

The Voter

November / December 2025

EVENTS

November 4, 2025
Election Day



November 11, 2025
Veterans Day
November 15, 2025
Tentative New Member
Orientation

November 19, 2025
Board Meeting
7pm
Belleville Library

December 13, 2025
Honoring the Past,
Moving Forward -
Legacy Luncheon
11:30am
Van Buren Township
Community Center
46425 Tyler Rd
Van Buren Township

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

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LWVNW Members Needed After the Election

President's Perspective

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Your League has joined in [LWVUS's Unite and Rise 8.5 campaign](#). We are mobilizing our members and resources to defend the unprecedented attack on our democracy. In my time with the League, this is the first time LWVUS has called us to work on a national issue because each decision trickles down to the state and local issues that affect us all. As a 106 year old voter service organization, we need to be involved. If we look away, there may not be any voting rights left to defend. Here is what the Northwestern Wayne Co. League is doing:

No Kings Rally 2.0 - We attended this march in Livonia following our membership meeting. LWVUS was a partner in this approved march. We will continue to be visible in Defending

HELP WANTED

Legacy Luncheon

Logistics volunteers both prior to and the day of the event

Candidate Forum

Moderators

Train to moderate our candidate forums, both in person and virtually

Speakers Bureau

Present in-person and virtual education sessions in the community. Scripts, handouts, slides, and training provided

Tech Team

As we move forward, technology is one step ahead of us. We're seeking someone with technological skills to lend a few hours of their time

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Carrie Moon-Dupree, moondupree@comcast.net



Democracy.

Yard Signs - The League purchased 100 year-round yard signs that state "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." (see images below). Email moondupree@comcast.net to get a sign and display it proudly in your yard. We are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cost. If that is a hardship, please take one anyway.

Text Banking - Sign up to do phone text banking (See Voter Services article).

Educating Voters - Book our speakers to do a "Know What You Sign" presentation to your church or club group (see article below). Better yet, sign up to be a presenter.

Board of Canvassers - Sign up to watch the votes being counted at the Wayne Co. Board of Canvassers for the November election. See more information below.

Stay Informed - Open and read the emails we receive from LWVUS and LWVMI. There is a wealth of information there that is useful in your understanding of what is happening and how the League is fighting back. Check their websites for resources and talking points on the issues that matter to you.

Observer Corps - Watch a local governmental meeting, report back anything the League should be aware of and/or needs League action (see article below).

Talk - Speak to those who you come into contact with. I have been amazed that 90% of the people I begin a conversation with are hungry for real, reliable information. Carry our bookmarks and hand them out.

Does the League have what it takes to sustain the momentum needed to empower voters and defend Democracy? I think we do, because if we don't our country will be a very different place for future generations. This is our "Democracy" and it is worth fighting for.

Carrie Moon-Dupree

Please mark your calendars for our special December Membership meeting. On December 13 at 11:30 am, we will hold a luncheon at the [Van Buren Township Community Center](#). We are asking you to invite someone from another generation to attend as we look back on our history while introducing ourselves to new generations. We will have speakers, displays, fashions, and other fun ways to celebrate. Luncheon tickets for members are \$20/person. Tickets for non-member guests (45 and under) are free of charge.

My younger relatives are not available, but I have asked my younger neighbors and friends to join me that day. This is a way to promote the League to those who think we did all our work in the past. We are doing the work now, but need to prepare those that come after us to continue. Now more than ever our work is important.

Your job now is to mark your calendar, commit to attending and bringing along a member of the younger generation. It's easy. Yesterday Donna Gilkey-Lavin and I had lunch not too far from the venue. We were discussing the event and Donna invited our lovely waitress to the event. She asked a few questions and seemed interested. Donna will keep in touch with her and there is a good chance she will be there. That's the way you do it!

October General Membership Meeting Recap by Anne Reilly

On Saturday, October 18, 24 LWVNWW members and 1 guest gathered at [Madonna University](#) for the October General Membership Meeting.

The meeting began with a game of League Bingo. Congratulations to winners, Christina Stark, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, and Laura Jannika, for crossing off the most squares!

Paula Bowman gave a Treasurer's report, noting that the League is in a solid financial position. She reviewed the processes for renewing membership online via ChapterSpot, and reminded the group that [donations](#) continue to be welcomed for both the Education Fund (tax-deductible) and the Programming Fund (not tax-deductible) above and beyond membership dues.

