



The VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Copresidents Message



Friends and Colleagues,

As the end of the year nears, our minds are on collecting League data to report the activities, events, education, and support we have provided in 2023. One such data point is the number of Detroit League members who have worked the polls this year.

If you volunteered your time at the polls in any capacity for any 2023 election, we want to know!

Please email us at lvwdetroit@gmail.com (use the subject line: *Poll Work 2023*) or call the LWV Detroit office at 313-288-9590 and leave a voicemail telling us what elections you worked on and your roles within each. Local Leagues across the state will pool this information for the National League (LWVUS). ***Let's be sure Detroit is represented.***

Also, while Detroit did not have a November 7 election, many of our members live in cities/townships that did. We also know several cities/townships are piloting early voting...the first *ever* in Michigan.

If you took advantage of the unique opportunity to vote early in your city or township, please send us your story. For example, we want to hear how early voting allowed you to vote on the weekend before Election Day, prevented you from having to take time off work, or wait in long lines. **If you have a positive story about early voting, we want to hear it!**

Please email us at lvwdetroit@gmail.com (use the subject line: *Early Voting 2023*) or call the LWV Detroit office at 313-288-9590 and tell us your story via voicemail.

The League of Women Voter's vision of a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate continues. We hope you will join us in creating a more perfect democracy...because democracy is not a spectator sport.

Deborah Bunkley & Sara Weertz
LWV Detroit Copresidents

Take Note!



Happy Birthday VOTE411!

On October 27, 2023, the League of Women Voters celebrated the 17th anniversary of [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), LWV's one-stop shop for nonpartisan, personalized election information.

Since launching in 2006, Vote411 has provided trusted voting information to millions of voters across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. And in those 17 years, VOTE411 empowered millions of voters to register and cast their ballots. It hosted information on hundreds of thousands of elections in both English and Spanish. It even earned shoutouts from John Oliver, Cyndi Lauper, and Rosario Dawson.

Every election is important, but in an age of disinformation, the League plays an increasingly critical role in delivering factual and objective information to voters. Take a peek at some of VOTE411's features:

- Make a voting plan
- See what's on your ballot
- Check your voter registration
- Find your polling place
- Discover upcoming debates

Thank you for helping us ensure that every voter can make their voices heard. It's more important than ever that you and your loved ones have the information you need to shape our democracy. Here's to another 17+ years!

The 2024 primaries are around the corner! Voting is your chance to stand up for what matters most to you. Head over to [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to [check your registration](#) and ensure you're ready to vote in 2024.

Read the LWVUS [VOTE411's Greatest Moments](#) blog!



November is National Native American Heritage Month

The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted on July 9, 1868, as one of the Reconstruction Amendments. Usually considered one of the most consequential amendments, it addresses citizenship rights and equal protection under the law. It was proposed in response to issues related to formerly enslaved Americans following the American Civil War.

The amendment was bitterly contested, particularly by the states of the defeated Confederacy, which were forced to ratify it to regain representation in Congress.

The amendment, particularly its first section, is one of the most litigated parts of the Constitution, forming the basis for landmark Supreme Court decisions such as *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) regarding racial segregation, *Roe v. Wade* (1973) regarding abortion (overturned in 2022), *Bush v. Gore* (2000) regarding the 2000 presidential election, and *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) regarding same-sex marriage.

What started as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S. has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month."

For more information on the difficulties Native Americans have faced in voting since the passage of the 14th Amendment, visit [A History of Native Voting Rights](#).

November Events



Last Day of Early Voting

If you live in a municipality or township piloting early voting in Michigan, November 5 was the last day to vote early before Election Day on November 7.

[Click here for information on early voting in Michigan.](#)

For info on the difference between early and absentee voting, click [HERE](#).

Election Hero Day

On November 6, we recognize the immense importance and work of election administration teams, poll workers, and more nationwide.



Election workers and volunteers have a tough job. These critical members of our communities work hard to ensure that voters can cast their ballots safely and successfully in 2023 ☐ often working upwards of 20-hour days to make this election possible. Whether a first-time volunteer at a polling location or a long-time election worker, the Detroit League joins our communities of Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park to celebrate our election heroes. Thank you!

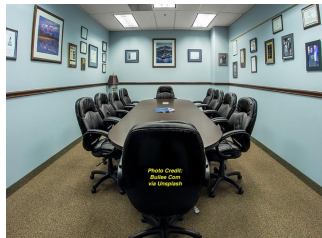
[Click HERE for more info on Election Hero Day.](#)

November 7 is Election Day

The polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm on November 7, Election Day.



Find out what races are happening in your neck of the woods, if you need to register with a new address, or where your polling place is with VOTE411.org.



LWV Detroit November Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 7, 2023 @ 6 pm

The LWV Detroit Board will meet on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6 pm via Zoom.

Our Board meetings are open to the public. If you want to attend, please contact us at lwvdetroit@gmail.com or 313-288-9590 for the Zoom link.

November 11 is Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.



In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as “the Great War.”

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11 became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

[For more information on Veterans Day, read this blog from the League of Women Voters of Pasadena Area.](#)

MI's Sunshine Laws: Your Right to Know ☐ Monday,

November 13, 2023 (7-8:30pm) at the GP War Memorial

What can you do if you believe a local city council or school board isn't abiding by the state's Open Meetings Act? What public records are available to you, and how do you obtain them?

Michigan's "Sunshine Laws" – the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – were designed to make government processes and information more open to the public, and citizens use them every day to ensure transparency.

At this program, you'll learn about which bodies are subject to these laws, how to file a FOIA request for records owned by the public, and steps you can take if you believe a local government body has violated the OMA.

