



# The Leelanau VOTER

## February 2019

### From the President

Biases, we all have them. In fact they are a necessary part of human survival. They are learned and can be used to assess danger or potential threat. But these unconscious filters don't always serve our best interest as individuals or as a society. Only with awareness can we examine them for their usefulness in a given context.

Several brave souls, I refer to them as warriors, came together at our February forum to examine some of their own biases and perceptions and implications of privilege. Thank you to those of you who participated in the February forum and also to those who dedicated time and thoughtful consideration to the items before our County Commissioners this month.

Enjoy the February issue of the Leelanau Voter! Which lovingly details for you some of the many and diverse ways our members work together to support the mission of the League. This can be challenging, difficult and often emotionally charged work!

Plan to join us in March as we celebrate the many contributions of women in history. I hope this issue of the Voter leaves you feeling inspired, supported and empowered to carry on, changing lives for the better, making history along the way.

*In Service, Tricia Denton*

### Calendar

#### MARCH 2019

6 LWVLC Forum "Remembering Important Women Who Have Changed History That Time May Have Forgotten, But We Have Not" Lower Level Govt Center Noon

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FILMS ON PAGE 3

Kudos to our LWVLC ERA Committee for working to get these films at the theaters.

The monthly editions of LWVMI's LEAGUE LINKS are at LWVMI.org under Member Resources.

Follow LWVLC on FB at League of Women Voters Leelanau County.

Our monthly forums are taped and can be found at LWVLeelanau.org under Video Links.

Bring a friend to a LWVLC Forum!!

**Empowering Voters.  
Defending Democracy.  
Imagining a Democracy where  
every person has the desire, the  
right, the knowledge, and the  
confidence to participate**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy**

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

### **Advancing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Recognize White Privilege to Unlearn Racism**

At our February 6, 2019 public forum, 55 League members and guests gathered to better understand “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” by asking “What Is It and What Can I Do?” As the League of Women Voters celebrates the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage—won with ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920—this topic will be our national focus. Nationwide, DEI is our central mission as we advocate for voting rights, and against voter suppression.

President Tricia Denton noted “the 19th Amendment guaranteed nothing. Rather, it simply told States that being female could no longer be a reason to bar citizens from voting.” Denton reminded us that for many African-American women and Native American women who lived in States that blocked their voting rights, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment provides little cause to celebrate. They struggled another 45 years to win the vote, until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The idea of an inclusive electorate—widening the circle of participation in our democracy—has been challenged throughout American history, and that resistance continues today. For that reason, DEI—Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—will guide the League of Women Voters' policy and practice during our coming second century.

What can we do? How can we advance DEI? Guest speaker Jody Betten invited each of us to “do our own work” in order to unlearn racism in all its forms and to foster racial justice. That, she said, particularly for those who are “White”, requires that each of us better understands our privilege.

Betten shared stories from her work to advance inclusion, equity, and diversity. She grew up in Grand Rapids, graduated from Calvin College, and received a Masters' in Divinity from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. She has traveled to India and East Africa with the World Vision Relief and Development Organization to work among the poorest of the poor. She has taught in California, lived in the Black community south of Chicago, and currently serves a UCC church that is putting its 20 acres of property in Leelanau County in the service of the most vulnerable.

Betten explained that many well-intentioned White people seek additional awareness, knowledge, and skills to more effectively engage in cross-race relationships and anti-racism efforts. She leads workshops to enable their exploration of White privilege. During her presentation she shared ways for us to identify our stereotypes and implicit biases, and to become aware of the ways we have internalized and express racial superiority. For example, she invited us to “unpack” our Invisible Backpack of White Privilege, by exploring an exercise developed by Dr. Peggy McIntosh. McIntosh identified some of the daily effects of White privilege on her life—26 conditions she encountered in everyday life that her African-American co-workers, friends, and acquaintances cannot count on.

**More information on the LWV DEI policy and ever-developing practice:**

[Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) and [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion continued learning tools](#)

**More about the Invisible Backpack of White Privilege:**

<http://www.intergroupresources.com/rc/knapsack.pdf>

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ~~~~ MARCH FILMS AND FORUM

At the Bay Community Theater  
UNDERLYING THEME OF STRONG WOMEN

At the State Theater  
PIONEER WOMEN DIRECTORS  
IDA LUPINA, BARBARA LODEN, AND DOROTHY ARZNER

### State Theater

**March 6 at 10:30 AM**

**THE HITCHHIKER** Beyond its obvious cultural significance as the only classic film noir directed by a woman, actress Ida Lupino, *THE HITCH-HIKER* is perhaps better remembered as simply one of the most nightmarish motion pictures of the 1950s.

