



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

P.O. Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832



March 2016

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 23rd

Planned Parenthood Lobby Day

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lansing, MI

[Click here](#) for more details and to register.

Friday, April 15th

Resident Council Election Monitoring **Four Volunteers Needed (see article below)**

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Chidester Place

330 Chidester St.

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Saturday, April 16th

Navigating Local Government

Registration Required (see article below)

8:30 a.m. - noon

Workantile

118 S. Main St.

Ann Arbor, 48104

Saturday, April 16th

LWVMI Spring Workshop 1

VOTE411 Training

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LWVMI Office

600 St. Joseph, Suite 3G

Lansing, MI 48933

Saturday, April 30th

LWVMI Spring Workshop 2

Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

St. Paul Episcopal Church

218 W. Ottawa St.

Lansing, MI 48933

Tuesday, May 3rd

Election Day VOTE

Local proposals: Millage proposals from Washtenaw Intermediate School District and Chelsea School District

Tuesday, May 24th

Annual Membership Meeting PLEASE ATTEND

7:00 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club

218 N Washington St.

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

June 16th - 19th

2016 LWVUS Convention: Making Democracy Work for All

Washington Marriott Wardman Park

Washington, DC

Thursday, July 21st - Sunday, July 24th

Volunteers Needed at Booth

LWV Booth at Ann Arbor Art Fairs

Thursday, September 29th

Participatory Budgeting Program

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown

343 South Fifth Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

4th Tuesday of the month

Board Meetings

4:00 p.m.

Bank of Ann Arbor

801 W. Ellsworth Rd.

Ann Arbor

[Click here for last minute developments.](#)



VOTE!
Tuesday, May 3rd

Chelsea School District Millage Proposal
Washtenaw Intermediate School District Millage Proposal

[Click here for the wording of the proposals.](#)

MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT



If you were unable to attend the Money in Politics study meeting in January, you missed a wonderful example of the League in action. Members sat together to listen and discuss the serious issue of how the use of money is affecting our democracy and what might be done about it. We then registered our feedback with LWVUS, who will use it to revise our current position.

These study meetings are the great strength of the League. We listen carefully to each other, express our ideas openly--without fear of ridicule--consider options, and then work to reach consensus. What a concept!

Please read though the newsletter carefully and see if you can find a way to participate. Our grassroots participation is the other strength of the League. I hope to see you soon.

In League,
Nancy Schewe

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MONITOR RESIDENT COUNCIL ELECTION April 15th

Three years ago the League worked with the residents of Chidester Place in Ypsilanti to establish their first resident council, a huge victory for the residents. Now it is time to elect a new council and they have invited us back to monitor the election.



We need four volunteers to help:
April 15th
2 from 9:30 - 1:00
2 from 1:00- 4:30
330 Chidester St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Contact [Nancy Schewe](#) to volunteer.



NAVIGATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT Saturday, April 16th, 8:30 a.m. - noon

Ever wondered how decisions are made in your community - about development, public safety, parks or other taxpayer-funded work? Who's making those decisions, and what influences them? How can you get involved?

Join us on Saturday, April 16 for a deep dive into navigating local government, with a focus on how you can influence decisions-makers and participate in the process yourself! Dr. Joe Ohren, a civics expert and political science professor at Eastern Michigan University, will explain how local government is structured in our state, how the policy-making process works in Ann Arbor and other local municipalities, and how you can get involved.

Learn how to make a difference in our community!

When: Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 8:30 to noon
Where: Workantile, 118 S. Main in downtown Ann Arbor
Cost: \$25

A light breakfast will be served.

Brought to you by The CivCity Initiative and the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area.

Contact [Mary Morgan](#) and tell her you are interested in participating as a representative of the League.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE LWV FROM THE INSIDE OUT?

CONSIDER ATTENDING A STATE LEAGUE WORKSHOP OR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

LWV of Michigan Spring Workshops

VOTE411 Training Session

Saturday, April 16th

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lansing, MI

Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work ®

Saturday, April 30th

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Lansing, MI

For more information and registration forms click here: [LWVMI Workshops](#)

LWV of the United States

Join us in Washington, DC at the League's National Convention to experience the collective power of our mission, messages, and actions to build a more perfect democracy.

