

The Voter

May 2026

Events

May 8, 2026

[Suffs the Musical on PBS](#)

9:00pm

May 20, 2026

[Board Meeting](#)

7:00pm

[Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church](#)

June 6, 2026

[Annual Meeting](#)

10:00am

[Plymouth Community Arts Council](#)

June 16, 2026

[DEI Bookclub](#)

7:00pm

Zoom

June 25-28, 2026

[LWVUS Convention](#)

Columbus, OH

July 4, 2026

[Northville 4th of July Parade](#)

See below for details

Visit the League's [calendar page](#) for the latest information about upcoming events

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President's Perspective

Last month, I had the pleasure of seeing the musical "Suffs" at the Fisher Theater in Detroit. This Broadway show beautifully tells the story of the incredible struggle for women's voting rights. While it took over 100 years to win the vote, we often focus on the period from 1900-1920 as the most visible time. The show really brought to light the tension between the "Old Guard," led by Carrie Chapman Catt, and the younger women who were pushing for more action, led by Alice Paul. It showed that some men supported us, but most men actually stood in our way. The movement didn't quite live up to its democratic ideals when it came to women of color. But through it all, they kept going, and women finally got the right to vote. Carrie Chapman Catt even founded the League of Women Voters before women's first national vote, knowing that having a reliable source of voting information and education was essential.

Women are going to be a huge part of the next election and how our country, state, and communities are going to be shaped. If we combine our economic strength, our smarts, and our love for our democracy, we can stand up against authoritarianism. Right now, some younger people are suggesting that women



should go back to being “traditional wives,” which is a misguided attempt to romanticize the past. For women, minorities, the poor, the elderly, and those who can’t work, the past wasn’t always great. We’ve worked so hard to make changes, and we’re not going back.

Those of us who’ve had the privilege of living in a time when we could get birth control, enter male-dominated fields, and marry who we wanted, need to stand up. It’s our job to hold onto the rights we’ve won so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy them too. By working with others in the Northwest Wayne Co. League, you can really make a difference in our country’s future. Together, we can protect democracy. Thank you for everything you do.

Carrie Moon-Dupree

April General Membership Meeting Recap

On April 18, 23 League Members gathered at Westland City Hall. The group was welcomed by Westland Mayor, Kevin Coleman, who shared his gratitude for the work done by the League to hold candidate forums.

Joel Batterman from [Transportation Riders United](#) provided information about the upcoming ballot proposal that would allow all of Wayne County to join the SMART bus service system. He gave a brief history of public transit in metro Detroit and the lack of service experienced in many communities. The ballot proposal would levy a milage of \$0.9831 per \$1k of taxable value for 10 years, allowing for the expansion of services to underserved communities. LWVNWW has a [Regional Public Transportation position](#) that supports this proposal.

There were reports made about a variety of upcoming opportunities (see below), then Members gathered for a group photo before adjourning.



In Memorium

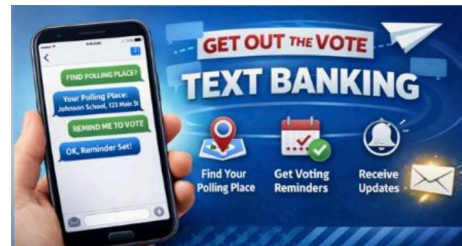
It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of League Member, Mary Ann McAllister, on March 21. Mary will be greatly missed by all who knew her, and we send our deepest sympathies to her family.

Get Involved & Stay Informed

There are a number of ways to join in the work to empower voters and defend democracy. We hope you'll join us!

Voter Services

Text Banking will resume on May 5 for the August Primary. As a reminder, we are sending text messages to Northwest Wayne residents who voted in the 2020 election, but not in 2024.



Candidate Forums will be held in June and/or July for the August Primary

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, contact [Toni Jones](#).

Observer Corps

Observer Corps volunteers observe meetings for one government unit in their community such as city councils, board of trustees, or school boards. They watch for good government practices. Meetings can be observed in person or virtually. If you would like more information about this group, please contact [Lena Packer](#).

Voter Registration

Voter registration drives are scheduled for 4 local high schools. The committee will report registration numbers in next month's newsletter

DEI Bookclub

Join us on June 16 at 7pm to discuss [Black Detroit: A People's History of Self-Determination](#) by Herb Boyd. Contact [Laura Jannika](#) if you would like to be added to the email list.

Advocacy

Did you know that you can find our positions on issues on the [LWVM website](#)? It is under the members-only tab that is password-protected. Please contact [Carrie Moon-Dupree](#) for the password. There is a link on the LWVM website for all the state and national positions. While the League is nonpartisan, it is not neutral. After research and voting, we take positions.

The State Board voted on the following actions at the April meeting:

In Support

- HB4764-plug-in solar, which would plug into a home's existing electrical circuits.
- SB 731-732, Enable "Virtual Power Plants" which are small localized power generation and storage technologies. This would allow more affordable and reliable energy use.
- SB 841-843 and SB 848-854, Establish Firearm Industry Responsibility Act. These bills would create a firearm industry responsibility act, abolish

firearm industry immunity, provide a waiting period for firearms, expand gun-free zones, prohibit the production and possession of high-capacity magazines, and allow local government to impose certain restrictions on firearms such as prohibiting open carry of firearms in local government buildings.

Opposed

- Repeal of Concealed Weapon limits HB 5653-5657. This bill would repeal provisions limiting carry of concealed weapons.

The websites list all of our previous votes and Senate and House bills as well as

[ACTION Alerts](#). Please let your elected officials know how you stand on these important issues.

ACTION ALERT: Urge our State Senators to Vote NO on HouseBill 4765. This bill is also known as the MICHIGAN SAVE ACT. The house has already passed 4765. The bill now goes to the Senate where we hope it will not pass. Call or write you state senators and tell them to vote NO! [Click the TAKE ACTION button under the "Oppose Proof of Citizenship When Registering to Vote"](#) item to contact your representative.

Northville 4th of July Parade

Calling all members of the LWV NW Wayne County!

Our League will be participating in the Northville 2026 4th of July parade!

The parade will be about 1.18 miles of downtown Northville streets. But don't worry if you can not walk that far. We will have some vehicles for participants to ride in and be a part of the event.

We are asking folks to wear a suffragette outfit (straight white skirt or pants, white blouse, and a hat). Thrift shops are a good place to look or you can find suffragette outfits online for purchase. We'll provide the sashes, handheld flags and posters with the League's mission and goals (Supporting Voter Rights, for example). We are hoping for a good crowd of suffragettes - any member can participate, not just Northville residents.

This year is our country's 250th anniversary. When our countrymen said no thank you to King George 250 years ago, our forebears asserted we, the People, had the right to self-governance through elected representatives. Now more than ever, our work with the LWV is fundamental to ensuring that this experiment in self-governance will not be corrupted, but will continue as a true democratic republic for generations to come.

Jai Essenmacher is our point person for the parade. You can reach her by [email](#) or by cellphone at 757-470-7600.

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

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The Voter Editor

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**League of Women Voters of
NW Wayne County
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151**

Membership in the League is open to anyone age 16 and older.

Join through our [website](#) or by calling 734-748-5564

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

[Visit our Website](#)

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[League of Women Voters of Michigan Website](#)

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