

# League of Women Voters of Northeast Michigan

# The Voter

## Empowering Voters Defending Democracy

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. The League is committed to cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access for all people.

## March 2025

### 2024-2025 Board

President	Doris Feys
Vice President	Elaine Stenger
Treasurer	Jennifer Dutcher
Secretary	Kathy Bower
Voter Service	Dottie Haase
Membership	Beth Hurd
Media	Mark Hunter
Newsletter	Dottie Haase
Communications Chair	Sharon Rickard
Leadership Team	Bev Bodem
	Florence Stibitz
	Carol Lund
	Nancy Smith
	Julie McCallum
Website	Darcy Christianson
Facebook	Edith Gerber

### Upcoming Calendar of Events

**March 24th, Monday, 5:30 pm, ASP BOE,**  
School Board Meeting, 2373 Gordon Rd.

**March 29th, Saturday, 1 - 3 pm, Library**  
“Community Dialogue & Reception: Celebrate Women in Government” Judith Stillion Room  
Members & friends invited! (Details page 2)

**April 8th, Tuesday, 7 pm, Town Hall Zoom,**  
**LWV Federal Judiciary Study**  
LWV Members only (Details page 4)

**April 11th, Friday, 5 pm, Rusty Petunia Meet Up**  
Join us for delicious flatbread pizza and charcuterie boards and drinks

**April 16th, Wednesday, 4 pm, Library Board Meeting**

### Celebrate Women’s History

*“Break your heart no longer. Each time you judge yourself, you break your heart. You stop feeding on the love that is the wellspring of your vitality, but now the time has come, your time, to live, to celebrate and to see the goodness that you are.” Kirpal Venanji*



**SAVE THE DATE! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!**

**LWV** NORTHEAST MICHIGAN PRESENTS:  
**COMMUNITY DIALOGUE  
AND RECEPTION:**

**ALPENA COUNTY  
LIBRARY  
STILLION ROOM**

**MARCH 29TH  
1:00 PM**

**CELEBRATE WOMEN**

**IN GOVERNMENT**

RSVP: Elaine Stenger  
[estenger2@gmail.com](mailto:estenger2@gmail.com)

Join us in a community conversation and fabulous desserts with past and present women leaders to learn, connect, and grow! What can we do to help move our community forward?

RSVP: Elaine Stenger [estenger2@gmail.com](mailto:estenger2@gmail.com)

**Panelists:**

- **Bev Bodem**, former State Representative
- **Carol Shafto**, former Mayor
- **Lora E. Greene**, Chief Judge Circuit Court
- **Cindy Johnson**, Mayor
- **Karol Walchak**, City Council Member
- **Anne Gentry**, Downtown Development Director

LWV Lifetime Achievement Honoree: **Vernie Nethercut**

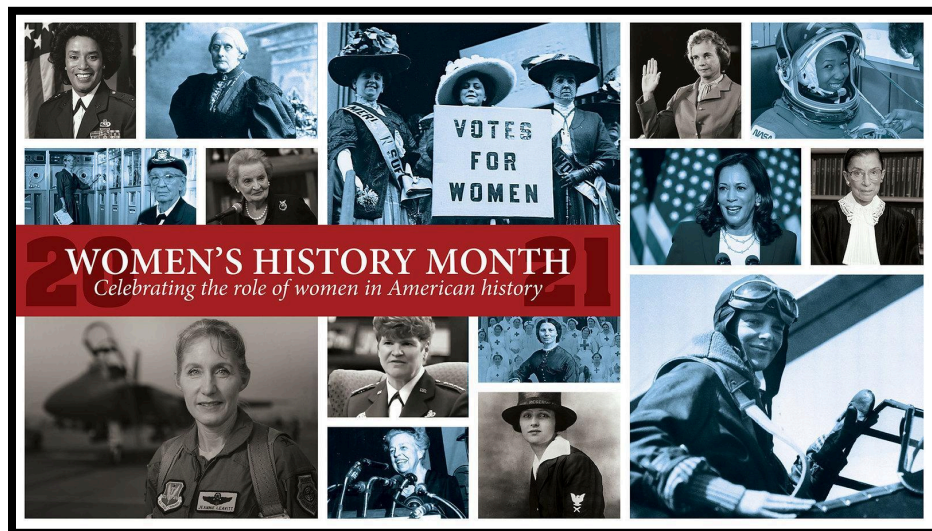
## “Moving Forward Together”: Celebrating Women’s History Month 2025

Women's History Month started with a week in 1982. Congress passed a law in 1987 designating the month of March as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued proclamations to recognize the contributions women have made to U.S. history.

