



The VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Copresidents Message



Friends and Colleagues,

The days may be getting shorter, but our Fall calendar of events is filling up faster than the falling autumn leaves.

Read on for info about the September election-related events, particularly our *hybrid* membership meeting at the beautiful U of M Detroit Center on Woodward in Midtown (and online!). This month we will host Senator

Stephanie Chang (and in October, Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie).

Disability Voting Rights Week is September 11-15, highlighting the impediments that inhibit people with disabilities from accessing the polls. The League is committed to ongoing work to support voters with disabilities and ensure disabled voters across the country are registered, ready to vote, and have access to the ballot box.

September 19 is National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy, with organizations nationwide forming a coordinated effort to register eligible voters in preparation for Election Day. About 2000 civic organizations around the country, including the League of Women Voters, helped launch the first National Voter Registration Day in 2012.

Lastly, it's membership renewal time. See below for links to the online membership webpage and offline membership form. Remember, student memberships are free! Don't miss the note about our membership lottery. One lucky member will get their dues returned.

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

Photo Insert: LWV Detroit Copresidents Deborah Bunkley (left) and Sara Weertz at the USGLC Heartland Summit (Detroit, Book Cadillac, June 2023).

September Events

Disability Voting Rights Week

Join us September 11-15, 2023 to make sure disabled voters in your community are registered and ready to vote.

Disability Voting Rights Week

☐ September 11 to 15, 2023

There are over 38 million people with disabilities who are eligible to vote, but barriers keep many disabled voters from accessing their right to the ballot box.

Disability Voting Rights Week (DVRW) is September 11 to 15, 2023

☐ a national, nonpartisan initiative to build the power and presence of the disability vote. This initiative is led by the **American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) REV UP Voting Campaign**.

The Detroit League knows our voting system works best when all our voices are heard, and we are committed to working with **Detroit Disability Power** and others to ensure that voters with disabilities have fair and equal access to the ballot box.

To learn more about Disability Voting Rights Week and how to get involved, click **[HERE](#)**.



Detroit Library/Detroit League Forum: *Democratic Elections and the Independent State Legislature Theory*

□ **Tuesday, September 12 @ 6 pm**

The Detroit Library/Detroit League March program presenting **Dr. Evan Caminker**, Dean Emeritus and Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School, was postponed when North Carolina's Supreme Court re-addressed a controversial legal independent state legislature theory after the party balance changed.

The US Supreme Court surprised many by deciding the issue on June 27, 2023.

Dr. Caminker will join us on Tuesday, September 12 (6 to 7:30 pm) to address the original questions and the implications of the court's decision.

To register for this virtual event, click the purple button below. A Zoom link will be sent to registrants before the program.

This event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Detroit and the Detroit Public Library partnering in talks promoting voter education and tools for action.

Photo Credit: Ian Hutchinson via Unsplash.

[**Register Here**](#)

**LWV Detroit September
Membership Meeting
Guest Speaker: Senator
Stephanie Chang**



Please join the Detroit League for this month's hybrid membership meeting on Saturday, September 16, 2023 (10-11:30am), when **Senator Stephanie Chang** will be our guest speaker.

Opportunity, access, equity, justice, and service drive Senator Stephanie Chang, the first Asian American woman elected to the Michigan legislature. She worked as a community organizer in Detroit for nearly a decade before serving two terms in the Michigan House of

Representatives and then as the Democratic Floor Leader for her first term in the Senate. She is currently serving her second term in the Michigan Senate and is the Senate Democratic Policy and Steering Chair.

NOTE: THE SEPTEMBER 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, at 313-288-9095 or lwvdetroit@gmail.com or just show up. We look forward to meeting you!

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

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE MEETING

U of M Detroit Center is at the corner of Woodward and Parsons 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.

Voter Registration @ The Pope Francis Center

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 from 9-11am, LWV Detroit will hold a voter registration and voter education event at **The Pope Francis Center** located at 438 Saint Antoine St, Detroit, MI 48226.

