



Hello Members,

Co-Presidents January Letter



We are saddened to hear of the sudden death of the LWV/US President, Dr. Deborah Turner. Please keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

We would like to thank all of you for supporting the work of the LWV by renewing your membership. Our strength is not only in numbers, but in the skills and talents members bring to the organization. There is always a place where you can be involved, whether it is attending meetings, becoming a member of a committee, volunteering for education and outreach events and activities or serving on the LWVJA board. This year especially, we need "all hands on deck" to inform and engage the public in the election process.

This will be a very active and important year of elections, including the Presidential election in November. This will be the first election cycle where the changes resulting from Proposal 2, which was passed in 2022, will be implemented for all statewide and federal elections. Among the key provisions of Proposal 2, voters will be provided with 9 days of early, in-person voting, the opportunity to be on the permanent mail ballot list, an enhanced system to track their absentee ballot application and absentee ballots, and secure, locked, conveniently located "Drop Boxes" to use for the return of completed absentee ballot applications and voted absentee ballots.

Our league received an Election Promotion Grant from the LWVMI. Funds were provided to purchase items that will be useful as we work to make sure people are registered to vote and know the "who, what, when and where" about voting in the coming year. Items purchased include stickers, business cards, informational "postcards" and items that can be used at LWVJA events.

You will hear from us more often in the coming months. There will be important information and opportunities for you to become involved to share. Don't hesitate to ask questions if you need clarification or details. Whether you volunteer to help with a voter education event or share election information with your family and friends, YOU play a vital role in the LWV mission:

Empowering Voters—Defending Democracy

Sincerely,

Shirley and Pam

Co-President's Letter

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February - Black History Month

- 14 ((Wed) LWV's 104th Birthday
- 16 (Fri) LWVJA Board Meeting: Noon via Zoom
- 19 (Mon) President's Day
- 22 (Thurs) General Meeting: 2:00 – 3:30 at JDL Meijer Branch Community Room
- 27 (Tues) Presidential Primary and Local Elections Anniversary of SCOTUS upholding 19th Amendment

March - Women's History Month

- 8 (Fri) International Women's Day
- 10 (Sun) Susan B. Anthony/Harriet Tubman Dinner 2:30 pm at Cascades Manor
- 10-16 Sunshine Week
- 15 (Fri) LWVJA Board Meeting: Noon via Zoom

April - National Volunteer Month

- 7 (Sun) World Health Day
- 16 (Tues) 2024 Symposium: Brain Health - Live Your Best Life, Cascades Manor
- 20 (Sat) LWVJA Board retreat and meeting: 10 am – 3 pm, Ismon House, Albion
- 21-27 National Volunteer Week
- 22 (Mon) Earth Day
- 25 (Thurs) LWVJA General Meeting: 6:00 – 7:45. **Date, location and time subject to change** The Civility Project: 6:00-7:00 at Cascades Manor (AAUW Jackson)

May

- 1 (Wed) Law Day
- 16(Thurs) LWVJA Board Meeting: Noon, location TBD
- 21 (Tues) 105 years since U.S. House passed 19th Amendment
- 23 (Thurs) LWVJA Annual Meeting: 5:30 – 7:30, Location TBD
- 27 (Mon) Memorial Day

**LWVJA
Events
Calendar**

Fifth Annual Friendship Tea



November found the League enjoying a lovely Friendship Tea which this year was held at the Commonwealth Commerce Center. In addition to great food, a variety of teas & conversation included were a varied Silent Auction and a 50/50 won by our hard-working treasurer. The estate jewelry was, as always, a hit but was completely overshadowed by the Super Presentation "Meet Your Founders." Ann Green & Martha Petry took the parts of Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt, two women's rights activists who actually visited Jackson in whistle stops. Ann and Martha used the actual words of these two reformers and awed us by engaging the entire audience with placards to wave in support as they moved around the room during the presentation. It began and ended with Ken Hollingshead blowing the train whistle as the suffragettes arrived at and left the train station. You can tell by the audience's smiles enjoyment was abound.



League of Women Voters Jackson Area Snapshot

54 members: 42 Primary, 7 Additional Household, 1 Student & 4 Lifetime



Holiday Party & General Meeting



Our local League had another fun holiday get-together on December 7, 2023. Fifteen members attended to enjoy a meal, fellowship, and a holiday game. Salena Taylor was our guest speaker again this year. She discussed the activities Partial to Girls has undertaken this past year. Once again, our members contributed items to fill tote bag for the young girls Salena mentors. They were used for a girl's self-care overnight party and included fun items like a mani/pedi set as well as scented lotions, soft blankets and more. Our group is very generous in their support of local groups! Laurie Campbell planned and coordinated the event. She created festive centerpieces and baked cupcakes for dessert as well as making tasty popcorn treats to take home...well, some of them made it home!



