



Website <https://lwvmt.org> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMarquetteCounty/>

## DATE CHANGE - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next Membership Meeting: November 11, 2020

Acknowledging that people might still be glued to the news, or catching up on their sleep, or too exhausted or too depressed or too busy celebrating the end of the 2020 election to attend a meeting, the LWV Board made the decision to move the next membership meeting from Wednesday, November 4, to Wednesday, November 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. A [zoom invitation](#) and link will be sent to you by Darlene ahead of the meeting date. Keep an eye out for it and if you miss it or lose it in your inbox, email Darlene [dthomsona@gmail.com](mailto:dthomsona@gmail.com) or Pri [priburnham@gmail.com](mailto:priburnham@gmail.com). There likely won't be a lot of business conducted, and no formal program on the agenda. Rather, it is expected that we will use the time together to talk, process, debrief, connect. We also hope to look back at the year, take stock of what we accomplished - and what we missed out on - and brainstorm projects for the upcoming year. **See you all on Nov. 11!**

## Last-Minute Election Questions and Answers

By Pri Burnham, Director of Voter Services

### When Does my Absentee Ballot have to be in my clerk's hands?

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> by 8 pm (Eastern Standard Time – Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1).

A judge's decision that would have allowed absentee ballots to be counted if postmarked before the election and received up to fourteen days after the election was reversed by the Court of Appeals. So to make sure your ballot is counted, deliver it in person to your clerk, DO NOT MAIL IT. A complete list of the City and Township Clerks in Marquette County and a link to locate your clerk's ballot drop box are included in the Newsletter or go to <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Clerk>

Remember to deposit your ballot *only* in the box of the city or township where you are registered to vote.

---

### Can I change my absentee ballot vote after I've submitted it?

You may request and vote a replacement ballot, if you do so before Election Day. In this situation, your city or township clerk will void your original ballot and issue you a new ballot. Contact (or visit) your local clerk immediately if you are interested in doing so.

---

### Can I vote a straight party ticket?

Michigan is one of a few states that allow voters to vote "straight ticket" in a general election, which means voters may fill in one oval or box next to a party name to cast a vote for every candidate of that political party.

Voters in Michigan can also select the straight party option but then cast votes for individual candidates of a different party ("split ticket"). In the November Election, voters have the following options:

- "Straight Ticket": Voters may vote in the straight party race and select the party of their choosing - this will award votes up to the maximum allowed (and maximum candidates available) for each partisan race for the voter's chosen party.
- "Split Ticket": Voters may vote in the straight party race and select the party of their choosing, but then vote directly in an individual race (or multiple individual races) by directly voting for a candidate from a different party, voting for a candidate with no party affiliation, or casting a write-in vote. As with straight ticket voting, voting in the straight party

Continued *Can I vote straight ticket?*

...race will indirectly cast a vote for all candidates running under that party, except where the voter overrides an indirect vote by casting a direct vote for a candidate of a different party, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in vote.

- “Mixed Ticket”: Voters may decline to vote in the straight party race and directly select candidates of their choice from any party (or no party affiliation and write-ins) up to the maximum allowed for each race.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE THE NONPARTISAN SECTION OF YOUR BALLOT AS WELL AS FOR BALLOT PROPOSALS (STATEWIDE AND LOCAL) THAT ARE ON YOUR BALLOT.

To view who - and what - is on your ballot before you vote, go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) and type in your address in the box.

### **Do I need to vote absentee and in person to be sure that my vote counts?**

No, Don't Try to Vote Twice.

Attorney General Dana Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson reminded Michiganders that intentionally voting twice is illegal and will be prosecuted. “Let me be perfectly clear: voting twice is illegal, no matter who tells you to do it. The President’s idea is a great one for people looking to go to jail,” said Nessel. “My office will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law anyone who intentionally flouts our election laws.”

Michigan Secretary of State Benson assures voters that “We have protections in place to ensure election officials track and verify every ballot they send and receive and in every instance we ensure that each person gets only one vote.”

### **How will I know that my absentee ballot arrived?**

Use this [link](#) and sign in. You will find all sorts of information about your ballot, including status of an absentee ballot. If it still hasn't arrived after several days, call your city or township clerk's office.

