



The VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of DETROIT
QUARTERLY e-NEWSLETTER

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Communique from Deborah Lynn Bunkley

LWVDetroit Communications Coordinator

We, the Detroit League, are doing great -- forwarding to LWV-MI an invitation from BridgeDetroit's Stephen Henderson to assist with a proposed Michigan Debate Commission, and, later this month, we will present a full slate of Detroit League board candidates for the memberships' approval, with the hard work of LWVDetroit's Nominating Committee members Gerry Barrons, Valerie Ash and chairperson Anne Parker; thank you. The League is also working hard on securing a membership meeting space for the upcoming year.

The Vote411 committee is gearing up for the August Primary and November General elections. Just getting folks out to vote within the city of Detroit is most of the challenge. The Voter Service team is doing a great job on new voter registrations of students and new citizens. The League's Observer Corps is having its challenges observing the meetings of the Hamtramck City Council as the city's Mayor's race is, apparently, still not officially decided. And Saturday, May 16th, in Hamtramck, as we were waiting for the Detroit League's May Membership Meeting outside of the Piast Institute, we met a group of folks from Germany in Hamtramck to protest against a group proposing



the burning of the Koran (along with other protesters, the protesters prevailed and the Koran was not burned.)

The LWV-US National convention is June 25-28 in Columbus, Ohio. The Detroit League's two Convention delegates are JoAnn Spencer and Melody Harden, who will represent Detroit well. Other Detroit League members are also attending both in-person and virtually, and Michigan will again have the largest number of attending (in-person & virtual) delegates two years running; Go Michigan!!!!

Lastly, the LWV-US has selected Detroit as one of five cities in US to host a special Voting Rights Act Day of Action, with the Detroit event to feature an artist/poetry + spoken word get out the vote focus, to be held on Saturday August 8, 2026 @ the University of Michigan's Detroit Center (more information will be coming soon.) The LWV-US's Midwest Regional Organizer for this event, Genvieve Van Cleve, was hosted mid-May by initial members of the newly-formed Detroit League committee for this event, Debra Henning, myself and Roberta Deering. Along with other LWV members from Metro Detroit, we have our work cut out for this committee.



June 1, 2026

***Message from JoAnn Spencer
Chair LWVDetroit Membership Committee***

We have done an excellent job of recruiting new members to the Detroit League and retaining current members. Our members have stated their commitment to increasing voter registration, voter participation, and participating in candidate forums.

This Spring we have grown to a total of 78 members.

Let us welcome:

*Seema Ahmad
Sheila Anthony
Jacqueline Bell
Heather Brown
Shelby Campbell
Sandra Hamill
Rukiya Kitwano
Bonnie Lobert
Roseann Micallef*

***We also appreciate the continued commitment of
renewing members:***

*Gerry Barrons
Nikki Carbonari
Kim Garland
Nadolyn Y. Hoskins
Emi Jackson
Marcene Juergensen
Glenn Maxwell
Kathleen Stevens
Dr. Sheryl (Mitchell) Theriot
Doug Wahl*

I hope that we will have an opportunity to have our newest members introduce themselves during our upcoming June 20th Annual Membership Meeting. We will be considering an amendment to our by-laws, our 2026/2027 proposed budget,

and the Nominating Committees' slate of candidates to the Board of Directors.

If anyone is interested in joining the membership committee to help us continue to recruit new members and help us grow the League, please contact me at jlpuugh@aol.com.



No Kings III in Detroit

This past March 28th, the League of Women Voters of Detroit joined with almost 30 other organizations to officially partner in the No Kings Detroit event at a very chilly, but sunny Grand Circus Park, and attended by thousands, including League member Jackie Bell, above. The No Kings III events, nationally, were sponsored by almost 300 organizations and attended by an estimated 8 million people. Members from the Detroit League donated funds to the Grand Circus event, including enough funds to cover the cost of an accessible portable toilet.

Roberta Deering, LWVDetroit Facilitator

Public Library and League of Women Voters Collaborations

The LWV Detroit and the Detroit Public Library (DPL) have been asked by the National League to participate in a July 15th, 3:00PM, webinar to discuss collaboration between Leagues and their local libraries. There currently is collaboration between the national LWVUS and the American Library Association. The discussion will focus on the value of such collaboration and what the collaboration could look like with current examples of library/LWV partnerships in various communities.