**March 13 at 10:30 AM**

**CHRISTOPHER STRONG** Scripted by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Zoe Akins and directed by Dorothy Arzner—the lone female auteur to gain a foothold in 1930s Hollywood—this fascinating pre-Code romance injects a strong dose of proto-feminism into its fatalistic proceedings.

**March 20 at 10:30 AM**

**WANDA** With her first and only feature film—a hard-luck drama she wrote, directed, and starred in—Barbara Loden turned in a groundbreaking work of American independent cinema, bringing to life a kind of character seldom seen on-screen.

More info at <https://www.stateandbijou.org>

**WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH**  
*Honoring the accomplishments of women.*

**JOIN US IN REMEMBERING  
IMPORTANT WOMEN WHO CHANGED  
HISTORY THAT TIME MAY HAVE  
FORGOTTEN, BUT WE HAVE NOT.**

The film "We Will Meet Again- The Fight for Women's Rights" will be shown, followed by discussion and sharing. Feel free to bring the name of an important woman who may have changed your life history.

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at Noon**  
Leelanau County Government Center  
Lower Level Meeting Room

The public is invited. Many bring a sack lunch.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF LEELANAU COUNTY

### Bay Community Theater

**March 1-4 (Fri to Mon) 4 days**

**Leave No Trace PG drama**

A father/ daughter story of a family living off the grid that gets caught up in the social services system. Several nominations/awards, including: Alliance of Women Film Journalists - Best breakthrough performance, Independent Film Fest of Boston - Best narrative feature

**March 5-9 (Tues to Sat) 5 days**

**Roma R drama**

A year in the life of a 1970's Mexico City, middle class family's maid. Multiple nominations/awards, including: 10 Oscar nominations; Another 166 wins & 162 nominations

**March 11-14 (Mon to Thurs) 4 days**

**On Her Shoulders**

**R documentary/biography Nadia** Murad, a 23-year-old Yazidi, survived genocide and sexual slavery committed by ISIS. Repeating her story to the world, this ordinary girl finds herself thrust onto the international stage as the voice of her people. Several nominations/awards, including: Camden International Film Festival - Best documentary feature Dokufest International Documentary & Short Film Festival - Human rights award National Board of Review USA - Freedom of expression award.

More info at <https://thebaytheatre.com/>

### LWVLC BOOK READ 2019

**The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote by Elaine Weiss (Also our LWVLC Annual Meeting Speaker!)**

discussion is set for April 11, 2018—time and place TBD. New LWVLC member, Tina Bevington, is selling *The Women's Hour* at her book shop, Bay Books, located near Martha's in Suttons Bay.

## LWVLC COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Early Childhood Needs and Service** most recently supported the formation of an early childhood study committee under the direction of Leelanau County's Bd. of Commissioners. The BOC approved the study committee on Feb. 19. This committee, composed of representatives of all aspects of early childhood services, including the LWVLC, is charged with reviewing current early childhood services in the county, determining any gaps and making recommendations for improvements by June.

ECN & S Committee members have also been learning what other counties and states are doing to improve their early childhood services with the goal of incorporating this knowledge into proposals for our county and state. We continue to meet with our state representatives to encourage bipartisan legislation aimed at improving birth to five services.

**ECN&S Committee has changed its regular meeting time to 2:00 pm on the 3rd Friday of each month in the Munnecke Rm. of the Leland Public Library.**

**NEXT MEETING: March 15at 2:00 PM. Join Us!**

**The Voter Service Committee:** Voter Service is moving ahead to register high school students in the County. Registrations are planned for the month of March. This is a fun, rewarding activity and more volunteers are welcome. We are also looking at new innovative ways to assist County Clerks in disseminating information about the new voting options available because of the adoption of Proposal 3. Shout out thank you to all the League members that worked to pass this Proposal! **NEXT MEETING: April 17th, 10AM, Conference Room #1, Government Center.**

### EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCACY (ERA) COMMITTEE:

#### March is Women's History Month FORUM

**"Remembering Important Women  
Who Have Changed History That  
Time May Have Forgotten,  
But We Have Not"**

**March 6 at noon at Govt Center.**

The 1 hour long film "We Will Meet Again- The Fight for Women's Rights" will be shown, followed by a short discussion. Feel free to bring the name of an important woman who may have changed your life history. The forum will be held in the lower level of the Leelanau Governmental Center. The public is welcome and many bring a sack lunch. An LWVLC business meeting will follow.

