

## **CANCELLATION**

### **LWVSC KICK-OFF LUNCHEON**

Cancelled due to heightened  
COVID risks in our community

## **President's Letter**

Dear LWVSC Friends,

There are a number of questions on the US Citizenship Civics Exam that have to do with voting and participating in our democracy. Two of my favorites are:

1. Name one *right* that is only for United States citizens.
2. What is one *responsibility* that is only for United States citizens?

Both questions have the same answer – *To vote in a federal election*. We not only have a right to vote but we also have a responsibility to vote in order to fully participate in our democracy.

I've been thinking about these questions lately as I continue to read reports on the widening gap between states trying to curtail voting rights while others try to expand them. Since the 2020 election, a number of states have enacted legislation to weaken a citizen's right to vote. For example:

- by maintaining "active voter lists" instead of permanent voter lists, potentially causing thousands of names to be removed from the rosters
- by removing or greatly restricting the use of ballot drop boxes
- by creating earlier voter registration deadlines
- by reducing early voting periods and polling hours
- by adding new and tougher ID requirements to vote

The good news is that many states (including New York) have expanded the ways voters can register, obtain ballots, and decide where and when to vote. At the same time, at least twenty-five states have

either not established any new voting legislation, or if they have done so, it has had only a mixed impact on voting. Obviously, there is still much work to do!

The next time you vote or register a new voter, remember those words *right* and *responsibility*. And don't forget to thank New York State for expanding our voting rights, and all the local NYS Leagues and LWVNYS for lobbying for these rights on our behalf.

In League,

Ann Hatke

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## **End Gerrymandering: Focus on the NYS Capital District**

If you weren't able to participate in LWV Albany County's recent re-districting webinar held on August 19, you can still see it. *End Gerrymandering – One Person, One Vote Coalition* is now available to watch on at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3B8tT-DNbwDRrZK6e9R7XA>

The **NYS Independent Redistricting Committee** will be holding a meeting on **Thursday, Sept 9th** and with our current understanding that they will present their preliminary maps to the legislature shortly, we're asking the public to either attend in public or watch the live-stream of it to let them know the public is watching! This early viewing by the legislature of the maps before the Commission receives feedback from the public on their draft maps is concerning.

The One Person, One Vote Coalition will be inviting all who are interested to join us that same day, **Sept 9th at 6:30 pm**, to discuss this and to provide further education and advocacy direction. To attend the coalition meeting, please use this Zoom link to register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEldu6oqDMtG9Y6msXhyb\\_dZbw183m27-uo?\\_x\\_zm\\_rhtaid=5n\\_yPIHaTuuPxdQfDyHQcA.1630773918898.67d07b2b7a78976ee8295d121ebec37e\\_x\\_zm\\_rhtaid=817](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?zmt=1630773918898.67d07b2b7a78976ee8295d121ebec37e_x_zm_rhtaid=5n_yPIHaTuuPxdQfDyHQcA.1630773918898.67d07b2b7a78976ee8295d121ebec37e_x_zm_rhtaid=817)

### ***POLL WORKERS NEEDED IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY***

*The Schenectady County Board of Election is currently seeking friendly, reliable, and detail orientated people to serve as Poll Workers for future elections. Poll workers are responsible for performing a variety of tasks including: signing in voters, assisting voters, and documenting information on appropriate forms. Bilingual individuals, speaking fluent English and Spanish, are also needed and encouraged to apply.*

*In order to serve as a poll worker you must be a registered voter, resident of Schenectady County and attend a two to three hour annual certification training. Poll workers are paid: \$35 for training and \$210 for a full Election day (Hours are 5am-9:30pm).*

*If interested in this position email at [pollworker@schenectadycounty.com](mailto:pollworker@schenectadycounty.com).*

## People Powered Fair Maps

This month the Independent Redistricting Commission concluded their first round of hearings on redistricting. A huge thank you to our many local League members who showed up to testify about their district lines and communities of interest!

The Commission has not yet posted the transcripts of the hearings nor the publicly submitted written testimony to their website.

This month the League called on the Commission to quickly publicize those documents so the public can have the opportunity to review them before maps are released in mid-September. The League also urged the Commission to share the transcripts in additional languages so that New Yorkers who speak a language other than English as their primary language have the opportunity to read about what their neighbors are recommending. Finally, the League urged the Commission to schedule open meetings of mapping deliberations so New Yorkers can watch negotiations of maps for New York State Senate, Assembly, and Congressional district.

Jennifer Wilson, LWVNY State Voter

Our League goals are to educate citizens about government and public policy, encourage citizen participation in elections, and influence public policy relating to issues we've studied. Membership makes working on our goals possible.

### **Membership for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

Return to: LWV of Schenectady County, P.O. Box 9135, Schenectady, NY 12309

#### ***New or Renewing Members Please Confirm This Contact Information***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$85 Household \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Full time HS student

Additional support for the League, dues plus \$10 contribution (\$70 or \$95 – circle one)

Confidential arrangements for special payment or partial assistance can be made. Contact Connie Young at 393-7061 with questions about dues or payments. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible.

\_\_\_ I am sending my membership dues payment, but please consider me an **INACTIVE** member.  
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**ACTIVE MEMBERS:** The League depends upon the work of its members, even if for just a short task. Please check any areas that interest you. We appreciate your help.

Judicial \_\_\_\_\_ Health \_\_\_\_\_ Observer Corps \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship Mentoring Group \_\_\_\_\_ Environment \_\_\_\_\_ Education \_\_\_\_\_

**Voter Services:** Register Voters \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate Forums \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Information \_\_\_\_\_

**Computer Skills:** Graphics/Layout \_\_\_\_\_ Data Bases \_\_\_\_\_ Website Work \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook \_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ Other Technical Skill(Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

