



**League of Women Voters Oakland Area, Michigan
January 2026 Newsletter**

NEW YEAR'S 2026 brings lots of opportunities to:

- lean in
- show up
- join the action



Please join LWVOA for our January in-person event:

***Understanding Accountability:
Why It's Important, Why It's at Risk, and
What We Can Do About It***

***with Kevin Deegan-Krause, Professor of
Political Science at Wayne State University***



Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Time: 1 p.m.

**Location: Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd,
Bloomfield Township**

Kevin Deegan-Krause is Professor of Political Science at Wayne State University. His research focuses on political parties and democracy in Europe. His most recent book is *The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond*.

Professor Deegan-Krause's presentation will focus on political parties and democracy in the global environment. Please join us for this interesting and informative discussion.

***(1) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Wednesday,
January 7th at 5p via Zoom***

This group plans and facilitates activities for members and the public. In-person programs are already scheduled for January, February, March, and May. Suggestions for additional presentations and activities for 2026 are welcome.

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

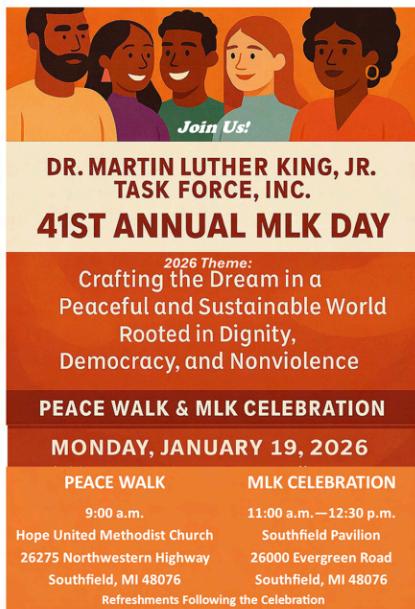


(2) LWVUS Eliminate the Electoral College work group: Friday, January 16th at 1p via Zoom

Monthly presentations provide information about the necessity of abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment, which is now one of the League's top priorities. Speakers have provided in-depth analysis of current issues with the Electoral College and the history of facilitating change. Recordings of past presentations are available for viewing.

December's meeting provided a revised and updated PowerPoint for distribution to local leagues and interest groups. This initial strategy of education about EEC encourages members to present this program to local leagues and interest groups.

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



(3) The City of Southfield and the MLK, Jr. Task Force will host the 41st annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk Celebration on Monday, January 19, beginning at 9a at Hope United Methodist Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway.

This year's theme is "Crafting the Dream in a Peaceful and Sustainable World Rooted in Dignity, Democracy, and Nonviolence." Keynote speakers will be the Selma Petus Bridge Foot Soldier Survivors, relatives of LWV member Charles Thomas.

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

(4) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, January 26th at 5p via Zoom

LWVOA's board manages and facilitates the business and activities of our local league. All members are welcome to attend.

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



**(5) LWVOA MAR/COM (Marketing & Communication) work group:
Tuesday, January 27th at 10a at BTPL**

Mar/Com provides information to local media sources about LWVOA events, including candidate forums, in-person presentations, community engagement opportunities, and others. This group promotes LWVOA through social media and other communication and distribution avenues.

Click [here](#) to follow our new Facebook page (League of Women Voters / Oakland Area).

Contact Leslie Fleming at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

**(6) LWVMI Observer Corps Statewide
Meeting: Wednesday, January 28th at 3p via
Zoom**

With local school boards the targets of controversy, members are encouraged to watch, in-person or via Zoom, monthly meetings of one of the 28 Oakland County School Districts. **Additional volunteers are welcome and needed.**



Issues arising in school district meetings will be discussed at quarterly (every three months) group meetings. Possible actions by LWVOA members may include drafting questions for the Candidate Forums, Action Alerts to legislators, etc.

Please see the L WVUS "Guide to Observing Your Government" by clicking [here](#).

Contact Linda Fiscus at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(7) LWVOA Book Club meeting: Wednesday, January 28th at 7p at BTPL

Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR by Lisa Napoli (2021)

A group biography of four beloved women who fought sexism, covered decades of American news, and whose voices defined NPR.

Contact Tera Moon at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

susan, linda, nina & cookie

The Extraordinary Story of
the Founding Mothers of NPR

LISA NAPOLI

Author of *Up All Night* and *Ray & Joan*

(8) LWVOA Annual Program Planning and Review of Positions (members only): Saturday, January 31st at 10a at the home of Christine and Mike Allen

This strategic meeting facilitates the planning and discussion of LWV national, state, and local positions.



Attendees are encouraged to bring their favorite morning cuisine delights to share.

Please RSVP to Christine Allen at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(9) LWVOA and New Citizen Voter Registration

With the government shutdown over, New Citizen ceremonies and Voter Registration at the US Federal Courthouse in Detroit have resumed.

Contact Maureen Christensen
at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

Save the Dates:

1) Saturday, February 7th at 3p, Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W Long Lake, Bloomfield, MI
LWVOA member and concert pianist, Susan Wheatley, will perform a benefit concert, "Classics to Cabaret."

2) Tuesday, February 10th at 1p at BTPL: Black History Month with LWV member Charles Thomas



3) Thursday, March 19th at 1p at BTPL: Women's History Month with LWV member Carrie Moon-Dupree

4) Wednesday, May 13th, 10a-2p: LWVOA Annual Meeting and Luncheon with speaker Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly

December 2025 highlights:

Classic Michigan Food with authors Gail Offen & Jon Milan

Authors Gail Offen and Jon Milan provided an interesting and entertaining program as they revealed secrets and surprises from their latest book, "Classic Michigan Food and Drinks: The Stories Behind The Brands" (History Press, 2024). It's full of amazing history, stories, and photos about the Michigan food and drink brands we know and love.

LWVOA member, Liz Taliaferro, facilitated a collection of non-perishable food and other items during this event.

Contributions were greatly appreciated by the Berkley Cares Food Pantry.





"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

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

For more information, please visit our website at lwvoa.org.



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