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## Co-Presidents Summer Letter



We started the month of October running. As we celebrated the rebirth of our Jackson League (10 years), our membership retreat, Moving Forward in Today's World, was the impetus we needed. Those who attended were led by Mary Lee Clark, who gave us a history of where we were and where we are today. Bert Sexton explained why we were there and who the stakeholders are. Linda Furgason reiterated the reasons this retreat was so important. And it was. All members who attended were given the option of attending one of the Breakout Sessions; Advocacy, Community Engagement, and Youth Outreach. At these sessions ideas offered and bounced off each member. What was important was for each group to come up with an Action Plan prior to leaving the retreat. It was invigorating and educational. There was never a "maybe" but plenty of "we will do this...." We have said this before, but it is our members and the consensus that guides our League and brings us our successes. We parted with our new T-shirts emblazoned with Defender Of Democracy. And that we are!

We had a least 20 members attend the No Kings Rally (wearing their T-shirts). Our Voter Services, led by Pam Schultz, has been busy planning Trunk and Treat events, maintaining Vote411 information on the upcoming November election, as well as her continued open communications with our County Clerk. Pam will again, report to LWVMI on Board of Canvassers for Jackson County. Please contact Pam if you are interested in Observing. Another opportunity for members to watch and share the knowledge to our community on just how Democracy does work.

Another plus item coming from the Retreat is our new partnership with the Jackson Youth Council [YC]. They have reached out to us, and we are more than ready to establish a great relationship. These are our future leaders and voting citizens in the very near future. What happens now affects their lives and they know this. They too are looking to Defend Democracy. Some of these students will be attending our 7th Annual Friendship Tea! See page 7.

Speaking of the 7th Annual Friendship Tea...November 1st we end reservations. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Speak out. Wear your name badge. Alice Paul said in 1921, " There is a danger that because of a great victory women will believe their whole struggle for independence ended. They have still far to go." Resist and Persist.

Linda Furgason  
Deborah Nagy  
Co-Presidents



**Kat Dickenson & Ruthann Thulin modeling the member T shirts at the retreat.**

**For a donation of \$15 one can be yours also**

**Email Ruthann if you would like one at [thulinra@gmail.com](mailto:thulinra@gmail.com)**

**October**

31st Friday, **Halloween**

**November**

4th Tuesday– Election Day

6th Thursday Board of Conversers

8th Saturday, Friendship Tea , 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
120 N Jackson St

11th Tuesday, **Veterans Day**

20 Thursday, LWVJA Board meeting 10-11:30 a.m.

23 Sunday Matinee Movie for Grownups, 3 p.m.  
*The Bee Keeper*, Michigan Theatre

24th Monday 5-6:30p.m.Book Club  
Carnegie Library Auditorium

27th Thursday, **Thanksgiving**

**December**

4th Thursday, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00p.m. Holiday Party,  
SOAR 401 N Mechanic St

14th Sunday for eight days **Hanukkah**

18th No LWVJA board meeting

21st Sunday, **Winter Solstice**

25th Thursday **Christmas**

26th Friday, **Boxing Day** (Canada)

**January 2026**

1st Thursday **New Years Day**

**Chamber Martin Luther King jr breakfast TBD**

19th Monday, **Martin Luther King Day**

**March**

8th Sunday, Susan B Anthony/ Harriet Tubman dinner  
2:30– 5p.m. Cascades Manor House

**April**

17th 11:30 a.m.—2 p.m. Symposium - Fraud in the Era  
of Artificial Intelligence  
Cascades Manor House Watch for your invitation

**League presence at the ELLA**

Voter Services table staffed by LWVJA volunteers Mel Brice & Nan Whitmore at the Ella Sharp Museum in September. Lots of interest by the attendees many intriguing conversations. The table was stocked with Voter Services league information



# 10th Anniversary Retreat

## Planning our Future - October 6th

LWVJ reset their input and involvement for the future at the Meijer Branch Library

At our fall retreat we reflected on how far we have come, where we are and where we want to go. Our lives - American life - has changed greatly over the past 10 years. We will look at what is important to us, at our resources, set priorities and made plans to move forward. What a time for member engagement, to have your voice heard, to be part of setting our direction!



## FAQ What is "Unite and Rise 8.5"?

8.5 is an initiative launched by the League of Women Voters in April 2025 to mobilize 8.5 million voters using the power of voter engagement, a cornerstone of our democracy.

**Significance of the number:** Research suggests that if 3.5% of the voting-eligible population engages in nonviolent protest, they can bring about meaningful change. With 245 million eligible voters, 3.5% is approximately 8.5 million.

