



**MAKING  
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<http://lwvann Arbor.org/>

May 2019

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## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR MAY**

Sue Smith, President



### **Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy: Your League of Women Voters in Action**

#### **“Partisan Gerrymandering is Unconstitutional”**

“Today this Court joins the growing chorus of federal courts that have, in recent years, held that partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional”, wrote U.S. Circuit Judge Eric Clay in the April 25, 2019 Opinion and Order, League of Women Voters of Michigan vs. Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State. The three judge panel unanimously ordered the Legislature to redraw maps for the 34 challenged districts and submit them to the Court by August 1, 2019. The new maps will be used in the 2020 election.

The **League of Women Voters of Michigan** has been fighting for the voters' constitutional right to be fairly represented since 2011 when the current maps were approved by the state Legislature and Governor in record time, with no public input and no transparency.

In 2017-18, our redistricting position was the basis for the League to take two important actions.

1. In December 2017, LWVMI filed a lawsuit in federal court against Secretary of State Ruth Johnson claiming the district maps approved by the state Legislature in 2011 were unconstitutional. The case went to trial in February, 2019. The federal Court issued a unanimous, favorable ruling on April 25, 2019 and ordered that new maps be drawn. Our local League helped to support the lawsuit by contributing to the Legal Fund.
2. LWVMI worked with a coalition to develop a ballot proposal that would amend the Michigan Constitution by creating an independent redistricting commission. The League supported and worked for the successful passage of Proposal Two, which amended the Michigan Constitution by creating a Citizen Redistricting Commission.

**In 2019 -20**, the League will

1. Monitor the implementation of the federal court's order to the state Legislature that it draw constitutional maps by August 1, 2019.
2. Educate the public about the Citizen Redistricting Commission and encourage registered voters to apply.

### **Voting Rights**

Many of our members collected signatures to put Proposal Three, "Promote the Vote", on the 2018 ballot. Members also helped to pass the proposal which added important voting rights to the state constitution. Two of those rights will make voting more convenient:

- Citizens may register to vote through Election Day
  - All registered voters may vote absentee within 30 days prior to the election
- The League will monitor the implementation of this constitutional amendment.

### **Census 2020**

Our local League is helping to ensure a complete count of everyone living in Lenawee, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties in two ways.

1. We are reaching out to local governments, encouraging them to form "Complete Count Committees" and to include non-profit organizations like the League.
2. We are developing educational presentations that will be given by trained presenters in fall and winter 2019-20.

### **Preparing for 2020**

Our local League is gearing up for the 2020 elections with plans for voter registration drives, candidate forums, vote411 and educational town halls. We invite you to be a part of this effort. Watch for opportunities to sign up.

**Michigan Radio's Zoe Clark, will speak at Annual Meeting, May 14, 2019. I hope you will join us at 7 pm on May 14 at Touchstone Co-Housing Common House, 560 Lake Drive, to hear Zoe Clark talk about Michigan politics. There will also be a short business meeting when members will vote on the 2019-20 budget and slate of officers and directors as well as proposed amendments to our bylaws. Light refreshments will be served.**

### **Thank you**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your President this past year. It's been an honor.

Sue



**Tuesday May 14  
LWV-AAA Annual  
Meeting**



Come meet and mingle with fellow League members, enjoy light refreshments and hear **Michigan Radio's Zoe Clark** explain what's happening in Michigan politics.

We look forward to seeing you at 7:00 PM at Touchstone Co-Housing Common House

560 Little Lake Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI

Here is a [link](#) to the documents that you may wish to review prior to the meeting.



## Implementing Election Reform in Michigan

Wondering about how those Michigan Constitutional Amendments are being implemented?

Proposal 2 established a Commission of Citizens to draw district lines for the Michigan legislature and Michigan's members of Congress. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has issued a [Citizens' Guide](#) describing how to volunteer to serve on the commission.

Proposal 3 contained a number of changes that will improve voter access to the polls. The flyer [New Rights for Michigan Voters](#) describes changes in voter registration and the process for voting absentee.

### From our Brighton/Howell Area Unit

We enjoyed an informative evening forum with the representatives from the County Clerk's office on April 18th. Updates on registration process as a result of Proposal 3 was helpful along with information on the operations of the clerk's office. Our county clerk, Elizabeth Hundley, has been a part of the Election Modernization Advisory Committee, assisting Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson on the implementation of Proposal 3.



The Livingston LWV members are registering high school seniors at Howell and Pinckney HS this spring and possibly two charter schools as well. We've been invited to register on Constitution Day in September at Hartland HS.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our first Spring Membership meeting at Livingston EMS Facility, starting at 10:00 a.m. Our goal is to define our goals and align volunteers to prepare for the remainder of the year and into 2020. Our guest speaker is Maria Stuart, editor of the online Livingston Post and former editor of The Livingston Daily. All Livingston County LWV members are welcome to attend.

