

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DETROIT

(THE VOTER)

## MARCH 2021 – APRIL 2021

### Sunshine Week in Michigan

Is Michigan still 50<sup>th</sup> in our 50 states for lack of transparency? We were in 2015. We may well be still. Our governor and the legislature are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act requirements and neither is required to disclose finances, 2 major problems the SOS has two proposals to fix.

Information about the League's role in working on transparency can be found at <https://lwvmi.org/documents/CitizensRightToKnowPosit2021.pdf>



# Happy Spring!

## MARCH

- March 20, 10:00am – **Membership Mt.** on Zoom
- March 27, 11:00am -12:00 -**Women's Informal Network, Women's History Month Celebration**, honoring "The Most Influential African American Women in Metropolitan Detroit." Rhonda Craig, LWV Detroit President, is the keynote speaker, speaking on Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced.

## APRIL

- April 8, 6:00pm-**Redistricting Commission**, AKA Sorority, Tau Alpha Omega Chapter and the LWV Detroit
- April 13, 6:00pm – **Navigating Disinformation**, Nora Benevidez, Pen America sponsored by the Detroit Public Library and the LWV Detroit on Zoom
- April 17, 10:00am – **April League Membership Meeting** on Zoom.

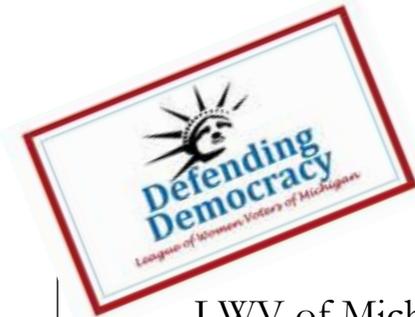
**Report on the study by the Detroit League on Lame Duck – general sense of the group. We had a study committee that read and condensed the material. They made a presentation to membership which included the power point. We took the entire time of the meeting to discuss the issue. 20 members participated in the discussion and we polled the members at the end of the presentation.**

- ✓ **Yes**, public hearings, along with the ability for public comment, should be scheduled before the enactment of any legislation.  
*Comment: You get better legislation if there is input from all parties. Not to allow public hearings would invite "sneaky" behavior.*
- ✓ **Yes**, all bills should be published and available to the public for a reasonable period before a vote.  
*Comment: Unless the bill is deemed a true emergency matter. There should be at least 5 days for review before the vote unless there is a good reason.*
- ✓ **No**, legislative leaders should not be allowed to substitute vehicle bills, thus avoiding both the constitutionally required five-day layover rule imposed on new bills, and the customary public hearing in committee.
- ✓ **Yes**, a supermajority of 2/3 of those elected and serving be necessary to pass a bill in a Lame Duck Session?  
*Comment: No if other safeguards are imposed. This would be a stop gap measure ending termination of the Lame Duck Session.*
- ✓ **Yes**, support the elimination of Lame Duck sessions if a constitutional amendment were required.  
*Comment: Need to also address the issue of what business can be handled during an emergency and what constitutes an emergency. We could also support a measure that will have newly elected officials installed immediately. We should go "all in" if we support elimination of Lame Duck.*
- ✓ **Yes**, the Legislature should be prohibited from adopting a citizen-initiative ballot proposal before the election, thus keeping the proposed citizen-initiated law off the ballot, only to amend that law during the Lame Duck session after the election in ways that alter the petition circulators' original intent.  
*Comment: Overwhelming Yes*

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## CONTINUED LAME DUCK REPORT

- ✓ **Yes**, would support a rule that the bi-partisan Quadrant meet, before the November election, to compile a list of pending bills that may be addressed during a Lame Duck session.  
*Comment: This rule should be more specific as to time frame (how many days before election) and how the list would be compiled.*
- ✓ **Not Surprised**, was the rank of the level of surprise at learning that both parties have used Lame Duck sessions to pass legislation.



### LWV of Michigan Convention May 21-22

The theme is **Defending Democracy**. The virtual biennial convention will run from 6:30pm Friday night, May 21 – through 5:00 pm on Saturday, May 22.

We have 4 voting delegates although all members are invited to attend. The cost will be \$35 per person for non-voting members.

Registration deadline is May 10. [Click here for the registration link.](#)

- Permit universal redemption, allowing consumers to take any recyclable bottle to a large store while allowing smaller stores to maintain smaller takebacks.
- Create a bottle handling fund to reimburse distributors and dealers on a per-bottle-basis.
- Make funding available for audits and fraud enforcement.
- Provide \$25 million each year to address contaminated sites.

### World-Wide Water Day – March 22

“World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance day held on 22 March that highlights the importance of fresh water sponsored by the United Nations”! Although March 22 has already passed, please consider finding out about the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition, 21 organizations of which the League is a member, to address the issues of Enbridge's pipelines and the Great Lakes.

The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government; works to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is strictly nonpartisan meaning we neither endorse nor oppose candidates or political parties. Membership is open to men and women that are of at least 16 years of age.

## Earth Day April 22

“Restore Our Earth”



The LWV Michigan newsletter states “A whole slew of public and environmental issues are threatening Michigan and its residents that legislators need to address.” A number of organizations including the LWVMI have developed this Environmental Roadmap. Celebrate Earth Day by taking on one of these issues and write or call your legislators about its importance.

[Click here to see the 2019-2022 Environmental Roadmap.](#)

New bottle bill expansion has been introduced in the Michigan legislature.

It would expand the state's current 10-cent deposit certain soft drinks, beer, and other carbonated beverages to all other non-carbonated beverages, except for milk containers. **It would also:**