late March educating and advocating for the NPVC. In addition to this, our advocacy committee continued its programming on the environment and juvenile justice, along with the inclusion of money in politics, and gun safety initiatives. You will read more about these programming efforts in those reports.

-Lynne Kochmanski, President

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

As my term draws to a close, I want to thank the chairs, members of my committee, and the boards with whom I have served. I have never observed a harder working group of colleagues who made sure that each job, event, or program undertaken by this committee was fulfilled to the highest degree of excellence.

This year included the initiation of our high school leaders' group as described in this report. It also was a year with elections; the pace was quick and the calendar full of many events and projects sometimes happening simultaneously. We participated in National Voter Registration Week, voter registration tabling events, distribution of voter guides, and observation of Public Accuracy Tests held by election clerks across Washtenaw County. Candidate forums were planned and hosted. Vote411 was activated. Huge numbers of volunteers were necessary to organize and implement all of this. The Voter Services committee members joined by other league members always came through with over 80 volunteers assisting: some participating at numerous events and projects in various capacities. The following is a more detailed summary of the work of this committee this past year.

-Jill Cohen, Voter Services Director

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Special Events Team was invited to host a voter information/ registration table at eighteen different events during the election season of 2022, with 3 more events scheduled already for April of 2023. Information that was shared included important election dates, registration information, vote by mail information, the new Washtenaw County Municipality Maps following the redistricting process, VOTE411 cards, voter rights booklets, and handouts from the LWVMI regarding information pertaining to the 3 ballot proposals on the November ballot.

We continued our collaboration with the grass roots organization [Ypsi, Can I share](#) (YCIS) by producing Voter Empowerment Cards which contain contact information for elected officials in the 4 greater-Ypsilanti municipalities. The Special Events group attended 7 different events with YCIS in the greater Ypsilanti community at which these cards and general League literature were featured. Other Ypsi community partners included in this effort were the organizations- Survivors [Speak](#) led by Trische Duckworth, and [Ear To the Ground 197](#), hosted on Facebook Live by Bryan Robert Foley.

SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued)

Our team updated the “Your Elected Official” brochure with information about the 27 municipalities of Washtenaw County. They are available at local libraries and tabling events. Printable PDFs are located at the [LWV-WC website](#), local libraries and all Washtenaw election clerk offices.

-Trudy Hughes and Jeff Bieszki, Special Events Subcommittee Co-Chairs

ART FAIR

Our local League participated in the Ann Arbor Art Fair held July 21-23. Thousands of people passed the League table which afforded our volunteers the opportunity to engage in voter registration and to promote the League. Approximately 35 volunteers received training on proper registration procedures and engaging the public. Working two-hour shifts, these enthusiastic League members spoke with fair goers and disseminated a great deal of information on VOTE411 and how to register to vote. Applications to join LWV-WC were distributed and, perhaps, new members were acquired.

-Marge Swan, Art Fair Subcommittee Chair

HIGH SCHOOL AND WCC VOTER REGISTRATION

Our League again partnered with Washtenaw Community College during National Voter Registration Week where League volunteers enjoyed talking with students and promoting voter registration. About 40 volunteers worked at three sites on campus engaging with 549 students and directly registering 20 students. Other students were registered via TurboVote, the college registration website.

-Roddy Wares, and Marge Swan, Student Voter Registration Subcommittee Co-Chairs

STUDENT LEADERS

The Student Leaders of Voter Services connects students and youth populations to the League's programming. This past fall, we worked with other league volunteers registering and educating our peers during National Voter Registration Day. Post-election, we began brainstorming and building connections for new projects on civics education and youth recognition of LWV branding. We are currently networking with teachers and training volunteers for our visits to every high school in Washtenaw County where we will host voter registration events this spring.

-Rose Reilly, Student Leaders of Voter Services Subcommittee Chair

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

The Voter Engagement Subcommittee visited 10 affordable housing complexes in Washtenaw County to help voters register and apply for absentee voter ballots. We also fielded phone calls from staff at the complexes to help them answer their residents' questions about voting.

-Cathy Whitaker, Voter Engagement Subcommittee Chair

VOTE411

Election year 2022 proved to be very busy for Vote411. There were local elections like school boards and city councils, along with statewide elections, judges, and 22 proposals, including 3 constitutional amendments. Our Vote411 team contacted and monitored over 150 candidates. We continued to promote Vote411 in local online publications, along with bus cards visible in AAATA buses during October.

The chart below shows statistics of public use of Vote411 comparing 2018 and 2022, which are similar in scope. While the percentages seem large, in both directions, the actual totals are a better indication of usage in Washtenaw County. There is lower voter engagement with Vote411 in high population areas, but we are making headway in other communities.

