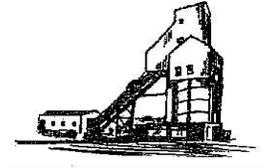


Copper Country Voter



Published by the
Copper Country League of Women Voters
Houghton County, Michigan



<http://www.lwvccmi.org/>

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LWVCC Calendar

November 3 Tuesday, 7:00pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton	December 3 Thursday, noon-1pm	An Update on Money in Politics (MIP) Educational Meeting Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock
November 11 Thursday, 6:45pm	US Constitutional Educational and Consensus Meeting Sloan House, 1220 E Lakeshore Dr., Houghton	January 25 Monday, 5:00pm	Annual Planning Meeting Kangas Cafe, Hancock
December 1 Tuesday, 5:00pm	Board Meeting Habaneros Mexican Kitchen, Hancock		

January 25th Planning Meeting

Our January Planning Meeting will be a dinner meeting, which will be held on Monday, January 25th at 5pm at the Kangas Cafe in the Jutila Center (the old Hospital) in room 311, Hancock. Please RSVP by Friday, January 22nd to Mary Marchaterre, mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 483-2291 with your menu entree choice of: Deluxe Chef Salad or Chicken Cordón Blue. The cost is \$13 for the meal, which includes: Salad, Roll, Dressings, Dessert, and Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, and Gratuity. Unfortunately, "No shows" will still be expected to pay for their dinner and will be billed by the LWVCC, as we will be committed to covering the number we have Reserved. This year we look at the LWVUS material in preparation for the national convention. Also, in preparation for our local Annual Meeting in April, any ideas for local program should be brought up at this time. We will also finalize the responses to the Money In Politics consensus questions. These can be viewed at <http://lwv.org/content/leaders-guide-education-study-consensus>.

Voter Awareness and Information Presentation at 2 local RICCs

LWV presented nonpartisan information on My Choice – My Vote, a voting awareness program to the Houghton and Baraga County Regional Interagency Consumer Committee or RICC groups on 10-8-15 and 10-21-15. Our two RICCs are local, grassroots, group of people with developmental disabilities, their friends and family members. Membership is also extended to local

advocates, community leaders and service providers. There are more than 50 RICCs statewide and the number is growing. Historically, RICCs have had three main functions: (1) to provide a forum for addressing local issues; (2) advocating for needed changes in the community, and (3) to inform the DD Council about local conditions for persons with developmental disabilities.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow's Response on Restoring the Voting Rights Act

LWVUS has sent an action alert to members to contact our elected officials calling for legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act. The following is Sen. Debbie Stabenow's response: "Thank you for contacting me about the Supreme Court decision that invalidated a part of the Voting Rights Act. I share your concerns, and that is why I am cosponsoring legislation to reinstate federal oversight of local voting laws to protect against voter discrimination."

"The Supreme Court recently returned a decision that invalidated a part of the Voting Rights Act, overturning 50 years of law by allowing parts of the country with a history of voter discrimination to change local voting laws without any federal oversight. In fact, within hours of the ruling, several states were preparing laws making it more difficult to vote."

"Congress must act to fix the law and ensure that all voters are able to cast their vote without barriers, fear, or intimidation. Our bill, the Voting Rights Advancement Act (S. 1659), is pending before the Senate Judiciary

Committee. I will keep supporting all measures that would restore the Voting Rights Act.”

Copper Country Consensus on Constitutional Amendment Study

The Copper Country League held two meetings this fall developing consensus around study questions developed by the League. The intent of this study is to form guidelines for the League to use in evaluating any constitutional amendments that might be proposed in the future.

As you probably remember from government classes, the U.S. constitution may be amended in two ways. The first way is for two-thirds of both houses of Congress to propose an amendment; this is the only way used to date. The second way is for the legislatures of two-thirds of the states to call a convention for proposing an amendment. Proposals from either process then need ratification by legislatures of three-fourths of the states, now 38.

The consensus questions from the League were in three categories—considerations for League endorsing a proposed amendment, questions on the constitutional convention process, and balancing questions between League positions and amendment processes.

