

## League Membership 101

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

### History of the League

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt and other leaders of the effort to obtain women's right to vote. The League's first goal was to teach women to exercise their new right to vote but the scope soon included all citizens. Political action based on careful study also became an integral part of the League's agenda.

You are always welcome to League Meetings. Come check us out. Look on our FACEBOOK page for the next date.

**A multilevel organization.** Members join a local League and are automatically members of the state and national League.

- Dues paid to a local League include a Per Member Payment (PMP) owed to both the state and national Leagues.
- Dues and donations for general League activities are not tax deductible but tax deductible donations can be given to the LWVUS Education Fund for local use.
- Member dues help the strong lobbying efforts at the state and national levels.

**The League is nonpartisan** — The organization does not support or oppose political candidates.

-The President and the Chairpersons of Voter Service and VOTE411 do not participate in any activity that would indicate support for a candidate.

-All other members and board members are encouraged to be politically active.

**The League supports issues** after member study and agreement.

-**Program issues** are selected for study and member agreement.

-**Consensus** is general membership agreement on a position after study.

-**Concurrence** is agreement with position statements developed by another League.

-**Advocacy** is member activity that encourages the support or opposition of legislation. Action can take place at all three levels of the League organization.

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.lwvja.org](http://www.lwvja.org)

**The League is a grassroots organization.** Members have a voice in decisions at every level. They elect the board and officers, decide what issues to study, approve a budget and bylaws and give general directions to the plans for future years. Local Leagues give suggestions for the state or national program agenda.

**The League mobilizes people to vote** and to have a say in the complex decisions that affect us all. There is increased interest from the public to become involved in the political process. We hope more men and women will join the League to help keep our nation, our state and our communities strong, safe, just and vibrant.

League members continue to advocate for implementation of stronger voting rights laws, campaign finance reforms. LWVJA is also active in the following areas:

-**Redistricting** is a League priority. We will continue to work for a redistricting process that results in more competitive districts that reflect the diverse values of the constituents.

-**Candidate forums** are League sponsored events designed to help citizens better understand policy issues. All candidates for offices are invited to participate.

-**Voter Guide** invites all candidates for an elected office to respond to specific questions about current policy issues.

-**VOTE411.org**, an online data base provides voter guides and other personalized information to help citizens be informed.

-**Voter education** programs in the schools and voter registration drives.

-**Programs** with speakers to educate on a League position such as Redistricting.



## Jackson League

Formed in 2015, mentored by the Lansing League and became an independent league, December 2017. Jackson had a large, vibrant league for many decades until the late 1990's and some members have rejoined the 21<sup>st</sup> century League.

### Jackson Area League in Action

- Provides voter services to area residents; presents nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and important local issues.
- **STUDENTS:** Offers High School Senior Seminar on *Voting History, Registering, and How to Vote*. Registers college and high school students to vote. To encourage civic participation, students may join the League for \$5.00 annual fee as full members (through 2021).
- Registers citizens to vote.
- Candidate Forums educate electorate.
- LWVJA Discussion Group focuses on public sector contemporary topics.
- Co-sponsor of JXN Community Forums to inform and educate the citizens on important issues affecting life in Jackson.
- Consensus studies recently on state and local Government Finance and Budgets, Seasonal Workers, Money in Politics
- Information online at VOTE411.org on local candidates; voting information.
- Printed Voter Guide for state offices.
- **Promote the Vote Campaign-**dedicated to protecting voting rights and making voting more accessible for all.

6.1.2018

## JOIN US

- Yes, I want to learn more  
 Yes, I want to become a member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues Enclosed (check one):

- \$65 Individual Membership (annual)  
 \$97.50 Household Membership for 2 (annual)  
 \$5.00 Student Membership (annual)

Complete above form, make check payable to League of Women Voters Jackson Area and mail to:

League of Women Voters Jackson Area  
PO box 1886, Jackson, MI 49204

We are a 501(c4) organization. Dues and donations for general league activities are not tax deductible but tax deductible donations can be given to the LWVUS Education Fund for local use; mail to above address.

**Jackson Contact:**

Mary Lee Clark, President:

[LeagueWVJackson@gmail.com](mailto:LeagueWVJackson@gmail.com)

**For More Information...**

LWV-US: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

LWV-MI: [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org)

LWV-JA: [www.lwvja.org](http://www.lwvja.org)

## League of Women Voters Jackson Area



## Membership Info

*League membership is open  
to all eligible voters  
both men and women*