Attendance is FREE and open to all, but we ask that you register (using the red button below) and submit your questions in advance.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – 11/9/23.

Sponsored by the [League of Women Voters of Detroit](#), [League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods](#), and the [Grosse Pointe War Memorial](#).

If you require accommodations or need more information, please contact us at lwgrossepointe@gmail.com.


Register Here

**MONDAY, 11/13
@ 7:00 PM**


**Grosse Pointe
War Memorial**
32 Lake Shore Dr
Grosse Pointe Farms

This event is FREE and open to all, but we ask that you register and submit questions in advance.

To Register, Visit:
<https://sunshineLaws.eventbrite.com>

 **SUNSHINE
LAWS**
YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

At this program, you'll learn which bodies are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), how to file a FOIA request for records owned by the public, and steps to take if you believe a local government body has violated the Open Meetings Act (OMA).

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GROSSE POINTE

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT:
*How Michigan's
Sunshine Laws
Impact Your Civil Liberties*



What can you do if you believe a local city council or school board isn't abiding by the state's Open Meetings Act?

What public records are available to you, and how do you obtain them using the Freedom of Information Act?

For more information or to request accommodations, please contact: lwgrossepointe@gmail.com

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF DETROIT

FREE WEBINAR TWO SESSIONS

**Productive conversations
without confrontation**

In partnership with

 NATIONAL INSTITUTE
for CIVIL DISCOURSE

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
EDUCATION FUND



**News
Literacy
Project**

**National Literacy Project Webinar:
Productive Conversations without Confrontation
November 16 @ 7pm**

How do you respond when a friend or loved one shares a viral hoax, fabricated

photo, or conspiracy theory?

With the holiday season and a presidential election approaching, we can expect rumors, falsehoods, and heated debates. Fortunately, we have opportunities within our networks to build understanding and trust in our democracy.

The [News Literacy Project](#) is teaming up with the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) and the [League of Women Voters](#) to host *Productive Conversations Without Confrontation*, a webinar offering strategies for productive, civil conversations – especially when discussing misinformation.

Experts from the three organizations will discuss how and why misinformation manipulates emotions and exploits biases. They will provide strategies for civil conversation, offer resources to help you productively debunk falsehoods, and discuss ways to help your community find reliable election information.

[Click here to register.](#)



LWV Detroit Membership Meeting November 18 @ 10am

Please join LWV Detroit for this month's *hybrid membership meeting* on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 10 am, when our very own Roberta Deering will discuss the **AxeMITax** proposal.

Possible measures in discussion could change the tax codes in Detroit and Michigan.

One such proposal, AxeMITax, involves a potential ballot initiative. Roberta Deering will present information on AxeMITax, which seeks to eliminate property taxes.

Learn about the various elements of AxeMITax, where this proposal is in the initiative process, and what some of the implications could be if it were to get on the ballot and be approved by voters.

NOTE: THE NOVEMBER MEETING IS HYBRID!

Meet at our new location:
U of M Detroit Center □3663 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48201
(see map below)

OR

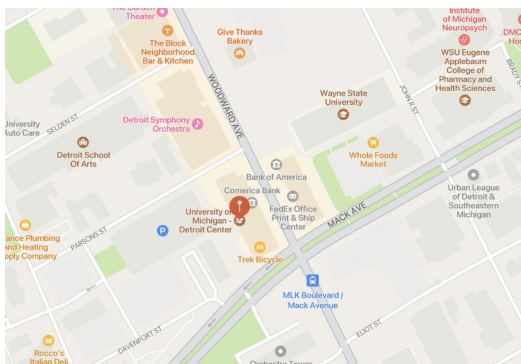
Join us online!
Click the purple button below to register. The Zoom link will be emailed to registrants.

NOTE: You need not be a member to attend our membership meetings. Have questions about LWV Detroit membership? Don't hesitate to contact our Membership Chair, Esha Price (313-288-9095 or lwwdetroit@gmail.com). Or, better

yet, just show up. Either way, we will look forward to seeing you!

FMI about LWV Detroit, visit <https://lwwdetroit.org/>

REGISTER HERE FOR ZOOM LINK



U of M Detroit Center is at the corner of Woodward and Parson St (across from Orchestra Hall). If you park in the DSO Parking Structure (off Parsons), bring your parking ticket to the Front Desk, and the Detroit Center will validate your parking.

Membership Renewal Time

Membership renewal with the Detroit League of Women Voters will end soon, but there's still time!

Please renew your membership and share this notice with others to join!

Being a member of the Detroit League is one of the best ways to get involved in your community and play an active role in our democracy. Detroit League dues for 2023-2024 are as follows:

- **Individual membership: \$60**
- **Adding 2nd membership/same household: \$30**
- **2 Memberships/same household: \$90**
- **Student Membership: FREE**



TO PAY DUES ONLINE, CLICK HERE. GO TO "JOIN OR RENEW" AND COMPLETE THE

ONLINE FORM

**TO PAY DUES WITH A CHECK, CLICK HERE.
PRINT OUT THE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND
MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK**

**FOR STUDENTS: CLICK HERE. PRINT OUT THE
MEMBERSHIP FORM AND MAIL IT**



Interested in Donating?

Thank you in advance for your interest in supporting LWV Detroit. Click the red button below for several ways to donate.

**Give to LWV
Detroit**

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER!

Help spread the word about the
League of Women Voters of Detroit.



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy and education. The League neither endorses nor opposes candidates or political parties. Membership is open to men and women at least 16 years of age.



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