

*Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, Michigan*

### Welcome New Members!

Emily Perry  
Bridget Schipper

### LWVOA Board of Directors 2019-2020

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**TREASURER** Mary Howarth

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Kathleen Maisner - Redistricting  
Ann Megalizzi - Voter  
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Geri Rinschler - Chair,  
Community Engagement  
Eva Packard - They Represent  
You

#### OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Ann Edwards - Mailings  
Susan Liebetreu - Vote 411  
Debra Horner - Voter Guides  
Kim Brown/Tera Moon -  
Webmaster  
Kathy Henry - Education

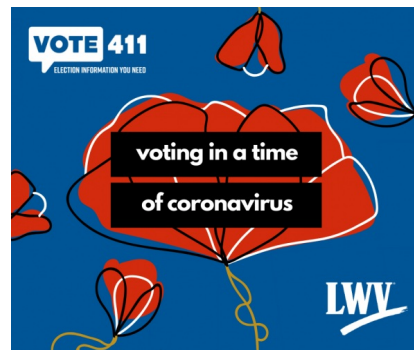
#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Patricia Finn - Chair  
Laura Gogola  
Susan Liebetreu  
Susan Learman

### Coronavirus prevention for League volunteers

Recently, the LWV published information to support Leagues taking precautions against the coronavirus. Chris Carson, LWVUS Director and President, the LWV National Board of Directors and Virginia Kase, LWV CEO, [issued a statement](#) calling for states to expand absentee voting and extend deadlines and dates as needed during the primaries. This request also extends to the general election.

[Voting in the time of Coronavirus](#) is a public-facing blog post providing tips to help voters safely cast their ballots in upcoming elections.



As the situation on the ground develops and changes, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) will be updated with the latest polling place closures and other changes in election dates.

More [guidance](#) on coronavirus prevention for Leagues is available on [LWV.org](http://LWV.org).

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As an organization, the LWV is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.

Perhaps, this is a good time to take advantage of the many resources available to continue your own learning on these topics.

Recommended articles, books and audio are listed on [LWV.org](http://LWV.org). Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the **League Management** button, then click **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy**.



## Annual Meeting

The LWVOA annual meeting is currently scheduled for Saturday June 13, 2020 at Bay Pointe Golf Club in West Bloomfield. Stay tuned for updates.

Finally, click [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Continued Learning](#).

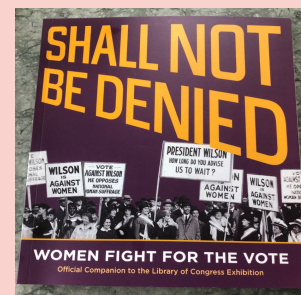


## Women's History Month

Did you still remember that March is Women's History month?

Celebrate by reading *Shall Not Be Denied - Women Fight for the Vote*, Official Companion Guide to the Library of Congress Exhibition which can be ordered on [loc.gov](#).

Explore the women's suffrage exhibitions online at [loc.gov](#) including old photographs and digitized collections like some of Susan B. Anthony's papers!



## Census 2020

The census is underway. Once you receive your invitation, you can respond online, by phone or via mail. Beginning in May, census takers will follow up in person to collect responses from households that have not yet responded.

The 2020 Census asks how many people are living or staying at each address. For each person the Census asks about: name, sex, age, date of birth, relationship, Hispanic origin and race. The Census will also ask whether the housing unit, such as the house, apartment, or mobile home, is owned or rented, and for contact information in case additional information is needed. You can read the questions on <https://2020census.gov>.



Remember, if you spend 6 months or more in Michigan, make sure you are counted as a resident of Michigan. For every person counted incorrectly, Michigan loses over \$18,000 over the 10-year Census period.

Find the U.S. Census Bureau ([@uscensusbureau](#)) on Twitter for a reminder to send out to your contacts!

## State League Updates

### May 5 Election Update

You may have seen that Jocelyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State, issued a press release stating that absent voter ballot applications will be mailed to all voters for the May 5 election. See [michigan.gov/sos](#) or click [here](#) to read the details. This election is mainly

for school board proposals, so check with your local clerk's office to see if this applies to your community.

## More Women Needed for Redistricting Commission

According to the Secretary of State's office, over 6,000 Michigan citizens have applied to be on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC). Of the 3,600 applications that have been processed: 85% of the applicants are white; 60% are male; 43% are over 65 years old and the majority are from Southeastern Michigan. For years, the League had been telling voters that Michigan needed an independent redistricting commission. Now that we have one, we need to apply. The deadline is June 1, 2020.

## Voter Services Provides the Latest Election Numbers

Thanks to the Michigan passage of Proposal 3, requests for absentee ballots in the March 10th Presidential Primary nearly doubled over the same race in 2016, an 89% increase, to 993,000. Of these, more than 804,000 were returned. In addition, 30,000 voters changed their votes after voting absentee for candidates who dropped out.

Total votes were unofficially 2.26 million in 2020, compared to 2.5 million in 2016 when both parties held competitive primaries. The Democratic Party alone saw an increase of more than 30%. The Primary winners were Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

## New Bills You Might Have Missed

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State Senator Jim Stamas (R-Midland) proposed a new bill to name the gray tree frog as Michigan's official state amphibian.

According to a news release, Stamas said he was working with a fifth-grade class at Blessed Sacrament in Midland to help them learn about state government, and during a school visit, the students suggested the gray tree frog since Michigan does not currently have a state amphibian.

Senate Bill 803 has been referred to the Senate Government Operations Committee for consideration.

State Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) introduced a bill that would require music and art education as part of the regular curriculum for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Senate Bill 804 would require 90 minutes of music and 90 minutes of art instruction per week by teachers certified in each subject.

The bill would require districts to have a separate, dedicated budget for music and art, and the Legislature to provide funding for any additional costs

See [michiganadvance.com](http://michiganadvance.com) for a more detailed [article](#) which includes photos.

## March is Still Reading Month While Schools are Closed

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Governor Whitmer's executive order called for all Michigan private and public schools to close March 16 through April 5. This was an unprecedented event in Michigan's history. In another action, most public businesses, including libraries, were ordered to close.

Some library staff, teachers and politicians came up with creative ways to participate in March is Reading Month. Examples include:

- White Lake Community Library Youth Coordinator, Hannah Moulds, read while sitting on the ground in front of a webcam.
- Attorney General Dana Nessel and Senator Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) both recorded storytimes on their social media accounts.
- Danielle Tandoc, a high school science teacher at Okemos High School, used an



Instagram account to livestream bedtime stories for children and update her students daily.

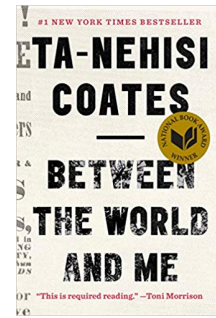
Read the complete Michigan Advance [article](#) with photos and video.

## Book Club 2020

Do you love to read and talk about books? Attend the LWVOA book club! This group reads books that connect to LWVOA's positions and other issues important to our organization. This is a great way to get to know your fellow League members.

**Next book:**

*Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehesi Coates



This book pivots from some of the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehesi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis.

**Upcoming meetings and books:**

- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehesi Coates (Original date postponed - TBD)
- *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild (Wednesday, May 27, 2020)
- *Educated, a Memoir* by Tara Westover (Tuesday, July 28, 2020)
- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (Wednesday, September 23, 2020)
- *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan (Thursday, December 3, 2020)

**Thank you  
to our  
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