VOTE411 STATS FOR THE 2022 ELECTION YEAR

Name of community	2018 users	2022 users	% inc or % dec
Ann Arbor	59760	14134	76%
Chelsea	433	450	4%
Milan	134	180	34%
Saline	388	521	32%
Pittsfield Township	3162	2235	29%
Manchester	85	221	160%
Dexter	896	632	29%
Ypsilanti	818	575	36%
Ypsilanti Township	3467	2204	36%
Willis	64	243	280%
Ann Arbor Township	469	220	53%

VOTE411 STATISTICS TAKEAWAYS

1. Several large population areas showed a significant decline. ***Increase outreach to these areas. Also note, local races were not competitive this time around.***
2. Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Manchester, and Willis, all had hotly contested races for school board and showed nice increases at usage. ***Keep doing what we are doing in these communities. Given the number of registered voters in these communities, the numbers are still low for Vote411 usage.***
3. Dexter had a contested school board race, and their usage declined. ***Need for additional outreach there.***
4. We did not use yard signs this time around in highly populated areas. ***Increase yard signage for 2024 throughout the county.***

The subcommittee has begun meeting to plan our approach for the 2024 election season which will include every level of government. The 2023 election season will be very sparse.

-Lynne Kochmanski, Vote411 Subcommittee Chair

CANDIDATE FORUMS

With broad participation by League members, LWV-WC successfully hosted candidate forums for the August primary and November general elections. League volunteers served as Moderators, Timers, Introducers, and Closers from the Voter Services Forum Team; and as Zoom Techs, Zoom Hosts, and Editors from the Communications Team. Numerous League members researched and submitted questions for candidates.

The vast majority of forums were conducted via Zoom, recorded, and then made available through our YouTube channel, the Community Television Network (CTN), the Ann Arbor District Library, and on various channels in conjunction with our co-sponsors: Washtenaw Bar Association and Dispute Resolution Center, LWV-Livingston County Chapter, Ypsilanti District Library, and Ypsilanti Senior Center. Between the Primary and General Election forums, 80 candidates participated.

The most viewed forums:

- Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 1
- Ann Arbor Mayor
- Ann Arbor School Board
- Circuit Court Judge, 22nd District
- District Court, District 14A

The most viewed forums (Continued)

- Lincoln School Board
- Michigan Senate District 14
- Scio Township Trustees
- Washtenaw Community College Trustees
- Washtenaw County Commissioners

A special thanks to **Shelley Schanfield** for helping us streamline the forums to increase the time viewers spend watching the videos and to **Maggie Bayless** for creating and monitoring Doodle Polls to determine candidate availability.

Future plans include focusing on local races around the county that may not be covered by other organizations, as well as non-partisan races such as school boards. In addition, we plan to form an ad-hoc committee of members from around the county to help determine which local races are of highest interest to voters in their area, which community organizations might partner with LWV-WC to host forums and determine forum questions which accurately address community concerns.

- Maria Abrahamsen and Catherine Murau, Candidate Forum Subcommittee Co-Chairs

CLERK ENGAGEMENT

Our goal has been to maintain a positive connection with all 29 Washtenaw County clerks in municipalities, townships, and the county. This year we accomplished that in several ways. First, volunteer members attended many public accuracy tests around the county for both the August Primary, the November General Election, and the May 2023 special election. The purpose of these tests was to show interested members of the public how the tabulating machines operate, and test that they are in proper working order ahead of the election. In September, our LWV-WC president and vice president were introduced as our new officers at the fall zoom meeting of the clerks from around the county. We helped find poll workers for clerks who expressed a need. We continued our commitment to recognize our hardworking clerks by providing dessert for their first in-person (since pre-covid) meeting this past December. In addition, we continue to connect with the ACLU and the LWVMI regarding clerk engagement issues which arise statewide, i.e., implementation of Proposal 2.

-Jill Cohen, Clerk Engagement Subcommittee Chair.

THANK YOU TO OUR 124 AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

Maria Abrahamsen	Candidate Forums, Promote the Vote, Voter Services note-taker
Margot Amrine	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events
Everett Armstrong	Vote411
Nancy Asin	Promote the Vote
Rosemary Austgen	Roster Manager, Membership Committee
Laurie Barnett	Vote411
Maggie Bayless	Candidate Forums, Money in Politics
Jeff Bieszki	Voter Services - Special Events, SignUp Genius
Mary Brennan	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events, Promote the Vote
Jan Brimacombe	Vote411, Promote the Vote
Miranda Brockhaus	Election Certification
Marina Brown	Promote the Vote
Nancy Brucken	Candidate Forums, Vote411, Zoom Tech, Signup Genius backup
Bethany Burge	Voter Services Special Events
Marcia Cameron	Promote the Vote, Advocacy: voting rights;gun safety
Julia Caroff	Promote the Vote
John Chamberlin	Candidate Forums, Voter Services Special Events
Carolyn Christopher	Voter Services Special Events
Maggie Conger	Vote411

