

EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN 2018!



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LANSING AREA**

**CAPITOL VOTER
JANUARY 2018**



**PUB NIGHT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23**

**Join League members for food, fun, and updates on League
initiatives and activities for 2018.**

**5:30 to 7:00 pm
Jimmy's Pub
16380 Chandler Road**

East Lansing

See the invitation sent to you by email on January 14 for details on program content. Reservations are not necessary. Questions? Contact Camilla Davis at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com or call 668-6156. (See information below about U.S. Budget Priorities event at MSU beginning at 7:00 p.m.)

OTHER JANUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 -- WOMEN'S MARCH ON MICHIGAN.

2 pm to 5 pm at the Capitol. More information on Women's March Michigan 2018 Facebook page. League of Women Voters will have a information table. Stop by and say "Hello."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 -- 7 pm in 107 S. Kedzie Hall, MSU.

As Eisenhower Warned: How the Arms Lobby is Distorting Our Budget Priorities. William Hartung (Speaker) is the Director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

LOOKING AHEAD TO A BUSY ELECTION YEAR



2018 is just beginning, but it is already clear that this will be an important year for the League as we find new opportunities to register voters, protect the vote, inform voters and encourage greater voter turnout. Read below about a new grant to expand our high school voter education program and about the efforts related to redistricting.

Another issue of the Capitol Voter will be coming in a couple of weeks, containing more details about these initiatives and information about League programs for the winter/spring months. Please read the Help Wanted section below and consider whether any of the needs match your interests, talents and time.

**MICHIGAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
FILES LAWSUIT TO END**



GERRYMANDERING



On December 22, 2018, the League of Women Voters of Michigan and 11 individual voters filed a lawsuit against the State of Michigan in federal court in Detroit to end unfair, partisan gerrymandering of Michigan's Congressional, State Senate and State House districts.

"The Michigan League of Women Voters today filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of voters throughout Michigan to end the practice of unfair, partisan gerrymandering," said President Judy Karandjeff.

"Michigan's State House, Senate and Congressional districts are among the worst in the nation when it comes to partisan gerrymandering, and today's lawsuit aims to fix the problem and restore voters' rights to choose who best represents them."

The lawsuit asks the federal court to declare the current districts to be unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders and to ensure that the districts are redrawn in a fair fashion. On December 27, 2017, U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood signed an order allowing a three-judge panel to hear the case.

Go to www.LWVMI.org to read the full description, the complaint filed in federal court and related articles.



LWVMI ENDORSES REDISTRICTING BALLOT PROPOSAL

Voters Not Politicians (VNP) submitted its petitions for the Independent Redistricting Commission Ballot Proposal to the Secretary of State's office on December 18. Over the past several months, the LWVMI Board has stated it would consider supporting the proposal once VNP had collected the requisite number of signatures and had submitted them to the Secretary of State's office. At a special LWVMI Board meeting in December, the state Board voted to support the VNP ballot proposal.

Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI President, wrote: "For now, Local League members may continue to work on the VNP ballot proposal campaign only as individuals, because of the Campaign Finance Law limit on our expenditures in support of the proposal." The state League will update its educational materials, including our redistricting power point. The League is committed to redistricting reform and to working in a diverse coalition.

Go to www.LWVMI.org to read more details about the League's endorsement.

LWVLA RECEIVES GRANT FOR VOTER REGISTRATION



LWVUS recently awarded our League a small grant under its Youth Voter Registration Project. Thanks to the diligent work of Marilyn Wilson just before the Christmas holidays, we were able to successfully submit a proposal to expand our voter registration/voter education efforts in area high schools. The plans call for enhancing the handout materials, expanding our coalition efforts, and finding strategies to increase voter turnout. Marilyn will be calling a meeting to gather input and involve more volunteers. Contact her if you'd like to volunteer or have any questions: wilsonmlwvla@gmail.com or 517-927-7164.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- Members to help with VOTE411
- People with graphic design experience to re-design some of our materials
- Someone to keep track of Voter Guide distribution-fall 2018
- Members interested in general voter service efforts

Please contact [Beth Moore](#) or [Camilla Davis](#) if you are interested.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

As we start this New Year, the League is actively planning voter registration and get-out the vote efforts and working on new ways to protect the vote for all citizens. We sincerely hope that, if you haven't already done so, you will renew your membership for 2018 in order to support these and other vital efforts to strengthen our democracy. Your membership is important to the organization, whatever level of involvement works for you at the present time. Please renew by January 31, 2018.

You can renew your membership by writing a check and filling in the form that you recently received in the mail OR by using the Pay Pal option on the . [Click here](#) to access JOIN using Pay Pal. Also, check out the information on the form and website about the dues assistance policy.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

LWVUS President Chris Carson recently issued this statement: "We can and we must do better to be vigilant about speaking out against racism. We must stand up as a nation and say this is unacceptable." Stand with the League of Women Voters and contact your Senators and Representatives today, asking that Congress pass a clean Dream Act.



HELP CHOOSE THE 2018 BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the LWVLA Book Group on Tuesday, February 13 at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. We will be considering book choices for the months ahead.

Name | Company | Phone | Email | Website

STAY CONNECTED:

