

**EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**



**THE
CAPITOL
VOTER**

**NOVEMBER
2022**

IN THE NOVEMBER CAPITOL VOTER

- Easy Ways to Renew Your League Membership
- President: An Election Day Story to Share
- Voter Service: Safeguarding the Election Process
- Redistricting and the Election
- Wanted: Observer Corps Leader
- December Book Discussion: on History of Secret Service
- Lansing Charts Its Path to Sustainability
- One Thing: Help Remove Michigan's 1% Solar Cap

LWVLA CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 30, 7 pm - 8:30 pm. Virtual panel on Michigan Redistricting. See below for more info and registration link.

Tuesday, December 13, 10 am. The Book Group will discuss *Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service*, by Carol Leonnig. See below for more info and Zoom link.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP?

If not, now is the time! Camilla Davis, Membership Chair

If you joined LWVLA before January 31, 2022, it's time to renew your membership! Continue to be a part of the League's mission of "Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy" by paying your dues using either of the two ways listed below. Both are quick and easy.

The annual dues for 2022 - 2023 are \$65.00, from which \$32.00 goes to LWV-US and \$23.00 to LWV-MI, leaving \$10.00 to LWV-LA. The dues for two members living in the same household are \$97.50. There is no cost for a student to join our local League. If you choose to pay by credit card, please be aware that they charge a fee that comes out of the \$10 that goes to our local League. If you can afford it, please consider adding a convenience "tip." We suggest adding \$2.50 to a single membership (for a total of \$67.50) and \$3 to a family membership (for a total of \$100.50). Thank you!

There are two ways to renew your membership or join:

1. Pay your dues online using your credit card or PayPal account on the [Lansing Area website](#): Scroll down to "How Do I Join?" Choose the type of membership from the drop-down menu; supply a second name if you choose household. Click the "Pay Now" button below.
2. You can [download this form](#), fill it out, and send a check for the correct amount to: League of Women Voters - Lansing Area, P.O. Box 971, East Lansing, MI 48826.

If you have questions about paying your dues, contact [Camilla](#).

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

John VanDeventer, Lansing

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donna Mullins

It was a nice election, eh? For me the best part of it was answering an urgent call from LWVMI Co-president Christina Schlitt saying there were long lines at Brody Hall and they could use some help. In less than five minutes I had enough volunteers to make the trip. And there were, in fact, long lines. Hundreds of students who needed to register and vote were in line at the East Lansing Clerk's satellite office set up in anticipation of students who waited until election day to make the decision to vote in East Lansing. City Clerk Jennifer Shuster was busy coming up with ways to make the lines go quickly while being in strict compliance with state law.



She was amazing, and exhausted, and excited to see so many who wanted to vote—a dream come true as well as a bit of a nightmare. By late afternoon there was a system in place, knowledgeable volunteers from the League and MSUVOTE to help, and one more problem: Several students living in The Landings at Chandler Crossings, which has apartments in East Lansing AND Clinton County, needed to register and vote in Bath

Township! So, I offered to drive them in my little red Tesla, Sophia. The first two students got all the way to Bath only to learn that they needed to return, as they lived in East Lansing. All that trouble and they lost their place in line, but they did not lose their desire to vote or their sense of humor. The next passenger was dropped off at her precinct without incident. When I returned the lines were much longer. There were at least a thousand. Volunteers were delivering food and water to the eager students and there was a party atmosphere. They seemed to understand that this was going to end up being a good story. I'm about to tell you a good one.

It was around 7 p.m. when someone who saw my League nametag asked me if anyone was providing transportation, because the young man next to her had to vote in DeWitt. I said that I would be happy to drive him. We were halfway to the car when he told me his name was Tony and his year and major (because that's what students do) and I told him my name. He was excited about the Tesla (but would have preferred a Corvette). We made it to the polling place located at the DeWitt Fire Station only to be told to go to the clerk's office. At the clerk's office, he was told that he was actually supposed to be at the Fire Station and was given a document certifying that he was a registered voter. It was about 7:30 p.m.

