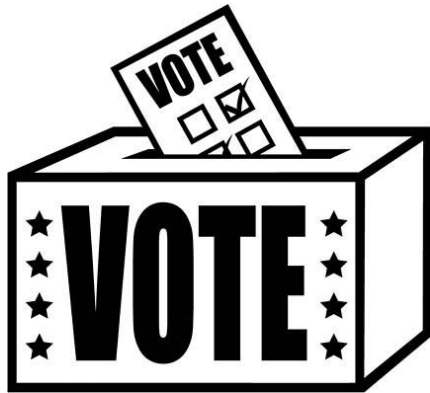




**League of Women Voters - Oakland Area, Michigan
April 2024 Newsletter and Events**

Spring is HERE!!!

With better weather, there are more activities and groups for everyone to join. Here are this month's events to participate in via Zoom or in person.



(1) LWVOA will present "Open Primaries & Rank Choice Voting" with speaker Katie Fahey on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:30p at Bloomfield Township Public Library

Katie Fahey founded and led Voters Not Politicians, a grassroots campaign that successfully amended Michigan's constitution to end partisan gerrymandering, winning 61% of the vote. Katie currently serves as Executive Director of The People, a nonpartisan,

nonprofit organization empowering voters from all backgrounds to actively participate in creating a more responsive and accountable government. Her presentation is sure to be informative and engaging.

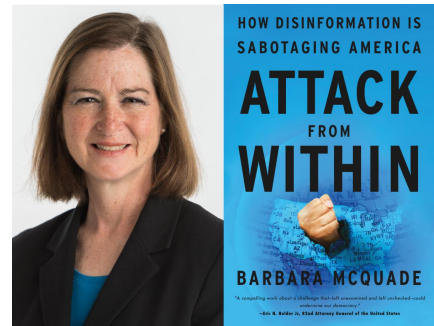
The program is open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

Save the date:

LWVOA's Annual Meeting & Luncheon will feature speaker Barbara McQuade on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10a at the Heathers Club of Bloomfield

Barbara McQuade's extensive legal career included serving as the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan from 2010-2017.

Ms. McQuade now is a professor of Law at the University of Michigan as well as legal analyst for NBC News and MSNBC. She recently authored the book **"Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America"**. Her presentation will include identifying and combatting disinformation.



Look for details and an invitation to the event to be sent by 4/15/24.

(2) LWVOA Make Democracy Work/Town Hall Presentations on the 2022 new voting rights in the Michigan Constitution

Numerous presentations by our members have already been made to local groups about Michigan's new voting rights approved in 2022. Informational training sessions via Zoom by LWVMI for presenters are encouraged. A PowerPoint presentation and brochures are available for distribution.



If you know any group that may be interested in learning about the opportunities for early and absentee voting, please contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMI@gmail.com for more info.

(3) LWVOA with AAUW Observer Corps; future meetings TBD

Our members have begun monitoring local school board meetings due to nationwide frequent disturbances by extremist groups. Through observation and reporting, it is hoped to stem the tide of extremism at the school level. All LWVOA members are welcome to observe any of the 27 Oakland County local school board meetings.

LWVOA member, Karen Kudla, has prepared forms and directions for observers of Oakland County School Board meetings. She organized an in-person session on 3/14/24 at BTPL to help with folks learning to file these brief reports online.

If interested, a member is needed to monitor the Google site and filings with a time commitment of approximately an hour per week. Any help in this effort will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Deborah Ross at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(4) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Wednesday, April 3rd at 4p via Zoom

Thanks to this group's contacts and organization, LWVOA has been presenting monthly in-person events with speakers, valuable information, and opportunities for networking and socializing. This group is always open to ideas and welcomes all members to help plan and facilitate programs.

Contact Geri Rinschler at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(5) LWVMI Statewide Firearm Safety Network Group: Tuesday, April 9th at 7p via Zoom

An invitation to participate in training provided by End Gun Violence to prepare League members to present educational information regarding the new gun laws that took effect Feb. 13 will be sent shortly. More details will be

presented soon.