Susan B Anthony/Harriet Tubman Dinner Invite



The Jackson Women's History Council invites you to the
**48th Susan B. Anthony/
 Harriet Tubman Award
 Celebration and Student
 Awards**

Sunday, March 10, 2024
 2:30 p.m. Networking
 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Dinner &
 Awards

Join us at the Cascades Manor House, 1970 Kibby Road, Jackson, MI

Cash bar with dinner at 3:00 p.m., Dinner- \$40 or Student- \$25

Please specify dietary (vegan or gluten free) needs.

RSVP by February 28, 2024

We accept payment via PayPal or check made payable to Jackson Women's History Council and mailed to Shirley Zeller at 702 Burr Oak Street, Albion, Mi 49224.

Payment via PayPal can be sent with an RSVP in a comment to
jacksonwomenshistorycouncil@gmail.com.

Email Shirley Zeller at seztowne@gmail.com or check out the Facebook page for more information about nominating someone special for the Susan B. Anthony/Harriet Tubman or Emerging Leader Award for recognition. You also have time to encourage students to submit scholarship entries! Entries due by

February 16, 2024.



What is Early Voting in Michigan?

FAQ: In November 2022, Michigan voters approved a constitutional amendment that gives voters the right to vote early and in-person. Early voting is the opportunity to cast a ballot in person before Election Day. For voters, the early voting experience will be similar to the experience of voting at a polling place on Election Day and will include the act of inserting the voter's completed ballot into a tabulator. Early voting is brand new to Michigan and will take place at "early voting sites." An Early Voting site will operate similarly to an Election Day polling location but can be set up to serve voters from more than one city or township. Early voting sites can also serve more voters than an Election Day polling location can serve.

Days: Early voting is open nine (9) days beginning the second Saturday before the election and ending the Sunday before Statewide and Federal elections.

FAQ: will appear regularly in The LWVJA Newsletter to answer Frequently Asked Questions from Members

JACKSON COUNTY EARLY VOTING SITES: There are six locations in Jackson County. **EVERY VOTER MAY ONLY VOTE IN THEIR ASSIGNED EARLY VOTING LOCATION.**

There is one location for Jackson City residents, another location managed by Columbia Township for its voters, two other locations jointly managed by Sandstone and Spring Arbor Townships for their voters and two for municipalities that have agreed to have the County manage their Early Voting. Jackson County Clerk's office will manage Early Voting for the other sixteen municipalities



Early Voting Sites #1 and #2

JACKSON COUNTY AND THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPALITIES have an Early Voting Site Agreement in which the County will manage their Early Voting:

Blackman Charter Township, Concord Township, Grass Lake Charter Township, Hanover Township, Henrietta Township, Leoni Township, Liberty Township, Napoleon Township, Norvell Township, Parma Township, Pulaski Township, Rives Township, Springport Township, Summit Township, Tompkins Township, and Waterloo Township.

Time: Early voting is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for eight days. Thursday hours will be noon to 8:00 p.m.

Locations: Registered voters from the above municipalities may vote at either of the two below early voting locations.

BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

1990 W. Parnall Road
Jackson, MI 49201

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

2121 Ferguson Road
Jackson, MI 49203

Early Voting Site #3

CITY OF JACKSON early voting location:

Early voting in the city will be the same location for all city voters. Early voting hours for city residents are for the following hours for all nine days: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

City Hall,
161 W. Michigan Ave
Jackson, MI 49201

Early Voting Site #4

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP early voting location

Early voting for all Columbia Township voters will be in same location. Early voting hours are the same for seven of the days: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday voting will be: 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Columbia Township Hall
8500 Jefferson Rd.
Brooklyn, MI 49230

Early Voting Sites #5 and #6

SANDSTONE AND SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIPS Early voting locations

Early voting for all Sandstone and Spring Arbor Township voters may vote in one of two locations. Early voting hours are the same eight of the days: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday voting will be: Noon to 8:00 p.m.

SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP ANNEX

107 E. Main St.
Spring Arbor, MI 49283

The LWVMI Advocacy Committee continues to meet to monitor state legislation and will host a legislative update Zoom meeting for all League members on Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m. Registration information will be sent out prior to the Zoom virtual meeting.

Advocacy Update

The Legislature completed busy and substantive legislative action for 2023. Some of the bills are still being prepared for the Governor to sign or veto. Major bills that passed in 2023, taking effect on February 13 that were supported by LWVMI include: Climate Change, Earned Income Tax Credit, Firearm Safety, Reproductive Choice, and Voting Rights.