After extensive discussions on what the League should consider in evaluating amendment proposals, our local League agreed we should consider the long-term importance of the issue, whether the proposed amendment would be effective in addressing the issue, whether the proposed amendment would make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights, and whether the issue was better suited to an amendment than to a series of laws. However we did not reach consensus on considering whether the proposed policy objective could be achieved by a simpler method than a constitutional amendment.

In discussing a possible constitutional convention initiated by the states, we agreed that the convention must be transparent rather than secret, that representation should be based on population rather than on one vote per state, that voting at the convention should be by delegate rather than by state, that a convention should address just one topic, and that states should be allowed to change their minds on approving calling the convention. We did not reach consensus on whether state delegates should be elected or appointed; some thought that election by congressional district rather than by state would be preferable. We disagreed with the League opposing the calling of such a convention due to unresolved questions about its powers and processes. Discussion noted that as this way of amending the constitution had never been done, there were bound to be

unresolved questions; yet, the method is clearly constitutional.

Finally, we agreed that the League should consider supporting a proposed amendment that would advance a League position even if the proposal had significant problems or the proposal process was flawed. Although this study was more abstract than most, it has prepared the League to evaluate a broad array of possible constitutional amendments.

To view the entire document with answers, use this link.
http://lwnet.org/lwv/mi/coppercountry/files/constitutional_amendment_study_guide_with_answers2015.pdf

To view only the answers, use this link.
http://lwnet.org/lwv/mi/coppercountry/files/constitutional_amendment_study_guide_answers_only2015.pdf

State Legislature Bills

The following are bills going through our State Legislature.

House Bill 4927: Automatically register new drivers to vote

Introduced by Rep. Derek Miller (D) on September 30, 2015, to automatically register to vote a person getting a drivers license or state I.D. for the first time.

<http://www.michiganvotes.org/Legislation.aspx?ID=170352>

House Bill 4928: Automatically register new drivers to vote

Introduced by Rep. Julie Plawecki (D) on September 30, 2015, to require an applicant for a drivers license to include a declaration of United States citizenship on the application in order to be automatically registered to vote, as proposed by House Bill 4927.

<http://www.michiganvotes.org/Legislation.aspx?ID=170353>

House Bill 4929: Automatically register state I.D. applicants to vote

Introduced by Rep. John Chirkun (D) on September 30, 2015, to require an applicant for a state identification card to include a declaration of United States citizenship on the application in order to be automatically registered to vote, as proposed by House Bill 4927.

<http://www.michiganvotes.org/Legislation.aspx?ID=170354>

All Contributions by corporations to any political committee or for any political purpose should be forbidden by law.

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1905

2015 Know your Government Officials pamphlet

The ever popular KYGO is available for distribution, which contains updated contact information on most Houghton and Keweenaw local, state, and federal government officials. We also printed a KYGO for Baraga County officials.

Advocacy by LWVUS

League Opposes Senate Attempts to Block Clean Power Plan (NEW)

The League sent a [letter](#) to the U.S. Senate opposing any attempt to block the implementation of the Administration's Clean Power Plan. Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress can review the implementation of regulations developed by the Administration. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices to discuss this groundbreaking regulation that will save lives and protect the environment. Visit the LWVUS Climate Change Toolkit for [background on the Clean Power Plan](#) and a section outlining [what Leagues and League members can do](#) to help build support for, and promote compliance with, the Clean Power Plan.

League Submits Comments to EPA Science Advisory Board (NEW)

The League submitted [written comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB). The comments are in regard to the EPA SAB's study on the effects that hydraulic fracturing has on drinking water sources.

Support the EPA'S Methane Pollution Regulation (REMINDER)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the first-ever proposed pollution standard for new and modified oil and gas facilities. These regulations are an important step forward to protect public health and our planet. [Thank the EPA for their efforts to protect our children by cutting methane emissions.](#)

In Memorium

We note with sadness, the passing of Audrey Frair, past member of LWVCC. Audrey was a loved member of the community, involved in music and many issues. She died in late October at her daughter's home in Maine, where she and Paul have lived for the past few years.

LWVCC Board for 2015 - 2016

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The League of Women Voters
of the Copper Country
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