

The Voter

August 2026

Events

August 4, 2026
Primary Election Day
[Click here for important dates prior to primary election day.](#)



August 8, 2026
Documentary Viewing Party
4:30pm
[Geneva Presbyterian Church](#)
See below for details

August 22, 2026
New Member Orientation
10:00am
[Grand Traverse Pie Company - Plymouth](#)

August 29, 2026
Women's Equality Day Luncheon
11am - 1pm
[St. Mary's Cultural Center](#)
[Click here to register](#)

September 29, 2026
DEI Bookclub

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President's Perspective

WE CAN'T BREATHE!

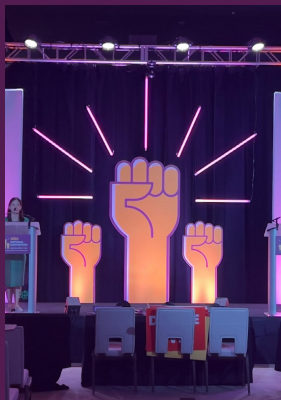
I am writing this on day two of the Canadian wildfire smoke choking our air. We also have extreme heat that is trapping us in air-conditioned areas. The end result is that many of us are struggling to breathe. To add to our misery, this current administration is sucking the life out of our voting system and sowing doubt without any facts to back up this rhetoric. WE CAN'T BREATHE!

The League of Women Voters has worked tirelessly for voting rights and election integrity. We are in the trenches and know firsthand that the system works. We are poll workers, poll challengers, Board of Canvassers, and fact gatherers for our Voter Guides. We know that the "election crisis" is a political invention to sow the seeds of doubt in case they don't win. We cannot stand by and let lies lead us down the path of losing our democracy. We need to push back.

While I am always happy to see our membership grow and grow, we need you to get more involved in defending democracy. It is time to step in before it is too late.

7pm
Zoom

Visit the League's [calendar page](#) for the latest information about upcoming events



This month, I will be convening a day-long retreat to map out the road ahead for the Northwest Wayne Co. League. We have a number of key positions open and others that will open in a year. We need to put our heads together and divide up the tasks before us so that we can effectively carry out our mission. We need your help. If you would like to be part of the retreat and brainstorming session, please let me know at moondupree@comcast.net.

We can't breathe, but shining a light on the lies is like putting on an oxygen mask so that we can continue to live.

So strap on your mask and let's fight back!

Carrie Moon-Dupree

LWVUS Annual Convention Recap

My First League of Women Voters Convention Experience

by Christina Stark

The 57th Biennial [League of Women Voters](#) of the United States (LWVUS) National Convention, themed *Women Unite & Rise*, took place from June 25–28, 2026 in Columbus, Ohio. The hybrid event allowed delegates to attend in-person or virtually to participate in plenary sessions and vote on League priorities, the budget, and bylaws.

I had the privilege of attending the Convention along with Carrie Moon-Dupree and Paula Bowman. It was an amazing experience but also a whirlwind of pre-Convention trainings, on-site meet and greets, plenary (larger, all attendee) and breakout (smaller, more focused) sessions, a deeper dive into the Parliamentarian's role than I expected, and yes, even a bit of technology for the voting segments.



The Convention was at the Hilton Columbus Downtown, a large and intimidating structure spread across two towers connected by a skybridge. Have to admit it took a bit to get the layout for where the action was and where the rooms were – many elevator and escalator rides were involved as well as stairwells!

There were breakout and training sessions offered over the 4-day Convention spanning topics from *Partnering with the Girl Scouts* to *GenZ x LWV* to *Minnesota LWV-Edina Stands Up: from George Floyd to ICE*. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend them all but found those I did attend informative. Carrie, Paula

and I agreed we would divide and conquer the list of options. If I remember correctly, many if not all were recorded and will be shared on the [LWVUS YouTube page](#) when ready. I attended:

- Why should we abolish the electoral college? Part of the LWVUS Women Defend Democracy Campaign
- Unite & Rise Kentucky: Showing up for democracy in a constitutional crisis
- Communication best practices to amplify Unite&Rise 8.5 organizing
- Unengaged by eligible: A Mapping Project
- Conflict Resolution
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
- Fireside Chat with LWV President and LWV CEO

Listening to outgoing President, Dianna Wynn, newly elected President, Sania Irwin, and current CEO, Celina Stewart, reflect on their focus and leadership initiatives was inspiring and motivated this rookie League member to keep fighting the good fight!

I would encourage League members, both new and seasoned, to consider attending the next State or National Convention either in-person or virtually. It is a great way to learn more about the “big picture” of the League and to bring great ideas back to our League. You can [click here](#) for more LWVUS 2026 Convention content.

Membership Updates

RENEWAL REMINDER

A number of League memberships expired on June 30, so it is important to pay your dues to ensure you stay on our rolls and up to date on everything happening in LWVNW! Visit the [LWV Portal](#) to make a payment and sign up for auto renew, or send a check to Paula Bowman at 9000 N Lilley Rd, Plymouth, MI, 48170.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Join us on Saturday, August 22, 10am at [Grand Traverse Pie Company in Plymouth](#) for New Member Orientation! If you just joined the League, or have been a member for a while but haven't had a chance to come to a session, you are welcome!