To register to vote, you must have one of the following:

- State ID or driver's license
- Know the last four digits of your social security number
- Other identifying information such as a government check, bill, etc.

Even if you're already registered, stop by our table to receive information regarding new legislation on early voting, drop boxes, absentee ballots, and more.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF DETROIT
**VOTER
REGISTRATION DRIVE**

Tuesday, September 19, 9 am - 11 am

Candy, snacks and more goodies!
The Pope Francis Center
438 St. Antoine, Detroit, MI 48226

What to expect

Please bring state ID if you have it . . .

Or, have the last 4 digits of your SSN or other identifying info (gov't check, bill, etc.)

TAKE ACTION: VOTE!

Email your questions to the League of Women Voters - Detroit: lwdetroit@gmail.com. Visit us online at lwdetroit.org.



National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, September 19, 2023

National Voter Registration Day is the country's largest single-day voter registration drive.

The Detroit League is working to ensure every eligible citizen is registered to vote ahead of this year's state and local elections. That is why we have signed on as a partner with National Voter Registration Day.

National Voter Registration Day is a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy. It has quickly gained momentum since it was first observed in 2012, with more than 5 million voters registered to

vote on the holiday. Celebrated every September, National Voter Registration Day involves volunteers and organizations nationwide hitting the streets in a single day of coordinated field, technology, and media efforts.

According to U.S. Census data from 2020, as many as 1 in 4 eligible Americans are not registered to vote. Every year, millions of Americans cannot vote because they miss a registration deadline, don't update their registration, or aren't sure how to register. National Voter Registration Day efforts are designed to ensure every eligible voter can vote, creating broad awareness of voter registration opportunities to reach tens of thousands of voters who may not register otherwise.

How to observe National Voter Registration Day: If your right to vote means anything to you, ensure you are registered. Do you need to update your address or review your polling location? Check your voter registration status and look up your local clerk information using the League's [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Learn about your voter rights and requirements. A lot has changed with Prop 22-2! For example, did you know you can vote with an absent ballot? For answers to all your questions, visit our [Voter Education webpage](#).

Make your vote count!

For more information on National Voter Registration Day, click [HERE](#).

MI Clean Energy Future Day of Action

Join the League for the MI Clean Energy Future Day of Action: on September 26, 2023 (9am - 5pm) at the Michigan Capital (100 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933).

Join the MI Clean Energy Future Day of Action at the State Capitol!

This climate rally and festival will include music, guest speakers, and opportunities to speak directly to your legislators! RSVP today.

[RSVP here!](#)

SAVE THE DATE
9/26/23 • 9 AM - 5 PM

MI CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE DAY OF ACTION

LEGISLATOR ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION
CLIMATE RALLY + FESTIVAL
DYNAMIC GUEST SPEAKERS
AND MORE

Organized by
MICHIGAN ENERGY
MICHIGAN JOBS

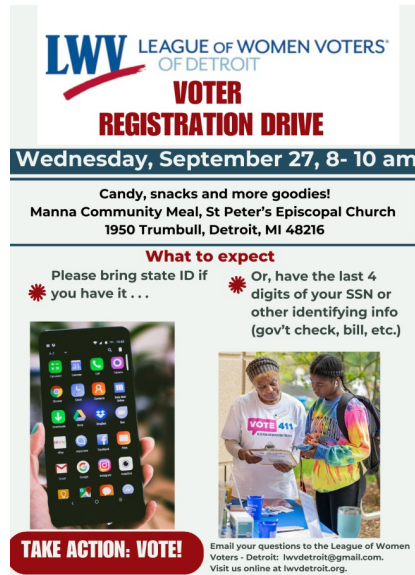
Register @ bit.ly/MIenergydayofaction

LWVMI is a Michigan Energy Michigan Jobs Coalition member. Join the League for a full day of action, starting with a legislative briefing, climate rally and festival, dynamic guest speakers, live music, food, a press conference, and direct engagement with our state legislators, who will meet with constituents throughout the day. Festivities will take place on the lawn of the MI State Capitol.

