



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DETROIT (THE VOTER)

MAY 2021 – JUNE 2021

State LWV virtual Biennial Convention

Hello Members and Friends,

By now you should know that the State convention will be held on May 21st and 22nd. This is a particularly important convention since important issues for us and our nation will be addressed. The two most relevant ones in my mind are the Nation Popular Vote campaign and the LWV position on restructuring the Criminal Justice System (The California LWV has made a very popular statement regarding that position). I urge you to attend the convention. In addition to hearing about the proposals and positions, you can learn more about how the league works. There will be workshops about various other programs we engage in, numerous tips about fundraising, marketing, local league issues and shared success stories from other leagues in Michigan. The convention is not only informative but entertaining as well and well worth your time.

Rhonda Craig
President, LWV Detroit



MAY

- May 20, 5:30 – 8:00 pm – Women Lawyers Wayne Annual Meeting, **Her Voice, Her Vote**, panelists including Rhonda Craig and SOS Jocelyn Benson. Registration, \$5 at <https://wlamwayneannualmeeting.eventbrite.com>
- May 21, 6:30 – 8:45 pm & May 22, 9:00 – 4:30pm **State Virtual LWV Biennial Convention** on Zoom. Registration is now closed.
- May 26, 6:30- 8:00pm, Citizen Detroit in partnership with the League and others, **“American Democracy and the Capitol Insurrection.”** <https://citizendetroit.z2systems.com/np/clients/citizendetroit/eventRegistration.jsp?event=150&> to register by noon, May 26.

JUNE

- June 15, 6:00 -7:30pm, **“The Detroit Police Commission in the Revised City Charter”** webinar by DPL and LWV Detroit. Register at <https://dpl-detroit-police-commission.eventbrite.com>
- June 18-June 20, **Aspire Ng Juneteenth Celebration**, LWV providing voter education. More info in the future.
- June 19, 10:00 am –**DWV Detroit Annual Meeting** on Zoom, open to all. Link to be sent a week ahead.

Put on your Calendar:

In partnership with Redford AKA Sorority and the Detroit Delta Sorority, the LWV Detroit will host the following candidate forums at 6:00pm on Zoom: (link to register will be sent soon)

- * July 19, Hamtramck Mayor
- * July 22, Detroit City Clerk and City Council At Large
- * July 27, Detroit Mayor

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.

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May Membership Meeting

At our May Membership Meeting, we had a speaker, Theresa Rich, from the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan. She serves on their Advisory Board, was a Girl Scout as a girl and then was reintroduced when the Girl Scouts nominated her for their One Tough Cookie award! She was accompanied by Ashley Dandridge, a staff member of Girl Scouts.

As a spokesperson for the Girl Scouts, she talked about the leadership program for girls, about the 4200 girls in 8 counties of Southeastern Michigan who are part of the Girl Scouts Empowerment Program and identified well-known examples of women who had been part of Scouting as girls. Although girls earn badges in many different ways, there is also a “gold award” program that provides an opportunity for girls to take on a sustainable and important project in their communities, from idea, design, fundraising, government approval if needed, to implementing and documenting it. Ms. Rich told us about 3 girls whose projects each made a difference. One developed a curriculum for drivers training classes to include information about the State organ donor program that was then shared with 84,000 Michigan students. Another project addressed suicide prevention in elementary schools, and a third, “A Badge in a Box”, helped girls continue their work on badges under Covid limitations. When Ms. Rich was asked how we might work together, she said that we could host a badge workshop as one idea. Rhonda Craig suggested that we would welcome having a Girl Scout speak to us as well. Several members suggested that they would be willing to consider more personal ways to help the Scouts in Detroit make sure that their members could get to scheduled activities as one possibility. This presentation highlighted the possibilities of collaborating as part of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work.

Recommended LWVMI Program 2021-2022 -

*to be voted on at the Convention, the LWV California Criminal Justice position which is proposed for Michigan by the Midland League. *2/3 vote for approval required.

Position in Brief

LWV California supports:

- Criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and fosters trust between police and community.
- Elimination of systemic bias, disproportionate policing and incarceration.
- Policing practices that promote safety for law enforcement and communities served.
- Collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system.
- Focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation for successful reentry.
- Reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies.

The Michigan League currently has the Michigan Prison position which addresses the Michigan criminal justice system but cannot be applied to County jails (which the California position if approved will address).

The complete information on the California position paper and the Michigan Prison position was sent to our membership in April. If request to be sent again, please contact us at LWVdetroit@gmail.com.

Volunteer opportunity!

Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission needs our HELP!

Two ways to assist. One is by helping to identify **Communities of Interests**. The League can help you prepare to present your ideas on this or other issues related to how the maps are to be drawn by contacting us at LWVdetroit@gmail.com. or call 313-288-9590.

The second way to assist is to join other League members at one of the **two public hearings** in Detroit, June 15 and June 17 to serve as **greeters and at the registration table**. There are 2 shifts the first evening and 3 shifts the second evening beginning at 4:30pm June 15 and 3:30pm June 17 for 2- or 2.5-hour shifts. Covid precautions including masks required. Documents to sign up to help and information about the hearings were sent last week. Or contact the League to find out more or to volunteer at LWVdetroit@gmail.com or call 313-288-9998.