Convention 2016: Making Democracy Work ® - For All

Thursday - Sunday, June 16th - 19th

Washington Marriott Wardman Park

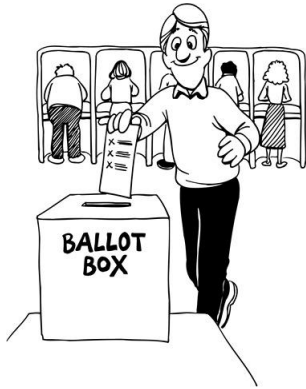
2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC 20008

Washington, DC 20008

For more information and registration forms click here: [LWVUS 2015 Convention](#)

[Click here](#) to let us know if you would like to be a delegate at the National Convention.

Financial support is available.



LOCAL ELECTION REFORM

As you may recall, LWVAAA has been encouraging the Ann Arbor City Council to reconsider the structure of its partisan, two-year cycle elections in order to increase voter participation and give local citizens a greater voice in who is elected. Our most serious concern is the low voter turnout in August primaries in which our city council is essentially elected since Ann Arbor leans so heavily toward a single party that whoever wins in that primary wins in the November general election.

Council is listening and there may be a proposal coming in the very near future. In order to educate ourselves on the issues, I recommend that you take a look at the readings below.

These readings come to us courtesy of one of our members, Professor John Chamberlin of the Ford School of Public Policy. The readings are very interesting and none are overly long. You may enjoy them.

[Increasing Voter Turnout](#)

[Make education politics great again! Eliminate 'off-cycle' school board elections](#)

[Voter Turnout in Municipal Elections Plummet](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 24th
7:00 p.m.
Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St.
Ypsilanti, MI**

Details to follow

INFORMATION ON CONSTITUENT MEETINGS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

We surveyed our LWV-AAA members last summer and found that meeting with our elected officials is seen as a priority for many members.

We have asked our area's four Michigan House Representatives to send us information on their constituent meeting schedules for 2016. All schedule their coffees on Saturday mornings; see details below.



We will continue to include the schedules for these constituent meetings in upcoming issues of the LWV-AAA newsletter so you know when these opportunities arise.

Gretchen Driskell, Michigan House of Representatives, 52nd District

Rep. Driskell's 52nd House District covers the northern and western suburban Washtenaw County areas outside Ann Arbor.

Jeff Irwin, Michigan House of Representatives, 53rd District

Rep. Irwin's 53rd House District covers much of central-east Washtenaw County on either bank of the Huron River, comprising of almost the entirety of the City of Ann Arbor, except for the northeastern part (between North Campus and Ann Arbor Township). Unless there is a conflict, Rep. Irwin's coffee hours are always the 4th Saturday of the month from 10-12 at Espresso Royale in downtown Ann Arbor (214 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104).

David Rutledge, Michigan House of Representatives, 54th District

Rep. Rutledge's 54th House District covers the eastern portion of Washtenaw County, and includes Superior Township and Ypsilanti Township, as well as the City of Ypsilanti.

Adam Zemke, Michigan House of Representatives, 55th District

Rep. Zemke's 55th House District includes the northern part of the city of Ann Arbor, a portion of the city of Milan, and the townships of Ann Arbor, Augusta, Pittsfield and York. Rep. Zemke always has coffee hours the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10 am. The 2nd Saturdays are always at Brewed Awakenings in Saline (7025 E. Michigan Ave), and the 4th Saturdays alternate between The Espresso Bar in Ann Arbor (204 S. Fourth Ave, above Literati) and The Morning Owl in Milan (9 W. Main Street). A link to Representative Zemke's coffee hour calendar is available at 055.housedems.com or by following the "Calendar" link on his website at <http://housedems.com/state-rep-adam-zemke>.

Below are the specific dates and locations we have so far received for 2016.

03/1210-11 Rep. Zemke Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E. Michigan Ave, Saline

03/2610-12Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor
03/2610-11Rep. Zemke The Morning Owl, 9 W. Main Street, Milan
04/0910-11Rep. Zemke Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E. Michigan Ave, Saline
04/160900Rep. Driskell Plaid Melon, 312 North Main St., Chelsea
04/2310-12Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor
04/2310-11Rep. Zemke The Espresso Bar, 204 South Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor (above Literati)
05/0710-11Rep. Zemke Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E. Michigan Ave, Saline
05/2110-11Rep. Zemke The Morning Owl, 9 W. Main Street, Milan
05/2810-12Rep. Irwin Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor

Not a member? Wish to join?

Click here to renew [using Paypal](#) or click here for a [mail-in registration form](#).

[Visit Our Facebook Page](#)

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.



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OUR EMAILS**

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