



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

As always, lots going on...

Please check the LWVMI and LWVUS websites for more info on statewide and nationwide events.

***Please join LWVOA in the nationwide America250! Celebration
featuring a reading of the
Declaration of Independence Celebration***

Wednesday, July 8th, beginning at 5:30 pm

***Birmingham Municipal Building
151 Martin St, Birmingham
Across from Shain Park***

Sharing the Spirit of America

Public Reading

of the

**Declaration of
Independence**

*Sponsored by
Piety Hill Chapter NSDAR
& the Birmingham Museum*



Commemorating the first public reading at Philadelphia on July 8, 1776

Wed., July 8, 2026 at 5:50 pm • Birmingham Municipal Bldg.

Readers: *Birmingham Mayor Clinton Baller, Birmingham Schools Superintendent Embekka Roberson, local historian Linda Buchanan, Vietnam veteran Mike Schloff, Oakland County League of Women Voters President Maria Woloson, & Birmingham Museum Student Board Representative Antonia Lawrence. Carol Smist will perform a historic patriotic medley on the piccolo.*

"The Rebels of '76 or the First Announcement of the Great Declaration," Philadelphia, S. Ashton, c1860. Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/pgs.03091/>

(1) LWVOA Candidate Forums: July, August, September 2026

More than 20 candidate forums for the August primaries are almost complete. NOW time to start organizing for the Fall forums leading to the November 2026 election. Any assistance for procuring facilities, candidates, and personnel is greatly appreciated. Question screeners, moderators, pages, and timers are also needed for each event. Time commitment per forum is 4 hours.

Help with just one forum will be appreciated.

Contact Christine Allen at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for info.

(2) Calling all LWVOA members and friends with things to do while at HOME:

LWVMI Youth Engagement Grant Opportunity:

- LWVOA hopes to recruit 16- to 25-year-olds to assist with its activities, including Candidate Forums, monthly in-person events, and more. Do you have contact with schools and other youth groups that may be interested?

LWVMI Postcard Campaign Grant Opportunity:

- LWVMI will provide funds for the distribution of postcards to encourage voter participation and raise awareness of public policies.

LWVMI Text Banking Opportunity:

- LWVMI will supply text mechanisms for contacting new and established voters to participate in elections.

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com OR visit LWVMI.org for more info.

(4) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Thursday, July 23rd at 4p via Zoom

This group plans and facilitates activities for members and the public. In-person programs are already scheduled for August and September. Suggestions for additional presentations and activities for 2026 are welcome.

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

(5) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, July 27th 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.

(6) LWVOA Book Club: Wednesday, July 29th at 7p at Bloomfield Township Public Library

This month's selection is ***The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters*** by Priya Parker (2020)

A comprehensive guide to transforming gatherings from routine to meaningful by focusing on human connection and purposeful design across various settings, from conferences to dinner parties.

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

***(7) LWVOA MAR/COM (Marketing & Communication) work group:
Thursday, August 13th at 3p at BTPL***

The Mar/Com group continues to engage the public and our members with info about upcoming events. It also participates in planning programs and recruiting participants.

Mar/Com provides local media outlets with information about LWVOA events, including candidate forums, in-person presentations, community engagement opportunities, and more. 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.

(8) LWVOA and New Citizen Voter Registration at the US Federal Courthouse in Detroit

New Citizen ceremonies and Voter Registration have resumed, however, in reduced numbers. Volunteers are needed to assist in this important effort.

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

(9) LWVOA Observer Corps: Public School Board Focus

As school boards have become a point of controversy, LWVOA members observe and report on monthly meetings. All members are welcome to participate in this important activity.

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

(10) LWV needs YOU!

1. Become a member or renew your membership at the member portal LWVOA.org or with a check to LWVOA for \$20-\$75 dues.

2. 2026 is a critical election year. LWV needs help with its core goal of protecting the vote. Please consider a donation to LWVOA and/or a tax-

deductible donation to the LWVOA Education Fund. ALL donations are greatly appreciated.

Save the dates:

1) Monday, **August 24th, at 7 pm at BTPL:** Oakland University Political Science Professor David Dulio will give a presentation about the results of the primary elections and the future general elections.

Note: This meeting will be held in the evening.

2) Wednesday, **September 23rd, at 1 pm at the Bloomfield Township Senior Center:** LWVOA member Scott Reilley, will present info from the Election Protection Program and Countering Election Sabotage groups about election security.

June 2026 highlights:

(1) Our in-person monthly meeting featured speaker, Carole Leigh Hutton, who presented **"Disinformation and the Threat to Democracy in the Age of AI."**

This presentation incorporated Ms. Hutton's background of more than 30 years in the newspaper business and 15 years in nonprofit leadership. She became a role model for women when named the first female executive editor and publisher. Ms. Hutton's presentation was informative and motivating.

(2) LWV members from across Michigan attended the movie premiere in Southfield of **"Three Marches, Two Sisters, One Bridge."**

This documentary featured LWV member Charles Thomas' two aunts, who were Selma Foot Soldiers. It tells the story of their experiences facing discrimination, threats, and violence while fighting for civil rights in the 1960s. The movie will be available on YouTube to the public for free in July 2026.

(3) **LWVUS National Convention 2026** in Columbus, Ohio, was attended in person by more than 60 league members from Michigan, as well as 700 from across the US, and more attended via the internet.

A video recording of the convention will be available for viewing in the near future.

"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.



League of Women Voters Oakland Area | PO Box 930038 | Wixom, MI 48393 US

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