**Check out the poster to the right.**

**EXCITING PLANS FOR 2020!!!**

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday March  
13th at 11am. Governmental Center,  
conference room 1.**

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*Honoring the accomplishments of women.*

#### **We'll Meet Again: Singular Women in 2020**

To commemorate in 2020 the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving Women the Right to Vote

To elevate the Singular Women who have changed each of our lives

To celebrate our admiration and gratitude

**The Leelanau League of Women Voters invites your Story**

#### **You are invited...**

To reflect on the course of your own life

To celebrate a Singular Woman who (knowingly or otherwise) shaped your  
thought; clarified your view; altered your life course; uplifted your spirit;  
and/or inspired you to act

To share that story with your fellow Leaguers during Women's History Month  
one year from now in March 2020 when We Will Meet Again

#### **You are further invited...**

To express your Story using any genre of word, music, image, or artifact,  
rendered via any literary, visual, performing, applied, or decorative art or craft  
that best conveys its meaning.

Expressions of your Story might include interviews, memoirs, testimonials,  
poems, photos, videos, collages, songs, instrumental solos, sculpture, mobiles,  
paintings, quilts, weaving, jewelry, floral arrangements, ceramics, needlework,  
baking or any combination thereof.

**Start the Creative Juices for March 2020**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF LEELANAU COUNTY



## **Energy and Natural Resources Committee: Climate Disruption....What To Do???**

Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg and a *zillion* other young people know what needs to happen in order for them to have a crack at a future. She has already gotten her family to submit to a lifestyle that if adopted by others could have a significant impact toward correcting climate disruption. It's necessary for each of us to do what we can!

### **Which of these items or adaptations (which her family is trying to do) .....could YOU do?**

1. Go vegan. Buy local, organic food. Eat more plants less meat (reduce/eliminate your consumption of resource intensive and methane producing food sources)
2. Use a bicycle and/or an electric car for transport or use public transportation. (combine trips/carpool)
3. Abstain from airline travel.
4. Educate yourself and others around you about the serious threat of climate instability. Be a vocal/visible model for change.
5. Purchase LESS. Reuse and recycle, including food. Compost.
6. Grow gardens. Make them insect friendly by not using pesticides.
7. Insulate your house, go solar, and learn how to "live" in the climate you are in, thus avoid using air conditioning.
8. Plant native species. Use little to no fertilizers/pesticides on crops, thus restoring soil fertility by supporting healthy microbial activity that will consume CO2!

Modified from the Record Eagle Article on Climate Change by Nancy Kreek Allen (Global Chef Column) (Feb. 16, 2019), the Record Eagle

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:00 AM. Conference room #1 Govt Center.**

## **Concerned about your water?**

### **What are PFOAs and PFASs and could they be in your water?**

The Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) and the Clearwater Sierra Club are showing the **film The Devil We Know on Thursday, March 7**, at the Traverse City Library on Woodmere beginning at 6:30 PM. Following the movie will be a question and answer session about PFAS and its local implications, led by representatives of FLOW.

## **Farm Labor Task Force:**

Thanks to Barb Krause, the Farm Labor Task Force is following the progress of SB0045 in the State Senate. This bill, introduced by Senator Stephanie Chang, intends to provide equal language access to non-native speakers accessing state services. It fits beautifully with our position statement. The bill has been referred to Government Operations. Barb will get notification when this committee meets and what items are on the agenda. With Joan Hunault's coaching, Barb will ask the clerk of the committee to notify her when the bill comes up for discussion. Barb will also email Senator Chang about our interest in this bill. A Support/Oppose form can be filled out now, ready to go should the bill ever get a public hearing. It should be noted however, Government Operations is where the Senate Majority leader sends legislation that he does not want discussed. He is the one who will determine the fate of the bill. It is likely to languish in committee like the conditional driver's license we worked so hard on.

**NEXT MEETING: March 18 at 9:30 am at the Government Center.**

## Annual LWVLC Fund Campaign

The League of Women Voters Leelanau County Annual Fund Campaign will soon be underway. You will receive a letter from the President with information on how to donate. Only \$5 of your dues remains with our local League. The remainder is used for our Per Member Payments sent to LWVMI and LWVUS. We count on your financial support to effectively advocate and present high quality programs each month. Your gift may be made to the LWVLC General Fund, the tax-deductible LWVLC Education Fund and/or the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund, which encourages membership development and helps promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion through due assistance. If you wish to donate to the Vina Mikesell Fund, your gift will be so designated within the Education Fund. Just make a note on the card or the memo line of the check. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

**If you wish to contribute now, send your donations to  
LWVLC, P.O. Box P.O. Box 36, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653**

## LWVMI 2019 CONVENTION: MAY 17-19 IN LIVONIA

The League's 2019 Convention in Livonia will celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Michigan and the 100th anniversary of suffrage for Michigan women. The Convention promises to be informative, productive and fun. State Convention provides us with an opportunity to conduct important business of the state League as well as an opportunity to participate in workshops, learn more about the League and form and renew friendships with League members across the state.

