



LWVMI Advocacy 2025

May 16, 2025

LWVMI Advocacy Committee 2025

1. Tricia Denton – Water/Line 5
 2. Judy Karandjeff, Chair - Election Laws, Women's Issues, Health Care
 3. Carolyn Madden – Criminal Justice
 4. Connie Mitchell – Education/Critical Race Theory
 5. Christina Schlitt – Firearm Safety
 6. Sue Smith – National Popular Vote, Redistricting, Campaign Finance
 7. Sandra Sorini Elser – Natural Resources/Environment/Climate
 8. Maria Woloson – Abolish Electoral College
- Paula Bowman – Ex Officio
 - Denise Hartsough – Ex Officio



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. Government

- U.S. President – Donald Trump - Republican
- U.S. Vice President – J.D. Vance - Republican
- U.S. Senate – 100 members 53 R, 45 D, 2 Independent
- MI U. S. Senators
 - Gary Peters – Democrat - Retiring 1/27
 - Elissa Slotkin – Democrat – Term Ends 1/31



U. S. House of Representatives

435 - 220 R - 213 D 2 vacancies

U. S. Michigan Congressional Delegation 7 R, 6 Dem – all up for election November 2026

1. Jack Bergman – Republican
2. John Moolenaar- Republican
3. Hillary Scholten – Democrat
4. Bill Huizenga – Republican
5. Tim Walberg - Republican
6. Debbie Dingell - Democrat
7. Tom Barrett – Republican
8. Kristen McDonald Rivet – Democrat
9. Lisa McClain Republican
10. John James - Republican
11. Haley Stevens - Democrat
12. Rashida Tlaib -Democrat
13. Shri Thanedar - Democrat



LWVUS Priorities



The board approved the following priorities for 2025:

- Implementing the campaigns for Making Democracy Work[®] and Women Defend Democracy, which includes advocating for policy issues, including defending voting rights protections, protecting DC autonomy, improving election administration, protecting against dark money in politics, and supporting the 2030 Census.
- Protecting democratic institutions and the rule of law.
- Protecting reproductive freedoms, access to abortion care, and ensure the right to make private reproductive health decisions.
- Responding strategically on issues like immigration, climate change, gun safety, Equal Rights Amendment, healthcare and attacks on DEI.

LWVUS Legislative Action

- Protect Democracy Action Alert
- Oppose SAVE Act Action Alert
- Action – Sponsored April 5 Hands Off Rallies
- Executive Order on Elections – filed court case
- Declared Constitutional Crisis
- Announced the Unite & Rise 8.5 Campaign





MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT

Michigan Government - 2025



- **Gretchen Whitmer** – Democratic Governor – last 2 years – running for?
OFFICE UP FOR ELECTION
- **Garlin Gilchrist** – Democratic Lt Governor – last 2 years- running for
governor – OFFICE UP FOR ELECTION
- **Jocelyn Benson** – Democratic Secretary of State – last 2 years – running
for governor OFFICE UP FOR ELECTION
- **Dana Nessel** – Democratic Attorney General – last 2 years – running for?-
OFFICE UP FOR ELECTION

MI Senate

38 Members

- Democrats - 19
- Republicans - 18
- Vacant Seat – 1 – 35th District – Former Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet
- Majority Leader Winnie Brinks - D
- Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt - R

All up for election in 2026 with new maps



MI House of Representatives

110 members

- Republicans - 58
- Democrats - 52
- Speaker Matt Hall - R
- Democratic Leader – Ranjeev Puri - D
- All up for election in 2026



LWVMI Priorities



- Campaign finance/Money in Politics
- Criminal Legal System including prison gerrymandering
- Environmental Protection & Natural Resources
- Public Education
- Public Health & Safety
- Social Justice Equity
- Voting Rights

LWVMI Advocacy Committee

- Meets monthly and reviews legislation
- Supports or Opposes legislation based on:
 - LWVMI State Positions - [LWVMI Positions | League of Women Voters of Michigan](#)
 - LWVUS Positions - <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>
- Recommends action on legislation to LWVMI Board for Approval

Abolish Electoral College Update



Our president should be elected by
the *people* — not the Electoral College.

Be part of the movement at [LWV.org/onepersononevote](https://www.lwv.org/onepersononevote)

LWVUS Selection of President Impact on Issues

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the President until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

The League's Position Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as announced by the national board, January 1970, revised March 1982, updated June 2004, and revised by the 2010 Convention

Criminal Justice Update



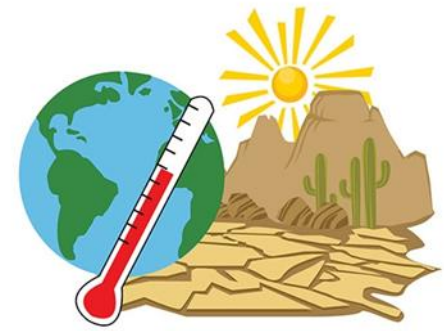
- Juvenile Justice
 - Bipartisan juvenile defense bill - SB 81/HB 4070
 - Raise the Age, JLWOP, Supreme Court Ruling
- Voting in Jails Project in coalition with Voting Access for All (VAAC)
- End Prison Gerrymandering (2024)
- Second Look (2024)
- Sentencing Commission: Productivity Credits/Good Time Credits

Education Update

- Threats to cuts in federal funding
- Ending of DEI Programs
- Abolishment of the U.S Department of Education
- State Board of Education & Department of Education are protecting our students



Environment Update



- LWVMI opposes two set of bills in the Michigan Senate that would roll back the 2023 Michigan **Clean and Renewable Energy and Jobs Act**.
 - **House Bills 4027 and 4028** would roll back MPSC permitting for large scale wind and solar projects.
 - **House Bills 4007 and House Bill 4283** would allow fossil fuels used in the UP to be classified as clean energy.