### **Does Michigan allow open carry of guns at polling places?**

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson issued a directive that prohibits the open carry of guns within 100 feet of polling places on Election Day. The rule bars the open carry of guns at a clerk’s office, or where an absentee ballot counting board meets. Benson has said the ban is needed to ensure "citizens can freely exercise their fundamental right to vote without fear of threats, intimidation, or harassment."

Following a court challenge to the ban, a three-member panel of the court rejected Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's appeal of a ruling that struck down her directive banning the open carry of guns at or around polling places on Election Day.

In declining to hear the appeal, the panel said that although concerns about voter intimidation involving firearms are valid, the state already has laws to handle that. "Voter intimidation is — and remains — illegal under current Michigan law," the panel said." [Paul Egan, *Detroit Free Press*, 10-29-2020]

According to Christina Grossi of the Attorney General's office, the case is being appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court and it is expected that we may have further clarification before election day.

### **Can I observe the election?**

The Michigan Secretary of State has issued guidance on Poll Watchers and Poll Challengers. You can find that information [here](#).

#### **Have questions? Want to report something? Some important election resources**

1. Nonpartisan Election Protection's RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINE: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)
2. Bureau of Elections 517- 335-3234
3. [www.michiganvoting.org](http://www.michiganvoting.org) (MichiganVoting.org)
4. Michigan Voter Information Center: [Michigan.gov/vote](http://Michigan.gov/vote)
5. Michigan Secretary of State: [mich.gov/sos](http://mich.gov/sos)
6. [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)
7. Michigan Attorney General’s Election Division 517-335-7659

## Looking for YOUR Absentee Ballot Dropbox?

Search for your city/township clerk or by county with contact information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Clerk> or see the list below for location only.

City of Marquette:

**Kyle Whitney** 300 W. Baraga Ave.

City of Ishpeming:

**Tammie Leece** 100 E. Division St.

City of Negaunee:

**Judy Iwanski** 319 W. Case St.

Champion:

**Catherine Plankey** 5317 US 41, Champion

Chocoday:

**Max Engle** 5010 US 41 South

Ely Township:

**Kim Wing** 1555 C.R. 496

Ewing Township:

**Cindy Haas** W. Maple Ridge Rd, Rock

Forsyth Twncsp:

**Michelle Borrett** 186 W. Flint St., Gwinn

Ishpeming Twncsp:

**Cory Beth Grigg** 1575 US 41 W. Ishpeming

Humboldt Twncsp:

**Sarah Etelamaki** 244 C.R. FAF, Champion

Marquette Twncsp:

**Randy Ritari** 1000 Commerce Dr., Marq.

Michigamme Twncsp:

**Neil Hanson** Main St., Michigamme

Negaunee Township:

**Rachel Sertich** 42 M-35, Negaunee

Powell Township:

**Samantha Morin** 101 Bensinger St., Big Bay

Republic Twncsp:

**Marilyn Brancheau** Republic

Richmond Twncsp:

**Patricia Korpi** Palmer

Sands Township:

**Lee Yelle** 987 M-553, Gwinn

Skandia Twncsp:

**Marilyn Keto** Skandia

Tilden Township:

**Jason Brow** 3145 C.R. PG, Ishpeming

Turin Township:

**Gary Brunngraeber** M-35, Rock

Wells Township:

**Patti Manninen** 38295 CR 426, Arnold

West Branch Twncsp:

**Michelle Christal** 1016 CR 545 N, Skandia

## Three Cheers for the Mining Journal Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray!

*By Pri Burnham, Director of Voter Services*

The Mining Journal has once again teamed up with the League of Women Voters of Marquette County to publish the printed Voters Guide ahead of the 2020 election.

Drawing on the data compiled for the LWV's **Vote411.org website**, The Mining Journal put together a 28-page insert that went out to all of the paper's subscribers and commercial outlets. They also printed an additional 1,000 copies of the printed Voters' Guide that LWV volunteers distributed throughout Marquette County: to libraries, clerks' offices, town halls, grocery stores, assisted living centers, high schools, NMU, and KI Sawyer.

As described in a recent (very complimentary) article in ProPublica, the LWV produces, "a trove of information all the way down your ballot. The League is nonpartisan and works to arm citizens with the information they need to confidently vote." The article goes on:

For its **VOTE411.org** project, the League reached out to every candidate running for local and state office and asked each one a set of identical questions, like:

What experiences qualify you to represent the citizens living in your district?

