

# The Voter

## February 2026

### Events

**February 3, 2026**  
**Speakers Bureau &**  
**Forum Moderator**  
**Training**  
7pm  
Zoom

**February 11, 2026**  
**Social Media Task**  
**Force**  
7pm  
Zoom

**February 21, 2026**  
**General Membership**  
**Meeting**  
10:30am  
[Plymouth Library](#)

**March 17, 2026**  
**DEI Book Club**  
7pm  
Zoom

**June 25-28, 2026**  
**LWVUS Convention**  
Columbus, OH  
(see below for details)

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

### In This Issue...

President's Perspective  
Action Alert  
February General Membership Meeting  
LWVUS National Convention  
Get Involved & Stay Informed

### President's Perspective

[Swimming Pretty: The Untold Story of Women in Water](#) by Vicki Valois was my latest read. This book covered swimming, diving, water shows, and the birth of "Artistic Swimming" also known as synchronizing swimming. Synchronized swimming was a new topic for me. While reading about the tension between the athletic and artistic side of the sport, I came to realize just how difficult it is. When you watch, you see the easier and prettier parts – the part above the water line. The difficult and more athletic part is below the surface where people can not see. To me, this is a good analogy for the work of the League.

The League of Women Voters is swimming in the waters of a constitutional crisis. We are working as hard as we can. Just like synchronized swimming, the League is reacting and doing much of its work below the surface where it is not readily seen. A good example of this is the numerous lawsuits and amicus briefs that the national and state leagues filed, and there have been successes. The research the League does in advance of any actions it takes is invaluable. And while it is a fair statement that the League is not the most nimble organization out there in the



voting rights field, we have been in the arena for 106 years doing the necessary groundwork. Yes, we have stepped up our involvement in the current constitutional crisis, but we do not appear to be as visible as some of our sister organizations. The perception that we are not doing anything is wrong. We are doing the slow difficult part that is not often seen. We are in the fight.

The [Unite and Rise 8.5](#) playbook has laid a path forward for the local leagues to fight back. Last month, twelve people from our League met for an Advocacy meeting. The consensus was that we can not look away. We will continue to keep Voter Service front and center in this important election year. Much of our work will be geared to keeping voters informed, protecting their ability to vote free from intimidation, and working with our local clerks to keep our elections free and fair. We are counting on all of us to SHOW UP and work with the Voter Service team on forums, presentations, voter guides, [Vote411](#), and working the elections. We need to be more visible. We need you to engage.

The League is swimming both above and below the water line. Please go to the [LWVUS](#) and [LWVMI](#) websites to get a fuller picture of all we are doing. Thank you for all you do.

Together we can make a difference.

Carrie Moon-Dupree



## Take Action: Tell Congress Federal Immigration Enforcement Has Gone Too Far

Communities across the country have lived in terror as federal immigration enforcement agents have patrolled, surveilled, detained, disappeared, injured, and killed civilians, as well as denied people's constitutional rights by attacking and arresting peaceful protestors. Yet Congress — our elected officials — has played a pivotal role in funding and enabling this government-manufactured crisis, and they must act to stop these attacks.

[CLICK HERE TO SPEAK OUT NOW](#)

## February General Membership Meeting

Our next membership meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 21 10:30am - 12:30pm at the [Plymouth Library](#). We are honored to have LWVMI Board Member, Charles Thomas Jr., joining us to present his program, *Value of the Vote*.

[\*\*When You Vote I Win\*\*](#) is an organization founded and directed by Charles, a direct descendant of Alice Moore and Denise Holt. Alice and Denise were two members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1965, at the ages of 16 and 14, respectively. These powerful ladies marched and protested in all of the actions of the '64/'65 Selma Civil Rights movement. They were two of only 300 individuals who made the march all the way from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

When You Vote I Win is an extension of that work that resulted in the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. We guarantee you will be energized by Charles' program, and as always, guests are welcome!