Donna Crudder	Advocacy: Gun Safety Interest Group- co-chair
Judi Davidson	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events, Promote the Vote
Judy Dean	Voter Services: PAT, Special Events
Sarah Dean	Voter Services Special Events
Dee Dishon	Candidate Forums, Voter Services PAT, Newsletter team
Robbie Duda	Advocacy: Money in Politics Interest Group; Statewide group
Kathy Edgren	Voter Services Special Events
Jennifer Fairfield	Promote the Vote
Melissa Famula	Voter Services Special Events
Bruce Fields	Voter Services Special Events, Website redesign
Sarah Fink	Voter Services - PAT, Special Events; Advocacy - Co-chair and notetaker; Chair of Health Care Reform Interest Group; Promote the Vote
Julie Fisher	Newsletter reporter, Promote the Vote, Voter Guide distribution, Membership Committee
Arnie Fleischman	Voter Services Special Events
Annemarie Forrest	Voter Services Special Events
Karen Fox	Voter Services Special Events
Amy Friedman	Vote411
Candace Friedman	Vote411
Kathy Friedrichs	Voter Services Special Events

Magen Gabriel	Vote411
Eric Geiser	Promote the Vote
Jenni Glysson	Vote411
Sandra Gregerman	Voter Services Special Events, Promote the Vote
John Gronewold	High School Volunteer from Pioneer
Kristine Gwaltney	Vote411
Jan Hack	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events
Myrna Hadwick	Newsletter database, Email database manager
Mary Ellen Hagenauer	Newsletter editor, Candidate Forums, Vote 411
Gail Haynes	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events
Paula Healy	Voter Services Special Events
Maryanne Hergenrother	Voter Services Special Events
Frank Hillis	Candidate Forums
Barbara Hooberman	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events
Trudy Hughes	Vote 411, Voter Services Special Events
Anne Jackson	Candidate Forums, Zoom Tech, Vote 411
Amelia (AC) Jayne	Observer Corps, Advocacy--co-chair of Juvenile Justice Interest Group
Linda Jeffries	Voter Services Special Events, Email manager
Judy Kelch	Voter Services PAT

Joan Kellenberg	Vote 411, Voter Services Special Events, Election Certification
Marla Kershaw	Voter Services Special Events
Laura Khailany	Voter Services Special Events
Chris Kochmanski	Promote the Vote
Joyce Koehn	Membership Committee
Teresa Kollath	Voter Services Special Events
Ann Kraft	Promote the Vote
Lois Kramer	Voter Services Special Events, Promote the Vote
Ken Kramer	Promote the Vote
Margaret Leary	Vote 411, Voter Services PAT, Promote the Vote Team Leader, Election Certification
Grace Lee	High School Volunteer from Skyline
Sorim Lee	High School Volunteer from Pioneer
Eleanor Linn	Vote411
Carolyn Madden	Advocacy; Gun Safety interest group; criminal justice interest group, Candidate Forums
Alison McCord	Tech support, web, Google
Mary Ann McGee	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events
Anne McKee	Tech support
Sharon McNeil	Election Certification - Monroe
Jesse Miller	Video recording and YouTube

Kathy Moore	Advocacy: Health Care Reform Interest Group
Dan Murphey	Voter Services Special Events
Doreen Murray	Election Certification, Promote the Vote
Betsy Nisbet	Candidate Forums, Vote 411, Video editing, mgt, Zoom Tech
Quincy Northrup	Voter Services - Special Events, PAT; Promote the Vote
Diane O'Hara	Voter Services Special Events
Fran Parker	Promote the Vote
Elsa Pasquariello	High School Volunteer from Huron
Vicki Paulissen	Advocacy; Environmental Interest Group; organized presentations on 2022 proposals; Gun Safety-co-chair Statewide, Promote the Vote Team Leader, Candidate Forums
Christine Pellar-Kosbar	Vote411
Hillary Poudeu Tchokothe	High School Volunteer from Pioneer
Nancy Prince	Voter Services Special Events
Mischa Rafferty	High School Volunteer from Dexter
Juliana Ramirez	High School Volunteer from WIHI
Rose Reilly	Candidate Forums, Voter Services Special Events, Promote the Vote Team Leader, High School Student Leader
Kathy Reilly	Vote 411, Voter Services - PAT, Special Events; Election Certification