We broke a few speed limits on our return trip, with Tony apologizing for all the effort we were making. I told him not to worry, I just wanted him to vote. I asked him if he had heard of [Fannie Lou Hamer](#); he had. I told him that her picture was in my den to remind me of the sacrifice that others went through to be able to vote. I just wanted him to be able to exercise *his* right to vote. We nearly flew into the parking lot at 7:45. I waited in the car and he returned a little earlier than I thought. There are *two* fire stations that are used as polling places. We never thought to check the address. The poll workers said they would call the other station to let them know that he was in line before closing and to let him vote. We broke some more speed limits to get there in record time as the polls were about to close. I said, I'm walking in with you this time because I'm White and old. (I don't think that was needed but one can never be too careful.) He seemed somewhat relieved. We got in, they said they were waiting for one person from the other polling place, and I went back to my car. By 8:30 I was the only car left in the lot. Then through the doors came a beaming student with two thumbs up. He entered the car saying, "We did it! As soon as I get home, I'm calling my mom to tell her!"

That one successful vote brought me more joy than I ever expected. I want you all to share it (there's plenty to share). One young man and one old lady broke speed laws, made mistakes, and kept going anyways. He voted and wanted his mom to know. We are the League of Women Voters, that's what we do. And we do it

Together,
Donna



THE LEAGUE PITCHES IN TO HELP SAFEGUARD THE ELECTION PROCESS

Joanne Winkelman, Vice President, Voter Service

We did it! The Lansing League observed four County Board of Canvassers' meetings to ensure our democratic process proceeded smoothly after the election.

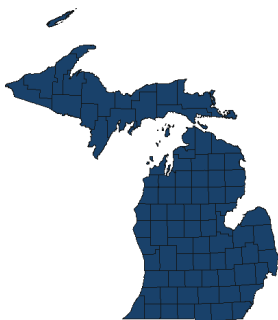
As usual, our members came out in force to assist in this monumental task. The state League rolled out a new sign-up platform, Sign Up Genius, that was not quite ready when we started, but Sara Weertz, LWVMI Project Manager, put in the hard work to customize the sign-up times for each county. Once that was in place the system worked well. According to the reports, there were no issues in our counties and all the elections were certified.

Below are the volunteers who patiently watched the canvassers' proceedings and filed reports at the end of each shift. Although the LWVLA covers Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties, Carolyn Lawrence took on Shiawassee County as there is no League in that county. Thanks, Carolyn!

Clinton, Eaton and Ingham observers: John Hanieski, Marty Couretas, Delores May, Elizabeth Seagull, Leslie Watson, Merry Jo Hill-Hernandez, Jacqueline Stewart, Judy Andre, Joy Whitten, Vicki Potter, Nell Kuhnmuench, Donna Mullins, Camilla Davis, Kathy Lovell, and Judy Karandjeff.

If I missed anyone, my sincerest apology. Thanks to all of you for a job well done!

REDISTRICTING AND THE ELECTION



On Wednesday, November 30, 7 pm - 8:30 pm, a virtual lecture/discussion titled "Approved, and now voted on - what we've learned after the first election under Michigan's new redistricting process" will be presented by the [Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy \(CLOSUP\)](#) at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy. Co-sponsors include Voters Not Politicians (VNP) and Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR). Matt

Grossman, Director of IPPSR, will be the moderator.

The program will “look back at this consequential change in state policy and ... review how this new approach played out this fall, including its impacts on races and election outcomes, and how it compares to experiences in other states. We'll hear from an expert panel covering these and related issues, including their reactions to audience questions.”

The webinar is free and open to the public. To attend, register via this email:

<https://forms.gle/h6S4KoEzL6HyWX4N6>. The viewing link will be emailed one day before the event.

