



Letter from the President – May 2022

Dear LWVSC Friends,

After a bit of trial and error, it seems that Spring has finally arrived in upstate New York. I know many of you are busy planning – or planting – your gardens, and I hope all of you are enjoying seeing the flowers pop up and the trees leaf out.

The recent outcome concerning the invalidation of the redistricting maps that had been approved by the NYS Legislature has been an historic win for New York and for the League of Women Voters of New York State. The current process of redistricting dates back to a 2014 constitutional amendment that the League strongly supported. The process requires that a bi-partisan Independent Redistricting Commission produces maps according to current census figures rather than the NYS Legislature as was done in the past. This procedure was not followed, resulting in a legal challenge and a decision by the New York Court of Appeals. Be sure to see the LWVNYS press release about this legal challenge and decision that is included in this Bulletin. To read the League’s amicus brief, click on the link at the bottom of the press release.

You will also find two important documents in the Bulletin this month: the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget and the 2022-2023 LWVSC Program. We will be voting on these items as well as the 2022-2023 Slate of Leaders (that was published in the April Bulletin) at our June Annual Meeting dinner on June 15. More information about the June dinner will follow soon.

In League,

Ann Hatke  
President  
LWV Schenectady County  
<http://www.lwvschenectady.com>

Note: Our Bulletin Editor, Helen MacDonald, is taking some time off, so this issue of your Bulletin might not have the same “look”. Any mistakes are definitely my own ~ Ann Hatke.

President	Ann Hatke	
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Heide Westergard	
Bulletin Editor	Helen MacDonald	

The Proposed Local Program 2022-2023 and the Proposed 2022-2023 Budget are submitted to the Bulletin in preparation for voting at the Annual Dinner Meeting on June 15.  
The 2022-2023 Proposed List of Leaders was published in the April Bulletin.

## **League of Women Voters of Schenectady County Proposed Local Program 2022-2023**

### **Justice and the Law**

Support improvements to the local criminal justice system by:

- \* Monitoring and strengthening the Probation and Parole procedures, with an emphasis on rehabilitation and supportive services with programs such as the Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program in Schenectady County
- \* Facilitating the implementation of alternative courts (problem solving courts) in Schenectady County and promoting collaborations to support them
- \* Monitoring the juvenile justice system including Family Court and promoting community-based rehabilitation
- \* Supporting restorative justice programs such as the **Center for Community Justice** (new name for Community Accountability Board)
- \* Improve accessibility to police complaint procedure
- \* Improve Mental Health Crisis Intervention
- \* Support the efforts of the Schenectady Police Reform and Re-invention Collaborative
- \* Support the monitoring of the Schenectady County Jail, including complaint resolution, public health measures, transparency, and greater oversight of day-to-day conditions

### **Local Government**

- \* Monitor activities of county governmental units, including town boards, the Schenectady City Council and the Schenectady County Legislature, monitor activities of other quasi-governmental units, public authorities and agencies such as Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority, Metroplex, IDAs and Planning Boards monitor activities of elected public Boards of Education
- \* Support standards of high professional qualifications and political nonpartisanship in manager form of government
- \* Evaluate opportunities for inter-municipal cooperation and examine options for the consolidation of governmental services in Schenectady County

### **Children at Risk**

- \* Collaborate with other organizations to identify the needs of children, including physical and mental health, in Schenectady County, facilitate programs on their behalf and educate the community about their needs and challenges
- \* Study early childhood education and care-giving needs in Schenectady County from a policy and financing perspective
- \* Support greater coordination between child service agencies

**Local Education**

- \* Monitor local initiatives related to schools and promote and advocate adequate and equitable funding for all school districts so the students can reach their potential
- \* Ensure school districts are adequately prepared and staffed for virtual education
- \* Observe disparities exposed by the need for virtual education
- \* Bolster public schools’ ability to respond to needs of students

**Local Education (con’t.)**

- \*Ensure that all school districts in Schenectady County are actively seeking to hire teachers of color

