



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

Lots going on with LWVOA's Annual Meeting/Luncheon, elections, MICRC, working groups, etc.

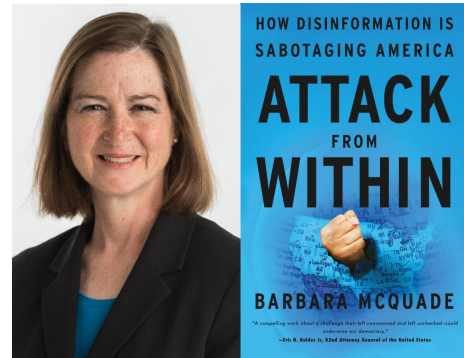
Here are this month's events to participate in via Zoom or in person.

***LWVOA's Annual Meeting & Luncheon  
with speaker, Barbara McQuade on  
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at the Heathers  
Club of Bloomfield***

***10:30am business meeting***

***11:30am luncheon and speaker***

Barbara McQuade's extensive legal career includes serving as the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan from 2010-2017 and now a Law Professor 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.

Please see the **[LWVOA website](#)** for registration information.



***Save the Date: June 10th at 1pm at BTPL - LWVOA presents Shirley Stancato***, Chair of the Wayne State University Board of Governors, former CEO of New Detroit, VP Chase Bank, advocate for racial equity and recipient of numerous awards including Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Leadership, Detroit News Michiganian of the Year and inducted into the Michigan Business Women Hall of Fame.

The event is certain to be informative and worthwhile.

***(1) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Wednesday, May 1st at 4p via Zoom***

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

Contact Geri Rinschler at **[LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com)** for more info.

**(2) LWVOA Candidate Forum planning meeting: Tuesday, May 7th at 7p at the home of Judy Bateman**

With registration for the August 2024 primaries complete, this group will plan and facilitate forums in local communities for the public to learn about candidates for the upcoming August primaries as well as November general elections.

All members are welcome and volunteers needed to conduct the events. Contact Judy Bateman at [LWVOAMI@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMI@gmail.com) for more info.



**(3) MICRC Oakland County Meeting: Wednesday, May 8th at the Pearls Event Center, 26100 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI 48076, 10a-12:30p; 1:30-3p; 4-7p**

The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission has worked years to create fair voting districts. Additional public hearings are now

taking place to revise districts as required by recent court decisions.

**Volunteers are needed** to facilitate the hearings. League members who are willing to help should contact Kristen Taylor, [taylorlk54@michigan.gov](mailto:taylorlk54@michigan.gov). Further information regarding the MICRC may be found at the LWVMI website.

**(4) LWVOA with AAUW Observer Corps: Wednesday, May 8th at 7p via zoom**

Members already monitoring local school board meetings are requested to give feedback on how the process is working. LWVOA member, Karen Kudla, and AAUW member, Camila Ayoub, have held meetings and provided help to facilitate the reporting. All LWVOA members are welcome to observe any of the 27 Oakland County local school board meetings. Any help in this effort will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Deborah Ross at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.

**(5) LWVOA Oakland County Board of Canvassers observers: Wednesday, May 8th - May 16th at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, MI 48341**

Members observe the OCBC counting and finalizing the local elections of May 8, 2024. Volunteers are needed to monitor activities. 2-3 hour shifts are suggested. Contact Jim Treharne at [LWVOAMI@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMI@gmail.com) for more info.



**(6) LWVMI Statewide Firearm Safety Network Group: Tuesday, May 14th at 7p via Zoom**

This group has monthly presentations on pending legislation and the movement to decrease gun violence.

Contact Vicki Paulsen at [LWVMI.org](http://LWVMI.org) for more information.



**(7) LWVMI Environmental Network:  
Thursday, May 16th at 11a via Zoom**

This group shares information about legislation and movements focusing on sustainability issues and climate change. Last month's presentation "**How Native Plants Can Benefit Wildlife and Our Planet**" was informative and motivating. All previous presentations are recorded and available for viewing.

Contact Sandy Sorini-Elser at [advocacy@lwvashtenaw.com](mailto:advocacy@lwvashtenaw.com) for more info.

