

Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, Michigan

Welcome New Members!

Virginia Collins-Llope
Bijaya Hams
Deb Keegstra
Sandra Meador
James Mosteller
Jill Stern

LWVOA Board of Directors 2019-2020

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Tera Moon - Communication
3rd VICE PRESIDENT
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Geri Rinschler - Chair, Community
Engagement
Eva Packard - They Represent
You

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Debra Horner - Voter Guides
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Jerry Burden
Laura Gogola
Susan Liebetreu
Susan Learman

August is National Women's Suffrage Month

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed, protecting American women's right to vote.

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission worked with Congress to designate August 2020 as National Women's Suffrage Month. In the Senate, efforts were led by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), and garnered support by all 26 women of the U.S. Senate. In the House, Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (R-AZ) and Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), co-chairs of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus, led the sponsoring of the National Women's Suffrage Month resolution.

Visit [womensvote100.org](https://www.womensvote100.org) to learn more and explore:

- A virtual tour of the Rightfully Hers exhibit at the National Archives Museum in Washington, D.C.
- The papers of Susan B. Anthony courtesy of the Library of Congress
- Readings, videos and photos from [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org)



Vote from Home

All Michigan voters have the right to vote by mail for the November election by applying to receive an absentee ballot. If you are not registered to vote or not on the permanent absentee voter ballot list, visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.Michigan.gov/vote) to learn more.

Instead of placing applications and ballots in the mail, call your local clerk to determine if you can use a drop-off box or refer to this list of [current locations](#).

Volunteer to Write Vote By Mail Postcards

The LWVOA has printed Vote by Mail postcards and is asking all members to participate in a campaign. The cards have information about candidate forums, voter registration and Vote411.org. We are asking members to send cards to send to family, friends and acquaintances. We also hope members are willing to supply postage. 20 cards at \$.35 each is a total of \$7.00. This is an opportunity to promote voter engagement during the Covid-19 pandemic.



As the November election is approaching, pick-up/delivery of cards by members is available now with mailing targeted for the end of September.

Cards may be picked up at the home of Geri Rinschler, Jim Treharne or Jerry Burden. Arrangements may also be made for delivery.

Please [email](mailto:lwvoa@lvmi.org) or call (248-594-6602) LWVOA to participate.

Rejected absentee ballot numbers highlight need for legislative changes

According to Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State, the majority of disenfranchised voters in this month's statewide primary could easily have had their votes counted with small changes in law, preliminary data on rejected ballot numbers show. Of the approximately 10,600 rejected ballots, more than 8,600 (over 80 percent) were due to signature verification issues or late arrival – issues that could be fixed by bills already introduced in the state legislature.

“The data demonstrates that thousands of people who cast otherwise valid votes were not able to participate in the election solely because the Legislature failed to act ahead of the primary,” said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. “With turnout and absentee ballot numbers expected to double or even triple in November, we could be looking at tens of thousands of Michigan citizens disenfranchised if the legislature again fails to act.”

Benson has been vocal in her calls on the Michigan Legislature to take up a series of election reform bills that would provide additional support to clerks and voters ahead of the November election. These include:

- HB 5987 which would allow mailed ballots to count if postmarked by election day even if they arrive up to two days later
- HB 5991 which would require clerks to contact voters if the signature on an absentee ballot does not match the one on the voter's registration

Celebrate Women's Suffrage Achievements in Michigan

For other ideas on celebrating 100 years of women having the right to vote, visit:

- [Parade](http://ParadeMagazine.com) magazine for books, podcasts and other ways to remember history
- [The New York Times](http://TheNewYorkTimes.com) for a photo archive including black women who paved the way
- [Smithsonian Magazine](http://SmithsonianMagazine.com) for photos and details about Alice Paul

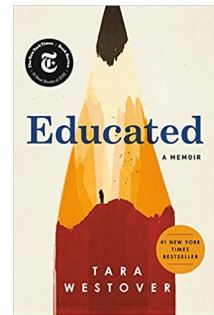
The LWVMI is promoting the following events on August 26:

- [Woman Suffrage: The West Came First](http://WomanSuffrageTheWestCameFirst.org) in partnership with the National Women's History Museum
- [Her Voice Her Vote: Celebrating 100 Years of the Women's Vote](http://HerVoiceHerVote.org) with the Michigan Women's Commission

Do you love to read and talk about books? Attend the LWVOA book club! This group reads books that connect to LWVOA's positions and other issues important to our organization. This is a great way to get to know your fellow League members.

Next book:

Educated, a Memoir by Tara Westover, Wednesday September 23 on Zoom.



In this book, Westover recounts overcoming her survivalist Mormon family in order to go to college, and emphasizes the importance of education in enlarging her world.

Upcoming meetings and books:

- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (TBD)
- *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan (TBD)

Email tlcmoon@gmail.com to join the discussion.

**Thank you
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League of Women Voters Oakland Area | league@lwvoa.org
248-594-6602 | www.lwvoa.org

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