Membership Chair, Christina Stark, reported that LWVNWW currently has 110 members. Our membership count dictates the number of delegates sent to the LWV National Convention. With over 100 members, it is expected that LWVNWW will be allowed 3 delegates this coming year.

Paula Bowman talked through each of the nine ballot petitions circulating through Michigan communities (see Know What You Sign article below). Members of the Speakers Bureau are available to lead educational sessions on the proposals for non-partisan community groups.

Carrie Moon-Dupree gave an update on [Unite and Rise 8.5](#) campaign. LWVUS has declared that the country is in a constitutional crisis, and is activating 8.5 million voices through civic engagement, education, and collective power in

response. Michigan has joined the movement, and League members are encouraged to follow LWVUS's [playbook](#) for ways to take action. Text banking is one example of how members can participate (see article below).

The meeting ended with the distribution of yard signs and instructions for those attending the No Kings March.

Thank you to Madonna University for opening their space, and to Ann Andrews for coordinating the venue and providing refreshments!



Membership

by Christina Stark

Welcome to our newest members who joined us in September:

Virginia Dean
Suzanne Fanning
Jeannette Gutierrez
Lakisha McGraw
Lucy Whelan (Schoolcraft scholarship recipient)



Tentative date for future Orientation is November 15.
Orientation invitations pending confirmation of date and new memberships.

I also want to express my THANKS and appreciation for the ongoing support of renewing members. As I mention in my welcome letters to new members, it is a very busy time for the League as we pursue our mission to EMPOWER VOTERS and DEFEND DEMOCRACY. Your voices, your actions, and your participation are critical as we [Unite and Rise](#) to fight for our democracy on multiple fronts, from the courts to the streets.

Observer Corps

by Lena Packer

Members of the Observer Corps attend local government meetings to see if these meetings are open, and if they are conducted in an orderly manner. We

also note what issues concern the community and its residents. Meetings can be observed virtually or in person.

We are asking any interested League members to volunteer to be “guest observers.” Guest observers are asked to attend one government meeting and share their observations with our group. It is really a good way to learn about the issues concerning our communities.

If you are interested in being a guest observer or would like to learn more about what our group does, please contact Lena at lena.packer@yahoo.com.

Voter Registration

by Ann Andrews

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County had a table at Schoolcraft College’s annual School Daze Wellness/Resource Fair. This was held on September 22 and 23. LWV members distributed information about the LWV and registered 12 individuals to vote. Of the 7 LWV members who worked at the event, three had not previously worked a voter registration drive.



We will likely be invited to the Schoolcraft College Winter Bash in January 2026 to continue this work!

Voter Services

by Toni S. Jones, PhD

LWVNWW will participate in the [Permanent Mail Ballot List](#) Text Banking Project headed by LWVMI. We have over 12,000 people in Northwest Wayne County who voted in 2020 and not in 2024 and who are not on the absentee voter list. Our goal is to text them and urge them to sign up to be on the Permanent Mail Ballot list. We are looking for volunteers to assist in texting the individuals who meet this criteria.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

0 of 2 completed.

Randall Holmes(65-WM) 📞
3690 N WOODS BLVD
CANTON, WAYNE

League of Women Voters of North West Wayne County urges you to vote in the Nov 4, 2025 election and to sign up for the Permanent Absentee Voter list so you get a ballot at home for every election! Cast an absentee ballot on or before election day! There are many options to vote in Michigan. You can sign up as an Absentee Voter and join the Permanent Absentee Voter list on Michigan's Secretary of State's site:
<https://mivic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome>

Send Text ✓

While the procedure of sending the text messages is fairly easy, LWVNWW Voter Services will create a video to assist volunteers. Below is a description of the process. Instructions were provided by Bob Chunn with minor modifications made by Toni Jones.

Volunteer members will be sent a link. When the link is clicked, they will land on a page that looks like the image above with a message to a voter. The volunteer member will press "Send Text" to send the message. The next voter will display, and the procedure is repeated. We count the voters contacted across the top so each member can see their contribution.

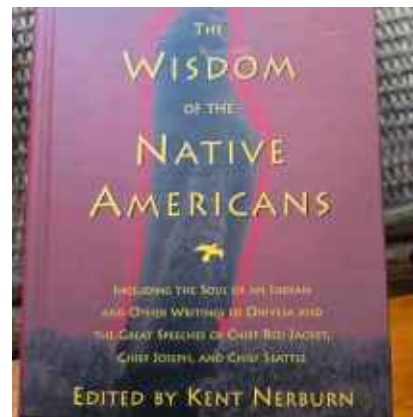
Volunteer members can send messages from any internet connected device on their own time. The recipient of the text message will not see the volunteers' phone number or name.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Toni Jones via email (letjones@gmail.com) or phone (248-982-4566).

