Michigan League of Conservation Voters - Our Water Our Vote Activist Program

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) — one of the largest, most impactful political advocacy organizations in the state — is seeking participants for the Our Water Our Vote Activist Program through our Advocacy & Outreach department. This is a three-month virtual training and engagement program that offers real-world organizing and training pertaining to protecting our environment through community and nonpartisan political engagement.

The program focuses on building power, presence, and relationships on behalf of our organization and organizing community members to get involved in making the protection of Michigan's land, air, and water a political priority. This position will advocate for strong environmental protections, and build and amplify the voices of communities of color and other key constituencies who are disproportionately impacted by environmental issues. Program participants will develop the experience to work on advocacy and electoral campaigns and will be motivated to build a strong, diverse base of supporters for action on land, air, and water issues in our regions and across the state.

About the Michigan League of Conservation Voters

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters is a statewide political organization whose mission is to elect pro-conservation candidates to office and to hold all decision makers accountable for protecting Michigan's drinking water, attacking climate change and expanding access to the ballot. We work closely with elected officials, business leaders, partner organizations and advocates from across the state, and we have built a reputation as the leading, non-partisan political voice for Michigan's land, air and water.

Michigan LCV is an equal opportunity employer. We assure equal treatment in hiring selection, promotion, transfer, compensation, benefits, training, discipline and other personnel practices and terms or conditions of employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, height, weight, marital status, genetic testing status, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender status, or any other protected class established by all applicable federal, state and local laws and ordinances.

Responsibilities

- Working with the Advocacy & Outreach team to recruit and grow a strong, sustainable team of volunteers advocating for stronger protections for our air, land, water, democracy, and public health.
- Assisting in creating, organizing, and implementing a steady drumbeat of advocacy opportunities that further or fit into Michigan LCV's issue, accountability, electoral, or public education campaigns.
- Attending community organizing and professional development trainings and performing community organizing tasks such as phone banking, leading trainings, and building volunteer leadership.
- Learning a variety of database systems, including the Voter Activation Network (VAN).

Qualifications

The ideal participants will be interested in learning more about community organizing, building leadership in communities, and creating lasting environmental change. Prior experience in community organizing is not required. High school and college students are encouraged to apply. You should have:
A positive attitude and willingness to inspire action and build a team.

A belief that who we elect matters and that the protection of Michigan’s land, air, and water should be a political priority.

Passion for learning organizing principles, working under the environmental justice framework, and creating systemic change.

Cultural Competence:

○ Demonstrated awareness of one’s own cultural identity and the ability to learn and build on varying community norms.

○ Commitment to equity and inclusion as organizational practice and culture.

○ Understanding of how environmental issues intersect with racism, economic and social inequality in the U.S. and has a passion for working to dismantle these systems.

**Time Commitment & Program Dates**

Our Water Our Vote Activists must commit to 10 hours of work per week for a 3-month period, including evenings and occasional weekends. This program is taking place in three-month cycles in 2022 as follows:

- **Cycle C:** September 13 - November 18 (Apply by August 31)

*Dates are subject to change

**Incentives**

This is an unpaid part-time program focused on community organizing training and engagement. Our Water Our Vote Activists will be given applied experience outside of the traditional classroom settings, networking opportunities, and experience in working on issue-based and electoral programs, building leadership in communities, and creating environmental change. Exemplary Our Water Our Vote Activists will receive a letter of recommendation.

**How to Apply**

[Click here to apply](#). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
From Our Past Past Our Water Activists

“I loved to meet and talk to volunteers and environmental supporters and hearing their passion - it's so inspiring and really motivates me. I also love that we get to work on all levels of government and really learn about all the environmental issues impacting the entire state, especially the regions I'm not personally familiar with.” - Allison Liu

“As a young person, organizing for political change felt far removed from what I was capable of. Instead, I focused lots of attention on my own individual actions. However, Michigan LCV showed me that young and old people can accomplish things when we work together. The OWA program allowed me to take on more responsibility and feel trusted within the organization, and I feel much more prepared as a leader and activist at its completion.” - Lauren May

“Being an Our Water Activist has allowed me to connect with community members across Michigan and hear how environmental issues are impacting them directly. I've learned a lot about the power of coming together to push for environmental policies on the state and federal level. It is an amazing opportunity that gives you a peek into what community organizing looks like.” - Past Our Water Activist

“My favorite part of being an Our Water Activist has been connecting with people across the state of Michigan through phone banking, canvassing, town halls, and just being a part of the MLCV team. As someone who majored in environmental science and political science in college, having the opportunity to hear stories from Michiganders who are directly impacted by social and environmental issues has given me so much perspective beyond what I've learned in the classroom. Being an OWA has made me a much more informed, mindful, and connected advocate, and I feel like I can now take more meaningful action in whatever career path I take.” - Bridget Corwin