Delegates will:

- Adopt the 2019 - 2021 state program, including any state studies
- Adopt the LWVMI budgets for the next two years, including the per-member-payment amount
- Elect LWVMI Officers and members of the Board of Directors
- Consider Amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws, if proposed

A detailed schedule of events, a registration packet and other Convention documents will be sent to all Leagues via future e-mailings. See more at [LWVMI.org](http://LWVMI.org)

**The LWVLC will be sending 9 voting delegates.  
All members are eligible to attend and we'd love to have you!  
Contact Tricia Denton if you are interested in attending.**

**Building on the  
First 100 Years**



## **The Legislative Session Ends**

The 99th Legislative Session ended with a bang. Lamé duck was one of the busiest in recent history. Nearly 400 bills were sent to Governor Snyder during lamé duck. Governor Snyder only vetoed 41 bills of the nearly 400 bills sent to him.

### **Some of the bills LWVMI opposed but that became law included:**

- 1) PA 359 of 2018—the new law on Line 5. Governor Whitmer has asked Attorney General Dana Nessel to review its constitutionality.
- 2) PA 368 of 2018—a new law that changed the minimum wage citizen-initiated law that the Legislature approved earlier.
- 3) PA 369 of 2018—a new law that changed sick leave citizen initiated law that the Legislature approved earlier.
- 4) PA 581 of 2018—a new law that changed standards for toxic waste cleanup.
- 5) PA 602 of 2018—the new law that bans state agencies from creating new regulations stricter than federal regulations unless there are “exceptional circumstances.”
- 6) PA 603-607—new laws that implement Proposal 3, the voting rights Constitutional Amendment.
- 7) PA 608 of 2018 - the new law that makes it harder to collect signatures for referendums and initiatives. Secretary of State Benson has asked Attorney General Nessel to review its constitutionality.
- 8) PA 631 of 2018—a new law that changes the protections for smaller wetlands.

### **Some of the bills LWVMI opposed that were vetoed by Governor Snyder included:**

- 1) HB 5095—a bill that would have allowed ballast waste discharge.
- 2) HB 6553—a bill that would have allowed the Legislature to intervene in certain lawsuits.
- 3) SB 1176—a bill that would have made it harder for the state to monitor millions of dollars in campaign contributions from nonprofit political advocacy groups.
- 4) SB 1249—a bill that would have changed the statute of limitations for campaign finance

## **Line 5 Opposition Continues, Much happened in the lamé duck session on Line 5**

The LWVMI as a member of and in conjunction with the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition worked diligently to express our opposition to the proposed Line 5 tunnel legislation. In spite of all our efforts, the lamé duck Legislature passed and now former Governor Snyder signed PA 359 of 2018 with immediate effect.

The new law created the Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority within the Michigan Department of Transportation to oversee construction of a tunnel beneath the lake bed to house Line 5. The authority has three members who were appointed by the former Governor. Enbridge signed the 99 year contract agreeing to construct the \$350-\$500 million tunnel at its own expense. However, a supplemental appropriations law states: “unexpended funds appropriated for the Mackinac Straits Infrastructure project to be considered a work project appropriation and carried forward.” Meaning the former administration already approved state funds to cover costs for the project that was touted to cost tax payers nothing. It is estimated that tunnel construction could take seven to 10 years, if built at all. Enbridge is not actually required to build the tunnel.

On her first day in office Governor Gretchen Whitmer requested a legal opinion from Attorney General Dana Nessel regarding the constitutionality of the recent Enbridge Line 5 pipeline legislation and the new Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority. The League believes the 66-year old pipeline should be shut down to avoid any risk to our Great Lakes and northern Michigan.

**The LWVLC Board decided not to speak at the two recent Board of Commissioner meetings on Sanctity of Life Resolutions introduced by Commissioner Bunek. Rather, we encouraged LWVLC members to attend and speak as individuals. Many did. The Resolutions did not pass. Below is LWVLC member Jan Frazee's forum piece that was published in the Enterprise on February 21<sup>st</sup>.**

I spoke against the "sanctity of life" resolution primarily because it is not county government business. The initial National Sanctity of Human Life Day resolution by President Reagan in 1983 called for people to gather in "HOMES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP to give thanks for the gift of life." There is ongoing debate on this large social issue. It simply is not a county government decision. As these are state and federal issues, Leelanau cannot legally become an "abortion free zone."

