



*League of Women Voters Oakland Area,
Michigan
November 2024 Newsletter*

*Election season 2024 may soon be over,
however, LWV efforts will continue to be
needed. See below for events and focus
groups happenings this month.*



***(1) LWVOA monthly in person event on November 19th at 1p at
Bloomfield Township Public Library will present:***

ARE OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS PROTECTED?

***Ms. Bonsitu Kitaba-Gaviglio, Deputy Legal Director for the American
Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, will share how the most recent
laws were crafted.***

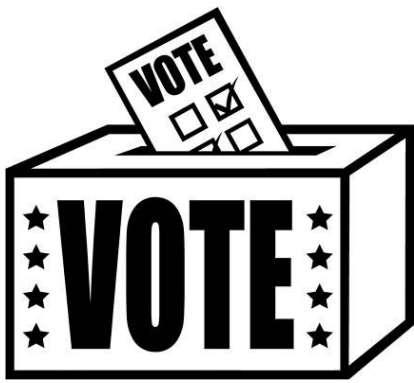
The ACLU is a 100-year-old organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights and liberties of everyone in the United States.

Ms. Kitaba-Gaviglio is the lead attorney working to protect access to reproductive healthcare through the Reproductive Rights for ALL ballot initiative that passed in 2022. Her presentation will focus on issues with this important legislation and how it impacts many aspects of our lives.

This event is open to the public and light refreshments will be provided.

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





(2) LWVOA Oakland County Board of Canvassers Observers: November 6th-20th at Oakland County Service Plaza in Pontiac, MI

Observing the certification of the November 2024 election is an important function LWV performs each election. All members are encouraged to attend as many shifts as desired between 11/6 through 11/20.

Sign up is available at [SignUp Genius](#).

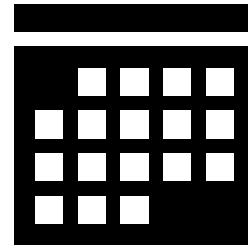
Members are needed to observe the vote tally and procedures to validate voting. The presence of LWV observers has minimized potential disruptions of the voting process.

Contact Jim Treharne at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(3) Community Engagement Committee (CEC) work group: Wednesday, November 13th at 4p via Zoom

CEC 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.



(4) LWVMI Statewide Advocacy group: Wednesday, November 13th at 7p via Zoom

Information will be provided about legislation pertaining to issues and focus groups LWVMI has prioritized that include: Voting Rights, Gun Safety, Prisons, Environment, Eliminate the Electoral College, etc.

Please join this event to learn of how LWVMI is leveraging its influence in both the political and community arenas.

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

(5) LWVUS Abolish the US Electoral College nationwide focus group: Friday, November 15th at 1p via Zoom

Monthly sessions provide in-person presentations and information as to the necessity of Abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment which is now 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.

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

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



**(6) LWVOA Mar/Com work group:
Wednesday, November 20th at 12:30p at the
Bloomfield Township Public Library.**

This group focuses on methods to promote LWVOA events and working groups through various forms of social media, news outlets, radio, in person interviews, etc.

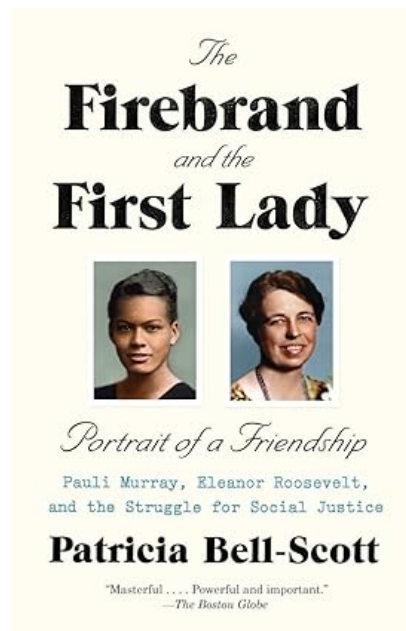
Contact Leslie Fleming
at MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com for more info.

**(7) LWVOA Book Club: Thursday, November
21st at 7p at the Bloomfield Township Public
Library.**

This month's book is informative and engaging:

The Firebrand and the First Lady - Portrait of a
Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt,
and the Struggle for Social Justice (2016) by
Patricia Bell-Scott

This book describes the unlikely friendship
between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Pauli
Murray -- a mixed-race slave's granddaughter,
lesbian, lawyer, and civil-rights pioneer -- and
the important work they did for justice and
freedom.



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

(8) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, November 25th at 7p via Zoom

LWVOA's Board manages and facilitates the business and activities of our local league. Monthly meeting minutes are posted on our website. All members are welcome to attend.

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





**(9) LWVOA Rank Choice Voting work group:
November meeting date TBD**

Learn how RCV may be the preferred method of electing candidates without the hyper-partisan environment that encompasses our elections now.

This group is planning presentations and strategies for the adoption of a position by LWVMI in 2025 and then a statewide ballot initiative for 2026.

Contact Chris Wiggins at LWVOAMI@gmail.com for more info.

**(10) LWVOA with AAUW Observer Corps:
November meeting date TBD**

Members continue to monitor local school board meetings and give feedback on how the process is working.



All LWVOA members are welcome to observe any of the 27 Oakland County local school board meetings. With so many boards to watch, any help in this effort is greatly appreciated.

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



**(11) LWVUS new payment system begins
January 2025**

LWVOA will keep you posted on how to pay dues as well as contribute to the LWVOA between now and January 2025, as details are clarified.

Please see the LWVOA website [here](#) for more in-depth information.

(12) LWVMI Environmental Network promotes information to enhance our environment and minimize climate change. Click on the links below to view information provided in a recent presentation.



Video clips from NGO Sustainability Matters:

- Click [here](#) for choosing pumpkins.
- Click [here](#) for ending leaf raking.
- Click [here](#) for avoiding microplastics in clothing.

Contact Sandra Elser-Sorini at advocacy@lwwashtenaw.org for more info.



**Save the Date - LWVOA Year End Review and
Chocolate Holiday Festival: Thursday, December 5th
at 1p at BTPL**

Details to follow.



Thank You



LWVOA Candidate Forums 2024: AMAZING!!!

We had more than 25 candidate forums across the primary and general elections by Oakland Area, two others by Macomb that OA supported, 46 LWVOA volunteers with more volunteers from our partners at the OCBA, FH COHA, Macomb League and cable teams, and hundreds of attendees and video views.

A BIG THANKS to everyone who helped facilitate an extremely successful candidate forum season.

We are deeply grateful for everyone's hard work, time, and dedication for helping to inform voters across Oakland and Macomb Counties. We hope you are all inspired to continue helping at future forums.

“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.

Judy Bateman, Christine Allen, and Terrye Benjamin
LWVOA Directors - Candidate Forums

Maria Woloson

President, League of Women Voters, Oakland Area, Michigan



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