**New Article:** More about 8.5      WARNING: CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS  
It's Time to Take our Democracy Back

**Reason for protesting:** The LWV declared that the U.S. is in a "CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS," citing recent actions by the administration that it claims undermine democratic institutions. This initiative runs through to the 2026 midterm elections and is part of the League's WOMEN DEFEND DEMOCRACY campaign.

**Goals:** The movement aims to activate 8.5 million voices through civic engagement, education and collective power.

**The Research:** A Harvard Study from the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights found: "Nonviolent protests are **twice as likely to succeed** as armed conflicts...and those engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population have never failed to bring about change." If 8.5 million people engage in nonviolent protests, we will bring about meaningful change.

LWV is working to engage voters through various actions, including supporting voting rights legislation, connecting with elected officials, and participating in rallies related to civil liberties. LWV is also providing new resources for local league leaders to use each month.

**Put the following in a box:**      **8.5 million people taking nonviolent action are all we need to make meaningful change in this critical time.**

## How can LWVJA members participate in the 8.5 movement?

Join us as we defend democracy, from the courts to the streets and beyond!

- **Act locally:**
  - **Commit to action:** Sign the League's commitment on the national website. Or make a commitment to yourself.
  - **Wear our new LWV T-shirt:** When people see it, they ask "What does LWV stand for?" So be prepared to answer. Carry an LWV brochure to hand out. Invite interested people to our next meeting or to join you at the next Protest Rally. (We have extra signs).
  - **Help with our Voter Registration Events:** Watch for emails requesting members to sign up to work a couple hours for a specific event.
  - **Participate in LWVJA actions.** Participate in peaceful protests like the No Kings Rally.
  - **Follow through when you receive an ACTION ALERT email.** In 2 or 3 minutes you can send your message directly to your legislatures. Share the alert with 3 friends. Numbers matter.
  - **Watch for other opportunities from LWVJA to make a difference.**
  - **Arm yourself with information and facts on issues.** You can participate in LWV national briefings
  - **Put your VOTE411 yard sign out during election season.**

**Raise your voice about illegal deportations:** join mobilizations around immigrant rights and due process with organizations like the [National Partnership for New Americans](#), [United We Dream](#), and others.

**Protect equal voting rights:** Tell your representatives to support the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act!](#)

**"Turn Up the Heat" on elected officials:** [Connect directly with your representatives](#) on the issues that matter (like their vote on the ["One Big Beautiful Bill"](#)) via Town Halls and other opportunities.



You are invited to the  
*League's Seventh Annual Friendship Tea*

First Congregational Church  
120 N Jackson St, Jackson, MI 49201  
use Pearl Street door

Host/Hostess opportunities available  
Contact Deborah Nagy at  
[danagy@gmail.com](mailto:danagy@gmail.com)

Seating is limited  
Reservations by  
November 1, 2025

Two ways to reserve your seat:

- 1.) Fill out the attached Reservations sheet and mail it along with a check to:  
League of Women Voters Jackson Area  
P.O. Box 1886  
Jackson, MI 49204
- 2.) Or, fill out reservation form on line and pay on line through the website

*Seventh Annual  
Friendship Tea  
Nov 8, 2025*

*Donation via cash/check for  
Jewelry and Silent Auction items*

*Estate Jewelry 10:30—1:15 p.m.*

*Silent Auction 10:30—12:30 p.m.*

*Tea 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*Program  
Dr Ann Green, MC  
Welcome*

*Light Luncheon*

*Original Skit  
A Judicial Hubbub*

*Hostess Sharing*

*Silent Auction  
50/50 Results*

*Closing Remarks*



All are welcome, but guests should be able to remain seated for the duration of the tea.

Seventh Annual Friendship Tea November 8, 2025



Use this form and mail it & your check or go to https://lwvjackson.org/falltea to reserve & pay.

Table Patron \$325.00 purchases seating for themselves & five of her/his guests, is recognized at the Tea, is a Tea Benefactor & Table Sponsor \$\_\_\_\_\_

Hostess: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #1 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #2 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #3 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #4 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #5 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

For Myself \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Guests \$35.00 each

Guest #1 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #2 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #3 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #4 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guests #5 \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ number of guests X \$35.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be seated with \_\_\_\_\_ I have no preference in seating

Table sponsor: \$40.00 includes your name on a table and in the program. \$\_\_\_\_\_

Tea Benefactor \$100.00 includes name in the program and special recognition \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please find my check enclosed for Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to LWVJA and mail check along with this form to:

LWVJA P.O. Box 1886 Jackson, MI, 49204

Please indicate if any guest would like a vegetarian option.

Reservations due by November 1, 2025

# LWVJA Annual Friendship Tea

## Saturday, November 8, 2025

What a perfect time to purge your jewelry box and home for silent auction items as well as jewelry! New or nearly new condition please

Scarves, fancy handkerchiefs and all kinds of jewelry are welcomed.