What would be your top three priorities if elected?

How will you work to increase job opportunities for your constituents?

Because the League has so much juice in the political space, the majority of candidates actually answered, in their own words, allowing you to see where those running for office in your community stand on the issues.

We are grateful to The Mining Journal's Ann Troutman and Bud Sargent for their ongoing support - and for collaborating with the League by printing the Voters' Guide, and to members of the LWV of Marquette County who contributed to defray some of the additional printing cost. Special thanks to Janet Joswiak, Jane Pajot, Jo Foley, Joanna Mitchell, Sandy Breitenbach, Pri Burnham and especially Karen Schmitt, who not only distributed the Guides but also drove down to Powers early on a Monday morning to pick up the extra copies from the printer – a huge thumbs up for all their hard work.



Bud Sargent, Managing Editor and Ann Troutman, Publisher

## Statewide County Board of Canvassers League Observer Corps Mobilized

By Darlene Allen, President LWVMC

Over the last couple of weeks, League members from across the state have been mobilizing a statewide Observer Corps. The League of Women Voters of Michigan recognized the importance of the League having a presence at the post-Election County Board of Canvassers (BOC) meetings beginning on November 4th. The County BOC falls under the Open Meeting Law. The League Observers are exercising the right to be present and will be serving as the eyes and ears of the League. The Observers will not be speaking on behalf of the League.

According to the [Marquette County website](#), the Board of Canvassers reviews and certifies the election results by precinct for all local, state, and federal elections, and also oversees any recounts. The Board of Canvassers consists of four members, two Democrats and two Republicans, nominated by their political parties and appointed by the County Board to 4-year terms. The County Clerk acts as Secretary to the Board of Canvassers. The BOC has two weeks to certify the results.

League members are being asked to watch for any attempts by canvassers or outside groups to slow down or disrupt the canvassing process and will report any disruptions immediately to their team leader, who will relay the report to the President of LWVMI.

According to the [Manual for Boards of County Canvassers](#) (Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections October 2020), unnecessary delays in the canvass must be avoided. Also, as our League members are observing the Board of Canvassers' meetings, they will be watching to see if the BOC determines if there are any precincts that are *out of balance*, meaning the poll book count for total voters does not match the tabulator tape and the reason for the discrepancy cannot be explained. The observers will also make a note if there are any precincts for which the County Canvass Checklist cannot be completed. This information will be reported to the County LWV team leader and the President of the LWVMI after each observer completes their shift.

A Board of County Canvassers' principal responsibility is to canvass and certify specified primaries and elections held in the county. The Board "*canvasses*" primaries and elections by carefully reviewing and authenticating various forms and certificates completed by the precinct election workers to document the votes that have been cast. The Board "*certifies*" an election by declaring the final vote totals obtained at the election, the names of the candidates elected to the offices involved, and the outcome of any questions on the ballot.

I, serving as the UP team leader for the project, and with the help of our Observer Corps Coordinator, David Allen, have been working with League leaders across the UP to organize a team of volunteers to attend and observe the County Board of Canvassers meetings in several counties throughout the Upper Peninsula. The volunteers will be covering the meetings in shifts, one at a time; all LWV volunteer observers will be required to wear masks and follow the facility and board's protocol for safe distancing. There are five from the Eastern UP Member-At-Large Unit, five from Marquette County, five from Delta County and four from the Copper Country League. Statewide, over 200 League volunteers have been recruited. This is a great opportunity for the League to highlight the importance of its Observer Corps while at the same time doing our part to defend democracy.

### Voting Then and Now

Mabel Cook was just a baby when the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was added to the U.S. Constitution. Recently Mabel Duty Cook cast the 15th presidential vote of her 101 years on earth. She is glad women can participate, stating, "If they can do the job of a man, they ought to be able to vote."

*Progress-Index, Petersburg, Virginia newspaper, October 21, 2020.*

### We need your feedback and ideas on the newsletter and other programming

1. What would you like to see (or NOT see) in the LWV newsletter? For example:
  - articles and possible subject matter
  - interviews with/introduction of members
  - information about LWV alerts and links to LWVUS, LWVMI communications
  - committee reports
  - calendar of upcoming events/activities
  - other ideas
2. How often do you think we should publish the newsletter?
3. Do you have any preference for length of articles and/or number of pages? (short, or more in-depth articles)
4. Do you read the newsletter: a) always b) sometimes c) never?
5. What suggestions do you have for future Educational Committee programming? For membership meetings? For public meetings?