Bills passed by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor include:



HIGHLIGHTS OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TAKEN IN 2023 **BY MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE**

Health Care bills

Affordable Care Act bills passed included provisions such as allowing people up to age 26 to use their parents' health insurance and protecting coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Bills still moving through the process would include mental health and substance abuse health care.

Election related bills passed: (LWVMI will be working with the Promote the Vote coalition partners, ACLU, NAACP, League for Public Policy, and others to educate everyone on the new laws in 2024.)

Most of the new laws, implement Proposal 2022-2. Other new laws make changes in the challenged ballot process and allow low paid transportation to the polls.

Allow 16-year-olds to preregister to vote

Allow automatic voter registration:

Regulate artificial intelligence

Moves Michigan's Presidential Primary to February 27

Reproductive Health Care bills passed:

Several repealed old anti-abortion laws including restrictions on reproductive health care.

Removed the prohibition for state funding for health care entities that provide abortion care

Removed the criminal punishment of pregnant people for actions taken during pregnancy

Removed the ban on private insurance coverage for abortion care

Removed TRAP laws (targeted regulation of abortion providers) that created unnecessary regulations on abortion providers.

Social Services bills passed:

Increased the earned income tax credit from 6% to 30% of the federal credit for working families.

The education budget bill includes access to free meals for students including free breakfast and lunch to all of Michigan students in public schools.

Civil Rights bills passed

Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act now updated to include gender identity protections adding sexual orientation and gender identity

Racial discrimination based on hair was banned

Juvenile Justice:

A number of bills passed implementing many recommendations to reform juvenile justice.

Firearm Safety bills passed:

To protect victims of domestic violence from firearms.

Requiring safe storage of firearms if accessed by a minor

Exempting purchase of storage and safety devices from sales and use taxes

Requiring background checks for purchasing a firearm and penalties if violated

Prohibiting purchase of a gun if under an extreme risk protection order, known as "red flag" laws

Two bills still moving in the Legislature will prohibit firearms at polling places and at absentee ballot counting board meetings.

Environment bills passed:

Establishing clean and renewable energy and the role of the Public Service Commission Siting solar, wind and energy facilities

Financial Transparency bill passed:

If the bill is signed by the Governor, then the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, MI Senators and MI Representatives must file a report with certain financial information starting April 15, 2024. The form must be available in March 2024.

SAFETY FOR MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS

On August 16, 2023, the MI Capitol Commission voted to ban "concealed carry" on State Capitol grounds. Legislators with a concealed carry permit may still carry a gun on Capitol grounds. Commissioners had banned openly carrying firearms in the Capitol in 2021. Metal detectors have also been installed.

How To Live Your Best Life



LWVJA 2024 Symposium

Brain Health featuring

AARP Speakers

on

How to Live Your Best Life

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Cascades Manor House 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



Presentation by

Renowned speaker & author Surae Eaton, MD &

Lisa Deddon Cooper who developed the program for AARP

Learn about many groups in the Jackson area who are involved in
Living Your Best Life

Look for your invitation being emailed to you or go to our website to
register: lwvjackson.org click on events - 2024 symposium

Election Calendar 2024



February 27: Presidential Primary

April 16: Special Election

Michigan House Districts 11 & 25

August 6: Primary for Michigan Partisan Elections

November 5: General Election

2024 Early Voting Dates

February 17, 2024 - February 25, 2024

July 27, 2024 - August 4, 2024

October 26, 2024 - November 3, 2024

Election Dates

February 27, 2024

August 6, 2024

November 5, 2024

We are not only striving for Better.
WE WILL DO BETTER

Board of Directors



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View From Our Past
Honoring Jackson Area



Board Members of Women Voters to Meet on Tuesday

Reports from three important committees will be considered by the board members of Jackson County League of Women Voters when they meet for the April session at the home of Mrs. J. H. Myers, 1902 Grovedale avenue, Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. Mrs. D. O. Carpenter will assist as co-hostess.

The second meeting of the legislative committee was held Friday afternoon at the home of the president, Mrs. D. H. Loux. Mrs. R. O. Bisbee, a member of the school board and the league, gave a report of the hearing on the taxation situation at Lansing, which she attended together with the large Jackson group.

This committee is following the work of the legislature at Lansing and is also making a survey of the county welfare work.



Article reprinted from the Jackson Citizen Patriot archives April 27, 1933

“Do not bring people in your life who weigh you down. And trust your instincts. Good relationships feel good. They feel right. They don't hurt.”

Michelle Obama



“When you get to Washington, remember who sent you there. Don't let the special interests and the Super PACs call the shots.” — Rep John Sarbanes

LWVJA Contacts

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Facebook address: League of Women Voters Jackson Area

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Mary Lee Clark



Pam Schultz



Linda Furgason

