

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

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### **Happy Birthday, League of Women Voters of Michigan!**

Did you know the LWVMI turns 100-years-old this year!? In 1919, Michigan women voted for the first time for statewide offices. On April 4, 1919, at the 33rd convention of the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association held in Grand Rapids, the members voted to become the Michigan League of Women Voters, an organization for women only. Belle Brotherton of Detroit was elected as its first president. The name change occurred barely one week after Carrie Catt Chapman, the President of the National American Women's Suffrage Association, called for the formation of such organizations. Chapman proposed creation of a League to continue the work of the suffrage organizations whose purpose would be to create an educated electorate.

At this year's May 17-19 state convention in Livonia, we will celebrate 100 years of providing information for all voters and advancing democracy. All members are encouraged to attend! Registration information is coming soon.

### **All Three Levels of League**

When you become a League member, your email address is given to the state and national levels of League. You should receive League Links from LWVMI about every month or so. You should also receive emails from LWVUS on a monthly basis. If you are not receiving these communications, please contact [Tera Moon](#).

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

**Learn about changes in voter registration** from Erica Peresman, an attorney, who served effectively on the Executive Committee for Promote The Vote.

Saturday, February 16 at 9:30 am  
Milford Township Public Library  
330 Family Drive, Milford, MI

If you have questions, feel free to contact Denise Tyler at [dlwtyler@gmail.com](mailto:dlwtyler@gmail.com) or 248-390-6439.

**Register new citizens to vote.** Volunteers are needed to help register voters at the

New Citizen Naturalization Ceremonies at the Levin Federal Courthouse in downtown Detroit. If you are interested, contact Betsy Cushman of the Dearborn-Dearborn Heights LWV at [betsy.cushman@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.cushman@gmail.com) or 313-565-5972/

## How They Did It: The Voters Not Politicians Story

**Tuesday, March 12 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Clinton-Macomb Public Library**  
**Auditorium**  
**40900 Romeo Plank**  
**Clinton Township, MI 48038**

The League of Women Voters, Macomb County is proud to sponsor an event featuring Katie Fahey, the founder of Voters Not Politicians. Learn how a grassroots organization was able to take on gerrymandering and put the power back in the hands of the people!

Katie Fahey, the founder and executive director of Voters Not Politicians will provide the rich details of how this grassroots, nonpartisan organization ran a successful effort to end gerrymandering in Michigan by amending the state Constitution with 61% of the vote.

Through this movement, Ms. Fahey hopes to show others that positive change can come directly from the people, and that voters across the political spectrum can reform the system, instead of settling for the status quo.

Students, teachers, marketing professionals and anyone interested in the democratic process should attend. Admission is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and pre-registration is encouraged at <https://vnp-story.eventbrite.com>.

Presented by the LWV Macomb County. Contact [lwwmacomb@gmail.com](mailto:lwwmacomb@gmail.com) with questions.

## Redistricting Lawsuit

In case you haven't seen the LWVMI League Links email, here's an update on the redistricting lawsuit.

We went to court!

LWVMI v Benson was heard by a panel of three federal judges at the US District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division. We were in court February 5 - 7th. Final documents have to be submitted by February 22. A ruling will come later.

We especially thank the lawyers for their dedicated work on our behalf, the many League members who testified, provided depositions and attended the hearings and all of the donors who made this possible!

If you want to read more details, please go to the [Brennan Center website](#).

And there are stories about the trial in Bridge Magazine:

- [Expert testifies gerrymandering in Michigan is worse than almost anywhere](#)
- [Ex-Democratic chief says Michigan gerrymandering scared off candidates](#)
- [Redistricting guru: Michigan's maps are legal, even if process was political](#)

## Save the Date for LWVOA's Annual Meeting

LWVOA's annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 8, 2019 at Farina's Banquet Center in Berkley, MI. Plans are underway to make it a great meeting.

WHAT: **LWVOA Annual Meeting**  
WHERE: **Farina's Banquet Center**  
**2485 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley, MI**  
**48072**

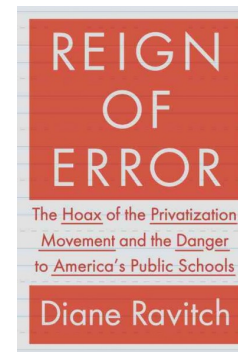
WHEN: **Saturday, June 8, 2019**  
Registration information is forthcoming.

# LWVOA Book Club

Do you love to read and talk about books as much as you love League? Join the LWVOA book club! This group is just getting started reading 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 meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2019 @ 7pm**

To discuss *Reign of error : the hoax of the privatization movement and the danger to America's public schools* by Diane Ravitch  
Panera Bread, 2508 S Adams Rd, Rochester Hills, MI 48309



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## General Membership Information

LWVOA dues are \$65 per year and payable at [LWVOA.org](#) or by sending a check to the LWVOA office at 725 S. Adams Rd, Suite L-144, Birmingham, MI 48009. The LWVOA dues year runs from July 1 through June 30.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 @ 9:30 AM**

Learn about voter registration  
Milford Township Public Library, 330 Family Drive, Milford, MI

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12 @ 7:00 PM** How They Did It: The Voters Not Politicians Story  
Clinton-Macomb Public Library Auditorium, 40900 Romeo Plank, Clinton Township, MI 48038

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 4 @ 7:00 PM**

Book Club discusses *Reign of Error: the hoax of the privatization movement and the danger to America's public schools* by Diane Ravitch  
2508 S Adams Rd, Rochester Hills, MI 48309

### **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 17-19**

LWVMI State Convention, Embassy Suites, Livonia;  
Saturday Banquet speaker: Elaine Weiss, author of "*The Woman's Hour -- The Great Fight to Win to Vote*"; more information forthcoming

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 8** Annual Meeting

Farina's, 2485 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley, MI 48072

**Thank you  
to our  
sponsors**



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