



*League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County  
Established in Livonia in 1960*

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

In July 1960, 35 women, then officially members of the Detroit League of Women Voters (LWV), received permission from the state and national offices to form the Provisional LWV of Livonia. The Livonia LWV was officially recognized as an independent League in 1962.

Under the leadership of its first president, Barbara LaRue, the Livonia League nearly doubled its membership, and proved that it was financially stable, politically non-partisan and that it possessed the leadership to provide study in government according to League program as well as citizenship training in the areas of voters service. In addition, the Provisional LWV of Livonia fulfilled another important requirement for recognition with the preparation and publication of a comprehensive resource booklet on the city entitled [This is Livonia](#).

Livonia was only a 10-year-old city when the LWV originated. Thanks to early League studies on Land Use, Livonia Public Schools, Wayne County Home Rule, Public Libraries, Public Recreation, and the City Charter, the League was able to use their positions to advocate for municipal improvements, school millages, and bond issues in Livonia. The LWV was a significant influence in the establishment of goals, policies and procedures of the young city. In the first 6 years of the League's existence, nine LWV members were elected or appointed to the school board or city commissions.

In 1998, LWV Livonia welcomed members of the Northville-Plymouth-Canton League, which had folded a year earlier. In 2001, the LWV of Livonia was re-named the LWV of Northwest Wayne County to more correctly identify the communities that it served: Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Wayne, Garden City, Westland and Northville Township. In 2016, the NW Wayne County League agreed to mentor League members in the 3 Belleville communities as they progress to becoming an independent League. We have also had the privilege of working with other Leagues in the SE Michigan area on regional issues.

Over the years, voter service has been our strength. We are grateful for the volunteer work of so many LWV members who have helped provide LWV services for the greater good. Conducting our candidates forums with professionalism, inclusivity and in a non-partisan way and producing voter education materials that are available to all voters has made our local League a trusted source of election information. We are proud that our forums and voter guides achieve record levels of candidate participation because we know that voters who have the opportunity to learn about all the candidates are educated voters. We do not take this earned respect lightly; we are committed to representing the League of Women Voters with integrity so that all voters can be participants in our democracy.

Since 1960, , the League of Women Voters has provided non-partisan election information to the citizens of its communities. One of the League's principal goals is to build citizen participation in the democratic process. Some of the activities that promote this goal include:

- Non-partisan, public candidate forums
- Non-partisan Voter Guides that are available in libraries and on-line
- Voter registration drives
- Educational forums for ballot proposals and other current issues

- Bi-annual publication of "They Represent You" - a listing of contact information for the area's elected officials
- Educational meetings on public policy issues, assisting people in seeking positive solutions

The work of the League is financed by the dues of members, contributions from citizens in the community, and League fundraisers.

The League works on many 'good government' issues, including: convenient voting, transparency in elections and policy-making, campaign finance reform, raising ethical standard for candidates, elected officials and top administration officials, and restoring confidence in the election process.

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*April, 2019*