Since it was instituted, we have seen both leaps forward and steps backward as we have forged careers and fought for equal pay and adequate representation in leadership. While we still have a way to go, we have a lot to be proud of!

The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is *Moving Forward Together*, which brings to mind the force of us moving together AS WOMEN, not women in a man’s world. By acknowledging the uniqueness of women’s gifts, we help re-establish women as equals. It’s part of finding our voice, owning our power, and understanding our purpose.

This month offers us a moment to reflect on the incredible strides women have made throughout history and to acknowledge the challenges that still lie ahead. Together we can build a future that honors our past while creating new pathways for generations to come. *Women2Women Magazine*



## Federal Judiciary Study Town Hall

**Are you concerned about the integrity of our Federal Court System?  
Join us for our town hall meeting April 8th, 7:00 pm via Zoom!!**

The LWV is conducting a study of the federal judiciary system. The results of individual leagues' findings at their town halls will determine a national position (for education and advocacy). **Contact Doris: [jdfey@hotmail.com](mailto:jdfey@hotmail.com) for the link.**

A great place to find information is this national town hall discussing the federal judiciary and some suggestions for improvement:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0gEKqafpg4&ab\\_channel=LeagueofWomenVoters](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0gEKqafpg4&ab_channel=LeagueofWomenVoters)

This recording lasts 1 1/2 hours and is very informative. Learn new ideas about judicial term limits and other interesting details about the Supreme Court. The entire recording is worth your time. So grab a snack, a cup of coffee and watch this recording.



## Michigan Voter Suppression Bill Introduced

Recently, proposed legislation was introduced to drastically change voter registration requirements. Our State Representative, Cam Cavitt, is one of the sponsors of this. This would require citizens to provide proof of citizenship before they register to vote. LWVMI opposes HJRB for the following reasons:

- It would destroy registration drives
- It hurts people who don't have easy access to documents.
- A birth certificate won't suffice if you have changed your name (like I did when I got married).
- It can be costly, burdensome and time consuming to acquire a passport (more than half of Americans don't have one) or a birth certificate.

This would result in voter suppression. Also...there is no need. When someone registers to vote, they are already signing that they are a citizen - under penalty of a felony. The Heritage Foundation reported 68 cases of voter fraud in the last **forty years**. Why make it harder for everyone over a non-issue?

A similar bill was introduced at the federal level. It's called the SAVE Act. As League members, we need to stand in opposition to both pieces of proposed legislation.



## **LWVUS Advocacy Update**

### **What Can I Do? What Is The League Doing?**

Many of us are alarmed about the harm being done at the federal level and wonder what we can do and what the League is doing.

## **What We Can Do**

- Contact your federal elected officials as individuals to voice your concerns and opinions on the federal issues that matter to you. When you do this, you speak for yourselves, not in the name of the League. Elected officials of both parties need to hear from their constituents. Our voices matter!
  - As individuals, participate in pro-democracy efforts in your communities.
  - Use “[Take Action](#)” on the LWVUS website to tell our federal elected officials to 1) Urge Congress to Stand Up for Democracy, and 2) Oppose the SAVE Act.
  - Urge people in your circles to speak to their federal elected officials. They may use the LWVUS’ “[Take Action](#)” button, too.
  - As a local League, consider paid promotion of an LWVUS-approved message with a billboard or yard signs.
  - Share stories of the impact of executive actions for possible use in advocacy. Here’s the [link](#) to the form.
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## **What LWVUS is Doing**

- LWVUS coordinated a letter to Congress from League leaders from all states, urging Congress to stand up for democracy. Read the press release with a link to the letter [here](#).
- LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart released a video statement on the State of Democracy 2025. Watch [here](#).
- Celina Stewart wrote a [blog post](#): What is DEI? Beyond the Buzzwords.
- LWVUS issued a release condemning [Weaponization of Government against Americans](#).
- LWVUS signed on to a letter [Urging Congress to Investigate Illegal Actions of Elon Musk and DOGE](#).

Stay engaged!