The DPL and LWV Detroit will discuss how they formed the relationship to co-sponsor forums on issues involving voting from a nonpartisan perspective in 2020, in the midst of Covid, and how they are providing forums now. The LWV Detroit already had a relation with the Main Detroit

Library through hosting candidate forums and providing written literature of voting guide information and literature to be shared with Library patrons. The proposal by Jennifer Dye, a Detroit Librarian, to work to co-sponsor educational virtual forums on voting issues, governmental functioning, and to address issues related to democracy was met with enthusiasm by the LWVDetroit. The Library would provide the Zoom linkage, handle registration through Eventbrite, a website to store recorded forums, and a Library site with needed equipment and Jennifer as the moderator. Two additional League members, Cheryl Bukoff and artist Ruth Koelewyn, formed a Forum committee with Jennifer to design topics, find presenters for the forums, help market the forums, and help with moderation tasks. This partnership has expanded both the DPL and the LWV Detroit's services and outreach to the communities we serve.

Cheryl Bukoff, LWVDetroit League/Library Forum Team Leader

LWV Detroit Upcoming EVENTS & MEETINGS Schedule

2026 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM

10:30AM - 12:00 Noon

Saturday, June 20, 2026

In person at: **The Detroit Public Library Main Branch**

Via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88059911565>

LWV Detroit Membership Meetings are open to everyone!

13th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES FORUM

LWV Detroit & LWV Grosse Pointe

Thursday, July 9th, 7:00PM

(more information coming soon!)

LEAGUE & LIBRARIES COLLABORATION WEBINAR

LWV-US

Wednesday, July 15, 3:00PM

(more information coming soon)

VOTING RIGHTS ACT DAY OF ACTION SPECIAL EVENTS

LWV-US

Saturday, August 8th, 2026

(more information coming soon!)

SUMMER BREAK

There will be **no** LWVDetroit regular **Membership or Board meetings** during the months of **July or August**

The next regular **Board** meeting will be held **Tuesday, September 7th**

The next regular **Membership** Meeting will be held **Saturday, September 19th**

LWV of DETROIT'S

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

June 2025 - June 2026

Leadership Team:

- Communications Coordinator – *Deborah Bunkley*
 - Facilitator – *Roberta Deering*
 - League Liaison – *Sheryl Theriot*

Secretary – *Rhonda Craig*

Treasurer – *Melody Harden*

Membership Chair – *JoAnne Spencer*

Voter Services Chair – *Betty Burdette*

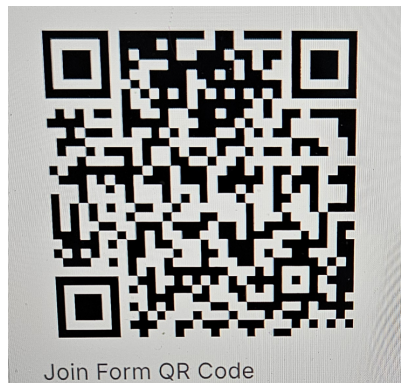
Directors At-Large: *Carolyn Davis, Debra Henning*

LWV of DETROIT COMMITTEE CHAIRS & TEAM LEADERS 2025-2026:

Advocacy Committee – *Debra Henning, Chair*

Budget Committee – *Melody Harden, Chair*
By-laws Committee -- *Rhonda Craig, Chair*
Candidates Forum Team – *Rhonda Craig, Team Leader*
Communications Team – *Deborah Bunkley, Team Leader*
Fundraising Committee – *Anne Parker, Chair*
League/Library On-Line Forum – *Cheryl Bukoff, Team Leader*
Membership Committee – *JoAnn Spencer, Chair*
Nominating Committee – *Anne Parker, Chair*
Observer Corps Committee – *Roberta Deering, Chair*
Speakers Bureau – *Rhonda Craig, Team Leader*
Voter Service Committee – *Betty Burdette, Chair*
Vote411 Team – *Deborah Bunkley, Team Leader*

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees or teams, or if you wish to contact any of the Board members or Committee Chairs, please e-mail lwvdetroit@gmail.com and put the topic or Committee name in the subject line. Thank you!



JOIN THE LEAGUE!

The League of Women Voters of Detroit represents **Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park**, and welcomes members from everywhere!

For more information, visit the League of Women Voters of Detroit's website at:

<https://lwvdetroit.org/>

Join the League of Women Voters on-line at:

<https://portal.lwv.org/>

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. The LWV works to empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy and education. The League neither endorses nor opposes candidates or political parties. Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to everyone.



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

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