Marian Roberge	Voter Services Special Events
Joan Sampieri	Promote the Vote Team Leader, Budget Committee, Membership Chair, annual report and annual meeting planning, Statewide workshop on volunteer burnout, strategic planning with LWV-MI, Election Certification - Monroe
Nancy Schewe	Promote the Vote, Nominating Committee Co-Chair, Parade participation coordinator
Mary Seelhorst	Public Relations, Promote the Vote
Susan Sefansky	Voter Services Special Events
Miriam Shaw	Candidate Forums
Rebecca Shiemke	Advocacy: Gun Safety Interest Group-note taker
Evangeline Sikkenga	High School Volunteer from Huron
Geoff Smereck	Candidate Forums
Sue Smereck	Advocacy Voting Rights Interest Group co-chair; gun safety-State Workshop committee, Candidate Forums
Sue Smith	Recount
Patricia Smolarski	Promote the Vote
Deb Stern	Voter Services Special Events
Cindy Straub	Voter Services Special Events
Kay Stremmler	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events
Marge Swan	Vote 411, Voter Services Special Events, Promote the Vote, Nominating Committee Co-Chair
June Swartz	Vote411, Voter Services Special Events

Nancy Swierz	Vote411, Membership
Carolyle Towers	Vote411, Voter Services - PAT; Promote the Vote
Alison Ulicny	Candidate Forums, Website
Marcia Valenstein	Candidate Forums
Naomi Veedlinger	Advocacy: Health Care Reform Interest Group
Anne Venner	Vote411
Sakthi Vijay	High School Volunteer from Pioneer
Bavani Vijay	High School Volunteer from Pioneer
Cynthia Vincent	Promote the Vote, Election Certification-Monroe, Membership Committee
Roddy Wares	Promote the Vote, High School Registration
Arlene Weisz	Vote411
Cathy Whitaker	Voter registration, Promote the Vote
Linda Williams	Candidate Forums, Zoom tech, Video editing, mgt
Jackie Wolfe	Voter Services Special Events, Advocacy: Gun Safety interest group; Health Care Reform interest group
Deb Wood	Website redesign, Graphics, branding
Susan Wooley	Voter Services PAT, Candidate Forums, Promote the Vote, Website, Email, Election Certification, Recount

Appendix 1

LWV OF WASHTENAW COUNTY PRESIDENTS 1920-PRESENT

(Formerly known as LWV of the Ann Arbor Area)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>
1920-28	unknown
1929	Miss Jennie Buell
1930-31	Mrs. Thomas Reed
1932-33	unknown
1934	Mrs. Harold Smith (Lillian)
1935-36	Mrs. William Forsythe
1937	Mrs. Neil Staebler (Burnette)
	Mrs. William Stellwagon
1938-39	Mrs. Edward Bryant (Helen)
1940-41	Mrs. Francis Ross (Faith)
1942-43	Mrs. John Chemrada (Eunice "Una")
1944	Mrs. P.S. Lovejoy (Ruth)
1945-46	Mrs. Samuel Dana (Ruth)
1947-48	Mrs. Lawrence Preuss (Pauline)
1949-50	Mrs. William Preston (Sally)
1951-52	Mrs. Ivan Duff (Betty Ann)
1953-55	Mrs. Clyde Coombs (Lolangene)
1955-57	Mrs. Willette Spooner (Vera)

1957-60	Mrs. Algo Henderson (Ann)
1960-63	Mrs. Franklin Moore (Laura)
1963-65	Mrs. Warren Smith (Ann Fowler)
1965-67	Mrs. Elton McNeil (Marjorie)
1967-69	Mrs. Alan Polasky (Mary)
	Mrs. Carl Stadel (Mary remarried)
1969-71	Mrs. Charles Joiner (Ann)
1971-73	Mrs. Cynthia Cross
1973-75	Mrs. Naomi Gottlieb
1975-77	Mrs. George West (Helen)
1977-79	Myrtle Cox
1979-81	Ann Sichel
1981-83	Mrs. George West (Helen)
1983-85	Marianna Kopacz
1985-87	Henry Alting
	Clare Beck
1987-89	Susan Greenberg
1989-91	Zoe Behnke
1991-93	Karwyn Rigan
	Virginia VandenBroek
1993-96	Sally Allen
	Anne Heybey
1996-97	Kirsten Ericksen
	June Rusten

1997-99	unknown
1999-2001	Rachel Tiedke
2001-03	Shirley Axon
2003-06	Sue Smith
2006-10	Zoe Behnke
2010-11	Sue Smith
2011-14	Nancy Schewe
2014-15	Nancy Schewe
	Mary Banks
2015-17	Nancy Schewe
2017-18	Nancy Schewe
	Sally Allen
2018-19	Sue Smith
2019-22	Joan Sampieri
2022-present	Lynne Kochmanski