Items such as art, statuary, paintings, quilts, gift certificates & services would be wonderful for the Silent Auction.

Ask your friends, relatives and neighbors to donate. Everything has new life so this is a truly "green" event.

Please bring your jewelry or other donated items to any meeting of the LWVJA. Or contact Linda Furgason : [lindafurgason@gmail.com](mailto:lindafurgason@gmail.com) or 517-812-7965 for drop off or pick up. Silent Auction items to Shirley Zeller: [seztowne@gmail.com](mailto:seztowne@gmail.com) Call 517-812-7965 to arrange drop off or pick up. Donations accepted until Nov. 1st, 2025.

### LWVJA Sign Making Party



On October 12th, eight LWVJA enthusiastic members plus a friend gathered at Carnegie Branch Auditorium for a sign making party. Several brought supplies and all brought their creativity unleashed. With rules of engagement from LWV, the group collaborated to make 14 signs to use at future rallies. There is a sign lending library for any members to needing a sign to rally round. Contact Mary Lee Clark Member Services chair [maritm2399@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maritm2399@sbcglobal.net) or any LWVJA Board member.



**DISSENT IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF PATRIOTISM**

**No Kings Rally      October 18, 2025**

**LAWFUL      PEACEFUL      COMMUNITY**

**By the Numbers**

**GLOBALLY:** Nearly 7 million people **SHOWED UP**– 2 million more than in June.  
**LWVJA Members RALLIED**

**20** members (32% of us) attended No Kings Rallies in:  
**Jackson** (650-700 attended)  
 Albion (200)  
 Ann Arbor  
 Fremont, MI  
 Mt. Pleasant, MI  
 Traverse City (thousands)



We asked our members for 3 words to describe their No Kings Rally.  
 Here's what they said:

Joyous 4
Patriotic 2
Peaceful 7
Community 2
Spirited
Energetic
Cheerful
Engaged

Inclusive
Uplifting
Quiet
Hopeful
Engaged
Respectful
Diverse

Fun
Positive
Camaraderie
High Energy
Action
Democracy
Orderly
Animated



**Together We Make Democracy Work**

Mary Lee's write up

Pam Schultz, our LWVJA ChapterSpot person has been working diligently on the Dues and renewal process through the transmission from us collecting all dues & then paying the LWVMI & LWVUS to the LWVUS collecting the dues and distributing them to the LWVMI & LWVJA. **It can be a very wordy transition BUT if you've received an email that your dues are due just check out the option in the red box below therefore avoiding all fees.** Questions ask Mary Lee Clark our Member Services chair at: [maritm2399@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maritm2399@sbcglobal.net)

## New LWV Membership Model Implemented in 2025

Earlier this year, the League of Women Voters US implemented a significant change to the League membership and dues structure. If you joined the league *before* February of 2025, the process for renewing your membership will be noticeably different this year from what it has been in the past. If you joined after February 3, you joined through the LWV membership portal, with the updated options.

Rather than communication concerning membership renewal coming from the local league, notices will be generated at the national level. Emails from [membership@lww.org](mailto:membership@lww.org) will be sent to members starting 60 days prior to their membership expiration date. A second reminder will be sent 30 days prior to the expiration date, with additional contact being made by our local member services committee.

The dues payment process has also changed. Rather than collecting dues at the local level and then making payments from the local to the state and national leagues, dues are paid to the national league, then disbursed back to the state and local leagues. This will be done through a centralized membership portal. The link to log in to the portal will be included in the emails. The portal can be accessed any time at <https://portal.lww.org/>.

Payment options in the portal include payment by ACH or credit card. However, **members who prefer to pay by check can do that by mailing their renewal check to our league. The check should be made payable to LWVUS and mailed to LWVJA (P.O. Box 1886, Jackson, MI 49204).**

Your membership will be renewed at the local level and the check sent to LWVUS. The benefit of payment by check is that **no fees are deducted**, as they are for ACH(bank transfers) or credit card payments. **This increases the amount received at each level of the league.**

There are other components of joining the league and renewing membership that have changed with the new membership model. A comparison of the new and previous system framework is outlined below.