Please contact FirearmSafety@lwwashtenaw.org if you are interested.

The Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention at U of M is hosting a Research Day on April 12 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. More information and a registration link to this hybrid event are found [HERE](#).

Contact firearmsafety@lwwashtenaw.org for more info.

(6) LWVUS "HC4US" a/k/a "Healthcare for the United States" focus group: Sunday, April 14th at 1:30p via Zoom (Michigan group) AND Sunday, April 21st at 8p (nationwide group)

LWV members from various states provide information on the present condition of our healthcare system. Monthly speakers have included professionals working to facilitate governmental initiatives for an equitable health system for ALL. The SBUHCA provides an exciting opportunity for states struggling with the ever-increasing costs of healthcare.



Learn more by exploring the following informational links:

Federal Subsidies for Health Insurance: 2023 through 2033

H.R. 6270: "State-Based Universal Health Care Act"

- *Explanation of federal waivers (funding and ERISA) [see Section 2 (g) (4)]*
- *Explanation of **ERISA** (Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974)*

SBUHCA talking points

One Payer States

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(7) LWVMI Environmental Network: Thursday, April 18th at 11a via Zoom

This month will have speaker, Carol Gagliardi presenting:

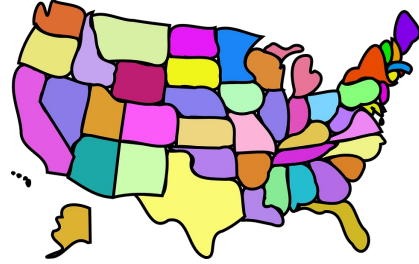
"How Native Plants Can Benefit Wildlife and Our Planet."

The presentation will encourage public and private entities to shift to native plantings. [Register for this virtual event here.](#)

Contact Sandy Sorini-Elser at advocacy@lwwashtenaw.com for more info.

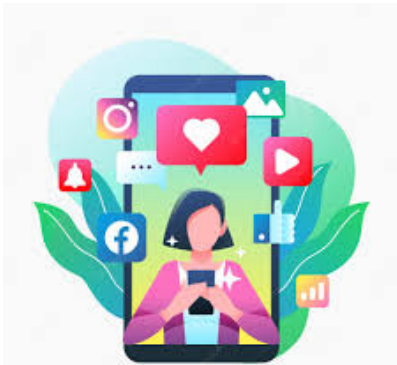
(8) LWVUS Abolish the US Electoral College focus group: Friday, April 19th at 1p via Zoom

This group, directed by LWV-Illinois, has monthly presentations by knowledgeable speakers regarding the history and present-day issues for electing the US President and Vice President. Previous presentations are recorded and available for viewing.



As set forth by LWVUS at its 2022 National Convention, abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment has been elevated to one of the League's top priorities. A PowerPoint presentation and handouts are available for members to provide to the public and raise awareness of issues. Information and training sessions for presenters are encouraged.

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(9) LWVOA Marketing/Communications Working Group: Wednesday, April 22nd at 1p at the Honey Tree Grill in Birmingham

This group facilitates social media to increase awareness and participation in LWVOA activities. See the website below for forms to notify this group of upcoming events to publicize.

Contact Leslie Fleming at MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com for more info.

LWVOA celebrated Women's History Month with a presentation by Rochelle Riley on March 20, 2024, at 1p at Bloomfield Township Public Library.

Ms. Riley's presentation was enlightening, informative, and engaging. As Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit and formerly a nationally syndicated columnist for the Detroit Free Press in Detroit, Michigan, Ms. Riley has been a tremendous advocate for improved race relations, literacy, community building, and children.

Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious!
We are very appreciative of the time she spent with us.



Michigan women accomplishing great things:

Cora Reynolds Anderson (1882-1950) – While a public-school teacher, Ms. Anderson established the first public health service in Baraga County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She later became the first woman and first Native American elected to serve in the Michigan House of Representatives. Her focus: issues of health and well-being.

Maria Woloson
President, League of Women Voters, Oakland Area, Michigan



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