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### From our Tecumseh Area Unit

Lots going on in May so get your calendars out and here goes:



- **Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>** at Tecumseh District Library (lower level) MEMBERSHIP MEETING. We will start promptly at 6:15 and hope to conclude by 7:30. We will be voting on officers and by-laws in preparation for our becoming a MAL unit under the state. (Member-at-Large) To get this started we must have officers elected, by-laws and a budget in place. I will get an agenda for the meeting to you prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> with officers, budget and by-laws for your perusal so we can have discussion, if needed, and get this process started. We will also have sign-up sheets for various committees at the meeting with explanations for the responsibilities for each committee. Remember, we do not have meetings for all members unless needed. Each committee is responsible for their own meetings and reporting to the membership as a whole.
- **Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>** is the Annual Meeting for members in Ann Arbor. Carolyn and I will be attending if anyone would like to ride with us. The meeting is from 7-9 at the Touchstone Co-Housing Common House in Ann Arbor and the speaker is Zoe Clark, Michigan Radio Program Director and co-host for the segment "It's Just Politics".
- **May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**: League convention in Livonia. Jan Salsberry will be driving to the Saturday luncheon and workshops if anyone cares to ride with her. Registration form is available on the Michigan League site. Fee is \$50 for lunch and two workshops. This really is a fun and informative day, and a great time to connect with other Leagues in Michigan. The luncheon speaker is the US League President, Chris Carson. Contact Jan ( [salsberryr@comcast.net](mailto:salsberryr@comcast.net)) if you want to ride share. She will be leaving around 9:30.
- **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**: TECUMSEH/LENAWEE UNIT EVENT AT HIDDEN LAKE GARDENS. **It's Not Just About the Water!**Event is from 1-3pm but we could use greeters. It will be held in the auditorium behind the gift shop. We have the auditorium from 12-4pm and admission to the gardens is free to all attending the event...and at that time of the year, the Gardens are beautiful!!!! We have three speakers: Katie Goplerud-Smith from the River Raisin Watershed Council, Janet Salzwedel from Adrian College who will talk about the microbiology of fresh water and soil and relate it to people, plus, Julie Hewlett, a retired geology professor. The

focus will be on learning about our Lenawee County Ecosystem and how we impact our local environment...and how it impacts our health and well-being. Bring your friends and family and learn about our County's Ecosystem and how to be a good host to our environment. Will get reminders and more information out to you before this event.

**SEE YOU ON MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>!**

“If you cannot do great things, do smart things in a great way”.

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## Observer Corps

### Update

Plans for the LWVAA Observer Corps are moving forward! The committee met for the first time on March 24 to brainstorm ideas for timing, training, and informing volunteers who are interested in becoming involved in the Observer Corps.



The current plan is to hold at least one volunteer training session in June. Committee members have reviewed the national League's training packet and state's information on the Open Meetings Act and have submitted comments and suggestions for the local group. Based on these suggestions the first two-hour training session should provide clear and concise guidance to League members who will be attending government meetings.

The Observer Corps committee will meet one more time after the state convention. Training dates will be announced soon, so stay tuned!

Just a reminder that getting involved in Observer Corps requires no experience. The only requirements are that you be a League member, understand the function of the committee you're observing, be a good listener, and refrain from working a personal or partisan agenda or speaking on behalf of yourself or the League (unless your comments have been approved).

If you are interested in getting involved in Observer Corps, please contact Joan Sampieri at [djoansampieri@gmail.com](mailto:djoansampieri@gmail.com)



## **THE 2020 CENSUS: WHAT IS IT? WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

### **Part 2**

Census Day is coming: April 1, 2020. But the census will be conducted over a longer period of time, from mid-March through June. The constitutionally required “actual enumeration” of every person residing in the U.S. on Census Day counts those living here with or without legal status. It counts children and adults. It counts those living in homes or apartments, prisoners, the military, people in health care facilities, the homeless. Literally, “every person.”

You will receive 2020 Census information by mail, and a Census worker may come to your door. You can answer with a paper form, over the internet, or by phone.

The 2020 Census will be short: 7 or 8 questions you can answer in about ten minutes: name, age, sex, Hispanic origin, race, relationship to head of household, and whether you rent or own.