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### Membership Categories

**Previous Model:** Member, Household (2 members at the same address), Student, Lifetime  
**Membership Portal Model:** Member (at least 16 years old), Lifetime Member

### **Dues Collection**

**Previous Model:** Dues collected at the local league level, then "Per Member Payments" (PMP) are made to LWVMI and LWVUS

**Membership Portal Model:** Members authorize payment on the LWV Membership Portal, funds go directly into each league's "Stripe" account (national, state and local)

### **Dues Amounts**

**Previous Model:** Set rate: \$75 (member), \$112.50 (household), \$20 (student)

**Membership Portal Model:** "Pay what you can": Recommended amount of \$75, minimum of \$20.

### **Dues Distribution**

**Previous Model:** Pre-set amounts: Based on \$75.00 dues: Local: \$19.10, State: \$23.90, US: \$32.00

**Membership Portal Model:** A percentage of the total paid:

Based on recommended \$75 dues; Local: 20% = \$15, State: 47% = \$35.25, National: 33% = \$24.75

### **Fees**

**Previous Model:** No fee if paid by check, Set fee if paid on LWVJA website with PayPal

**Membership Portal Model:** .80 + 3.9% for credit card payment, .50 + 1.8% for ACH payment

If you have questions about the new membership model or using the LWV Membership Portal, please contact Pam Schultz ([psch54@comcast.net](mailto:psch54@comcast.net)). If you have any questions specific to your membership, please contact [Mary Lee Clark, Member Services Committee Chair](#) ([maritm2399@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maritm2399@sbcglobal.net)).

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**YOUR** **VOTE****COUNTS**

Be Sure to Vote Today

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



## VOTE411 - Your Source for Election Information

VOTE411, provided by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, is a **“one-stop”** resource where you can find the personalized information you need to cast your ballot.

It’s virtual, nonpartisan, and available in both English and Spanish.

By visiting the website ([www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)), you can:

- ◆ Check your voter registration status,
  - ◆ See what’s on your ballot,
- ◆ Learn more about the candidates running for the positions to be elected,
  - ◆ Find your polling place, and more!





Book Club

**BOOK Club Nov 23th**



“Transparency in government, no less than transparency in choosing government, remains a vital national interest in a democracy” Merrick Garland (1952 -) Former U.S. Attorney

From your board to you!



**A Thanksgiving Garden**

Plant three rows of peace  
 Peace in our hearts  
 Peace in our school  
 Peace in our world

Plant four rows of squashes  
 Squash gossip  
 Squash indifference  
 Squash grumbling  
 Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuces  
 Lettuce be faithful  
 Lettuce be kind  
 Lettuce be obedient  
 Lettuce really love one another

No garden should be without turnips  
 Turnip for lessons  
 Turnip on time  
 Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience; cultivate with love.  
 There is abundance in your garden  
 Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden, we must have thyme!  
 Thyme for study  
 Thyme for friends  
 Thyme for family!

**Thankful**

*I am thankful for my family  
 I am thankful for my friends  
 I am thankful for Thanksgiving  
 I hope it never ends!*

*I am thankful for this turkey  
 and the fun we share today  
 I am thankful to be thankful  
 In the thank-fullest way!*

## 2026 Symposium: *Fraud - in Era of AI*



*Invite you to the*

*2026 Symposium - Fraud in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI)*

Brenda Price, AARP Associate State Director, with over 25 years experience serving Detroit and other Michigan communities, will be presenting on the different types of scams that seniors should avoid. This interactive presentation will touch on Artificial Intelligence and potential scams related to AI.

Experts in banking, financial investments and law enforcement will also speak and a panel of experts will answer audience questions  
ARM YOURSELF by learning from these experts!

LWVJA, AARP & American One offers this symposium to empower members of the Jackson community with credible, accurate information on Scamming and Hacking to use in their personal and professional lives and to be better, more participative community citizens.

### **Tuesday, April 21st, 2026**

**11 a.m. - noon Registration & Visit Resource Tables**

**Noon - Lunch**



**1 p.m. - Program**

### **Cost is only \$15 per person**

Includes: The Presentation, Checking out Resource Tables, Lunch Please specify if vegetarian

Many handouts and Q & A from a panel of experts

**Reservations begin in January  
Watch for your invitation**



**Lining up for walk to Sheriff's Dept to protest helping ive???**



New LWVJA Member in the 3rd quarter of 2025

Welcome to: Nacoya Davis



Board of Directors

Co-Presidents



Deborah Nagy



Linda Furgason



Bert Sexton Vice President



Nan Whitmore Secretary



Pam Schultz Treasurer Chapterspot



Ken Hollingshead Tech Support



Mary Lee Clark Member Services



Rosemary Edgar



Isabell Nazar



Martha Petry



Louvenia Shack Seals



LWVJA Contacts

Mailing address: LWVJA P O Box 1886 Jackson, MI 49204

website address: LWVJackson.org

Facebook address: League of Women Voters Jackson Area

Scan this QR code

Which takes you directly to the LWVJA website

VOTER /Newsletter staff

Email the newsletter committee at: leaguewvjackson@gmail.com



Mary Lee Clark



Marge Duane



Linda Furgason



Nancy Connell



Martha Petry Contributor



Sheryl Rose Contributor