



LWV Dearborn-Dearborn Heights Land Acknowledgement Declaration

We begin our meeting by acknowledging we are gathered on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe peoples, known as the Three Fires Confederacy (the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi), and of the Wyandot people.

The League of Women Voters Dearborn-Dearborn Heights recognizes historic Indigenous communities not only in southeast Michigan, but all who were forcibly removed from their homelands by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807.

We further recognize the ongoing relationship of dependence upon, and respect for, all living beings of earth, sky, and water.

In offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history, and experiences.

Notes

Paragraph 1

We should add the Wyandot to the list they were here.

Most examples do not show both versions of the Indian group name. Most use only the names Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. If it were only these three, I would recommend we don't use the more known name that is currently in the parentheses – these are familiar names. But “Wendat” is not as familiar – but I think people would figure it out. Happy with both. One option is to keep the two names in the official statement but just say the first name when reading it, like I did at annual meeting.

Paragraph 2

Most examples talk about when lands were ceded.

We live on southeast Michigan so why not use that?

Paragraph 3

I think this is a beautiful passage but I have only seen it on the various Dem Party ones.

Paragraph 4

This is not in most of the examples but I did sort of see it in a couple.