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## **LWVUS National Convention | June 25-28, 2026 | Columbus, OH**

The LWVUS National Convention will be held this June, and any League member is welcome to attend. The Northwest Wayne Co. League will most likely have 3 voting delegates based on our current membership count. According to our League policy, if you are a voting delegate, our League will reimburse you for your registration, gas expenses, and semi-private hotel room. Some ancillary charges, such as meals that are not part of the convention, may be covered also.

If you are interested in attending the national convention as a voting delegate, please let [\*\*Carrie Moon-Dupree\*\*](#) know by February 14. As President, Carrie will be one of the voting delegates, but we most likely have two additional slots open.

Going to the National Convention is a very worthwhile endeavor. You will see women and men from across the United States truly working together, voting on important issues, and recharging for the work ahead. Please contact Carrie with any questions, and visit the [\*\*national event website\*\*](#) for more information.

## **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!**

### **Speakers Bureau & Forum Moderator Training**

On February 3 at 7pm via Zoom, we will host basic training for those who want to work our candidate forums as a moderator, and those who are interested in doing presentations on voting rights etc. for the community. Both forums and presentations are done in person and via Zoom.

The more teams we have ready to go in 2026, the more elections and voters we can cover. All new trainees are given formal and informal training and will be paired with a mentor. Together we can be more visible in our communities and promote democracy. Contact [\*\*Carrie Moon-Dupree\*\*](#) if you would like to join.

### **DEI Book Club**

On March 17 at 7pm, the DEI Book Club will discuss [\*\*\*The Undocumented Americans\*\*\*](#) by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio. Contact [\*\*Laura Jannika\*\*](#) for the Zoom link.

### **Observer Corps**

Observer Corps volunteers observe meetings for one government unit in their community such as city council, board of trustees, or school board. They look for good government practices. Meetings can be observed in-person or virtually. If you would like more information about this group, please contact [\*\*Lena Packer\*\*](#).

### **Social Media Task Force**

Join a conversation on February 11 at 7pm to explore how our League can step up our social media presence. Contact [\*\*Carrie Moon-Dupree\*\*](#) for the Zoom link.

### **Voter Services Volunteers**

2026 will be a busy election year, and we plan to have many candidate forums. Candidate forums are opportunities for individuals running for office to share their perspective on local, state, and sometimes national issues. The forums last approximately 1 hour and are held in person and virtually. Each forum requires several volunteers.

[\*\*Click here for full descriptions of each role\*\*](#)

**Moderator:** The host and referee of the forums.

**Producer:** Responsible for the overall organization of the forum including managing the venue, inviting participants, recruiting volunteers, and running the event.

**Timekeeper:** Informs the candidates about the remaining time to speak using timecards.

**Publicity Team:** Produce and distribute flyers that inform residents about the upcoming forum.

**Ushers/Greeters:** Welcome the audience and the candidates upon arrival, and provide index cards and pens to anyone who wants to submit a question.

**Question Collectors:** Collect index cards from the attendees.

**Question Sorters:** Review the questions submitted from the audience for appropriateness, categorize questions, and select the most representative question from each category.

To volunteer for an upcoming forum, email [\*\*Toni Jones\*\*](#) or call (248) 982-4566.

## Watch the *Let Voters Vote* Webinar

A webinar hosted by LWVMI. The panel discussed why documentary proof of citizenship is needless voter suppression, and what we can do to stop it.

[Click here to watch the recording](#)

## League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

### Board of Directors

**President:** Carrie Moon-Dupree

**VP at Large:** Sandy Main-Niemisto

**VP Voter Service:** Toni Jones

**Secretary:** Sandy Main-Niemisto

**Treasurer:** Paula Bowman

### Directors:

Ann Andrews

Valerie Nelson

Laura Jannika

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### Committee Chairs

**Advocacy:** Carrie Moon-Dupree

**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:** Laura Jannika

**Financial Review:** Dave Baughman

**Membership:** Christina Stark

**Nominating:** Paula Bowman

**Observer Corps:** Lena Packer

**Voter Registration:** Ann Andrews

**Voter Services:** Toni Jones

### *The Voter* Editor

Anne Reilly

**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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