**Thank you! Please send your feedback/ideas to Madalyn Koval  
rkoval@sbcglobal.net**

## Spotlight on Us - Highlights and Kudos

### October was one of the busiest months of the year!

- > 2 Candidate Forums (Marquette City Commission and Sheriff)
- > October 7<sup>th</sup> membership meeting program: Election Information and Security
- > Distribution of State LWV Election Voters' Guide (350 copies)
- > Publication/distribution of printed local Voters' Guide (1,000 copies)
- > Recruitment and training of Poll Workers, Watchers
- > LWVMCty member David Allen was appointed to the LWVMI's Independent Redistricting Observation Team
- > Training for Board of Canvassing Observer volunteers

**"Marquette City Commission candidates discuss issues during virtual forum held by LWV"** [front-page article by Ryan Spitz, The Mining Journal, October 5, 2020]

**The Marquette County League of Women Voters held a virtual Candidate Forum for the Marquette City Commission** on September 30th. The six candidates running for the three open seats on the Marquette City Commission participated in the forum: Margaret Brumm, Jessica Hanley, Cody Mayer, Mike Plourde, Paul Schloegel, and Fred Stonehouse. The forums included opening statements from each of the candidates, questions submitted in advance by community members, and closing statements by the candidates. The moderator for the event was our League member, Jo Foley <https://youtu.be/TQ9f6hHZ9Ww>

**The Marquette County League of Women Voters held a virtual Candidate Forum for Marquette County Sheriff candidate(s)** on October 8, 2020. There are two candidates running for the office of Marquette County Sheriff: Joseph Kozub and Greg Zyburt. Both candidates were invited to participate. Greg Zyburt was the only candidate to accept the invitation. Under these circumstances, the League's "empty chair" policy allowed the forum to proceed with just one participant. The recording for the forum is now made available to the public. <https://trib.al/CTI7dmE>

**Educational Programming Committee presented "Hot Topics: Voting and Election Information" at October 7<sup>th</sup> virtual Membership Meeting. Here are some highlights:**

**Karen Schmitt:** VOTE411.org can help voters decide on candidates for locally contested races. Lists of all Marquette County candidates and proposals are on the County Clerk's website: [http://www.co.marquette.mi.us/departments/county\\_clerk/2016\\_election\\_information/electionlists.php#.X5GhyYhKjcs](http://www.co.marquette.mi.us/departments/county_clerk/2016_election_information/electionlists.php#.X5GhyYhKjcs)

**Pri Burnham:** Absentee ballot rejections: late arrival is most common reason for rejection, followed by unsigned ballot envelope signature mismatch. Ballots must be in clerks' hands by 8 pm on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Jo Foley:** Michigan has many layers of ballot security to prevent fraud during this election: duplicate applications/ballots or applications from non-registered voters are caught and rejected; drop boxes are secure and accessible only by clerks. Absentee ballots are stored in secure locations until counted. Each ballot has a unique bar code associated with a voter. Absentee ballots are tabulated by machine, ambiguous ballots by a person.

**Jane Pajot:** Michigan received \$5.5 million for election support and security, including \$\$ for postage on return envelopes, additional drop boxes, ballot tracking software, ballot opening and tabulating machinery, upgrades to voter registration databases, and PPE for poll workers

**Joanna Mitchell:** A number of LWV-backed measures have been adopted in MI. State and Nation LWV is conducting Poll Worker Recruitment and Training Campaign. Locally, clerks report that they have enough poll workers to conduct in-person voting as well as handling the anticipated increase in absentee ballots.

**Sandy Breitenbach:** Ways to help stop the spread of misinformation about voting by mail include:

- > only rely on trusted, vetted sources for election information
- > be a prepared, informed and **patient voter** (we may not know the complete results for days after the election)
- > "Think before you Link"
- > be careful what YOU post
- > be alert to and wary of manipulative content.
- > Check out Michigan Secretary of State's website under "election security" [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_100423---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_100423---,00.html).

### MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.