**(8) LWVUS Abolish the US Electoral  
College focus group: Friday, May 17th at  
1p via Zoom**

This group's presentations focus on the history and present-day issues for electing the US President and Vice President. Abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment is one of the League's top priorities.



LWVUS' first of a five-phase process is having individual states approve the National Popular Vote. After approval by state legislatures of NPV, the state will direct its electoral college votes to the candidate that wins the national popular vote for the US President and Vice President.

To date, states with a total of 205 electoral votes have committed to the process. A total of 270 are necessary to elect the president. Legislation for NPV has been introduced in the Michigan Legislature. Members are encouraged to notify their state representatives and senators of their support for such legislation.

A PowerPoint presentation and handouts are available for members to share with the public and raise awareness of issues.

Contact Maria Woloson at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.



**(9) LWVOA Marketing/Communications  
Working Group: Wednesday, May 24th at  
12:30p at the Honey Tree Grill in Birmingham**

LWVOA has new Facebook and LinkedIn pages -- follow us!

These new pages provide opportunities to communicate to a broader audience with the latest tools these platforms have to offer.

We encourage you to follow both of the new

pages. Click here for more information and instructions: [New LWVOA Social Media Pages.docx](#)

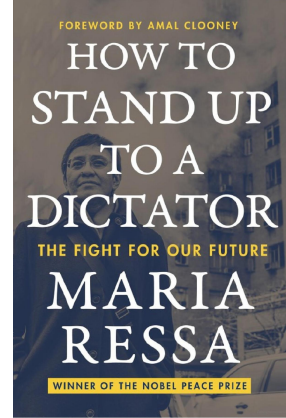
Contact Leslie Fleming at [MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com](mailto:MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com) for more info.

**(10) LWVOA Book Club: Thursday, May 30th at 7p at  
Bloomfield Township Public Library: "How to stand  
up to a dictator: the fight for our future," (2022) by  
Maria Ressa**

A Philippine journalist and recipient of the 2021 Nobel



Peace Prize traces her career spent challenging corruption and presents strategies for speaking truth to power as well as standing up against authoritarians to battle disinformation and lies.  
Contact Tera Moon at [LWVOAMI@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMI@gmail.com) for more info.

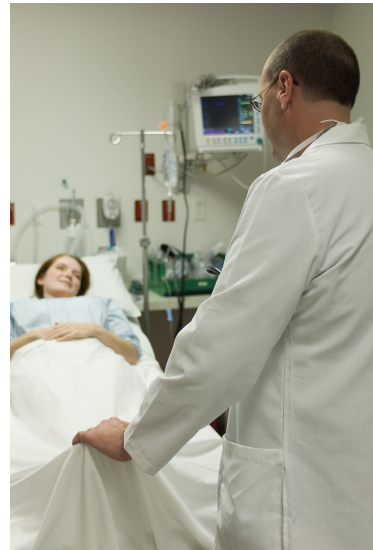


***(11) Make Democracy Work/Town Hall Presentations on the 2022 new voting rights in the Michigan Constitution***

Numerous presentations by our members have already been made to local groups about Michigan's new voting rights approved in 2022. A PowerPoint presentation and flyers 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](mailto:LWVOAMI@gmail.com) for more info.

***(12) LWVUS "HC4US" a/k/a "Healthcare for the United States" focus group: Sunday, June 2nd at 8p***

LWV members from various states provide information on the present state of our healthcare systems. Monthly speakers have included professionals working to facilitate governmental initiatives for an equitable health system for ALL. 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](mailto:LWVOAMI@gmail.com) for more info.

***LWVOA's April highlight event:***

***LWVOA was pleased to present "Open Primaries & Rank Choice Voting" with speakers Katie Fahey and Ron Zimmerman on April 17, 2024 at Bloomfield Township Public Library***

Katie Fahey, Executive Director of The People, shared lessons learned in

Michigan when she was the Founder/Director of Voters Not Politicians that took on gerrymandering. VNP facilitated the passage of a Michigan Constitutional Amendment regarding redistricting. Ron Zimmerman explained the Rank Choice Voting process and how it facilitates democracy.

Katie and Ron have reached out to voters across the ideological spectrum, bridging political divides, and supporting nonpartisan, good-governance reforms nationwide. The presentation was informative and engaging.



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



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