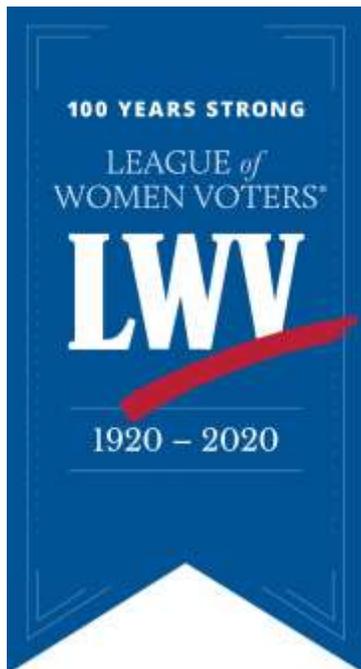
The count is used by the Census Bureau to apportion the 435 members of Congress among the states based on the census count. The apportionment counts will be delivered to the President by Dec. 31, 2020. Counts for redistricting within each state will be released by April 1, 2021. In Michigan, the new Citizen Redistricting Commission will draw lines for the Congressional districts that will be in effect for the 2022 election.

To learn more click [here](#).

--Margaret Leary

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**The 19th Amendment to the Constitution of  
the United States  
1920**

*The right of citizens of the United States to vote  
shall not be denied or abridged by the United  
States or by any State on account of sex.*

**Celebrating 100 Years of Women's  
Suffrage  
2020**

Plans are underway to celebrate 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote. There are many ways, large and small, that you can take part in saluting this very important achievement. Read the exciting plans below and decide how you might be able to join in the celebration.

We need committees and volunteers to help organize the events below. What sounds good to you?

### **Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw County—When Women Won the Right to Vote.**

Created by LWV members Jeanine DeLay and Zoe Behnke, this highly-acclaimed look at how local women won the right to vote was displayed at the Museum on Main Street for seven weeks in 2011. It is being resurrected and exhibited in libraries and museums across the county throughout 2020.

We need docents, curators to help maintain the boards, and volunteers to help with set-up and take down.

### **4th of July Parade**

March with the League in Ann Arbor's fun-filled 4th of July parade. Suffragists, Model Ts, antique bikes, banners, and lots of excitement are promised.

### **Art Fair**

Come toot our horn at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. We will be registering voters, handing out voter information, and offering visitors the opportunity to take a selfie with Lady Liberty.

### **Concert at the Ark**

Women's voices were silent before they got the right to vote. Now that we all have a voice at the polls, let's hear some of those voices sing. Let's clap our hands, tap our toes, sway, and sing along with local women entertainers.

Let Nancy Schewe know if you are interested in volunteering for any of the events below. Everything should be fun and exciting. Contact Nancy at [celebration@lwwannarbor.org](mailto:celebration@lwwannarbor.org)

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## **LWV Celebrates New Michigan District Maps for 2020**

Both State and Congressional District Maps to be Redrawn

DETROIT, MI-Today a panel of federal district judges ruled in favor of the League of Women Voters of Michigan in their First and Fourteenth Amendment challenges to the state and congressional redistricting plans.

"Today is a great victory for the voters of Michigan and for our democracy," said Judy Karandjeff, President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. "The state will now draw new district lines before the next federal election, which now will better reflect the makeup of the voters - not the interests of the politicians."

The League went to court over the current district maps, drawn in 2011 after the last census. With today's ruling, Michigan will be required to implement new maps in time for the 2020 election and before the next redistricting cycle in 2021. Covering both state and congressional district maps, this case is the only one of its kind in the country.

"We presented evidence showing a clear intent by the state legislature to dilute the power of voters and draw themselves into safe districts," said Mark Brewer, an Attorney at Goodman Acker. "With today's decision, new maps will move the state closer to ensuring voters are picking their representatives, not the other way around."

The League of Women Voters of Michigan, along with 11 individual plaintiffs, was represented by Faegre Baker Daniels and Goodman Acker law firms.

"This has been a long battle in court, but we are grateful to this panel of judges for hearing out our case until the end and protecting the most vulnerable voters in Michigan," said Jay Yeager, Senior Counsel at Faegre Baker Daniels.

The state will come up with a remedial plan by August 1, 2019, in order to hold special elections in 2020 for seats in the challenged districts.

**Judy Karandjeff**  
**LWVMI President**



### **Lunch and Learn**

At Lunch & Learn on April 26 Barbara Fuller, Vice Chair of the Washtenaw County Road Commission, described what the Road Commission does, what roads it is responsible for, how it is funded and more.

Did you know you can report a non-emergency road issue on-line using the app **WCRC Fix It** or on your computer by going to [www.wcroads.org/report](http://www.wcroads.org/report) ?



## *Registering Young Voters*

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Roddy Wares described this year's project to visit high schools and help eligible students register to vote. She says student response has been enthusiastic.

Click [here](#) to listen to the broadcast. The League's work to register young voters is on-going. Here is a shot of a new group at Tecumseh High School. Jan Salsberry of the Tecumseh Unit reports that this was one of 4 classes to register recently!



