



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

As always, lots going on...

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

***The League of Women Voters Oakland Area
2026 Annual Meeting and Luncheon***

**The Heathers Club of Bloomfield
900 Upper Scotsborough Way
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304**

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

10:30 AM: Business Meeting

11:30 AM: Luncheon and Speaker, Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly

Members are strongly encouraged to attend to ensure a quorum is present for board-member elections and approval of bylaw revisions and budget.

Please RSVP by May 4th. See instructions below.

***Our Guest Speaker is
Former Michigan Supreme
Court Justice Marilyn Kelly***

***Topic: All's Fair in Love, War, and
Voters' Rights***

Justice Kelly is a longtime supporter of the League of Women Voters. These days,



she teaches law at Wayne State University, where she is its Distinguished Jurist in Residence. She is also a member of the Board of Governors at the University and a board member of Leader Dogs for the Blind. Justice Kelly is a past Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and a past Chair of the Michigan State Board of Education. During her career as a teacher, lawyer, and judge, she has been elected to statewide office seven times.

LWVOA is privileged to have Justice Kelly as our distinguished speaker this year.

Cost: \$50.00. Lunch choices are Spinach Quiche or Heather's Signature Salad with chicken.

Please RSVP with your lunch choice to LWVOAMI@gmail.com by May 4th.

Payment may be made by May 4, 2026, with:

1. Check payable to LWVOA with lunch choice and mailed to LWVOAMI, PO Box 930038, Wixom, MI 48393, or
2. PayPal or Credit Card at the LWVOA website at LWVOA.org. Press the "Donate" button at the top of the home page. On the form, please specify in the comments section that the amount is for the annual luncheon and include your lunch choice.

Please direct any questions to LWVOAMI@gmail.com or call 248-594-6602.

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 separate, tax-deductible donation to LWVOA and/or LWVOA Education Fund. ALL donations are greatly appreciated.
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1) Calling all LWVOA members and friends with things to do:

LWVMI Youth Engagement Grant Opportunity:

- LWVOA hopes to recruit 16-25 year olds to assist with LWVOA activities, including Candidate Forums. Do you have contact with schools and other youth groups that may be interested? Stipends given to new recruits will be used for continued participation in LWVOA.

LWVMI Postcard Campaign Grant Opportunity:

- LWVMI will supply funds for distribution of postcards to encourage participation in elections and awareness of public policies.

LWVMI Text Banking Opportunity:

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

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

(2) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Thursday, May 7th at 4p via Zoom

This group plans and facilitates activities for members and the public.

In-person programs are already scheduled for May and June. Suggestions for additional presentations and activities for 2026 are welcome.

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

(3) LWVOA MAR/COM (Marketing & Communication) work group: Thursday, May 14th at 3p at BTPL

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.

(4) LWVUS Eliminate the Electoral College work group: Friday, May 15th at 1p via Zoom

Monthly presentations provide information about the necessity of abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment. This 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.

NOTE: LWVUS encourages local leagues to give educational presentations on this topic to any interested groups and has a PowerPoint presentation that members may use. Training is available for all members before giving presentations.

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

(5) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, May 18th 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: Thursday, May 28th at 7p at BTPL

"The Containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North" by Michelle Adams (2025)

Legal scholar Michelle Adam shares the story of the struggle to integrate Detroit schools and what happened when it collided with the Nixon-appointed justices committed to a judicial counterrevolution.

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

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

Save the dates:

- 1) June 4th at 1p at BTPL: speaker Carol Lee Hutton, Free Press writer and speaker on Mis/Disinformation
 - 2) June 18th at 11a-2p at Oakland County Circuit Court: Juneteenth Celebration LWVOA to table event with information and presentations.
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April 2026 highlights:

- 1) "Navigating the Election Challenges for 2026" with speaker Allyson Bettis, City of Southfield Deputy Treasurer and long-time former Garden City Clerk.

Ms. Bettis shared information on how election upheaval and political partisan gamesmanship have been present throughout history. She offered insights on how to deal with present situations and overcome voter intimidation. This presentation was informative and engaging.

See LWVOA website or YouTube to see the presentation.

2) LWVOA participated in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumnae Expungement Fair in Ferndale. More than 75 persons were assisted by sorority members, attorneys, judges, and volunteers to expunge their criminal records. LWVOA encouraged participants to vote and engage in public policy.

"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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