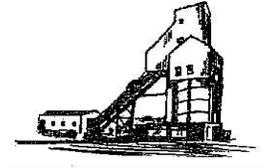


# Copper Country Voter



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



<http://www.lwvccmi.org/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/coppercountrylwv>

## LWVCC Calendar

<b>February 7</b> Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites	<b>April 4</b> Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites
<b>February 27</b> Monday, 6:30pm	Unit Meeting - Consensus Response on LWVMI Taxation & Budget Study Country Inn & Suites	<b>April 15 or 22</b> TBD	Annual Meeting US House Rep. Jack Bergman has been invited to speak. No reply as of this printing.
<b>March 7</b> Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites	<b>May 19-21</b>	LWVMI Convention Kellogg Center, East Lansing
<b>March 21</b> Tuesday, 5pm	Youth Leadership Program with 4-H CCISD		

### Unit Meeting on LWVMI Taxation and Budget

LWV delegates to the 2015 state convention approved a study to update the current position on taxation and budgeting so that LWVMI could speak more effectively to a variety of government finance issues. In recent months there has also been a growing awareness of the severe financial stress faced by many local units of government and of the complex inter-relationship between state and local governments. Martha Sloan, state study committee member will facilitate the unit meeting, Mon. Feb. 27th. A background and questions document accompanies the e-mail version of this Voter.

### Thanks for Marching – Here’s What’s Next!

By: Sarah Courtney 01/23/2017, LWV

On January 21, 2017 millions of women and men around the world turned out to make our voices heard. The Women's March was an historic day that brought attention to important issues - but our work is just beginning. Here are some actions you can take RIGHT NOW to make a difference in your community and beyond.

#### 1. Join the League of Women Voters!

The League is working to make a difference and actively engaging people in more than 700 communities around the country. Attend a local League event to get involved

in our work to engage with elected officials, empower new voters and to learn about issues that impact your community.

#### 2. Call Congress – and call them often!

Elected officials work for the people and need to hear from concerned citizens like you. Whether you marched to protect voting rights, healthcare or the environment, make sure Congress knows YOUR priorities.

#### 3. Register to Vote- and help your friends get registered!

It might not be an election year where you live – but it’s never too early to make sure your registration is up to date. The League works year-round in hundreds of communities to prepare eligible voters. Check out [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) for more information.

#### 4. Make a Donation to Defend our Democracy!

Your support makes it possible for the League to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms across the country.

#### 5. Become an e-Activist!

Read updates from the League and take action by holding your elected officials accountable on the League’s key priorities like voting rights and money in politics.

Making your voice heard never goes out of style and we were so proud to stand strong as an official partner of the [Women’s March on Washington](#). Now let’s keep the momentum going!

**From the LWVMI Facebook page:**  
[Gabrielle Gurley](#), February 3, 2017

**'I know of no widespread voter fraud,'  
Michigan's Secretary of State Ruth Johnson says**

The latest entry in the growing canon of literature debunking voter fraud comes courtesy of an East Lansing, Michigan, consulting firm. The Anderson Economic Group recently released a deep “**forensic analysis**” of the Michigan 2016 presidential vote. Researchers studied data from the last two presidential elections from every county in the state in an effort to uncover evidence of voter fraud. The firm also probed the data for shards of evidence to buttress President Trump’s claim that three to five million undocumented people voted illegally, giving Hillary Clinton her decisive 2.8 million-vote edges in the popular tally.

The firm found that “no evidence” of “systematic tampering or hacking of voting machines” or conspiracy or fraud among election officials [that] resulted in vote tallies altered” to give the Republican presidential candidate a Michigan victory. The researchers also concluded there was “no evidence that indicates a large number of ineligible, foreign-born residents voted for the Democratic candidate in Michigan in 2016, if “large number” means Michigan’s share of “3 to 5 million” across the United States.” The January report followed one Anderson conducted in December, both studies arriving at the same conclusion. The 2016 election, concluded Patrick Anderson, the firm’s CEO, “was the most vetted presidential election in Michigan history.”

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**New bills include requiring all votes to be  
recountable**

Making sure all voting precincts can be recounted is the goal of a bill that was introduced last week in the Michigan Legislature.

The presidential recount in Michigan last year was plagued by hundreds of precincts that couldn't be recounted, especially in Detroit, when the polling books couldn't be balanced or seals on ballot containers were improperly closed. Although the statewide recount wasn't completed because a federal judge stopped it, elections' officials found that 68% of the precincts in Detroit couldn't be recounted because the numbers of voters in the pollbooks didn't match the number of votes in the ballot box.

The new bill would require that all votes be recounted.