To register and for more information, [CLICK HERE](#). League members

should also notify [Sandy Sorini-Elser](#) if they plan to attend.

The host of this event, **Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs**, is a statewide coalition focused on transitioning our state to 100% clean energy, leading to more good-paying jobs that don't require a college degree, cleaner air for the communities most impacted by pollution, and more affordable electricity for Michigan families.



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DETROIT
VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE
Wednesday, September 27, 8- 10 am

Candy, snacks and more goodies!
Manna Community Meal, St Peter's Episcopal Church
1950 Trumbull, Detroit, MI 48216

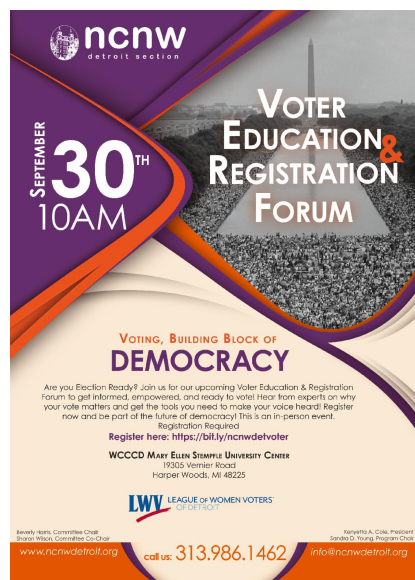
What to expect
Please bring state ID if you have it... Or, have the last 4 digits of your SSN or other identifying info (gov't check, bill, etc.)

TAKE ACTION. VOTE!

Small text at bottom: Email your questions to the League of Women Voters - Detroit: lwvdetroit@gmail.com. Visit us online at lwvdetroit.org.

Voter Registration Drive @ Manna Community Meal Soup Kitchen

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 (8-10am),
LWV Detroit will hold a voter registration and voter education event at **Manna Community Meal Soup Kitchen** - St Peter's Episcopal Church at 1950 Trumbull, Detroit, MI 48216.



ncnw detroit section

SEPTEMBER 30TH 10AM

VOTER EDUCATION & REGISTRATION FORUM

VOTING, BUILDING BLOCK OF DEMOCRACY

Are you Election Ready? Join us for our upcoming Voter Education & Registration Forum to get informed, empowered, and ready to vote! Hear from experts on why your vote matters and get the tools you need to make your voice heard! Register now and be part of the future of democracy! This is an in-person event.
Registration Required

Register here: <https://bit.ly/ncnwdetvoter>

WCCCD Mary Ellen Stevens University Center
19305 Vernier Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DETROIT

Small text at bottom: Events/Hours Committee Chair: Beverly Harris, Committee Chair: Beverly Harris, Committee Chair: Beverly Harris. Call us: 313.986.1462. info@ncnwdetroit.org

Voter Education & Registration Forum: *Voting, Building Block of Democracy*

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) – Detroit Section has invited the Detroit League of Women Voters to participate in an informative voter education/registration event to promote voter registration and encourage eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote. The theme of the forum is *Voting: Building Block of Democracy*. See details below.

Attendees will learn about the voter registration process, new legislation, the importance of voting, and how to make informed decisions when casting your vote. Whether you're a first-time voter or looking to refresh your knowledge of voting rights, this event is for you.

This event is free, but seating is limited. Please register in advance using the red NCNW Registration button below. Your ticket will be emailed to you.

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: [WCCCD Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center](#), 19305 Vernier Rd, Harper Woods, MI 48225

For more information on this event, click [HERE](#).

NCNW Registration

Spotlight: Mildred Madison



This month's spotlight is on Mildred Madison, who passed away on August 16, 2023.

Throughout the early 2000s, the Detroit League saw an infusion of new members who favored the ward system for the election of the Detroit City Council. Up to this point, all nine council members were elected and served the City in at-large positions.

In 2009, a group called Detroiters for City Council by Districts, led by activist, civic leader, and LWV Detroit President Mildred Madison, collected over 38,000 signatures calling for the question of electing city council members by districts to be placed on the November ballot. At the time, voter data reflected that only 15% of registered voters participated in Detroit elections, where ballots often contained 200+ candidates, reportedly making them too big to fit the privacy sleeve.

