

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NEW CASTLE 2023-2024 PROGRAM**

The League of Women Voters has local, county, state, and national positions, which are the basis for League action. National, state, and county positions can be found through links on our website. LWVNC supports these county, state, and national League positions, member time and interest permitting, which may include monitoring, studying, and public education..

Our local program is a listing of issues that LWVNC intends to take action on this year. Included below each issue is an “Outlook For Work” identifying specific actions for that issue. These lists are intended to serve as a roadmap for the year, but should not be considered exhaustive. The LWVNC Program is aspirational and subject to the capacity of the organization; none of the action items are mandatory.

The LWVNC is committed to the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). We commit to evaluating all activities with a DEI “lens”, meaning with regard to how that event or process is perceived by a variety of communities, voices, and perspectives. We will look for, and strive to eliminate, the presence of barriers that prevent the project/event/policy from being equitable or inclusive of everyone.

### **VOTER SERVICE**

Prepare, publish, and distribute nonpartisan information on registration, voting, candidates, ballot issues, and elections including the general election, fire districts elections, and school and library board elections. Provide civic education including information about public office positions.

### **OUTLOOK FOR WORK**

1. Collaborate and coordinate with LWV Westchester on Voter Service including Vote411, Voters Guides, Candidate Forums, and outreach to local colleges.
2. Prepare, distribute, and publicize Voters Guides for the School Board, Library Board, and Fire Commissioner elections
3. Organize Candidate Forums:
  - a) Locally for New Castle
  - b) In partnership with LWVNY and LWVW for relevant state and county-wide elections
4. Participate in Naturalization Court ceremonies
5. Increase voter participation, including:
  - a) Hold voter registration drives
  - b) Provide voter registration material to high school students and coordinate with local high school representatives on the high school voter registration drive
  - c) Collaborate with like-minded groups to reach underserved communities
  - d) Advocate at the local and county levels for better accessibility at polling places for impaired or disabled voters and ensure that impaired or disabled voters are aware of available accommodations

6. Provide assistance for School and Library Board and Budget and Fire District voting, as needed
7. Monitor election procedures, including timing, absentee ballots, notifications, and distribution of information
8. Identify needs for civic education and plan civic education efforts

## **ADVOCACY**

Monitor issues that have been or are currently being studied by the LWFNC or by the League of Women Voters on the county, state, and/or national levels. Inform our membership of developments and, from time to time, study and take action on certain issues. Identify and propose new issues that may be of interest to LWFNC membership for study.

### **A. ENVIRONMENT**

Monitor and take action on environmental and sustainability issues affecting New Castle including, but not limited to, air, noise, and water pollution; waste management; and energy conservation.

#### **OUTLOOK FOR WORK**

1. Monitor, support, and take action on, as applicable, sustainability initiatives undertaken by various New Castle boards and committees, including the New Castle Conservation Board, the New Castle Sustainability Advisory Board, and the New Castle Climate Smart Communities Task Force
2. Support efforts to inform the community on climate-related topics

### **B. SOCIAL POLICY ISSUES**

Monitor and take action on local social policy issues covered by National, State, and County LWF positions, including equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing; healthcare; domestic violence; and childcare.

#### **OUTLOOK FOR WORK**

1. Monitor and study initiatives to increase diversity in housing
2. Support initiatives to prevent domestic violence and support its victims
3. Support measures that promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all aspects of local community life
4. Use a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens to evaluate League activities
5. Monitor and participate in LWFNY Equal Rights Amendment work

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

An important function of our local league is to stay abreast of matters and issues involving local government and planning in New Castle, including (i) the Town of New Castle Town Board and its boards and committees; (ii) the Chappaqua Central School District School Board; (iii) the Chappaqua Library Board; and (iv) fire districts serving residents of the Town of New Castle.

#### **OUTLOOK FOR WORK**

1. Stay informed about local government meetings

2. Disseminate information to members and the New Castle community about local government action and planning
3. Monitor and evaluate development of budgets and financing, including bond proposals
4. Evaluate and recommend action on planning and zoning issues

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION**

Support civic education for youth in our community, including by providing opportunities for students to engage in the work of the League and to learn about voting, public policy, and government.

### **OUTLOOK FOR WORK**

1. Maintain a program for high school students to serve as interns with LWVNC
2. Sponsor and publicize activities such as LWVNY's Students Inside Albany and LWVW's Running and Winning
3. Support voter education and registration work for high school and college students
4. Participate in collaborative efforts with other Leagues to further develop activities, programs, and participation opportunities for youth

## **COMMUNICATION**

Actively use various written and electronic means to keep LWVNC members and the community at large informed about League of Women Voters activities, events, advocacy issues and developments, and action alerts.

### **OUTLOOK FOR WORK**

1. Develop and present programs to encourage citizen participation in government
2. Develop and present programs or forums to encourage conversations and education about important topics, including League Reads

## **MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

Actively recruit and retain LWVNC members and cultivate member participation in League work. Raise funds, in addition to membership dues and donations, to sustain the work of the LWVNC

### **OUTLOOK FOR WORK**

1. Examine League membership through a DEI lens and work to ensure that our membership is diverse and inclusive
2. Develop opportunities to educate the community about the League's work through informational programs, events, advocacy activities, publicity (media outreach), and social events
3. Identify, organize, and execute activities and events to raise funds