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

by Laura Jannika

Our DEI Bookclub is studying Native American writings for our January Bookclub....we could use some wisdom during these times! The book is [The Wisdom of the Native Americans](#), edited by Kent Nerburn. I bought the book at Barnes and Noble, but I don't think it would be hard to find it elsewhere. I hope you can join us for discussion after the holidays.



Send me an email if you would like a Zoom invitation at ljannika@gmail.com.

Scholarship Committee Update

by Pat Bindas

The LWVNWW Scholarship Committee previously announced two of the three scholarships awarded for the 2025-26 school year. We are proud to share the third scholarship recipient, Lucy Whalen, who is very grateful to receive this scholarship. Below are snippets from her thank you letter:

I am so thankful for the Foundation - Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship (LWVNWW Co.) scholarship and for you! I know that it's because of the generous support of Foundation donors that scholarships are possible... I am a sophomore here at Schoolcraft on the softball team... I am deciding between the radiology tech program... physical education, and exercise science. I am really looking forward to getting into my career just wanting to find the perfect fit for the future... I applied for this scholarship to help both me and my parents financially. I am very grateful to be where I am but look forward to being able to set myself up for future success... This scholarship is very helpful to limiting having a big loan bill that I will need to pay off later in life.

The LWVNWW Scholarship Committee is grateful for the opportunity to serve the league in supporting the Scholarship since 2022. We look forward to serving the league in different capacities as the board has voted to no longer fund the scholarships. Now more than ever, the League needs to use our

Know About the Ballot Proposals Before You Sign the Petition!

by Paula Bowman

If you've been to any public space this fall, you may have seen someone with a clipboard asking for your signature on a potential ballot proposal. There are NINE possible proposals that may appear on the November 2026 ballot. The state League has produced materials so that we can help voters understand what they're signing, and is asking local Leagues to share this information in our communities. If you know of a church group, Kiwanis club, PTA, or any other group that may want to hear this 30 minute, educational presentation about the petition drives, contact Carrie Moon-Dupree and we will arrange to send a speaker your way.



If you want to educate yourself before you sign a petition, [check out this handout of the 9 proposals](#). Though the presentation we provide is purely educational, the state League has taken positions on some of the proposals; [you can find that information by clicking here](#).

No Kings March 2.0

by Laura Jannika

A record crowd came out for the No Kings March on Farmington and 5 Mile Road on October 18. More than a dozen League members came out in force wearing their League buttons, League shirts, and carrying our new "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." signs. We had quite a presence on the corner with our big signs.



Cars drove past continuously, honking their horns and waving their signs from the passenger seat. One truck was not kind and drove dangerously to make his point. Four Livonia police immediately pulled him over and the big white truck was hauled away on a flatbed truck to the roar of the crowd.

In the crowd were blown up costumes of frogs and dinosaurs, and signs of every kind. The League of Women Voters is clearly standing up for democracy!

Wayne County LWV Members Needed After the Election!

by Paula Bowman

There are November 4th elections in only some of our communities. The cities of Plymouth, Westland, Northville, and Livonia will hold elections and the townships of Sumpter and Van Buren, along with the City of Belleville will be voting on a school bond proposal.

On November 6, the Wayne County Board of Canvassers will begin their canvass of the election – checking results, poll worker entries, and other data points before they certify the election ([watch this 1-minute video to learn about our Boards of Canvassers](#)). The canvass is another “double check” that makes Michigan’s election system safe and secure.

This is the 6th year that the League of Women Voters of Michigan has organized LWV members to be observers at Michigan’s 83 County Boards of Canvassers. Observing in 2-hour shifts, this task is educational and requires no experience. If you can give 2 hours of your time between November 6 and November 17, we’d love to have you join the Wayne County team. [Here is a video of the training presentation held on October 20](#). If you can volunteer for a shift, sign up through “Sign Up Genius” on the LWV Only page of the state [League’s website](#). If you need the password, contact [Carrie](#) or [Paula Bowman](#). Thanks!



League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

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The Voter Editor

Anne Reilly

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.

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