Ms. Madison associated the then-current at-large system and

Detroit's 40 square miles with the City's low voting percentage in local elections, citing the near impossibility for city council candidates to interpret eastside vs. westside issues, let alone extrapolate the concerns of 17 neighborhoods and seven districts.

Under Ms. Madison's leadership, the Detroit League campaigned for and openly debated an initiative to create not only city council seats voted by district but also a mandate that city council members live in the districts they serve.

Click Here to watch Ms. Madison speak before the City Council (October 24, 2009), asking them to draft proposal language for the November ballot.

Despite opposition from the then-current city council and a ruling against the ballot initiative from Wayne County Circuit Court, city voters overwhelmingly approved the referendum on November 4, 2009.

Ms. Madison again made headlines during the 2020 Presidential Election. At the height of the pandemic, amid concerns over mail-in voting, Ms. Madison had her son and daughter drive her from Chicago to Detroit so she could cast her ballot. Her story made every major news outlet across the county. Read what **CNN.com** had to say.

We are grateful to Ms. Madison for her commitment to the League and its mission to promote voting and public service. Our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Madison's family. Her fight for civic engagement lives on.

Voter Services

The LWV Detroit Voter Services Committee is looking for a few good people to help with the League's voter service activities. Here's a short list of what we do.

Voter Registration Drives:

- In high schools for students, teachers, and staff.
- At community events.
- For the homeless.
- For those in trouble with the law who are eligible to vote.



- At immigration and naturalization services for new citizens.

Candidates and Issues:

- Maintain **VOTE411.org**, where voters can preview their ballots, compare candidates, and read about ballot measures.
- Host candidate forums where candidates answer questions and discuss issues.
- Post League positions on pending ballot proposals.

Voter Education:

- Clarify how to vote in person or absentee.
- Act as a clearinghouse for info on voting/voter rights.
- Host town hall events to promote voter education

If you want to join the Detroit League Voter Services Committee, please contact VS Coordinator Tim Martin at lwvdetroit@gmail.com or 313-288-9590. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month.

Membership Renewal Time



The new fiscal year for the Detroit League began July 1, 2023. That means now is the time to renew your membership with one of the most trusted grassroots organizations in the nation.

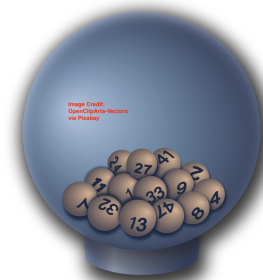
The League of Women Voters has evolved from a mighty political experiment, designed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women vote in 1920 to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan organization that promotes informed citizen participation at all levels of government. Your membership supports the League in this effort and more.

LWV Detroit serves Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park, hosting hybrid candidate forums and town halls as well as voter registration and voter education events throughout these communities. Our website (lwvdetroit.org) provides the most up-to-date voter/voting rights information. Last but not least, the Detroit League/Detroit Public Library partnership offers monthly educational forums. **View our library of past events.**

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**

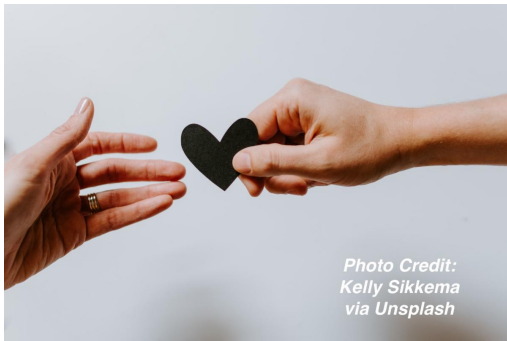
NOTE: To encourage members to join or renew in a timely fashion, LWV Detroit is holding a Membership Lottery. Those who join or renew between July 1 and October 15 will go into a drawing for the return of membership dues @ \$60.



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.



League of Women Voters of Detroit | P.O. Box 2503, Detroit, MI 48202

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