We also invite current members who would like to meet new incoming members to share their experience with LWVNW and/or talk about why they got involved.

Please RSVP - contact [Christina Stark](#) if you plan to attend so that we can plan accordingly. We look forward to meeting you!

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Does your calendar have a birthday, wedding, graduation, anniversary or a future celebration coming up? Consider a LWV gift membership!

You can now gift an LWV membership directly through the LWV Member Portal!

[Log in here](#), tap your membership card, and look for the “Grow Our Community” box. Hit “Gift,” fill out the recipient’s info, choose their League, and select the dues you want to cover.

Empower someone you care about. Gift a year of civic impact.

Who Doesn't Love a Parade?

Nearly 2 dozen NW Wayne members marched as Suffragists in Northville's 4th of July parade. It was a lot of fun, and the audience along the parade route was very supportive. We'll definitely do it again next year!



Get Involved & Stay Informed

There are a number of ways to join in the work to empower voters and defend democracy. We hope you'll join us!

Voter Services

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at the Wayne City Council candidate forum on July 9, and to everyone who participated in the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) postcard party on July 13!

GENERAL ELECTION

The general election is on Tuesday, November 3rd. You should receive absentee ballots via USPS mail in late September. If you want to vote from home, request your ballot no later than October 13 to give yourself enough

time to receive your ballot, complete it, and return it to your city or township clerk's office by 8pm on Election Day to be counted. You can [request an absentee or accessible absentee ballot online](#) or submit a paper application. More details regarding voting in the general election will be in the September issue of *The Voter*.



A LWV Way to be a Part of the Election Process

As we do after every election, our League will participate in the Board of Canvassers (BOC) Observer Program. No experience is required for this task, but there is training that will be posted on the LWV Only Page of the [LWVMI website](#). In the meantime, watch [this BOC Orientation video](#) that was aired on July 15th.

Why does the League observe the Boards of Canvassers work?

- LWV's repetitive observation lets the canvassers and the staff know they are being monitored.
- Many counties – including Wayne - are considered “hot spots” where there is real potential for mischief by bad actors.
- The League's presence demonstrates to the County Clerk, the Director of Elections, their staff, and the BOC members that our organization supports good governance.
- Monitoring the BOC enables the League to implement its Rapid Response System which utilizes the observers' Shift Reports to notify democracy partners of unusual or suspicious activity.

We share Wayne County with Leagues in Grosse Pointe, Dearborn and Detroit, however because Wayne County's election is always the biggest in the state, the canvass takes the full 14 days after it starts. We need a lot of volunteers! The canvassing takes place at the Wayne County Vigliotti Building at 1900 E Jefferson in Detroit, about a 30 minute drive from Plymouth. This is a safe area and free parking is available.

Watch for more news about the BOC program in the next few weeks. If you have any questions, or you want to be sure to be counted as a volunteer, please contact [Paula Bowman](#).

DEI Bookclub

Our next book is [Facing the Mountain, a True Story of Japanese American Heroes in WWII](#) by Daniel James Brown.

We will meet on September 29 on Zoom. Email [Laura](#) if you would like the Zoom link.

Observer Corps

League Observers attend government meetings to learn more about the issues important to that community. Right now, we are looking for volunteers to observe city councils in Garden City and Plymouth and also the boards of trustees in Canton, Redford, and Van Burn Township. If you are able to be a “guest observer” and simply watch one meeting, that would also be helpful. Meetings can be observed in-person or virtually. These meetings are open to

the public, so you do not have to be a resident of a certain community to attend these meetings.

If you are able to help or would like to learn more about this group, please contact [Lena Packer](#).

"Three Marches, Two Sisters, One Bridge" Viewing Party

Saturday, August 8

4:30pm

[Geneva Presbyterian Church](#)

5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton

Light refreshments served

Leagues across the country and their partners will be participating in a Day of Action for Voting Rights on Saturday, August 8th. Our League is hosting the viewing of an impactful documentary, [Three Marches, Two Sisters, One Bridge](#). This film tells the story of two teenage sisters who participated in the marches on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965. We are reminded of the struggles of the civil rights workers back then which led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). As you know, the VRA has been dramatically weakened in recent years.

After the 30-minute film, we will feature a panel discussion with the 2 sisters who will share more about their fight for voting rights and why it's necessary to keep the struggle moving forward. There is no charge for the event – please bring your families and friends to learn more about this historic time and why we must continue the fight to ensure voting rights for all Americans. For more information, please contact [Paula Bowman](#).

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

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The Voter Editor

**League of Women Voters of
NW Wayne County
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151**

Membership in the League is open to
anyone age 16 and older.

Join through our [website](#) or by calling
734-748-5564

The League of Women Voters is a non-
partisan, political organization that
encourages informed and active participation
in government, works to increase
understanding of major public policy issues,
and influences public policy through
education and advocacy.

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