WANTED: OBSERVER CORPS LEADER

The Observer Corps is currently without leadership. Donna Mullins met a couple of times with the great volunteers who continue their observation of local government bodies, but that job (on top of being president) is being neglected. We could use one—or even two—people who would be interested in being VP for Observer Corps. That position:

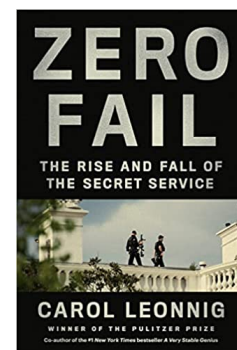
- reviews the reports from volunteers, keeping an eye out for items that the board would be interested in.
- attends monthly board meetings (mostly by Zoom but occasionally in person).
- writes a short report for board meetings.
- writes a monthly article for the Capitol Voter.
- meets monthly with volunteers either in person or virtually.
- occasionally brings in speakers for OC members.
- sends an email of introduction (a form letter) to entities to notify them that an observer will attend.

Sharing duties between two people seems workable. If you would like more information contact [Donna Mullins](#).

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Donna Mullins

The Book Discussion Group had one of its best discussions of the year reflecting on the beautifully written *Diary of a Misfit* by Casey Parks. The book chronicles a ten-year search to discover the story of Roy Hudgins, a neighbor of Casey's grandmother, who presented himself as a man although born a woman. The ten-year odyssey, which highlights Casey's growth over that decade, has been hailed as a “depiction of queer lineage” but is much more than that. Casey's honesty and willingness to see the best in people introduces you to people you might otherwise not get to know. Casey is fully human and fully kind in this extraordinary book, which was [reviewed](#) by the NYTimes in August 2022.



In December the Book Group will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., to discuss *Zero Fail* by Carol Leonnig. This book offers the first definitive account of the rise and fall of the Secret Service, from the Kennedy assassination to the alarming

mismanagement during the Obama and Trump years, right up to the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6. You can [join us on Zoom](#).

We're choosing our books for next year now, so if you have any suggestions let [Donna Mullins](#) know!

LANSING CHARTS ITS PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY

Elaine Fischhoff, EAG Co-chair

On September 22, Lansing's mayor released the draft [Sustainability Action Plan](#) (SAP), charting pathways for the city and its residents, institutions, and industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make the environment healthier and more resilient.

The City is currently seeking public review and comment both online and in-person and at virtual presentation events. After any amendments made based on public feedback, the SAP will be submitted to the City Council for approval. The Lansing SAP's targets for fighting climate change are a city-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 59% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. Lansing's SAP joins plans adopted by [East Lansing](#) and [Meridian Township](#) in 2005 and 2017, respectively.

Six key areas for action are identified in the 18-page Lansing SAP; consideration of environmental justice is stressed in each:

- Energy efficiency, including weatherizing buildings to prevent energy loss
- Promoting and adopting renewable energy sources to replace using fossil fuels
- Electrifying transportation and increasing mobility choices
- Protection and conservation of water resources
- Purposeful land use, including enlarging the tree canopy
- Management of materials to reduce landfill use and maximize reusing, repurposing and recycling.

Lansing's Sustainability Manager Lori Welch, the Lansing residents on the Advisory Commission on Sustainability, community leaders and institutions, and city staff drafted the SAP. An action plan created only for [Lansing's municipal operations](#) was released in 2021.

Add your comments on the Sustainability Action Plan by going to this [website](#).

NOTE: The "Green Burials" program originally scheduled for Nov. 29 has been rescheduled for some time in January—stay tuned.

ONE THING

We need to *grow* solar energy, not repress it. So contact your [state representative](#) to voice your support for [HB 4236](#), the bill that would remove Michigan's 1 percent solar cap; a [post](#) by John Freeman of the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association explains some details and background. And while you're at it, call the [governor](#).

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK

All committees would welcome new members. Contact the chairs for more information.

VOTER SERVICE: Contact [Joanne Winkelman](#).

K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Contact [Bettie Landauer-Menchik](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE: Contact [Martha Couretas](#) or [Melinda Frame](#).

ENVIRONMENT ADVOCACY GROUP: Contact [Ellen Link](#) or [Elaine Fischhoff](#).

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