**Environmental Issues**

Support the protection of environmental resources, land, water and air in Schenectady County:

- \* Advocate for the protection of water resources in the County
- \* Promote understanding of global climate emergency and support efforts to mitigate its effects.
- \* Support energy conservation and development of renewable energy alternatives
- \* Support solid waste management programs that increase reuse and recycling in the County and City

**Health Services**

- \* Educate and advocate for national/state/local health care reform that provides quality physical and mental health care for all citizens
- \* Encourage and support countywide comprehensive health care planning and access, equity, and safety in health care
- \*Educate about the Ellis and St. Peter’s merger and its impact on end of life procedures

(Note: The highlighted words are proposed changes to the LWVSC Local Program)



**Hats Off to LWVSC Member Karen Bradley!**

Congratulations to Karen Bradley, who recently retired as executive director of the Schenectady County Library System. Karen has helped to provide our community with library services for 33 years, overseeing many projects including the opening of the Phyllis Bornt Library and Literacy Center, the re-opening of the Woodlawn Library, and has managed to keep us all reading and supplied with special remote programming during the Covid pandemic. LWVSC would like to thank Karen for her dedicated service to the entire Schenectady community. <https://dailygazette.com/2022/04/28/beginning-a-new-chapter-schenectady-county-library-system-executive-director-set-to-retire/>



LWV Schenectady  
Proposed Budget 2022-2023

2021-2022  
 Budget

As of

Projected  
 2021-22  
 Year End  
 Amount

2022-2023  
 Proposed  
 Budget

			02/28/2022		
<b>INCOME</b>					
A. Dues		7,115.00	6,535.00	7,035.00	7,065.00
B. Contributions					
1.	Membership	800.00	1,820.00	1,820.00	800.00
2.	Non Member	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Earmarked Funds					
a.	Take Me To Vote	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b.	Escrow Ed. Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
c.	Fundraising	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
d.	Who's Who	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C. Other Contributions					
1.	Interest	10.00	1.21	2.42	5.00
2.	Election Monitoring	100.00	0.00	50.00	100.00
3.	Election Reporting	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
4. Meeting Revenue		3,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
5.	Co-sponsorship/collaboration	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
D. From Reserves					
1. LWVNY Ed Foundation					
a.	Youth Programs/Inside Albany	650.00	0.00	650.00	650.00
b.	Other Grants	150.00	15.00	15.00	150.00
c.	Citizenship Mentoring	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	250.00
2.	Our Reserves	8,618.50	0.00	2,950.34	254.50
E. Miscellaneous Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>22,243.50</b>	<b>9,371.21</b>	<b>14,522.76</b>	<b>13,524.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
A. Operating Costs					
1.	General Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	P.O. Box Permit	146.00	182.00	182.00	182.00
3.	Bank Charges	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
4.	Copy Expense	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
5. Bulletin Expense		35.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
6.	Web Page	400.00	400.00	400.00	425.00
7. Meeting Expense		3,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
<i>sub total:</i>		<i>3,666.00</i>	<i>582.00</i>	<i>1,582.00</i>	<i>3,732.00</i>