**OP-ED: Copper Country League Failing to  
Reap Rewards of New Grassroots Political  
Energy?**

Barry Elizabeth Fink

I write this to express my personal concern that our local League needs some people to step up to take roles on the board of directors and on committees. The recent surge in grassroots political interest has somehow, not yet translated into new energy for our League. A few new groups have started up locally and that is great to see. However, our own organization will be holding its 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in April and our pool of working participants is at a low ebb. Our annual fundraising drive has fallen short by a substantial amount. We will need a new secretary for the board and we continue to get along with the shared governance model as we do not have a president in-house. Our wonderful treasurer is also planning to step down in another year. To be sure, we have some terrific people doing great service, but they need more participants or I fear we will dwindle to an unsustainable level. Surely the premiere non-partisan grassroots group in the nation, inheritors of the mantle won for us by the brave suffragettes, should be infused with the energy now coursing through the citizenry. Now is not the time for us to go by the wayside as other new groups emerge. Contact a board member or Carol Kreher, Nominating Committee, 523-4048 or [krehercreations@charter.net](mailto:krehercreations@charter.net) to express your interest!

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**Houghton-Portage District Bond Proposal**

Submitted by Krissy Sundstrom,  
LWVCC School Board Observer

A School bond proposal will once again be on the May ballot for the Houghton-Portage District. The budget detail can be viewed at the bottom of the first page of their website <http://www.hpts.us/> titled [Available Here](#) - Project Cost Details Sheets (December 2016 Board Meeting) Dates for public information meetings are not released yet. When they are, it should be posted on the website. Last year the meeting notices were on the main page near where the cost detail sheets currently are found.

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**Secretary Johnson offers recommendations for  
federal government to strengthen elections**

MI Secy. Of State sent a letter to VP Mike Pence with these 5 recommendations for federal help to strengthen the election system. See them at <http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127--404680--,00.html>

## LWVMI Position on Redistricting

The League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) supports the formation of an independent redistricting commission in lieu of the legislature as the primary redistricting body. Such a commission should afford equal representation to the major parties and provide for independent and diverse representation. This commission should be established through legislation and/or a constitutional amendment.

The recent Supreme Court decision that confirmed the constitutionality of an independent redistricting commission sent a clear message that these commissions are tools for voters to make their voices heard. The current system of redistricting, the process by which new congressional and state legislative district lines are drawn, lets elected officials do so to their liking and to the advantage of their political party. It also increases the power of wealthy special interests so that they are able to further rig the system to their own selfish benefit. This is why while 70% of MI voters support a variety of liberal approaches to issues, the legislature produces bills that reflect an opposite stance. This effectively, but disingenuously, ignores the will of the majority of voters who believe in compromise and the ability to work together to build a better Michigan for everyone.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is a partner in the Michigan Redistricting Collaborative, a coalition of groups that believe redistricting must be more transparent and open, with opportunities for the public to be informed and involved.

LANSING -- Michigan Democrats are going to federal court to try to undo congressional and legislative electoral districts they say are unlawfully gerrymandered to Republican advantage.

They are hoping to replicate a recent success by Wisconsin Democrats, who got legislative districts in that state struck down through a 2016 federal lawsuit. The November ruling in the Wisconsin case was significant because it was a rare instance in which a federal court struck down legislative districts on the grounds of partisan gerrymandering, rather than racial gerrymandering.

*[No man has the] right to mislead others, who have less access to history, and less leisure to study it. . . . Thus substituting falsehood and deception for truthful evidence and fair argument.*

**Abraham Lincoln,  
Cooper Union Address, 1860**

## LWVCC Board for 2016 - 2017

<b>President/Resource Management</b> <b>Rhianna Williams</b>	<b>296-9539</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> <b>Barry Fink</b>	<b>483-4632</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Natural Resources</b> <b>Kristine Bradof</b>	<b>482-0446</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Mary Marchaterre</b>	<b>483-2291</b>
<b>Secretary</b> <b>Barry Fink</b>	<b>482-4632</b>
<b>Electoral Process</b> <b>Faith Morrison</b>	<b>487-9703</b>
<b>Leah Bectel</b> <b>Mich Tech Student</b>	
<b>Voter Service</b> <b>Kathy Flagstadt</b>	<b>399-0721</b>
<b><u>Off Board</u></b>	
<b>Children and Youth</b> <b>Carol Kreher</b>	<b>523-4048</b>
<b>Education</b> <b>Martha Sloan</b>	<b>369-4184</b>
<b>Voter Editor</b> <b>Linda Ott</b>	<b>487-2315</b>
<b>Website Editor</b> <b>Shellie Crisman</b>	<b>523-6299</b>



The League of Women Voters  
of the Copper Country  
PO Box 815  
Houghton, MI 49931

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**Join or make a donation to the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

Check here if you would like to receive your LWVCC  
Voter by e-mail.

Contributions to the annual finance drive and Kay LaRue Scholarship  
are NOT tax deductible. Checks should be made out to: LWVCC.

Contributions to the Educational Fund are tax deductible.  
Checks should be made out to: LWV Educational Fund

**Membership**

Individual Dues (\$55)

Household Dues (\$80)

Student Dues (\$30)

**Donation**

Finance Drive (\$\_\_\_\_)

Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$\_\_\_\_)

Education Fund {\$\_\_\_\_)