The meeting was also very disturbing for me as I have never been called "a murderer and full of hate." My 46-year career as a Women's Health/Reproductive Health Nurse Practitioner has been spent attempting to protect lives while increasing the quality of life for women, men, children, babies and fetuses. I have dedicated myself to helping couples prevent the need for abortion. It was painful to be judged by people who do not know me or the others who simply were stating that this resolution was not appropriate for county board action. Having a different view point does not make me hateful and does not warrant the charge of being a murderer.

Abortion is not a procedure any woman ever wishes to have. Quite honestly, no woman really knows her personal thoughts on abortion until she is faced with that difficult decision. I counseled women prominent in the "Right to Life" organization who opted to abort a pregnancy and "pro-choice" women who decided to continue a pregnancy. Real life decisions are much harder than hypothetical ones. No one can, nor should they try to make this decision for a woman who is pregnant; it is hers to make and then to live with. Education, affordable health care and access to all FDA approved birth control choices combined, reduce the need for an abortion.

All citizens and our youth should study, discuss and then take action on issues of importance to them. I feel the St. Mary's students were used as pawns in this clearly contentious issue. Will now the commissioners entertain additional certificates for students who engage in efforts to curb gun sales, address climate change, protect animals, and/or to tackle racial or gender discrimination?

Every citizen's right to free speech should be safeguarded during public comment. However, not every suggested topic should be placed on the county agenda. If a commissioner is approached by a citizen with a topic and a request made for a formal presentation outside of public comment, a connection to county business should be clear and then the contents should be previewed for accuracy. The accuracy of several of the points in the resolution was debatable, if not outright false. I expected better than that from the Commissioner who placed it on the agenda.

My hope is that in the future, our community members and the board can find civil, kind, open-minded paths to discussion on difficult, but relevant county matters and move beyond this issue at the county level.





**HAVE A CONCERN? WANT TO SAY THANKS?  
WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION?  
CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**

**President Donald Trump**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

**Senator Gary Peters**

724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-6221  
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

**Senator Debbie Stabenow**

731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-4822  
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact>

**US Representative Jack Bergman**

414 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-4735  
<https://bergman.house.gov/contact/>

**Governor Gretchen Whitmer**

P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
(517)-373-3400  
(517)-335-7858 - Constituent Services  
FAX: 517-335-6863

**State Senator Curt Vanderwall**

S-1385 House Office Bldg.  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517)373-0825  
[CurtVanderWall@house.mi.gov](mailto:CurtVanderWall@house.mi.gov)

**State Representative Jack O'Malley**

S-1385 House Office Bldg.  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517)373-0825  
[JackO'Malley@house.mi.gov](mailto:JackO'Malley@house.mi.gov)

**Attorney General Dana Nessel**

G. Mennen Williams Building  
525 W. Ottawa St.  
P.O. Box 30212 Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone (517)-373-1110  
[miag@michigan.gov](mailto:miag@michigan.gov)

**VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE**

Contacts for All Elected County Officials at  
[www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp](http://www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp)

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!**

**WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

**Kathy Bartell**

**Chris Moran**

**Linda and Tom Kalber**

**Susan Price**

**Kathleen Wainright**

**Welcome Returning Members**

**Nancy and Terry Flanagan**

**Pamela Smithbell**

**LWVLC Membership Form at**

[LWVLEELANAU.org/join\\_form.html](http://LWVLEELANAU.org/join_form.html)

**Send checks to**

**Nancy Duck, Treasurer**

**P.O. Box 992 Leland, MI 49654**

**Single Membership is \$60.**

**Household Membership is \$90.**

**Student Membership \$5.**

**Make your check out to LWVLC.**

**Dues assistance is available from  
The Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund.  
Contact Barb Marsh for an application  
[blmarsh@hotmail.com](mailto:blmarsh@hotmail.com)**

**We appreciate and value our members at  
any level they choose to participate, from  
considering their dues as a donation to  
support our causes, attending our forums,  
becoming a committee member, or working  
as a board member.**

**LWVLC BOARD 2018-2019**

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**



**Leelanau County**

**P.O. Box 36**

**Lake Leelanau, MI 49653**

**[LWVLeelanau@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLeelanau@gmail.com)**