LWV Schenectady <u>Proposed Budget 2022-2023</u>		2021-2022 Budget	As of <u>02/28/2022</u>	Projected 2021-22 Year End Amount	2022-2023 Proposed Budget
<b>B. Board &amp; Admin Committees</b>					
1. President	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	
2. Board Tools & Expenses	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	
3. Fundraising	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	
4. Membership Committee					
a. Copying/Supplies	34.00	16.73	16.73	34.00	
b. Postage	16.00	0.00	0.00	16.00	
<i>sub total:</i>	<i>350.00</i>	<i>33.46</i>	<i>16.73</i>	<i>350.00</i>	
<b>C. Delegates</b>					
1. State Convention	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00	
2. National Convention	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	
<i>sub total:</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>	<i>1,050.00</i>	
<b>D. Financial Support of the League</b>					
1. National PMP	4,048.00	3,036.00	4,048.00	3,824.00	
2. State PMP	2,909.50	2,182.14	2,909.52	2,748.50	
<i>sub total</i>	<i>6,957.50</i>	<i>5,218.14</i>	<i>6,957.52</i>	<i>6,572.50</i>	
<b>E. Educational Activities</b>					
1. Health Care	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	
2. Observer/Action/Lobbying	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	
3. Judicial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4. Youth Programs/Inside Albany	650.00	0.00	650.00	650.00	
5. Voter Services					
a. Voter Resources	600.00	66.51	66.51	400.00	
b. Take Me To Vote	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
c. Candidate Forums	1,900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
d. Who's Who	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6. Other Studies/Consensus	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	
7. Citizenship Mentoring	500.00	0.00	250.00	500.00	
8. Community Outreach	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	
<i>sub total:</i>	<i>6,145.00</i>	<i>66.51</i>	<i>966.51</i>	<i>1,695.00</i>	
<b>F. Position Support</b>					
1. Affiliation					
a. Human Rights Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2. Co-sponsorship/collaboration	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	
<i>sub total:</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	
<b>G. Miscellaneous</b>					
1. Escrow Ed. Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2. Other Expenses	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	
<i>sub total:</i>	<i>25.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>25.00</i>	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>22,243.50</b>	<b>5,900.11</b>	<b>14,522.76</b>	<b>13,524.50</b>	



**THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
*of New York State*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 27, 2022

Contact: Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director  
E: Laura@lwvny.org, Tel: 518-727-0350

**League of Women Voters of New York State Hails New York Court of Appeals Decision  
Invalidating Congressional and State Senate Redistricting Maps for Failing to Follow the  
Constitutionally Mandated Process Adopted by the People of New York in 2014**

(Albany, New York – April 27, 2022) The League of Women Voters of New York State hailed the historic decision issued by the New York Court of Appeals today invalidating the Congressional and State Senate redistricting maps approved by the Legislature as “procedurally unconstitutional”. The sweeping majority opinion by Chief Judge DiFiore confirms the critical role of the Independent Redistricting Commission as part of the “historic reforms of the redistricting process” included in the 2014 Constitutional amendment. The Court ordered the New York Supreme Court, with the assistance of a neutral special master and input from relevant parties, to draw new constitutional maps “with all due haste.” The Court acknowledged this will likely result in a delay in the primaries from June to August.

In its decision, the Court concluded, “We decline to render the constitutional IRC process inconsequential in the manner requested by the State respondents, a result that would “violat[e] ... the plain intent of the Constitution and ... disregard [the] spirit and the purpose” of the 2014 constitutional amendments.”

Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director of the League, stated: “This decision represents a great victory for the People of New York, who approved a Constitutional amendment that significantly altered both substantive standards governing redistricting and, most importantly, the redistricting process to achieve those standards by sharply curtailing the Legislature’s power over redistricting. The Court agreed with our amicus curiae brief that the Legislature’s adoption of redistricting maps after the failure of the IRC to submit a second set of maps violated the constitution, and that the necessary remedy for such a violation required the Judiciary, not the Legislature, to draw constitutional maps. The League is grateful for the assistance of Holwell Shuster and Goldberg for their pro bono assistance in this matter.”

The League of Women Voters of New York State, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. See amicus brief filed with the Court of Appeals at <https://lwvny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/LWV-CoA-Amicus-Letter-Brief-Final-042422.pdf>.



*Annual June Dinner Meeting  
Wednesday, June 15 5:30 pm  
Turf Tavern  
Dinner will be served at 6:00*

Menu  
*Caesar Salad  
Choice of Entrée  
1. Eggplant Parmesan  
2. Tuscan Chicken  
3. Stuffed Pork  
Cheesecake with Raspberries*

*Please join us ~  
\$27.00 per person  
RSVP [ash.lwvsc@gmail.com](mailto:ash.lwvsc@gmail.com)  
Looking forward to seeing you....*

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, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023**

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.

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

**Other areas of interest** \_\_\_\_\_

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