

Dear representatives at the League of Women Voters.

My name is Thomas Kapinus, and I am a student at Le Moyne College looking to get involved in the Broome Tioga League. As an economics major with interests in law school and government, I would like to be able to broaden my knowledge and understanding of government and advocacy. I would also like to advance my passion for educating people on civic engagement and registering people to vote, a passion that stems from the league's Student's Inside Albany Conference.

After attending this program, I had a major epiphany; there is a lack of civic education in this country. During the conference, I—who had always had an interest in law and government—learned many things that I had been oblivious to including: the New York State budget process; one minute over-the-phone advocacy to legislatures; the arduous process of how bills have to pass through numerous committee meetings; and the fact that political leaders have more in common than the media gives them credit for. At that time of the conference, I didn't think anything of it since nobody knows everything. However, after doing a research paper in college and reading in a survey that less than half of Americans can name each of the three branches of government, I concluded that the overwhelming majority of Americans probably didn't know any of the things that I learned at the conference. Therefore, I decided that my true passion in life was to learn about our laws and government, along with teaching others about the duties of being an engaged citizen. But I do not want to stop there.

This summer, I would like to get involved with the league in their voter registration and civic education efforts. If there are any major events or projects, please let me know as I would be happy to help. Also, if there is anything that I can do at my college to promote the goals of the league, please let me know as well.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from the league soon.

Sincerely
Thomas Kapinus.