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## **LWV-AAA Events on the Calendar**

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| <b>Wednesday, May 8,<br/>2019<br/>6-7:30pm</b>   | <b>Tecumseh District<br/>Library<br/>215 N. Ottawa St.<br/>Tecumseh, MI 4286</b> | <b>LWV Tecumseh Unit</b> General Meeting. A General Membership meeting of the Tecumseh Unit will be held on Wednesday May 8th from 6-7:30, in the lower level of the Tecumseh District Library. Current members and anyone interested in joining the League are welcome. |
| <b>Saturday, May 11,<br/>2019<br/>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Livingston County<br/>EMS Facility<br/>1911 Tooley Rd.<br/>Howell</b>         | <b>LWV-Livingston County</b> Spring Membership Meeting. Join us for our Spring Membership Meeting on Saturday, May 11th starting at 10:00 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Maria Stuart, Editor of The Livingston Post. Check your home email for more details.            |

**Tuesday, May 14,  
2019  
7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Touchstone  
Cohousing  
Common House  
560 Little Lake  
Drive  
Ann Arbor**

**LWVAAA Annual Meeting.**

7:00 Social time and refreshments

7:30 Zoe Clark, Michigan Radio Program Director and producer as well as the co-host of the Friday afternoon segment *It's Just Politics*.

8:00 Business Meeting

8:30 More Social

**Friday, May 17,  
2019-Sunday, May  
19, 2019**

**Embassy Suites by  
Hilton  
19525 Victor  
Parkway, Livonia,  
MI, 48152**

**STATE CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS OF MICHIGAN.**

This year's Convention in Livonia will celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Michigan and the 100th anniversary of suffrage for Michigan women. The Convention promises to be informative, productive and fun.

**Friday, May 31,  
2019  
Noon - 2:00 p.m.**

**Cedars of Dexter  
Clubhouse  
411 Cedars Lane,  
Dexter, MI**

**Ann Arbor Area May Lunch & Learn.**

NOTE DATE CHANGE - Now May 31

We'll be reading and discussing "The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience." Even if you can't join us, you might want to pick up a copy of the book written by Kirstin Downey. It's a fascinating look at some little-known history of the New Deal.

Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch

Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Click [HERE](#) to signup.



**Friday, June 21,  
2019  
Noon - 2:00 p.m.**

**Cedars of Dexter  
Clubhouse  
411 Cedars Lane,  
Dexter, MI**

**Ann Arbor Area June Lunch & Learn.**

NOTE DATE CHANGE -

Now June 21

Catherine McClary, Washtenaw County's elected Treasurer, will talk about her job responsibilities.

Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch.

Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Signup form will be activated later.



**Friday, July 26,  
2019  
Noon - 2:00 p.m.**

**Cedars of Dexter  
Clubhouse  
411 Cedars Lane,  
Dexter, MI**

### **Ann Arbor Area July Lunch & Learn.**

League member Margaret Leary will talk about the 2020 Census, what will happen, what the League is doing to ensure a complete count and how you can be involved.



Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch.

Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Signup form will be activated later.

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## **Not a member? Wish to join?**

### **Message from your LWVAAA Treasurer**

When you join the Ann Arbor Area league, you become a member of the Michigan State league and the League of Woman Voters U.S. (the national league.)

Dues are \$70 for an individual or \$100 for a household and are designated as follows:

Individual dues: LWVAAA retains \$15, LWVMI receives \$23 and LWVUS receives \$32.

Household memberships: LWVAAA retains \$22.50, LWVMI receives 32.50 and we send \$45 to LWVUS.

You can pay via [PayPal](#) or by printing out the [dues renewal form](#) and mailing it with a check to LWV-AAA, P.O. Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832.

Our local league is the front line of non-partisan support for our mission of

### **Empowering Voters / Defending Democracy**

Your dues support: our website, email newsletter, voter education, advertising and meeting and program expenses.

\*NOTE: If you joined or have paid dues since July 1, 2018 you are paid through December 31, 2019.

Thanks – Betty Bishop, Treasurer

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## **LWVAAA LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### **OFFICERS**

**President: Sue Smith**

**Vice President: Joan Sampieri**

**Treasurer: Betty Bishop**  
**Secretary: Sue Smereck**

**DIRECTORS**

**Barbara Billings, Program**  
**Sally Allen, Member at Large**  
**Donna Crudder, Voter Service**  
**Barbara Brown, Membership**  
**Carolyn Madden, Advocacy**  
**Susan Wooley, Communications**  
**Jan Salsberry, Representative, Tecumseh Area**  
**Ellen Lafferty, Representative, Brighton/Howell Area**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Dee Dishon**  
**Paige Silence**

**Mission Statement**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, 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.



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area | P.O.Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

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