All are invited to join the LWVMI
Environmental Network for an
update on Implementing the MI
HEALTHY CLIMATE PLAN

May 29, 2025, 7:00pm via Zoom

Hosted by the LWVMI Environmental
Network

Presented by Michigan's Office of
Environment, Great Lakes and
Energy.



Ethics & Campaign Finance Update



- Regulate gifts and tickets for Legislators – PA 3 & 4 of 2025
- FOIA Legislature and Governor – SB 1 and SB 2
- HEAT Package – Hall Ethic, Accountability, and Transparency
 - ban non-disclosure agreements – HB 4052-53
 - 2/3 vote to pass in lame duck – HJR A
 - two –year break before lobbying – HB 4062-63
 - ban lobbying out of state while legislator – HB 4064
- BRITE Package – Bringing Reform in Integrity, Transparency & Ethics
 - allow SOS to apply for injunctive relief- HB 4268
 - require public disclosure of financial information for 501c4 and 527 organizations.- HB 4269-70
 - limit leadership to one PAC with criminal penalties if violated. HB 4271-72
 - include lobbying guidelines for legislative staff- HB 4273
- Package to Eliminate Utility Funding in Campaigns – HBs 4381-84

Firearm Safety Update



Common sense firearm safety laws passed in 2023 -24

Universal Background Checks

Safe Storage

Domestic Violence Protection

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws)

Safe Home, Safe Schools Education Bills passed-PA 257 of 2024

New Bills

HB 4139-40 – Repeal Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws)

SB 58 and HB 4285 – Class room instructions on firearm safety, curriculum

HB 4213-Repeal of gun free zones

End Gun Violence MI Coalition

- Sign up to present education in your community about the Firearm Safety laws
- Stop rollback for laws passed last session
- Support new legislation

Health Care



- Family Planning federal funding is in jeopardy – under review in DEI Executive Orders - \$120 Million thru Title X
- Medicaid funding cuts – details unknown
- MI Court of Claims ruled on May 13, 2025, said the state's laws requiring a 24-hour wait before obtaining an abortion, uniform informed consent information to be distributed and banning advanced practice clinicians from performing abortions are at odds with the constitutional protections for abortion designated by the passage of Proposal 2022-3. (Northland v Nessel)

Immigration

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

LWVMI Opposes:

- House Bills 4336 & 4337 create criminal penalties for individuals and organizations who knowingly assist or encourage immigrants without legal status in entering, residing, or being transported within the United States. (In House Judiciary Committee)
- House Bills 4338, 4339, and 4342 prohibit a local municipality from enacting or enforcing any policy that limits communication or cooperation with federal officials concerning immigration.
- House Bills 4340 & 4341 prohibit any “non-qualified aliens” from accessing social welfare programs (Others passed House and in Senate Committee on Government Operation)

Line 5 Enbridge Update



Key Risks: Line 5

-  Already 33 oil spills since 1968
-  Ship anchor damage and protective coating failure
-  Threat to 720 miles of Great Lakes shoreline
-  Owned by Enbridge, responsible for the 2010 Kalamazoo spill (2nd largest inland spill in U.S. History)
-  Poses a significant threat to wildlife



Oil & Water Don't Mix
Keep Oil Out of the Great Lakes

[Learn More](#)



LINE 5



LINE 5

⚠️ A False Solution: Line 5 Tunnel

- 💣 Explosion risks from untested design
- 🌍 27 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year from tunnel product
- 💧 Millions of gallons of wastewater discharged into the lakes from construction process



Take Action!!

Voting Rights Update



- Oppose HJR B and two proposed ballot programs, Committee to Protect Voters' Rights & Americans for Citizens Voting
- Decline to sign Prove It Michigan signature gathering and similar proposal
- Supporting MI Election Security legislation and other legislation
- MI SOS subpoena and documents

Other

- Budget FY 2025-26 (Starts October 1, 2025)
- 9 Bills Not Enrolled by House from last session

Ballot Issues

1. Convene Constitutional Convention – mandatory
2. Citizens Protecting Voters' Rights, (Prove It Michigan) – approved by BOC
3. Americans for Citizens Voting
4. Ranked Choice Voting – (Rank MI Vote)
5. Ax MI Tax – (axmitax)
6. Bottle Bills (MEC)
7. Same Sex Marriage (Sen. Moss)
8. Referendum on SB 8 dealing with minimum wage
9. Campaign Finance/Ethics

What Can Local Leagues Do?

- Hold educational meetings on issues
- Support a robust observer corp
- Form a local advocacy committee
- Hold meetings on legislation LWVMI or LWWUS oppose or support
- Participate as League in rallies approved by LWWUS
- Participate in Unite & Rise 8.5 Campaign

[Unite and Rise 8.5 Toolkit | League of Women Voters](#)

What Can Individual League Members Do?

- Respond to action alerts from LWVMI and LWVUS
- Participate in rallies and protests approved by LWVUS or LWVMI
- Participate in lobbying U.S. Congress, such as "Lobby for Democracy" as requested by LWVUS

FORM ON IMPACT

- LWVMI has created a form for you or your local league to complete that will document changes seen at the local level because of changes at the federal level.

Link to the online form: [LWVMI--Impact on the Grassroots](#)

- Or go to www.lwvmi.org, Members, LWV Only (password protected)

Questions ???

Unite & Rise 8.5

- Protect democracy: [Tell your Senators](#) to oppose the anti-voter SAVE Act;
- 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;
- “Turn Up the Heat” on elected officials: [Connect directly with your representatives](#) on the issues that matter via Town Halls and other opportunities
- Act locally: Join local organizations like [your state or local League](#) to act on the issues that matter in your community.